



## There's a New Fly in Town

There's a new species of vinegar fly (small fruit fly) in British Columbia that threatens to destroy millions of dollars worth of fruit unless local populations can be quickly identified and suppressed before they get out of hand.

Known as the spotted wing drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*), this Asian native was unknown in North America until it was discovered in coastal California in 2008. It has since spread north along the coast with breathtaking speed, targeting a wide variety of thin-skinned fruits such as blackberries, blueberries, cherries, grapes, pears, nectarines, peaches, plums, raspberries, and strawberries. In 2009, it was credited with destroying more than 30 percent of California's cherry harvest. Closer to home, 80 percent of the late-season peach harvest and 20 percent of both the blueberry and raspberry harvests in northwestern Oregon were also destroyed by this new invader.

Surveillance is currently underway at more than 340 sites in the Okanagan, Similkameen, and Kootenay valleys after the spotted wing drosophila made its debut in the Fraser Valley in September 2009 and was found a month later in a cherry orchard in the Kelowna area. To date, these vinegar flies have been found in one-fifth of the survey sites.

We see so many vinegar flies here in late summer, you may be wondering why we care so much about this one. We care because, unlike other fruit flies that attack over-ripe and decaying fruit, the spotted wing

drosophila attacks ripe, ready-to-harvest fruit, rendering it unsaleable and inedible. And just to make things really interesting, researchers at Oregon State University believe that this prolific insect can produce as many as 10 to 13 generations in a single season. That's not only a lot of fruit flies, it's a lot of opportunity for the species to develop immunity to any pesticides used to control it.



The spotted wing drosophila looks pretty much like all other vinegar flies except that the males have a grey-black spot on

the end of each wing and the females have a saw-like ovipositor (an appendage they use to cut into fruit so that they can lay their eggs). Note that females don't have spots on their wings, only males (see photos on page 2). So break out your hand-lenses and, if you discover this pest in your backyard orchard, bury all infested fruit or remove it from your property in sealed bags or containers. Then contact the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands branch in Kelowna at (250) 861-7211 and report your findings.

—Vanessa Farnsworth

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# President's Message

This fall, our annual general meeting is returning to the Lower Mainland and will be held at UBC Botanical Garden on Tuesday, November 9. Following the success of the previous AGM held in Sidney, I understand that the Special Events Committee, under the Chairmanship of the indefatigable Susan Lazar, is aiming to go one better this year. Mark the date in your calendar, and don't miss it. Please watch for further announcements.

Our happy family of Master Gardeners in BC now comprises six chapters — a total of 779 qualified Master Gardeners:

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>%</i>
Prince George	25	3%
Thompson-Shuswap	26	3%
Okanagan	35	5%
Vancouver Island	85	11%
Victoria	122	16%
Vancouver	486	62%
Total:	779	100%

These figures are taken from the current membership database as of July 2010 but do not include the classes of 2010 in Okanagan, Prince George, Thompson-Shuswap, Victoria, and Vancouver Island. Also excluded

are classes of 2009 from Victoria and Vancouver Island. The Membership Committee would appreciate membership numbers from these groups so that the membership database can be updated. Members included in the membership database have the benefit of receiving all Newsletter and MGAdmin email notifications.

Each chapter is represented on the MGABC Council (the provincial body) and other members of Council include the President, President-Elect, Secretary, VP-Finance, VP-Meetings & Special Events, VP-Planning & Governance, VP-Education, and VP-Communications (currently vacant). The Council now meets four times per year.

We trust the AGM in November will see the fruits of the labours of the Nominating Committee, resulting in all positions on Council being filled.

Members who have previously been awarded a 10- or 20-year pin but were unable to claim them at the time, or have subsequently lost them, may send me a request by email at [roberts\\_bn@yahoo.ca](mailto:roberts_bn@yahoo.ca), or by snail-mail, and I will send them a new pin. This offer closes when we exhaust our stock of pins or on Monday, November 15, whichever is soonest.

—Barry Roberts  
MGABC President

## Bugs to watch out for...

(Please refer to front page article for details)



**Spotted Wing Drosophila  
Adult Female**  
*Inset shows ovipositor.*



**Spotted Wing Drosophila  
Adult Male with wing  
spots**

Photos: Sheila Fitzpatrick, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre, Agassiz

# The Zero-Mile Diet: A Year-Round Guide to Growing Organic Food

by Carolyn Herriot

Softcover, 256 pages, 8 × 10, \$32.95

ISBN 978-1-55017-481-6

Harbour Publishing

When I learned that Carolyn Herriot had written a new book, I was eager to get a copy of *The Zero-Mile Diet: A Year-Round Guide to Growing Organic Food*. My edition of her previous book — *A Year on the Garden Path: A 52-Week Organic Gardening Guide* — is a dog-eared favourite that is always one of the books I take to Master Gardener clinics. Fortunately, I use a wheeled bag to carry my books to clinics because Herriot's newest book merits lugging with me, too, as it will be a great resource for all of the vegetable gardening questions that I get at farmer's market clinics.

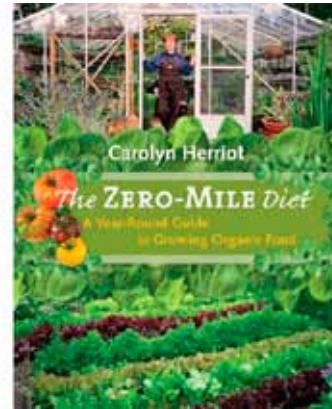
The proliferation of wonderful colour photographs, most of them taken by Herriot, is enough to inspire gardeners to get out and grow some food.

*The Zero-Mile Diet: A Year-Round Guide to Growing Organic Food* includes information on growing culinary herbs, tree fruits, berries, and nuts; making compost; amending soil organically; attracting beneficial insects; raising backyard chickens; propagating; seed saving; growing sprouts for eating; and more. Interesting facts and yummy recipes are interspersed throughout.

My favourite section is the "A–Z of Vegetables," where Herriot generously shares knowledge she has gained through growing vegetables over the past 20 years. She relates germination and planting requirements, preferred conditions for growth, historical facts, pest-management tips, and harvesting information, as well as her favourite varieties. By including information on how to save seeds or propagate each vegetable, Herriot truly gives people the necessary tools to work toward self-sufficiency and food security.

I definitely recommend the book; however, I would be remiss not to caution that Master Gardeners will find a few unfortunate factual and editing errors.

There are also a few other things that I would like to see improved. The organization of some of the topics frustrated me as it led to repetition and meant that I had to look in several places to get all the information. Instead, for example, I would prefer to see all of the fruit-growing information in the same chapter. Further, I found it strange that the write-up for each vegetable in the "A–Z of Vegetables" includes a section on



seed-saving, but for tomatoes the reader has to wait for an entirely different chapter to get the same information. Similarly, some topics such as growing garlic appear in the October chapter where you would expect to find it, but then garlic is not listed in the March chapter where the reader finds the "A–Z of Vegetables" — and this omission could lead to confusion.

The back-of-book blurb describes the book as a month-by-month gardening guide; however, unlike *A Year on the Garden Path*, where each month outlines what you ought to be doing in the garden, in *Zero-Mile Diet* the months seem more like chapter titles rather than a calendar of garden activities. That's why *A Year on the Garden Path* will continue to accompany me to Master Gardener clinics.

Also, some of the recommendations for pest management were disappointing. Herriot recommends dormant oil sprays for fruit trees on a yearly basis, which I have come to learn (from Linda Gilkeson in my Advanced Master Gardener Training) are excessive because dormant oil sprays also kill beneficial insects. If integrated pest management techniques were truly employed, gardeners would wait until a problem was identified before spraying. Herriot also recommends yearly copper sprays, which have been shown to build up to toxic levels, according to the Cornell University Resource Guide for Organic Insect and Disease Management fact sheet on copper products. Instead of all these spraying recommendations, I would have liked to see a recommendation to choose resistant cultivars.

But please don't be mistaken: this book is an inspiring, informative, and beautiful read that I suggest for anyone interested in growing food sustainably. I know what Santa will be bringing a copy for my brother, who put in his first vegetable garden this summer.

—Laura Ralph

# Plant ID Social in Victoria

Plant identification is one of the major skills a Master Gardener needs to answer questions at MG clinics and in the garden shop, so this summer the Victoria Chapter organized two plant ID and social events to help members brush up on their identification skills.



Photo: Linda Cross

*Darmera peltata*

The Victoria Master Gardeners gathered at Carol Proudlove's home to practise our plant identification on Wednesday, July 21, based on the theme of plant families. The thought was that it would be easier to identify plants based on family characteristics. A group of more than 20 Master Gardeners gathered to locate and group several of the plant families contained in Carol's collection.

Participants were put in groups and were nourished with delicious appetizers, then set out in her lovely garden to find and name members of four groupings. The plants that were included in the "family member hunt" were from the Polygonaceae family, identifying the differences between, *Persicaria virginiana* 'Lance Corporal' and *Persicaria virginiana* 'Painter's Palette,' for example; from the Rosaceae family, comparing *Rubus thibetanus* (brambles) with *Rubus spectabilis* (salmonberry), among others; and within the Hydrangeaceae family, comparing the evergreen shrub *Dichroa febrifuga* with the deciduous subshrub or perennial *Cardiandra formosana*.

It was a lot of fun and everyone would agree that it was a very worthwhile educational event. We found it much more difficult to group family members together than it should be, but altogether it was a great learning experience.

Again in late August our education committee hosted another plant ID and social event. This one was extra

special because it convened at a private home in the Uplands that has been featured in the annual Conservatory of Music garden tours.



The homeowners inherited a well-established heritage garden full of unique perennials, shrubs, and trees, many of which had been planted and nurtured over the past 50 years.

A group of Victoria Master Gardeners volunteered to assist the owners in identifying some of the unique specimens and found a treasure trove of specialties.

Carol Proudlove and Richard Mosselman led the group to explore these many treasures. Some of the highlights included spectacular galls on a *Rosa glauca*; a very large *Exochorda x macrantha* 'The Bride' (pearl bush); an *Enkianthus campanulatus*; the fabulous bark on a *Stewartia*; and a *Eucryphia x intermedia*. There were more than 60 plants to identify in this peaceful, tranquil setting nestled among Garry oaks. We were all in sensory overload by the end of the session. What a wonderful feeling.



Photo: Linda Cross

*The only tree none of us could identify was the one we are all huddled under as a group in the accompanying photo. Do you know what it is?*

Summer is slowly coming to a close, but this past year the Victoria Chapter has brought members together for great laughs, great food, and great plants. We look forward to our next experience to explore the wonderful world of nature at its finest.

—Jan Hemming  
Victoria Chapter

# The Victoria Chapter's "Plantologist"



*Richard and pal, Angus*

We know him as our friend, Richard Mosselman. Many others know him as the resident “guy to go to” for all our plant identification issues.

He is a walking encyclopedia for plant nomenclature and, whatever he doesn't know off the top of his head, he will find in one of the many resources that cover his dining-room table. He may not be able to eat at the table, but he can find a plant name, family, or species name, and he usually knows someone, somewhere, who has that plant.

We recently bestowed an honorary membership on this special person in our Chapter. He has become so busy working with his clients that he needed some time off to do other things, like travel — yes, travel to gardens worldwide. We didn't want to lose his expertise.

Richard recently hosted a group of VMGA members in his garden on a Sunday afternoon. Lynne Christmas, from the Vancouver Chapter, joined us for the day.

There were lots of laughs, great food, and great friends. Did we mention Richard also had some new plants to stump the group? He's always looking for that specialty treasure that no one else has. That's our Richard!

**—Jan Hemming  
Victoria Chapter**



*Richard hosting VMGA members in his garden*

# Square-Foot Gardening Continues in the Okanagan

Okanagan Master Gardeners experienced a rather wet and cool June followed by a very hot dry July and August. These weather conditions have caused a few interesting situations in some of the square-foot gardens we have been working with. These were obvious in the new square-foot gardens that we helped the women build at the Society of Hope housing for women in transition. As noted in the June issue of this newsletter, some of our Master Gardeners helped the women establish three square-foot gardening plots. These are women with very little to no experience gardening and there have been some challenges working with them; however, it truly is wonderful to see how they have enjoyed picking and eating a ripe tomato off the vine. We are planning to add more square-foot gardening plots here next year, as well as helping to establish gardens at a new Society of Hope housing project that is being built for seniors.

Okanagan Master Gardeners planned only one educational event for our summer and it was held on Wednesday, July 7. This was a hands-on disease and pest identification workshop and in-the-field workshop given by Hugh Philips, a retired entomologist, and Dr. Susanna Acheampong, the current entomologist with Agriculture Canada. Those who attended brought samples from their own gardens, and as well we were free to hunt through

host Karen Anderson's cutting garden to find some. Dr. Susanna had brought microscopes along and we were able to view these pests up close. It was a very helpful event for all who attended.



*Square-foot gardening in Kelowna*

Other projects continue in progress such as the community gardens that include square-foot gardening in the Rose Valley area of West Kelowna.

In the Rutland area we have a Master Gardener working with the Salvation Army, giving advice on the landscaping around their new store.

In addition, our committee who worked on the Supplement revision have done a fabulous job and it is all ready to go for this fall's Master Gardener Basic Training course, which starts on Saturday, September 11. It looks like we will have a full class for this year's course.

Our AGM will be held in late October in Kelowna with guest speaker Cathy Fuller — the Garden Guru — who will be teaching us how to garden without herbicides and pesticides since these are now banned in Kelowna. If you wish to learn more about her, you can search Facebook and follow the gardening advice she posts there.

**—Caroline Hill  
Okanagan Chapter**

# News from Thompson-Shuswap MGs

The featured speaker at our March spring meeting was Dr. Joanne Harkness from Urban Systems, who presented information about biosolids and their use in the City of Kamloops landscape. The City of Kamloops already has an amazing garden-waste composting program that produces tonnes of compost that its citizens enjoy. The City is now experimenting with composting its biosolids, a byproduct of sewage treatment. Dr. Harkness answered concerns about the possibility of heavy metal contamination.

After listening to master beekeeper and pollinator conservation activist Ted Leischner's talk on native bees at Horticultural Horizons at Thompson Rivers University in April, four Thompson-Shuswap Master Gardeners organized Ted's return in June for an in-depth public workshop. Twenty-one participants signed up for informative classroom work that consisted of identifying native bees and bee friendly forage plants in the morning. In the afternoon participants walked through the horticultural gardens at the University and then visited the gardens of Master Gardeners Fearon Blair and Elaine Sedgman in order to observe and discuss native bee habitat and bee friendly gardening practices. All participants are to receive a bumble bee nesting box to be built during the winter.

The committee organizing the next Master Gardener Basic Training Program in Kamloops has been working hard to arrange speakers and mentors for the small but viable class that starts this September. Our goal is to build our membership and train Master Gardeners in all parts of our region.

**—Elaine Sedgman  
Thompson-Shuswap Chapter**



*Ted Leischner's native bee workshop*



*Pest and disease workshop*

# Vancouver Island Master Gardeners

The Vancouver Island Chapter has decided, with its partner Vancouver Island University, to offer the Master Gardener Basic Training Program in alternate years, starting with the Fall of 2011. This decision was reached in the late spring, after much discussion by the members of the joint VIU and Vancouver Island Master Gardener Association Program Management Committee, and the VIMGA Executive Committee. Many factors contributed to the decision, including the need to find a new facilitator, the need to tighten up some requirements for both students and the facilitator, and the ongoing concern that so much of the work is falling to relatively few volunteers.

The alternate-year model will allow us to breathe a little during the year in which no course is offered. VIMGA is heavily involved in the course when it is given, in terms of presenting at the information night, mentoring, and introducing and supervising the plant identification portion of the program. The alternative-year model will allow us to take a step off of the relentless treadmill of preparation, which must start well in advance of course startup in September. Also, it will reduce the load on the Master Planner, who will have an intake of new students only every other year, and therefore have fewer clinic hours to find, and more time to support the second-year students. Another significant factor is the concern that it is possible to reach a saturation level of committed students for the program in an area of limited population such as ours. Allowing a year between courses will likely result in somewhat larger classes each time, and may result in more committed students. Vancouver Island University Continuing Education may offer some horticultural short courses, which will publicize the Master Gardener program in the off years.

We are optimistic that this decision will result in a stronger MG program here. We feel that supporting and educating our current students and qualified members is a very important part of our mandate, and with a small volunteer core, running the course every year means that member education takes a back seat to our involvement in course administration. We would like more time for innovation and for enjoyment of the concept of being an MG.

Education and social interaction are another big part of our focus. Linda Chalker-Scott's evening lecture on Thursday, June 24, was well received. Her topics were engagingly entitled "Take it all off" on correct planting techniques, "Top dress for success" on mulches, and

"Nursery school" on what to look for when buying healthy plant material. Her new book, *Sustainable Landscapes and Gardens: good science—practical application*, had been presold and the copies were available for pickup after the lecture. The evening format worked well, and potluck snacks were enjoyed during the event. Dennis Ponto, Karen Bennett, and Pam Harrison organized the event and were pleased with the turnout of close to 50 members and guests.

There have also been two social and educational garden tour events in the month of July. One of our goals is to have the three area reps foster some cohesiveness among our far-flung membership. Our Parksville-Qualicum Beach Area Rep, Karen Unruh, has been instrumental in bringing that group of MGs together, with a tour of two members' gardens.

Also in July, the Duncan Area Rep, Ed De Melo, again hosted us at the gardens he maintains for Shawnigan Lake School. This is the second time he has shared this lovely property with us, this time with a barbecue afterward.

Both these events were very well received; we note that even small events like these require significant planning by the organizers, and we salute Karen and Ed for their generosity and hard work.

The summer hiatus in business meetings is allowing our Nominations Committee to search for the Executive members we need for 2011. We look forward to our October AGM and to the MGABC AGM as well.

Clinic opportunities continue to provide a mix of worthwhile activities for our members. Gradually we are generating more and more non-traditional opportunities.

Our presence on the MGABC website has resulted in a few gardening questions being relayed to us. This is another area in which we could involve a few members while enhancing our profile as a good source of information on the island.

It has been a season of challenge, change, and growth for the more than 90 members that make up VIMGA.

—Pam Harrison  
Vancouver Island Chapter



## From Parksville-Qualicum A contrast of newer and more-established gardens



*Curved beds and a raised corner highlight Sally Shivers's garden*



*Irene Brooks's back patio, where we ate our lunches together*

Photos: Karen Bennett

On Monday, July 12, the Parksville-Qualicum Master Gardeners visited two Master Gardeners' gardens.

We started at 10 a.m. with half the group arriving at **Sally Shivers's** fairly new garden in Qualicum. Sally led us through her five-year-old garden with parts renovated only three years ago. A newer area with curved beds and a raised corner area of trees and rockery separates her garden from the neighbour's house. The trees include a prized *Paulownia tomentosa*, which came in a pot from a previous home but is now planted as part of the raised area. Sally said that she had already gardened in several locations so she knew what she wanted in this setting. And her vision is clear. Tropical colours in shrubs and perennials greet you as you pass through her garden gate. Clematis and climbing roses frame the fence line. The colours of the magnificent *Rosa 'Joseph's Coat'* on the arbour entering the back yard emphasize the tropical look Sally was striving for. A variety of climbing roses and clematis continue along the fence in the back yard. Solving the problem of a sunny, hot patio at the back of the house, Sally has planted a *Stewartia* and a *Styrax*, both blooming, in pots on the back patio to provide some shade. And pots of unique *Echeveria* enjoy the sunshine. A shady woodland corner rounds the house opening to her vegetable garden and greenhouse of tomatoes.

The full group met at **Irene Brooks's** garden at 11 a.m. and Irene shared a garden that she has lived in for 30 years but has just seriously intensified since she retired from teaching a few years ago. A woodland front yard opens to a sunny area of ponds, shrubs, beds of cutting flowers, columnar fruit trees, and a huge greenhouse where she started her cutting flowers and now houses her tomato plants. Irene plans her pond areas to include a spillover area lined with clay or pond liner to create places for bog plants. Problem solving was shared as Irene noted how a gift of *Aegopodium podagraria 'Variegatum'*, very special to her, was kept under control by lining the pathway and looked lovely in the setting of varied green woodland colours. The wire staking holding the beautiful *Alstroemeria* aloft was ingenious. A serene and inviting area with a new pergola and climbing vines provided a peaceful respite, which we viewed from the back patio where we ate our lunches together.

The group that had not seen Sally's garden returned with her for their tour after lunch.

The group enjoyed summer time together, gaining new ideas in problem solving and learning about the choice plants these two gardeners cultivate.

—Karen Unruh

# Rooting Rhodos: Further information from the Ultimate Rhododendron Conference

I was fortunate enough to attend the Ultimate Rhododendron conference, held at UBC Botanical Garden, April 9–11, 2010. It was a teaching conference on rhododendrons and azaleas, and here are recommended methods for propagating rhododendrons by way of stem cuttings:

1. In mid-summer or early fall, take rhododendron cuttings in the morning from plants that are young, healthy, and well watered. Select stem tips that are of average size for the plant.
2. Use clean, sharp, bypass pruners to take the cuttings. Snip a 6 cm to 8 cm length of semi-ripe stem, just below a node.
3. Wound the bottom centimetre of the stem with a sharp, clean knife. Whittle a shallow, lengthwise cut that peels away the green bark to expose some cambium.
4. Remove all but the top two or three leaves and cut these leaves in half if they are large.
5. Moisten the rooting medium (50:50 peat and perlite) and poke holes in it. The peat-perlite mixture should be damp but not waterlogged.
6. Dip the cutting's bottom into No. 3 rooting hormone and shake off the excess.
7. Place the cutting into the hole in the peat-perlite mixture and use your finger to press the mixture around the cutting until firm.
8. Water all the cuttings. You may spray the cuttings, as well as the peat-perlite surface, with a general fungicide or no-damp solution in order to decrease the chance of fungal infection.
9. Cover the pots with plastic, and provide them with bottom heat throughout the winter. Place the pots in adequate light but not full sun. Cuttings need 100 percent humidity to survive.
10. If the cuttings are in sealed plastic bags, open them for 30 minutes each month. Remove any plant material that is mouldy or dead.
11. After 6 to 8 weeks, inspect the cuttings to see if any have rooted. If so, gradually expose these rooted cuttings to more and more air over the course of a week. Then transplant them into small pots, using a 50:50 peat-perlite mixture. Add a very dilute solution of liquid fertilizer. Keep the potted cuttings well protected over the winter in a greenhouse or indoors under fluorescent lights. Cuttings that have not rooted should be left, as described above, for as many more months as they take to root.

—Veronica Lanz





## New Master Gardeners Course Explore the World of Classical Chinese Gardening

For the first time, the Master Gardener Association of BC and the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden have joined forces to explore ancient Chinese gardening principles that shaped the beautiful private gardens of China's traditional elite. Among the great gardening civilizations of the world, China has an ancient, unbroken tradition of gardening very different from our own.

Understanding the aesthetics and function of classical Chinese gardens is based on understanding the traditional Chinese view of Heaven and Earth and humanity's place in nature.

One needs to be a gardener, a historian, architect, philosopher, and artist to begin to interpret and appreciate these places of "refreshment for the heart."

Starting October 6 until November 24, this extraordinary class meets every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, the first garden of this type built outside China. We will explore the following:

- Chinese Concepts of Design with Dr. Jan Walls, eminent Canadian Sinologist, and Joe Wai, the Garden's architect
- Daoist Influences on Chinese Gardening with Dr. Paul Crowe
- Calligraphy and Couplets: The Art of the Word in Chinese Gardens with Dr. Jan Walls and Yim Tse, one of Vancouver's celebrated calligraphers

In addition, Roy Forster will introduce the plants of Imperial China and more recent plant discoveries from the wild and their impact on modern garden design. Dr. Walls will join Roy to explore symbolism in Chinese gardens.

Joe Wai and Don Vaughan, the Garden's landscape architect, will work with participants to design an individual project and Roy Forster and Pin Lee will introduce The Art and Artistry of Penjing, Placement, and Pruning, where students will create their own *penjing* (landscape in a tray).

Course fee (includes course materials and taxes) \$388

Number of participants is limited. First come; first served.

'*Xiucai*' (Fine Talent) level certificate awarded to participants who successfully complete the course.

For course information, please contact:

Kathy Gibler

Executive Director

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden

[director@vancouverchinesegarden.com](mailto:director@vancouverchinesegarden.com)

For registration, please contact:

Lynne Christmas

MGABC

[NTL234@telus.net](mailto:NTL234@telus.net)

# Letter from the Vancouver Chair

Congratulations go to Barbara Phillips and Teya MeiLan for organizing the Vancouver Chapter's annual garden party at Barbara Phillips's Point Grey property, held on Saturday, June 19. What a beautiful home and garden, and the chocolate fondue was something different! Although the Association is primarily focused on educational events, I think there should always be room for one social event in our busy events calendar. In recent years we have attracted a great many new members and it is important that we meet, get to know, and make our new members part of the Master Gardener family.

For those longer-standing members who have voiced their opinion that the Association is getting too big, that they no longer know everyone, and so on, I would say this: Yes, the Association moves on, things change. Old members leave, new members arrive. It is up to all of us to make the effort to keep up with the changes by attending the monthly meetings, AGMs, Spring Seminar, workshops, field trips, and social events. This Association has grown to its current strength by members making extraordinary efforts, so avoid the "can't be bothered" syndrome and continue to make your presence known.

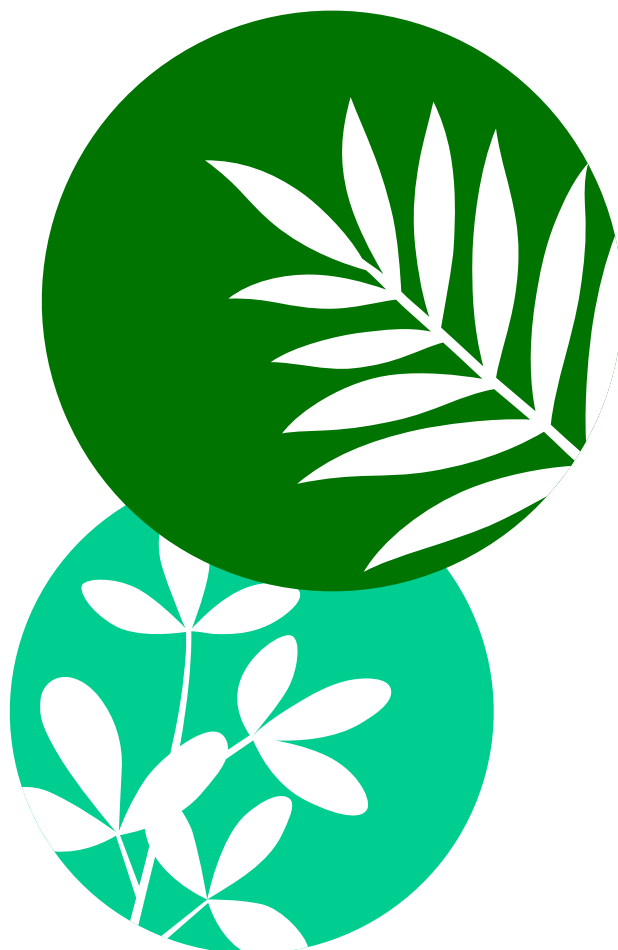
It is with regret that the Bountiful Urban Gardens (BUG) Fair, previously scheduled for October 3, 2010, has to be cancelled. We just could not get sufficient members interested in participating in this event again this year.

Congratulations also go to the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association for its successful bid, jointly with the Friends of Bloedel, to take over the management of the Bloedel Floral Conservatory. In making its decision, no doubt the Vancouver Parks Board considered the excellent history of the VBGA as a volunteer organization. I am sure, if we are asked, Master Gardeners will step forward and give this initiative every support as and when the time comes.

As I write this letter, no one has yet put their name forward for the 2010–2011 Executive Committee. We are specifically looking for (1) a Secretary, as Heather Nielsen completes her term of office at the end of 2010–2011; and (2) a replacement for Marie Pringle, who has decided that life on the Executive Committee is not for her (just too much excitement) and she is resigning at the end of this year. Please use the nomination form available on the [bcmastergardeners.org](http://bcmastergardeners.org) website, to put your name forward for these positions.

As explained at our June meeting and in the last edition of the Newsletter, the positions of Chair-Elect, Vice-Chair, and Second Vice-Chair are still vacant. I fear that if we do not have a strong Executive Committee for 2011, things will begin to slip and the success we have enjoyed in recent years will not continue. Job descriptions for each of these positions can be found on the Vancouver chapter page of the [bcmastergardeners.org](http://bcmastergardeners.org) website, pages 6, 7, and 8. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact me and we will rewrite the Policies and Procedures manual to accommodate an extra head or two on the Executive Committee. We can even rewrite the job descriptions to suit your talents, if necessary.

—Barry Roberts  
Chairman, Vancouver Chapter



# Vancouver Chapter Report

The Vancouver Chapter had a quiet summer and the members are now getting back into the swing of meetings and classes. First, an apology for the confusion in my last report about Volunteer Awards. These were awards that were awarded by the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association to VanDusen members who are also Master Gardeners. The Master Gardeners awards are handed out at the Spring Seminar.

## Dates to Remember

If any Chapter members are in town, please feel to join us in the Floral Hall at VanDusen at the following events:

**Tuesday, September 14, 9:30 a.m.**

Joint meeting with the Guides  
Speaker is Harry Jongerden, VBG Director, who will talk about his vision for VanDusen Garden, the future role of the MGs and Guides, and give an update on the construction of the new visitors' centre.

**Tuesday, October 12, 7:30 p.m.**

General Meeting  
Presentation from Sharpe Diamond, Landscape Architects, who are responsible for creating the design at Vancouver International Airport, including the highest vertical plant wall in Canada.

**Saturday, October 16, Time TBA**

Workshop  
Speaker is Andrea Bounoassisi on Common Diseases of Plants, Shrubs, and Trees.  
Watch for registration details in September.

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

Annual General Meeting  
UBC Botanical Garden

—Lynne Christmas



**When you have only two pennies left in the world, buy a loaf of bread with one, and a lily with the other. — Chinese Proverb**

The good weather has finally arrived now that most of our clinics are done. I feel badly for the nursery owners this year that, with all of the rain and cold weather, there are still a lot of annuals on the shelves of most of the nurseries I frequent. It must be difficult to plan ahead in this business.

Judging from the number of phone calls the Area Coordinators and I have had in the past couple of months, clinics have gone smoothly for the most part. I have certainly enjoyed the contacts that I have had. It is so easy to do this coordinating when everyone is so willing to make accommodations for the differences in our skills, abilities, tolerances, and demands on our time. We are such a diverse group and the willingness to share knowledge and time with each other and the public is the common ground where we meet.

I say good-bye and a big thank you to Yolanda Leung, the Area Coordinator for Abbotsford, Agassiz, and Chilliwack. I am thinking of rearranging the various areas of Metro Vancouver in 2011. If there is anyone who may be interested in helping out the Clinic Program by becoming an Area Coordinator, please do not hesitate to contact me at [mgcliniccoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:mgcliniccoordinator@gmail.com).

Every year, we try to simplify the clinic system and it is not an easy task. Clinics held at nurseries are always popular but just as important are the charity plant sales, farmer's markets, specialty gardens like Dart's Hill or Erikson's Daylily, Seedy Saturday, and the list goes on. The growing area of community gardens and food security should also involve Master Gardeners and their expertise.

If you have an idea for a new clinic location or different ways in which we can reach out to the general public through our clinic program, please contact me at [mgcliniccoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:mgcliniccoordinator@gmail.com).

—Elizabeth Taylor  
Overall Clinic Coordinator, Vancouver Chapter

# Use of MGABC Trade-marks: For MGs Only

The Master Gardeners Association of BC has registered two trade-marks with the Canadian Intellectual Property Office. These trade-marks are for the exclusive use of the MGABC and its members, in Canada.

Trade-marks represent not only the actual wares and services provided by an organization, but also the reputation of that organization. Provided below are guidelines for the use of these trade-marks.



## Approved trade-marks

One is the dogwood logo with the words "Master Gardeners Association of BC" above it in an arc. When printed in colour (green and white), the green

is Pantone 349 (all printing establishments will understand this specification). The logo may also be printed in black and white.

The other trade-mark is the acronym "MGABC." This can be presented as **MGABC®**. The official font is ZapfHumnst, although allowances can be made for variations in the font choice, provided it is a sans-serif font.

## Membership use of trade-marks

All MGABC members in good standing may use the trade-marks on material such as letterhead, business cards, brochures, advertisements, publications, articles, signs and posters, websites, presentations, and promotional and educational material. This applies to all applications of the logo: print media, online, digital, video, and so on.

## Obtaining the trade-marks

The trade-marks should not be downloaded from the MGABC or Chapter websites, nor should they be

scanned from existing print material. High-resolution image files containing the trade-marks can be obtained from the MGABC Provincial Secretary at [secretary@bcmastergardeners.org](mailto:secretary@bcmastergardeners.org).



Colour logos should not be printed in black and white because print quality will be inferior. Always use the approved black-and-white versions for black-and-white printing.

—Linda Sears

## Education in the Garden

Don't forget! VanDusen's gardening and garden design courses qualify as education hours for Master Gardeners. Here is a sampling of some of the courses being offered this fall. For a full listing of courses, please refer to the Adult Education section of VanDusen's website.

### Design a Small-Space Garden

Have a small garden? Turn it into a gorgeous, lush, and visually interesting oasis! This course explores the challenges and opportunities in small-space design, emphasizing patios, balconies, and small yards. You will analyze and design your small garden during class and as homework.

Thursday, September 23, 30,  
October 7  
6:30 to 9:30 p.m. (3 sessions)  
Instructor: Estelle Bogoch

### The Secrets in the Soil

In this two-part course, participants will get a hands-on introduction to the basics of the physical, biological, and chemical properties of soil. The benefits of different natural soil amendments will also be looked at. Participants will analyze and compare soil samples brought from each other's gardens.

Saturday, September 25  
& October 2, 9:30 a.m.  
to noon (2 sessions)  
Instructor: Egan Davis

Newsletter  
of the  
Master Gardeners  
Association of British Columbia  
in association with  
VanDusen Botanical Garden

### 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](mailto:ametten@telus.net). Newsletter layout by Wendy Jones.

The MG Newsletter is published in March, June, September, and December. Deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is October 30, 2010.

[www.bcmastergardeners.org](http://www.bcmastergardeners.org)  
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