



*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario*

# Inside MGOI

Welcome to the February edition of the Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI) Newsletter. Our focus is on you, Master Gardeners! This is your vehicle for providing updates, insights and the inside scoop from MGOI Board & Committee members, Directors, and the 31 Master Gardener groups throughout Ontario. The Newsletter features member milestones, new group projects, short member profiles, upcoming events such as regional technical updates – anything about the functioning and activities of our groups and our members. And pictures – please feel free to submit pictures!

Contributions to future editions of 'Inside MGOI' may be sent at any time to the Newsletter Editor, Isabel Belanger, [newsletter@mgoi.ca](mailto:newsletter@mgoi.ca).

#### **MGOI Board Members:**

President:	Claudette Sims, Halton
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Co-Director of South & West Region:	Karen Sciuk, Kitchener

#### **Committee Members**

Recording Secretary/Statistician: Rhonda Grein, Kitchener  
Webmaster: Jim Cook [webmaster@mgoi.ca](mailto:webmaster@mgoi.ca)  
Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke [newsletter@mgoi.ca](mailto:newsletter@mgoi.ca)  
Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County  
Facebook: Linda Hugli, Sudbury  
MG Advice Clinic Manager for Canada Blooms: Christine Spence, Etobicoke  
Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Adrienne Hanbidge, Toronto

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#### **INSIDE MGOI**

**Newsletter of the  
Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.**

**February 2017**

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke**

## Milestones

### Kitchener Master Gardeners

10 Year Anniversary

Christine Gilhuly



### Mississauga Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Robert Mroz – January 2017



### Stratford Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Carolyn Schmidt



### Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Robert Stuart



### Outgoing Executive Coordinator

Outgoing Executive Coordinator Diane McClymont Peace was thanked with a cake and presentation at the January meeting.

### Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Augustin Gonzalez – December 2016

Aline Kouhi-Klemencic – July 2016



Coordinator Suzanne Zacharczyk Presents Aline Kouhi-Klemencic with her MG Certificate



### Prince Edward County

New Master Gardener in Training

Jill Yarnell



### Guelph – Wellington Master Gardeners

15 Year Anniversary

Ann Ironside

10 Year Anniversary

Doris Calder

New Master Gardener in Training

Shayne Tryon – February 2017



### Durham Master Gardeners

5 Year Anniversary

Tracey Smyth

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Katherine Mathewson

Kathleen Pearce



## A Moment for Membership



*Happy Valentine for Coordinators*

The gift of making life easier..... A new year is a great time for a review, renew and redo. Our groups and our provincial organization couldn't function without our Coordinators, so we'd like to make life as easy as possible for them!

We have just completed a review of the content in the Coordinators' Corner tab in the Members area of MGOI.ca to make it more user friendly.

Thanks to Jim Cook, our Webmaster, for setting up the content in the categories organized by:

Key Information for Coordinators, Forms (from the Coordinators' Handbook), Meetings, Leadership Resources, Tools to Resolve Volunteer Situations, and Membership.

There is some information that was previously in the Coordinator Conference tab, and a new addition - Self-Study Path Information - to help Coordinators support members choosing self-study & the certification exam path.

We have added author, date and page numbers to files to make them more informative. In addition, we have added short descriptions of files/links in parentheses so you have a better idea of what you are opening.

Take a look and let me know what you think? If there is anything else you would like to see in the Coordinators' Corner tab let me know at: [pamela.j.love87@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.j.love87@gmail.com).

Happy Valentines!

*Pam Love, Director of Membership*

## Canada Blooms 2017

*Canada Blooms is fast approaching – March 10th to 19th inclusive. Master Gardeners will run two advice clinics during the show, answering gardening questions from the public. Last year we had over 2500 questions posed to our knowledgeable volunteers. This year promises to be equally busy as enthusiasm for our participation is on the rise.*

*Adrienne Hanbidge*  
[ahanbidge@hotmail.com](mailto:ahanbidge@hotmail.com)



# Master Gardeners Out & About:

## Projects & Events

### Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

**Name:** Bats, Myths and Mayhem

**Date:** February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Details:** The purpose of the presentation by PEC MG Terry Sprague was to dispel age old myths about bats, provide some bat trivia, describe the 6 species we have in our area, and enlighten the audience about the problems bats are facing and what we can do to help. We had an enthusiastic audience and Terry



*An Enthusiastic Audience Learns about Bats*

Sprague answered many questions. Thank you to all those who came out.

**Name:** Seedy Saturday

**Location:** Picton High School

**Date:** February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Details:** Seedy Saturday in Picton moved to a new location this year which proved to be an excellent idea. There was more room for all the vendors and displays, and the atmosphere was exciting with such a huge open space.

PEC Master Gardens were there and our booth was busy most of the day. We had a demonstration of newspaper



*Becky Lamb talking with visitors at Seedy Saturday in Picton*

pots and handed out lots of advice sheets. Of course at this time of year our main focus was starting seeds indoors.



*Alex Wiens answers questions at the PEC MG booth at Seedy Saturday*

### Stratford Master Gardeners

**Name:** Seedy Days

**Details:** Stratford MGs participated in two Seedy Days in February – one in St. Marys, and one at the Local in Stratford. SMGs made one presentation about vegetable gardening, and also sold coconut fibre.

### Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

**Name:** Almonte Seedy Saturday

**Date:** February 11, 2017

**Details:** Esther Bryan and Rebecca Last both gave presentations at Almonte's Seedy Saturday.



*Esther Bryan & Rebecca Last*

### Guelph & Wellington Master Gardeners

**Project:** Garden Myths

**Details:** Robert Pavlis, a GWMG, has written another book! *Garden Myths* examines over 120 horticultural urban legends. Turning wisdom on its head, Robert dives deep into traditional garden advice and debunks the myths and misconceptions that abound. He asks critical questions and uses science-based information to understand plants and their environment. Armed with the truth, Robert then turns this knowledge into easy-to-follow advice.

- Is fall the best time to clean the garden?
- Do bloom boosters work?
- Will citronella plants reduce mosquitoes in the garden?
- Do pine needles acidify soil?
- Should tomatoes be suckered?
- Should trees be staked at planting time?
- Can burlap keep your trees warm in winter?
- Will a pebble tray increase humidity for houseplants?

**Purchasing Details at:**

<http://www.gardenmyths.com/garden-myths-book-1/>



**Through the Garden Gate 2017**  
**Gardens of North Rosedale & Moore Park, Toronto**



**MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, Toronto Botanical Garden's *Through the Garden Gate (TTGG) 2017* tour on Saturday, June 10 & Sunday, June 11 will showcase 30 spectacular gardens in the North Rosedale and Moore Park areas of Toronto.

Over the years, Toronto Master Gardeners have volunteered thousands of hours to "animate" the tour gardens with their informative presence and interaction with the public.

**We need your help! Rain or Shine!**

Two Master Gardener volunteers are required for each garden on both days. That's 120 volunteer spots that need to be filled. Toronto Botanical Garden's event organizers provide volunteers with detailed information about expectations and logistics of the event, and are available to answer any questions you may have. Shifts run from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Sign in is at headquarters at 9:00 am both days. Hours will, of course, count towards your own volunteer requirements. In appreciation, you will receive a free pass to visit the gardens on the day you are not volunteering, as well as a refreshment voucher.

If you would like to participate in this popular garden tour, please contact **Brigitte Richter** at [gardenhideaway@yahoo.ca](mailto:gardenhideaway@yahoo.ca) no later than **May 8<sup>th</sup>**. Kindly provide your name, contact information and preferred volunteer day, Saturday or Sunday (or both!).

**Thank you! and Congratulations to 'Through the Garden Gate' on your 30th year!**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Stratford Master Gardeners**

**Name:** Stratford Garden Festival

**Dates:** March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Details:** For the 17<sup>th</sup> year in a row, Stratford MGs will have a large booth at the Stratford Garden Festival. They will dispense advice to hundreds of attendees as well as sell Coir as a fundraising project. Our members will give two talks and introduce speakers. Please visit our website at:

<https://www.on.lung.ca/stratfordgardenfestival>



Topics include...

- Caring for Orchids (Dianne Westlake)
- Container Gardening: Thinking Outside the Planter Box (Gary Westlake)
- The Rain Garden (Cauleen Viscoff)
- Edible Landscape (Cathy Hooper)
- Integrated Pest Management (Sue Flinders-Adams)
- Gardening Trivia: Test Your Knowledge (M.J. Pilgrim)

**Registration Information:** Cost is \$30 per person (includes lunch). Questions? Email:

[mgcontact@peterboroughgardens.ca](mailto:mgcontact@peterboroughgardens.ca)



*A Day for Gardeners*

**Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners**

**Name:** Technical Update - A Day for Gardeners

**Date:** Saturday, March 4, 2017 from 9:15 am – 2:15 pm

**Location:** Activity Haven (1<sup>st</sup> floor), 180 Barnardo Ave., Peterborough, ON K9H 5V3

**Details:** For the new gardener who is not quite sure where to start, or the homeowner who loves to garden and would like to find out more.



## Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

**Name:** Ottawa Seedy Saturday

**Date:** March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Details:** Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton will have an advice table.

## Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

**Name:** The 17<sup>th</sup> Incredible Peterborough Garden Show

**Dates:** Friday April 7<sup>th</sup>, 5pm to 9pm; Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 5pm; Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10am - 4pm

**Location:** The Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough, ON

**Details:** The Peterborough Horticultural Society and the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners are not-for-profit organizations of passionate volunteers who host the garden show to raise money. We return it to our community with scholarships for students in horticultural-related studies, to support Master Gardeners in Training, and to provide grants to community gardens. It is our major fundraiser.

Some of the speakers this year include Paul Zammit, Darren Heimbecker, Steven Biggs, and Cathy Dueck!

**Admission:** \$ 8/day OR get a weekend pass for \$12. Children under 12, with adult: Free

NEW this year – e-tickets...

<http://www.peterboroughgardenshow.com/tickets.html>

There are also several locations for advance ticket sales.

For more information email:

[info@peterboroughgardenshow.com](mailto:info@peterboroughgardenshow.com) or check out our [Garden Show webpage](#) or [Facebook](#) page!



Peterborough Garden Show 2016

## Northumberland Master Gardeners

**Name:** March into the Garden Lecture Series – 4 Mondays in March



**Dates:** March 6, 13, 20, 27 at 7:30 pm

**Location:** Calvary Pentecostal Church  
401 Croft St. E., Port Hope

**Details:** Tickets will be available soon. Great speakers, in order of date, include Kevin Elchuk, Giboshihill Hostas; Darren Heimbecker, Whistling Gardens; Marion Jarvie; and

Paul Zammit, TBG.

Presented by Northumberland Master Gardeners, series tickets are \$40 for the four lectures. Individual lecture tickets are \$15 and are only sold at the door and if seating is available.

Email: [allthingsgardening@hotmail.com](mailto:allthingsgardening@hotmail.com) for further info. Come join us - it's a wonderful way to spend Monday evenings in March!

## Canada Blooms 2017



**Dates:** Fri., March 10<sup>th</sup> – Sun., March 19<sup>th</sup> inclusive

**Details:** Hailed as the gardening event of the year, Ontario Master Gardeners will play an integral role in answering the public's gardening questions. Master Gardeners will also provide informative and interesting talks.

## Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

**Name:** Ottawa Home & Garden Show

**Dates:** March 23-26, 2017

**Details:** Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton will have an advice booth for the entire show, participate in the Upcycle Challenge (benefitting Habitat for Humanity), and give two presentations on the Main Stage.



## **Etobicoke Master Gardeners & Humber Arboretum**

**Name:** Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring

**Date:** Sat., March 25, 2017 (changed from March 11<sup>th</sup>)

**Details:** Will present the 2016/2017 Eco-Gardening Community Workshop Series in collaboration with each other.

Sessions run from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

To register for the free community events, please e-mail: [arboretum@humber.ca](mailto:arboretum@humber.ca) or call 416-657-5009.

## **Cochrane District Master Gardeners**

**Name:** Gardening for Butterflies – Webinar and Q&A

**Date:** April 15<sup>th</sup> 2017, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Details:** Join the Cochrane District Master Gardeners this Easter Weekend for a live online Webinar entitled "Gardening for Butterflies" on YouTube.

- **Host:** Pamela Dallaire, Coordinator, Cochrane District Master Gardeners, Smooth Rock Falls
- **Co-host:** Ingrid Janssen, Coordinator, Durham Master Gardeners

This Webinar/ Question & Answer session will focus on gardening for butterflies in Northern Ontario. Join us via YouTube. We'll give you the link to ask questions while the webinar is live.

Here is the link to the YouTube page.

<http://youtu.be/julnFz10n8E>

Please invite your friends and bring your questions!

## **9<sup>th</sup> Annual M.G.O.I. Summer Workshop – 2017**

**Dates:** July 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>

**Details:** The workshop will be held, once again, at the beautiful Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture. There are three topics this year, from which two must be chosen:

- Creating Gardens – A Designer's Approach
- The Carolinian Zone – Understanding A Unique Habitat
- Urban Agriculture

Complete information on the program can be obtained from the M.G.O.I. website, [www.mgoi.ca](http://www.mgoi.ca), on the member's side under the "Workshops" tab. The cost for the two-day weekend is \$260, and covers delicious lunches and the morning breaks on both days. The instructors are Darrell Bley, Kris Mahoney, and Darren Schmahl. Bios are on the website. They are looking forward to working with Master Gardeners and Master Gardeners in Training. Darrell has instructed many of the summer workshops, but Kris and Darren are new to the program.

All that is required for registration can be downloaded from the website, or you may contact June Streadwick, [streadwick@sympatico.ca](mailto:streadwick@sympatico.ca), or Yvonne Causer, [ycauser@hotmail.com](mailto:ycauser@hotmail.com) for information.

Registrations are currently being received at the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture and it is anticipated that spaces will fill up quickly. Early registration is recommended to ensure getting into your desired sessions, as they are limited in size.

We had a record number of attendees last year, and we anticipate reaching that again this year, so plan to attend and enjoy an incredible horticultural weekend.

## **Canadian Organic Growers**

**Details:** Canadian Organic Growers (COG) is offering a new course this spring – *Growing Organic Food* – geared to both experienced and inexperienced gardeners interested in learning about growing their own food. If you are concerned about where your food comes from, what's on it, or just want to learn the how to grow your own food, then this course is for you! Taking you through an entire food growing season, COG will teach you the essential gardening skills from seed selection and planting to harvesting and preserving, to ensure that you and your family are getting the best nutrition possible straight from your garden.

The Growing Organic Food course is offered in 4 locations across Ontario, and includes 5 classroom lessons, 11 hands-on lessons and 3 self-directed blogs delivered over the entire growing season. This course is eligible for MGOI Continuing Education Credits.

### **Guelph**

Tuesday evenings, March 21 to September 19, at Ignatius Farm, 5420 Hwy 6 N., Guelph, ON

### **Ottawa**

Saturdays, March 25 to September 16, at West End Well, Just Food Farm, and Arc Acres



### Toronto

Thursdays, April 20 to September 21, at The Stop's Green Barn, 601 Christie St., Toronto, ON

### Kingston

Mondays, April 24 to October 24, at Boys and Girls Club, 559 Bagot St., Kingston, ON

**Cost:** \$750+HST

For more information about the courses including the full schedules, specific topics and registration please visit [COG's website](#). Any questions about the course can be directed to Julia at [julia@cog.ca](mailto:julia@cog.ca) or by calling COG at 1-888-375-7383.

### Save the Date

**Name:** Coordinators' Conference

**Date:** Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Location:** Landscape Ontario, Milton ON

### Richters Herbs

**Location:** 357 Highway 47, Goodwood, ON L0C 1A0 (north of Toronto to the end of the 404, then east to Goodwood); Tel. 1.905.640.6677 Fax. 1.905.640.6641

**Details:** Richters Herbs is offering seminars at their greenhouse location this winter and throughout the year. For more information visit:

<https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=Events/events.html>. They also offer free on-line seminars at <https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=events/events2016.html>.

The 2017 Richters catalogue is available and is filled with culinary, medicinal, and aromatic herbs and seeds.



### MGOI VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

#### Director of Events

**Timeframe:** 2 years, October 2016 – October 2018 (potential to stay on until October 2022)

**Description:** Immediate opening for this rewarding Board position. The Director of Events has the privilege of providing vision and guidance for any event that welcomes MG volunteers from all over Ontario. Detailed procedures and timelines are available. Teams for both Canada Blooms and the Coordinators' Conference are already in place, so year 1 would be a very leisurely acclimatization to the role. Have more questions? I would be delighted to answer any questions at [casey.vanandel@sympatico.ca](mailto:casey.vanandel@sympatico.ca).

**Be warned!** You'll have to be prepared for some gushing about how much fun and how being the Director of Events changed my life. It could change yours too!