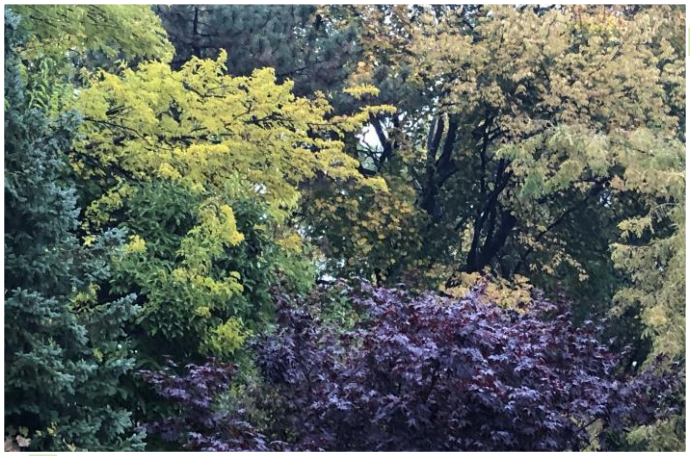

Inside MGOI

Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Welcome to the October 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.

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
Director at Large:	Maureen Hulbert, Toronto

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

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INSIDE MGOI
Newsletter of the
Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.

October 2019

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

We Need Your help! We Need Your help! We Need Your help!

Urgent: We need a MGOI treasurer ASAP! Will it be you?

SHARE THE LOAD?

If the time commitment has been holding you back from stepping up to help as Treasurer, we have looked at the components of the role and feel there is an opportunity to share the responsibilities!
The position will have one vote on the board but share the duties and attendance at board meetings. See role description below and a note from our current treasurer.
If you have any questions about Treasurer, please contact Cathy Thompson at ccj.thompson1@outlook.com
To apply please email membership@mgoi.ca Pam Love, Director of Membership MGOI

When you volunteer, we all grow!!

Duties: 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). Can be extended to a maximum of 2 more 2-year terms
- Start date: Transition would start immediately working with our current Treasurer Cathy Thompson
- 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
    -

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.

If this position sounds like something you would like to try – to be part of the MGOI Board of Directors – contact membership@mgoi.ca

Milestones

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

New Member
Margo Rivers

Margo joined PEC MGs on September 24, 2019. She has been gardening most of her life. With a few friends, she started a community garden at her apartment building in Picton and supplied vegetables to anyone who needed them – the rest she gave to the food bank. Margo is an artist and teacher and is looking forward to doing some presentations for us.

Left to right: Fran Gyde, Cathy Cook, Margo Rivers and Susan Warr

The Community Gardens

We're delighted Margo has joined our group and look forward to working with her. Margo came to our *Wild About Herbs* presentation and I guess the MGs she sat with convinced her this was the group for her.

Welcome Margo!

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

20 Year Anniversary
Edythe Falconer
New Master Gardeners in Training
Anna Tjepkema
Adair Heuchan

Member Profile:
Edythe Falconer

Type the words 'Edythe Falconer Master Gardener' into your Google search engine and over 31,000 results pop up – not surprising given that Edythe has been an active public speaker, writer and busy member of Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton (MGOC) for many years. She receives her twenty-year pin on November 1, 2019.

MG Edythe Falconer

Edythe is known within MGOC as teacher, mentor and friend. Those who know her well say she has a down-to-earth, practical approach, typical of a smart Saskatchewan farmwoman. That's because she grew up on the prairies.

Need a complicated job done such as organizing a technical update, finding innovative strategies to recruit new members or trying something a little different? No problem. Edythe quickly, willingly and enthusiastically jumps into the fray to provide strong leadership, inspiring others with her optimism, determination and sense of humour.

Her list of public garden talks is long: roses, ornamental grasses, pruning, water gardens and garden design. The list just goes on. Because she was a teacher, teaching comes easily and naturally to her.

Similarly, she enjoys writing varied articles about gardening in publications such as *The Edible Gardener* (TEG), a publication produced by MGs that is sent out monthly to the local gardening community.

Of course, she is also an avid and curious gardener, always experimenting with new vegetable, tree and flower varieties. She not only talks and writes about plants, but she shares her knowledge at home with other gardeners, welcoming visitors on garden tours. MGs are fortunate to celebrate Edythe's 20 years of participation within MGOC. She's a rare and unique species of gardener, so appreciated.

Muskoka Master Gardeners

Member Transfer

The Muskoka MG Group was very sad to see Shirley Neil leave Huntsville and relocate to Sarnia to be closer to her family. Shirley joined the group in 2004 and successfully completed the MG Courses through Guelph University. Shirley, Rosemarie and Sandra joined the group at the same time and always enjoyed spending time together at meetings, on road trips and at other MG events. Shirley was the corresponding secretary for our group for more than 10 years. For the last year she has been our recording secretary and very graciously hosted our meetings.

Shirley Neil is in the centre, Rosemarie Meyer is on the left and Sandra Hartill is on the right

In September the group had a lovely potluck dinner to celebrate and thank her for all she has done for our group. We all will miss her but we wish her much happiness in her new home. Thanks for 15 great years together!

Niagara Master Gardeners

15 Year Anniversary
Yuki Woolstencroft

Niagara MG Yuki Woolstencroft holds up her pin for 15 years continuous service as a MG at the October 2019 meeting recently held in Vineland.

Congratulations Yuki!

New Master Gardeners in Training

Betty Moulton

Vivianne Tries

Member Transfer

Kathleen Livingston

Kathleen transferred to Niagara from Halton Master Gardeners.

Peterborough Master Gardeners

In Memoriam

Peterborough Master Gardener Steve Airhart, 1944 - 2019

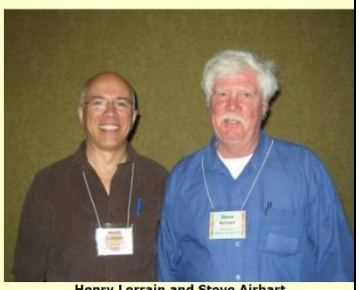
On September 26th the Peterborough Master Gardeners lost one of our vibrant members. Master Gardener Steve Airhart was an active member in our group, as well as with the Stirling and District Horticultural Society. We were always impressed with his knowledge of seeds, daylilies, and vegetables in particular, and he gave an excellent talk at our Day for Gardeners event this spring on 'Improving Your Vegetable Production'.

Steve's passion was shared with young people through his long-time volunteer work in the greenhouse at Centre Hastings Secondary School (CHSS) as part of the Practical Skill Program. Steve started many seeds at home and worked with the students to plant seeds and seedlings, and to transplant them to larger pots. The students learned about soils and plant types and, as part of the program, how to market and distribute the products.

Students in the Practical Skill Program (Greenhouse) at CHSS pose with Steve Airhart prior to the 2015 plant sale (source: Margriet Kitchen, Central Hastings News)

A Celebration of Life was held at the family home on October 19th with seven MGs in attendance. We learned from Steve's wife Anne that he had won four Douglas Lycett Awards (for a seedling hybridized by an Ontario Daylily Society member) for his daylilies.
We will miss his presence in our group.

Category Winner - Best Double Flower
Steve Airhart



Henry Lorrain and Steve Airhart

2008 Ontario Daylily Society Award

Brantford Master Gardeners

Member Transfers

Anne Faulkner
Sharon Garner
From the former Norfolk Master Gardeners group, Anne Faulkner and Sharon Garner joined the Brantford Master Gardeners in September 2019.

Rideau 1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Teresa Roseboom
We welcome back former Kingston MGiT Teresa Roseboom who successfully passed the MGOI exam this year.

New Master Gardeners

Tracey Filson
Collette McKinnon

Master Gardeners Out & About:
Projects & Events

Georgian Bay Master Gardeners

Name: Bethune House
Details: The birthplace of Dr. Norman Bethune, Bethune House National Historic Site in Gravenhurst has a visitor's centre filled with information about his life alongside the charming Victorian era home where he was born.

Bethune House with Gardens

The staff and volunteers at the Bethune House have been working on creating a garden representative of the era when he lived there as a child. Our coordinator, Anne Bossart has been advising them for the past three years. This year she invited the other members of our small group to come along and we had a tour of the home, garden and visitors' centre on the only rainy day during the month of August. A first visit for most of the group, it was an enjoyable, educational outing.

From left to right - Barbara Jackson, Anne Bossart, Carol Alanko, Tracy Bosley and Fran Stewart

The hard work and dedication of the Bethune House gardeners has paid off. They received a Daisy Award from the City of Gravenhurst this summer.

Brantford Master Gardeners

Name: Brantford Master Gardeners Garden Tour
Details: Brantford Master Gardeners and Brant Animal Aid Foundation volunteers held a GARDENS ON PARADE tour on June 23rd, 2019. We highlighted 6 beautiful gardens, each one very different from the other.

The weather was wonderful and a pleasant day was had by all volunteers and attendees.

Simcoe County Master Gardeners

Name: Simcoe County Master Gardeners Attend the Holland Marsh Muck Crop Research and Berm-Enhancement Project
Details: On July 5th, MGs Joan Nieman-Agapas and Linda Peacock attended the Muck Research Station Grower and Public Outreach Day at the Muck Research Station.

Situated at 1125 Woodchoppers Lane, Kettleby, it is on 9.5 acres located in the Holland Marsh just east of Hwy 400 and just north of Hwy 9. It is currently operated by the University of Guelph research office; it was opened in 1947 by the Ontario Agricultural College.

We were impressed with the different studies that were being conducted for pest management and production practices (varieties of cultivars, bio-controls, weed, insect and disease control, and nutrient management). During the winter months they conduct crop storage and post-harvest physiology research. Local growers also have the opportunity to participate in commercial field trials there. The researchers present their findings yearly at the Muck Vegetable Growers Annual Conference.
Some of the disease control topics they are studying are:

- The biology, epidemiology and management of leaf curl in celery in Ontario
- Evaluation of clubroot resistance in Brassica vegetable cultivars
- Evaluation of clubroot resistance in canola cultivars in Ontario
- Management of Stemphylium leaf blight of onion

The Muck Vegetable Cultivar Trial and Research Report for 2018 alone was over 230 pages long!

Dillon Muldoon shows us the traps used for collecting carrot pests. It is the same design that has been used for years; it encases the growing carrot and is made of simple cardboard and wood.

Alexandra Stinson explained how they have been successful in reducing the Carrot Weevil.

Carrots contribute the largest value of any vegetable to the Canadian economy - $130 million. There are enough carrots produced in Canada for every Canadian to consume 7 kg every year (over 100 carrots or 580 baby carrots).

Up to 40% of carrots are damaged by pests such as the carrot weevil. Climate change has changed their biology and caused earlier egg-laying, and 20% of them are now insecticide resistant (they have found one registered alternative called Novaluron). They have found if they simply delay seeding by 2-3 weeks they can reduce damage by 50%. If they shift novaluron application 2 weeks earlier (when the carrots are younger and more vulnerable) they can reduce the damage by 300%.

We were fortunate to meet many young, eager research people – they are passionate about their bugs!

The Holland Marsh was originally chosen as the site for this Muck Research Station because it is the largest area of organic soil (consisting of 60-70% organic matter) in Ontario. The Holland Marsh is known as “Ontario’s Salad Bowl” and it contributes $1 billion to the Ontario economy annually. It is a 7600 ha mixed-use wetland and intensive cropping occurs on 60% of the total Marsh area. This also means there is almost no uncultivated habitat to support beneficial insects.

Some of the team we met have widened the Muck Crop Station’s field of research to include a berm-enhancement project. Ten kilometres of the berms that surround the crop fields were expanded to improve

safety and efficiency after 19 km of canals were relocated and cleaned out in 2016.

They are studying the berms to determine whether they can provide a habitat that could enhance the beneficial insect populations (natural enemies for biological control and pollinators). The two main crops in the Holland Marsh, carrots and onions, are biennial and do not reach their flowering stage before they are harvested so they do not require pollination.

It is hoped that the pollinators attracted to the berms will benefit surrounding habitats and pollinator conservation as a whole. Wild bee pollination is worth more than $3000 per hectare globally. The challenge is not to have the berms provide a habitat for the crop pests that they encounter in the Marsh, such as carrot weevil, carrot rust fly, and onion maggot. They wanted to find the best vegetative plantings that would benefit the crops as well as the natural ecosystem and be aesthetically pleasing. Since food security and sustainability are becoming more important to the public, improving agricultural sustainability would provide local growers with improved crops and make their products more appealing to the informed consumer.

Three areas in the project area were compared for insect presence. One was enhanced with: Timothy, Red Clover, Birdsfoot Trefoil, Alsike Clover, Phacelia, Yellow Sweet Clover, White Sweet Clover, Butterfly Milkweed, and Common Tansy. A second area was seeded with the same plants but with Red Currant and Haskap added. The third was planted primarily with grasses that were originally planted on the berms after construction to reduce erosion. The team collects samples of insects in each of the three areas by using long-handled nets (that are quite difficult to handle). These nets must be swung in figure eight swoops that are the same length 15 times in each area to ensure comparable samples each time.

Simcoe County MG Joan Nieman-Agapas

They assess natural enemies (parasitoids, lady beetles, ground beetles, and dragon flies), pollinators (bees and hover flies), and herbivorous insects (grasshoppers, plant-feeding beetles, and caterpillars) including the primary pests of the crops (carrot weevil, carrot rust fly, onion maggot, tarnished plant bug and aster leafhopper).

The 2018 results were impressive! There were more natural enemies of insect pests at the vegetative berm enhancement sites compared to the unmanaged berm sites. They provided increased floral resources for pollinators, and insect pests of the crops were not found in any berm sites. More bumble bees were observed than any other pollinator. The study will continue until its completion in April 2020.

Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Master Gardener Summer Workshop 2019
By: Pat Bowman, Niagara Master Gardeners
Details: This year's summer workshop held at the Niagara School of Horticulture saw a large number of enthusiastic MGs eager to brush up on their horticultural skills and studies.

The three seminars offered this year were: "Tricky Traits and Formidable Features" taught by Darrell Bley; "Developing Defences for Diabolical Diseases" by Sue Clarke; and "Scoundrels and Scourges: Profiles of Ontario's Pesky Plants" by Kris Mahoney, PhD.

From left to right, instructors Darrell Bley, Sue Clarke & Kris Mahoney

Stereoscopes were used in Darrell's class to help give the students a better understanding of morphological and structural features in plants that we cannot see too clearly with the naked eye.

The stereoscope examines up close the irritating modified hairs of a *Viburnum rhytidophyllum* (leatherleaf viburnum) that can cause allergic reactions when handled improperly.

Participants in Sue's course learned how to make basic diagnostic assessments of plants affected by disease, pests or unfavourable environmental conditions. Here Sue points to cracks and seepage in a London Planetree (*Platanus x acerifolia*) caused by pressure from within the tree. The exposed sap is attractive to airborne bacteria which can further damage the tree if the bacteria is allowed to persist.

Sue points to seepage on a tree

Sue also spoke about the various roses in the garden that are both resistant and non-resistant to various diseases and afflictions.

There were also many opportunities to photograph some of the lovely plants that were in full bloom. Both days saw plenty of sunshine and warm temperatures.

Examining a healthy spruce branch and the protective waxy surface on the needles with Darrell

June Streadwick, left, Director of Education and Event Organizer with MGOI President Claudette Sims

Peterborough Master Gardeners

Name: Bulbs for All Seasons Technical Update
Details: It was a full house in Peterborough on September 28th for our Bulbs for All Seasons workshop and technical update. After yummy breakfast snacks provided by our MGs, we were energized by Vikki Whitney (Griffins Greenhouse) talking about her passion for spring bulbs and how best to plant for a stunning display once the snow melts.

Peterborough MG Rachel Burrows provided a short demonstration on how to plant a bulb container for spring forcing. Dugald Cameron (former owner of GardenImport) then inspired us with a talk on summer flowering bulbs, with many photos of exotic flowers we can grow in our gardens (and store over the winter).

It was a feast of colour topped off by a fantastic lunch, a variety of bulbs for sale, and a gift of some daffodils and muscari bulbs for every one of the 74 attendees.

Peterborough Coordinator MG Sue Flinders-Adams introduces our speakers

Peterborough MG Rachel Burrows demonstrates how to plant spring bulbs for forcing

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: A Look Inside the Annual MGOI Coordinators' Conference
(by Isabel Belanger, Editor MGOI Newsletter)
Details: Held on October 5th at the lovely renovated Landscape Ontario facility in Milton, the Coordinators' Conference was a day packed full of inspiration. Claudette Sims, President of MGOI, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and Isabel Belanger, Editor of the MGOI Newsletter introduced the Directors and their portfolios.

The day began with the Annual General Meeting which consisted of a review of legal requirements and the budget, as well as voting on motions to accept various items of the general business of MGOI.

The morning included key presentations by various directors. Pam Love, Director of Membership, spoke about the results of the recent survey on member retention.

Pam Love, Director of Membership speaking to a rapt audience

Coordinators and Directors were then provided the opportunity to meet amongst themselves to discuss retention and other issues.

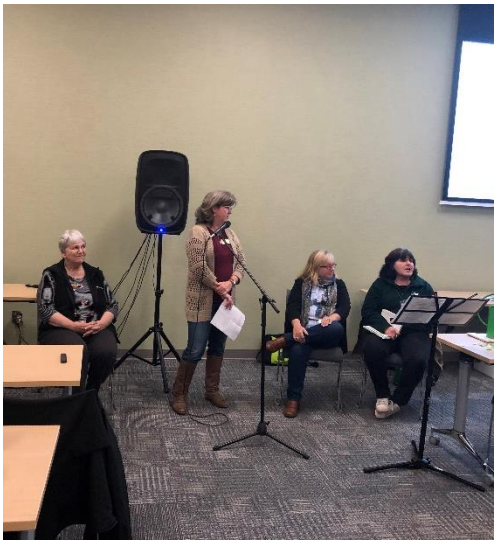
After lunch the Facebook group led an interesting panel discussion on all things relevant to the MGOI Facebook page.

Left-right, MGs Claudette Sims (President), Janet Mackey, Sean James & Anne Bossart

Suzanne Zacharczyk, Director of Operations, was up next and took us through the MGOI Annual Report.

Suzanne Zacharczyk, Director of Operations and Coordinator Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Later in the afternoon Toronto Master Gardener Maureen Hulbert, in the newly created position of Director at Large, led a panel discussion on retention strategies.



Left to right: Kelly Noel, Communications Director, Maureen Hulbert, Pam Love, Membership Director, & Suzanne Zacharczyk, Operations Director

For me it was a great opportunity to put names to faces and to meet so many of the Directors and Coordinators that I correspond with each month through the MGOI Newsletter. I always look forward to hearing about the interesting and beneficial things Master Gardeners are doing throughout Ontario.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Toronto Master Gardeners

Technical Update:
Name: Facing Climate Change: What Gardeners Need to Know
Date: Saturday, January 11th, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm at the Toronto Botanical Garden (paid parking in effect)
Location: 777 Lawrence Ave. E. (at Leslie)
Details: Join

- Dr. John Warland, Director School of Environmental Studies, Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph;
- Dr. Steven Hill, Senior Ecologist, Director Dougan and Associates, Ecological Consulting and Design; and
- Lorraine Johnson, Author, Environmentalist and Garden Activist.

Registration includes snack, lunch and coffee. The goal is zero waste – bring your own water bottle.
Cost is $50.
Further details are available at:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/toronto-master-gardeners-technical-update-2020-tickets-75609902253?discount=MGOImember
Look for the poster in next month's Inside 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.

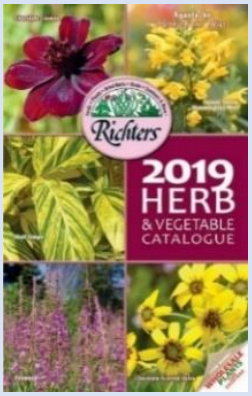
Of Possible Interest to Master Gardeners

2020 Shaw Festival Garden Tour

The Shaw Festival Garden Tour will take place on June 13th, 2020. Master Gardeners may be interested in "making a day of it in Niagara-on-the-Lake" by considering attending the lunch-time play, taking in a backstage tour, and just enjoying the main street.

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/