



**Master Gardeners Association of BC**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
***September 27, 2020***

- **Brief Summary of the Meeting**
  - **President's Report**
- **Reports of the Chapter Representatives**



**Master Gardeners Association of BC**  
**Brief Report to Members**  
**on the MGABC Annual General Meeting**  
**Sunday, September 27, 2020 via Videoconference**

**Educational Presentation**

Dr. Linda Gilkeson presented a very informative and edifying talk entitled *Growing Veggies: Tips, Techniques and Trouble Shooting*. This talk was recorded so that members who were unable to link into the session can access it by using a password obtained by contacting their Chapter Representative.

**Business Meeting**

**1. Welcome**

President Mike Juleff welcomed 152 members to our first videoconference. The President's report is included with the consolidated reports of the Chapter Representatives and posted on our Website. The Emeritus/Alumni Membership Policy is now in effect.

**2. Golden Trowel**

Elaine Scott of the Victoria Master Gardeners is our Golden Trowel recipient for 2020. Congratulations, Elaine!!

**3. Financial Report**

Treasurer Lynne Christmas presented Financial Statements to June 30, 2020 and the budget for the coming year. The cancellation of many activities due to the pandemic has resulted in a comfortable surplus going forward into 2021.

**4. Chapter Reports**

Chapter Representatives highlighted the mostly virtual activities that have been carried on or are planned for the coming year, some of which are open to members of all chapters:

- *Mixing it Up in the Urban Garden* – January 30, 2021 – Victoria MGA
- *Vancouver Spring Affair* – generally March and under development now
- *Little Things that Run the World* – Oct 17, 18 - Victoria Chapter

Be sure to check out the MGABC Website for registration information and additional activities via videoconference.

**5. Election of Officers**

The following officers were elected for the year 2020 – 2021:

**President:** Mike Juleff

**Treasurer:** Lynne Christmas

The positions of Secretary and President-Elect remain vacant. If you are interested in joining the Executive, please contact Mike Juleff or Karen Bennett. Linda Derkach will be Acting Secretary.

**6. Door Prizes**

Four members who had registered for the meeting were the lucky winners of registrations for *Mixing it Up*, *Vancouver Spring Affair* and a membership in Milner Gardens & Woodland.



**Master Gardeners Association of BC**  
***Reports of the President and Chapter Representatives***  
***to the Annual General Meeting***  
**September 27, 2020**

**President's Report**

It is certainly my pleasure to welcome everyone to this, the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Master Gardeners Association of British Columbia.

I have had the privilege to be the President of the Association this past year - a year which has certainly had an effect on our personal lives and also on how we carry out our responsibilities as Master Gardeners.

As I mentioned at the start of today's program; this is the largest number of Master Gardeners to attend our AGM, I can recall an occasion when we had to work hard to achieve a quorum of 25 for the meeting!

So what is the MGABC?

If I may I would like to take this opportunity to answer that question. The MGABC is an affiliation of local Chapters of Master Gardeners, working together to support the delivery of quality education to their members, and to provide environmentally responsible advice to the public.

The Provincial Council of MGABC has a governance role providing a coordinating function for the affiliated chapters and setting standards for education and membership.

The Provincial Council consists of officers and chapter representatives, all of whom are directors under the *Societies Act of BC*. The President, President-Elect, Treasurer and Secretary are elected by the members at the annual general meeting. The chapter representatives are elected or appointed by the affiliated chapters.

MGABC is a registered charity recognized by the Canada Revenue Agency, and as such can receive donations and issue numbered receipts for tax purposes for donations intended for the operations of the council or for the affiliated chapters.

MGABC also purchases third party liability insurance against injury to a member of the public, or damage to property caused by a member of MGABC during approved activities as a Master Gardener.

The Council is also responsible for the maintenance of the MGABC website.

Most importantly the MGABC provides an opportunity for Master Gardeners to share ideas, their successes and sometimes failures from which we all learn.

In a nutshell: “The MGABC is the Chapters; the Chapters are MGABC”.

I would now like to move on to recognising some of the activities that the Council and Chapters have been involved with this year.

First of all, I am very pleased that the Council recently approved the new Emeritus/ Alumni Membership category. This will enable us to recognise the efforts of long-standing members as well as have the ongoing benefit of their knowledge; a most important aspect of this policy is that it will allow for the continuation of long time friendships.

Earlier this year I was very happy to be able to participate in a teleconference call initiated by Vancouver Chapter members Aline Burlone and Susan Crawford to discuss the current materials used for the Basic Training Course. All chapters were represented and many experiences were shared. As a result of the meeting it was agreed that each chapter would share information regarding the additional material used during the course. It was also hoped that this initiative will be ongoing. I expect that this will be so.

The Council made the decision last year to reduce the number of in-person meetings it holds to one per year in order to achieve a balanced budget. We were more than successful in meeting this goal, in part due to Covid-19 which meant we have not met face to face at all this year. Also, due to Covid-19, we have greatly reduced AGM expenses which has enabled us to end the fiscal year with a surplus.

An ongoing discussion at the Council meetings has been with regard to the website. We know that it will be necessary to upgrade the system within the next two years and that there will be costs that will need to be covered. We also recognise that the content and layout of the website needs to be upgraded and improved. We have begun to identify the upgrades that would be beneficial to all Chapters. Margaret Wyeth from Victoria, Cameron Smith from VIMGA and Marina Zarillo from Okanagan have each provided insight into potential changes. We will need to take into account that the website requirements vary between Chapters due to size and also resources available. Where we go from here and how we achieve the improvements will be a priority for the Council this coming year.

As I stated at the beginning of my report Covid-19 has had a great effect on our personal lives and our responsibilities. Some of these effects have been negative; for example, no clinics, no face to face meetings, reduced education opportunities. But there have been many positive effects. We have found ways to still provide information to the public and also to our membership. We have made our way into the world of ZOOM, at times kicking and screaming, but in the end realising that this may be one of the new ways of doing business, and also realising that we are very capable of developing methods of providing information to each other and the public in a manner that is safe for ourselves and others. We have also been comparing how each Chapter has been dealing with the Volunteer requirements during the pandemic. It will be crucial that any activity that we organise or participate in is done in a manner that meets the requirements of the Medical Health officials.

It must be noted that there are two vacant positions on the Provincial Council. These are for Secretary and for President Elect. Please consider offering your skills for either of these positions.

I would like to express my thanks to the Vancouver Island Chapter for hosting the AGM. The team of Chris Southwick, Liz Cullen, Linda Derkach and Karen Bennett had the extra challenge of switching mid-stream from a full live weekend of activities to a half day Zoom videoconference due to Covid-19.

I must also thank the Victoria Chapter for providing access to their Zoom account in order for us to present today's program. Special thanks to Janette Patterson and Lorna Stewart for their guidance and patience with a group of rookie "Zoomers".

Finally, to Karen Bennett, Past President, Lynne Christmas, Treasurer, Anne Marie Bell, Secretary - who recently moved to Manitoba - and Linda Derkach for stepping in as Acting Secretary. Chapter Representatives Jill Wright, Vancouver; Rachael Fleming, Okanagan; Chris Southwick, Vancouver Island; Nancy Willihnganz, Victoria; Carol Salton, Prince George; Audrey Baier, Thompson/Shuswap - my thanks to each of you for your diligence, ideas, solutions and especially your support.

My thanks also to all Master Gardeners in British Columbia for all you do to make this such a successful and credible association.

Mike Juleff

President, MGABC

# Okanagan Master Gardeners

**2020 Membership:** 71 members: 69 Active MGs, 2 LOA, 16 MGITs, 4 Lifetime members (non active)

**Volunteer Hours:** not available at this time and seriously reduced due to COVID 19

## Meetings:

- Spring Session, April 4<sup>th</sup>, cancelled due to COVID 19
- OMG Executive and Seedy Sunday Committee met early in January and remotely in August
- OMG AGM in early November will most likely be remote.

## Activities:

- Introduced a new sign up system for volunteering: "Sign Up.com". All Members participated. Almost all Clinics were cancelled due to COVID 19 and most Community Projects were delayed in start up.
- Okanagan Master Gardener hosted Kelowna Seedy Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. This was our 7<sup>th</sup> year of hosting. 14<sup>th</sup> year as a participant. It was a hugely successful day. Participation of 1,030 including: OMG volunteers, vendors, paying participants and children. We had quite a few new vendors and speakers this year. We were very lucky with our date and had a great turn out. Advertising on Face Book was an asset again this year.
- We have invited Linda Gilkeson to speak to our Chapter and local gardening groups in March 2021, location: Lake Country Community Theatre. Fingers are crossed.

## Community Partnerships:

- 2020 partners included: Kelowna Parks Department, Summerland Ornamental Garden, Okanagan Xeriscape Association, Kelowna Garden Club, Lake Country Garden Club, and other clubs throughout the Valley, and we hope to continue working with the Okanagan Regional Library.

## Issues:

- COVID 19: cancellation of all Advice events. The OMG Chapter Executive made the decision to remove minimum hours for MGs, if necessary, for 2020. MGITs will have three years to accumulate their required 65 volunteer hours, again, if necessary. We started Guisachan Garden Community Project in early June and Friends of the Garden, Summerland Ornamental Garden Project began in late June/early July. Members have taken advantage of the volunteer opportunities by practicing social distancing rules and procedures put into place. Chapter members have also participated in a couple of Plant sales, again with strict Social Distancing procedures.
- We are keeping communication open with our members through emails and FaceBook and will be monitoring the opportunities for the Fall and making plans for how we can successfully and safely operate in 2021.

Rachael Fleming  
Okanagan Chapter Representative

## **Prince George Master Gardeners**

January found many of us browsing through seed catalogues and dreaming of spring.

Our gardening season got off to a good start in early March with a successful Seedy Saturday. Enthusiastic participants listened to speakers, bought seeds, visited commercial displays and had lunch. Then the unexpected happened. Like many of our population, we had to curtail certain activities and become more creative in others.

Our chapter of master gardeners exists under the umbrella of the David Douglas Botanical Society and many of our members are able to earn hours through its programs and activities. One such activity was the May plant sale modified to fall within safe guidelines. To start, there was a period of online shopping followed by in person shopping through reservation and time limited. Master Gardeners helped organize plants and were on hand to offer advice to customers.

Many of our members work at Phase One of the Botanic Garden (formerly the University Display Gardens) and master gardeners head up work crews for various areas of the garden. As well as helping keep the garden beautiful, we are available to answer any gardening questions from the visitors who stroll through.

There are plans under way to run the Master Gardening course this fall. At the time of writing, the coordinators and participants are in place but finding a venue has posed a problem.

In closing, working in our own and public gardens has been a great source of solace and satisfaction as we try to stay safe, but at the same time find ways to connect with others.

Carol Salton  
Prince George Chapter Representative

# Thompson Shuswap Master Gardeners

## Membership

We currently have 25 members of which two are on leave of absence.

## Basic Training

Eight students from the 13 originally registered are expected to become members. We will be extending the time frame for our MGITs to three years. We already have six individuals who are interested in a future class.

## Community Outreach Activities

We were only able to hold two clinics this year before cancelling because of the COVID-19 pandemic restriction and both were in conjunction with Seedy Saturday events. We held a couple of workshops in January and February prior to these restrictions.

We continued to provide an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions through the *Ask a Master Gardener* platform on our chapter's link on the MGABC website as well as on our Facebook Page, the latter which was kept current with gardening tips and educational opportunities. We developed and distributed a poster to the media to spread the word. One member held two presentations for teachers via Zoom, and another led a physically distanced workshop on pollinators for a group of ten children and three adults at the end of July. Although the Citizen Scientist Project had completed its 3-year commitment, several MGs continued to gather data on pollinators in their own private gardens.

The Kamloops City Council has requested that we continue with the "Bee City" group and the ESBC Boreus has received a submission for their newsletter from one of our members.

## Other Activities

One member hosted a "Socially-distanced" tour of her garden in July. Another did a demo for MGs and MGITs on the topic of making your own potting mix. We had to cancel our Spring meeting but are hoping to have our AGM September 19 outdoors. Our executive meetings were held via Zoom or outdoors.

Audrey Baier  
Thompson/Shuswap Chapter Representative



## Vancouver Master Gardeners

376 Total members: 288 Active Members, 17 Sustaining, 23 Life Members, 21 Alumni, 4 First Year Students, 18 Second Year Students, 5 Honorary (March 2020 stats)

Covid-19 certainly did not stop the Vancouver Chapter. We are pleased with the response to several new projects that were created to replace Clinics and some Projects. The One on One Mentoring has been popular with 18 students paired up with 18 Qualifieds to practice answering clinic questions (these questions had been asked at the previous year's clinics). The one on one sessions were held via Zoom, in person or on the phone. One popular project was the Border Free Bee Pollinator Pathway Challenge where 21 participants have either planted a pollinator garden or coached others to plant one.

The students attended Conifer tours at a local park with a focus on identification from cones, bark and form. They will now pass this information on to the membership with a tour scheduled for September.

**Basic Training** – Fortunately, the program had almost finished before gatherings were cancelled. 38 students wrote their exam at home and Linda Gilkeson presented her Vegetable session via Zoom. Several of the students will complete their 65 volunteer hours prior to the end of October which is truly amazing.

**Advanced Training** has held two of the electives, Landscape Design and Entomology with Native Plants, Plant Disease Diagnosing, Shrubs, Plant Propagation and Trees to follow.

**The Spring Affair**, our annual March fundraiser was cancelled. Due to this loss of revenue for educational programs, a fundraising letter was sent to the membership and 11 contributions totaling \$1,600 have been received to date.

**Our AGM** had been postponed but will finally be held on August 17<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. We will use the polling option for voting on a new slate, including a new chair, approving our budget, and waiving the need for an auditor.

**Zoom presentations** from Egan Davis, Linda Gilkeson, and James Casey & Caroline Biel were held for our members. These presentations will continue as they were well received and viewed by more members than would typically attend a meeting.

### **Key Council/Committee Members:**

Chair: Jill Wright

Treasurer: Ann Boyle

Communications: Heather Nielsen

Membership: Barb White

Basic Training: A. Burlone, S. Crawford

Jill Wright,  
Vancouver Chapter Representative

# Vancouver Island Master Gardeners

## Membership:

- 80 total members: 74 active, 4 on LOA, 2 Lifetime members. Sadly, two members have recently passed away, one of whom was a Lifetime Member. They both will be missed and we appreciate the many years of support they have given to gardeners in our communities.

## Meetings:

- Our Spring Education Day was held on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> with approximately 40 plus members in attendance. Following the General Meeting, the program included two sessions and then a tour of the adjoining Eswyn's Alpine Garden:
  1. *How Plants Change with the Climate Study Speakers:* Jessica Pyett, Mt Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Inst., and Heather Klassen, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources, reported on the "Coastal Forest Plant Phenology Research and Monitoring Project." This project, initiated in 2016, studies the relationship between microclimate and plant phenology – the timing of seasonally re-occurring events such as bud break, flower and fruit development, and leaf senescence.
  2. *Ideas and Techniques for Gardeners Dealing with Climate Change:* Grahame Ware, horticulturist, writer, alpine garden specialist, teacher and rare plant nursery man takes us back to John Loudon, the father of modern horticulture, to show us how his techniques apply to climate change today and explain what to do in our own gardens.
  3. **This is the last in-person meeting** our whole group has held, due to the Covid-19 restrictions.
- All four districts held sign-up meetings and socials prior to Covid-19.
- Two of our districts have held outdoor socials and education sessions, both in August
- Our Parksville/Qualicum Beach/Nanoose Bay area held monthly meetings to watch Linda Chalker-Scott's video series up until the middle of March.
- Our Board Meetings were conference calls on April 14, May 12, and June 9. This worked very well, and we appreciate the use of the MGABC Conference Call line. Our September Board Meeting is scheduled for a face-to-face meeting on a Board Member's deck. Planning for a virtual AGM for VIMGA is in progress and is currently scheduled for November 7.

## Activities:

- There have been no face to face meetings to give advice to the public since mid-March and the VIMGA Board sent out a directive to cancel all face-to-face meetings until further notice. Other activities such as writing articles, running the Garden Advice Line, working at the Community Garden (with appropriate social distancing measures and health measures in place) are still happening.
- Since January 1 and prior to March, there were three library seminars, one presentation, and 11 clinics. Some work and education have continued at Beban Learning Gardens, following strict pandemic protocols.

- Our Mentorship Chair and a group of mentors have been working on updating our Mentor's Manual
- The new Board of Directors met in February to review and edit our Strategic Plan.
- We continue to plan with the MGABC Council for the MGABC AGM on September 27th despite the current situation. Since that meeting has changed to a "virtual" meeting on-line, we are planning a program with Dr. Linda Gilkeson.
- We have worked with our local Foodshare group to support and create a program that we are calling VGAP. This is a Virtual Garden Advice Party which would be videotaped. The first trial VGAP will be on September 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Some of our members have resumed their volunteer activities at Milner Garden and Woodland, following their strict Covid-19 protocols. Numbers for the Garden Advice Line at Milner are not available at this time.

### **Community Partnerships:**

- The partnership with the Vancouver Island Regional Library has been initiated by Jo Canning started off very well and a full slate of folks ready to present to the public on various gardening topics. Since March 15, these sessions have been suspended until further notice but recently the Librarian has contacted us to think about switching these to taped webinars that would be available on-line.
- We had 20 students become Master Gardeners in Training following our fall Basic Training Program. We are so pleased to welcome those new students which give new energy to each of our four areas (Cowichan, Nanaimo, Parksville/Qualicum Beach/Nanoose and North Island).
- The Gardening Advice Line operated by VIMGA in conjunction with Milner Gardens and Woodland (MGW) in Qualicum Beach was suspended mid-March as Milner Gardens is now closed. We have been working on getting that service running by email only from VIMGA member homes and are pleased to announce that it is now operational again and running well from members' homes with the support of a moderator. Numbers of clients will be presented when available.
- VIMGA and VIU have signed a new agreement to cover the Milner Gardens and Woodland Demonstration Garden. This is a collaborative agreement between VIMGA and VIU which covers the legalities regarding volunteers in the garden. This demonstration garden is a vegetable garden which employs interesting and innovative vegetable gardening processes. This year, due to COVID-19 and the delay in the new agreement, this project will begin again in 2021.

### **Issues:**

- At the moment, PP Chris Southwick and VP Dorothee Kieser are working together to act as the vacant Presidency. We take turns creating agendas for Board meetings and running meetings, etc. We are pleased to announce that we have a President Elect, VP Elect, Treasurer Elect in the wings as well as an MGABC Rep. stepping up.

Chris Southwick  
VIMGA Chapter Representative



## Victoria Master Gardener Association

# We Grow Gardeners

victoriamastergardeners.org

**2020 VMGA membership = 121;** 69 MG's, 16 Advanced MG's, 19 MGIT's in second year, 6 Emeritus, 5 Associate

### **Clinic and Clinic-like Initiatives**

Prior to clinics being cancelled due to COVID-19, 15 clinics were held between Jan 11 and Mar 14, 2020. In lieu of clinics we provided gardening advice through 2 projects using digital communications.

### **Virtual Clinics/VMGA Mentoring Program**

Since the virtual project began 150 different individuals have been assisted by our group of 20 Virtual Mentors. Many individuals have asked multiple questions while others have had only one interaction with the mentor. To date, 212 questions have been recorded. These questions will be useful for future training sessions.

### **Youth Food Network Mentoring Project**

The Youth Food Network Mentoring Project was initiated in collaboration with CRFAIR's Youth Food Network. MGs supplemented the original "basket" of veggie starts with tomato transplants and three MG/MGITs volunteered to mentor young people participating in the YFN's initiative that encourages backyard food production. It runs through the end of August.

### **Clinic Resource Materials**

Members worked on developing new materials for clinic boxes; Growing Cannabis; Conifer Key; Compost & Manures- 1) Commercial and 2) Non-Commercial; Growing Vegetables in Containers; Water Garden Plantings; Plants Toxic to Pets and Detering Wildlife.

### **Basic Training Program**

Students were halfway into their program in mid March when the class had to be unfortunately stopped. Consequently, there are no 2020 graduates to become MGITs this year. These students will be offered priority registration for the February 2021 Program and the instructors are poised to offer the program virtually if needed.

### **Advanced Training Program**

The core module, Soil, Air and Water was cancelled in March; however, the program will continue with a revised elective, Waterwise Gardening in early October, followed by Native Plants in early November. Both day long courses will be using the Zoom platform.

### **2020 Master Class**

Our 8<sup>th</sup> annual Master Class is scheduled for October 17 and 18 - **The “Little Things That Run the World”: Arthropods in Your Garden**. Our presenter is Dr, Claudia Copely, Entomology Collections Manager and Researcher, Royal Museum of BC. This full day workshop will use Zoom and we anticipate inviting members from other chapters to reach the maximum platform capacity

### **Educational Presentations and Summer activities**

Following VMG’s lead, we were able to secure Egan Davis, for the educational portion our May General meeting. This proved to be very well accepted and provided the impetus for scheduling summer and Fall events using this format. Our two summer presentations have offered the opportunity to arrange presenters from outside the Victoria area who would not otherwise be available to us: Margaret Horsfield, author of “Cougar Annie”s Garden” described the life and garden of this remarkable woman in the coastal wilderness of BC and was joined by her colleague, who is restoring the garden. Marley Lightfoot and Diane Watson, ambassadors with the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC), provided an important presentation on the Japanese beetle.

Our members are missing the connections with each other but are valuing “seeing” each other and having short virtual exchanges with gardening friends. The polling we have done suggest that our membership is finding Zoom access straight forward.

### **Mixing It UP 2021**

Victoria Master Gardeners will present Mixing It Up 2021 "Roots, Shoots & Leaves" in VIRTUAL style, Saturday January 30, 2021. Visit the **Mixing It Up** page on the website for details, and plan to register early as this event is always sold out.

Nancy Willihnganz  
Victoria Chapter Representative