



**MGABC Annual General Meeting**  
held at VanDusen Gardens, Vancouver, BC  
Sunday, September 24, 2017

**Minutes**

**Update: October 16**

**Present:**

- Karen Bennett – President
- Lynne Christmas – Past President
- Trine Helsoe - Treasurer
- Linda Derkach – Secretary
- Mike Juleff – Victoria Chapter Representative
- Jill Wright – Vancouver Chapter Representative
- Jo Canning – Vancouver Island Chapter Representative
- Sue Ackerman – Thompson Shuswap Chapter Representative
- Anne Marie Bell – Okanagan Chapter Representative
- Christiane Hirt – Prince George Chapter Representative

**Members Present:** Approximately 85 members representing all the Chapters in BC were also present

**1. Welcome**

Jill Wright, President of the Vancouver chapter, welcomed everyone. She noted that the tours of Burns Bog, Darts Hill Garden and VanDusen were very well-received. Members present shared information about plants still looking good in their gardens – anemones, maples, *Sumac* 'Tiger Eyes', *Cyclamen hederifolium* and many rudbeckia cultivars. The plant sale at Darts Hill was much appreciated.

**2. Call to Order**

President Karen Bennett called the meeting to order at approximately 12:30 pm and introduced the members of the MGABC Provincial Council. Members, students and guests were welcomed to our annual general meeting. Karen thanked Jill and members of the Vancouver chapter for the tours, fun and plant sale.

### **3. President's Report – Karen Bennett**

Welcome MGs, students and guests to our 2017 AGM. I am so pleased to see everyone. Our current provincial council members are: *Linda Derkach, Secretary; Trine Helsoe, Treasurer; Lynne Christmas, Past President; and Chapter Representatives: Jill Wright, Vancouver; Mike Juleff, Victoria; Jo Canning, VIMGA; Christiane Hirt, Prince George; Sue Ackerman, Thompson Shuswap; Anne Marie Bell, Okanagan; and I'm Karen Bennett, your President.*

Thank you very much to the members of the Vancouver Chapter for hosting the AGM this year, and for arranging the Darts Hill and Burns Bog tours yesterday. Also for arranging for visitors to walk VanDusen Gardens this morning with our fellow local MGs. There's been fun, education, and some great plant acquisitions as well.

#### **Your Provincial Council Actions this Year**

**Policy Manual Revisions:** Extensive time and discussion has been spent on our policy manual this year and the revised and consolidated version, dated May 15, 2017, is now posted on the website under *Governance Documents*.

#### **Constitution and Bylaws:**

Transition to the new *Society Act* of BC required only minimal changes to our constitution and bylaws, and Linda Derkach will be reviewing that in just a few minutes. Those documents will be posted on the website under *Governance Documents*.

#### **Goal Setting:**

This year Council felt it was time to identify key values, activities, opportunities, and challenges. After much discussion, we established a list of three council goals and they are:

- Member retention
- Improved communication initiatives between council and chapters/members
- Succession planning.

Implementation of these goals is in process, but it has already made us more aware at meetings. Several chapters are, or have recently, gone through strategic planning as well. (The last time council and chapter presidents identified goals was in Nov 2013)

#### **MGABC: Communication and Sharing**

We believe that our organization has great potential, and that we have a lot to offer each other and our communities. The Provincial Council exists as a forum and coordinating function for chapters to share ideas and challenges, and also to set the standards for education and for membership, by which we all operate.

I encourage you all to visit the website frequently where you will be able to find out what other chapters are doing, and keep up to date with events. Our Council members all agree that hearing about what is happening in other chapters is the best part of our council meetings.

Lastly, we have continued our relationship with Seeds of Diversity and the Invasive Plant Council which were projects initiated by Past President, Lynne Christmas.

#### **4. Minutes of Last AGM**

##### **Motion #1:**

Moved by Lynne Christmas and seconded by Jo Canning that the minutes of September 11, 2016 be accepted as circulated. **Carried**

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

The Financial Statements and Budget for 2017-2018 were previously circulated. Trine Helsoe reported that as of June 30, 2017, MGABC has \$7,019.97 in the bank. We basically broke even. Trine explained where our revenue arises, and what our major expenses are. Trine said that there are about 700 MGs in the province. Chapters contribute \$10 per member to support the functions and activities of the Provincial Council.

##### **Motion #2:**

Moved by Trine Helsoe and seconded by Christiane Hirt that the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented. **Carried**

#### **6. Amendments to the MGABC Constitution and Bylaws**

Linda Derkach explained that all non-profit societies in the province are required to make some amendments to their constitutions and bylaws and transition to a new filing format as of November 2018. Because our bylaws had been updated just a few years ago, MGABC only needed to make minimal changes to the documents. The revised Constitution and Bylaws were previously circulated to all members of MGABC through the Chapter Representatives.

##### **Motion #3:**

Moved by Linda Derkach and seconded by Jo Canning that the amended constitution and bylaws be accepted as previously circulated. **Carried**

#### **7. Nominating Committee Report**

Sue Ackerman presented the Slate of Officers for 2017-18 that was previously circulated to all members.

President – Karen Bennett  
President Elect – Mike Juleff  
Secretary – Linda Derkach  
Treasurer – Trine Helsoe  
Director - Lynne Christmas

**Motion #4:**

Moved by Sue Ackerman and seconded by Jill Wright that the slate of officers be elected as presented and previously circulated. **Carried**

*Please note: The Chapter Representatives are elected or appointed by the affiliated Chapters of MGABC.*

At this point, the proceedings of the AGM were suspended to welcome a presentation by our guest speaker.

**8. Program: Douglas Justice of the UBC Botanical Garden on “A Botanical Exploration of Northern Vietnam”**

Douglas gave an interesting and engaging talk about the people, customs and plants of Vietnam.

**9. Reports of the Chapter Representatives**

*(Following is a brief summary of the reports given. The full reports form part of the minutes. They can be found at the MGABC Website.)*

**Vancouver Island Chapter – Jo Canning**

- VIMGA consists of urban, suburban and rural communities from the Malahat to Campbell River
- We participate in clinics, community gardens, harvest festivals, rural farmers' markets
- A garden advice line at Milner Gardens and Woodland in Qualicum Beach has just started
- Gabriola Island members hold garden advice parties for garden owners, friends and neighbours
- The VIMGA Member Manual has just been updated, and a new Mentors' Manual has been complete
- Strategic planning is about to begin

**Vancouver Chapter – Jill Wright**

- We celebrated Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> by holding our AGM at Darts Hill, and a Strawberry Tea at a member's gardens
- Grants have been provided to VanDusen and UBC

- The 2018 Spring Affair will be held March 25, 2018 with speakers Linda Chalker-Scott, Linda Gilkeson and Jonathan Jones of Tregothnan Garden in Cornwall, England
- Vancouver Chapter has 393 members
- Our challenges: to engage our membership and to focus our clinics more on vegetables and small space gardening

#### **Prince George Chapter – Christiane Hirt**

- Remarkable things grow in our Zone 3 gardens
- In winter – when we cannot be in our gardens - we enjoy our “Weed Free” Lectures at UNBC with the DDBG and members of the public
- PG Chapter does lots of community outreach, to Burns Lake and other more remote communities
- Our 22 members have documented 2,000 advice hours with many more unreported
- We have ten MGITs at present
- A formal mentoring program is starting
- Plan to start a junior master gardener program

#### **Thompson Shuswap Chapter – Sue Ackerman**

- Our region covers Salmon Arm to Kamloops and over to Sun Peaks
- We have 30 active members
- We concentrated on pollinators this year; currently conducting a survey on pollinators
- Much work with teachers and school children; built mason bee houses with the kids
- Participated in the Green Living Expo giving talks, workshops for adults and kids
- Starting to do work with First Nations and Mental Health
- Visited the Split Rock Native Plant Nursery operated by First Nations

#### **Victoria – Mike Juleff**

- Mixing it up in the Urban Garden was again very successful in January with 250 participants; planning has started for February 2019
- Victoria has 131 members including 18 MGITs
- *Lead MG* workshops ensure consistency of message, how clinics should operate and build new skills
- Members work at the herbarium at the Royal BC Museum
- A video on the clinic experience has been developed
- Advanced Training has graduated 22 students
- A Master Class is scheduled for October 2017 with Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott

- On line membership renewal, sign up and reporting is being investigated
- Our cook book, Master Flavours has sold out; profits go to a pollination project

### **Okanagan – Anne Marie Bell**

- The Okanagan is also geographically challenged as most members are in Kelowna but we include north, central and south Okanagan
- Working on strategic planning; will capitalize on initials “OMG” that we first thought was a negative
- We are concerned about attrition; we have retained just four of 18 students from our 2004 class
- Trying to get our members to do more than their 15 hours minimum and to help with administration of the chapter
- We are creating a memorial garden for MGs
- We are reviewing our organizational structure and roles with a view to streamlining

### **10. Golden Trowel Award**

Grace Morrice of the Prince George Chapter was awarded the Golden Trowel for 2017 for her dedicated efforts and service in support of the mission of the MGABC.

Grace graduated in the first class of Spring 2008 and became an MG in the summer of 2009. She is one of the founding members, and is past President and Treasurer of the David Douglas Botanical Garden Society (DDBGS) and runs one of the maintenance groups for the EDG (Educational Display Garden at UNBC).

She worked in conjunction with Sheila Malbeuf to bring the MG program to Prince George, and it wouldn't be what it is without her. Once becoming an MG, she was volunteer coordinator for the chapter, and is the current Coordinator of PGMG and the BTP hosted by UNBC. She started instructing in the BTP in 2009-10 class, and has been mentoring and instructing up to the 6<sup>th</sup> class of 2017.

She has been a speaker at Seedy Saturday, Williams Lake Garden Club, Weed Free Lecture Series, Milburn Community Gardens, Queensway Community Gardens, Invasive Plant Council, ECRA Plant Sale volunteer, Prince George Public Library gardening talks, just to name a few. She has had her garden on one of the garden tours offered by DDBGS during each gardening season. As DDBGS Plant Sale Coordinator, she walks the volunteers through the plants and talks about all of them and their individual care needs. She is truly an inspiration to anyone wanting to get into gardening in the north, where we only have six good months to do so.

Prince George wouldn't have a chapter or the BTP without her. She worked with MGABC in their brainstorming session in 2013 or 2014. She was instrumental with the affiliation agreement between MGABC and DDBGS to bring the chapter to Prince George.

As soon as she starts to speak, she is teaching all aspects of gardening and is so knowledgeable on information sources and is currently pairing down her gardening book collection, because she is out of room!

### **11. AGM 2018**

The 2018 AGM will be hosted by the Thompson Shuswap Chapter.

### **12. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm

Recorded by Linda Derkach, Secretary, MGABC

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President

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Secretary