Who are Master Gardeners?

Master Gardeners are part of a network of Associations throughout North America whose members share a common interest – a passion for gardening and a willingness to share their knowledge, skills and expertise within their communities as a volunteer.

Master Gardeners are eager to provide outreach to all sectors of our community, from gardeners that are just starting out to experienced gardeners.

Master Gardener programs are not for profit and information is given in a volunteer capacity only.

Mission statement: To provide information about gardening to the community and to educate people about environmentally responsible gardening practices.

Our association was formed in 2009 and since then has provided almost 6000 hours of volunteer service to the Thompson Shuswap area. Some of our projects have included:

- Gardening seminars throughout the region
- Seedy Saturdays
- Kamloops Mental Health garden,
- Kamloops Public Produce Project in Partnership with the Kamloops Food Policy Council,
- 'Planting for Pollinators' brochure,
- School Gardens advise,
- Annual advice clinics held in many garden centres throughout the region,
- Organization of public presentations such as Xeriscaping with Gwen Steele, Natural Insects, Weed & Disease Control with Dr. Linda Gilkeson, Pesticide Free Back Yard Orchards with Tamara Richardson and Bee a Citizen Scientist.

TSMGA Basic Training Application

Please print clearly.

Name………………………………………………
Street……………………………………………..
City………………………………………………
Postal Code……………………………………….
Home Phone:……………………………………..
Work Phone:……………………………………..
Email:……………………………………………..

How many years of gardening experience do you have in the dry interior?

Years of gardening experience elsewhere?

List any gardening clubs or societies to which you belong:

List any gardening magazines, websites, blogs that you read:

List any gardening or plant courses that you’ve taken:

List any public gardens that you’ve visited lately.

How did you learn of the Master Gardeners program?
Master Gardeners in British Columbia

The Master Gardeners Association of British Columbia (MGABC) had its origins in a program that was started at Washington State University in the 1970s. That program was formed out of a need to deal with an overwhelming public demand for information regarding local gardening problems. MGABC is incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia and is a registered charitable organization with CRA.

Mission statement:

“The Master Gardeners Association of British Columbia (MGABC) will provide continuous learning opportunities for its members in order to educate the public about environmentally responsible gardening practices and help them enjoy gardening as an activity”.

TRAINING

The Basic Training Program for Master Gardeners in this area is offered by the Thompson Shuswap Master Gardeners in partnership with the Horticultural program at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. The purpose of Basic Training is to train experienced gardeners to become future volunteer educators within the Master Gardener Organization.

Classroom Training

Provides an overview of gardening basics. Topics include botany, soils, composting, xeriscaping, orchards, berries, vegetables, plant propagation, and control of weeds and pests. Environmentally responsible gardening practices are emphasized and experts on each topic teach the courses. Students must complete assignments, homework and pass a final exam before proceeding on to the second component of the training, which is Volunteer Service.

Master Gardener in Training - Volunteer Service

65 approved volunteer hours are completed over a two-year period. Hours can be completed in a variety of ways including providing gardening advice to the public at ‘clinics’ at nurseries, garden centres & Seedy Saturdays, participating in community projects, committee work, writing and speaking on gardening topics.

Once students have successfully completed both the Classroom and the Volunteer service components of the program, they earn their Master Gardener Certificate.

After Training

Master Gardeners remain active in the program by completing at least 15 hours of volunteer service each year, plus 5 hours of continuing gardening education. Continuing education hours can be accumulated by attending chapter meetings, field trips, the MG-sponsored Spring Seminar, an Advanced MG training program or other workshops and horticultural courses.

Interested?

Thompson Shuswap Master Gardeners Association provides Basic Training (date TBA) with classes every Saturday from Sept. through Dec. (except Thanksgiving weekend) Cost is $550 and includes three textbooks and a considerable amount of supplementary materials. The fee also covers the honorariums for our expert instructors hired to teach the classes. Next class is 2018, subject to confirmation.

Please fill out the application form on the reverse & mail to:

TSMGA Basic Training Coordinator, c/o 279 Monmouth Drive, Kamloops, BC, V2E 1L9

For more info please phone: 250-372-0717

http://www.mgabc.org/