# Inside MGOI

*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario*

Welcome to the November/December 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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| | |
|---|---|
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**INSIDE MGOI**
**Newsletter of the**
**Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.**

**November/December 2018**

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke**

# Milestones

## Durham Master Gardeners

**New Master Gardeners in Training**
Ann Joyner – July 27, 2018
Laurelee Stocks – September 11, 2018
Amanda Steinberg – October 22, 2018
Amy Urquhart – rejoined October 26, 2018

## Muskoka Master Gardeners

**New Master Gardener Group**
In October 2018 the Muskoka Master Gardener group was established. The group consists of five Master Gardeners:

- 1 Master Gardener Emeritus
- 3 Master Gardeners
- 2 Master Gardeners in Training (MGiTs)

We are very excited to welcome our new MGiTs!

## Lanark County Master Gardeners

**New Master Gardeners in Training (MGiTs)**
After a long drought in recruiting new MGiTs, Lanark County MGs are delighted to have 4 new MGiTs. The following photo is from our Annual Pot Luck and shows our 4 new members. Welcome! Our new members have jumped right in, volunteering for advice clinics and taking over our Library and Newspaper Articles.

*From left to right: Wendy Coombs, Jo-Anne MacDonald, Heather Phaneuf & Laurie MacKay*

## Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

**New Master Gardener in Training**
William Pellerin

**Member Profile**
Ottawa-Carleton has been truly blessed to have Mary Reid both as a member for 15 years as well as our treasurer for 15 years! Mary is the busy owner of Green Thumb Garden Centre in Ottawa but still finds time to set the bar high as a both a Master Gardener and our financial officer. Judith Cox, our Ottawa-Carleton MG poet, honoured Mary with this poem.

**Mary Reid**

She knows the busy-ness of money
Plants and weeds and even honey!
If the Gardeners have a need
Of course, they call on Mary Reid.

She runs a nursery with glee
And takes receipts from you and me
She keeps the books, so all will heed
The mighty words of Mary Reid.

For fifteen years she's managed well
What we say and what we sell
From money, plants to tiny seeds
Thank you! Thank you! Mary Reid.

*Judith Cox*

*O-C MG Mary Reid*

## Stratford Master Gardeners

**New Master Gardeners in Training**
Chris Harwood
Liza Mischler

**Master Gardener Status Achieved**
Shelley Bender
Sabine Behnk

## Rideau 1000 Islands Master Gardeners

**20 Year Anniversary**
Diane Huddle – 21 years
Diane received her 20 year badge late but first in her class!

*Diane achieved 20 years service in 2017*

In the beginning when Master Gardeners started, it was sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). A suggested requirement was that members were also a member of a horticultural society. Diane was and still is with Collins Bay Horticultural Society - 50 years next year. Then OMAFRA bowed out and Master Gardeners became incorporated as MGOI (Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc).

Since the beginning when she joined, Diane brought her amazing sense of humour and her vast knowledge of horticulture and experience from living on a country farm. Member since 1997. Coordinator for 2 years, 2001 - 2002. Organized a Technical Update in the fall of 2003 that resulted in the addition of 6 new members early in 2004. At our conference in 2016 Diane organized and kept the food rolling out of the kitchen, and also did a presentation.

She shivered through winter meetings at the unheated barn at the Sisters of Providence Mother House before meetings were moved to a newer location.

Diane actively participated in every activity or event that Rideau 1000 Islands was involved in, including:

- judged for Communities in Bloom
- recruited and organized volunteers for the Lung Association's Kingston Gardening Festival
- worked with Queen's University students using GPS technology to tag 400 trees in the Cataraqui Cemetery
- took part in: Advice Clinics everywhere including the more recent ones with Loving Spoonful
    - "Ask a Master Gardener" seminars at the Library
    - workshops at former greenhouses at Cataraqui Cemetery
- arranged the location for several technical updates and organized food preparation
- distributed flyers about MG events to multiple garden centres, some as far away as Perth
- made presentations to garden groups and Horticultural Societies on several topics including creative outdoor containers, canning and preserving the produce from our gardens

Diane has been the voice of reason, humour and knowledge that can't be measured in years! Congratulations Diane on 21 years of service to MGOI.

**Member Transfers**
Nancy Louwman, from Simcoe to Rideau 1000 Islands

## Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

**Emeritus Master Gardener Awarded**
Agneta Sand
Cathy Pogue

# Coordinators' Conference Photo Album

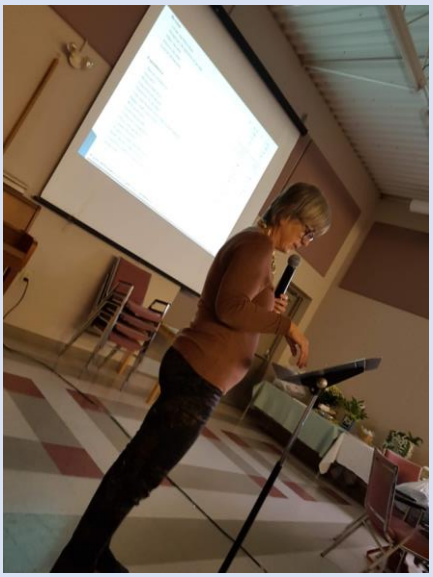
*Claudette Sims, President MGOI*

Master Gardener groups gather once a year to share ideas, learn from each other and of course, to socialize. Our October Coordinators' Conference in Waterdown this year was a great success!

Registrar Anja Lowrance (Simcoe) was our friendly greeter at the door and Kelly Noel (Ottawa-Carleton) was on hand to disperse the MGOI clothing to groups who had pre-ordered.

**The MGOI clothing store is open! Thanks Kelly Noel, seated (Ottawa-Carleton) for organizing this event.**

Each attendee received a MGOI travel mug in appreciation for their attendance. We tried hard to keep the Annual General Meeting light, entertaining and short! Who knew Treasurer Cathy Thompson had so many accountant jokes? We were thrilled to welcome a new Director to our Board, Ingrid Janssen (Durham) and hope that other members will step forward to renew the positions of long serving directors to ensure that our organization continues to thrive and grow.



**Treasurer Cathy Thompson (Prince Edward County) giving her scintillating financial report!**

Ren Duinker (Prince Edward County) and Sarah van der Stam (Kitchener) inspired a number of groups to "Get Your Face Out There" with their fascinating presentations about social media. Pam Love (Durham) gave a thoughtful talk on "New Ideas in Volunteering".

**Director of Membership Pam Love has such great ideas to share!**

During the breaks, attendees looked at displays and promotional materials that MG groups had shared. A few group PowerPoints were also shown during breaks to inspire groups. Bookmarks, cards, MG signs, slide shows and other materials will be posted on our website so that no one has to "reinvent the wheel" when sourcing out materials.

Members of Halton Region Master Gardeners toiled in the kitchen all day to serve up non-stop tasty food, including a very welcome hot soup during lunch. Apparently gardeners have healthy appetites!

**Halton MGs Christine Says & Patty King with Nancy McDonald, right (Ottawa-Carleton)**

In the afternoon, groups had worthwhile and much appreciated meetings with their Regional Directors; they discussed this year's "Good News to Grow On" financial incentive as well as other matters of interest.

On behalf of Thunder Bay & District MGs, Lynda Bobinski presented a proposal to train new MGs. Operations Director Suzanne Zacharczyk (Etobicoke) shared insights based on the Annual Reviews of all our MG groups in her "Year in Review".

We finished our day by repeating Leonard Nimoy's last Tweet aloud together (hands held in a Vulcan "Live Long & Prosper" salute): "A life is like a garden. Perfect moments can be had, but not preserved, except in memory." There was a great vibe to the day and I thought we had achieved a number of "perfect moments".

**Ingrid Janssen (right, newest Director on the Board) setting up displays.**

Your Board of Directors met the following day in the Board room of the Royal Botanical Gardens to start planning for next year.

**The group was literally on the edge of their seats in rapt attention!**

Make sure you visit the Coordinators' Conference and Coordinators' Corner tabs on our MGOI website to access all the presentations and information from this day.

**Left to right-Katherine Mathewson (RD-Central), Karen Sciuk (RD-SW), Kelly Noel (Communications), Pam Love (Membership), Sue Flinders-Adams (RD-E), Cathy Thompson (Treasurer), Terri Briggs (Corporate Secretary), Ingrid Janssen (Partnerships), Rhonda Grein (RD-SW/Recording Secretary), Suzanne Zacharczyk (Operations). Missing from the photo-Claudette Sims (President) & Kathleen Gorsline (RD-N)**
**Regrets: June Streadwick (Education)**

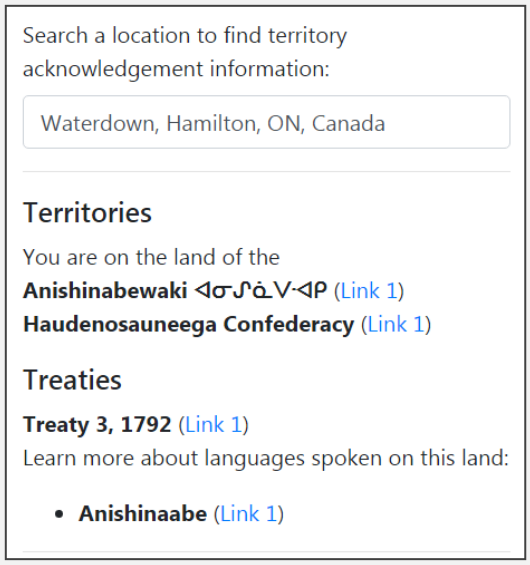
Thanks so much to all the coordinators and group members for attending, to our amazing Board of Directors for their hard work, and to all those who made this day a success!

## The President's Corner: The Power of Words in First Nations Territory Acknowledgements

*Claudette Sims, President MGOI*

I was deeply moved when I first heard a territory acknowledgment spoken at a Royal Botanical Gardens meeting. I've since heard them at an increasing number of public events and considered that such an acknowledgement would be appropriate at our recent Coordinators' Conference. I had no idea where to find the appropriate wording but started my research on the Internet.

The Guide to Acknowledging First Peoples & Traditional Territory included wording that other groups in Ontario currently use and was an excellent start (see example, left). The Territory Acknowledgement link had lots of practical suggestions including the need to correctly pronounce the name of the Nation. I found several videos on YouTube and made sure to choose one which had native speakers of the language. This link also included a search engine to help identify the relevant territory of your meeting location and the associated treaties.


Search a location to find territory acknowledgement information:

Waterdown, Hamilton, ON, Canada

Territories

You are on the land of the
**Anishinabewaki** ᐊᓂᔑᓇᐯᒧᐎᓐ (Link 1)
**Haudenosauneega Confederacy** (Link 1)

Treaties

**Treaty 3, 1792** (Link 1)
Learn more about languages spoken on this land:

- **Anishinaabe** (Link 1)

I finally decided on the following wording: "Let's begin our meeting by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabeg. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties, is within the lands protected by the "Dish With One Spoon" wampum agreement and is directly adjacent to Haldimand Treaty territory." I was quite surprised at how emotional I became when speaking those words. Chelsea Vowel of the Métis Nation writes*: "If we think of territorial acknowledgments as sites of potential disruption, they can be transformative acts that to some extent undo Indigenous erasure. I believe this is true as long as these acknowledgments discomfit both those speaking and hearing the words. The fact of Indigenous presence should force non-Indigenous peoples to confront their own place on these lands."* (Beyond Territorial Acknowledgements)

However, acknowledgement of territory also has been a longstanding tradition with First Nations people: *"It can be customary between one First Nation and another to acknowledge the host Nation Peoples and their traditional territory at the outset of any meeting. The long struggle by First Nations to maintain traditions has been tough, but through it all this basic protocol has survived and thrived." https://www.ictinc.ca/first-nation-protocol-on-traditional-territory*

Why should we acknowledge the First Peoples on whose traditional territories we live and work? What difference can words possibly make today? Words are imbued with power and acknowledging territory shows recognition of the "presence both in the past and the present" of Indigenous Peoples. Words can help us start to recognize the impacts of colonialism and lead to healthier dialogues and relationships. The mere act of researching this topic has given me new and valuable insights.

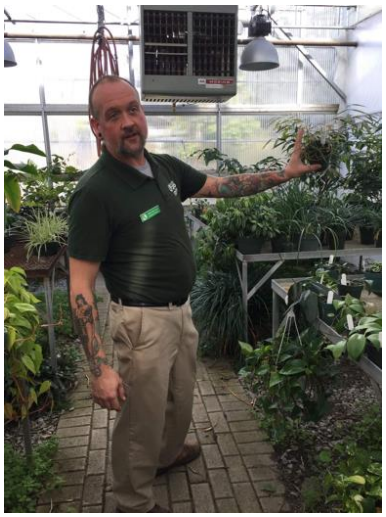
I hope this territory acknowledgement becomes a tradition at future Coordinators' Conferences and one that individual Master Gardener groups choose to add to their meetings.

## Master Gardeners Out & About:
## *Projects & Events*

**Name: Durham Master Gardeners Visit to the Toronto Zoo Greenhouse**

**Details:** On October 20th, 2018 DMG Master Gardeners Tracey Smyth, Ingrid Janssen, Sherry Dodson, Norine Blyth, Anne Van de Velde, Katherine Mathewson, Isia Yeo and Cori Whittington visited the Toronto Zoo.

*Paul Gellatly, Curatorial Gardener at the Toronto Zoo, led the tour*



*Paul Gellatly explains*

Many unique and exquisite plants were seen. Paul's knowledge of tropical plants is encyclopedic!

*Exotic flowers*

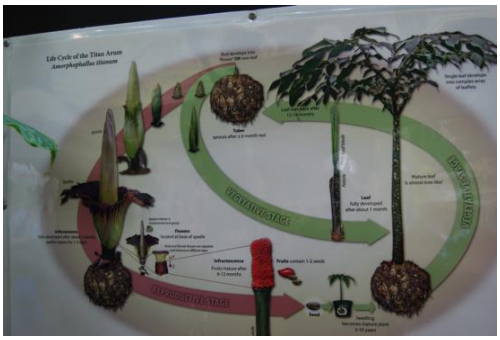
*Happy group! Left to right, Anne Van de Velde, Ingrid Janssen, Paul Gellatly, Sherry Dodson, Tracey Smyth, Norine Blyth, Katherine Mathewson, Isia Yeo, & Jay, curator of the Indonesian pavilion*

The Toronto Zoo is doing a wonderful job of promoting biodiversity within the international pavilions. It was interesting to hear Paul discuss the challenges they face when choosing to introduce a species to one of the areas. Is it what it is supposed to be? They have to make sure – sometimes using DNA tests to check – so they don't inadvertently poison an animal. Is it invasive? If it gets loose, what are the ramifications for the zoo and surrounding environs? It must be an overwhelming responsibility to be the decision maker.

The Toronto Zoo is going to be applying for Botanical Garden status. What a great idea to bring a new demographic of visitor to the zoo! They also want to hold a plant sale next year, and with such a wonderful array of tropical plants it would be an amazing sale.

"Paul is one of the most passionate plant people I've met," Tracey Smyth says. "It was a delight listening to him."

*Grains of Paradise (Afromomum melegueta) related to ginger, is eaten by gorillas*



*Lifecycle of the Titan Arum (Amorphophallus titanium)*

*Left to right, Ingrid Janssen, Cori Whittington, Paul Gellatly, Sherry Dodson, Tracey Smyth, Norine Blyth, Katherine Mathewson, Isia Yeo, & Jay*

*Always learning*

*Paul Gellatly explains Bromeliads*

## Stratford Master Gardeners

**Name: New Website**
**Details:** Beginning in late November, Stratford MGs will have, for the first time, their own website. Thanks to new MG Sabine Behnk it can be found at: https://stratfordmastergardeners.ca/

## Muskoka Master Gardeners

**Name: New MG Group**
**Details:** Muskoka MGs have held 2 business meetings. The last was our Annual General Meeting and a delicious Potluck dinner. We have also enjoyed a short field trip and participated in a craft sale as a fundraiser. One of our MGs has had 2 gardening advice articles published in the Muskoka Seniors magazine. We are currently planning activities / events to hold in the community in 2019.

## Simcoe County Master Gardeners

**Name: Barrie Olive Oil Company 2018 Final Meeting**
**Date:** November 20, 2018
**Details:** Members of Simcoe County Master Gardeners gathered for our year end meeting for an olive oil taste testing at the Olive Oil Co. Inc., Barrie.

We learned about olive trees (it takes 15 years before one can harvest olives!), the different types of olives used for oils (Arbequina, Koroneiki, Leccino, Coritino, Ortice Bio, Frantoio & Hojiblanca) as well as how flavours are infused into the oils. Also, we learned that true Balsamic Vinegar comes from only one region in Italy!

*Great times socializing and networking with our members. We look forward to growing our membership in 2019.*
*LtoR: Stephanie Brash, Charlotte Vorstermans, Gail Cocker, Pat Duncan, Joan Nieman-Agapas, Inez Mitchell, Autumn Deathe. Kneeling: Anja Lowrance, Linda Peacock*

## Rideau 1000 Islands (RTI) Master Gardeners

**Name: SOLD OUT – a great success: Kingston Home Gardeners Conference and Technical Update on Edible Landscapes**
**Details:** The conference was held on Oct. 27th, 2018 and featured Diana Beresford-Kroeger as the Keynote speaker: http://calloftheforest.ca/about-diana/.

Diana spoke about what trees were best to plant in Eastern Ontario – the list is on the Rideau 1000 Islands Master Gardeners website.

*Keynote speaker Diana Beresford-Kroeger, left with RTI Coordinator Astrid Muschalla, right*

*Harry Ivens*

Speaker: Harris Ivens, Plant Physiologist spoke about new insights into making high quality compost. The key is to add soil with a high clay content resulting in more carbon capture, as well as other benefits such as being able to manage the pile easier.

*Cathy Christie*

Cathy Christie with KASSI (Kingston Area Seed Systems Initiative) gave an important update on the status of world seed and why regionally adapted, open pollinated seed is vital to our future on this planet. They announced their new program "Adopt an Heirloom Variety".

*2 MGiT's with RTI MGs: Joyce Hostyn, webmaster - soon to be an MG, with new member Mabel Fuentes (right)*

## Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

**Name: Seniors Information and Active Living Fair**
**Details:** On Tuesday, November 1, 2018 the PEC Community Care for Seniors launched their first fair and PEC Master Gardeners were there. The event drew over 400 people and was a resounding success.

PEC MG's Barbra Stock, Maxine Thompson, Marianne Malachowski and Virginia Mitchell were on hand to answer gardening questions and be part of the event.

*Marianne Malachowski, left & Virginia Mitchell, right.*
*Photo: countylive.ca*

**Name: Focus on Seniors and Retaining Membership**
**Details:** Time marches on and we're all getting older. We talked about this at the Coordinators' Conference and it is evident in our submission this month – two Master Gardeners retiring and the overwhelming attendance at the local Seniors Fair.

The importance of focusing on the older members of our communities is front and centre for many groups these days and it is very clear that this issue needs special attention. At PEC we are discussing presentations we could offer for seniors and investigating how we can best meet the needs of older members in The County.

Further, in order to retain the wealth of knowledge of long-term members, we have decided to grant Emeritus status to two of our members, Cathy Pogue (member since 2005) and Agneta Sands (member since 2004).

*Cathy Pogue*

*Agneta Sand*

We are also delighted to welcome back a long-term member, Karen Starczynowski who brings a wealth of knowledge and is pretty savvy with computer technology!

Karen lives almost 90 kms from Picton where we have our meetings, so with a huge leap into the 21st century we hooked Karen up to our last meeting via Skype so she could "attend". After a few startled glances at the screen from many of our members, we welcomed Karen to the meeting and she was able to participate in real-time. Isn't technology cool when it works? Thanks for the technical assistance Karen, and welcome back!

If we keep our eye on the ball and are willing to try something new, we can continue to be up to date with the needs of our communities and open ourselves up to new ways to assist our membership so they can continue to contribute.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## Toronto Master Gardeners

**Name: Technical Update: Fascinating Fungi**
**Date:** January 12, 2019, 8:30-4:30
**Location:** Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave. E. (at Leslie St.)
**Cost:** $50 for MGOI members
**Registration Information:** https://tinyurl.com/tech-update-mgoi2019

Guest speakers include:
**The Kingdom of Fungi**
Dr. Jean Marc Moncalvo, Senior Curator of Mycology, Royal Ontario Museum

**Life Underground: Plants Interacting with Beneficial Fungi**
Dr. Larry Paterson, Professor Emeritus, University of Guelph

**The Art Behind the Science of Mushroom Growing**
Natalie Jaroszewski, Proprietor, W&T Mushrooms Ltd.

Ticket price includes snack, lunch, and coffee.

## Etobicoke Master Gardeners

**Name: Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series – Native Plant Gardening 101**
**Date:** Saturday, January 19, 2019
**Details:** Hosted at the Centre for Urban Ecology, Humber Arboretum, workshops will take place on Jan. 19, Feb. 23 and Apr. 13, 2019. Stay tuned.
To register please visit: humberarb.eventbrite.ca

## Stratford Master Gardeners

**Name: Stratford Garden Festival**
**Date:** February 28th to March 3rd, 2019
**Details:** Meet and chat gardening with Stratford & Area MGs in their new booth at the 4-day show. Visit: https://lungontario.ca/stratford-garden-festival

**Name: Gardening 101**
**Dates:** March 27
**Details**: Stratford will be offering a series of four workshops in late March and April 2019 for beginning gardeners at the Stratford Public Library. Cost is $50 for the workshop series. Topics include:

March 27 – Garden Basics
April 3 – Vegetable Gardening
April 10 – Pollinators and Native Plants
April 17 – Container Gardening
Register at: https://stratfordmastergardeners.ca/
Any questions, please contact: sdmastergardener@gmail.com

## 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

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## Peterborough Garden Show

**Name: Peterborough Garden Show**
**Save the Date**: April 26, 27 & 28, 2019
**Details:** www.PeterboroughGardenShow.com
**Speakers:** Mark & Ben Cullen (sponsored by Home Hardware); Alexander Reford (Reford Gardens, Quebec); Paul Zimmerman – www.paulzimmermanroses.com ; Alex Henderson – CEO, Royal Botanical Gardens; Steven & Emma Biggs – father and daughter gardeners and authors; Carol Pasternak – The Monarch Crusader; and Leora Berman – The Land Between
**Also:** workshops, demos and movies
**NEW VENUE:** the show is excited to partner with Fleming College and will hold the show in their gorgeous new Trades and Technology Building…

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## MGOI Summer Workshop - 2019

**Dates:** July 13th & 14th, 2019
**Details:** Topics are in the process of being confirmed – more details to follow in the next few weeks. Save the date and remember to register early. All places were filled by the end of February this year.
Registration information will be available in January 2019.

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## 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&car t_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.