

## **MINUTES OF THE MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION OF BC GENERAL MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 11, 2007  
Shaughnessy Heights United Church**

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

Lynn Christmas, MGABC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:45am

**1. Welcome and Announcements:** Lynne welcomed the VanDusen Guides who were our guests at this meeting held at SHUC because of the labour dispute which has closed VanDusen Gardens. Lynne also welcomed the MGs back after our summer break.

**2. Speaker:** Sandra Hewson introduced our very qualified speaker, Dr. Patrick Mooney, who gave a very interesting talk about the importance of biodiversity to the physical & mental health of the human population. He encouraged us to create biodiversity in our own back yards to welcome birds and other of nature's creatures to share our space. Barbara Bowers thanked Dr. Mooney and said that she felt much better about the dandelions and other weeds in her garden knowing that she was providing winter food for birds.

**Coffee Break:** A lovely selection of goodies was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who brought treats.

### **3. MG Business Meeting:**

a) Lynne began the business meeting by asking for volunteers to see Judy Zipursky if they were willing to bring goodies to future meetings.

b) **Minutes of June 2007 General Meeting:** Minutes were adopted. Nigel Bunning/Margaret Ward

c) **Treasurer's Report:** accepted

d) **Advanced Training:** June Pierson handed out AT Certificates to Vivien Clarke, Mel Felker, Linda Eaves, Barbara Etches and Ireta Fisher who completed the elective component of the AT program over the spring and summer.

e) **Report from Council:**

-Lynne apologized to those members who are waiting for their 10 or 20 year pins. She had a flood in her home this summer and everything was packed away by the restoration people. She will mail them out as soon as she can.

-University of Northern BC has contacted MGABC regarding setting up a master gardener training program in Prince George. Talks are ongoing.

-Lynne, Linda Sears & Barry Roberts met with a group of Vancouver Island Master Gardeners to discuss future plans. As a result of those discussions, the VIMG will discuss the possibility of becoming a chapter of MGABC with their membership. They expressed an interest in participating in our Spring Seminar and other activities.

- We have two new Community Project Coordinators, Cheri Trewin and Joyce Fitz-Gibbon. Council is extremely grateful to Alice Kilian and Andrea Lebowitz for all of the time, energy and expertise they gave to the Community Projects.

- Ann-Marie Metten and Odessa Bromley have attended BCLNA planning meetings and Ann-Marie will be writing an article for the next edition of the Gardenwise Directory which will

explain who we are and what we do. Council also asked Ann-Marie to place a 1/12 page, coloured advertisement in the next edition. Lynne explained to the meeting that there are several groups offering “Master Gardener” training programs to the public and that Council believes it is important that we inform the public who we are and how we are different from the other programs.

-various committees are looking for people to help them: 1) the Writer’s Group needs people to write articles for the Website, Newsletter and Fact Sheets. 2) There is a real need for people to plan and organize the Spring Seminar (formerly known as the Update). 3) Ann-Marie would like some help with editing the newsletter.

#### **f) Old Business:**

-Nominations Committee has nominees for all 6 of the positions coming vacant this year. The 2 Members at Large nominees are Leslie Ann Ingram and Dana Richardson, Chair Elect nominee is Barry Roberts, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair nominee is Susan Lazar, 2nd Vice Chair nominee is Penny Koch and the nominee for Treasurer is Ron Fawcett. Members are encouraged to put their own or other’s names forward for any or all of these positions. Nominations remain open.

-Plans for the Future: Lynne reminded the members that they had been asked to think about the Plans for the Future over the summer months and bring forward suggestions and questions to this meeting. No suggestions or questions were forthcoming. Lynne then proceeded to tell the meeting that Council believes that we should proceed with amending the bylaws so that the framework will be in place for future expansion of the organization. The committee will meet and refresh the work they have done, send the proposed bylaws out to the membership for perusal and discussion and hold a vote early in 2008.

-Education Committee: further to the plan for members to give short presentations at General Meetings Lynne asked for volunteers to speak to committee members.

#### **4. Members Time – Q&A/Comments/Sharing:**

-Whatcom County MG Education Seminar still has space. It will be held Sep 27 in Bellingham. A notice was sent out on mgadmin several weeks ago.

-Doreen Godwin reported that there is still space in the Basic Training Class

- a discussion regarding how to make up missing hours: call Area Coordinators, put out a request on mgclinics asking mgs who have their required hours to give up future clinics to those who are short.

-reminder to submit Record of Hours by Oct 31.

-suggestion was made that we should set up a system whereby Record of Hours and Pink Sheets could be completed on line.

- Hard copies of the newsletter are available at general meetings.

- June Pierson offered the grads of AT an opportunity to take electives they missed. Give her a call if you would like to take an elective.

#### **5. Motion to adjourn & Door prizes: Meeting adjourned at 11:35**