



**Master Gardeners Association
of British Columbia**

**Annual General Meeting
Sunday, October 2, 2022**

***Consolidated Reports
and
Financial Statements***



MGABC Annual General Meeting

Sunday, October 2, 2022

President's Report

Good afternoon and welcome to you all. It is a pleasure to have so many members attending the 19th Annual General Meeting of the Master Gardeners Association of British Columbia.

I would like to begin my report by thanking the Vancouver Island Chapter for hosting today's program. The program planning team of Linda Derkach, Chris Southwick, Jacqueline Sherk, Karen Bennett, and Mike O'Neill put together an inspiring day devoted to *Bringing the Wild into your Garden*. Cameron Smith from VIMGA, Julie Paul from the Vancouver Chapter and Lorna Stewart from the Victoria Chapter are our Tech wonders. Today, we are all enjoying the benefits of the Planning Team's hard work and I would like to express how impressed and awe-inspired I have been by your work. It is not easy putting together a Zoom event like today but they have done it and wow! Thank you for your hard work.

Over this year, the MGABC has seen many of our traditional volunteer opportunities back up and running, and the new opportunities that opened up to us during the last few years of COVID have continued. We have all learned new skills, shared opportunities between Chapters, and participated in Zoom events at an unprecedented level. I very much hope with support from the MGABC Council we can continue. Our AGM is the perfect example of how to bring us all together- just look at our participation numbers.

For the last couple of years we have had a dedicated group of members, representing our Chapters, participating in the upgrade of the MGABC website. I want to thank Mike Juleff for heading up the committee with Heather Neilson,

Marina Zarrillo, Janette Patterson, Cameron Smith, Margaret Wyeth, Sherry Bennett, Estelle Berube, and Karen Kellert for their time and effort. Many hours have been spent with the website designer Sean Barber and we will be pleased to unveil the new MGABC Website to all our members later this Fall.

The newly minted MGABC website has a fresh, new look. The focus for the new website is a public site. We want to promote and engage the general public, so the new design will reflect that. We encourage all of you to visit the site, once up and running, want you to participate by posting information, events, and assist in answering the “Ask a Master Gardener” questions. There will be a section that includes MGABC Governance documents, if you need them, but please note as this is a public site there will not be a section for Chapter-related documents. Stay tuned for our actual unveiling of the new MGABC Website.

In closing, I would like to personally thank all members of the Provincial Council.

Past President: Mike Juleff

Treasurer: Lynne Christmas

Out-going Secretary: Linda Derkach... thank you Linda for all your support, fount of knowledge and tremendous commitment to the MGABC. You will be a hard act to follow.

Chapter Reps:

Julie Paul, Vancouver

Nancy Willihnganz, Victoria

Audrey Baier/Sherry Bennett, Thompson Shuswap

Carol Salton, Prince George

Jacqueline Sherk, Vancouver Island

Melba Reid/Pat Zander, Okanagan

Going forward our MGABC Council hopes to continue encouraging Chapters to share their education opportunities, and to continue their close liaison with each other. Thank you for all your hard work creating and continuing imaginative and sustainable programs throughout the British Columbia Master Gardener Program. If you have not read over the Chapter Reports sent to you, please have a read, it really is incredible what each Chapter accomplishes in a year.

Rachael Fleming

MGABC President

MGABC
Financial Statements
2021 - 2022

REVENUE

Direct Public Support	750.00
Membership Fees	6,740.00
Miscellaneous	<u>740.39</u>
Total Revenue	8230.39

EXPENSE

AGM	1,194.76
Web site Maintenance/Hosting	279.72
Website Upgrade	3,375.00
Donations – Out	750.00
Insurance	2,420.00
Operating Expenses	<u>301.80</u>
Total Expense	8,321.28

Bank Balance – June 30, 2022 **\$10, 405.50**

Budget 2022 – 2023

REVENUE

Membership Fees	6,800.00
Misc	<u>1.00</u>
Total Revenue	6,801.00

EXPENSE

AGM	1,450.00
Website Maintenance/Hosting	723.00
Website Upgrade	2,000.00
Insurance	2,400.00
Operating Expenses	<u>265.00</u>
Total Expense	\$6,838.00

Master Gardeners Association of BC

Chapter Reports - 2022

Vancouver Master Gardeners

Membership

As of September 1 there is a total of 423 members: 317 Qualified Active members, 11 Sustaining, 14 Alumni and 20 Life Members. 2022 saw a large influx of new students with 46 first year students. In addition, there are 15 second year students who are completing their qualification requirements.

Clinics

Clinic sign-up was a bit slow in the beginning, but our members rallied during the late spring and summer months. As of September 1, 160 clinics were completed at garden centres, farmer's markets, VanDusen Gardens and other garden related events. There are a few more clinics to be run in September and October.

This year the Chapter is running a new program for Clinic Q & A. The most commonly raised questions and a few unique questions will be assigned to two-person teams to prepare a formal written answer. The teams are comprised of a student who researches and drafts the answer and a Qualified Member who will review and work with the student to finalize the answer. It is the intent of the Chapter to post the Q & A on the public MGABC website.

Volunteer Projects

This year there are 52 projects, nine of which are new for 2022. These projects include 19 Healing Gardens, 7 addressing food security, 4 programs for children, 3 pollinator gardens and the remaining projects providing garden advice and education to gardeners throughout the Lower Mainland.

In June the Chapter granted a total of \$2,300 to 5 Volunteer Projects covering costs for new educational programs and/or capital upgrades.

Continuing Education

The focus for Continuing Education this year was to initiate a new In-Depth Education program that is flexible and available to all members. The Botany four-part Zoom series was held in July/August with over 50 registrants. A few of these attendees were from other Chapters. In late September Entomology will be

offered as a four-part Zoom series as well. This course is also being offered to members from other Chapters. For further details and registration click [here](#). This fall there will be three more Speaker Series presentation. The topics will include Lichens & Mosses, Meadow Making Using Natives and Reflection of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden.

Community Partnerships

The Vancouver Master Gardeners has been actively strengthening its relationship with VanDusen Gardens, the home base of the Chapter. This year our members returned hosting clinics and helping with National Garden Day Celebrations.

Julie Paul

Chair of Vancouver Master Gardeners

Prince George Master Gardeners

Master Gardeners: 23 Master Gardeners in Training: 8

As gardeners our activities follow the seasons, and that is never truer in an area with a long snowy winter and a short growing season. Following last year's AGM, our chapter met in October for its own AGM at the rural home of one of our members. A highlight was learning to make grape vine wreaths and forms with riparian grape vines harvested from our host's property.

Early in November, one of our MGIT's, an accomplished artist, organized and presided at a one-day workshop called "A Gardener's Christmas." Participants were provided with a huge variety of dried plant foliage and seed pods. They then were given instructions to create their own beautiful and unique arrangements for their homes.

When winter set in, our meetings took place via zoom. We were able to add interest to our meetings by having two members each give a five-minute talk on any aspect of gardening. This proved very interesting as we learned about each other's passions, triumphs and disasters in a more personal way. Over the winter, public lectures and discussions on various gardening topics took place via zoom. Some MG's became very involved in the launch of the Seed Library in March. Seedy Saturday also took place as a result of a hard-working committee of Master Gardeners but once again via Zoom.

Spring and summer gave our chapter many opportunities to engage in the greater community. Master Gardeners assisted the Garden Society in their two-day plant sale by grooming and repotting donated plants in advance and helping customers with their selections. Master gardeners worked many hours at the University Display Garden keeping it beautiful while interacting with visitors strolling through.

Throughout the summer months eight private gardens have been open to viewing by members of the Garden Society and their guests. Master Gardeners have been co-hosts with the owners by having a pre tour and becoming familiar with the plants and history of the garden.

Toward the end of August, the BC Northern Exhibition opened providing more opportunities for our chapter. The invasive weed council requested MG's for their interactive display and MG's were invited to be involved in training for the judging of flower and produce displays.

Plans are under way to begin a new session of MG Basic Training starting in October and continuing in semester blocks until April 2023.

After two years of restricted activities, it is a pleasure to have the freedom to engage with our community while upholding the values and best practices of Master Gardening.

Carol Salton, Chapter Representative

Okanagan Master Gardeners

We are 55 members strong, and we have 5 lifetime members as well.

We are into a new Basic Training Program with 13 students. We have a great roster of speakers giving presentations relevant to our growing environment. All OMG are welcome to audit these presentations as a way of continuing their education. Members who have transferred in are particularly encouraged to gain local knowledge by taking part. With Covid still being a factor, we have built in strategies to be flexible. As an example, we have two mentors per mentor group, in case of illness. The course is "live" but we can switch to Zoom if necessary.

We were back to in person clinics at garden centres, plant sales and garden tours this year. These were well received by hosts and the public. Again, flexibility was necessary with illness causing a few last-minute substitutions.

Our online "Ask a Master Gardener" continued, as the demand was still there.

We have several hands-on projects, which were maintained throughout Covid and continue to provide a valuable service: Guisachan Public Garden, Benvoulin Heritage Centre, and Serenity Garden at Cottonwoods Long Term Facility in Kelowna; Peachland Community Garden; Summerland Ornamental Garden and Beds at Summerland Recreation Centre; Naramata Rose Garden.

There is also Food for Thought, a project that provides breakfasts and weekend food packs for school children.

Google Workplace will be in place this fall for OMG; trainers have been recruited from the membership to work individually with all of us. Members will be able to access applications and share information from any browser, including phones.

It has been a good year and we feel we have dealt with the new norm successfully.

Pat Zander
Okanagan Chapter Representative

Victoria Master Gardeners

Current Membership – 126 (64 Master Gardeners, 19 Advanced Master Gardeners, 12 Emeritus, MGIT year 2 – 6, year 1- 12, Associate 6)



Basic Class – The 2022 class completed their training in May 2022. Eleven of the 19 students in the class joined the association and are working on their hours. The 2023 class will be registering soon from a full waitlist.



Advanced Training Program: During the period from October 23rd to the end of September, six Advanced courses were offered, primarily via Zoom. Botany, Science of Composting, Food Production, and Advanced Pruning (blended

format), Taxonomy and Creating a Pollinator Garden were offered in a classroom format. We were pleased to welcome 24 MGs from other Chapters to the Zoom Courses. This program is highly regarded by our membership for the depth of training and the expertise of the instructors.



Chapter Meetings: Our bi-monthly meetings were conducted via Zoom until May. In addition to the business meeting and Educational Presentation, Zoom activities were organized to facilitate social connections among members – e.g., book club exchange, auction sale for highly desired plants, and graduates and milestone achievers were given the “screen” to speak to their experience. This was an excellent opportunity for members to get to know each other. The content of our educational presentations included, *Learning from the Earth: Wsanec Botanical and Environmental Knowledge*, *The Iris, a Flower for all Seasons*, *Expanding the Mediterranean Plant Pallet* and *Ferns and Lichens*.

The summer program included a member’s tour of a Gravel Garden, a guided Tree Walk at UVic and a tour of Full Circle Seeds at ALM Farms. Our Education Committee continues to provide outstanding learning opportunities for our membership.



Clinics: To date we have provided 116 clinics, at outside venues including supporting two community garden tours. Our annual year end is October, so yearly stats will be provided in the next report.



Projects: There are currently 33 projects available for MG’s including two recent additions: Clement Centre Cobble Hill Gardens and Restoration of the Doris Page Trail in collaboration with Saanich Parks Dept.



Other Chapter Activities: The memorandum of understanding with the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific has been signed for the next three years. Plant Sales have resumed.

Gatherings are held with full Covid safety protocols.

Copyright guidelines were established for Zoom sharing of presentations and materials.

Criteria for Projects are being reviewed.

We are adopting a hybrid calendar – general meetings and classes in person if safe, and committee meetings largely via zoom.

We continue to provide tech support to other Chapters as requested and needed to enable activity during pandemic challenges



Mixing it Up: The bi-annual public conference scheduled to be face to face on Saturday, January 24th, **Evolving Gardens (the 100-mile conference)** will be open for registration soon. Announcements/program will be circulated later in the month.



Master Class: A very successful zoom Master Class (with invitations to other Chapters) was held in October. Author Sue Goetz offered a six-hour Herbal Intensive.



Website: Three VMGA members are contributing to the committee involved with the reformation of the MGABC website.



Challenge of Recruiting: Recruiting members to accept organizational roles remains a challenge.

Nancy Willihnganz
Victoria Chapter Representative

Thompson Shuswap Master Gardeners

Membership: 17 MG; 8 MGIT; 3 Emeritus; 3 Leave of Absence

Our small chapter has been busy this year as we resumed holding clinics at various nurseries throughout the Kamloops area. I was unable to receive the final number of clinics and volunteer hours that we participated in this year.

We also were involved in ten projects this past year. There were two projects – Mason Bees and Urban Trees - which will conclude in November. 211 hours have been spent on these projects currently. Seventy hours were spent on Speaking Engagements.

May 14, 2022 was World Pollinator Day. It was held at our Saturday Farmer's Market and was so much fun for everyone. We had a Children's Craft area where the young attendees made a bee from paper cut outs that had been prepared by one of our Master Gardeners (Sherry B.) There was also a display of Native Bees

and Mason Bees as well as information for creating habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects. Elaine Sedgman read from her recently published book – *Andrena the Mining Bee* twice throughout the morning. This event will be held annually and we plan to participate in it.

We were hoping to hold a Basic Training Course in January 2023 but there are not enough people interested in attending at this time. If we were able to get twelve people interested in taking the training, we also will need certified master gardeners to act as mentors for the students which might also pose a problem as there may not be enough CMG's willing to volunteer to help out.

We had some very interesting topics on our Facebook Information Series. Some of the topics were: Myth Buster Monday; Friend or Foe Friday; Weedy Wednesday as well as Soil Saturday. Information on all these topics is available on the TSMG Website.

We will continue to increase our membership as, personally speaking, I really enjoy being a part of the Master Gardener's group and I want to remain an active member for many more years. We are so fortunate to have such well-educated instructors for the program. Many of us have made new friendships and learned so much whenever we are out in the community assisting the public.

Audrey Baier, Thompson Shuswap Chapter Representative

Vancouver Island Master Gardeners

Membership:

74 total members: CMG 51 active - 8 LOA - 3 Lifetime - 13 Alumni - 12 Interns

Looking Back:

It has been a fantastic year for the Vancouver Island Master Gardeners. As we all cautiously emerge from two years of pandemic, we are now eagerly planning in-person events. 2022 has been a summer of beautiful sunny days and warm weather for which we are very grateful. As we head into fall, we resume meetings and education events which include the upcoming provincial AGM, to which we are this year's hosts, and then our own AGM later in the same month.

Advanced Gardening Course:

At the heart of our organization is membership, and our chapter has produced 18 possible new members as a result of their enrollment in our Advanced Gardening Course held at the Vancouver Island University and mentored by Dorothee Keiser.

Clinics/Venues:

Our chapter is made up of four geographical areas: North Island, Parksville/Qualicum, Nanaimo and the Cowichan Valley. Our current venues stretch from Campbell River south to Mill Bay, and in addition to nurseries, we also gain advice hours at the many spring 'Seedy' events that we are all familiar with, and plant sales and garden tours. Garden Advice Parties (GAPs) are popular with our members. This year we have also commenced gardening clinics at several Vancouver Island Regional Library locations.

If the heart of Master Gardener associations is membership, then the lifeline to the heart is the clinic venues we establish within our communities. Venues provide advice hours that we require in order to maintain our status in the organization. Throughout our four areas we continue to seek new opportunities for hosting our gardening advice clinics.

In addition to nurseries across the Island, we also include the following venues:

- Rotary Garden Tour, MARS Garden Tour, and the Cowichan Family Life Garden Tour
- Milner Gardens and Woodland
- Cowichan Fall Fair
- 'Seedy' events at a number of locales in each of our four areas

Community Partnerships:

We value our partnerships with the **Vancouver Island University (VIU)**, **Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL)**, the **Mt. Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society (MARS)**, **Milner Gardens and Woodland** and the **Take 5 magazine**, through which we gain education credits and/or advice credits as we learn and contribute via advice, visual presentations and/or written articles.

As **VIU** provides the basis for our growing membership, the **VIRL** provides us with opportunities to visually present (via Zoom) gardening information to the public. Some of our topics have included Container Gardening, Bulbs, Dahlias, Invasive Plants, Native Plants, Fire Smart Gardening, Seed Starting, Composting, and Sprouts and Micro-Greens.

We are very grateful to **MARS**, the Mt. Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society, for a relationship that goes back many years. VIMGA provides gardening clinics at MARS plant sales and annual Mother's Day Garden Tour to which VIMGA

members receive free access. *Fall into Gardening*, also an annual event, is a partnership of MARS, VIMGA and the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society.

Our continued relationship with **Milner Garden and Woodland** in Qualicum Beach provides advice hours through clinics and also the Garden Advice Line (GAL) which is a phone-in service of the Garden.

The **Take 5** magazine column undertaken by our chapter is called '**Gardening Hoe Down**' and is published monthly to a readership of 36,000. Our topics have included everything from dahlias and witch hazels to worm composting and fungus gnats. The magazine is published in print and online where it can be viewed by anyone.

Continuing Education:

As hosts for the MGABC AGM this year, we bring the BC Master Gardeners Association members an exciting event titled ***Bringing the Wild into your Garden*** with four topical presentations to encourage us all to include the birds and bugs along with native plants in our gardening plans. Later in October we partner with MARS and the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society in their annual *Fall into Gardening* seminar themed ***Coping with Climate Instability in your Garden***. We hope to see many MGABC members at that event as well! When winter turns to spring, we will look forward to our annual **Spring Education Day**, which we hope will once again be an in-person gathering.

VIMGA Website:

Our tech lead, Cameron Smith, has spent many hours creating a new website for our Chapter. It is delightfully appealing to the eye and also very functional to use. We hope you will check us out at ***vimga.org***.

Looking Forward:

As the growing season comes to a close in mid fall, we say good-bye to another successful year of gardening clinics and community events, and we begin to look forward to 2023 when we will once again gather up our gardening books with our chairs, tables and tents as we head off to another season of greeting the public and making new friends at the many opportunities we create for ourselves and others.

Jacqueline Sherk,
Vancouver Island Chapter Representative