Inside MGOI

Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Welcome to the November 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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INSIDE MGOI
Newsletter of the
Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.

November 2017

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Milestones

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

New Master Gardeners in Training
Heather Clemenson
Shelley Wagner

10 Year Anniversary
Josie Pazdzior

Member Profiles
Lee Boltwood

The City of Ottawa recently named new parks after worthy locals. One in Stittsville was named after Master Gardener Lee Boltwood, citing her work as a volunteer giving advice to help home gardeners. Lee points out "that the City needs to find more parks for naming as several of the 1986 intake are still out there working hard in the community".

Lee goes on to say that all gardeners improve life in ways that aren't easily counted and measured by bureaucrats. The need for diversity occurs when we share plants with friends, neighbours and in Horticulture plant sales. And we further share by surreptitiously planting trees and shrubs in library grounds, church yards and city parks - contributing to the greenery that sustains our lungs and our spirits.

Lee, as always, inspires and reminds us to continue gardening in our communities. Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton are pleased she has been so honoured.

Mississauga Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training
Ani Qosja

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

New Master Gardeners in Training
Nicole Schroder
Sandy Schroder
Anne Wong

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Member Transfers

PEC Coordinator Andie Wiens with new member Cathy Thompson

Cathy Thompson has transferred to the Prince Edward County MGs from Niagara. Cathy is Treasurer of MGOI.

Grey County Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved:
Brad Dewys

Brad Dewys receives his Master Gardener certificate from coordinator Jackie Campbell

Peterborough Master Gardeners

New Master Gardeners in Training
Brenda Thompson
Lois Scott
Jennifer Guertin
(missing Vince Picchiello)

From left to right – Lois Scott, Brenda Thompson, Jennifer Guertin

Peterborough Master Gardeners are pleased to welcome the four new Master Gardeners in Training to our group.

Lanark County Master Gardeners

30 Year Anniversary
Margaret Inwood
Helen Halpenny

Of Interest: Helen and Margaret are sisters who are two of the founding members of Lanark County Master Gardeners. Both are very active members of our group and we wouldn't be the same without them.

Margaret has been our Treasurer since our group was formed and manages our money to the penny.

Helen has held virtually every role in our group and is currently in charge of recruiting.

Margaret Inwood, left & Helen Halpenny, right

Helen is a much in demand speaker and is extremely active in the Horticultural community. A few years ago Helen was named Horticulturalist of the year by the OHA.

Thank you and Congratulations to our two Master Gardener Pioneers.

Merry Membership

"A Moment for Mentors: Master Gardener Mentor Guidelines, Overview & Suggestions"

Many groups put a lot of effort into getting a new member, only to have them leave shortly after they join. Many new members have told us that they feel overwhelmed when they first join as they have to connect with new people, learn new information, a new vocabulary, and new ways of doing things. That is why being a mentor is such a very important role. Having a mentor is a crucial first step on the MGiT's journey to success.

Good mentors have a willingness to share their experience in a patient, positive manner. Mentors are able to answer many questions about the group, the organization, and how things work. They don't have to have all the answers – just need to know where to go to find them.

If you have never been a mentor before the role may sound challenging, however, the rewards are many. To support mentors in our groups we introduced the document "A Moment for Mentors: Master Gardener Mentor Guidelines, Overview and Suggestions" at the Coordinators' Conference in October, 2017. This document covers guidelines, expectations, and overviews of other mentor tools such as "The Journey Begins: Training and Orientation Manual for New Master Gardeners in Training" and the "Master Gardener in Training Forum".

You can find this document in the member area of www.mgoi.ca under the Coordinator Corner, Presentations and Handouts from the 2017 Conference.

If you would like to be a mentor, let your Coordinator know. If you need a mentor, let your Coordinator know.

Coordinators, if you do not have enough people to mentor in your home group, reach out for a distance mentor in another group in your region or beyond.

Happy mentoring everyone!!!

Pam Love, Director of Membership

MGiT Mentoring Program

by Ren Duinker, Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

I recently sent a note to Pam Love, (Director of Membership) and Pam Dallaire, (Coordinator of the Cochrane Master Gardeners and the creator of the MGiT (Master Gardener in Training) Forum http://mgit.createaforum.com/index.php) about the MGiT manual "The Journey Begins". I'd like to share it with you.

I realize now I should have sent my note to Linda Peacock, Maureen Hubert and Terri Briggs who also contributed to the manual's creation. My apologies to all of you and a very big thank you. Of course I received wonderful replies from everyone, including Claudette Sims, (President of MGOI) – I love being part of the Master Gardeners!

What a great article! As a recent graduate and soon to become an official MG, I wanted to thank you for producing not only the article "A Moment for Mentors" but also the MGiT forum.

I was lucky enough to have a 30 year veteran as my mentor, Barbra Stock. As you said in the article, a lot of MGiTs are quite lost in their first year, and I was no exception. The first year was very confusing and, although I did meet a lot of very helpful, friendly Master Gardeners (MGs) in my group, I never actually sat down with anyone and got to ask questions. I just sat quietly, listened and hoped things would become clearer if I paid attention.

Then at a meeting in my second year, our group discussed mentors! That was the day Barb became my mentor and suddenly everything changed for me. Up until that point I had been wondering about any number of things; for example, I thought you had to be an actual "official" MG to gain access to the member's area at the MGOI website (I'd just assumed that was why I was never given the password…of course all I had to do was ask, but I never did). Also, what on earth is a CEU (Continuing Education Unit)? I spent a year puzzling over that one. Answers are always there, but MGiTs don't always know the questions to ask.

Barb was marvellous! She not only unravelled the mysteries of life as a MGiT, she also made herself available to me during my courses at Dalhousie. She is a walking gardening encyclopedia and gave me something to shoot for in terms of what I needed to know, but also, beyond that, things like how to conduct myself when I was out in public representing our group. Barb also knew a lot about the history of MGOI, how it started, the roles of the board - who to contact for various questions, etc. She's very knowledgeable, kind, funny and incredibly patient. I passed all my courses at Dalhousie with flying colours, I learned a lot (!) but I also had a lot of fun - all thanks to Barb.

I would recommend the MGiT mentoring program to all MGiTs. There's really no need to feel lost - get yourself a mentor and dig in!

Now in my third year with PEC MGs I realize membership is at the core of our group's list of "To Do", and all the ideas coming out of the MGOI committees, workshops and the AGM (Annual General Meeting) echoes that. Bringing in new members and giving them a reason to join us is crucial for our survival. As far as I'm concerned MGiT mentors are the first step in that journey.

Thanks again to both of you.

Online Courses for Master Gardeners

Are you looking for alternative options to acquire more CEUs, refresher courses, or just a convenient way to expand your knowledge on a particular horticultural topic? Courses and resources from universities and organizations from around the globe are available online. The following examples are convenient, flexible, interactive, and affordable. Visit and explore the websites to learn more.

Introduction to Permaculture from Oregon State University

This course is a true MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses), offering a free, online permaculture course which deals with the process, ethics, and principles of permaculture design through interactive technology, videos, graphics, and readings. The next offering of this course begins on April 23, 2018 and ends on May 21, 2018. Students who complete all course activities should expect to spend between two to four hours each week on course work.

Master Gardener Short Course Series from Oregon State University

This series of short courses are excerpted from OSU's Master Gardener program. These are designed for professional and hobbyist gardeners interested in learning sustainable practices at their own pace. The cost for each course is $45 USD. Each course requires approximately four hours of study. The courses currently offered are:

Basic Botany
Soils and Compost
Vegetable Gardening
Introduction to Entomology
Plant Pathology
Herbaceous Ornamental Plants
Sustainable Landscape Design
Sustainable Landscape Maintenance
Learning with the Experts - My Garden School

Botanical Latin Independent Study from University of Saskatchewan

This course is part of the U of S Master Gardener program. The course requires one to two hours of study at a cost of $45 CAN. No certification or digital badge is provided.

Learning with the Experts - My Garden School

These online courses from the Royal Horticultural Society are taught by best-selling authors and gardening experts. These tutors will personally mark your assignments and answer any questions you have. Students may work at their own pace. Each individual course requires approximately eight hours of study. You'll have access to the classroom, content, and your fellow classmates from around the world for life. You'll also receive certification after you successfully complete a course. The cost of a single course varies from $40 to $300+ USD. Reviews of 'Learning with the Experts' courses:

Review of Planting Design Part One
Reviews of 'Container Gardening' and 'The Cutting Garden'

Extension Certified Gardener Program from Colorado State University

The CSU Extension Certified Gardener Program is designed to be flexible, allowing you to choose subject material of interest to you. You can sign up for the full program, bundles of badges specific to a particular discipline, or individual badges, depending on what you would like to learn. Courses are offered year round, with the next registration deadline being March 14th, 2018. Individual courses (one to two weeks of study) cost between $40 and $60 USD. The following is an introductory video on YouTube that provides an outline of the program:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hECVkkO0zY

My E-Garden Courses from National Botanic Garden of Wales: http://www.growingthefuture.co.uk/en/online-learning/my-egarden-courses/

These short courses are free with no login required. There are 22 courses covering a wide range of gardening topics. The courses include engaging and informative 'How to' videos, animations, graphics, and printable resources.

Good Gardening Videos

The Good Gardening Videos website features more than 600 gardening videos curated for accuracy and watchability. The videos are science-based, pro-environment, and ad-free. The site was awarded a 2017 Media Award from the Garden Writers Association. Although these are not courses, they do represent an extensive and varied knowledge base.

by Linda Hugli, Sudbury Master Gardeners

Master Gardeners Out & About:
Projects & Events

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Technical Update

Details: Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton and Lanark County held a very successful and informative Technical Update on Saturday, October 21st. It is wonderful to work collaboratively on TU events. Along with three great speakers, members contributed informative posters that lined one wall of the hall and will be used again in many ways.

Dr. Caroline Begg from McGill University presenting on Management for Healthy Soils

Carol Litwack, Ottawa MGiT presenting her poster on Bog Gardens

Peterborough Master Gardeners

Name: Recent Presentation

Details: The Peterborough Master Gardeners were recently treated to a very interesting talk by Leora Berman on "The Land Between". This region is located just north of Peterborough, and covers the area from the Georgian Bay Coast on the west to the Ottawa Valley on the east, skirting the Algonquin Dome. The Land Between is the frontier in conservation for Ontario; this is an ecologically, culturally, and socio-economically unique area that has a dynamic food web and is a refuge for species and ecosystem services. It has the highest habitat diversity in Ontario, the most shorelines, and some of the rarest wildlife. It is the meeting place for species of both the north and the south: the Crow and Raven; Moose and Deer; strawberry and blueberry; White Oak and Jack Pine. The unique ecology and culture was showcased in a presentation that left us all with a greater appreciation and stewardship of this wonderful landscape.

For more information on the non-profit organization "The Land Between", or to contact Leora to speak to your group, please check out http://www.thelandbetween.ca/.

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Children's Garden Award

Details: We have now officially launched our Children's Garden Award to be presented annually, and have been working with the PEC Horticultural Society over the fall to organize the details. We have also been fortunate to have many local community groups and businesses donate prize money, gift certificates and advertising. We will be using the award to seek new members and promote Master Gardeners. The award is open to all children between the ages of 8 and 12 who live in Prince Edward County.

Lanark Master Gardeners

Name: Community Gardens
Details: Augusta Park Community Garden
Gerda Franssen is a driving force at this community garden. She is always on hand to provide advice and to help keep this garden going. Last year, she submitted a proposal to MGOI and obtained funding to improve the water set up here. Using this and other money, they installed eavestroughing and purchased large cubed rain barrels to capture and store water.

Carleton Place Community Garden—David Hinks worked with Carleton Place to establish the Carleton Place Community Garden. David also works with a group called the Hoop House Gardens who grow vegetables under cover.

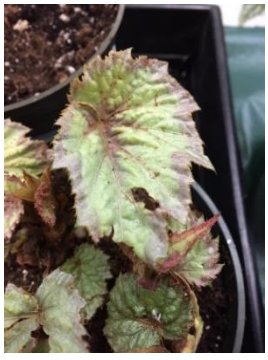
With Gerda and David's support, Mississippi Mills won Lanark County's Great Vegetable Grow Off again in 2017. Gardeners in Lanark County are encouraged to plant an extra row of vegetables and donate it to one of four of the counties' food banks. When donating they are asked which area they are representing.

Name: Clinics
Details: In addition to our regular Farmers Markets Advice Clinics, we held regular clinics at Youth Centres, Food Banks, and Nursing and Group Homes.

Name: Other
Details: Lanark County Master Gardeners celebrates 30 years of providing gardening advice.

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Name: Educational Session – Rex Begonia Propagation
Details: TB&DMGs enjoyed a very informative practical educational session prior to our October monthly meeting on techniques for Rex Begonia propagation, presented by Susan Jaward and Eloise Rodger.



Name: Horticultural Therapy in Thunder Bay
Details: Lynda Lahteenmaa and her team presented a horticultural therapy session on Amaryllis bulbs for the residents at Hogarth Riverview Manor, Thunder Bay, in November 2017.
Residents received bulbs to plant (tactile experience) and will nurture them, enjoying the massive brightly coloured trumpet flowers this winter.

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: Humber Arboretum
Details: Etobicoke Master Gardeners are very active in partnering with the Humber Arboretum in Etobicoke. We are pleased to share a short video prepared by a Media Student at Humber College, featuring the EMG & Humber Arboretum Workshop Series. The Media Student captured our partnership in action with some of our EMG members live at one of our workshops.

The video features EMGers Suzanne Zacharczyk, Barb Nytko, Jim Graham, Nancy Dattrino, Diane Pettet, and Patti Wibe.
https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B90cD1JKM41bamhuZG53eWhaakU

Ontario Service Awards Reminder

I was lying in my garden this summer thinking of what else we can do to show our Master Gardeners how important they are to our organization!
Recognition is an attitude of gratitude – it is finding small and large ways to tell volunteers how important they are to the success of an organization, and thanking them for the work they do and the time they give.

The Ontario Service Awards recognize individual volunteers for continuous years of commitment and dedicated service to an organization. Did you know groups can nominate up to 6 members? Adults are recognized for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30+ years. There is a special ceremony and a lovely pin which you can "MacGyver" to affix to your Master Gardener badge.

The deadline to nominate is January 25, 2018.

For further information and to submit the application go online at:
http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/english/citizenship/honours/vsa.shtml.

If you would like to join the MGOI Membership Recognition committee and explore other recognition ideas, please let me know.

Pam Love, Director of Membership

UPCOMING EVENTS

Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Technical Update: Growing Food from Around the World
Date: Saturday, January 13, 2018
8:30 am: Registration and Coffee; 12 noon: Lunch, included; 4 pm: Wrap-up
Location: Toronto Botanical Garden, Toronto
Details: Speakers include Dena Jackson, Conrad Richter, Viliam Zvalo, Ken Brown; see poster.
Registration Fees: MGOI members $45.; non-MGOI members $50. On-line registration begins Nov. 15, 2017

Etobicoke Master Gardeners & Humber Arboretum

Name: Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series – How to Garden Smart, Not Hard!
Date: Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018, 10 am – noon
Details: Hosted at the Centre for Urban Ecology, Humber Arboretum

To register please visit humberarb.eventbrite.ca

Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: GTA Home & Reno Show at the International Centre
Location: 6900 Airport Rd. in Mississauga
Date: Feb 16 – 19 2018

N.B. We need volunteers for both the advice clinic and the children's garden. The time slots will run from 11AM to 1:30PM and 1:30PM to 4PM for the four days.

Details: The Mississauga Master Gardeners have been asked to participate in the GTA Home & Reno Show as part of Family Day.

A sectioned area called 'Little Green Thumb Children's Garden' will include crafts for children. The main attractions will be making a craft using pine cones, growing a grass head, growing a bean plant, making a paper pot, planting seeds and more. Included will be a display table showing children how plants grow.

An advice clinic will be provided. Consider doing your volunteer hours and having fun at the same time. This event is being organized by Shirley Daniels and Michelle Wilson.

If you are interested, please email Michelle Wilson at mmg_michelle@rogers.com. A signup spreadsheet will be circulated in the near future.

Peterborough Master Gardeners

Name: The 2018 (and 18th Incredible) Peterborough Garden Show

Date: Friday, April 13 (5pm to 9pm); Saturday, April 14 (10am to 5pm); Sunday, April 15 (10am - 4pm)
Location: The Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough, Ontario
Details: The Peterborough Horticultural Society and the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners are thinking spring!
Pretty excited to announce the dates for the 2018 Peterborough Garden Show!

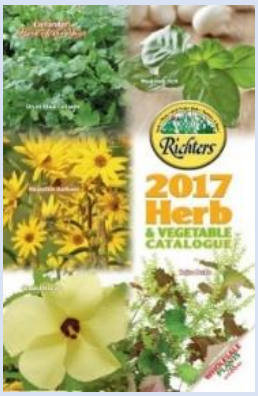
ADMISSION: Still only $ 8/day
WEEKEND PASS: $12
Children under 12, with adult: Free
Website: http://www.peterboroughgardenshow.com/
For more info email info@peterboroughgardenshow.com or check out our Garden Show webpage or Facebook page!

M.G.O.I. Summer Workshop - 2018

Dates: July 14th & 15th, 2018
Details: No details are available yet - they are still in the planning stage.
Save the date for another great learning weekend!

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.