

MINUTES OF THE MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION OF BC GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 10, 7:30pm

Floral Hall VanDusen Botanical Gardens

(Note: MSC stands for moved, seconded, carried)

Lynn Christmas, MGABC Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

1. Welcome and Announcements: Lynne Christmas expressed our thanks to Judy Zipursky and her coffee committee, Miriam & Jeannette for welcoming members at the door and to all of those people who do so much to support our organization.

Lynne also announced the following:

- The Education committee wants speakers at the May 8 general meeting to make short presentations (2 minutes) on ways of dealing with gardening issues.
- May 19 Tour of Lesser Known Nursery – Heather Nielsen is selling tickets
- June 23 Garden Party – Tickets on sale at back of room
- Advance Training pamphlets are at the back of the room and June Pierson is here to answer questions
- Barry Roberts is selling Canna Lilies.
- Linda Sears is selling a book about Gardening in the Dry Interior of BC
- We still need Community Project Coordinators.

June Pierson drew member's attention to the Herbarium on display. This project has been headed up over the past 4 years by Caroline Brett with submissions from students of the Basic and Advanced Training Programs.

Elaine Stevens spoke briefly on behalf of the Stewardship Group for S.E. False Creek, an organization which has been participating in the planning for development of a large area bordering False Creek in an effort to ensure sustainable development and green spaces. Elaine requested that gardeners who feel that this is an important issue should please contact her and get involved while there is still time to have an impact on what is finally developed in the area.

2. Speakers: Denise introduced Derry Walsh, founding member of MGABC who has over many years contributed a great deal of time and knowledge to our association. Derry spoke to us about a new pest in the Fraser Valley called Apple Maggot. This pest was first found in the Fraser Valley last year and efforts are being made to prevent the spread of this pest to the Okanagan apple crop. Derry described the life cycle of the Apple Maggot and the methods advised for disposal of infected fruit. This little fly buries its eggs under the skin of the apple and the maggot develops to burrow through the flesh of the apple. The fruit often falls from the tree prematurely, underdeveloped and full of tunnels. Home gardeners are advised that they should not compost the apples as the maggots will survive composting. One solution might be to drop the infected apples in a barrel of water or to cook them and dispose of them in the garbage. An apple covered with Tangelfoot hung in the apple tree will collect the flying stage of the pest so that it can be determined if there are actually Apple Maggots present. Derry cautioned that knowing whether or not the Apple Maggot is present is the first step in deciding what should be done.

Denise then introduced Shirley Rainey who presented a lovely video about the Gardens of Cornwall where she grew up. Cornwall is situated on the Atlantic coast of south west

England and the climate is similar to our own coastal climate. The scenery is spectacular in the spring. Tall Rhododendron bushes line the roadways and Magnolia trees tower over the beautiful old estate homes. Many of our favourite cultivars come from the plant breeders in the Cornwall area and it was where many of the original plant hunters brought home their treasures to be grown on for the wealthy plant collectors of the day. It was a most enjoyable video which came to an end too soon, but just in time for coffee.

Coffee Break

3. MG Business Meeting:

a) Minutes of Last General Meeting: There was no General Meeting in March as there was the Update instead.

a) Business arising from Minutes:

b) Treasurer's Report: Karen was absent, but her report was posted on the board for all to examine. Lynne explained that the report was incomplete as there are items from the Update not yet entered.

c) Report from Council: Lynne reported the following:

a) Update Coordinators are needed soon to start putting together a speakers list for next year. The best speakers are in such demand that they are booked far in advance. Council suggests that there be a person who is responsible only for finding speakers and another person who is responsible for the logistics of the Seminar. The 2007 Update Committee has put together a handbook which contains all of the details of how to put it all together and is willing to help the new committee. After some discussion, Council has decided that the Seminar should have a new name, one that is more welcoming to the public. The new name is "Spring Gardening Seminar" It was decided to retain the word Seminar as the root of the word is seed and it seemed appropriate.

b) PIPA: Lynne announced that Susan Lazar is the new Privacy Officer for MGABC.

c) Nominations: Lynne announced that council has approved the nominations committee put forward by Janet Sawatsky. The Chair is Ron Fawcett and members are; Lorri Espeseth, Helen Brown, Sally Maclachlan and Bob Meighen.

d) Junior MG Program: Council approved a motion to form a committee to investigate the delivery of a Jr. MG program by the MGABC. We are looking for people who have experience in teaching youth to form this committee. Here is another opportunity to develop the love of the natural world in young people.

e) Annual Report: Council accepted the report prepared by Linda Sears and it will be posted on the Website for viewing by the membership. It is a well written and comprehensive report.

6. Motion to adjourn & Door prizes: There were five door prizes drawn and the meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm