



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside

MGOI

Welcome to the April 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.**

April 2018

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Milestones

Mississauga Master Gardeners

20 Year Anniversary

Diana Pooke



Coordinator Michelle Wilson, left presents Diana Pooke with her 20 year pin

10 Year Anniversary

Martha Kantorczyk



Coordinator Michelle Wilson, right presenting Martha Kantorczyk with her 10 year pin

Ontario Volunteer Service Awards

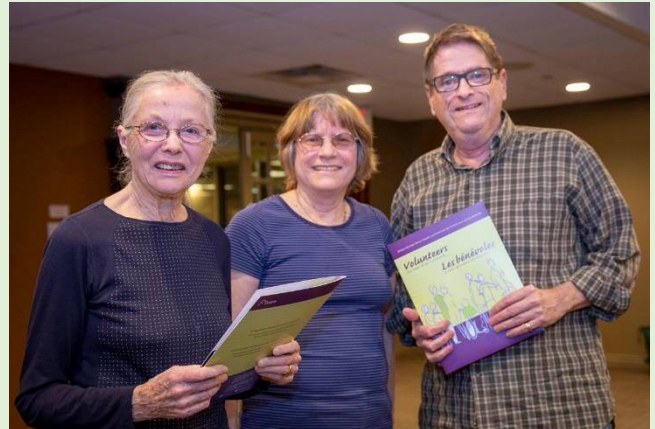
On April 5, 2018, seven members of the Mississauga Master Gardeners were awarded an Ontario Volunteer Service Award pin along with a Certificate.

Shirley Daniels with 20 years of credited service was one of six nominated by MGOI and was represented by MGOI Director of Operations Suzanne Zacharczyk.

The other six members were nominated by Michelle Wilson for the following years of service: Alice Bur – 5 years; Emma Chow – 15 years; Phyllis Hall – 10 years; Martha Kantorczyk – 10 years; Mary Jean Kucerak – 5 years; David Pavanel – 5 years.



Shirley Daniels, left receiving her Ontario Volunteer Service Award



Alice Bur and David Pavanel receiving their Ontario Volunteer Service Awards; Michelle Wilson, Coordinator is in the middle



Group picture for Ontario Volunteer Service Awards, left to right: Emma Chow, Suzanne Zacharczyk, Mary Jean Kucerak, Martha Kantorczyk, Shirley Daniels, Phyllis Hall and Michelle Wilson

The person handing out the awards could not resist asking a gardening question while we took pictures. It was a great event being thanked for our contribution to Ontario!

Ottawa – Carleton Master Gardeners

10 Year Anniversary

Ann McQuillan

Ontario Volunteer Service Awards

Four members of Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners were nominated for an Ontario Volunteer Service Award: Gillian Boyd, 25 years; Mary Reid, 15 years; Stephanie Sleeth, 15 years; and Rebecca Last 10 years.

Gillian Boyd will receive her award at our April meeting. Congratulations to our four recipients!



L to R, Rebecca Last, Stephanie Sleeth, and Mary Reid were able to attend the Ottawa ceremony

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

10 Year Anniversary

Jim Graham

Congratulations Jim on 10 years this summer!



Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Ontario Volunteer Service Award

Virginia Mitchell was honoured at the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards for fifteen years of serving her community. Virginia has been the driving force behind the Macaulay Heritage Garden and is an active MG in The County.



Virginia is shown here with Todd Smith, MPP for Prince Edward-Hastings

Durham County Master Gardeners

5 Year Anniversaries

Katherine Mathewson

Cori Whittington



Ingrid Janssen, Co-coordinator presents 5 year pins to Katherine Mathewson, left and Cori Whittington, right

Thank you for the time you dedicate to our group, the Master Gardeners of Ontario and the Durham Community!

“What’s Growing On” with Halton Region Master Gardeners?

Turning a ‘lemon’ into lemonade!

Well first of all, we’re rocking that Annual Review! Last year, we opted to record hours and data on a spreadsheet located on a ‘cloud’ to facilitate data entry. We asked members to submit hours three times a year via email – June, September and January. Four members who have ‘permission’ to edit the spreadsheet shared the job of entering the data. This means that come January, all our data is tabulated and ready for the Annual Review “Party”! This event takes place in early January, a great time to socialize over lunch, and put the finishing touches on our report. This year we were even able to project the spreadsheet on the TV. We work through all the sections in the working copy of the Annual Review and brainstorm answers to the narrative section together. A ‘secretary’ inputs the information on a laptop which allows our coordinator to just copy and paste the information! Once that is complete, we discuss whom we could nominate for an [Ontario Volunteer Service Award](#)! This format is not only enjoyable, but it makes more members aware of how the report works, hopefully demystifying this process for the next coordinator.



Enjoying appetizers and wine at the Annual Review Party!

Membership Drive

We’ve also been working hard at increasing membership. This spring, we used our “Good News to Grow On” funds to sponsor Roy Diblik, a speaker appearing at the Royal Botanical Gardens. This is the perfect audience for a membership pitch as they are already interested in gardening. A PowerPoint slideshow explaining who we are and what we do is projected as people come in to find their seats. The audience can fill in a free draw ticket for the speaker’s book, ask us questions about gardening and membership, or just chat in general. In addition, we get to take part in interesting talks and support our valued partner, the RBG! We are very excited to be sponsoring a 2nd speaker, Niki Jabbour, on **Friday, May 4th, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** Register now at [RBG Programs](#) – and if you come, make sure you get a free raffle ticket for Niki’s book ***Veggie Garden Remix!***



Good food, good company, & good dishes!

At our April meeting we were thrilled to welcome three new members and two other people who are interested in joining! All five were asked how they found out about us and the answers were: four from our website, one from a horticultural society, and one from our RBG event. So our next task will be improving our website to make it both attractive to new members and helpful to the public.

Engaging Everyone

One new member in attendance commented that our welcoming attitude had made a big impact on her decision to join us. We think our monthly [Meeting Starters](#) help ensure that everyone attending

is included and engaged. This month, members worked in pairs to brainstorm and report on pests that target vegetable gardens – new people were automatically included in the activity. The information was presented and collated and forms a part of our ongoing education.

Print & Promotional Materials

Using information from meeting starters and the Coordinators' Conference, we've developed new print materials including an information sheet for new members, a code of conduct and advice clinic suggestions. Bright and engaging bookmarks and business cards (with plain backs to write short garden question answers) were ordered and distributed to members. We're in the process of ordering some new banners and flags with all our contact information to proudly display at our events and keep us growing for years to come!

*Claudette Sims, Halton Master Gardener
President, Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.*

Continuing Education Units (CEU) Opportunities

by Katherine Mathewson
MGOI Education Committee

I would like to draw your attention to a new opportunity available to members and posted on the MGOI website.

As you know every Master Gardener is required to earn six CEUs each year to maintain their Master Gardener status. For those of us living near urban centres this is a straight forward process. We can easily attend a technical update or any of the wonderful presentations available to us. For Master Gardeners who don't live near large urban centres it isn't so easy.

To address this issue Claudette Sims, our President, and June Streadwick, our Director of Education, have collected several excellent resources that members can access online. These can be found under the "CEU Information" tab on the MGOI website. The value, i.e. the number of CEUs each of these topics is worth, can be determined by consulting Section 4, page 5 of the Coordinator's Handbook (also available on the MGOI website).

Summarizing what you learned in an article or by giving a presentation to your group would complete the process. This is a great opportunity to share what you learned and to practice your Master Gardener skills.



We will be updating and adding new topics to the site as we find them. I hope you enjoy discovering the wealth of information available through these resources. If you have discovered a valuable article or course that you would like to share, please forward the information to the Education Committee.



Call OF THE FOREST



Master Gardeners Speakers Program

by Pat Concessi, Toronto Master Gardeners

Being involved in our Master Gardeners speakers program gave me the incentive to research this plant – insect relationship. In August last year I got a request from the Toronto Public Library to provide “table sessions” on Monarchs and Milkweeds as part of their “Our Fragile Planet” series. The request was to design and staff one-hour sessions to be offered to passing library patrons at a table set up near the circulation desk. I jumped at the opportunity, but with only four weeks to the first session I needed to get right into the research. What I learned amazed me!

I borrowed a terrific book from the library – “Monarchs and Milkweed: A Migrating Butterfly, A Poisonous Plant and Their Remarkable Story of Co-evolution” by Anurag Agrawal (2017). Dr. Agrawal is an entomologist at Cornell University, so I knew I had a reliable source. Here is some of what I learned:

- I thought there was a mutual benefit between monarchs and milkweeds, but in fact, they don't have a symbiotic relationship.
- Milkweed is the monarch caterpillars' only food source, so they are a drain on the plant's energy and the caterpillars don't provide a benefit to the milkweed in return.
- Monarch butterflies are a poor pollinator for milkweed. With their long legs, monarchs can feed on a whole flower cluster without moving their feet, so they don't come in contact with the pollen.
- Milkweed has developed a number of defenses against the monarch. But the monarch evolves and adapts and keeps eating milkweed.
 - Milkweed plants produce a sticky latex sap. Half of monarch caterpillars die the day they hatch when they drown in a drop of latex! Older caterpillars bite through the canals that transport the sap and then they can safely eat the leaf.
 - Milkweed plants produce a chemical (cardenolide) that is toxic to most herbivores. But monarchs can tolerate the toxin and they concentrate it in their exoskeleton. The toxin tastes awful which keeps birds from eating the monarch.
- Contrary to common perception, Agrawal's detailed statistical analysis suggests that the availability of milkweed isn't a limiting factor in monarch populations.



Caterpillar: *Danaus plexippus*; Plant: *Asclepias tuberosa*;
Photo: Marshal Hedin, San Diego

Who knows what fascinating topic will be next!

Master Gardeners Out & About: Projects & Events

Master Gardeners of Ottawa – Carleton

Name: Canada Blooms, Enercare Centre, Toronto

Dates: March 9 – 18, 2018

Details: Part of the fun of volunteering at Canada Blooms is working with MGs from other groups. Our mother-daughter team of Diane and Lesley got to do that in March!



L to R - Catherine Hurley, Diane McClymont Peace, Lindsay Dale-Harris, Lesley Peace

Name: Master Gardener Spring Lecture Series in Partnership with The Friends of the Farm

Details: In this four part lecture series, MG Rebecca Last presented the 1st talk, *Gardening with Wildlife* on Tuesday April 10, 2018. MG Judith Cox presented the 2nd talk on *Flowers and Vegetables – Beauty and the Eats* on Tuesday April 24, 2018. These talks are held in Building 72 at the Central Experimental Farm from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be two more talks in May (see events).



Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Membership Night, Picton

Date: April 12, 2018

Details: We held our first membership Night at a local cafe, Miss Lily's Cafe in the local bookstore (Books & Company). A reporter, Ramesh Pooran from The Wellington Times, came out to see what we were up to and took a few photos – no doubt much better than mine. Books & Company dedicated their front window to gardening, highlighting our Children's Garden Award.



A few people came out, we talked about gardening and becoming a Master Gardener, had a cup of tea and a great evening!



Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

(cont'd)

Name: Presentation to the Supper Club, Trenton, ON

Date: April 13, 2018

Details: After enjoying a lovely supper, Susan Warrack and Alex Wiens spoke to the group about "Trends in Gardening".

Susan talked about vertical planting in her own garden and Alex discussed garden design, gabion walls, rain gardens, bed head gardening and gardens for pollinators.



Photo by Alex Wiens



Susan Warrack
Photo by Alex Wiens



Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: Backyard Living Expo

Dates: April 6 – 8, 2018

Details: A great time was had by all at the hugely successful Mississauga Backyard Living Expo where EMGs hosted a children's garden and an advice clinic. Kids made plant pots, filled them with soil and planted bean seeds; people dropped by with their garden questions.



Dixie Szasz-Taylor at the Advice Table



Alex Wiens
Photo by Susan Warrack



Barbara Nytko helping with the children's garden

EMGs are looking forward to next year's show.



UPCOMING EVENTS

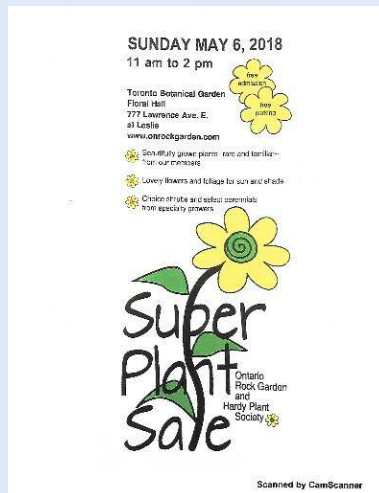
Toronto Botanical Garden

Name: Super Plant Sale - Ontario Rock Garden and Hardy Plant Society

Date: Sunday, May 6th, 2018 from 11:00am – 2pm

Location: 777 Lawrence Ave. E., Toronto, ON

Details: The annual super plant sale will be held in the Floral Hall at the TBG.



Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Master Gardener Spring 2018 Lecture Series in Partnership with The Friends of the Farm

Dates: Tues. May 8 & Tues. May 22 from 7 – 9 pm

Location: Building 72 at the Central Experimental Farm Ottawa

Details:

Talk 3. Master Gardener Esther Bryant will speak on *Unusual Edibles: Growing the Uncommon and Unexpected for Your Plate* on May 8.

Talk 4. Master Gardener Julianne Labreche will speak on *Gardening for the Bees* on May 22.

Name: Friends of the Farm Plant Sale

Date: Sunday, May 13, 9am – 1pm

Details: Ottawa - Carleton Master Gardeners will be offering both advice and plants for sale.

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: Lee Valley Advice Clinic

Dates: From 12:30 – 4:30 pm on:

Sunday, May 6, 2018

Sunday, June 10, 2018

Sunday, July 8, 2018

Details: Etobicoke Master Gardeners will host Advice Clinics at Lee Valley, 167 Chrislea Road, Vaughan, ON on three Sundays in May, June and July. For directions to Lee Valley visit www.leevalley.com

Name: 14th Annual Plant Fair / Sale

Date: Saturday, May 26th, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Location: 8 & 10 Bethnal Ave., Etobicoke ON

Details: EMGs' annual plant sale is coming up soon. MGs will hold an advice clinic as well as providing planting tips and suggestions. There will also be short talks on gardening.



Name: Spring Bird Festival

Date: Sat. May 26th, 10:00am – 2:00pm

Location: Colonel Samuel Smith Park

Details: Etobicoke Master Gardeners will host an Advice Clinic at the festival.

For details on the event visit Toronto Bird Celebration page here: <http://torontobirdweek.ca/> or the Facebook event page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/429674810818248/>



Brantford Master Gardeners

Event: Gardens on Parade

Date: Sunday, June 24th, 2018, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine

Details: Brantford Master Gardeners and Brant Animal Aid Foundation present 'Gardens on Parade' – six private gardens to delight and inspire.

Tickets: \$10.00: available at Nicols Florist Greenhouse and Garden Centre, 846 Colbourne St. E., Brantford; The Bookworm, 331 Brant Ave., Brantford; and at Walters Greenhouse and Garden Centre, 363 Governors Rd. E., Paris ON.

For more information call Anne @ 519-442-3458 or Dorothy @ 519-753-9063.

2018 National Extension Master Gardener Coordinators Conference

Dates: August 6-9, 2018

Location: Madison, Wisconsin, USA

Details: This year's conference for group coordinators is a great mix of learning and networking opportunities. Our guest speakers and selected coordinators will be presenting on topics ranging from program development to diversity and inclusion. We have also very intentionally built in ample space for networking and brainstorming with peers and colleagues from coast to coast. Everything you need to know is online

<https://fyi.uwex.edu/emg2018/>.

Registration is currently open and is \$200 U.S. per person until June 1. You can register online

at: <https://fyi.uwex.edu/emg2018/registration/>.

Lodging information is also available on the website.



Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series - Birds, Bees and Veggies

Date: Saturday, Aug. 18, 2018, 10 a.m. – noon

Details: Hosted at the Centre for Urban Ecology, Humber Arboretum. Future workshops will take place on Nov. 17, Jan. 19, 2019, Feb. 23, 2019, and Apr. 13, 2019. Stay tuned. To register please visit: humberarb.eventbrite.ca



COORDINATORS – MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

2018 Coordinators' Conference

Date: October 13, 2018

Location: TO BE ANNOUNCED – it cannot be at Landscape Ontario this year because of renovations.

Richters Herbs

Details: Richters Herbs offers seminars at their greenhouse location throughout the year. For more information visit:

https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=events/event_s.html&cart_id=2154123.16186. They also offer free on-line seminars at:

https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=events/events_2016.html. The 2018 Richters catalogue, filled with culinary, medicinal, and aromatic herbs and seeds, is available.

