Inside MGOI

Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the January edition of *Inside MGOI*, the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. (MGOI) newsletter. The Newsletter focuses on you, Master Gardeners! This is your venue for providing updates, insights and the inside scoop from MGOI Board & Committee members, Directors, and the 29 Master Gardener groups throughout Ontario. The Newsletter features member milestones, 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.

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

January 2022
Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Celebrating Sue

by Ren Duinker, Coordinator PEC MGs

Left to right: Cathy Thompson, Sue Flinders-Adams, Susan Warrack, Ren Duinker, Margot Rivers

Many of us joined Master Gardeners in part to make gardening friends. Most of us found those friends and some of us were very lucky to make some very good friends. In the eastern region, we are again lucky to have a warm and sensitive Director whom so many of us consider to be a very close friend.

The organization – MGOI – allows each group to develop a close relationship with their Regional Directors. In the east, we've been particularly lucky to have Sue Flinders-Adams at the helm for the past six years. Sue is retiring in January and our executive in Prince Edward County wanted to do something to thank her. Just before Christmas, we took Sue out for lunch and enjoyed an in-person visit and a few laughs.

Sue Flinders-Adams is a quiet woman, but she's also a powerhouse both inside MGOI and in her everyday life. She puts her heart into everything she does and goes beyond any job description for all those in her life.

To describe Sue, you'd have to start with grandmother, then mother, wife…etc. Sue is first and foremost a family person, her family means everything to her and sometimes that generosity of spirit spills over onto those of us in the eastern region.

There's been so many times I have called Sue for advice, support – and yes, to vent. She is always there, always supportive, and always ready to listen. Her years as a teacher with a background in psychology make her an accomplished educator – she could always quickly read a situation and know whether you needed a firm look or a hug – with Sue, it was usually a hug.

Sue became a certified MG in 2011 and has given so much to Master Gardeners as a coordinator, a director, a speaker, an author, and a great gardener. She happily shares her knowledge and is always eager to hear your experiences too.

In the east, we always had a voice at Board meetings, and we knew that Sue would take our ideas and concerns to the Board with a level head and her graceful approach. Her warmth and sincerity when dealing with the groups and individuals in her region is well known and appreciated by all of us.

On behalf of all of us in Prince Edward County, thank you Sue for everything, but mostly for being the amazing woman you are. Keep in touch and we will too.

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Margot Rivers

There's one in every group, the member whose hand flies up whenever you ask for help; in our group, that person is Margot Rivers. Margot is first and foremost an artist and we are lucky to have her flare for detail in everything we do. She is our secretary and happily preforms these duties, keeping us all informed by sending out agendas, minutes and information.

Left to Right: Susan Warrack, Margot Rivers, and Coordinator Ren Duinker

Margot's cheerful personality and sense of humour make our Executive meetings a pleasure we all look forward to. During our Zoom meetings, as a pretty deaf Chair, I also have the advantage of Margot's watchful eye for any member who wishes to speak. She also keeps us on track and makes sure all items are covered, all members are given an opportunity to speak, and the minutes are meticulously recorded. Thanks, Margot for everything you do. We are thrilled to welcome you into the world of Master Gardeners!

Guelph Wellington Master Gardeners

New Master Gardeners in Training
Janine Robertson
Quiet Nevin
Ryan de Boer

We had a total of 9 new MGITs in 2021!

Member Profile
Ryan de Boer

The Brock Road Community Garden had its inaugural year in 2021 with four raised beds and four gardeners. Ryan was the co-ordinator and instrumental in getting this community garden up and running.

In addition to loads of fruits/veggies and herbs grown for personal use, the garden also grew and donated a bag of hops to Royal City Brewing Company for their annual community brew in support of Autism Behaviour Services in Fergus.

At the end of the 2021 season the garden was expanded to include eight new in-ground plots to accommodate new members. Entering the 2022 season the community garden group has grown to 10 members. The 2022 season will focus on supporting the new members to establish their plots, adding pollinator plants along the garden perimeter, and continuing donations to community organizations.

Durham Master Gardeners

Member Transfer
Ann Joyner

All of us at DMG would like to wish Ann all the best with her new group, Grey County Master Gardeners. Ann was an amazing asset to DMG; she was involved on the Executive Committee in the shared role as Event Co-coordinator, designing and presenting Zoom presentations, volunteering at the Giving Gardens, etc. OK I will stop there as the list could go on.

Ann you have always been a pleasure to be around! Thank you, Ann, you will be missed. Our doors are always open! Grey County you have a great lady joining your group!

Northumberland Master Gardeners

20+ Years Anniversary
Arlene Foster

Alene Foster, left with Coordinator Christa Bisanz

10 Year Anniversary
Judy Kaufmann

Judy Kaufmann, left with Coordinator Christa Bisanz

Grey County Master Gardeners

10 Year Anniversary
Margot Byers

Margot's connection to Master Gardeners goes back to 2008. After completing both the Creating Landscapes and Horticulturist Certificates (with distinction) from the University of Guelph, she started her company, **Ladybird Garden Design** and joined her local Oakville MGs.

In 2011, when she and her husband moved full time to their country home in the Beaver Valley, she transferred to Grey County MGs and we have been the luckier for it.

Since then, Margot has taken on anything that we throw at her, including the roles of secretary and more recently, Co-coordinator. Together with other MGs she developed a number of presentations. Since Covid, she has continued to present on-line and is our de facto Zoom maestra.

Margot says she's always loved "playing in the dirt" and has photographic evidence – herself as a three-year-old completely covered in mud. Along with plants and animals (a Briard named Stella, in particular) Margot loves "nature and its natural beauty".

Margot Byers (R) receiving her 10-year-badge from fellow Co-coordinator Vicky Thompson (L)

Master Gardener Status Achieved
Paulette Kirkey

Growing up in a farm near Temiskaming, Ontario, Paulette's love of the land started early.

Even after moving to Toronto, where she worked in IT for 30 years, she always had a garden, albeit "the size of a postage stamp".

In 2008, she and her husband moved to a rural property near Markdale, and ten years later she took the plunge and joined Grey County MGs. She completed the three required horticulturel courses at the University of Guelph in less than a year, all while looking after her four-year-old granddaughter. (Think about it!)

Paulette is a true force-of-nature and researcher extraordinaire. Pre-Covid she created a comprehensive presentation on soil science, an area of horticulture she's particularly passionate about.

Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Ontario Volunteer Service Award 15 Years

Suzanne Seryck

We did not have an opportunity to present Suzanne with her Award as Covid 19 interfered with our in-person meetings. We appreciate her many contributions on various committees over the past years as a valued member of our group.

Suzanne joined Toastmasters to improve her speaking skills (we already thought she was great!) and encouraged others to do the same.

She recently decided to leave our Master Gardener group and we will miss the way she brightened our meetings with her enthusiasm for gardening knowledge. We wish her well in future endeavours.

Suzanne sent the following message:

"I have loved being a member of the Peterborough Master Gardeners; it is an incredibly friendly, informative group that I have learned and grown so much from. I want to thank every member of the group – their knowledge and love of all things gardening has never failed to inspire me to become both a better gardener and a better person."

Member Profiles

Chris Freeburn
Sue Flinders-Adams

We are very grateful to Chris and Sue for leading us through the last two and half years as our Co-coordinators. They started in their role in June 2019 and have been guiding lights throughout these challenging times. Zoom meetings with speakers were initiated, monthly newsletters sent, socially-distanced outside gatherings scheduled when reasonable, outreach to members facilitated and online community engagement encouraged and facilitated.

Even though they are stepping down from this position they are remaining on our coordinating committee where their expertise will be appreciated by new Co-coordinators Cheryl Harrison and Lois Scott. Thank you Chris and Sue!

Sue, left & Chris
Photo Credit: Emma Murphy

A Message from the President

Karen Sciuk, President MGOI

MGOI is advertising three upcoming positions on the MGOI Board. Vacancies include:

1. Secretary
2. East Region Director
3. North Region Director

Our East Region Director Sue Flinders-Adams has completed her six year term and is stepping down in January, and both our North Region Director Kathleen Gorsline and Corporate Secretary Terri Briggs will similarly have completed their six year terms sometime before the 2022 AGM. Terri would like someone to join soon as a board member at large so that the Corporate Secretary training can happen well in advance of the October 2022 AGM.

If MGs are interested in any of these positions we like to appoint them to the Board as Directors at Large with a few months of overlap where possible.

The job descriptions are posted on pages 19-21 at the end of this Newsletter. If you are interested in any of these positions please contact the Board member whom you may potentially be replacing.

Also note that MGOI will be looking for a Vice President soon.

Thank you.

Volunteer Opportunity

Maureen Hulbert, Director of Membership

Timeframe:
Ongoing.

Welcome potential Master Gardeners!

This opportunity takes about half an hour every other week or so. It's an easy way to get in your hours from the comfort of home!

Description: Would you like to be the first MG to welcome potential new recruits to MGOI? We are looking for a friendly front person to respond to inquiries about joining Master Gardeners. All the templates with information about each group are already set up. Simply locate where the inquiry is coming from and reply with the appropriate template. Training and support are available. Please reply to Maureen at: maureen@downtoearthtoronto.com.

Master Gardener Group Websites / Links

A Message from Jim Cook, MGOI Webmaster

The MGOI website lists current links to group websites and social media, such as Facebook and Instagram: https://www.mgoi.ca/groups/groups.html

This is a reminder to please inform myself, Jim Cook, MGOI webmaster of any changes to your links to keep them up-to-date. My address is: webmaster@mgoi.ca.

Thanks!

Update – Invasive Alien Plant Species

Cathy Kavassalis, CCIPR Team Lead, Halton Master Gardeners & Claudette Sims, Halton Master Gardeners

The increasing numbers of invasive plants entering Canada each year cause serious negative impacts in our communities. Regulation is the most logical course of action to slow the spread. To that end, we have created the **Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulations (CCIPR).** Our coalition's overall objective is to protect our land and water from invasive plant species with the creation of:

- Effective pre- and post-border invasive species risk assessments;
- Bans on the sale and movement of high risk invasive plant species;
- Labelling to identify and educate the public about lower-risk invasive plants;
- A verifiable industry-wide Code of Conduct;
- Public education including alternatives to invasive plants.

The CCIPR was formed in January 2022 in response to an outcry from the public, voiced on the 26 thousand member Master Gardeners of Ontario (MGOI) Facebook group. A coalition of volunteers representing organizations and individuals from across Ontario then joined together to form the CCIPR to achieve the proposed objectives. A proposal to regulate plants in the horticultural trade has since been drafted by MGOI. The coalition is in the initial stages of organizing and building capacity. Our hope is to expand across Ontario with the help of individuals and local gardening organizations, and eventually expand across Canada.

How Invasive Plants Arrive in Canada

The horticultural trade is the largest gateway for the introduction of invasive plant species according to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). They arrive as ornamentals and are sold to consumers who are unaware of their negative impacts. Because many spread so quickly and the cost for their removal escalates over time as the plant population escalates, management can become nearly impossible. Preventing their introduction and establishment in our environment with legislation is the easiest, most logical and cost-effective course of action. Along with regulation, education and clear, concise advice to identify, manage and remove invasive plants will give the public the tools required to take action. A variety of native plant lists and non-invasive plant alternatives will be developed to support gardeners and those interested in restoration. An example of such a publication is 'Grow Me Instead': https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/grow-me-instead/

This is our best hope to prevent and mitigate the serious ecological and socio-economic consequences of invasive plants in our local communities.

If you support our objectives, please let us know. If you'd like to become more involved and join our working group, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Cathy Kavassalis at: c.kavassalis@gmail.com. Your support can help us apply for grants and encourage others to take action.

So pretty 'til it's not. 5 minutes to plant, 5+ years of back breaking work to eradicate

'The Goutweed Support Group on Facebook is proof that the invasive plant goutweed is affecting gardeners negatively — physically, mentally and financially. 'Someone in the group called it "the cockroach of all weeds,"' says Carla MacDonald-Campbell, who is fighting an invasion of fast-growing goutweed in her garden in Clyde River, P.E.I. (Sara Fraser/CBC).' https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-garden-goutweed-invasive-plant-1.6034648

Photo: Variegated leaves of goutweed,
Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org
https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/aegopodium.html

Jumping Worms, Part 2 – Stop the Spread

by Claudette Sims, Halton Master Gardeners & Past President, MGOI

The November 2021 issue of *Inside MGOI* brought you tips about best practices to stop the spread of Invasive Asian Jumping Worms (JWs) at spring plant sales. In this issue I would like to provide further information about how to identify JWs and how they differ from the European Earthworms commonly found in our Ontario gardens. Currently there is no viable way to control JWs, therefore it is crucial to curb their spread.

Controls for JWs

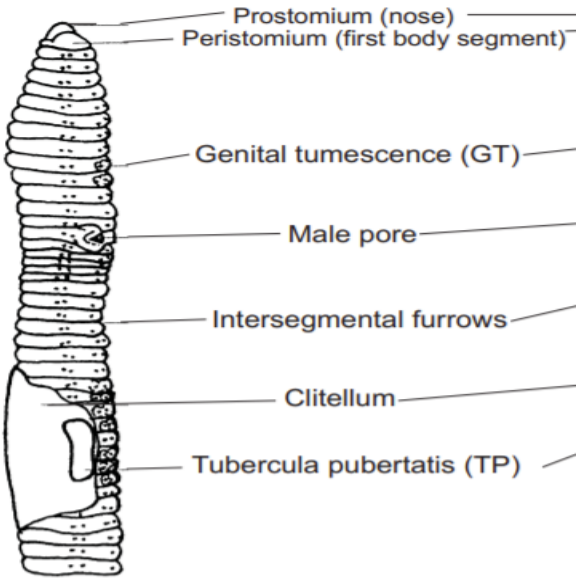
Although there are no viable Jumping Worm control methods at this time, the following are being explored:

- **Abrasive materials** such as biochar (ground up charcoal) and diatomaceous earth (fossilized diatoms) show some promise in killing adult jumping worms. Incorporate one of these products into the infested soil to a depth where the worms are located.
- **Saponins**: Saponins are plant derived chemicals which can act as pesticides. Some golf courses use fertilizers containing saponins to control earthworms in their turf grasses, e.g. Castaway 3-0-1 from Planet Turf, contains saponin oil derived from *Camellia sinensis*. Saponin-based fertilizers work best when applied after rain or irrigation to expel the earthworms from the soil causing them to desiccate and die. Alfalfa is another source of saponins. There is a concern re: potential negative impacts of saponins on other soil biota such as springtails.
- While the current advice is for "property owners to contact a pest control company", consider the following:
    - Because there are no known control options, companies may not be able to do much beyond "limiting" populations. The worms reproduce prolifically, and a single egg is all that is needed for them to begin the spread.
    - JWs can be spread via vehicle tires or equipment used by any control company or landscaper.

Jumping Worms Identification

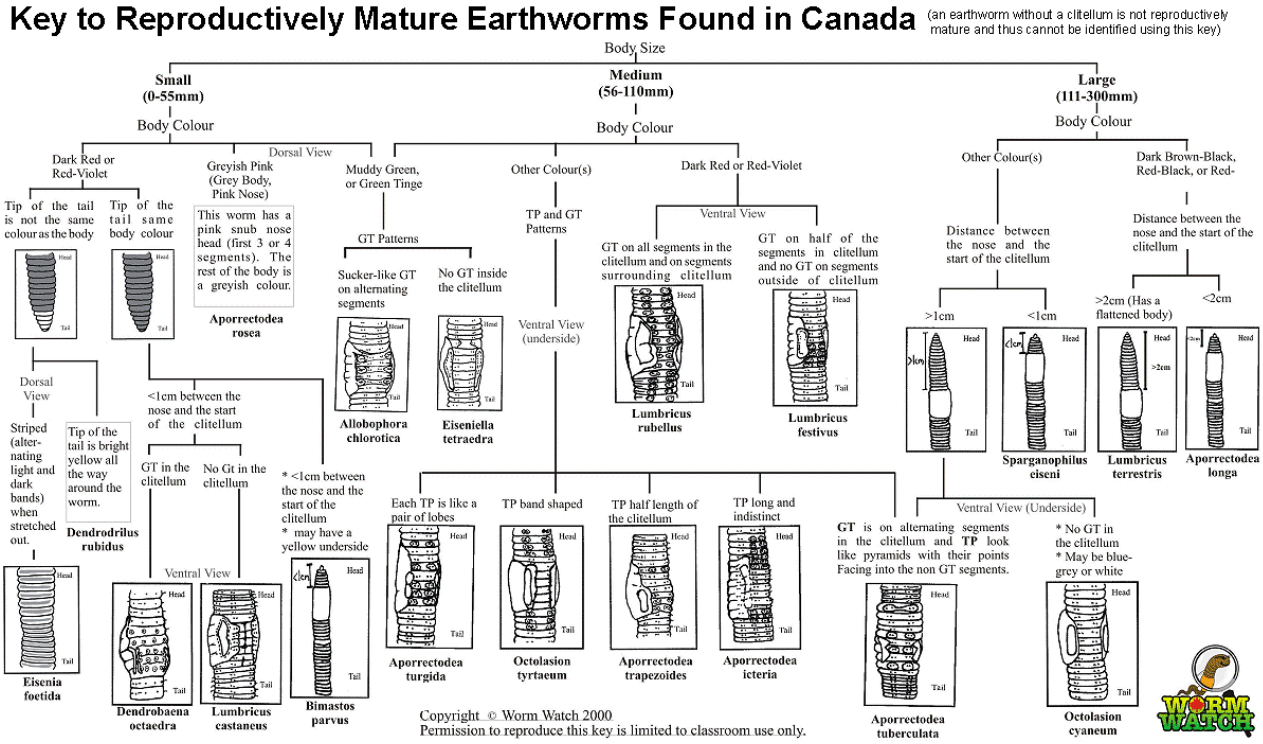
Comparison of Asian Jumping Worms and European Earthworms (Definitive JW ID in red)		
	Asian Jumping Worms	**European Worms**
Scientific names	• *Amynthas tokioensis* • *Amynthas agrestis* • *Metaphire hilgendorfi*	• *Lumbricus rubellus* (Common Red wiggler) • Other various species
Life cycle	• Annual species • Several generations per season • Overwinters as cocoon • Parthenogenic (asexual reproduction) • Takes about 70 days to grow to an identifiable size • Baby JWs are tiny, about 10 mm in length • Large worms seen early in the year are not likely JWs • Small white worms seen in spring are “pot worms”, not JWs and not actually earthworms at all	• Live more than one season • One generation per season • Adults burrow into soil during winter and re-emerge in spring • Sexual reproduction
Adult length	• 7 - 20 cm depending on species • 12.5 cm/3 inches (*Amynthas tokioensis*) • 14 cm/5 inches (*A. agrestis*) • 10.9 - 17 cm/8 -12 inches (*Metaphire hilgendorfi*)	• 3-10 cm (Common red wiggler) • Up to 30 cm
Skin	• 2-tone colour • Darker on their dorsal (back) than on their ventral side	• Reddish brown (Red wiggler) • Red-violet to dark brown (other earthworms)
Body	• "Rigid" body	• "Flaccid" body • Can wrap around your finger

Clitellum	• Milky white to grey in appearance • Whole, not split • **Goes all the way around the body** • **Located on segments #14-16, nearer to the head** • **“Smooth” clitellum that you can't feel with your finger**	• Raised, pink/red • Saddle shape, split down the back • Does not wrap around completely on the underside • Located on segments #26 – 32, further from the head • "Raised" clitellum that you can “feel” with your finger
Behaviour	• Very active, snake-like movements • A rigid body which can "bounce" and “flop” around • **Can shed tail when aggravated** • Usually found in top layer of soil	• Less active, “wiggles” • Slightly limp • Will not shed tail • Borrows deeper into soil
Soil signature (castings)	• Soil looks like "coffee grounds" • Very loose	• Castings in "piles"
Cocoons	• Almost impossible to differentiate from soil particles	



The location of the **clitellum** is species-specific on all earthworms. This clitellum is located starting on the 28th segment. It is therefore **NOT** a Jumping Worm.

A JW clitellum is located on the **14th - 16th** segment.



Learn More – References

- Jumping Worms - University of Minnesota Extension
- Plant Sales and Jumping Worms
- Heat kills invasive jumping worm cocoons, could help limit spread
- University Place: Invasive Jumping Worms (Video)
- Invasive Asian Jumping Earthworms
- NC State Extension Jumping Worms
- Stop the spread of jumping worms and other invasive species
- Jumping Worms (MGOI Facebook post)
- They are here! (MGOI Facebook post)
- Map of Jumping Worm Sightings
- Confirmed invasive jumping worm sightings along the Canada-USA border
- New Asian pheretimoid "jumping earthworm" records in Canada
- Asian pheretimoid earthworms in North America north of Mexico: An illustrated key to the genera Amynthas, Metaphire, Pithemera, and Polypheretima (Clitellata: Megascolecidae)
- Using Organic Products to Reduce Earthworm Castings
- General Earthworm Diagram (Worm Watch)

Master Gardeners Out & About

Projects & Events

Halton Master Gardeners

Name: St. Mark's Church Planting Bee & Seed Library

Details: In October 2021, with inspiration from Action 13 and Community Permaculture Lab in Dundas, ON, MG Lynn Courtney and MGiT Kirsten McCarthy participated as lead gardeners in a fall pollinator garden planting bee at St. Mark's Church just outside downtown Dundas.

MGiT Kirsten McCarthy, middle demonstrating winter sowing with MG Lynn Courtney, right. Left, Liz Koblyk with her 2 daughters

The 100' x 3' garden bed was prepared earlier in the summer and with the help from many generous donations of native seedlings and plants, community volunteers enjoyed a lovely early October morning together. After the bed was filled with native plants, a sign was designated to bring awareness of the new community native garden.

The pollinator garden, St. Mark's Church

Prepared Garden Bed

Name: Ellen Osler House Native Planting Event

Details: In November 2021, MG Lynn Courtney and MGiT Kirsten McCarthy, along with MGiT Jean Jacobs, were invited by Action 13 and Community Permaculture Lab to a native planting event at Ellen Osler House in downtown Dundas. The large garden bed was filled with generously donated native shade plants to help increase biodiversity in the garden and bring awareness to pollinator friendly gardens. Winter sown jugs of native seeds were created and placed in a sunny location to await germination in the spring. We can't wait to see these beautiful gardens next spring!

MG Lynn Courtney, right and MGiT Jean Jacobs, left (planting seeds). Anne Mette Pederson, standing and MGiT Kirsten McCarthy, standing, back to the camera

MG Lynn Courtney, right with MGiT Kirsten McCarthy

Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: Seed Stratification at Blooming Boulevards
Details: It is that time of the year when gardeners start planning for planting in spring. At Blooming Boulevards (http://www.bloomingboulevards.org/) MG Jeanne McRight and MGiT Mohan Iyer got together to start stratifying the native seeds that were collected in the fall.

MG Jeanne McRight with MGiT Mohan Iyer

For moist stratification, seeds are spread onto damp to moist coffee filters and then covered with another moist filter, folded, placed in Ziploc bags, labelled and then refrigerated for approximately 60-90 days depending on the seed.

Stratifying Seeds - Swamp Milkweed

Several species of seeds – pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*), purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), hoary vervain (*Verbena stricta*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), foxglove beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*) – to name a few – have been stratified and stored. Several more hours of work are needed until all the seeds required for the boulevards for this coming season are stratified. Once stratified, the seeds will be sowed in a soilless medium, placed under lights, cared for and monitored closely.

It is important to mention here that Blooming Boulevards follows ethical seed collection practices and has a letter of permission from the city to collect seeds on this site. The Seed Collectors' Code of Ethics can be found here: http://www.bloomingboulevards.org/ethical-standards-forr-naseed-collecting.

Guelph & Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: 2022 Year of the Garden
Details: The 'Year of the Garden' committee is looking at ways our group can participate and celebrate in 2022. The committee is working on developing a website and budget for the event.

Name: Assorted Indoor Plant Photos!
Details: Great to see colour and texture this time of year!

Thanks to Robert P., Sharon L., Janine, Lyanne, Suzanne, Louise, and Ryan for their contributions.

Northumberland Master Gardeners

Name: Holiday Potluck
Details: Northumberland Master Gardeners joined together for a Holiday Potluck on December 1, 2021 prior to the regular monthly meeting. The meeting room was beautifully decorated by the social committee and the shared appetizers were delicious! It was nice to see folks in person.

Northumberland Master Gardeners at the Potluck

Centrepiece created by MG Marguerite Long, a member of our social committee

Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Name: Year of the Garden 2022 Speaker
Details: To initiate The Year of the Garden 2022, Peterborough MGs are focussing on Canada's First Nations and the historical and cultural relationships they have with native plants.

Our January 2022 speaker was Dr. Nancy J. Turner from the University of Victoria in B.C. She spoke on traditional land use and resource management systems of the Indigenous peoples of North West North America. It was an excellent presentation.

Name: Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners Blog
Details: MGs Emma Murphy and MJ Pilgrim, members of a team of weekly bloggers from Peterborough MGs, keep us organized and our blogs posted. Emma reports that we have now submitted 215 blogs and have 608 followers on our website: https://peterboroughmastergardeners.com/, as well as 189 Twitter followers!

Stratford and Area Master Gardeners

Name: RELEAF Stratford
Details: ReLeaf Stratford is a project of the Stratford and Area Master Gardeners and promotes the planting of native species to support our area's biodiversity. The goal, with the aid of our partner groups, is to plant 2022 trees and shrubs in the year 2022.

Our website releafstratford.ca contains a plethora of information about native plants, where to purchase them, how to correctly plant a tree, tree activities for families, and more. New content is being added regularly.

ReLeaf is presenting a series of speakers hosted through the Stratford Public Library. Details can be found in Upcoming Events.

Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Toronto Master Gardeners Virtual Technical Update

A great success! Thanks to all who attended!

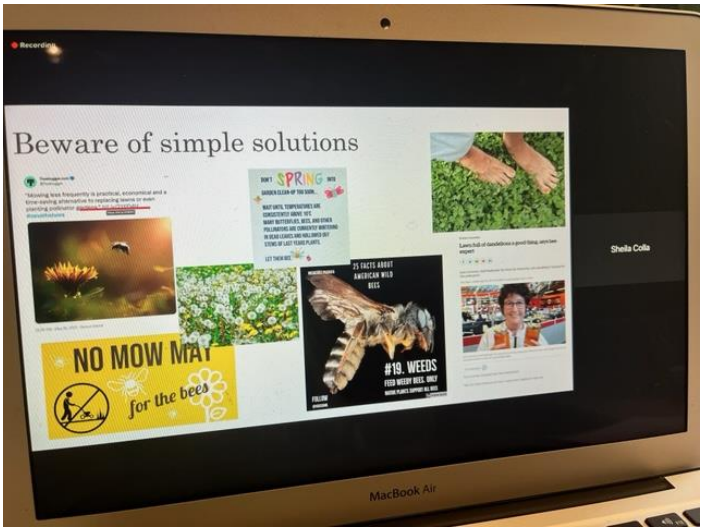
Details: The Toronto Master Gardeners held their 2022 Virtual Technical Update on Saturday, January 8th. The theme, "Ecological Gardening – Connecting with Nature and Community," was timely, and we know from feedback received that it resonated strongly with the nearly 400 master gardeners and gardening enthusiasts who attended from across the country and further afield.

The topics of the three speakers: Dr. Sheila Colla on understanding and protecting our native bees; horticulturist and designer Cole Burrell on plants and their ecological connections to natural systems and cultural landscapes; and Rebecca McMackin, on her ground breaking work as the director of horticulture of Brooklyn Bridge Park – were very different, yet melded together to provide a fascinating and thought-provoking look at different aspects of ecological gardening.

All the speakers gave those who attended so many great ideas to take home and use in our own gardens.

Cole Burrell on Ecosystems

Rebecca McMackin on the Brooklyn Bridge Park Plantings



Dr. Sheila Colla on Native Bees

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stratford and Area Master Gardeners

Name: Creating Nature Inspired Gardens
Details: The [Creating Nature Inspired Gardens Series] is a collaboration between [Stratford Public Library] and [Stratford and Area Master Gardeners] celebrating the year of the garden, 2022. Learn about the biodiversity project [ReLeaf Stratford], and listen to specialists on conserving and restoring native trees, layered gardens, small space gardening, and native pollinators.

From Seed to Seed: Conserving and Restoring Native Trees
Dr. Stefan Weber
February 10

Layered Designs for Natural Gardens
Sean James
March 10

Small Trees for Small Spaces
Cathy Kavassalis
April 14

Native Plants for Pollinators
Dr. Victoria MacPhail
May 12

Registration:
Register for the Creating Nature Inspired Gardens Series

Questions? Contact Robyn at **rgodfrey@pcin.on.ca** or **519-271-0220 x 132**.

_____

Name: Niagara Parks School of Horticulture Winter Workshops
Details: Master Gardeners of Ontario (MGOI) is pleased to host a series of 4 workshops presented by the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture.

Workshop 1

- Thursday, February 24th at 7pm – 'The History of the Plant Kingdom, Part 1' with Darrell Bley

"Today's plant world is incredibly diverse. It includes members of the Magnolia family and encompasses simple algae, liverworts and mosses, as well as the majestic conifers that dominate vast geographical regions of our planet. How long have each of these plant groups inhabited this planet? Which groups share a common ancestor and which groups led the way to an increase in complexity and diversity? The journey is interesting, with periods of extinction and periods of incredible diversification. From simple plant forms to the plants of today seems like a long journey but it is in fact short, in geological time, and it is fascinating."

Workshop 2

- Thursday, March 3rd at 7pm – 'Better living through (phyto)chemistry – secondary metabolites for plant defense', Part 1 with Kris Mahoney.

"Plants haven't been afforded the luxury to be able to run from pesky predators or pernicious pathogens. But, through trial and error, plants have evolved mechanisms to create a vast array of phytochemicals. Our humble plants have been toiling away in nature's laboratory, cooking up complex chemistries that can kill caterpillars or confound cankers. Join Kris and explore the world of secondary metabolites and plant defence – no lab coats, Bunsen burners or beakers necessary. "

Workshop 3

- Thursday, March 17th at 7pm – 'The History of the Plant Kingdom', Part 2 with Darrell Bley

Workshop 4

- Thursday, March 24th at 7pm – 'Better living through (phyto)chemistry – secondary metabolites for plant defense', Part 2 with Kris Mahoney

Registration Link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QJJtQXOpSw-XUfw8iVGaNw

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Grey County Master Gardeners

Name: The 2022 Eco-Responsible Gardener
Dates: Seminar 1: Saturday, January 29
Seminar 2: Saturday, February 26
Details: Last year's seminar series "The Eco-Responsible Gardener" generated so much interest that we are continuing it this year. Like the 2021 program, "The 2022 Eco-Responsible Gardener" is a series of **free** Zoom seminars designed to help create and maintain a garden that is environmentally sustainable as well as beautiful.

Seminar 1: Master Gardener, writer and teacher **Sean James** started the program on January 29 with **"Drip-Dry – Water-Friendly Plants and Gardens"**, a presentation on Fusion Gardening for the home gardener that blends rainwater management and horticulture. The response was incredible; we were over our maximum limit of 500 for Sean's talk.

Seminar 2: Our second seminar **"Gardening for Wildlife"** is being held on Saturday, February 26, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Our speaker, **Laura Thomas**, is the creator and owner of Hidden Habitat, an Ontario native plant nursery that also offers ecological landscaping and design services for the home gardener. Her presentation focuses on strategies for attracting wildlife into the garden, including the importance of native plants and what species are preferable for this purpose. She will also share design principles for creating beautiful and functional wildlife spaces.

A graduate of the University of Waterloo's Environment and Resource Studies program, Laura is also a Certified Master Naturalist who has worked in the landscape industry for over 15 years, blending her passions for conservation and design.

A registration link for Seminar 2 will be available on our website: www.greycountymastergardeners.com

It started January 1st with a New Year's Resolution inviting us to 'Live the Garden Life'. *(Michel Gauthier, Executive Director, Canadian Garden Council, director@gardencouncil.ca}*

Achieve a healthy, inclusive, environmentally friendly life for you and your community, **'Live the Garden Life'** by including plants at home, work, school, and in other community locations. The pandemic has made us all aware of our deep connection to plants and our desire to spend time surrounded by them. **The Year of the Garden 2022** is a perfect opportunity to **'Build Back Better and Greener'** and provide Canadians with nature-based solutions to the climate crisis. Gardens, gardening, and plants provide an inclusive space for Canadians to come together and celebrate life. We invite you to start planning and get ready to invite your members, your clients, and your social media followers to **'Live the Garden Life'** in 2022.

Year of the Garden 2022 Official Launch

Plans were in place for a Garden-Family launch at the Landscape Ontario Congress on January 11, 2022. Although COVID-19 forced the cancellation, COVID-19 will not shut down the **Year of the Garden 2022**. Today we launch with you, the Garden-Family, Canada's **Year of the Garden 2022**, a nation-wide celebration of our garden pride. The public launch is planned for the first day of spring, March 20th.

As members of Canada's Garden-Family, we will keep you informed through the *Garden-Family Year of the Garden 2022 Newsletter*. You can also follow developments on our website **Yearofthegarden.ca** and on our **Facebook** page. You can consult the next issues of our official magazines **"Canada's Local Gardener"** and Québec Vert's **"Du jardin dans ma vie"** for more information**.**

If you are a garden communicator we invite you to join Mark and Ben Cullen, Albert Mondor and others and sign up as official 'Year of the Garden Ambassadors'. **More info and sign up here**.

'Live the Garden Life' Call-to-Action Program

The 'Live the Garden Life' call-to-action program will be rolled out on a weekly and monthly basis as of March 20th as we invite Canadians to engage. This will be your opportunity to invite your members, clients, and social media followers to **'Live the Garden Life'**. Inform your members about the **Year of the Garden 2022** by sharing this **presentation;** for a presentation tailored to your association, please contact us: **gardenfamily@gardencouncil.ca**

The program will begin by inviting all Canadians to:

- **Plant Red**
- **Sign up your garden as a Year of the Garden 2022 Celebration Garden**
- **Plant the Year of the Garden 2022 official plants**
- **Celebrate National Garden Day, Garden Days, and Canada's Garden Route**

Other planned programming includes: follow the 'Live the Garden Life Agenda'; the weekly 'Therapeutic Garden Invitation'; the celebration of our Canadian Garden Heroes; and much more.

Spread the Word by adding the **Year of the Garden 2022** logo to your website and social channels! If you are a not-for-profit member of the Garden-Family, browse the **Garden-Family Resource Guide** which provides access to tools and graphics to help you plan your participation**.** Check out all the promotional material available: **Click Here**.

Become a Garden-Family Partner!

As a not-for-profit garden or gardening organization you can raise awareness for all the good work you do by becoming a **Garden-Family Partner.** You promote and engage with the **Year of the Garden 2022** and we promote you! We all win. Get all the details: **Click Here**.

Perennial Plant Association

We welcome the Perennial Plant Association as a Garden-Family Partner, featuring their Perennial Plant for 2022: ***Schizachyrium* 'Carousel'.**

Photo credit Richard Hawke

Invite Your Municipality to Proclaim 2022 Year of the Garden

Invite your municipality to demonstrate support. Here is a link to an **invitation**, a **proclamation template**, and a **presentation**; send this to your councillor or mayor with an email explaining why you feel your municipality should celebrate **Year of the Garden 2022**, National Garden Day and be a Garden-Friendly City. Listen to Dorothy Dobbie, the gardener from Lifestyles 55 Radio interview Janice Lukes, City of Winnipeg Councillor whose proposal to proclaim 2022 the **Year of the Garden** was unanimously approved on July 22. **Click here to listen**.

Meet our Newest Year of the Garden 2022 Team Members

Contact **Kath Thompson**, our Garden-Family Manager at **gardenfamily@gardencouncil.ca** for info on how to engage. **Brant Gavin** is Partnership Manager. Reach him at **partnerships@gardencouncil.ca** to see how you can associate with the **Year of the Garden 2022**.

They Are talking About the Year of the Garden 2022

FloraCulture International Magazine, January 2022 issue, recognizes Canada's leadership for being the first country to celebrate a **Year of the Garden**. **Read more**

ZoomerMedia TV highlighted the **Year of the Garden 2022**. **Watch here**

Support is Still Growing

Thank you to our founding sponsors

Vesey's, another sponsor, is offering a Seed package to support **Year of the Garden 2022**. **Get yours here**.

Sylvite Assiniboine Park Conservancy has joined as a Promotional Partner.

Annex 1

MGOI Corporate Secretary Job Description

Authority

The Corporate Secretary position of a non-profit organization plays a critical role in fostering communication and diligence through proper management and utilization of important records such as meeting minutes and the organization's bylaws.

The Corporate Secretary position has wide-ranging responsibilities, requiring more than simply being present at all board meetings. The Corporate Secretary should be knowledgeable about the organization's records and related materials, providing advice and resources to the board on topics such as governance issues, amendments to provincial laws, and the like, that will assist them in fulfilling their fiduciary duties. The Corporate Secretary's address is the corporate address of Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. as there is no physical address.

As the custodian of the organization's records, the Corporate Secretary is responsible for maintaining accurate documentation and meeting any legal requirements such as annual filing deadlines. The Corporate Secretary is responsible for reviewing and updating documents as necessary and ensuring all documents are safely stored and readily accessible.

Requirements

Organizations are required by law to maintain specific records for several purposes, including:

- accurate recollection of decisions
- determination of eligibility to vote
- continuity of policies and practices
- accountability of directors and officers.

The Corporate Secretary is responsible for ensuring that accurate and sufficient documentation exists to meet legal requirements, and to enable authorized persons to determine when, how, and by whom the board's business was conducted. In order to fulfill these responsibilities, and subject to the organization's bylaws, the Corporate Secretary ensures the accuracy and availability of meeting minutes, proposes policies and practices, submits various reports to the Board, fulfills any other requirements of a Director and Officer, and performs other duties as the need arises and/or as defined in the bylaws.

Accountability

The Corporate Secretary is accountable to the Board of Directors (if elected or appointed by them) as specified in the bylaws. Through the Board of Directors, certain duties of the Corporate Secretary may be delegated to the Executive Director, Board members and/or committees as appropriate; however, the accountability for them remains with the Corporate Secretary.

Minutes

The Corporate Secretary takes and reviews for accuracy the minutes of meetings, including the Annual General Meeting. Requirements of minutes should include at a minimum:

- date, time, location of meeting
- list of those Directors present and absent
- indication of the presence of a quorum
- list of items discussed
- list of reports presented
- text of motions presented and description of their disposition

Custodian of records

The Corporate Secretary ensures that the records of the organization are maintained as required by law and made available when required by authorized persons. These records may include founding documents, (e.g. letters patent, articles of incorporation), lists of Directors, Board and Committee meeting minutes financial reports, and other official records.

Membership Records

The Corporate Secretary ensures through review, that official records are maintained of members of the organization and Board and ensures that these records are available when required for reports, elections, referenda, other votes, etc.

Bylaws

The Corporate Secretary ensures that an up-to-date copy of the bylaws is available at all meetings.

Communication

The Corporate Secretary ensures that proper notification is given of directors' and members' meetings as specified in the bylaws.

Meetings

The Corporate Secretary participates in Board meetings as a voting member. In the absence of the President (and Vice-President), the Corporate Secretary calls the meeting to order, presiding until a temporary chairperson is elected.

Signing Officer

The Corporate Secretary may be designated by the Board of Directors and/or bylaws as one of the signing officers for certain documents. In this capacity, the Corporate Secretary may be authorized or required to sign or countersign cheques, correspondence, applications, reports, contracts or other documents on behalf of organization.

Filing of Documents

The Corporate Secretary is the registered agent with respect to the laws of the jurisdiction: the person upon whom legal notice to the corporation is served, and responsible for ensuring that documents necessary to maintain the corporation are filed.

Procedures

- Provincial Filing
- Annual General Meeting
- Record keeping

Annex 2

Regional Director

(Four positions)

Master Gardener Groups in Ontario are organized into 4 geographic regions. E.g. South-West, East, Central and North.

Each region has one Regional Director.

Overview of the position of Regional Director:

- Serve as a liaison between Master Gardener groups in their region and our MGOI organization, e.g. Board of Directors, other Regional Directors, committees and individuals.
- Be a voting member on the Board of Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.
- Follow best practices in our Board of Directors' Governance and Communications Guidelines.
- Work with groups in the Region to fill the position of outgoing Regional Director.
- The term of the position is 2 years. Maximum of 3 consecutive terms can be served in this office.
- This position can be shared with another member in the same group or region.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Maintain regular communication with groups via the coordinators in their region, e.g. email, phone, video conference.
- Facilitate communication among groups in the region, e.g. virtual meetings, closed Facebook groups
- Lead Regional meetings with Master Gardener group representatives at the yearly Coordinators' Conference.

SUPPORT

- Seek answers to group questions in response to inquiries.
- Bring forward group concerns to the Board of Directors.
- Make recommendations for budget needs to support groups, e.g. special initiatives, gardening / administrative resources.
- Assist in identifying, supporting & maintaining groups at risk, e.g. declining/stagnant member numbers
- Assist in starting up new groups or helping groups who fold.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

- Participate in Board of Directors meetings.
- Share relevant information from Board meetings with groups as needed.
- Share upcoming relevant agenda items with groups for input as needed.

SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL DIRECTORS

- Eligible for travel expenses relating to the position as described in our MGOI policies/procedures.
- Access to Policy Handbook to answer group questions/concerns. Questions can also be directed to other relevant Directors.
- Communications Guidelines for Board Members document
- MGOI Governance Guideline document
- Insurance to cover liability of the Corporation & indemnify directors