



Bee Condos: Mason Bees Prefer Round Holes

Early in 1998 while in the Master Gardeners Basic Training Program I read two articles by Derry Walsh on blue orchard bees (mason bees), in the March 1996 and December 1997 issues of the VanDusen Master Gardeners' newsletter. I learned that these black, slightly iridescent blue-backed bees are exceptional pollinators.

Derry reported that each mason bee (*Osmia lignaria*) can set over 2,000 apples per day as compared to a honey bee (*Apis mellifera*), which will set only 30 in the same period. Blue orchard bees do not nest in hives as do honeybees. They are more solitary and nest in holes produced by insects, nature, or man.



Mason bee condo with round holes

Under construction

Manmade nesting boxes (condos) set out in March when the temperature reaches 14 degrees Celsius and the bees become active will attract the mason bee as tenants. The female lays an elongated egg in a cell, which she has prepared with pollen and which she then seals with a mud wall (hence the name "mason bee"). She may build five or six nests in this manner, depending on the length of the tube and will lay approximately 35 eggs during her short lifespan.

Since we have three apple trees and a Montmorency cherry tree in our back garden I felt compelled to build some bee condos. These were constructed as recommended in Derry's article. Holes, 8 mm in diameter and 10 cm long, were drilled in 12 cm by 12 cm pieces of fir. The holes were spaced 1 cm apart. An overhanging roof was added and they were placed under cover, about 2 metres above the ground on a south-facing wall. It worked. We had lots of blossoms in the garden to attract the mason bees, nice new condos,

and an area in the garden with wet clay. Three condos with 36 holes in each were all filled by early June.

Refining the birthing box

These condos, however, had problems. All the young bees do not emerge at the same time but a tube may be used as a new nest before all the earlier bees have left. How do you clean out the nesting tubes so the earlier bee nests aren't blocked? I tried redrilling the holes only to find I was drilling through residual bees—unacceptable.

These condos had become unusable. What is the alternative? In 1997 Derry Walsh described the use of straws for tubes with great success. The straws are housed in 2-litre drink bottles; other authors

describe making tubes from newspaper and bundling them in a piece of foam. Being handy I became intrigued with the "birthing box" where the holes are cut in slabs of wood with an 8-mm router bit. These slabs are then stacked in a structure that looks like a birdhouse. This design allows you to remove the slabs and the cocoons in the tubes in the late fall or early winter.

Cocooning

You may do the same by removing the straw or paper tubes and slitting them open to remove the cocoons. The cocoons may then be stored in the refrigerator in

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Letter from the President

September already and another gardening season begins to draw to a close. Is gardening in BC becoming more difficult? Of course, we all grow older and that makes it more difficult but this year I think the weather was more against us than with us. In my neck of the woods, South Surrey, we had the last snowfall in late April followed, just two weeks later, by daytime highs of 27 degrees Celsius! We need plants that not only will withstand the minimum temperatures of Zone 8, but also the scorching sun and drought conditions more typical of the Kalahari Desert. There was no chance of a beautiful spring garden this year as we had no spring but went straight from winter to summer. In this changing climate, the need for more Master Gardeners to give advice to local would-be gardeners is as strong as ever.

In previous years, members living outside the Lower Mainland have felt excluded from the MGABC Annual General Meeting simply because it was always held in Vancouver. In 2009 we are taking steps to make amends by holding the AGM in Sidney just south of the Swartz Bay ferry terminal, on Thursday, November 26. The Victoria Master Gardeners are organizing the event and I will not take the wind from their sails by disclosing too many details here. Suffice to say, this will be much more than a business meeting. It will be a great event that will make travel arrangements to Sidney well worthwhile. More details will be forthcoming in the

Newsletter (please see page 12), on bcmastergardeners.org and by email and at local chapter meetings.

It's decision time for the MG Fact Sheet project. We must commit to the \$12,000 print order during the next three weeks. Did you contribute to the writing, editing, photography, design, or production of these 16 Fact Sheets? Or perhaps you are involved in solving the distribution problem? If the answer is no, you can still make a significant contribution to this worthwhile cause by making a donation. Please do so through your local chapter (preferably) or by sending a cheque payable to "MGABC" directly to Ron Fawcett, our treasurer. We only need an average of \$10 per member. But knowing that some members are not able to donate, please donate what you are able. It would be wonderful if we can say that the vast majority of members contributed to this project one way or another.

As we move into the second half of this transition year I am still full of enthusiasm and hope that the MGABC will continue to grow and strengthen. The Council of the past two years has been dedicated, hard-working, and successful in its efforts. As we fill the vacant spots on the Council for 2010 there is still everything to play for and I encourage members to join the team and be part of the success.

—Barry Roberts

Fact Sheets Campaign

Sixteen titles of definitive information to hand to the general public as opportunities occur at clinics, community projects, speakers' events, or wherever Master Gardeners offer gardening advice.

At the 2010 Spring Seminar our plan is to distribute packs of six copies of each of the 16 titles (96 copies) to each MG. Distribution will be done through local chapters.

Through sponsorship and despite the current global financial crisis, we have successfully attracted a donation of \$4,800 from Shell Environmental. But the total budget for this project is \$12,000. We therefore need to raise a further \$7,200; an average of just \$10 per member. *To date, donations received from our members average just over \$1.*

We appeal to all members to donate towards this project. The fact sheets support our mandate to educate the public. For every donation of \$100 or more an official donation receipt for tax purposes will be issued.

Please donate, as generously as you can, through your local MG Chapter, or by sending a cheque, payable to MGABC, to Ron Fawcett (MGABC Treasurer), 24255 – 63A Crescent, Langley, V2Y 2G4 or telephone Ron to donate by credit card.

This is a great initiative, written, photographed, edited, and produced by Master Gardeners to help educate the public about sustainable gardening. Please do your very best to support it. Thank you.

—Barry Roberts

Cocoons Can Be Wintered in the Fridge for Spring

continued from page 1

a paper bag until you want them in the spring. When hung outside the bees will chew their way out of the bag and fly off to your nesting box, which is clean and ready for them.

Before they go into the refrigerator, you may wash the cocoons in a solution of one part regular bleach to 10 parts cold water to rid them of mites. Mites have been reported to affect up to 50 percent of the bee population. They may feed on the pollen food in the nest, on the eggs, or on the larva. The cocoons require two or three rinses and drying before winter storage in the refrigerator.

Square, circle, spiral

These birthing boxes can be quite decorative but the holes are square and that seems to make a difference to the bees. This year I hung such a condo on a south-facing wall along with three condos with round tubes made from newspaper. Two of these were made from single malt scotch whiskey canisters with a core of Styrofoam. Holes drilled into the Styrofoam hold the newspaper tubes in place. The whiskey canisters had more appeal to me than a Coke bottle and the bees seemed to like the canisters. Altogether I offered visiting mason bees a total of 84 round tubes and 32 square. By the end of May all the round tubes were filled but only four of the square. I observed that when the bees approached the condos with the square holes they would quickly move on to those with the round tubes.

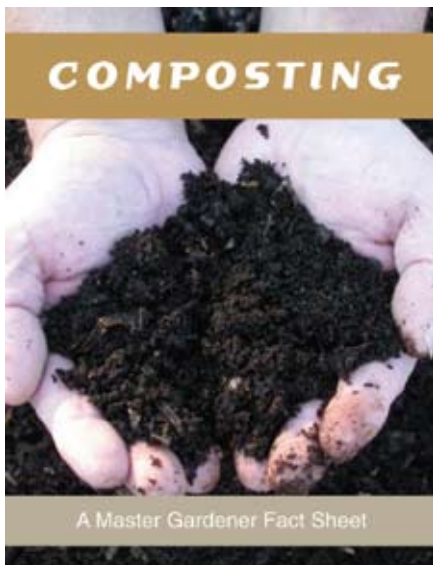


Bee condo with round holes is full; square holes remain empty

On discussing this with Derry Walsh she made me aware of some unpublished research from the University of British Columbia on this subject. The researchers, using a small medical endoscopic camera, observed mason bees as they entered the tubes. They noted that as a bee progresses along a condo tube it does so by turning in a spiral fashion, which is much easier to do in a round tube than in a square one. As well, when a mason bee uses a square tube, it attempts to make it round by filling in the corners with mud. Mason bees have found it much easier to save labour by beginning with a round tube in the first place.

One project for the winter will be to convert my square-holed condo to one with round tubes and perhaps to make more from single malt whiskey canisters.

— Doug Courtemanche



Fact Sheet Titles Ready to Be Printed

Clematis and Other Climbers • Composting • Container Gardening • Drought-Tolerant Gardening • Easy-Care Roses • Eco-Gardening • Fruit Trees for the Home Garden • Trees for Small Gardens • Monthly Gardening Tasks • Ground Covers • Preparing a New Lawn • Ornamental Grasses • Pruning Guidelines • Maintenance and Renovation of Lawns • Shade Gardens • Design and Manage a Vegetable Garden

Other Titles Planned

Shrubs • Bulbs • Annuals • Perennials • Soil Preparation and Health • Natural Pest Management

Horticultural Therapy. Why is it important?

People feel good around plants. In 1989 a survey conducted for the National Gardening Association of more than 2,000 randomly selected American households found that 50.1 percent of respondents agreed with this statement.

In 1984 Roger S. Ulrich, a behavioural scientist and professor of architecture and landscape architecture at Texas A&M University, investigated the effect that views from windows had on patients recovering from abdominal surgery. He discovered those with a view of trees as opposed to a brick wall had an easier time recovering. Significantly they required less pain medication.

The implications of this research showed that horticultural therapy aids health and wellness in a number of ways by lowering blood pressure, by reducing muscle tension, and by lowering skin conductance.

A bit of history

Horticultural therapy has been shown to be effective in many disability populations. Horticultural therapy was formally acknowledged in England in 1936 as appropriate for occupational and recreational purposes. The Second World War produced an overwhelming magnitude of war veterans in need of both physical and mental rehabilitation, and it was a natural development with its inherent love of nature and gardening to incorporate therapeutic methods in the garden in collaboration with occupational therapy.

At about this time in America, the emerging field of horticultural therapy began to distinguish itself



from occupational therapy. In 1972 the Menninger Foundation teamed up with Kansas State University to offer the first horticultural therapy curriculum developed by Dr. Richard Mattson, HTM. A year later, in 1973, the American Horticultural Therapy Association was created. Meanwhile in England a horticultural therapy program was formally established at Coventry University in 1993.

Horticultural therapy at work

Key to the role of horticultural therapist is the significance of the person-plant relationship. The horticultural therapist understands the value of plants in the food, carbon dioxide, and aesthetic pleasure they provide us, as well as their medicinal uses.

Significant to the role of the horticultural therapist is training relevant to the diverse spectrum of participants involved, from seniors to mentally or visually impaired children to people with no hope of rehabilitation but in need of recreational diversion.

The process of change through horticultural therapy first and foremost involves reduction of negative arousal levels, which leads to improved health, allowing a number of other positive changes to take place. Reduced negative arousal allows for more rigorous vocational activities to be gradually introduced, leading to the introduction of a rehabilitation program and the overall improvement of the participant's health status.

By charting and observing in note form, the horticultural therapist is better able to communicate to other staff and the participants themselves their progress. By using charts the participant's individual strengths and weaknesses can be quantifiably measured. Horticultural therapists offer a living medium that most people are very familiar with. They bring the sanctuary of nature to the participant. The participant attends with time to process their thoughts and feelings.

Plant appreciation and preservation

Further, horticultural therapists today also play an important part in educating and reinforcing more environmentally sustainable and humanly healthful landscapes and practices. Crisis point has been reached as up to one-third of the world's plant species are threatened with extinction.

The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of 2002 urges the world community to recognize plant conservation as an outstanding global priority. By



Horticultural Therapy Benefits are Many

According to the horticultural therapists who host the website www.gardenswithoutborders.org and operate Innisfree Farm, a horticultural therapy centre in Courtenay, British Columbia, the therapeutic value of horticultural therapy falls into three categories in addition to the physical benefits:

Cognitive

- Offers distraction from personal pain and suffering.
- Creates a psychological boosts through a change of scenery.
- Allows a sense of challenge and progress through a learning opportunity.
- Requires initiative and responsibility as well as right choices and decisions.
- Improves feelings of self worth and self esteem.
- Creates the opportunity to understand and learn how to work with others. By active participation in teamwork individuals learn the value of connection and community through cooperation and compromise.
- Active participation, social interaction, and sensory stimulation help to counter the problems of institutionalization.

Emotional

- Brings back happy memories of previous gardens, perhaps associations with childhood.
- Offers something to share with others as gifts and encourages the ability to give.
- Allows an opportunity for socialization and conversation.
- Ordering seeds and waiting for them to sprout and then flower develops belief in the future.

Spiritual

- Creates a chance to exercise choice and free will and allows feelings of being in control.
- Allows an opportunity to be creative and productive.
- Creates feelings of hopefulness by watching seeds sprout and offers a reason to wake up in the morning.



horticultural therapists promoting and educating public awareness about plant diversity and using plant diversity sustainably they are hitting two of the five main themes of the GSPC:

- using plant diversity sustainably, involving trafficking controls and supporting the fair and equitable sharing of benefits; and
- promoting education and awareness about plant diversity.

Therapeutic horticultural programs can follow the medical model, focusing on recovery and rehabilitation and the management of an illness. They may be social, following a wellness model aimed to maintain quality of life. Or they may be vocational, with a goal to rehabilitate and ultimately provide some employable skills to the participants.

When working with a community, horticultural therapists have an opportunity to “beautify” the physical condition of an environment and subsequently improve it economically and socially. When a group shares values and interests a common commitment is derived that will hopefully and often leads to change.

—Natasha Etherington

Whatcom County Master Gardeners Visit British Columbia



Entrance to Joan Bentley's Home



Brugmansia, wollemi pine and Cannas in Joan Bentley's Garden

Last year Whatcom County Master Gardeners kindly hosted us with tea and treats on the lawn at Hovander Homestead following a summer road trip to Hovander and Tennant Lake Fragrance Gardens in Whatcom County. This year, through the combined efforts of June Granero and Caroline Correa of Whatcom County and Susan Lazar and Penny Koch of the MGABC, the Whatcom County MGs made a reciprocal trip north of the border to tour gardens of three MGs.

Thirty-two visitors were treated to the rare wit of Barry Roberts as he gave an entertaining tour of his White Rock garden during the first garden tour. Much comment was made over his stunning display of 2,000 canna lilies; then appreciation turned into astonishment when visiting MGs learned that he digs up all his cannas, as well as many other plants in his garden, for overwintering. Barry even quipped that his wife's contribution was to head off to Hong Kong and leave him to it for the whole of October! As we walked round we were treated to a display of 14 different maples, many sedum, and a greenhouse full of tomatoes, squash, and a beautiful pink passion flower, everything clearly labelled and set out. As everyone walked back down the drive we saw again the wonderful collection of hibiscus in full bloom. Several Whatcom MGs discussed with admiration how Barry is able to project his enthusiasm and tireless energy into gardening.

On to the next garden and walking up the steep drive at 35th Avenue off Crescent Road I was met by Mel Felker's wife, who introduced herself as "the weeder." She and Mel rescued this property from nature and together they have filled it with many gems, including a wide variety of hydrangeas, one climbing majestically up a cedar; a ground-cover clematis; and a stunning *Cercis canadensis*, recovering well from winter damage. Mel explained how developing his property has been the driver to educate himself in gardening. Don't we all feel as Mel did when he said, "I wish I had known more when I started"? The Felker garden includes many areas to sit and ponder, some in shade, some in sun, all looking out on a well laid-out fruit and vegetable garden, as well as all terraced areas with well-chosen colour combinations. Mel has certainly found an excellent way to develop a steeply sloping lot.

Next, to lunch followed by another feast for a gardener's eyes. As I walked up to Joan Bentley's Crescent Beach garden, I began to experience the English garden influence of nearly 800 species of perennials, annuals, bushes, trees, climbers, and roses filling every nook and cranny. This garden of a thousand views offers the onlooker an experience of plants from many countries and climates. The myriad pots dotted around the garden were filled with some little and other not-so-little gems, including two- to three-metre canna

Tour Was a Feast for Gardeners' Eyes

lilies, a brugmansia in full bloom, and a metre-high wollemi pine. Joan even found time (somehow!) to bake goodies for afternoon tea, which all enjoyed.

Congratulations go to Susan Lazar and Penny Koch of MGABC for organizing such a successful event and thanks to all the BC Master Gardeners who came to assist.

Speaking on behalf of the Whatcom MGs, Caroline Correa passed on this message: "On behalf of the Whatcom County Master Gardeners, thank you and your fellow gardeners for organizing this wonderful garden tour. Please accept our donation as a thank you and as a help to support the Vancouver chapter of the Master Gardener Association of BC in future projects."

—Sandra Hewson



Ptilotus exaltatus 'Joey' (Joan Bentley's garden)



Mel Felker introducing his garden



Rogersia (Joan Bentley's garden)



From left, Caroline Correa, Judy Boxx (Whatcom MG President) and Joan Bentley enjoy garden tour



Tricyrtis sp (Toad Lily) in Mel Felker's Garden

Greenscapes: Olmsted's Pacific Northwest

by Joan Hockaday

Softcover, 196 pages, 9 x 10 ½ inches, \$29.95

ISBN 97800874222982

Washington State University Press

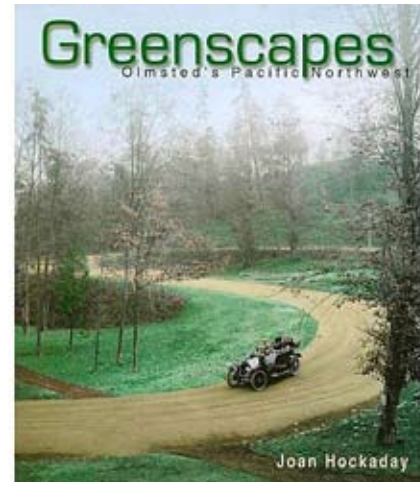
Joan Hockaday, a journalist and garden writer, has been researching the Olmsted family for many years, with five years spent researching John Charles Olmsted and his lasting park landscape designs. *Greenscapes* charts John Charles' journeys to the West Coast, where he designed many parks and private spaces in the Portland and Seattle area, as well as Uplands in Victoria.

John Charles Olmsted, born in 1852, graduated from Yale University and then apprenticed in the landscape architecture firm of his stepfather, Frederick Law Olmsted. The firm had risen to prominence after winning a competition to design New York's Central Park, and it continued to have much influence on many Eastern park spaces. During his time with the firm, John Charles designed park sanctuaries in Charleston and New Orleans. He also served as the first president of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

During the late 1800s and early 1900s many of the cities in the Northwest were rapidly expanding and municipal fathers had a desire for better park spaces to beautify their cities. In 1903, the Olmsted firm made a name for itself out West by taking on the design of the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland and providing a report for the design and establishment of a new park system. John Charles represented the firm in these endeavours, and he made subsequent visits to Portland, Seattle, Spokane, Walla Walla, and many college campuses in Washington and Seattle.

While writing *Greenscapes*, Hockaday's research included the John Charles Olmsted Papers, the vast correspondence of John Charles to his wife Sofia and to the firm's offices while he was away on his lengthy trips to the Northwest. In his letters John Charles was extremely meticulous in recording as much detail of each day's events and the sites he visited so as to be able to write an extensive report of recommendations for each client upon his return East. *Greenscapes* uses quotes from these letters to paint a portrait of Olmsted, his family, work, and travel to the Northwest in a time of great change.

The book also includes photos and maps of sites and buildings, as well as sometimes-too-detailed



descriptions of Olmsted's visits. These details distract from the book and sometimes cause the reader who is unfamiliar with the Olmsteds and landscape architecture and who has never visited their park spaces in Oregon and Washington to lose their way. Frustrating for Master Gardeners and garden designers, Hockaday fails to explain the ways in which the Olmsteds influenced garden design and the reasons their landscapes worked and continue to work today. The description of Olmsted's design of Uplands appears in only one three-page chapter, which details his quick sidetrip by boat to Victoria to visit a piece of property purchased by developers from the Hudson Bay Company. Olmsted drew up plans for the developers of this property, which became the well-heeled Uplands neighbourhood located in the northeast part of the Municipality of Oak Bay.

For readers familiar with the work of the Olmsted family and how they shaped park landscapes across the United States, *Greenscapes* would be a nice addition to the bookshelf. The book captures the personal life and travels of a very important member of the landscape architecture community in the early 20th century.

Olmsted was highly influential in the conservation of natural vegetation, use of gradients in the landscape, and opening up and preserving natural views of majestic features. These aspects of many of his parks are retained to this day. His original report to Portland still stands as a manifesto of park setup, management, and governance. However, Master Gardeners would likely prefer more information about the hows and whys of Olmsted's park design. *Greenscapes* gives more of a glimpse of history rather than teaches actual garden landscape knowledge.

—Sarah Bagshaw

MG Calendar

All events take place in the Floral Hall at VanDusen Botanical Garden, unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday, September 8, 9:30 a.m.

General meeting

One sheep, two sheep, white sheep, vegetable sheep: Unusual plants of New Zealand

Dr. Alan R. Reid, Gardenworks horticulturist

Joint meeting with VanDusen Guides

Saturday, September 12, 1 to 3 p.m.

Workshop

Egan Davis

Incorporating Edibles into Your Perennial Garden

This is a great opportunity to be out in the Garden with Egan Davis, one of VanDusen's head gardeners. Davis has run many practical courses at VanDusen, and his extensive knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm for all aspects of gardening are reflected in his classes. These are typically a practical, interactive experience outside in the Garden.

In May 2009 Davis received the prestigious Top in Trades Award in Environmental Sustainability from the Industry Training Authority. He is also on the board of directors of Horts Trade BC, the industry's training organization.

This workshop, specifically for Master Gardeners, will cover a broad range of topics including ideal vegetables and other edibles to grow, cultivation tips, what to avoid, companion planting, succession planting, space-saving tips, and vertical gardening.

The group will meet on the deck just inside the garden entrance at 1.00 p.m. on Saturday, September 12. Dress for the weather, which will be sunny we hope!

\$20 workshop fee payable by cheque in advance

To register, please contact Lorraine Lewis at l-lewis@direct.ca.

You are advised to sign up early as numbers are limited to 20 participants. Registration is confirmed on receipt of cheque.

Saturday, October 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bountiful Urban Garden (BUG) Fair

VanDusen Botanical Garden

Featuring Master Gardeners demonstrating, speaking, and educating the public

Tuesday, October 13, 7:30 p.m.

General meeting

Ron Long

Adventures of a Modern Plant Hunter

Saturday, October 17, 10 a.m.

Riverview Trees Field Trip

Contact Karen Taylor-Hill at Karen@kpiinc.net

Limited to 20 people

Tuesday, November 10, 9:30 a.m.

General meeting

Speaker TBA

Thursday, November 26, 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.

MGABC Annual General Meeting

Mary Winspear Centre, 2243 Beacon Avenue, Sidney

Guest Speaker: Ted Baker, the Iris King

Irises and Their Companion Plantings

Sunday, December 13, 2:00 p.m.

Christmas Party

Potluck

Tuesday, October 11 to Friday, October 14, 2011

Charleston, West Virginia

Color it Green in a Wild and Wonderful Way

International Master Gardener Conference

Find out more on the West Virginia University Extension

Service website at <http://development.ext.wvu.edu>

Bring your friends to the Vancouver Chapter's Bountiful Urban Garden (BUG) Fair on Saturday, October 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Van Dusen Botanical Garden. Want to get involved or need more information? Contact Karen Taylor-Hill at Karen@kpiinc.net.

A Busy Summer for the Vancouver Chapter



Advanced Training Propagation workshop with Norma Senn on April 22



Linda Wheeler demonstrating container planting at VanDusen spring plant sale



Doug Courtemanche guiding MGs at the annual garden party and strawberry tea at VanDusen Botanical Garden on June 16



Insect workshop with Linda Gilkeson on May 30



Helen Tsepnopoulos and her daughter, Sophie at VanDusen spring plant sale



As this is my last newsletter item I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for making the job of Overall Clinic Coordinator as easy and enjoyable as it was.

To all of the Area Coordinators I send a big, big thank you. Yolanda Leung, Lynn Burge, Diane Escalante, Shelley Deglan, Melissa Geddes, Gudrun Hancock, Shirley McGrew, Shirley Cole, Nigel Bunning, and George Littlemore have been the Master Gardeners who helped you all through the clinic season by finding new clinics and by making changes to your schedules. Where my job finished, theirs began, and the clinic coordination system worked well for all of us.

I hope that everyone will continue to support your new Overall Clinic Coordinator, Elizabeth Taylor. Elizabeth will be taking over this job at the end of this season and will welcome your patience and support while she settles in. Please take the time to welcome her.

The clinic season will continue for several more weeks and spaces are still available for those who need or want more hours. Look through the Master Clinic List and call the Area Coordinator about openings of interest to you. Our own Beautiful Urban Gardens or BUG event on Saturday, October 3, at VanDusen Botanical Garden is an opportunity for six MGs or students to get those last few hours. Thanks again.

—Diane Hartley

Letter from the Vancouver Chair

Congratulations to our Special Events committee and the many volunteers who made the MG annual garden party at VanDusen and the field trip to the Terra Nova Project two successful events. The schedule of the Vancouver Master Gardeners events throughout the remaining months of this year give testimony to the amazing energy and hard work of the Meetings and Special Events committees (see the monthly MGABC email bulletin).

The Bountiful Urban Gardens (BUG) fair is scheduled for Saturday, October 3. This event is being run solely by Master Gardeners for the benefit of the general public and is one way in which we have responded to the call, earlier this year, for us to look at the way in which we fulfil our mission statement. It is a very ambitious event and congratulations, again, to the Special Events committee and to all members supporting this event.

—Barry Roberts
Vancouver Master Gardeners, Chairman





Newsletter

of the Master Gardeners Association
of British Columbia
in Association with

VanDusen Botanical Gardens Association

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Master Gardeners Association of British Columbia is to provide information about gardening to the community and to educate people about environmentally responsible gardening practices.

Please send all **contact information changes** to Pat Taylor, membership chair.

All other **newsletter correspondence** can be sent to the editor, Ann-Marie Metten, at ametten@telus.net.

Newsletter layout by Wendy Jones.

The MG Newsletter is published in March, June, September, and December. **Deadline for submissions** to the December newsletter is September 30, 2009.

www.bcmastergardeners.org
gardener@bcmastergardeners.org



Master Gardeners Association of British Columbia 2009 Local Chapter Executive

Vancouver

Chair: Barry Roberts
Past Chair: Lynne Christmas
1st Vice-Chair: Susan Lazar
2nd Vice-Chair: Penny Koch
Secretary: Heather Nielsen
Treasurer: Ron Fawcett
Member-at-Large: Leslie Ingram
Bylaws: Lynne Christmas
Nominations: Lynne Christmas
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Clinic Coordinator: Elizabeth Taylor
Community Projects:
Joyce Fitz-Gibbon
Cheri Trewin
Plant Information Line:
Sheila Watkins
VanDusen Seed Collectors:
Heather Gillis
Seedy Saturday: Lynne Christmas
Monthly Meetings: Susan Lazar
Workshops / Field Trips:
Susan Lazar
Speakers Group: Barbara Bowers
Telephone: Colleen Martin
Welcome Table: Shirley Mason
Audio-Visual (meetings):
Ken McDonald
Coffee: Sue Damm
Ingrid Gowans
Plant Sales: Joan Bentley
Loretta Barr

Summerland

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Past Program Coordinator:
Linda Sears
Secretary: Joyce Booker
Treasurer: Karen Taylor
Clinics: Joy Campbell
Basic Training Coordinators:
Lorrie Henderson (Kelowna)
Leslie Welch (Kamloops)
Prince George
Basic Training Coordinator:
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Claire Pullman
Clinics Chair: Chris Neilson
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Mike Juleff

MARK YOUR CALENDARS, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Master Gardener Association of BC

Host: Victoria Master Gardener Association Chapter

Where: Mary Winspear Centre, 2243 Beacon Avenue, Sidney, BC

When: Thursday, November 26 **Time:** 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Ted Baker, the Iris King, *Iris*es and Their Companion Plantings

Attend our Business Meeting and Election of 2010 Provincial Council. Meet some of our horticulture friends and partners. Partake in a social gathering with your fellow Master Gardeners from around the province. Plan for early Christmas shopping in the quaint Town of Sidney; enjoy a pre-event lunch in the Greenhouse at Glendale Gardens; relax on the BC ferry and coach ride from Vancouver and up-Island points; make a weekend of it.

Contact your local chapter representative for more details:
Linda Derkach; Pam Harrison; Linda Sears, and Sheila Malbeuf