Inside MGOI

Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Welcome to the February 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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Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Adrienne Hanbidge, Toronto

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Newsletter of the
Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.

February 2019

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Milestones

Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners

10 Year Anniversary
Anna Sipos

Anna will receive her ten-year pin as a Master Gardener this March. She has a love of nature and wildlife. Her own garden is certified as a monarch butterfly waystation through Monarch Watch, a non-profit education, conservation and research program at the University of Kansas.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton (MGOC) are pleased to recognize Anna's contribution towards preserving the habitat of the monarch butterfly as well as her years of volunteer work with MGOC. This recognition comes at a time when researchers are reporting some good news that the number of monarch butterflies wintering in Mexico currently is at a ten-year high.

Anna's beautiful nature garden has been enjoyed by many of us over the years as she has often hosted our MG potlucks.

Anna has contributed significantly to Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners this past decade, including time spent mentoring new recruits. A series of breakfast get-togethers at a restaurant near her home proved popular with Master Gardeners in Training for many years.

Unfortunately, Anna will soon be leaving MGOC. She is planning a move to the Maritimes.

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training
Gail Walker

Gail is a delight and we are so pleased she's joined the group! She's a real self-starter and had even enrolled at University of Guelph before we actually met. We had lunch together and got to know each other a bit while we did all the paper work. Gail has been a gardener for many years and passed the eligibility test with flying colours.

Gail teaches business and will be retiring with her husband to their lovely old house in Lonsdale sometime this fall. The renovations have begun and once the construction is done, she'll be planting new gardens around the house.

Welcome to The County Gail – we look forward to working with you!

A Word of Thanks
Thank you to everyone who
sent such kind messages to me about my sister
Linda Melady.

Ren Duinker, PEC

Grey County Master Gardeners

New Master Gardeners in Training
Paulette Kirkey
Andrée Levie-Warrilow
Welcome to Grey County Master Gardeners!

Toronto Master Gardeners

Retirement
It is with sadness that Toronto Master Gardeners (TMG) bid adieu to Jane Beck on her retirement. In her 15 years of tireless and wide-ranging service, Jane was not only coordinator of TMG, but also President of Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI). Her leadership saw both organizations through a challenging and vital reorganization of the administrative structure and executive functions. She also led two very successful Canadian Master Gardener conferences at Deerhurst Resort. Above all Jane was a Master Gardener *par excellence*; she enjoyed herself most when she was engaging with the public at horticultural events like Canada Blooms.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication, Jane. As Claudette Sims, current President of MGOI, so eloquently expressed, "you brought energy and inspiration to every task that you tackled". We are going to miss you very much.

Joanna Blanchard,Coordinator TMG, presenting Jane (right) with a gift and a certificate to mark her retirement at our January meeting.
Photo taken by Joyce Tan

Muskoka Master Gardeners

25 Year Anniversary – 2018
Linda Dronseika, MG Emeritus

Peterborough Master Gardeners

30 Year Anniversary
Beryl Harris

At the February meeting of the Peterborough Master Gardeners we had two reasons to celebrate Beryl Harris. Not only did she receive her 30 year anniversary pin, but she had a milestone birthday the week before. Needless to say these were great motives to have cake and wear our lovely flower hats!

Beryl was a founding member of the Peterborough Master Gardeners, joining in September 1988, and she is the last surviving member of the 22 who passed the entrance exam and signed up that evening. It was an interesting group with an even more interesting meeting place—the Reptile House at the Peterborough Zoo (now the Riverview Park and Zoo). She said it was disconcerting during the winter months to know that just behind the screen (to keep the occupants warm) there were numerous snakes and other 'creepy crawlies'.

Beryl represented the Peterborough MGs for five years and sat on the very new board, travelling to Guelph, helping to write the Master Gardener mandate, speaking at Canada Blooms, and staffing the Master Gardener booth there and at the Royal Winter Fair. In Peterborough, MGs staffed advice tables in the local mall, ran garden tours, and helped with gardening in seniors residences.

Hazel Wilson and Beryl started the Spring Garden Show in Peterborough in a very small way, trying to bring more visitors to the Ontario Horticultural Society's District 4 Flower Show, and how better to do this than hosting a gardening advice event? The first show was held in the basement of the Rock Haven Motel (long since gone). At that first show a gentleman asked if he could bring his clematis inside to sell (he was bringing them to the Peterborough Market).

Peterborough Master Gardeners Cont'd

Many of you will recognize the name—Peter Keeping. The following year he came back, bringing a friend with plants to sell, and it mushroomed from there. To this day Peter and his lovely wife Sheila are still a regular fixture at the Peterborough Garden Show.

Beryl has always been a busy lady, putting in 500 to 600 volunteer hours a year prior to an illness several years ago. Now she is taking it a bit easier but is always around when the Peterborough Master Gardeners need her advice.

Happy 30th Anniversary Beryl – and Happy Birthday!

Master Gardeners Out & About:
Projects & Events

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Saturday
Date: February 23rd, 2019
Details: PEC Master Gardeners once again were at Seedy Saturday in Picton. We love Seedy Saturdays – the seed swaps, the mingling with fellow gardeners and horticulturists, and the enthusiastic crowds.

Everyone has spring on their minds and it's a great day!

Photo: Michael Hagan

Muskoka Master Gardeners

Name: Sandhill Nursery Visit
Details: Muskoka MGs visited Sandhill Nursery to enjoy the beautiful fall decorations and to hold a meeting.

From left to right, Sara Drawehn, Rosemarie Meyer, Sandra Hartill and Shirley Neil

Coordinators' Conference & Annual General Meeting

We now have a date for the Coordinators' Conference & Annual General Meeting: Saturday, October 5th, 2019. The location isn't set as I'm not sure whether or not we're able to go back to Landscape Ontario. For now it's just "location to be announced". *Claudette Sims, President MGOI*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stratford Master Gardeners

Name: Stratford Garden Festival
Date: February 28th to March 3rd, 2019
Details: Master Gardeners from across Ontario as well as Stratford are again playing a major part in the upcoming Stratford Garden Festival. As well as providing many great presentations, there will be an advice booth sponsored by the Stratford MGs. Check it out at: https://lungontario.ca/stratford-garden-festival

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Peterborough Master Gardeners

Name: A Day for Gardeners
Date: Saturday, March 2nd, 2019 – 9:30 AM–3:30 PM
Price: $35 Early Bird / $40 after February 9th
Details: Come join us for a fun day of learning, a delicious lunch (included in the price) and friendship at the Activity Haven Centre, 180 Barnardo Avenue, Peterborough ON. Select 3 of 6 gardening sessions presented by MGs. For more information call (705) 876-1771 or email mahiggins@sympatico.ca.

Registration forms are available at: https://peterboroughmastergardeners.com/events/

Stratford Master Gardeners

Name: Gardening 101
Dates: March 27, April 3, April 10, & April 17, 2019
Details: Stratford will be offering a series of four workshops in late March and throughout April for beginning gardeners at the Stratford Public Library. Cost is $50 for the workshop series. Topics include:

- Garden Basics - March 27
- Vegetable Gardening - April 3
- Pollinators and Native Plants - April 10
- Container Gardening - April 17

Register at: https://stratfordmastergardeners.ca/
Any questions, please contact: sdmastergardener@gmail.com

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: BackYard Living Expo
Dates: March 29th, 12-8 pm, March 30th, 10am – 7pm, & March 31st, 10am – 5pm
Place: International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga
Details: Etobicoke Master Gardeners will host a Children's Garden and an Advice Clinic.
Get your hands dirty at the Children's Garden while learning how to plant seeds (take them home to watch them grow) and how to care for different plants. Learn

about pollinators and wildlife in the garden. Make a grass head and other creative activities. Children will have fun discovering the joys of gardening in this educational gardening experience!

Have a garden or horticulture question? Ask an Expert. Drop by the EMG Advice Clinic and bring your garden questions, plans, pictures and dilemmas - they will have you walking away with solutions and ideas.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Friends of the Central Experimental Farm Lecture Series
Details: In 2019, Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners will partner once again with Friends of the Central Experimental Farm to provide a popular local lecture series. Topics are as follows:

Title: Savvy Choices for Spring 2019
Date: Tuesday April 2, 2019
- With Master Gardeners Mary Shearman Reid and Stephanie Sleeth

Title: The Art of Rock Gardening
Date: Tuesday April 16, 2019
- With Master Gardeners Josie Pazdzior and Rob Stuart

Title: Trees and Shrubs - The Backbones of Your Garden
Date: Tuesday April 30, 2019
- With Master Gardener Diane McClymont Peace

Title: Kitchen Gardens
Date: Tuesday May 14, 2019
- With Master Gardener Judith Cox

Title: From Pots and Small Plots - Come Edible Flowers and Herbs!
Date: Tuesday September 10, 2019
- With Master Gardener Nancy McDonald

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series – Native Trees and Shrubs Tour
Date: Saturday April 13th, 2019, 10am - noon
Details: Hosted at the Centre for Urban Ecology, Humber Arboretum, this is the last workshop in the series.
To register please visit: humberarb.eventbrite.ca

Name: Garden Days / Les Journées du Jardins
Date: Saturday, June 15th – Sunday, June 23rd, 2019
Details: Garden Days 2019 will take place from June 15th to June 23rd, inclusive. Master Gardener Groups are encouraged to participate by scheduling an event during that time frame.
More information coming soon!

MGOI Summer Workshop - 2019

Dates: July 13th & 14th, 2019
Details: There are only a few spaces left for the 11th annual MGOI Summer Workshop to be held at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture. The topics this year are:

- Plant Adaptations: 'Tricky Traits and Formidable Features' – Instructor Darrell Bley
- Developing Defences for Diabolical Diseases – Instructor Sue Clarke
- Scoundrels and Scourges: Profiles of Ontario's Pesky Plants – Instructor Kris Mahoney

The cost for the two-day weekend is $260. Upon completion of the workshop, each Master Gardener and Master Gardener in Training will receive $60 from the MGOI Board to help offset their expenses in attending.

This year there will be no plastic water bottles, but refillable MG water bottles will be available at no charge.

Details of the sessions as well as all the registration information are available on the MGOI website, www.mgoi.ca. This information is also available from Yvonne Causer, ycauser@hotmail.ca or June Streadwick, streadwick@sympatico.ca. If you have any questions on the workshop or accommodation just contact either Yvonne or June.

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Technical Update: Wild about Herbs
Date: Saturday, September 14, 2019
Location: Picton, ON in beautiful Prince Edward County
Cost: $35.00 includes lunch.
Registration Information: Tickets will go on sale through Eventbrite in June 2019.
Details: Conrad Richter will be presenting an informative talk on "herbs you probably don't know – but you should!" At the morning presentation **Aku Richter** will tell us about herbs she loves and how she uses them.

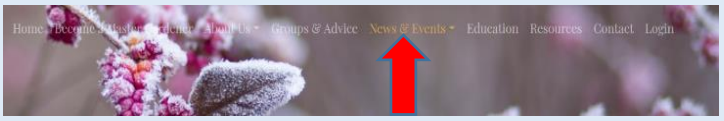
Plan a fall weekend in The County when the crowds have moved on and The County is peaceful and relaxing. Visit a few of the many wineries, take in a 60's Rock and Roll concert or The PEC Chamber Music Festival, or you can have a lovely meal at the Corn Moon Dinner. There are many fine restaurants including the "farm to table" that The County is famous for. There is a huge selection of places to stay from simple to luxurious! There's lots to do - or you could just enjoy the quiet...

Lanark County Master Gardeners

Name: Technical Update: Ontario Native and Invasive Plants – Friends and Foes
Date: Oct 26, 2019
Location: Ottawa, Ontario
Registration Information: To be provided shortly. Save the Date!

Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.

Name: MGOI Website
Details: If you would like your Master Gardener event posted on the MGOI website under the **News & Events** tab, please send details to our webmaster Jim Cook at webmaster@mgoi.ca.
Images need to be in .jpeg or .png format.



Of Possible Interest to Master Gardeners

Name: Continuing Education Opportunity – Ontario Rain Garden Master Class (online)
Dates & Time: Classes will be held weekly, each Friday from 1 - 2pm (EST) from March 1st to April 5th.
Cost: $100 + GST/HST of $19.
Tickets and course information are available through: https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/rain-garden-master-class-ticket...

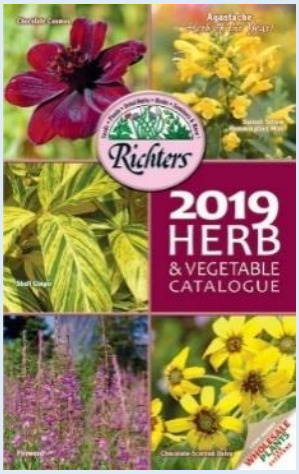
Details: Rain Garden training is available to Master Gardeners through a new rain garden master class. If you have a passion for gardening, join Green Communities Canada for the first ever Rain Garden Master Class and earn a certification in this emerging eco-landscaping trend. Enjoy learning and mentoring from leading experts while you design and build your first rain garden.
For more information contact www.raincommunitysolutions.ca or Sharyn Inward @ 705-745-7479x113.

Peterborough Horticultural Society

Name: Peterborough Garden Show
Dates: 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 Garden Show is excited to partner with Fleming College and will hold the show in their gorgeous new Trades and Technology Building…

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 2019 Richters catalogue, filled with culinary, medicinal, and aromatic herbs and seeds, is available to download or to order for free on their web-site: https://www.richters.com/