Inside MGOI

Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Welcome to the September 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.

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Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke newsletter@mgoi.ca
Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County
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INSIDE MGOI
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Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.

September 2017

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Milestones

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

In Memoriam

Janet Marie Mckay *(nee Mascarin)*

September 3, 1950 – August 15, 2017

Mrs. Janet Marie McKay passed away peacefully at St. Joseph's Hospice. She was the only daughter of Pompeo (Pomps) and Helen Mascarin. Janet attended St. Elizabeth School and Fort William Collegiate Institute, and received her Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Windsor in 1972 and her MSW from Dalhousie University in 1976.
But her most gratifying achievement was receiving her Master Gardener Certificaton in 2014. One of Janet's biggest passions was gardening; everyone who knew Janet knows how much she loved to play in the dirt. Janet especially loved being outdoors, whether hiking, cross country skiing or jogging. She also became a devoted Home Shopping Channel expert. Her motivation, tenacity and endurance were second to none.

Early in her career Janet was employed with the Children's Aid Society of Thunder Bay as a social worker, leaving in 1980 to pursue a family business with her husband Bill. Together they owned and operated McKay Fisheries and worked tirelessly until their retirement in 2013. While still a partner in the family business Janet decided to return to the Social Work field and began working at Brass Bell Family Resource Centre in Dorion. She was a driving force behind the establishment of The Ontario Early Years/Family Resource Centres in the rural Thunder Bay district. Janet was the Executive Director during her 11-year tenure at Brass Bell Resource Centre and retired in 2011.

Janet will be deeply missed and forever loved by her husband, Bill; daughter, Ashley (Neil & Tevis); mother-in-law, Frances; sister-in-law, Laurie (Gerry); stepchildren, Patrica and Michael; and nieces, nephews, cousins and Janet's many close and cherished friends. Predeceased by her mother, Helen; father, Pompeo; brother, Roger; treasured cousin, Maureen Marcon; as well as aunts, uncles and cousins.

Per Janet's wishes, a celebration of life was held at the DaVinci Centre on Monday, August 21, 2017 from 1-3 pm. There will be no funeral service, and a private interment of ashes will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Northern Cancer Fund.

The link to Janet's on-line obituary may be found here: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/chroniclejournal/obituary.aspx?n=janet-marie-mckay&pid=186422692

Master Gardeners of Niagara

25 Year Anniversary
Marilyn Sheppard

15 Year Anniversary
Barb Large
Iain Hay

10 Year Anniversary
Yvonne Causer
Marcia Barron

5 Year Anniversary
Chris Clark
Kit Thompson
Barb Johnston

New Master Gardeners in Training
Leigh-Anne Legault
Marcey Leggett
Iqbal Mauthoor

Of Interest
Niagara MGs are now up to 40 active, involved members!

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

New Master Gardeners in Training
Nancy Fowler
Gwyn McGillis
Heather Clemenson

Simcoe County Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Emeritus Certificate

Marie-Laure Varcoe

Marie-Laure was awarded her Master Gardener Emeritus Certificate at the September meeting. She is an active member of our group, filling the role of Treasurer and always bringing a smile to the meetings.

Marie-Laure, middle, with Joan Nieman-Agapas, past coordinator, on the left and Linda Peacock, coordinator, on the right

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Pat Duncan

Pat has been very busy working on her courses and filling the role of Secretary for the group. She recently put together an exceptional PowerPoint presentation on Vegetable Gardening that she will start using this Spring.

New Master Gardener in Training

Gail Cocker

Gail will be a great addition to our group.

We are proud to celebrate these milestones!

Mississauga Master Gardeners

15 Year Anniversary

Emma Chow

Emma enjoys opportunities for personal growth. She was the Mississauga MG coordinator for two years, and co-coordinator for two years. Emma participated in leading a workshop at Riverwood Conservancy for high school students, is part of the plant sale committee, and is always willing to help.

Michelle Wilson presents Emma Chow with her 15 year pin

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

10 Year Anniversary

Sandy Goranson

Maxine Thompson

Congratulations!

A Moment for Membership

Hi

MGOI Facebook Update & Help Needed

The MGOI Facebook group is now a community of more than 1300 gardening enthusiasts, including hundreds of MGs from across the province as well as throughout North America. Other members are part of the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) family of horticultural societies or simply hobby gardeners from far and wide, interested in who we are, what we do, and anxious to have their gardening questions answered by certified horticultural experts.

By providing an open, public Facebook group, MGOI hopes to facilitate the following:

- education/support for gardeners
- answering questions
- attracting new members by networking (groups/ individuals/public)
- sharing our love of gardening
- promotion of members' accomplishments
- discussion on a variety of gardening topics

All MGs are encouraged to become actively engaged in our Facebook group. Answering questions within the group is a great way to fulfill a portion of your yearly 'advice hours' requirement! If you have not yet joined us, submit a membership request at https://www.facebook.com/groups/MasterGardenersofOntario/.

As the current Facebook administrator, I monitor the group daily, approving or declining requests for membership, approving posts before they appear on the timeline, deleting inappropriate comments or spam, and turning off commenting for conversations that have become redundant, circular, or off-topic.

Our Facebook presence is growing both in members and in the number of postings. So, we are looking to add two assistant administrators who would provide backup, share the responsibilities, and help build capacity for the future. MGOI Facebook group administrators have the opportunity to acquire non-volunteer/administrative hours based on time spent managing the group. I currently spend two to three hours per month on this role. We would love to have you cyber experts help administer the MGOI Facebook group!

If you have questions please contact me at lhugli@hotmail.com, and if you are interested in volunteering as an administrator contact Pam Love, Director of Membership, at pamlovenews@gmail.com.

Linda Hugli, MGOI Facebook Administrator

"Bunchberry Wins! But there's more work to be done...

Did you vote in the Canadian National Flower Contest? If you did, there is still more work to be done! Bunchberry won the popular vote with almost 80% of the 10,000 votes cast. But it is not yet Canada's Official National Flower. There is an online petition to Parliament asking for Bunchberry to be officially declared as Canada's National Flower. But it needs 500 signatures by November 8th in order to be presented in Parliament. We have just over 500 signatures as of this writing. Please copy this link into your browser and add your name to the petition:
https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-1179&utm_source=epic48&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=13270

And share with family and friends. With almost 800 Master Gardeners in Ontario alone, we can do this!"

Master Gardeners Out & About:
Projects & Events

Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Hospice Niagara
Details: Niagara MGs assisted the kitchen staff in installing new raised beds for their herbs and vegetables for the kitchen.

Name: Annual Plant Sale
Date: September 9th, 2017
Details: With the help of a wonderful newspaper article by Theresa Forte, our group has had the best fundraising plant sale since 2010. Many thanks to all our members and contributing organizations for their generous donations of plants for our sale. We also added a table staffed by the Start-Me-Up Niagara Community Garden to sell their vegetables and herbs. Niagara MGs have supported this group for many years and continue to find new ways to assist them in bringing healthy food to the community.

Name: MGOI Summer Workshop
Date: July 8th & 9th, 2017
Location: Niagara Parks
Details: Master Gardeners of Niagara were again honoured to be part of the MGOI summer workshop held at the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: 2nd Annual Queen Bee Event

Faith with a mason bee house

Details: Judith Cox, Julianne Labreche, Faith Schmidt and Angelina Singson participated in the 2nd Annual Queen Bee Event held at the Agriculture Museum.

Here Judith shows her fairy garden to young visitors

Name: Advice Table
Details: O-C MGs held an advice table at the historic Richmond Fair in the Agriculture Education Barn. Judith Cox and Ann McQuillan had lots of Grade 4 students

dropping by on Friday morning to learn about root vegetables.

Judith Cox & Ann McQuillan

Northumberland Master Gardeners

Name: Advice Clinic, Port Hope Fair

Details: Northumberland MGs held a very successful advice clinic at the Port Hope fair on September 15, 16 and 17. People were thrilled with the opportunity to receive a free bag of 5 tulips in either red or yellow in exchange for their gardening questions. The bulbs drew a lot of attention; a scavenger hunt by the kids in attendance, that included asking what a bulb is, drew even more families to our booth. Many gardening questions came up, much advice was given, and conversations about many aspects of gardening ensued. A great time was had by all.

Left to right are Joy Cullen, Judy Harris & Margo Cox

Now we are wondering what to give away next!

Durham Master Gardeners

Name: Parkwood Historic Estate White Garden Redesign

Details: The Parkwood Estate, located in Oshawa, ON was the residence of Samuel McLaughlin, founder of General Motors of Canada, and was home to the McLaughlin family from 1917 until 1972. It was designated a national historic site in 1989.

The Parkwood gardens have references to the great gardens of England and Europe, but with a 20th-century spirit. Much of the landscape design draws inspiration from the English Arts & Crafts gardening movement. The White Garden was redesigned in 1988 by the Brooklin Master Gardeners (now the Durham Master Gardeners), and we are partnering with Durham College in the redesign of the garden, following the guidelines established for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada. The objectives are to create a garden which can have educational value, demonstrating to visitors a garden that can be beautiful, relatively low maintenance and resilient in the face of a changing climate.

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Susan Warrack (photo taken by Linda Melady)

Name: Milford Fair

Date: September 16, 2017

Details: We always enjoy the Milford Fair. It's a lively fair with lots of visitors, many of whom drop by our tent to ask a question, or just to say hello.

UPCOMING EVENTS

London Middlesex Master Gardeners

6 CEU Technical Update: We're Going Native!

Date: Sunday, October 15, 2017 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Location: London Civic Garden Centre
625 Springbank Drive, London, Ontario, N6K 4T1
Details: 3 great speakers plus lunch, snacks and beverages. *Limited to 60 participants. Register early to guarantee your spot!*

Speakers:

1. **Ben Porchuk:** Ecologist, Carolinian Canada Coalition, Director Restorative Nature Experiences.
   "Plant Guilds"
2. **Kyle McLoughlin**: Consulting Arborist, International Society of Arboriculture, Writer.
   "Native Trees & Shrubs"
3. **Michelle Kanter**: Carolinian Canada Coalition-ED, Biologist.
   "In the Zone - Using Native Plants to Transform the Urban Landscape"

Early bird Registration – prior to Sept 15: $50pp.
After Sept. 15th: $60pp
Questions? Contact us at
lonmidmastergardeners@gmail.com
Register at www.londonmiddlesexmastergardeners

Ottawa-Carleton & Lanark County Master Gardeners

Technical Update (TU):

Name: Designing resilient gardens for our times
Date: Saturday, October 21st, 2017 – all-day seminar
Location: Rideau Park United Church, 2203 Alta Vista Drive, Ottawa
Registration fee: (includes lunch): $35 ($40 after Oct. 7)
Topics:

- Water and drought management
- Soil management
- Wash and wear plants (planting for resilience)

For details:

- see www.lanarkmg.blogspot.ca or www.mgottawa.ca
- call 613-264-8135
- email lanarkmg@gmail.com

Coordinators' Conference

Date: Saturday, October 14th, 2017
Location: Landscape Ontario, Milton ON
Details: Return completed registration form to Anja Lowrance, Registrar - 2017.mgoi.conference@gmail.com -

- Send any announcements of Tech Updates, Garden Tours, Group activities, etc. to tvanandel@gmail.com by Sunday, October 1**.**
- All conference information can be found on the MGOI Website members' side. Just log in and look for the 'Coordinators Conference' AGM tab.

Grey County Master Gardeners

Technical Update/Annual Gardening Seminar: "Food for Thought"

Date: Saturday, October 28, 2017
Location: Harmony Centre, 890 4th Avenue East, Owen Sound
Cost: No charge (donations appreciated)
Registration Information: Contact Roberta Brignell at 519-422-1195; robertarbrignell@gmail.com
Topics: Three guest speakers will talk about different aspects of the history, importance, and latest methods of growing your own food. Speakers:

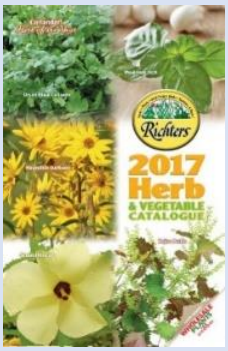
- Gene Petonoquot, Elder, Saugeen First Nation: history of agriculture in the Saugeen Territory
- Ben Caesar, Owner, Fiddlehead Nursery: designing an edible perennial garden
- Nancy Lee-Colibaba, RBG: small space vegetable gardening

Etobicoke Master Gardeners & Humber Arboretum

Name: Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series – Soil Health
Date: Saturday, November 18th, 2017
Details: Hosted at the Centre for Urban Ecology, Humber Arboretum

To register please visit humberarb.eventbrite.ca

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 throughout the year. For more information visit: https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=Events/events.html
Richters 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.