Inside MGOI

Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Welcome to the May 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.

MGOI Board Members:

President:	Claudette Sims, Halton
Vice President:	vacant
Corporate Secretary:	Terri Briggs, Lake Simcoe South
Treasurer:	Cathy Thompson, Prince Edward Cty
Director of Communications:	Kelly Noel, Ottawa-Carleton
Director of Education:	June Streadwick, Niagara
Director of Events:	Tena van Andel, Toronto
Director of Membership:	Pam Love, Durham Region
Director of Operations:	Suzanne Zacharczyk, Etobicoke
Director of Relationship & Partnerships:	Ingrid Janssen, Durham Region
Director of Revenue Development:	vacant
Director of Central Region:	Katherine Mathewson, Durham
Director of East Region:	Sue Flinders-Adams, Peterborough
Director of North Region:	Kathleen Gorsline, Lake Simcoe South
Co-Director of South & West Region:	Rhonda Grein, Kitchener
Co-Director of South & West Region:	Karen Sciuk, Kitchener

Committee Members

Recording Secretary/Statistician: Rhonda Grein, Kitchener
Webmaster: Jim Cook webmaster@mgoi.ca
Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke newsletter@mgoi.ca
Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County
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
  - 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.

May 2019

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Milestones

Halton Master Gardeners

Kate Sault, Halton MGs presented (and accepted) certificates and pins to (from) the following members in the Halton MG group for various milestones at the April 2019 meeting.

30 Year Anniversary
Lorne Sparrow

Kate Sault, right presents Lorne Sparrow with his 30 year pin

15 Year Anniversary
Kate Sault

Claudette Sims, right presents Kate with her 15 year pin

5 Year Anniversary
Cathy Kavassalis
Lynn Courtney
Donna Fraser

Kate presents Cathy Kavassalis, right with a 5 year pin

Kate presents Donna Fraser, left with her 5 year pin

Kate presents Lynn Courtney, left with a 5 year pin

Master Gardener Status Achieved
Janet Hughes-Mackey

Kate presents Janet Hughes-Mackey, right with her Master Gardener certificate

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

20 Year Anniversary
Lynda Lahteenmaa

10 Year Anniversary
Holly Rupert

5 Year Anniversary
Linda Sharp

Congratulations to Thunder Bay MGs Lynda Lahteenmaa, Holly Rupert and Linda Sharp and thanks for all that you do for the Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners!

Lynda, top left with Coordinator Lynda Bobinski, received her 20-year badge
Holly, middle received her 10-year badge
Linda, bottom left with Lynda received her 5-year pin

Member Profiles

Thunder Bay & District MGs is pleased to welcome Master Gardener in Training, Maggie Landry. Maggie has already completed her courses to become an MG and has so much to offer the Thunder Bay gardening community as well as our members.

Maggie has been a gardener since before she can remember! Her earliest memories are of "helping" her mom and creating a fairy garden for her little sister. As an adult, Maggie operated a certified organic market garden in B.C. for many years. She had an acre garden, a 1000 square foot greenhouse as well as chickens and other farm animals. Maggie sold produce to local restaurants and at the local farmer's market.

She tells us that she has also had gardens in the craziest places. When she lived on a boat for a few years she had a garden on a barge. The biggest difficulty for Maggie was making sure the beds were fastened securely to the deck as sometimes storms really tossed that barge around. Actually getting vegetables during this time was a challenge! The biggest garden pests were herons, although she says they weren't really pests but were welcome visitors despite the mess they made of things.

Another one of Maggie's gardens was in a parking lot. Her family had rented the store to live in and through Maggie's determination the back parking lot became a garden. No matter where she lived, she has managed to have a garden.

Currently, she gardens for her visitors – the birds, butterflies, bees and other pollinators that regularly visit her garden. She has fallen in love with the wild plants of Ontario and strives to fill her garden with plants that these visitors will love. Her greatest passion right now is Monarch butterflies. Last year Maggie gave five presentations on Monarchs at the Mary J. L. Black Library, including information on creating naturalistic gardens.

She is now in the process of putting in a rain garden and turning her front lawn into bee turf. Most of her knowledge has come from her mom, her hands-on-experience and also from extensive research which she loves to do. She has completed the three courses from Guelph University that were, she found, very interesting!

Maggie also likes to grow plants indoors and her windowsills are loaded. Last year, she became interested in growing plants in aquariums and that has become a hobby unto itself! Aquatic plants are so surprisingly beautiful and the fish swimming amongst them are so graceful.

Gardening is clearly a major interest for Maggie, but when asked she would say her passion is to create biodiversity in urban settings. This desire was a main focus in the workshops she presented this winter. Maggie believes we can all do our part to create a welcoming habitat in our gardens! Welcome Maggie!

Mississauga Master Gardeners

25 Year Anniversary
Marie Pearson
Shirley Daniels

L to R: Michelle Wilson, Coordinator, presents Marie Pearson with her 25 year pin

L to R: Michelle Wilson, Coordinator presents Shirley Daniels with her 25 year pin

Master Gardener Status Achieved
Jeanne McRight
New Master Gardener in Training
Rafiq Ahmed

Lanark County Master Gardeners

10 Year Anniversary
Paul Pietsch Victor Wark Gerda Franssen

L to R - Victor Wark, Gerda Franssen, Paul Pietsch

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Member Profile
Esther Bryan

A Fond Farewell

Every Master Gardener brings something special to the Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton (MGOC). Esther Bryan brought her love of planting weird and wonderful vegetables from seed. Her skills were honed as she travelled Canada and the United States with her military husband and family.

Esther shared her knowledge of unusual vegetables in talks, consultations with community groups, advice clinics, lectures and articles during her four years with MGOC. She also managed somehow to get her young family to eat her homegrown vegetables, not a small feat for anyone who has ever tried to get their kids to eat healthy foods.

Her warm spirit, her generosity and many talents will be missed. This summer, Esther is moving to Nova Scotia with her family. MGOC wishes them happy gardening and best wishes in their new home.

Esther Bryan

Master Gardeners Out & About:
Projects & Events

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton (MGOC)

Name: Mother's Day Plant Sale
Details: It takes a community of gardeners to plan and execute a plant sale. Thanks to MG Nancy McDonald and her hard-working MGOC team, this one was a big success. It was held on Mother's Day at the Central Experimental Farm. Even though the weather was cool, the crowds were large. The sale earned $1,755.

Under Nancy's expert leadership skills, members of MGOC grew seeds, split and dug up plants from their gardens, potted and transported them and accurately labeled and priced them. It was a fun team building activity and profitable too.

MG Nancy McDonald organized a successful plant sale for MGOC

A charming woodland fairy garden created by MG Catherine Disley was donated to Maycourt, a hospice in the Ottawa community.

MG Catherine Disley's charming woodland fairy garden

Georgian Bay Master Gardeners

Name: Spring Gardening Talks
Details: Georgian Bay MGs had a very busy spring in the Parry Sound area. We started the season by doing a MGs Merry-go-round for the Horticulture Society: four short talks on a variety of topics the society was interested in – houseplants, backyard beekeeping, garden pests and rain gardens. It was hectic but fun.

We followed up with a series of well-attended talks at local libraries. Again, we spoke on practical gardening topics such as Pruning Trees and Shrubs, Backyard Beekeeping, Garden Weeds and Insects, Deerproofing Your Garden, Gardening with Native Plants and Gardening at the Water's Edge.

Fran Stewart talking about insect pests at Parry Sound Public Library

Michelle Hendry presenting Backyard Beekeeping to members of the Parry Sound & District Horticulture Society

A hands-on follow-up pruning workshop held at Tower Hill Heritage Garden on a day that started out with snow on the ground was an added bonus for participants.

It was a great opportunity for our MGiTs to get their feet wet doing presentations and to increase our visibility in the local community.

Pruning workshop participants at Tower Hill Heritage Garden in Parry Sound

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Macaulay Heritage Gardens

Details: We're very lucky in Prince Edward County – we have a very good working relationship with our local museum. The PEC MGs have been maintaining and improving the gardens at Macaulay for many years. May and June are busy months as we prepare for weddings and get the vegetable garden going. Much that is produced in the garden is made into jams and other canned fruits and sold in the museum shop. We're all proud of the work we do and delight in the smiles of visitors to the gardens.

Left to right: Marianne Malachowski, Virginia Mitchell (head cheer leader at Macaulay), Susan Warrack. Absent Ren Duinker.

The two other gardeners, Jane Corey and Darlene Johnson are longtime supporters, friends and workers in the Macaulay Gardens. Photo by Susan Warrack

Name: Greenhouse Advice Clinics at Smylie's in Trenton

Details: The generous support we have received over the years from Smylie's Independent Grocers makes a huge difference for our group. From Mother's Day until the end of June two of us head off to Trenton on Saturdays and Sundays and help out in the greenhouses.

Steve Storms in the greenhouse at Smylie's
Photo by Ren Duinker

I remember my first shift (it's a long one, four hours, but given the distances we all travel, many of our members are glad to have the long shift to make it worthwhile). In any case, on that first shift I met Lorraine, the kind woman who manages the greenhouses, and when lunch time came around she bought me lunch! Frankly, I was overwhelmed. Perhaps I shouldn't have been – that's just what this area is like – full of kind, friendly, generous people. We're lucky to live in The County and we value our relationship with Smylie's.

Alex Wiens, left & Cathy Thompson
Photo by Ren Duinker

Name: Annual Plant Sale

Date: Saturday, May 25, 2019

Details: I suppose it was bound to happen sooner or

later – we got rained out! I'm sure there were other groups that suffered the same fate; it can't be helped. We've got a great group here in The County and they are most definitely a "rain or shine" kind of crowd. We did dither quite a bit over the impending weather during the days leading up to the plant sale, but, as I say, we're MGs and we show up!

Even Picton, which is usually bustling on a Saturday, seemed empty. I think The Weather Network and Environment Canada scared off a lot of people with the predictions of thunderstorms – turns out, they were right! Naturally, we didn't make as much money as we have in the past, but we made a lot more than we expected, so all was not lost.

MG Sandy Goranson, left helping with a plant choice

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: 15th Annual Plant Fair / Sale

Details: It's been a cold wet spring, and Saturday May 25th, the day of the Etobicoke MGs plant sale was no exception. However all the rain did not stop intrepid shoppers from arriving early to do their plant shopping. Many people in the neighbourhood look forward to this annual event. And Etobicoke MGs were on hand to answer gardening questions and design dilemmas.

Etobicoke MG Marsha Gettas organizes the sale each year, and it's held in both her and her neighbour's driveways; one side is dedicated to shade plants, the other is for sun lovers.

Marsha on the sunny side of the drive with Etobicoke MG Jim Graham, behind
In the background a shopper is perusing tomato plants & herbs

Marsha's Award Winning Garden

In the fall some Etobicoke MGs had dug up and potted more than 75 Epimediums that a gardening neighbour had donated. They over wintered in his garden buried under leaves, and although they need pruning and tidying up on plant prep day they were ready to go.

Some of the 75 Epimediums

Left to right – EMGers Barb Nytko, Tania Kroman & Coordinator Suzanne Zacharczyk are all smiles despite the rain

Brantford Master Gardeners

Name: Planting Seeds
Details: Brantford MGiT Erinn Burbridge spent some time in kindergarten teaching her son's kindergarten class how to plant seeds.

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

Brantford Master Gardeners

Name: Springtime in Paris
Date: Sat. June 1st, 10am-5pm & Sun. June 2nd, 10am-4pm
Location: Lion's Park, Paris, ON, Canada
Details: BMGs will be helping to celebrate the magic and wonder of spring in Paris. An MG booth will be set up to answer gardening questions. Walter's Greenhouse will have a booth beside ours and the MGs will be helping out with a kid's activity…showing children how to plant flowers in pots. More information can be found at: http://www.springtimeinparis.ca

---

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Name: Look, Listen & Learn 2019
Date: Saturday, June 15th, 2019
Details: In conjunction with MGOI's request that provincial Master Gardener groups participate in National "Garden Days", Thunder Bay & District MGs will be holding our Look, Listen & Learn 2019 workshop on Saturday, June 15th.

The workshop will include MG Gordon Ward presenting on *Edible Vines*. His focus will be on how to successfully grow grapes in our zone three climate. MG Lynn Thornburg will present the *Dirt on Dirt* – all about soil basics, as well as when and how to enrich it. As part of this presentation MG Linda Sharp will present a section on composting. For *Growing Veggies in Containers*, MG Louise Nadeau will share her knowledge on the best vegetables to grow in pots to achieve a bountiful harvest. MG Lynda Bobinski will present *Know Your Garden Environment* – all about mapping your garden environment to identify which situation is best for plants so they thrive and survive.

Name: Garden Days / Les Journées du Jardins
Dates: 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.

Brantford Master Gardeners

Name: BMG 30th Annual Open Garden Tour & Plant Sale - In Partnership with The Animal Aid Foundation
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2019 – 10am to 3pm (rain or shine)
Details: ***Tickets available at*:**
Passmores: 190 King George Rd., Brantford
Antler's: 40 Roy Blvd., Brantford
Nicol Florist: 846 Colborne St. E., Brantford
Walter's Greenhouse & Garden: 363 Governors Rd. E., Brantford
Or on-line at: https://brantfordgardentour.eventbrite.ca
Also from: Brantford Master Gardeners or Brant Animal Aid Foundation Board Members

---

MGOI Summer Workshop - 2019

Dates: July 13th & 14th, 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 with 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
or June Streadwick, streadwick@sympatic.ca

Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: Canadian National Exhibition
Details: Spring has sprung and the summer fun soon begins. When you are making plans ahead try to fit in some time at the CNE which runs from Aug. 16 to Sep. 2 this year. Your admission is free for volunteering that day.

Like last year we will have two places for MGs for each of three time slots: 10:00am-1:00pm; 1:00pm-4:00pm; and 4:00pm-7:00pm. To volunteer, contact Susan Quirk for your choice of shift: organicsince16@gmail.com

Good Gardening for now!
Shirley Daniels, MMG
Susan Quirk, MMG

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 last remaining topic is:

Title: From Pots and Small Plots - Come Edible Flowers and Herbs!
Date: Tuesday September 10, 2019

- With Master Gardener Nancy McDonald

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Topic: Technical Update: Wild About Herbs
Date: Saturday, September 14, 2019
Location: Picton, ON, in The County
Cost: $35 includes lunch
Details: Conrad Richter is the owner of Richter's Herbs in Goodwood, Ontario and a leading authority on herbs. His wife, Aku is originally from Ghana and is passionate about the healing nature of herbs. They will be presenting you with two lively discussions. Conrad will speak on herbs you should know and Aku will tell you about some of the herbs she loves and how she uses them.

Registration Information: Tickets go on sale June 1st. We only have 70 tickets available so get your tickets early, from Eventbrite at https://wild-about-herbs.eventbrite.ca.

Plan a weekend in The County!

London-Middlesex Master Gardeners

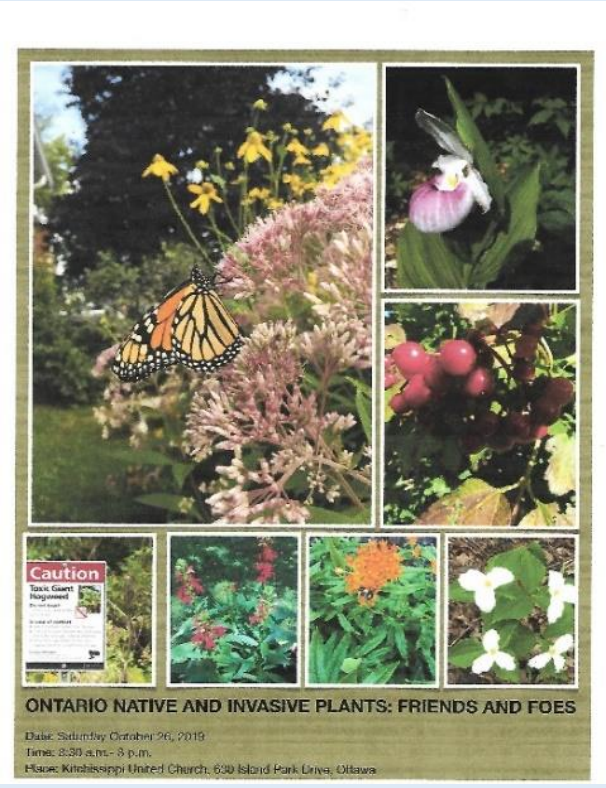
Name: Technical Update: The What, Why and Wonderful of Therapy Gardens
Date: Oct. 20th, 2019
Place: Civic Garden Centre, 625 Springbank Dr., London, ON
Speakers: Nancy Lee-Colibaba, MG, Royal Botanical Gardens; Bruce MacNeil, MG; Rosemarie Szalich, MG

Save the Date!

Lanark County Master Gardeners

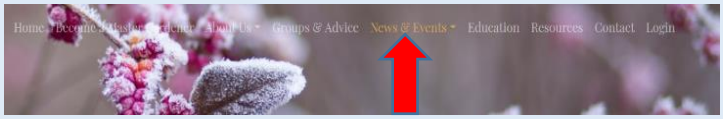
Technical Update: Ontario Native and Invasive Plants – Friends and Foes
Date: Sat. Oct. 26th, 2019, 8:30am – 3:00pm
Location: Kitchissippi United Church, 630 Island Park Drive, Ottawa
Cost: $35 (includes Lunch)
Registration Information:
www.lanarkmg.blogspot.com or www.mgottawa.ca

Save the Date!



Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.

Name: MGOI Website Events Tab
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.



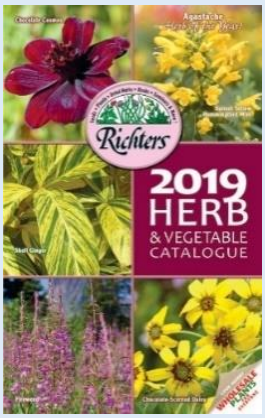
Of Possible Interest to Master Gardeners

Richters Herbs

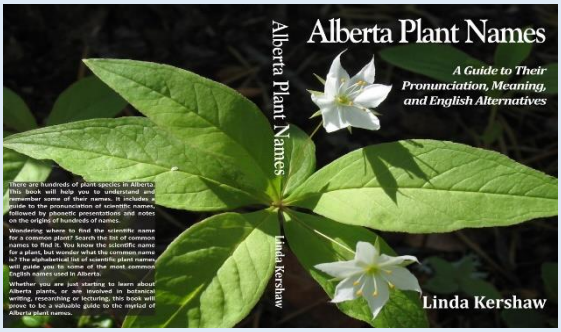
Details: Richters Herbs offers seminars at their greenhouse location throughout the year. For more information visit: https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=./events/events.html&car t_id=2154123.16186.

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/



Linda Kershaw is the author of many garden books such as ***Trees of Ontario: Including Tall Shrubs*** and ***Ontario Wildflowers: 101 Wayside Flowers***



Linda Kershaw has worked as a botanist for over 45 years, in research, consulting, and as an author of popular field guides. She has found that one of the main obstacles to sharing a love of all things botanical is the use of scientific names. Often people interested in studying plants are intimidated by Latinized names.

Her new book may be a useful reference for pronouncing and remembering scientific plant names and for finding English common names to use in reports and presentations. Although entitled “Alberta Plant Names” many of these taxa are found in other parts of Canada and the U.S.

Available through Amazon.ca and Amazon.com, the book begins with a general discussion of the origins, organization and pronunciation of plant names, and is followed by 3 main sections:

- Derivation & Pronunciation (2170+ names)
- Alphabetical Scientific Names, with suggested common names (2780+ names)
- Alphabetized Common Names, with their scientific names (2775+ names)