

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

**Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 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 thanked Doreen Godwin and all of her new students and those who gave so much time to mentoring the students through the weeks of the course, and she asked all mgs to please make an effort to fill clinic spaces with students in mind.

## **2. Speaker:** Susan Lazar introduced our speakers of the evening.

Mary Ballon started West Coast Seed Company in 1983 and has been active in the gardening world for many years.

Brian Campbell graduated as a Master Gardener in 2002 and has been very active in the growing of fruit trees and other food crops.

Mary & Barry led the group in a discussion of how we can work toward a food system that is not reliant on the petroleum industry. So much of our food is dependent on petroleum for growing, shipping and packaging. There is a big movement toward growing and eating locally, a great deal of effort is going into teaching consumers that eating locally grown, seasonal food is one way to help sustain the planet. Many gardeners are turning lawns into veggie patches or growing a pot full of herbs on a balcony. The group was enthusiastic about encouraging everyone to grow some kind of food plants in whatever space of earth they have available to them.

## **Coffee Break**

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

**a) Minutes of November 2006 General Meeting:** Minutes of February 14/08 m/s/c Corrine Robinson/Roy Holloway (there was no general meeting in March due to the Spring Seminar)

**b) Treasurer's Report:** Ron reviewed the financial statements posted on the Notice Board.

## **c) Report from Council:**

**i)** Susan Lazar – pick up VanDusen Plant Sale signs on your way out the door tonight.

Libby Kelley & Susan spoke about the upcoming workshop on sustainability to be presented by Kwantlen college at VanDusen on May 30. The cost of registration is \$20 and includes lunch.

**ii)** Nancy Dickson – told the meeting about an upcoming open house where the plans for VanDusen will be discussed by architect Peter Busby and Cornelia Oberlander. Date to be announced.

iii) Cheri Trewin – asked for volunteers for the Terra Nova School Program and the Richmond Nature Park is looking for volunteers to give tours of the park focusing on the bird life. Community Projects will be posting volunteer opportunities on mgclinics in the future.

iv) Juliana Pasko – announced that the YWCA is revamping their roof garden and has 20 feet of Ilex crenata hedge to give away.

**d) Old Business:**

i) Lynne spoke to some of the concerns of the members prior to the vote on the bylaw changes and explained who is eligible to vote:

- : 1) 40% of MGABC membership live outside of the GVRD
- 2) there will be no change to the fee structure at this time
- 3) Council unanimously supports the changes
- 4) mgs will still be able to vote for the executive of their local chapter.
- 5) only qualified master gardeners are entitled to vote.

ii) Doug Courtemanche proposed the motion: Resolved as a special resolution that the existing bylaws of the Society be deleted and that the bylaws attached to this resolution be adopted as the bylaws of the Society. Seconded by Jack Grant. Discussion followed: Janet Sawatsky & Linda Sears spoke as members who live outside of the GVRD and who support the changes as they will give their members representation on the council. Questions were asked and answered, e.g. Q) What changes are happening? A) Expansion of the council to include representatives from the entire province. Q) How will finances work? A) Each chapter will have autonomy over their finances and be expected to be self sustaining after an initial start up period. Q) Will new chapters get support to start up? A) Yes, as was the case with Vancouver Island when they started up. Q) What will happen to the Advanced Training Program? A) It will continue to run out of VanDusen until such time as a chapter is ready and able to present the program in their home area. Q) How will provincial body representation be determined? A) It will be representation by population. The question was called, the motion was repeated and voting commenced. The motion was passed 42 yeah and 3 nay.

**e) New Business: None**

**Motion to adjourn & Door prizes: 9:40 pm**

Respectfully submitted by: Diane Hartley, Secretary