Inside MGOI

Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Welcome to the September 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 and activities, short member profiles, upcoming events such as regional technical updates – anything about the functioning and happenings 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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INSIDE MGOI
Newsletter of the
Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.

September 2019

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Milestones

Lanark County Master Gardeners

In Memoriam

Joan Tosh
Joan Tosh, born March 26, 1934, was a dedicated member of Lanark County Master Gardeners for 18 years, from 1989 to 2007. Her positive attitude and friendly manner were forefront at our clinics, and she loved to talk about gardening and nature in general.

Joan worked for many years at Fairview Manor in Almonte where she was beloved by patients. In her later years she took meticulous care of her garden accompanied by her little dog. Joan died suddenly on July 31, 2019.

Paul Pospisil
Paul Pospisil was born February 26, 1938 and was known in our group and the gardening community as The Garlic Guru. He was an active Master Gardener, from August 1989 to November 2006. He was instrumental in establishing the Perth Farmers Market and the Perth Garlic Festival.

For many years, he conducted garlic trials and towards the end of his life published a book about all he had learned about garlic. Paul passed away on September 3, 2019.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Five Year Anniversary
Margaret Ryan
Gayle Singer

New Master Gardeners in Training
Sue Schlatter
Frank Reid
Anna Tjepkema

Algoma Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved
Cheryl Bayles

Cheryl Bayles, right with MG Sheila Campbell

Mississauga Master Gardeners

10 Year Anniversary
Mary Jean Kucerak

Mary Jean Kucerak, left with Coordinator Michelle Wilson

A Moment for Membership

Pam Love, Director of Membership
pamlovenews@gmail.com

Wanted: Would the member who shared on the survey a mentoring system they introduced in their group based on one from a health care facility in the UK please contact me at the email above. New Ideas help us improve and I am interested in learning more.

Mentoring came up numerous times on the survey with regards to retaining both our senior members as mentors and our Master Gardeners in Training (MGiTs) as mentees. Some people mentioned having mentors for roles in the groups as well as for members taking the self study option. I know we have mentors for roles on the board – hint hint!! If we had more mentors would we have seen more than 35% of our MGiT cohort respond to the survey? Did you encourage your mentee to complete the survey? Does your mentee get this newsletter? Does s/he open and read it?

179 respondents said they would be comfortable mentoring within their group and 62 said they would be comfortable mentoring outside their group using technology. The following information addresses some of the comments in the survey regarding mentoring, especially the highlighted areas. **We have more of your ideas to explore. A provincial mentoring option? Want to help? - let me know.**

Many new members told us they feel overwhelmed when they first join as they have to get used to new people, new information, new vocabulary, and new ways of doing things. As a Master Gardener (MG) mentor it is important to help the new trainee feel welcome, especially in their first year. Good mentors have a willingness to share their experience in a patient, positive manner. Mentors are able to answer many questions about the group and the organization, and about how things work**.**

Mentors do not have all the answers but ….
they need to know where or to whom to go to find them.

Relationship Guidelines between Mentor and Trainee/Mentee

Some groups will assign a mentor/buddy to a new member; in other groups new members may choose their own once they get familiar with the group. With your trainee **agree on the most effective form of communication.**

Whatever works best for you both – it may vary: in person, phone, email, text. We recommend you agree that either mentor or trainee initiate contact.

Have supportive discussions, answer questions and share personal gardening experiences. Introduce the trainee to other new members of the group**, especially members who share their interests.**

Expectations: Let the Trainee Know What to Expect.

- **Help them set realistic goals to accomplish in their first year for activities they will take part in and the learning they will do.**
- **Let your trainee know you will do your best to mentor them but should either of you feel the relationship is not a good fit then you each have the right to step aside.** We will try and find another mentor, or they may approach someone on their own.
- **Ask them to help you with investigative research for a talk or question from the public. If you are working on a project/committee include them.**
- **Encourage them to take part in group social activities.**
- **Encourage your trainee to participate in other learning opportunities that are available – technical updates, summer workshop (although not required while they are doing their courses / self study it is a great opportunity to learn, get to know people and how things work).**

Things to Do to Encourage Participation in Your Group:

- **Suggest / offer to partner with your trainee at an advice clinic until they are comfortable.**
- **Suggest / offer to take them to a talk you are giving / going to, or that your group is involved in. Share the power point presentation ahead of time. Do they want to do some slides?**

Do you know about *The Journey Begins: Training and Orientation Manual for New Master Gardeners in Training*? This manual was introduced at the 2017 Coordinators' Conference. It's important to ensure your trainee has access to this in either the paper or electronic version. Your coordinator has a paper copy of the manual or it can be found electronically in the members area of http://www.mgoi.ca/ under Coordinators' Corner.

The Low-down on the Treasurer's job

By Cathy Thompson, MGOI Treasurer

I have been MGOI Treasurer for almost three years and chose to volunteer for this position because I am an accountant in my other life, and I like accounting. A Treasurer doesn't have to be an accountant or bookkeeper, but it helps. If you like numbers, like making sure everything adds up and are particular about reports looking reasonable, you likely can handle this job. Think of it as a chequebook that needs to be kept in balance!

The Treasurer is a participating member of the Board of Directors. I, myself, am more of the "filler" in the "thriller, filler, spiller" garden container. The Board is a group of creative, animated and intelligent people who quite enjoy gardening and are looking to do the best they can to support the members of the organization. I maintain the financial information for the Board and provide the information necessary to make decisions on projects, fees, etc.

The accounting records are maintained using Quick Books software. Cheques are printed from the software; deposits and journal entries are entered directly. I use the software to prepare the bank reconciliations monthly as well.

The busiest time of year for the treasurer is the first half of the year. Group membership fees are received in January and February. 'Good News to Grow On' funds are distributed in March. Year-end is April 30 when everything has to be tidied up and balanced. I send/take the records to our accountant in late June or July for him to prepare Review Engagement financial statements and the Charities Return. In October, it is time to prepare the financial report for the Annual General Meeting informing members of the financial transactions undertaken by the Board in the fiscal year.

https://www.seacliffslsc.com.au/treasurer-position-vacant/

If this position sounds like something you would like to try – to be part of the MGOI Board of Directors – contact your Coordinator or one of the Board members (see page 1 for the list).

A Big Thank You!

Once again in 2019 the Mississauga Master Gardeners were invited to run an advice table at the CNE in the Heritage Court area, near the Annual CNE Flower show. Over the course of 18 days, the Master Gardeners of Mississauga, Toronto, Halton, Lake Simcoe South, and Etobicoke answered over 450 garden related questions from the public.

Etobicoke Master Gardener Ray Bielaskie, left, with Verna Leader

Mississauga MGs Marie Pearson, left with Shirley Daniels at the CNE, 2019

Our sincere thanks to all who volunteered their valuable time to supply much needed current information on many horticultural problems and their solutions. Verna Leader, Toronto Master Gardeners, was again the volunteer with the most shifts.

This event was not possible without all of the great volunteers!

Shirley Daniels & Susan Quirk

Master Gardeners Out & About:
Projects & Events

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Summer Camp for Seniors
Details: In August, MG Nancy McDonald from Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton presented a talk at the first summer day camp event at Beacon Heights Retirement Living Home. The subject was herbs and edible flowers. The residents already maintain an herb garden that the chef uses in meal preparations.

In this photo, Nancy, right rear, is holding a container of edibles. Residents have samples of recipes, jellies and vinegars.

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Wild about Herbs Technical Update
Date: September 14th, 2019
Details: We were thrilled to have Conrad and Aku Richter come to The County! Their love of herbs was readily apparent in their presentations and their friendly personalities delighted the sold-out crowd in Picton. The Richter's are huge supporters of Master Gardeners and said, "The work of teaching and guiding young and new gardeners is ever more important these days, and we definitely believe that that work and that calling need to be supported".

Aku spoke in the morning session and shared with us some of the herbs she uses most often.

Aku Richter

We learned that garlic will prevent colds and flu, lemon grass will repel mosquitoes when it is growing, comfrey is good for sprains and bruises and bloody dock is an anti-cancer herb. Aku talked about many other interesting herbs she uses in her daily life as an herbalist and mother.

After a delicious lunch Conrad gave a lively presentation on unusual herbs, beyond what he called "The Happy Dozen": basil, chives, coriander, dill, marjoram, mint, parsley, rosemary, sage, savory, thyme, and tarragon.

Conrad Richter

Conrad told us about the history of Richter's Herbs and went on to show us herbs that he is particularly fond of. Anise-hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*) is not only a beautiful plant native to North America but it is used by beekeepers and is good for tea. Lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*) is used in tea. Conrad told us it doesn't dry well as it loses its scent. It will pick you up if you're feeling sluggish as well as calming you down if you're feeling tense. Conrad prefers garlic chives (*Allium tuberosum*) to the regular chives. The plant was originally grown in Asia for the flower stocks to use in stir fries. It has flat solid leaves and is more resistant to disease than regular chives.

Another herb that Conrad told us about was salad burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*) - a delicate plant with the flavour of cucumber. It can be used to make pesto or a sauce with cream cheese to serve with potatoes.

We had made up boxes of herbs for the tables that we gave away to our guests and they were the most popular door prize. Conrad and Aku brought some of the herbs they talked about, which many people purchased for their gardens.

This was the first technical update we have hosted, and we want to thank all the Master Gardeners who supported this event.
We are already planning the next one!

Back row, L to R: Karen Starczynowski, Carol Wilson, Marianne Malachowski, Virginia Mitchell, Susan Warrack, Conrad Richter, Ren Duinker.
Front Row, L to R: Alice Lumley, Joyce Young, Gail Walker, Aku Dunyo Richter, Kim Beaugrand. Photo by: Michiel Duinker.

Name: Macaulay Volunteers Potluck Lunch
Date: September 16th, 2019
Details: As Master Gardeners we all know how important volunteers are to our communities, and in Prince Edward County we work hard nurturing our relationships with other groups.

At The Macaulay Museum in Picton we have maintained the Heritage Gardens for many years and have a lot of fun working with the museum volunteers.

Virginia Mitchell is the driving force in our group behind this project. She maintains the vegetable garden with a Macaulay Museum volunteer, Darlene Johnson; she also makes jams and jellies from the garden to sell in the museum shop.

It was a perfect day for a picnic as we all gathered at Macaulay to share a potluck lunch.

Left to Right: Jessica Chase, Virginia Mitchell MG, Marianne Malachowski MG, Ren Duinker MG, Dan Metcalf, Jennifer Lyons, Head Curator, PEC Museums, Darlene Johnson, Hedy Campbell, Sandra Latchford, Mary Mellors, Nancy Woods, Susan Warrack MG, Doug and Evelyn Sloan

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rideau 1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Name: Wildscaping in Kingston Ontario
Date: October 5th,2019
Details: **The Project:** Rideau 1000 Islands MGs are spearheading a community wildscaping project in the Kingston region this summer and fall, working with community partners and homeowners to turn front lawns into ecological 'wildscapes' mimicking natural ecosystems as a way to regenerate the health of the spaces where we live and work. Each yard will be an individual project, suited to the site conditions and working toward a specific theme and goals. Regenerative gardening criteria will be employed on all the sites and the SOUL Organic Land Care Standard will be the overall guideline.

The Workshops: To set the stage for the project, Regeneration Canada hosted a gardening workshop on Monday, August 12th to prepare stakeholders and engage the public in the techniques of climate and ecosystem restoration and the possibilities of regenerative and rewilded gardens and landscapes. A follow-up workshop on the naturalistic approach to planting design was held Saturday, September 7th with special guest speaker Tony Spencer, The New Perennialist.
Full details can be found here:
https://organiclandcare.ca/Land_Care_Events/

The Wildscaping Workshop: Planting Design
Wildscaping: An introduction to Ecological Plant-driven Design followed the August 12th workshop on Saturday September 7th, and participants discovered the aesthetic and ecological principles driving the New Perennial movement in naturalistic planting design. They learned about the design practices and methods championed by famed garden designer and plantsman Piet Oudolf and his peers with an eye to broadening and transforming approaches to planting design, plant selection, installation and maintenance in home-based or community projects. For more information:
https://rideau1000islandsmastergardeners.co/

Workshop #2, The Wildscaping Workshop: Planting Design, was held Sunday September 8th, and featured the New Perennialist Tony Spencer in a two-part morning workshop exploring the new fundamentals of naturalistic planting design. Tony guided us through the design work of leading figures like Piet Oudolf, Roy Diblik, and Cassian Schmidt to show the evolution of plant-driven landscape design. The second part applied these methods and practices to residential scale gardens with a hands-on workshop to help participants grasp the basics with a local spin.

Workshop #3: Interested in Wildscaping Your Front Yard?
Date: Saturday October 5th, 1:00pm – 3:00 pm:
Tickets and more info here
Details: Wildscaping is a form of landscaping that mimics the way nature works, creating thriving plant communities based on natural relationships. Wildscapes invite the wild back into our lives, our yards, and our city. Wildscapes are as different as the gardeners who create them.
Be part of #rewildmylawn day on October 5th. We're looking for from 3 to 10 lawns for rewilding – swapping out a grass monoculture with wildscape alternatives such as:

- meadow
- woodland
- edible forest
- foodscape
- rainscape
- birdscape
- tapestry flowering lawn
- sedge lawn
- native wildscape

We are looking for a MAXIMUM of 10 people who:

- believe it's time to replace monoculture lawns with a rich tapestry of lawn alternatives that regenerate our soils, beautify our cities, and provide habitat for wildlife (helping mitigate our climate emergency)
- want to cultivate a deeper connection to place by learning more about gardening in partnership with the natural world
- are willing to purchase the plants for wildscaping their front yard
- are interested in their wildscaping story being part of an article or featured in blog posts

What we'll you help with:

- test your soil
- pair you with a mentor to help design your wildscape
- support you as a coach once it's planted
- supply a team to help plant your wildscape on #rewildmylawn day

Interested in learning more about a local wildscape? Check out this recent article on a rewilded yard in Collins Bay.

Once you've indicated your interest, a Master Gardener will contact you to find out more about your lawn and your goals to see if it would be a good fit for #rewildmylawn day.

Learn more about wildscaping:
By changing the way you garden and manage your land, you can become part of a global regeneration movement that is drawing carbon out of the atmosphere, sequestering it in soil and regenerating ecosystem health.

- Learn about how soil is the foundation of wildscapes, increasing biodiversity and regenerating ecosystem health.

Peterborough Master Gardeners

Technical Update: Bulbs for All Seasons
Date: September 28th, 2019
Cost: $40.
Location:
Westdale United Church,
1509 Sherbrooke St.,
Peterborough

Registration Information:
www.peterboroughmastergardeners.com

Coordinators' Conference 2019

Date & Location: The Coordinators' Conference will take place on Saturday, October 5th at the brand new Landscape Ontario facility in Milton.
8:30am-4:00pm
See information on page 10

HORTICULTURAL TRADES ASSOCIATION
landscape ontario.com
Green for Life!

Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: Mississauga Master Gardeners' Fall Plant Sale
Date: Saturday October 5th, 2019, 10:00am – 2:00pm
Location: Port Credit Library, 20 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, ON L5G 1C8
Details: Mississauga MGs will be selling Perennials, Bulbs and Houseplants. We will be presenting Seminars on 'How to Prepare Your Garden for Winter' and 'How to Save Seeds'.

London – Middlesex Master Gardeners

Technical Update: The What, Why and Wonderful of Therapeutic Gardens
Date: Sunday, October 20th, 2019, 8:30am – 3:30pm
Place: Civic Gardens Complex, 625 Springbank Drive, London, ON N6K 4T1

Details: Bad knees? Arthritic hands? Eyesight not what it used to be? With an aging population comes a diversity of new challenges and needs. As Master Gardeners, it is important for us to be aware of and address these challenges so we can guide more people to continue a healthy interest in gardening.

In this workshop, you will experience some of these issues firsthand and learn about modifying gardens, strategies, and programs.

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

Registration Information:
www.londonmastergardeners.com

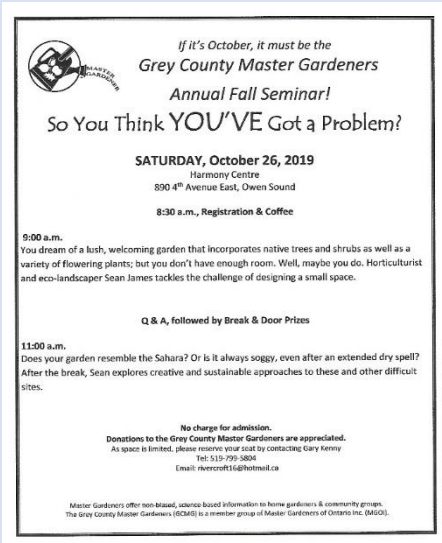
Lanark County Master Gardeners
Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners

Technical Update: Ontario Native and Invasive Plants: Friends and Foes
Date: October 26th, 2019 from 8:30 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Location: Kitchissippi United Church, 630 Island Park Dr., Ottawa
Details: Brought to you by the Master Gardeners of Ottawa- Carleton and Lanark County, we invite you to a one-day educational event about Ontario native plants and invasive plant species. While the target audience is master gardeners, there are seats open to the public.
Cost: $35. Lunch and snacks are included.
Registration Information: To reserve your spot, or for further information visit our Website at www.lanarkmg.blogspot.com or www.mgottawa.ca, or call 613.264.8135, or email lanarkmg@gmail.com.

Lectures • Displays • Silent Auction
Great Food

Grey County Master Gardeners

Topic: **So You Think You've Got a Problem?**
Details:
Horticulturist and eco-landscaper (& Master Gardener) Sean James explores creative and sustainable approaches to dealing with difficult sites. Open to the public as well as to other Master Gardeners.
Date: Saturday, October 26th, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Location: The Harmony Centre, 890 4th Avenue East, Owen Sound
Cost: No charge (donations welcome)
Registration Information: Contact Gary Kenny
Phone: 519-799-5804
Email: rivercroft16@hotmail.com


If it's October, it must be the
Grey County Master Gardeners
Annual Fall Seminar!
So You Think YOU'VE Got a Problem?

SATURDAY, October 26, 2019
Harmony Centre
890 4th Avenue East, Owen Sound

8:30 a.m., Registration & Coffee

9:00 a.m.
You dream of a lush, welcoming garden that incorporates native trees and shrubs as well as a variety of flowering plants; but you don't have enough room. Well, maybe you do. Horticulturist and eco-landscaper Sean James tackles the challenge of designing a small space.

Q & A, followed by Break & Door Prizes

11:00 a.m.
Does your garden resemble the Sahara? Or is it always soggy, even after an extended dry spell? After the break, Sean explores creative and sustainable approaches to these and other difficult sites.

No charge for admission.
Donations to the Grey County Master Gardeners are appreciated.
As space is limited, please reserve your seat by contacting Gary Kenny
Tel: 519-799-5804
Email: rivercroft16@hotmail.ca

Master Gardeners offer non-biased, science-based information to home gardeners & community groups.
The Grey County Master Gardeners (GCMG) is a member group of Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI).

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.

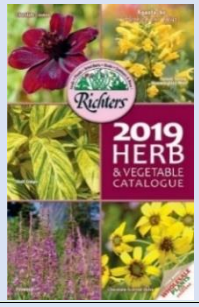
Of Possible Interest to Master Gardeners

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/



MGOI AGM and Coordinators' Conference

The AGM and Coordinators' Conference will take place on Saturday, October 5th at the brand new Landscape Ontario facility in Milton, 8:30am to 4:00pm.

Will your group be represented?

Each group can send up to three members – ideally the coordinator of the group, the next coordinator of the group, and/or any member who is interested in learning more about how the organization works at the central level. None of us joined this organization to do administrative work, but local leadership is so important in keeping Master Gardeners of Ontario vibrant and useful. And we definitely need people willing to take a turn volunteering for the central committees and for the board - could that be you??

After the business of the AGM, there will be Regional meetings. The groups in each of the 4 regions (North, Central, East, and South&West) will meet with their regional director and have some time to discuss local issues and share ideas.
There will be a panel discussion featuring the admin team of the MGOI Facebook page, another on the role of directors, a presentation on the data gleaned from the Annual Reviews submitted in January 2019, table discussions on retention strategies and other topics identified as important in the recent survey – and throughout the day, opportunities to meet MGs from other areas of Ontario. And good food too!!

All details and registration forms have been sent to the coordinator of each group. Find out who is going from your group and volunteer if there is still room!

We need your help! We need your help! We need your help!

2 Remarkable Opportunities!

Amazing Board of Directors Seeks Charming Volunteers!

We Can't Do It Without You!

Director of Operations

The Director of Operations works with a team responsible for Policy/Procedures, Information Technologies, and Annual Reporting. The position serves as a voting member of the Board of Directors.

- Term: 2 years (plus transition period)
    - Start date: Transition would start immediately working with our current Director of Operations, Suzanne Zacharczyk
    - End date: Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2021 (usually October). Can be extended to a maximum of 2 more 2-year terms
- Description:
    - Review and monitor MGOI technologies, and provide recommendations to establish and maintain IT services
    - Support setups and liaison between MGOI and established providers
    - Work with board members and committee leads to identify issues, establish priorities, goals and responsibilities and develop annual budget requirements for technology
    - Support Annual Report development
- Skills & Qualities:
    - Ability to conduct business effectively and efficiently
    - Knowledge of (or interest in learning) technologies such as Survey Monkey, Video Conferencing, spreadsheets, and collection and analysis of data
    - Knowledge of MGOI policies & procedures

For additional information or to apply, please contact: **info@mgoi.ca**

Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for general financial oversight and works with the Board Executive and Directors. The Treasurer is a voting member of the Board of Directors.

- Term: 2 years (plus transition period)
- Start date: Transition would start immediately working with our current Treasurer Cathy Thompson
- End date: AGM 2021 (usually October). Can be extended to a maximum of 2 more 2-year terms
- Description: Main responsibilities include maintaining the financial records, issuing charity receipts, banking, financial planning, budgeting, and working with the Accountant who prepares year-end statements
- Skills & Qualities:
    - ability to conduct business effectively and efficiently
    - ideally, an accounting/bookkeeping background
    - knowledge of QuickBooks software (or willingness to learn)
    - access to a TD branch bank

For additional information or to apply, please contact: **info@mgoi.ca**