

2024 MGABC AGM Consolidated Chapter Reports

Okanagan Chapter Report: 2024

The Okanagan Chapter of the MGABC has 57 members, including one on leave, five Lifetime Members and two Alumni. There 49 active members.

Community Service Projects: we support.....

Benvoulin Heritage Garden

Kelowna Hospice House Garden

Serenity Garden at Cottonwoods Long Term Care Facility

Summerland Recreation Centre Garden Beds

Ironwood Bed in Summerland

Peachland Community Centre Beds

Guisachan Community Garden

Garden Mentoring Visits on behalf of the Okanagan Xeriscape Society

As well, lectures on particular gardening concerns at the Okanagan Library Seedy Sunday in Kelowna is wholly a Master Gardener project,

Clinics:

Our year started early with a very special day put on by Kelowna Garden (a celebration of their 100th birthday). The event consisted of four speakers, demonstrations and information booths. Two of the speakers were Master Gardeners and we had a clinic table as well.

March saw our Seedy Sunday. Once again, this year, almost half of our membership was involved.

Clinics began in April, and for the most part were finished by the end of May. As well, though, in June there were clinic tables at three of the Kelowna Garden Tour gardens and at the KGC Flower Show. Most recently, we were at the Peachland Fall Fair.

Although enthusiasm and participation continue for events, we struggle to find people to take on executive positions. Over half of the executive must be replaced at the end of this year. We need a coordinator in order to put on our next Basic Training program, and therein lies the conundrum..... we would welcome more members because of our declining numbers, and we have an extensive list of people who have shown interest in taking the course, but no one to organize and oversee the course.

We are not as socially vibrant as we once were. There have been few occasions to meet on a friendly basis, with or without an educational nugget. However, we had an excellent spring meeting. It was a great chance to see one another after the winter break, and there were two good presentations, one on invasive species and one on maintaining Firesmart gardens. These topics are particularly important in our environment.

Our fall meeting and AGM will be November 2.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Zander, representative for the Okanagan Chapter

2024 Thompson Shuswap Master Gardeners Chapter Report

Membership:

As of Sept 2024, TSMG has 16 active Members, 3 Leave of Absence, 4 Alumni and 11 Master Gardeners in Training.

Basic Training

From January- April, Basic Training with 15 students, 6 mentors and a couple of zoom operators was carried out in partnership with Vancouver Master Gardeners. TSMG is very grateful for Vancouver's support.

- 11 Students completed basic training and progressed to MGiT
- 2 students formally withdrew from BT
- 2 students did not complete BT but have not yet formally withdrawn.

Our MGiT & MGs range in distance: Kamloops, Knutsford, Walachin, Pritchard, Vernon and Kelowna which is a challenge!

We are happy that TSMG MGITs need only to secure 50 hours of volunteer service to receive their MG status. Voted on at our spring meeting.

Continuing Education:

Many of our members took the opportunity to take the zoom education provided by the Basic Training. Others were encouraged to sign up for the free zoom presentations by Oregon State University and Washington State University Master Gardener extension departments as well as watch the Vancouver Spring Seminar series, MGABC AGM speakers and February Mixing it Up in Victoria. As well, we suggest that members attend FOG and Kamloops Garden Club for speaker opportunities. Members are also encouraged to watch the presentations that are given by fellow Master Gardeners through the City of Kamloops Speaker Series.

Out reach Opportunities:

Clinics:

322 clinic hours were achieved with clinics in Kamloops, Clearwater, Chase, Clinton and Vernon.

Projects: 14 projects and 6 speaking engagements. Some of the projects include:

1. City of Kamloops Spring, Fall & winter Speaker Series... 15 presentations!
2. MGiT (with MG mentor) has taken on the job of producing our own personal TSMG newsletter.
3. TSMG opened the Farmers Market Pollinator festival with 4 tables: children's craft, native bee display, Mason bee display, and creating pollinator habitat display
4. MGiT is creating Factsheets of Harriet Hanna's Basic Training presentation on home orchards.

5. MGiT (with MG mentor) has taken on virtual advice -answering questions from our Facebook and website
6. Gardening at Kamloops Regional Correction Centre.

Events:

1. At the spring meeting we toured not for profit groups that might need MG assistance: Butler Urban Farm and Gardengate and viewed a PowerPoint on the Mt Paul Community Garden.
2. Visited Kelowna XEN Nursery and received an UNH20 garden tour with Sigrie Kendrick. We also toured a grassland restoration project at UBCO, developed by one of our MGiT.
3. Eco-dyeing workshop: facilitated by Coralee Asker, visiting from Australia. An inspiring day where participants practiced the art of dyeing with leaves, flowers and conifer needles.
4. TSMG partnered with the Native Bee Society of BC to welcome Master Melittologists for a field training day at Dufferin Ponds on Sept 2. Three of our MGs took part. Participants also attended a Mini Bee School at Thompson Rivers University on Sept. 1, borrowing Dr. Lyn Baldwin's lab.

Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Report for MGABC September 2024

Membership

57 Certified Master Gardeners (including 12 Alumni and 3 Lifetime) 20 MGIT's in year 1
0 members on Leave of Absence

Activities

Parksville/Qualicum/Nanosee area hosted a summer social for VIMGA members at the end of June at Rath Trevor Provincial Park. At this time over 60 members and guests attended

- The Milner Gardens and Wetlands Food Garden Group spoke at our AGM about the soil amendment trial they completed last summer. Presently there are 4 Master Gardeners and 3 interns volunteering each week.
- Propagation group = 2 Master Gardens and 1 Intern volunteer at the Milner Gardens and Wetlands propagation group.
- Plant Sale – VIMGA members donate plants for 2 large plant sales each spring at the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society and Nanaimo Rhododendron Society. This is definitely our biggest fundraiser of the year, over \$900.00 in 2024.
- VIMGA has put a great effort into getting together more. Many of the areas are holding get-togethers many times a year.

Member Continuing Education

- AGM November 2023 – Trevor Coey from Bartlett Tree Service spoke on tree fundamentals. Our Master Garden Panel consisted of Right Tree/Right Place by Richard Bernier, Planting Trees by Jacqueline Sherk, Pruning Basics by Deb Gurrad and a lively talk on owning an apple orchard by Mary Shakespeare.
- Spring Education day in March – How to Build Healthy Soil. Tamara Dinter spoke on What is Soil? Texture, structure, major and minor nutrients and so much more. Our Master Garden Panel discussed Digging into Drainage, by Chris Southwick. Right Soil, Right Place by Mariah Wilde and The Scoop on Chicken Poop! by Wanda Brenton and Marion Waters.
- Summer Fruit Tree Pruning at Dorothee Kieser's in July, facilitated by Barrie Agar Co-hosting Fall into Gardening with Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society in October in Qualicum Beach. Many great speakers are planned.

Strategic Plan

- Progress toward goal of Building Awareness of VIMGA - who we are and what we do
 1. We have created a reusable poster for venues to use to inform their customers of our next clinic at their location
 2. We have had three articles about who we are and what we do published in local newspapers, magazines, etc. (To view these articles go to www.vimga.org and follow the links on the home page.) We are continuing to reach out to other publications to expand this effort

- The next Strategic Plan Goal to be tackled is Information Processes which will be addressed beginning this fall.

Community Partnerships

- Vancouver Island University – the Advanced Gardening Course
- Milner Gardens and Woodland — the Garden Advice Line, Frequently Asked Questions and Plant Picks. VIMGA also operates a food garden and holds clinics at plant sales, propagation group and Food Garden group.
- Vancouver Island Regional Library — Garden Seminar Series, presentations by VIMGA members on a variety of gardening topics, all of which are available to view on the VIRL website. Register for the live presentations of these programs at <https://virl.bc.ca/learn/skills/gardening/virtual-gardening/>
- Vancouver Island Regional Library — spring and fall Q&A clinics at various branches



Victoria Master Gardener Association

We Grow Gardeners

victoriasterngardeners.org

VMGA Annual Report to MGABC
October 2024

Membership as of April 2024 Oct 2024

130 Total members: 89 Active, 14 Emeritus, 23 Interns (including 3 LOA) 1 Life, 3 Honorary, 1 Associate.

Chapter Numbers/Activities 2023/24

The VMGA year is November 1 to October 31; the exact Number of clinics, number of hours in volunteer categories and projects will be reported after year end. To date 118 clinics have been held. VMGA resumed support to the Victoria Symphony Mother's Day Garden tour in May. Last year MG's logged 2622 outreach hours, 1477 education hours and 2653 supplementary hours. There are 570 Facebook followers and 720 on Instagram.

Four members were recognized for 20 years of membership, 1 for 15, 2 for 10 years and 12 for 5. MGA will refer to members who have yet to complete their initial hours as Interns and will complete 50 volunteer hours with 20 of those to be advice hours.

The Basic Class was full with 24 participants, 19 wrote the exam and 12 joined the Chapter.

Chapter Activities Highlights

Mixing It Up in the Urban Garden: Beyond Beauty, VMGA's biennial public education event that coincides with VMGA's 25th anniversary will be held Feb 1, 2025, with presenters, resources, sponsors, and silent auction items. Work begins more than a year before the event and involves almost all the VMGA members. In addition to in person attendance videotapes of the 5 presenters will be available

Strategic Plan 2024-2029- Work on VMGA's strategic plan culminated with the ratification of the plan by members in November 2024. The four goals of member support, community service, public profile and organizational resilience were expanded into measurable objectives and all committees are charged with ensuring that their initiatives reflect sustainable horticulture practices that are evidence based and regionally appropriate. The Committees are enthusiastically working with this framework and with an evaluation tool to ensure that activities meet the goals established by the strategic plan. For example, the Project Committee is committed to create more and varied community outreach projects and developing community partnerships.

Educational Opportunities

Grow Your Own Food Forest was the topic for the 2023 full day Master Class. Presentations at general meetings included *Plant a Tree in 2023*, *Rain Gardens and Seasonal Ponds*, *Healthy Gardening with a Physiotherapist*, *Firesmart for Urban Gardens* and *Deer, Oh Dear*. The final educational presentation scheduled is *The Ideal Garden Soil* Our very popular hands-on tool sharpening event is becoming by demand an annual event as a pre meeting event and was scheduled along with a Fall and Spring Plant Sales, and a book and a seed exchange. Informal summer activities included a travelogue to Cougar Annie's Garden,

Fern propagation in UVic Botany Lab and a visit to a birder's garden. A laptop was purchased for educational presentations.

The Advanced Training Program (ATPA) offered 4 courses including Weeds and invasive Plants, Botany , Gardening with Native Plants and Composting at Home.

Other 2024 news in brief

A survey request to the Chapters to compile projects province wide was completed by only two chapters

Clinic Reference materials continue to be developed for clinic boxes and the website VMGA was surprised to learn that the website unveiled in Fall 2023 and our members had been heavily involved in has been unexpectedly replaced by another platform to which we did not have input.

Leads for some Committees and Executive positions continues to be challenging.

Nancy Willihnganz, VMGA MGABC Chapter Rep, October 2024



Chapter Report September 2024

Membership – 416 members

- 289 Active Qualified Master Gardeners
- 56 Students
- 71 Other Categories: 33 Sustaining, 20 Alumni & 18 Life Members

Continuing Education

The Vancouver Chapter offered a wide range of educational opportunities throughout the year, including: **6 Speaker Series** with topics ranging from native plants, herbal gardens, lawn alternatives, exploring a Garden of Remembrance, issues related to our food systems, rain gardens and the botanical knowledge of Indigenous people. We alternate our Speaker Series between zoom and in-person sessions.

Spring Seminar – another very successful in person event featuring 5 amazing speakers and a vendor fair. A total of 272 individuals attended the in-person session and 132 viewed the recordings of the presentations.

Additional Programs:

- Garden Assessments and visits to private gardens
- 2 sessions on native bees
- Garden Ecology
- Summer pruning

Outreach Opportunities

Clinics

Over 280 clinics were held at 98 locations throughout the Lower Mainland, Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Bowen Island, Sunshine Coast, Powell River & Squamish. Nurseries are our most popular location, but we also host clinics at Farmers Markets and Gardening Events.

Projects

52 projects are being supported by the Chapter. The Chapter oversees **Healing Gardens** located at Extended Care Centres, Hospice facilities, Long-term Care Facilities and Children's Hospitals. As well our members support a wide range of **Community Gardens** including food gardens, pollinator gardens, cultivation of Dahlias & Mason Bees and seed libraries. We also offer research opportunities for our members to complete on their own and at home.

Community Partnerships

VanDusen Gardens is our home base where we hold our Basic training Program, Members Meetings and continuing education programs. For members who are located outside of the lower mainland we encourage them to support their local garden communities. This includes Sunshine Coast Botanical Gardens, Paulik Park in Richmond, UBC Botanical Gardens, and Darts Hill. We also work with West Vancouver and the City of Vancouver on various initiatives.

Prince George Year End Chapter Report

Membership:

We are a group of 32 members. Within this group two are on leave, three are alumni members, and six will complete their MGIT in October.

Every two years we offer the Master Gardener Basic Training Program. This year we are expecting 10 students to participate starting this fall. The mentor program which we had in place with the last cohort, will support these new students. The program will offer classes in person as well as through zoom and includes 78 hours of course time.

Activities:

*Seed Library: The seed library was in place at the two local public libraries this year. These programs are supported and coordinated by MG's with seed saving and see cleaning workshops in the fall, and seed starting workshops in the spring.

* Seedy Saturday was a great success this year with 163 attendees. There was a concession and vendor participation. We are already looking forward to next year and considering a larger space and more vendors.

*The May Day Plant Sale this year was a huge success. This is a very well supported event which the community looks forward to every year. There were over 70 volunteers on the day of the sale. Volunteers were also busy in the weeks before the sale labelling, repotting, and tidying up plants.

* The Master Gardeners were present in the community this year setting up an information table at the Home Show, at Walk BC, the Sunflower Festival and other events in the city. They also set up an Ask a Master Gardener and information table at the Vanderhoof and Burns Lake Seedy Saturdays.

*Summer Garden Tours were a huge success this year. Community members open their gardens to the public and MG's act as auxiliary hosts greeting the public and answering questions about the plants.

New Botanical Garden:

Our Master Gardener's Chapter is affiliated with the David Douglas Botanical Garden at the University of Northern BC here in Prince George. The established gardens are supported by the Master Gardeners with Work Bees and several weekly garden groups weeding, mulching and planting.

The new 'Expansion Garden' opened in June, providing garden plots for the public, a path and newly planted perennials. There is an expansive plan for this area which will take several years to develop and will provide Master Gardeners with opportunities to volunteer.

In Summary, it has been a positive, busy and involved year. We have been active in the community and provided a presence at many functions. Opportunities have been provided for people to learn about plants, seeds and gardening all with the friendly, welcoming involvement of our master gardeners.