Inside MGOI

Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Welcome to the February edition of *Inside MGOI*, 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 30 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. Please feel free to submit pictures – they are most welcome!

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:	Karen Sciuk, Kitchener
Corporate Secretary:	Terri Briggs, Lake Simcoe South
Treasurer:	Carol Tuck-Riggs, Niagara
Director of Communications:	Kelly Noel, Ottawa-Carleton
Director of Education:	June Streadwick, Niagara
Director of Events:	Rhonda Grein, Kitchener
Director of Membership:	Pam Love, Durham Region
Director of Operations:	Pamela Dallaire, Cochrane District
Director of Relationship & Partnerships:	Ingrid Janssen, Durham Region
Director of Revenue Development:	Vacant
Director at Large:	Maureen Hulbert, Toronto
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

Statistician: Rhonda Grein, Kitchener
Webmaster: Jim Cook webmaster@mgoi.ca
Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton newsletter@mgoi.ca
Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County
Facebook: Claudette Sims, Halton & 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
  - Upcoming Events

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

February 2020

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

London – Middlesex Master Gardeners

15 Year Anniversary
Bob Worthy
Lynne Campbell

10 Year Anniversary
Rhonda Persichilli
Sandra Elfman
Kim Pawley

5 Year Anniversary
Monica Delmage

Thankyou all for your 'Years of Service'!

Master Gardener Status Achieved
Monica Delmage
Congratulations Monica!

New Master Gardener in Training
Julie Misener
Welcome Julie!

Retirement
Farewell and thankyou to three retiring members – Dorothy McGee, Cheryl Losch, and Curtis Peterson. We will miss these members who contributed in so many ways.

Dorothy McGee, pictured here, served as our Coordinator and in many other roles during her 12 years as a Master Gardener. One of her legacies is the original design and delivery of our very popular 'Seeds to Table' 8 week course.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Master Gardener Status Achieved
Nancy Fowler
Sheila Currie

New Master Gardener in Training / Member Profile
Gayle Quick
Gayle was welcomed to MGOC in January 2020, having already completed all her course requirements at Dalhousie University. With over 35 years experience as a gardener, a certificate in adult education, and also an accomplished woodworker, Gayle brings many skills and talents to our group. We look forward to volunteering with her.

Stratford Master Gardeners

25 Year Anniversary
Kim Brodhagen
Ruth Seyffert
Gord Piggot
Congratulations and thanks to all three who have been great supporters of our group for so long!

Master Gardener Status Achieved
Nancy Burnett
Karen Potter
We look forward to their knowledge and friendship in the years to come.

Member Transfer
Elizabeth Spedaliere
Elizabeth has joined our group after moving back to Canada from Minneapolis, Minnesota. She has years of experience as a MG and is a fountain of knowledge. Welcome, Elizabeth!

New Coordinator
Don Farwell
After 15 years of sterling leadership, Jim Fitzgerald has stepped down as Coordinator of the Stratford Master Gardeners. Fortunately, Jim remains an enthusiastic member, sharing his considerable knowledge about all things gardening and guiding us through the intricacies of MGOI. Thank you, Jim.

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

30 Year Anniversary
Susan Jaward
Aili Dampier
Ralph Bullough

15 Year Anniversary
Gwen Third

Thunder Bay & District MGs Coordinator Lynda Bobinski, back row left, presented Gwen Third, back row right with her 15 year pin.

Front row, L-R – Susan Jaward, Aili Dampier and Ralph Bullough were each presented with their 30 year pins at a recent event at the Thunder Bay Botanical Conservatory.

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved / Member Profile
Carol Wilson

Gardening has always been part of Carol's life. As a young girl she helped her father who had a market garden, nursery, garden centre and landscaping business. He built her a greenhouse, and at the age of nine she began propagating house plants from cuttings.

Aside from her work with PEC MGs, Carol is the Director of the Trenton Horticultural Society and Garden Club, a past Director of the Ameliasburgh Garden Club, and is a member of both the PEC Horticultural Society and the Belleville Garden Club. She also has a passion for roses, and currently holds the trophy for Best Rose in Show at County Blooms for the past two years as well as being the recipient of the Gardener of the Year trophy from the Belleville Garden Club for the past two years. Carol's garden has been enjoyed by many when it was part of local garden tours.

Carol has been the liaison for us with many of the garden groups in our area and is a valuable member of PEC MGs. We are pleased to welcome her as a Certified Master Gardener. Congratulations Carol!

Carol Wilson, right receiving her certificate from Susan Warrack

Master Gardeners Out & About:
Projects & Events

Stratford Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Days
Details: The Stratford group participated in a Seedy Day on Sunday, February 16th at the Local in Stratford. On Wednesday, March 18th the group will participate in another Seedy Day at the Legion in St Mary's ON.

Name: Garden Chats
Details: Stratford MGs lead a discussion on a gardening topic before each meeting of the Stratford and District Horticultural Society (SDHS). January's topic was "Love the Bugs in Your Garden"; February's was "Consider Native Plants for Your Garden"; March's topic will be "Bumblebees"; April's will be "Correct Tree and Shrub Planting"; and May's topic will be "Time to Plant".

The SDHS meets on the last Monday of most months, at 6:30 pm at the Quality Inn in Stratford.
Everyone is welcome.

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Name: Advice Clinics
Details: Thunder Bay & District MGs run an Advice Clinic once a month for staff, family and volunteers at Hogarth Riverview Manor when they hold their Horticultural Therapy activity for residents. For each educational session and talk a plant is chosen to be featured in the 'Plant Profile' section of the program. Information about the plant, and how to grow and care for it is discussed with participants.

L-R – MGs Lynda Lahteenmaa, Aili Dampier, Linda Sharp and Linda Rintamaki answer questions at the February Advice Clinic at Hogarth Riverview Manor

These Advice Clinics and Plant Profile sessions provide an educational aspect of the Horticultural Therapy Program that benefits those assisting with or participating in the program.

L-R – MG Linda Rintamaki, MGiT Rosemary McNabb, MGs Aili Dampier and Linda Sharp, MGiT Andrea Steinhaeusser and MG Lynda Lahteenmaa provide information on Overwintering Succulents during a "Plant Profile" session

Name: Visit to the Thunder Bay Botanical Conservatory
Details: TB&D MGs know where to go to avoid a cold winter day! They recently took the opportunity to visit the Thunder Bay Botanical Conservatory to celebrate members who received their 30-year and 15-year pins (see Milestones, above). It was so nice to enjoy a tropical environment while identifying various plants and fruit trees, along with many flowers in bloom.

L-R Front – MGs Gordon Ward, Linda Sharp, Lynda Lahteenmaa; Middle – Sylvia Goodheart, Susan Jaward, Aili Dampier, Ralph Bullough, Linda Rintamaki; Back – Lynda Bobinski, Gwen Third

Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Technical Update (TU):
Climate Change: What Gardeners Need to Know
Details: On January 11th, as rain poured down in unseasonable torrents, Toronto MGs hosted 180 attendees for a very successful Technical Update about Climate Change. Three speakers from different disciplines – Meteorology, Ecology and Horticulture – each provided insights from their own perspectives that knit together into a single, unassailable message: that climate change is upon us and even our best efforts are unlikely to reverse it. Hence, we must learn to mitigate and adapt to its effects.

Photo credit: Odette McIntyre

For example, intense weather events will likely become more frequent so we must be prepared for floods and drought. Increased humidity means that some pests and diseases may become more prevalent, and temperature change means we will also see species previously uncommon in southern Ontario become more common.

So, what can we do? It wasn't all doom and gloom. Lorraine Johnson, author of numerous gardening books, delivered a hopeful message encouraging us to focus on a diversity of native species, using water wisely, limiting our carbon footprints (e.g. get rid of your lawn: no lawn = no gas mower!) and working with, rather than against, nature.

Our amazing organizational team ensured that the day ran smoothly, the food was superb, the donation endeavour (aka raffle) had amazing prizes, there were interesting vendors, and that our efforts to reduce and recycle culminated in our producing only two small bags of garbage! Kudos to them all!

Photo credit: Tina Cesaroni

Halton Master Gardeners

Name: Annual General Meeting (AGM) & Potluck Luncheon
Details: MG Claudette Sims graciously opened her home to Halton MGs in January for their AGM and a potluck luncheon – a positive way to start the new year by reviewing 2019, reflecting on moving forward into 2020, and enjoying good food and good company. Business came before pleasure and everyone congregated in the living room to go over the business at hand.

L-R: MGs Kate Sault, Kathleen Livingston, Cathy Kavassalis, Claudette Sims, Janet Hughes-Mackey

Since each MG group is required to provide input into the MGOI Annual Report it was an excellent way to support Kate Sault, Coordinator, in her responsibilities. It was also an eye-opener to review the details of what is required each year: statistics re: membership, budget, projects and events, meetings, MG requirements, etc.

The food was excellent, and everyone enjoyed eating and socializing. This proved to be a great way to have a very productive business meeting.

From left to right: MGs Claudette Sims, Janet Mackey-Hughes, Liza Drozdov, Marie Clarke-Davies, Hariette Henry, Cathy Kavassalis, Isabel Belanger, Patty King, Lynn Courtney, Kathleen Livingston, Kate Sault (you only see her drink....)

Durham Master Gardeners

Name: A Few Events
Details: Durham MGs were out and about at a few events worth mentioning: back on the 11th of January, 12 of us represented DMG at the Technical Update held in Toronto at the Toronto Botanical Gardens; Cori Whittington attended the Eco Conference held at the OTU (Ontario Tech University) in Oshawa; and Sherry Dobson and Cori (busy lady!) held a 'Planning and Seeding' workshop with a troop of Girl Guides.

What else, you say? What else, indeed. We are amping up for the coming Home Show season but more specifically Canada Blooms! 21 days to go!

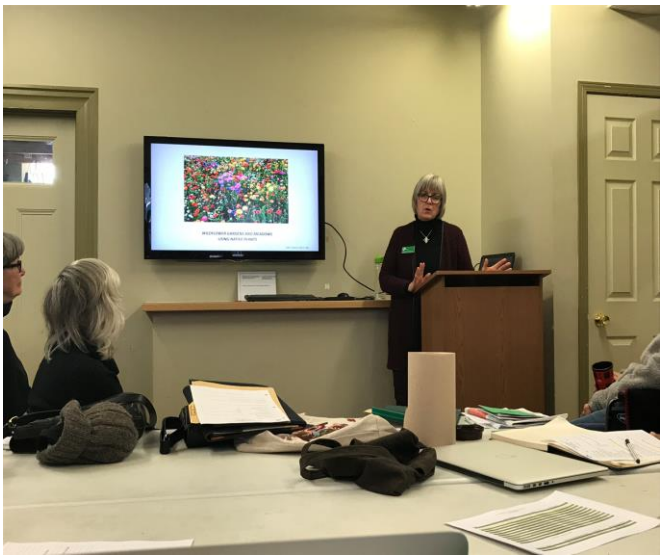
CANADA BLOOMS PRESENTED BY MarksChoice EXCLUSIVE TO HOME HARDWARE

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Wildflower Gardens and Meadows
Details: On February 8th, 2020, PEC MGs were treated to a presentation by Cathy Thompson on her recent project to add a wildflower garden to her four acre property. Cathy went through the process step-by-step for us: choosing a site, having a soil test done, and the details of how to decide what you want in your garden.

She suggested including annuals and perennials with staggered flowering times so that the garden is attractive from early spring right into autumn. Cathy also advised us to ensure that there is a mix of plants to provide structure: those with sturdy stalks and long blooming times, and those "filler" plants providing short bursts of colour through flower or foliage.

Cathy stressed the importance of using native plants and wildflowers that are environmentally friendly and provide attractive, low maintenance gardens for your property or public space. Start small and have a plan.



UPCOMING EVENTS

London – Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Saturday, London's Garden Fest
Date: Saturday March 7th, 2020 from 10am-3pm
Location: Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre, London 656 Elizabeth Street London N5Y 6L3
Cost: $5 at the door. Children 12 and under Free.

Get a jump start on spring at Seedy Saturday, our annual garden fest event that's now in its 13th year. What brings everyone back each year?

- vendors with high quality, unique and organic seeds
- a marketplace offering supplies and décor for home gardeners interested in growing their own food or beautifying ornamental gardens
- locally grown or made food, skincare and other products
- the opportunity to meet and talk with local vendors, exhibitors, and community groups
- three educational and interesting talks throughout the day promoting eco-friendly and sustainable gardening practices
- a fun way to participate in a community seed swap

If you love gardening, this is the event you won't want to miss!

Guelph – Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: Gardening Skills
Topic: From Seed to Table
Details: G-W Master Gardeners will present a Gardening course in March 2020. The course is modelled on a very successful course developed by the London – Middlesex MG group – *Seeds to Table*.

London – Middlesex MGs have been very generous in sharing their ideas and course material. We appreciate it!

Northumberland Master Gardeners

Name: Let It Grow
Location: Port Hope Library
Dates: April 5th & April 19th
Details: Northumberland MGs will present a number of short talks on gardening. Topics include: Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring; Seed Starting; Choosing Perennials for Our Changing Climate; Garden Planning; and Pests in the Garden.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa - Carlton

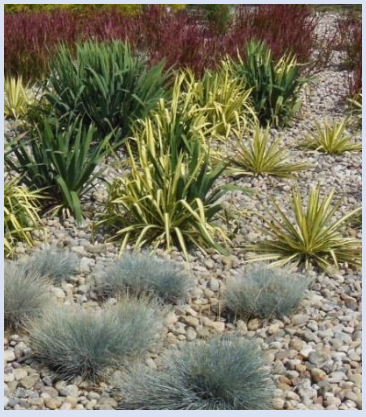
Master Gardener Lectures – 2020 Series Lineup

Tuesday April 21
Our Gardens and Climate Change
Diane McClymont Peace

Tuesday May 5
Colour Through the Seasons
Candace Dressler and Rob Stuart

Tuesday May 19
Into the Night Garden
Judith Cox

Tuesday September 15
Another Gardening Year Behind Us
Mary Shearman Reid



Tuesday September 29
A Garden for the Birds
Julianne Labreche

Time: 7pm to 9pm
Location: Building 72, Central Experimental Farm
Cost: Individual lectures:
$12 for Members of Friends of the Central Experimental Farm
$15 for Non-Members
Purchase the series:
5 for $50 for Members
5 for $60 Non-Members

For more information please visit:
www.friendsofthefarm.ca
613-230-3276
info@friendsofthefarm.ca

Northumberland Master Gardeners

Name: Bus Trip to Montreal, Quebec
Dates: June 23rd to June 26th
Details: Highlights will include: Montreal Botanical Gardens; Les Jardins Michel Corbeil; Machal Gardens; and Chillane Gardens
Cost: $580.00 per person based on double occupancy, $820.00 per person based on single occupancy.
Contact: Christa Bisanz at bisanz@eagle.ca for details.

Name: 2020 Atlantic Master Gardener Conference

Topic: Designing Adaptive Gardens in Atlantic Canada
Dates: July 9th & 10th, 2020
Location: Truro, NS
Keynote Speaker: Julie Moir Messervey, award winning landscape designer from Vermont and author of *Landscaping Ideas that Work* and other books.
Julie Moir Messervy and internationally renowned cellist Yo Yo Ma, in collaboration with landscape architects from the City of Toronto's Parks and Recreation department, designed the Toronto Music Garden.

One of her books, *The Toronto Music Garden: Inspired by Bach*, was about this experience.

More details are coming soon.

MGOI Summer Workshop 2020

Dates: July 25th & 26th, 2020
Details: There are only a few spaces left for the 12th annual MGOI Summer Workshop to be held at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture. The topics this year are:

- Soil Health: Understanding, Maintaining and Sustaining – Darrell Bley
- Attracting Bees and Other Pollinators to the Garden – Chris Murphy
- What's Bugging my Trees and Shrubs? – Kris Mahoney

The cost for the two-day weekend is $260. Upon completion of the workshop, each Master Gardener and Master Gardener in Training will receive $60 from the MGOI Board to help offset their expenses in attending.

Details of the sessions as well as all the registration and accommodation information are available on the MGOI website, www.mgoi.ca under "Workshops". This information is also available from Yvonne Causer, ycauser@hotmail.com, Kate Sault, saultkate@gmail.com, or June Streadwick, streadwick@sympatico.ca.

Stratford Master Gardeners

SAVE THE DATE!!

Technical Update
Topic: Gardening for the Planet: Creating Biodiverse Habitats in Our Gardens
Date: Saturday, October 17th, in Stratford
Cost: $50
Speakers:

- Dr. Sandy Smith: Forestry Specialist and Professor at the University of Toronto. Dr. Smith specializes in Urban Forestry, Climate Change, Restoration and Stability of habitats.
- Dr. Sheila Colla: Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University, Toronto. Her research deals with the conservation of at-risk species including native pollinators and wildflowers.
- Sean James, MG: Owner of Sean James Consulting and Design which uses sustainable landscaping practices and promotes biodiversity.

Registration details coming soon!

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

Haliburton Master Gardeners County Guides

Haliburton MGs have created four brochures on topics of interest to the gardening public. Ontario Master Gardeners may find these quite useful.

- Deer Me
- *Iris germanica*
- Christmas Cactus
- Wild Leeks

Links to these files are in the emailed newsletter notice

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 also attending the lunch-time play, taking in a backstage tour, and just enjoying the main street.