



*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](mailto:newsletter@mgoi.ca).

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#### **INSIDE MGOI**

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

**April 2019**

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke**

# Milestones

## Toronto Master Gardeners

### In Memoriam

Toronto Master Gardeners are mourning the loss of a valued member of the group, Ann Johnson, who died on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019. She joined the group 30 years ago and remained actively involved until just a few months before she died.



*Ann. (Her photo is shared with the permission of her family)*

Ann will be very much missed for her depth of knowledge and her enthusiasm for sharing that knowledge.

She was not only a gifted gardener – she was also a talented athlete: Ann was the 1949 Canadian Junior Ladies Skiing Champion in the slalom and combined disciplines, and she was an avid sailor, racing International 14s and Lasers well into her eighties.

Several of us attended her memorial service and were touched that her family shared some *Pelargoniums* that Ann had raised from cuttings, each one carefully labeled - typical of her painstaking approach. We were happy to take them and will nurture them in her memory.



## Algoma Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Anne Cranston  
Patricia Kerr



## Brantford Master Gardeners

### New Master Gardeners in Training

Amber Rayworth  
Jan Knott  
Sarah Balazs  
Christine Druchok  
Kelly Brown  
Erinn Burbridge



*Back row, left to right: Amber Rayworth, Jan Knott, Sarah Balazs, Christine Druchok  
Front row, left to right: Kelly Brown, Erinn Burbridge*



## Durham County Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Amanda Steinberg

Congratulations to Amanda who passed her Master Gardener certification exam. She is finishing the Horticultural Technician courses at Durham College and only joined in October 2018. Well done, Amanda!

### New Master Gardeners in Training

Sharon Rabenda  
James Martin



## Guelph – Wellington Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Heather Rajotte



*Heather Rajotte, left receiving her Master Gardener certificate, with Chris Hamilton*

Rob starts nearly all his plants from seed – even trees and shrubs.

On April 16, he co-presented 'The Art of Rock Gardening' as part of the Master Gardener Lecture Series, a valued partnership between MGOC



*Rob Stuart presenting earlier this month on rock gardening*

*Photo Credit: Diane McClymont Peace*

and Friends of the Central Experimental Farm. Congratulations to Rob Stuart on receiving his five-year pin!



## Grey County Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Vicky Thompson

### New Master Gardener in Training

Brandon Lyons



## Ottawa – Carleton Master Gardeners

### 5 Year Anniversary

Rob Stuart

### New Master Gardeners in Training

Barbara Long

Jeanne Currie

### Member Profiles

Robert Stuart

We like to think that Rob Stuart's commitment to the Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton (MGOC) is rock solid, especially as his interest is in alpine and rock gardening. Rob has been an avid vegetable and flower gardener in Ottawa for many years. More recently, his interest has turned to alpines. He is an active member of several local rock garden societies and particularly enjoys their annual seed exchanges.



*Roberta Brignell, previous Coordinator (left) presents Vicky Thompson with her Master Gardener certificate*



## London – Middlesex Master Gardeners

### New Master Gardeners in Training

Rick Cornelissen  
Barbara Geddes  
Larry Hogg  
Cathy Melo

It's been great to have more enthusiastic gardeners jump right into volunteering at our events!  
Welcome to the group!



## Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

### Member Profile

Marianne Malachowski

As Master Gardeners we are all volunteers, but there are giants among us. Marianne Malachowski towers above the crowd of volunteers and gives her heart and soul to her community. It seems everyone in The County knows Marianne. She's been a Master Gardener for almost twenty years and her smiling face and sunny disposition are a familiar sight to all of us.

Marianne is a lifelong volunteer who has contributed countless hours to organizations in Prince Edward County: the Hospital, the Hospice, the Historical Society, the Regent Theatre, the PEC Festival of Trees, the Macaulay Heritage Garden, the PEC Horticultural Society and many others.



*Marianne Malachowski with Susan Warrack, left*

Marianne Malachowski was awarded the Wellings Lifelong Achievement Award this year, and received a standing ovation when she was called to the podium.

The Wellings Lifelong Achievement Award is given to an outstanding individual who has tirelessly dedicated their life to volunteering, inspired other volunteers and who has made a significant impact in the community through their exceptional achievements through volunteering. Marianne was honoured this year; we are all very proud of her.

Congratulations Marianne!





## London Middlesex Master Gardeners

### Project - Website Redesign and Content Management

The London Middlesex Master Gardeners website is so amazing that Claudette Sims, President of MGOI, asked them to share details about it in this month's *Inside MGOI*.

Ctrl + click on the picture to access their site, or ctrl + click here: <http://londonmiddlesexmastergardeners.com/>

### Redesigned for More Impact, Especially for Mobile Users

Our group invested in an upgraded website last year. We hired a local student company. Work commenced in April and our new site was fully launched in August with redesigned pages and the following improvements:

- Mobile-friendliness - the site now aligns and auto-sizes for mobile devices
- Flexibility to highlight events and new blog posts on the home page, giving easy access to new content
- Improved access to 'Ask an MG', 'Book an MG' and 'Become an MG'
- Better tools and ease of use for the website manager to add content
- Ability to collect subscribers and send newsletters directly from the site

### We Have Subscribers!

- To increase traffic to our site, we will issue a newsletter 4-6 times per year, simply highlighting new posts and coming events.
- To gather subscribers, we have an easy click link on our home page and are encouraging attendees at our talks and events to check out our website and subscribe. We started this in February and now have 124 subscribers.
- Our April edition is ready to go. This should grow readership.





## Hiccups - Just when everything seemed to be going well...

- With progress comes challenge. We had to relaunch in February with another new theme as our previous one suffered “sudden death” due to a battle between the theme and a plug-in. Yay for BACKUPS!
- Since our traffic is growing, spam and malware attacks are increasing. So annoying. We’re researching security precautions.

## Best of All - Our Content Is Now a Team Effort!

- We now have one overall Content Editor with 3 assistant editors AND a group of 6 members who contribute posts.
- We average 3-4 new blogs every month.

## Our Conclusion – It’s Worth It

- To gauge our impact, we launched JetPack and Google Analytics in February 2018 to gather statistics. It has been quite interesting to see our traffic grow and learn what appeals most to our readers.
- With >10,000 users and 21,000 page views over the past year, we are happy with our investment of time and money. We are reaching a bigger audience and feel we are keeping ourselves relevant in this increasingly fast-paced online world!

## Note to other MG editors and authors:

One of the best things we all can do is include links within our posts to other knowledgeable resources, including each other’s sites. We will make an effort to do so!

## Want More Info?

For details about our site and what makes a good post see the attached .pdf **‘Master Gardeners reach a big audience online’**: Master Gardeners reach a big audience online - April 2019\_London.pdf

If you have more questions, email Linda @ at [lonmidmastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:lonmidmastergardeners@gmail.com)



## Master Gardeners Out & About: Projects & Events

### Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

**Name:** 2019 Ottawa Home and Garden Show

**Dates:** March 21-24, 2019

**Details:** Many hands make light work, including those of Master Gardeners from Ottawa-Carleton who pitched in to help at this year's Ottawa Home and Garden Show. It's always a popular show with over 190 visitors a day visiting the Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton (MGOC) booth for gardening advice. Even though snow is still on the ground, everyone is eager to get gardening.

There was a lot of interest in the display items, including a bee hotel, air plants and some 'cat grass kids'. There were lots of questions too, especially around growing vegetables and keeping deer out of the garden. Plenty of handouts were distributed, including MGOC garden activity and vegetable calendars.



Left to right: MG Fran Dennett, MGIT Candace Dressler and MG Stephanie Sleeth  
Photo Credit: MGIT Heather Clemenson

Thanks to Fran Dennett for her talk 'Edibles and Posies Side by Side – the Art of Growing Food and Flowers Together' and Nancy McDonald for her talk 'Tips and Tricks to Making Gardening Easier and Fun'. Once again, Stephanie Sleeth, with 18 years as an MG with MGOC, organized the booth. She deserves a special note of thanks.



### Guelph & Wellington Master Gardeners

**Name:** Yearly Day in the Garden

**Details:** Guelph MGs held our yearly Day in the Garden. The theme was diversity with native plants in the landscape, and we had more than 120 people attend. All MGs got 6 CEUs (Continuing Education Units) because of the quality of the speakers.

**Name:** Seedy Saturdays

**Details:** Guelph MGs attended several Seedy Saturday's in the area. These events are becoming important meet-ups for likeminded people.

**Name:** Annual Event for Children

**Details:** At March break we put on our yearly event for children at the local libraries. This year it was all about pollination. The children could try a beekeeping suit, they made bumblebee crafts, created a flower with lots of details, and decorated an insect nest to take home and observe.

We had a full house at every event.



MG Pat van Benthem reading to children about pollination



## Durham County Master Gardeners

### Name: Honey Bees and Urban Beekeeping Presentation by Kerry Furneaux

**Details:** On March 28, 2019 at the Durham MGs monthly meeting, Kerry Furneaux gave an inspiring talk about urban beekeeping to her rapt audience.

Kerry is a graduate of the Horticultural Therapy Certificate at the Toronto Botanical Garden as well as obtaining a Garden Design Certificate at George Brown College. She is an urban beekeeper and an active member and Co-Chair of the Toronto Beekeepers Collective.



*Durham MG Sherry Dodson (L) with Kerry Furneaux (R)*

This presentation introduced Urban Beekeeping to the audience. It covered the life of a honeybee as well as the difference between workers, drones and the queen. It also covered how honey is made, the beekeepers' year and what we can do to help bees.



*Kerry brought a display and different honey for us to taste*

Some interesting things we learned were that the queen bee mates with the drone in the air. Then he dies with a pop. She then starts laying from 1,500 to 2,000 eggs a day.

Workers do everything for the hive, not for themselves. They live for about six weeks, working inside the hive for the first three and then outside harvesting pollen and nectar. Inside they build and repair cells among other things. They fan cells with nectar in them to evaporate the moisture down to 17% before the cells are capped. Honey does not go bad unless it gets moisture in it. Outside they can make up to 10 trips per day flying up to five km and may visit up to 600 flowers per trip.

Suggestions:

- Provide landing posts in water sources in your garden such as a stone in the birdbath where they can land and drink as they cannot swim.
- Plant your native plants in multiples of 3, 5, 7, etc. to save them travel time.

Thank you to Kerry Furneaux for an excellent presentation!

### Name: Bugs in Your Backyard Children's Workshop

**Date:** April 13, 2019

**Details:** Kristy Gagen, Environmental Engagement Coordinator, City Development, Pickering, emailed her appreciation to Durham MGs Gini Sage and Tracey Smyth regarding Durham MGs Sherry Dodson, Cori Whittington, Amanda Steinberg and Laurelee Stocks "AWESOME" involvement in the Bugs in Your Backyard Children's workshop.

Kristy wrote, "These four ladies did an incredible job. I have received nothing but compliments regarding the workshop. It was obvious that they all put in a lot of hard work to run this workshop and you could tell that they loved doing it. I did thank them on Saturday, but I wanted to thank them again as well as thank Durham MGs for what you folks do. It is incredible!"

"I would like to meet to discuss 2020 workshops as I would love to expand the children's workshop, possibly do a youth one and tap into what is trending for a couple of adult evening workshops as well. Keep up the great work Durham MGs. Thank you for making our workshop a huge success on Saturday."



## Niagara Master Gardeners

### Name: Niagara Master Gardeners Tour of Freeman Herbs

**Details:** The MGs of Niagara were treated to a tour of the Beamsville facility of Freeman Herbs on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 4075 North Service Road. Once a former cucumber operation this greenhouse grows 12 varieties of certified organic herbs. Freeman's also grows 65 conventional varieties of plants. Their customers extend from Niagara, across Canada and the USA.



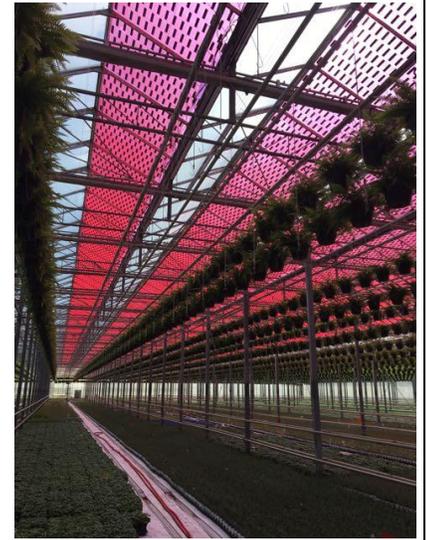
*Rows of Herbs*

With 16 acres under glass the group was given a first hand look at endless rows of herbs (basil, sage, thyme). The popularity of ready to eat herbs for the time-pressed consumer presented an opportunity for Freeman's to develop combo packs of herbs. One popular combo pack consists of sage, thyme and rosemary plants for turkey and ham dinner seasonings.



*Sniff Test*

Our tour guide Andy pointed out the special glass that is used to control the spectrum of light that reaches the plants. This technology converts any unused yellow and blue spectrums to the frequency of red that is the preference of growing plants. Students from Niagara College take part in measuring the effect of the different light frequencies on the crops.



*Coloured Glass*

To control any insect pests the company uses natural "biologics" such as parasitic wasps and banker plants to reduce any potential infestations.



*Observing*

We were all provided with a pot of herbs at the end of our tour.

Thank you Freeman Herbs for this educational experience!



## Grey County Master Gardeners

**Name:** Grown in Grey

**Dates:** April 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

**Details:** If it's April, it must be Grown in Grey! This 2 day agricultural exhibition for grade 5 students from local elementary schools has been going strong for 22 years, and Grey County MGs have been there for 20 of those years.



*Brad Dewys & Jackie Campbell waiting for the hordes*

In our 20 years at Grown in Grey, we have seen the children progress from early days, when tomatoes and carrots were the only vegetables that were identified reliably to now, when they recognize more exotic vegetables such as bok choy.

Rebecca Baker, our “Guru of Grown in Grey” once again did a great job organizing coverage of the 2 day event – no easy task – and setting up the station with brightly coloured posters.



*Andrée Levie-Warrilow, left & Karen Young meet their neighbour*



This year was bigger and better than ever, with 32 stations, each of which focuses on an aspect of agriculture. Our interactive station is all about vegetables, identifying them and reinforcing the students' understanding that their food is a part of a plant.

## Brantford Master Gardeners

**Name:** Bite of Brant

**Details:** On April 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Brantford Master Gardeners participated in this annual event held at the Burford Fairgrounds in Burford ON. Approximately 500 students, over the course of 2 days, attended this school trip where they learned about agriculture and horticulture. The BMG theme was ‘Growing a Pizza’ and the students were shown where the various ingredients found on a pizza come from, such as dough from wheat and cheese from dairy. They were also shown how to transplant and care for their choice of tomato, basil, oregano or pepper seedlings. It was a fun and educational day for the students.



## London – Middlesex Master Gardeners

### Name: Seedy Saturday

**Details:** Wow, what a day! On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 over 600 novice and knowledgeable gardeners joined us for our 12<sup>th</sup> Seedy Saturday. The \$5 admission allowed gardeners to shop and talk with 53 exhibitors and vendors; swap seeds at our busy seed swap table; and attend three informative talks.

This year we offered talks on *Gardening Trends* (LMMG MG Nancy Abra), *Bees – What's the Buzz About?* (Guest Speaker Robert Crowhurst) and *Growing Cannabis Legally* (LMMG MG). Master Gardeners were also available throughout the day to answer gardening questions. *And now the planning starts for Seedy Saturday 2020!*



## Stratford Master Gardeners

### Name: Gardening 101

**Details:** Stratford MGs successfully ran a four-week gardening course in early April for beginning gardeners. The course received rave reviews from the 14 registrants who finished, with participants creating a 16' planter under the tutelage of expert charter member, MG Anna Peterson.



Course Participants

## Coordinators' Conference & Annual General Meeting

We now have a date for the Coordinators' Conference & Annual General Meeting: Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 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

### Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

#### Name: Friends of the Central Experimental Farm Lecture Series

**Details:** In 2019, Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners have partnered once again with Friends of the Central Experimental Farm to provide a popular local lecture series. The remaining topics follow:

#### 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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### Guelph & Wellington Master Gardeners

#### Name: Garden Seminars

**Details:** The city of Guelph and Guelph MGs are sponsoring a series of Garden Seminars this spring. These events are free but you need to register.

More information can be found at the Guelph Wellington Master Gardener website:

<https://www.gwmastergardeners.ca/>

The remaining sessions are:

- Gardening Butterflies** - April 30
- Garden Design** - beginning May 1
- Beyond the Pail: Wild Ideas with Containers** - May 2
- Plant Propagation: seeds and cuttings** - May 9

### Etobicoke Master Gardeners

#### Name: 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Fair / Sale

**Date:** Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 9:00am – 1:00 pm

**Location:** #'s 8 & 10 Bethnal Ave., Etobicoke ON

**Details:** Sun and shade plants from members' gardens, including many native plants, will be available for sale, as will herbs and tomatoes. There will also be an Advice Clinic and short talks.



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### Guelph & Wellington Master Gardeners

#### Name: Spring Plant Sale

**Details:** The sale will be held from 9am – 2:00pm on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, rain or shine. Further details are available at: <https://www.gwmastergardeners.ca/>

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### Brantford Master Gardeners

#### Name: Glenhyrst Family Day 2019

**Date:** May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Details:** Brantford Master Gardeners will participate in this annual event held at the Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant. Approximately 300 children are expected to participate and learn how to plant marigold flowers. Once again, this should be a fun and educational event for the children.

#### Name: Springtime in Paris 2019

**Dates:** June 1<sup>st</sup>, 10am – 5pm & June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10am – 4pm

**Location:** Lion's Park, Paris, ON, CAN

**Details:** Brantford MGs will be setting up a booth and showing children how to grow and care for plants that will be kindly donated by Walters Greenhouse.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.springtimeinparis.ca>





**Name: Garden Days / Les Journées du Jardins**

**Dates:** Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

**Details:** [Garden Days 2019](#) will take place from June 15<sup>th</sup> to June 23<sup>rd</sup>, inclusive. Master Gardener Groups are encouraged to participate by scheduling an event during that time frame.

More information coming soon!

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### **MGOI Summer Workshop - 2019**

**Dates:** July 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Location:** Niagara Parks School of Horticulture

**Details:** The response to this year's summer workshop has been excellent and there is only one session left that has a few spaces available. We are offering a one-day only registration for "Scoundrels and Scourges: Profiles of Ontario's Pesky Plants", for either Saturday or Sunday. The cost will be \$130, and this will cover breaks, lunch and parking.

Dr. Kris Mahoney, PhD, will be the instructor. He will not only be profiling the invasive plants which are of the greatest concern for Ontario but he will also be speaking about the economic impact these species have on agriculture, fisheries, forests, healthcare, tourism and the recreation industry.

Registration information may be obtained from Yvonne Causer, [ycauser@hotmail.com](mailto:ycauser@hotmail.com) or June Streadwick, [streadwick@sympatic.ca](mailto:streadwick@sympatic.ca).

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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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### **London – Middlesex Master Gardeners**

**Name: Tech Update: The What, Why and Wonderful of Therapy Gardens**

**Date:** Oct 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Place:** Civic Garden Centre, 625 Springbank Dr., London, ON

**Speakers:** Nancy Lee-Colibaba, Royal Botanical Gardens; Bruce MacNeil, MG; Rosemarie Szalich, MG

**Save the Date!**

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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](mailto:webmaster@mgoi.ca).

Images need to be in .jpeg or .png format.



## Of Possible Interest to Master Gardeners

### 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](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 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/>

