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Inside MGOI

Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Welcome to the August 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.

August 2018

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Milestones

Lake Simcoe South Master Gardeners

30 Year Anniversary
Audrey Whitcombe
Of Interest: Audrey is a founding member / coordinator of Lake Simcoe South Master Gardeners.

Audrey cutting the 30th Anniversary cake

Transfer
Nancy Louwman
Nancy has transferred to Rideau 1000 Islands MGs.

London Middlesex Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved
Monica Delmage
Congratulations!

London Middlesex Master Gardeners Cont'd

New Master Gardeners in Training
Ginette Blake
Darlene Davis
Natalie Sundin
Amanda Murray
Welcome!

Ottawa – Carleton Master Gardeners

10 Year Anniversary
Catherine Disley

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved
Linda Sharp
Thunder Bay & District MGs recently congratulated Master Gardener in Training Linda Sharp who has completed requirements to receive her Certification as a Master Gardener! Her hard work has paid off and we know she has so much to share with Thunder Bay gardeners!

Linda Sharp

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners Cont'd

25+ Years Anniversary
Carole McCollum

20+ Years Anniversary
Louise Nadeau
Eloise Rodger
Hazel Baxter
Congratulations Carole, Louise, Eloise and Hazel on achieving some impressive milestones! All the years you spent volunteering and helping TBD gardeners has been appreciated.

Louise, Carole & Eloise

Retirement
We are also sad to say that after 20 years service Hazel Baxter has decided to retire from Master Gardeners. Hazel had a special interest in setting up gardening programs in schools and spent many hours helping students develop their school gardens as well as volunteering with the local "Slice of Farming" program.

Of Interest: Congratulations and thank you to Master Gardener Susan Jaward whom the Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners have honoured with this year's Golden Trowel Award.
Susan has a long history of supporting the Thunder Bay community.

The Master Gardeners program was initiated in Thunder Bay in 1990. An application to join the provincial Master Gardeners association had been submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture in August 1990 by the local Horticultural Society. Only one or two bids were usually approved each year so it was good news when word was received that Thunder Bay gardeners would be able to join.

Susan was one of the first 14 Master Gardeners in Training who committed to the two-year training program. After 28 years of readily sharing her vast knowledge with local gardeners and future Master Gardeners we are very proud to present Susan with this award.

Gardener's Delight: Mosaïculture Gatineau

by Ren Duinker, Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

A trip to Ottawa in the summer is always a delight for gardeners, whether it's a simple walk through the hundreds of tulips on display or a more adventurous outing. There's always something of interest. This past week I made the trip with friends to visit the Mosaïculture Gatineau and we certainly were not disappointed.

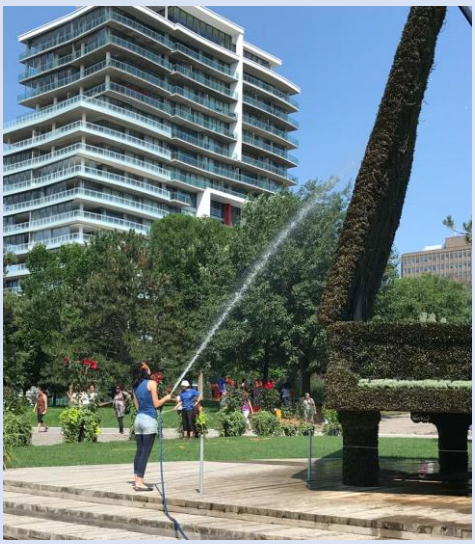
The exhibit is designed to represent every area of Canada and is done with such wondrous imagination that one is often left standing in awe of the various creations.

I loved the puffins representing Newfoundland. The work that went into the creation of this exhibit is quite breath-taking and there is an army of volunteers working daily to maintain it. The detail is incredible, and the ideas and themes range from somber to whimsical.

There was a section near the end where all the plants used were displayed and identified. I would have liked to have seen plants identified throughout the exhibits, if only to have an immediate reference. But then again, as an MG, I suppose I should have been able to identify most of the plants.

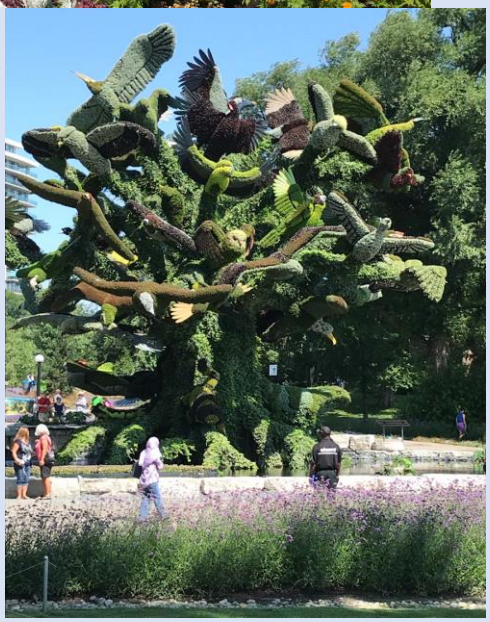
Plant Identification Garden

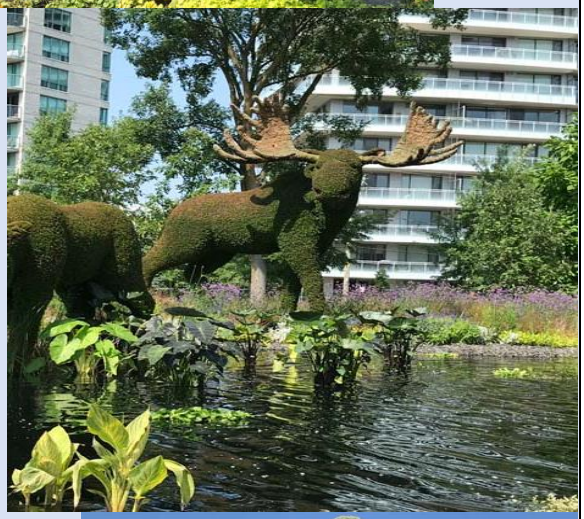
The army of surprisingly knowledgeable volunteers works continuously throughout the gardens to keep each exhibit in top condition.



It was hard to choose one exhibit over another - they were all spectacular! I was drawn to the intricate formation of the horses grazing in a sea of *Rudbeckia hirta* 'Denver Daisy' created by UK sculptor Heather Jansch and made out of driftwood.

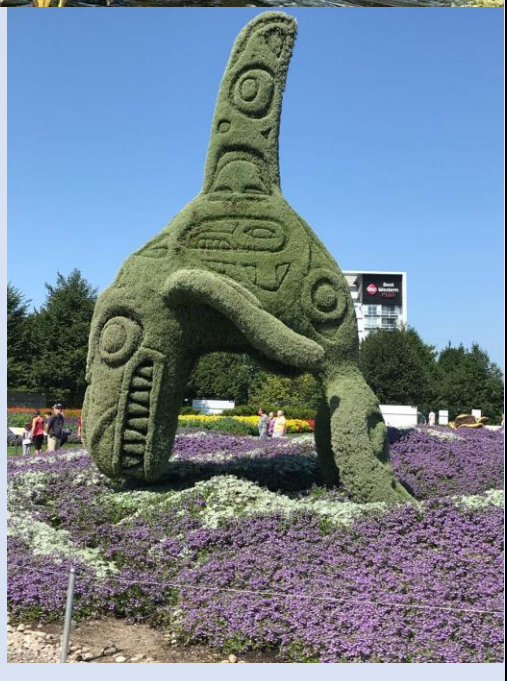
Odyssey and Hope





There are of course all the exhibits you've seen many times in the adverts. I wanted to see what else was there. Representing each province and territory as well as a substantial Native art display, I found the animals the most fun.

If you get a chance, go to Ottawa before October 15th and make a point of visiting Mosaïculture Gatineau (you can buy a ticket for any day ahead of time – open every day from 10 am until dusk, rain or shine). For more information, here's the website: www.mosaiculture.ca/?lang=en

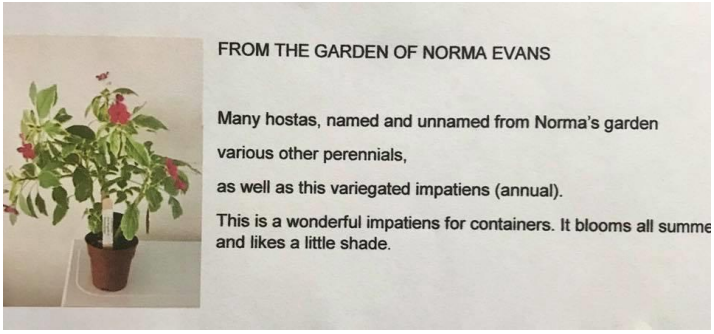


Master Gardeners Out & About:
Projects & Events

Peterborough Master Gardeners

Name: Annual Peterborough Master Gardener Plant Sale

Details: On June 23rd, 2018 Peterborough MGs held a very successful plant sale at Westdale United Church in Peterborough. In the very hot previous September (2017) "Pot Parties" were held over 2 days and close to 200 plants, mostly Hostas, were divided by a group of our present MGs. The Hostas came from our long-time and much respected member Norma Evans' garden. Norma passed away just after her 90th birthday and was well known for her shade garden consisting mainly of Hostas. The plants were held over the winter and we waited until they could be identified in June to have the sale. Norma also had a favourite variegated impatiens from which cuttings were taken by one of our members, rooted, and



sold at the sale. At least another 200 plants were donated by members.

We raised over $2000 due to the cooperation of a large number of our own MGs donating plants, as well as the great turnout to help on Friday for setup and also on the Saturday for the sale.

Name: Annual Peterborough MGs Bus Trip

Details: Mother Nature blessed Peterborough MGs with lovely weather as we explored parts of southwestern Ontario on July 18th and 19th, 2018. The Vineland Research and Innovation Centre discussed their 49th Parallel roses. St. Thomas Horticultural Society members gave a tour of their ongoing St. Thomas Elevated Park Project. We learned all about running a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program at Orchard Hill Farms which does all the farming organically using teams of Suffolk Punch draft horses.

On Day two, the charming Will Heeman, manager and grandson at Heeman's Garden Centre & Strawberry Farm just outside London gave the group a tour to explain the workings of the garden centre and greenhouses. Wonderful coffee, pastries and berry sundaes were enjoyed, and members were thrilled at the selection of plants and garden art! Lots of retail therapy was pursued! After a wonderful lunch at the Clock Tower Inn in Strathroy, the group arrived at Cuddy's Farm Gardens and enjoyed some very interesting tours of the property as well as some more shopping therapy!
Mondello's in Streetsville provided a wonderful home-bound dinner. 50 gardeners arrived home exhausted and tired but well-fed with a bus loaded with new plants to take care of.

Bus trip attendees at Cuddy Farms

Lanark County Master Gardeners

Name: Quinte Botanical Garden Tour
Date: July 9th, 2018
Details: Lanark County Master Gardeners ventured west to visit the Quinte Botanical Gardens (QBG), after stopping first for lunch at a lovely patio in Frankford. QBG is a new garden with beautiful structure. The high heat speeded our trip along. Overall, an enjoyable day!

London Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: 2018 Garden Week - Educational Outing at the Harris Flower Farm Near St. Thomas
Details: The Harris family welcomed us with a well-planned tour and explanation of the flower business including a demonstration of their planting techniques. Dogs, cats, kids, and pigs also entertained us. We learned a lot and then enjoyed a social in a member's backyard to top off a perfect evening!

http://www.harrisflowerfarm.ca/
Images reflect examples of greenhouse growing and field operations.

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Annual Potluck
Date: Saturday, July 28th, 2018
Details: The Canadian summer is all too short and summer in Prince Edward County is simply too beautiful to miss. We take the summer off to tend to our own gardens and enjoy The County. The one event we do have over the summer is our annual Potluck. We get together, catch up and of course, talk about gardening.

I was delighted to notice the three generations in this photo.

Back Row: Alex Wiens, Virginia Mitchell, Kim Beaugrand, Ren Duinker, Susan Warrack.
Front Row: Barbra Stock, Joyce Young, Marianne Malachowski, Alice Lumley

Our newest member Kim Beaugrand kindly stepped up and offered to host this year's Potluck. We had a great lunch and toured Kim's garden.

Kim showing her vegetable garden to Virginia and Susan

Alice and Marianne catching up. I love Marianne's MG hat!

Ottawa – Carleton Master Gardeners

Name: World Bee Day
Date: August 18th, 2018
Details: This is the third successive year that Ottawa-Carleton MGs have participated in World Bee Day at the Food and Agriculture Museum at the Central Experimental Farm. Faith Schmidt, Judith Cox and Julianne Labreche were on site to answer questions about bee-friendly gardening with a focus on both native and non-native bees. All ages were present, from young children to experienced gardeners.

At the end of the day, our MGs agreed that it was the busiest and most interesting World Bee Day ever at The Farm. There was a lot of interest in bees and lots of questions.

Highlights included Faith Schmidt's mason bee log made by her husband, Len, and a small model bee and butterfly bath. Judith's contribution of a fairy (pollinator) garden was a big hit, as always, with both young and old.

Judith's picture is the view from the MG table

Name: Annual Summer Potluck
Date: August 23rd, 2018
Details: MGs of Ottawa-Carleton enjoyed wonderful food and each other's company at our summer potluck held at member Candace Dressler's home. Candace's beautiful gardens provided a wonderful setting and a memorable evening.

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

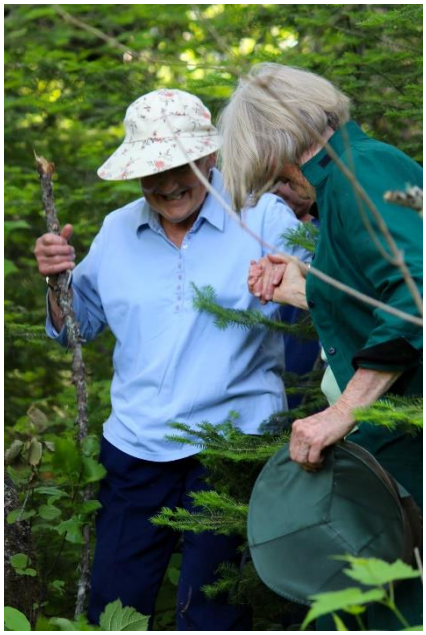
Name: Education - Interaction of Native Trees, Shrubs and Plants in the Ecosystem

Details: Master Gardeners are always looking for opportunities to learn and enhance their knowledge base. We are lucky to live in an area with so much to explore and recently had the opportunity to learn more about native trees and shrubs and the interaction of plants in the Ecosystem. Thunder Bay lies within the Province of Ontario Pigeon River Ecoregion 4W which extends from just west of the Sibley Peninsula and Thunder Bay west to Atikokan and Quetico Provincial Park. We thank Lakehead University Biologist Emma Lehmberg, MSc, Acting Curator at Claude Garton Herbarium for facilitating an informative walk to help with our understanding of plants in relation to their ecosystem.

From L-R, MGs Linda Sharp, Susan Jaward, Gordon Ward, Ralph Bullough.
Eloise Rodger and Hazel Baxter listen to an historic explanation provided by Bob Rodger.

While Master Gardener Eloise Rodger and her husband Bob's gardens are spectacular their property also offers an example of a mixed forest where both evergreen and deciduous trees were endemic to the area. It was exciting to learn from Bob that many years ago the area we gathered together on once was the location of a schoolhouse. Another area we looked over previously was quite a steep toboggan run for children living in the area. Today it is a forest in transition where you can see some evergreens but mostly broadleaf deciduous trees and shrubs that are members of early successional stages of both primary and secondary succession. This all happens for a reason where Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and towering White Birch (*Betula papyrifera*) as well as ferns, Wild Sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*), Bluebead Lily (*Clintonia borealis*) and many other plants strive for dominance. Being able to focus on under brush and vegetation populated by wild flowers and native plants capable of surviving cool, short summers and long, cold winters made for an interesting and very educational walk.

Wild Sarsaparilla (Aralia nudicaulis)



Walking through some overgrown areas was fun but not always easy!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Toronto Botanical Gardens

Name: ZimSculpt
Dates: August 3 - September 30, 2018
Details: A FREE outdoor, dazzling exhibition and SALE of hand carved stone sculptures by contemporary Zimbabwean artists will be displayed throughout the gardens. There will be demonstrations, sales, night events, etc. Visit: https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/enjoy/special-events/zimsculpt/

Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: Canadian National Exhibition (CNE)
Date: August 17 to Sept 3, 2018
Details: MGs will be there again in three time slots: 10:00am-1:00pm; 1:00pm-4:00pm; and 4:00pm-7:00pm. Hope to see you there!
Co-coordinators Shirley Daniels and Susan Quirk

Durham Master Gardeners

Name: Durham Master Gardeners Open House
Date: September 27, 2018 in Oshawa
Details: Featuring Lorraine Johnson as the keynote speaker.

COORDINATORS – MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

2018 Coordinators' Conference

Date: October 13, 2018
Location: Bethel Church in Waterdown, ON
Details: They have a large parking lot, well lit hall and large kitchen. More details to come.

Rideau 1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Name: Edible Landscapes: Kingston Home Gardeners Conference
Date: Saturday October 27, 2018

Details: Special guest Diana Beresford-Kroeger (author of *The Call of the Forest: The Forgotten Wisdom of Trees*) will attend. Topics covered are featured in the green box.

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series - Birds, Bees and Veggies
Details: Hosted at the Centre for Urban Ecology, Humber Arboretum, future workshops will take place on Nov. 17, Jan. 19, Feb. 23 and Apr. 13, 2019. Stay tuned. To register please visit: humberarb.eventbrite.ca

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London – Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: 2019 Garden Tour of England with the Garden Club of London
Date: June 15-28, 2019
Details: The tour covers many prestigious and beautiful gardens. In June we expect to find roses, flowering shrubs, delphiniums, foxgloves, geraniums, irises, penstemons, clematis and more.
If interested, contact Ruth Adams of Vision Travel, 529 Richmond St., London ON N6A 3E8
226-927-4061 (Direct Line) or 1-800-465-4437 Ext. 281
(Toll free) E-mail: ruth.adams@visiontravel.ca
Please contact Linda Armstrong, London – Middlesex Master Gardeners for an itinerary.
lrarmstrong@sympatico.ca

Richters Herbs

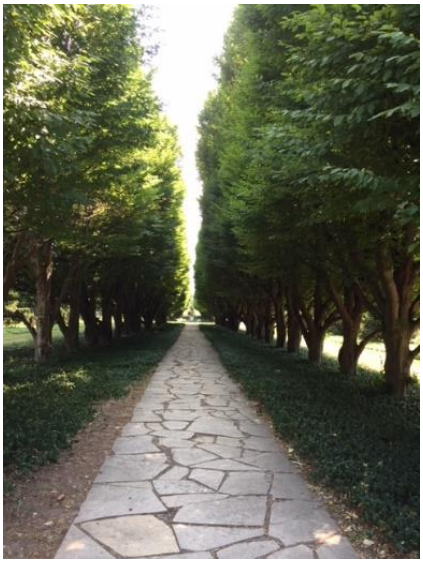
Details: Richters Herbs offers seminars at their greenhouse location throughout the year. For more information visit: https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=./events/events.html&cart_id=2154123.16186.

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

The 2018 Richters catalogue, filled with culinary, medicinal, and aromatic herbs and seeds, is available.

Special Summer Feature – the Gardens of Ontario Master Gardeners

Nancy Dattrino, Etobicoke Master Gardeners



The Hornbeam Allée from our weekend in Niagara; a reminder of a great weekend!

Tanya Crowell, Northumberland Master Gardeners

Golden false cypress and lilies in the morning sun with honeysuckle vines on the trellises in the background.

Lois Fowler, Toronto Master Gardeners

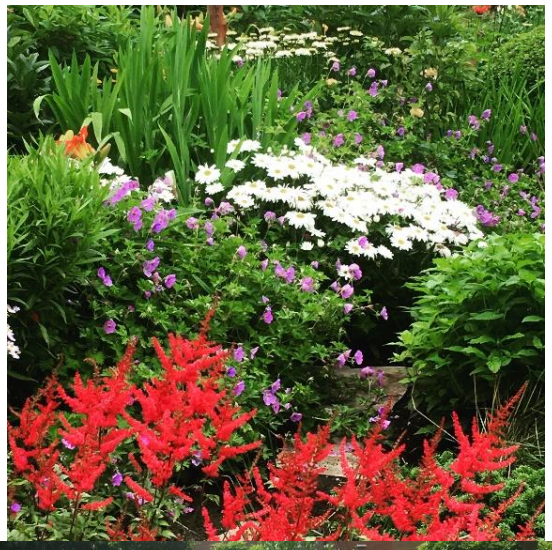
A humming bird moth approaching the bee balm in my garden.

Chris Spence, Etobicoke Master Gardeners

This Giant Fleece Flower (*Persicaria polymorpha*) has really finished its bloom but the flowers stay this lovely ivory colour for a long time. All the books say full sun but this does fine on about 3 hours per day.

Petra Donnelly, Toronto Master Gardeners

Here are a few photos of my Markham, ON backyard garden. Approximately 10 years ago I had a vision of a totally grass free property filled with trees, colour, a succession of blooms and variation in heights and texture: A serene space which not only is welcoming for us but also attractive to pollinators and wildlife. This is a sun / part shade garden. It hosts a total of 7 trees, and various flowering shrubs along with hundreds of perennials.



Lynda Lahteenmaa, Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Pond with *Nymphaea* 'Mayla' (water lily) in bloom

One of the dimensions of gardening pleasures is sharing the beauty and spirit of our garden.

Apple Espalier - 3 years old
The plant has a single root stock and three scions. Attached to the scion is a Goodland apple, a Norland apple and a Parkland apple scion. A Goodland apple tree grows in Zone 3a and produces a hardy yellow-green apple with a reddish blush. Both Norland and Parkland grow well in Zone 2a. Norland produces red-streaked apples and Parkland apples are showy chartreuse.

Pam Love, Durham Master Gardeners

A little back corner. I love the variegated dog wood against the cedar hedge.

Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke Master Gardeners

As you may know, my love affair with petunias knows no bounds. Pictured here is *Petunia exserta*, a rare petunia that I grew from seed. The flower is small (about an inch across) but the colour is stunning (reminiscent of *Rosa* 'Altissimo'). It

has exserted stamens and stigma which attract hummingbirds.
From Wikipedia:
Petunia exserta is a rare member of the genus *Petunia*, endemic to the Serras de Sudeste in southern Brazil. First described in 1987, only fourteen plants were found in the wild during an expedition in 2007. In the wild, the plant is found growing only in shaded cracks on sandstone towers. It is the only *Petunia* species that is naturally pollinated by hummingbirds, and the only red flowered *Petunia* species. An article about it appeared in the New York Times: https://www.nybg.org/blogs/plant-talk/2012/04/science/petunias-rare-and-red/

Part of the reason it's so rare in the wild is that its cousin, this culprit here (*Petunia axillaris*), pollinated by hawk moths, easily hybridizes with *P. exserta*. But *P.axillaris* has a delightful scent.