# Inside MGOI

*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario*

Welcome to spring and the March 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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Facebook: Linda Hugli, Sudbury & Anne Bossart, Georgian Bay
MG Advice Clinic Manager for Canada Blooms: Christine Spence, Etobicoke
Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Adrienne Hanbidge, Toronto

## In This Issue


- Master Gardeners
  - Milestones
  - Canada Blooms 2019
  - Master Gardeners Out & About
  - Upcoming Events
- MGOI
  - Coordinators' Conference 2019: Claudette Sims, President MGOI
  - Upcoming Events



**INSIDE MGOI**
**Newsletter of the**
**Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.**

**March 2019**

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke**

# Milestones

## Ottawa – Carleton Master Gardeners

**5 Year Anniversary**
Pat Beechey

**New Master Gardener in Training**
Penka Matanska

**Member Profiles**
Pat Beechey

**Of Interest:** Congratulations to Pat Beechey who will receive her 5- Year Pin this April. Pat's interest in gardening started in the summer of 1975 when she and her family moved into a new home with a big backyard. As she describes it, she got 'the gardening bug' – a beneficial bug, for sure – that just doesn't go away. These days she continues to grow a family vegetable garden. She also grows trees, shrubs and other plants to attract birds, butterflies and pollinators both at her home and her cottage.

*Pat Beechey's Cottage Garden*

Pat is a committed Master Gardener, always willing to help at farmers' markets, Ottawa-Carleton MG fundraisers and workshops.

She's also a volunteer tour guide with the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm, guiding busloads of interested guests through these historic gardens in the middle of the nation's capital where many winter-hardy plants grown in Canada today, including the Explorer rose series, originated.

## Mississauga Master Gardeners

**10 Year Anniversary**
Michelle Wilson

*Michelle Wilson, left & Emma Chow*

**Master Gardener Status Achieved**
Stuart Plummer

*Coordinator Michelle Wilson with Stuart Plummer*

**New Master Gardeners in Training**
Elaine Ang
Sylvia Szwed

## Stratford Master Gardeners

**Master Gardener Status Achieved**
Marty Schwende

**New Master Gardeners in Training**
Liza Mischler
Sharon McKenzie

## Georgian Bay Master Gardeners

**New Master Gardeners in Training**
Michelle Hendry
Fran Stewart
Barbara Jackson
Karen Tolton

The growth of interest in the Parry Sound area over the last few years led to the formation of the Georgian Bay MGs last fall, and we now have a group with more Master Gardeners in Training than Master Gardeners. That has its own challenges, but we are overflowing with enthusiasm and new ideas. Welcome Michelle, Fran, Barbara & Karen!

**Member Profile**
Tracy Bosley
**Of Interest:** Tracy transferred into our group following a move to the area, though she still attends many of the meetings of her former group. It is great to have someone with experience from a larger urban centre. Our Horticulture Society is also delighted to have her as she has a special interest in floral design.

Her recent entry in the Canada Blooms floral design competition was awarded third prize in the "Family Feud" class.

## Rideau – Thousand Islands Master Gardeners

**15 Year Anniversary**
Pat Haslett, former Coordinator and Treasurer
Congratulations Pat!

**10 Year Anniversary**
Astrid Muschalla, Coordinator
Congratulations Astrid!

**5 Year Anniversary**
Kathy Densham, Secretary
Congratulations Kathy!

*Kathy Densham*

**Master Gardener Status Achieved**
Joyce Hostyn, Webmaster
Congratulations Joyce!

*Astrid Muschalla (left) & Joyce Hostyn*

## Canada Blooms 2019

*Isabel Belanger, Editor, Inside MGOI*

March 8th was the first day of Canada Blooms 2019. Master Gardeners from across Ontario hosted both an Advice Clinic and a One-on-One Advice Clinic again this year. Although some of us like to complain that Canada Blooms has lost its lustre since amalgamating with the National Home Show, this year's opening day was definitely a sight for sore winter weary eyes. Canada Blooms always heralds spring for gardeners – this year was no different. And many of the visitors to the Advice Clinic couldn't wait to meet up with kindred spirits just to talk gardening after the long wretched winter.

*Linda Boyko, Toronto MGs*

*Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke MGs*

*From L to R, Patty King, Halton MGs, Marjorie Lenz, Toronto MGs, & Patty McKnight, Toronto MGs*

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

### Mississauga Master Gardeners

**Name: International Home & Reno Show 'Little Green Thumb Children's Garden'**
**Dates:** February 15 – 18, 2019
**Details:** This event, held at the International Centre in Mississauga, focused on an Advice Clinic along with a Children's Garden that provided kids' crafts such as making seed balls, planting marigolds, grass heads and much more. The Chinguacousy Garden Club and Horticultural Society volunteered in the Kids' Garden to make it a great success.

*From left to right back: Shirley Daniels, Elaine Ang, Norma Switzer, Stuart Plummer, Susan Quirk*
*From left to right front: Michelle Wilson, Emma Chow, Chinguacousy Garden Club Volunteer*

**Name: Port Credit Library Seed Re-Opening**
**Details:** MMGs held an Advice Clinic and seminars at the Port Credit Library on March 2, 2019. Master Gardeners provided free seminars on 'Seed Starting' and 'Container Gardening'; both were well attended.

*From left to right: Catherine Fleming, Stuart Plummer, Mary Jean Kucerak, Michelle Wilson, Martha Kantorczyk*

### Toronto Master Gardeners

**Name: Tour of University of Toronto (U of T) Greenhouses**
**Details:** On a frigid early morning on March 1st 27 Toronto Master Gardeners enjoyed a welcome touch of the tropics complete with banana, vanilla and palm trees. The fifth-floor rooftop greenhouses at the U of T's Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Department contain a teaching plant collection of more than 400 species.

*Toronto Master Gardeners toured the rooftop greenhouses of the U of T's Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Department*

Horticulturists Bill Cole and Thomas Gludovacz took us through the Desert, Palm, Temperate and Tropical Houses pointing out interesting plants and explaining the nature of various research studies being conducted. Experiments ranged from the study of loosestrife to better understand invasive genetics ... to the adaptation of urban trees like wild sambucus and redbud for pollinator bees ... to the evolution of sex chromosomes in morning glories.

As Toronto Master Gardener Petra Donnelly pointed out, the significance for us was to see "not only what interesting plant material they have but to show us the type of research going on in plant science, such as how plants adapt to their environment – including to changes

in wind or temperatures – and how cells die, all of which can be applied to the study of human beings." Petra received her Master of Science degree in plant anatomy at the U of T.

*Toronto Master Gardeners at U of T*

## Grey County Master Gardeners

**Name: Fresh from The Garden**

**Details:** At the request of Grey County Agricultural Services we once again offered a 3 hour seminar on March 21st as part of their program of winter courses. This year our topic was "Fresh from the Garden", a seminar designed for gardeners of all levels of experience who want to grow their own vegetables and herbs using organic practices. Our presenters were Brad Dewys, MG and MGITs Gary Kenny and Paulette Kirkey.

## Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

**Name: Seedy Saturday**

**Date:** March 2, 2019

**Details:** Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton shared their varied skills and knowledge at Seedy Saturday, always a busy day in early March. That's when winter-weary gardeners, still walking on ice here, start to plan for spring.

*MGs Claire Leduc (left) & Rebecca Last (right) participate in Seedy Saturday*
*Photo: Julianne Labreche, Coordinator*

There's a feeling of optimism at the start of the growing season, resulting in many questions when gardeners – young and old, experienced and not – buy their seeds.

MG Rebecca Last, a dynamic and knowledgeable speaker, coordinated the MGOC table and deserves special thanks.

## 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

### 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 both 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!
Drop by the EMG Advice Clinic and bring your garden and horticultural questions, plans, pictures and dilemmas - they will have you walking away with solutions and ideas.

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### 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 Pazdzoir 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

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### Stratford Master Gardeners

**Name: Gardening 101**
**Dates:** April 3, April 10, & April 17, 2019
**Details**: Stratford will be presenting a further three workshops throughout April for beginning gardeners at the Stratford Public Library. Cost is $50 for the workshop series. Topics include:

- 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

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### Mississauga Master Gardeners

**Name: Mississauga Seedy Saturday**
**Date:** Apr 6, 2019
**Location:** Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga, 84 South Service Rd, Mississauga ON L5G 2R9
**Details:** Mississauga Master Gardeners will be running an advice clinic, running seminars, selling seeds and providing support.

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## Brantford Master Gardeners

**Name: Bite of Brant**
**Date:** Apr 10 & 11, 2019
**Details:** BMG volunteers participate in a program where Brant County students in Grade 5 have a unique, hands on opportunity to learn about farming and the agri-food industry. The theme at the BMG booth is 'Grow a Pizza' and the students get to pot up a tomato, pepper, parsley or basil seedling and learn what the seeds need in order to germinate, and what the seedlings need to thrive.

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## 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 this series.
To register please visit: humberarb.eventbrite.ca

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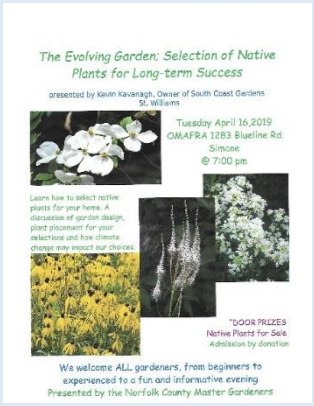
## Norfolk County Master Gardeners

**Name: The Evolving Garden: Selection of Native Plants for Long-Term Success**
**Date:** Tuesday, April 16th, 2019 at 7:00pm
**Place:** OMAFRA, 1283 Blueline Rd., Simcoe N3Y 4N3
**Details:** Presented by the Norfolk County Master Gardeners, Kevin Kavanagh, owner of South Coast Gardens in St. Williams, ON, will talk about 'The Evolving Garden: Selection of Plants for Long-Term Success'. Admission is by donation and open to all levels of gardening expertise. Plants will be for sale and there will be door prizes.




## Georgian Bay Master Gardeners

**Name: Spring Gardening Series**
**Dates:** April 18, 25 & May 2, 9 @ 6:30 pm
**Details:** GBMGs are holding a series of seminars at the Parry Sound Public Library:

- April 18 – Pruning Shrubs and Trees (with a follow up hands-on demonstration at Tower Hill Heritage Garden)
- April 25 – Controlling Weeds and Insects in the Garden
- May 2 – Beekeeping for Home Gardeners
- May 9 – Deer Proofing Your Garden

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## Brantford Master Gardeners

**Name: BMG Movie Night: "Call of the Forest - The Forgotten Wisdom of Trees"**
**Date:** Apr 25th, 2019 @ 7 pm
**Details:** Popcorn and refreshments will be served. This event is free & open to the public

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Garden Days / Les Journées du Jardin

**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!

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## 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...

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## 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!

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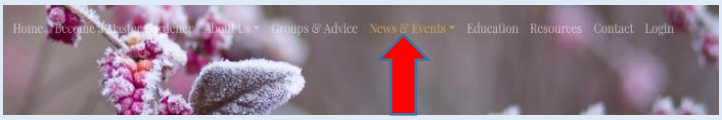
## Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.

**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.

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## Of Possible Interest to Master Gardeners

## 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…

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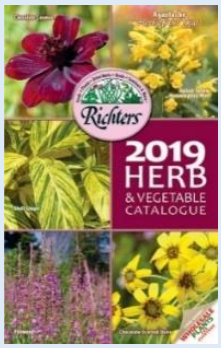
## Richters Herbs

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

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/