



Master Gardeners of Ontario Newsletter

Inside MGOI

MGOI Board Members

President:	Anne Craig, Peterborough
Past President:	Karen Sciuk, Waterloo Region
Vice President:	Vacant
Corporate Secretary:	Lynda Bobinski, Thunder Bay
Treasurer:	Susie Cosack, Simcoe
Director of Communications:	Ruth Treloar, Haliburton County
Director of Education:	Kate Sault, Halton
Director of Events:	Isia Yeo, Durham
Director of Membership:	Lois Johnson, Niagara
Director of Operations:	Dianne Wheler, Tri-County
Director of Marketing:	Elizabeth Stewart, Toronto
Director of Partnerships:	Sean Patchett, Muskoka
Director of Central Region:	Linda Gordon, Etobicoke
Director of East Region:	Rebecca Last-Guenette, Ottawa-Carleton
Director of North Region:	Andrea Steinhäusser, Thunder Bay
Director of South & West Region:	Lynne Goulet-Smith, Grand Erie
Advisor to the Board:	Rhonda Grein, Waterloo Region

Committee Members

Webmaster: Sabine Behnk, Waterloo sabine.behnk@icloud.com
Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton newsletter@mgoi.ca
Membership Database, Exams & Certificates: MJ Pilgrim, Peterborough database@mgoi.ca
Badges & Pins: Lois Johnson, Niagara supplies@mgoi.ca
MGOI Wear: Lynn Goulet-Smith, Grand Erie
Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County
Facebook: Claudette Sims, Halton & Cathy Kavassalis, Halton
Manager, MG Participation in the CNE & RWF: Kate Sault, Halton

June 2026 Newsletter

Inside This Issue

Master Gardeners

- Milestones
- Update—Newsletter Working Group
- Resources—Links
- 2 Invasive Species To Watch For
- Master Gardeners Out & About
- Upcoming Events

MGOI

- Board Vacancy: VP

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Welcome to the June edition of Inside MGOI, the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. (MGOI) newsletter. Our goal is to be a voice for Master Gardeners, a venue for providing insights and the inside scoop from MGOI Board & Committee members. It also features updates from the 28 Master Gardener groups throughout Ontario, including member milestones, group projects and activities, short member profiles, and upcoming events such as webinars/conferences/technical updates/plant sales/open gardens—essentially anything about the functioning and happenings of our groups and our members. Please feel free to submit pictures—they are most welcome!

*We are looking for fresh ideas and inspiration for meaningful change for this newsletter. Contributions to the newsletter, and inspirational ideas may be sent at any time to:
Isabel Belanger, Newsletter Editor, newsletter@mgoi.ca.*

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Laura Jones

Congratulations Laura on receiving Master Gardener status. Laura's main interest is growing vegetables, and she is our resident expert on this topic. Every year she starts many vegetables from seed to generously donate to our annual plant sale as well as speaking at various presentations and sharing her knowledge. Well done Laura!



Coordinator Andrea Steinhäusser, right presenting Laura with her MG certificate



Toronto Master Gardeners

15 year Anniversary

Sue Hills
Marjorie Lenz
Bonita Parshuram

Congratulations!

10 Year Anniversary

Susan Brown
Pat Concessi
Karen Hughes
Trixie Reichardt

Celebrating their Gold milestone!

5 Year Anniversary

Heather Crisp
Aruna Panday
Wendy Walgate

Rosanne Masterson
Natalie Vomba
Ruth Wiens

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Beatrice Beuben
Henry Lee
Jennifer Morley
Tanya Onieogou
Fernando Shanthilal
Ginnie Venslovaitis
Jennifer Young

Rebecca Davis-Scott
David Mordecai
Sarah Mulholland
Maria Radford
Martha Turner
Helen Williams



Toronto Master Gardeners is pleased to congratulate 13 new graduates in 2026! Photo by Pat de Valence



Lanark County Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Deb Crosby

We are very happy to announce that we have a new Master Gardener in Training, Deb Crosby, a recently retired nurse. She has been extremely interested in becoming a Master Gardener for over 2 years after attending a MG talk.



Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

15 Years of Service

Mary Ellen Pyear



Mary Ellen Pyear (left) with Co-coordinator Rosemary Fernandes-Walker (right)

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Ester Reid



Co-coordinator Rosemary Fernandes-Walker (left) with Ester



Peterborough Master Gardeners

New Master Gardeners in Training

Sandra Caswell

Erin Otvos Rasile

Sam Mederios

Jennifer Sherk

Brenda May



PMGs have decided to do our MGiT intake twice annually. This May we had five new members.

Sandra has been gardening for decades and is thoroughly passionate about it. The perennial beds on her farm overflow with colour and variety (mainly native), while her vegetable gardens provide an abundance of fresh produce throughout the growing season and offer endless fascination for visitors of all ages.

Erin's love of gardening began at a young age while working in a friend's family-owned greenhouse. Since then, she has gardened everywhere she has lived, from condo balconies to her current five-acre rural property.

Sam has worked and experimented in various types of garden spaces for over 10 years. Her experience ranges from caring for many, many houseplants, Ontario native plants, vegetable and medicinal plants (including "weeds" and wild-foraged), to ornamental perennials and annuals.

Jennifer - While raising her family, Jennifer worked as a research technician and laboratory manager, most recently in a plant biochemistry lab focused on unraveling the complex biochemical pathways used by plants to synthesize "secondary metabolites", plant chemical compounds, many of which are of medicinal and agricultural value.

Brenda – is a new MGiT who has already helped PMG out by working the advice table at the Peterborough Horticultural Society meetings.



Grey County Master Gardeners

20 Year Anniversary

Jackie Campbell



Coordinator Susan Cox, left with Jackie

Jackie is a member emeritus with Grey County Master Gardeners. She has been a Master Gardener for more than 20 years! Lately, Jackie has been producing garden videos for YouTube, and still does presentations in her local library in Durham. She is an inspiration to us all!

15 Year Anniversary

Margot Byers

Margot received her 15-year pin from chairperson, Susan Cox. That is quite an achievement! Congratulations, Margot!



5 Year Anniversaries

Carole Warren
Susan Cox
Stephanie Fletcher

Congratulations on reaching your 5 year milestones! Well done!



*(Left to right)
Carole Warren,
Susan Cox
and Stephanie
Fletcher*

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Jenna Vandermey

Jenna works at Grey Heron Garden Centre in Meaford as their store manager. Well done, Jenna!



Jenna (right) receives her Master Gardener certificate from chairperson Susan Cox

New Master Gardener in Training

Lesley Radman

Lesley is currently taking the horticultural program courses offered at Dalhousie University. Welcome, Lesley!



Chairperson Susan Cox (left), welcomed new member Lesley Radman to the group with an apron and name tag



Mississauga Master Gardeners

25-year Anniversary

Susan Quirk



Susan, left, with Ramona Christiansen, Co-ordinator

New Master Gardener in Training

Zora Gojic



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

New Master Gardeners in Training

Liz Hopkins

Georgia McCormick

Congratulations to our newest Master Gardeners in Training, Liz and Georgia! We are so pleased to have them as valued members of our group!



Liz, left and Georgia



London Middlesex Master Gardeners

New Master Gardeners in Training

Alana Respondek

Janeen Collins-Dera

LMMGs are happy to welcome our two new trainees!

Profiles by Amy Turnbull

Alana knew at a young age that she wanted to work with plants and has for the past thirty years. This has included work with the production of fruits and vegetables. In her own gardens she grows perennials, including a mix of trees, shrubs, and ornamental flowers. She is looking forward to sharing her knowledge and love of plants with others as a Master Gardener.

Janeen loves a great variety of plants. Her gardens are a blend of ornamental and native trees, and shrubs as well as grasses and flowering perennials. Another interest of Janeen's is therapeutic gardening. She has worked with St. Stephens Women's Recovery House to establish and maintain their Healing Gardens Project. Professionally, Janeen has been a gardening related event coordinator in London and in Stratford. She is looking forward to sharing her gardening knowledge in support of community engagement and in environmental sustainability.



Durham Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Justin Lant



Welcome Justin to DMG! Justin lives in Courtice and works in grounds maintenance. His gardening interests include ecological restoration, native and invasive plants, arboriculture, greenhouse

gardening, edible gardening, forest management - a little bit of everything! Justin is currently on a Durham College sustainability committee focused on bringing more pollinator gardens to the campus, and recently had the campus designated a 'bee city' campus.



He has completed his Horticulture Diploma from the University of Guelph with a focus in “Natural Landscape Management” and is working on a diploma in landscape design. Those skills and education will be a great asset to our group and we look forward to getting to know him.



MGOI Needs Your Help!



MGOI is run for and by Master Gardeners. If you would like to contribute, in a big way, by joining the board in the future or in a smaller way by helping with a special project, please let us know. You can reach out to your group coordinator or directly to me at President@MGOI.ca. Thank you.

Anne Craig (Peterborough & Area)
President, MGOI

Board Vacancy—Vice President (VP)

The VP Position is currently vacant. MGOI is looking for 1 or 2 VPs to support the President.

Job Description

- *Supporting and working closely with the President*
- *Monitoring the progress of the organization’s goals and objectives*
- *Reviewing information submitted in Annual Reviews and in the Annual Report to recognize achievements, share best practices, and identify potential areas of concern*
- *Assisting Directors in resolving areas of concern, potentially bringing them to the attention of the Board of Directors*
- *Working with the Director of Membership and others to fill vacant Board positions*
- *Assuming the duties of the President in her absence; succeeds the President*

If you are interested, or would like further information, please contact Anne Craig, President @: President@MGOI.ca.

Newsletter Working Group-Update

Questionnaire—Watch for it!

Going out to members on June 30th, we are looking for input on ways to improve the newsletter – to modernize and make it more relevant. We also welcome ideas at any time. Please contact Isabel Belanger, Editor at: newsletter@mgoi.ca. Thank you.

The Working Group Team

Mary-Lyn Hopper; Deirdre Walsh; Leslie Ferguson;
Isabel Belanger

Resources

Access prior issues of *Inside MGOI* at anytime at mgoi.ca/newsletters. The May newsletter included information about:

Worms

Earthworms—Two Native Species + Invasive Aliens

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=john%20warran%20earthworms>

Jumping Worms

<https://mgoi.ca/resources/>.

Hammerhead Worms

<https://www.invasivespeciescentres.ca/hammerhead-worm/>



<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/hammerhead-worms-in-gardens-ontario-1.7193039>

Oak Wilt Disease

Do Not Prune Oak Trees (*Quercus* spp.) from April 1st until December. Read more:



<https://onnurserycrops.wordpress.com/2024/04/02/reminder-no-pruning-oaks-from-now-until-november/#more-6673>.

- Learn more: ontario.ca/page/oak-wilt
- Visit Facebook: [#ScienceON](#) [#InvasiveSpecies](#) [#ForestResearch](#) [#ForestHealth](#)
- Canada’s oak wilt response framework, CFIA: <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-species/plant-diseases/oak-wilt/response-framework>

Spotted Lanternfly

♣ Snap it; ♣ Catch/Kill it; ♣ Report it



- <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-pests-and-plants/insects/spotted-lanternfly/>;
- <https://www.ontario.ca/page/spotted-lanternfly-prevention-practices-producers>



Subscribe to: **The Spread**, The Invasive Centre Newsletter: <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/signup/> & the **ONnurserycrops Blog** <https://onnurserycrops.wordpress.com/>

Learn More & Do More

- CCIPR website: <https://ccipr.ca/>; CCIPR Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1503444570040194>



Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Digital Toolkit: [digital toolkit](#)

Contact: *Maria Kubacki, Manager / Gestionnaire*
343-542-3856 / Maria.kubacki@inspection.gc.ca

Seeds Alert

Connect with the CFIA before sending seeds abroad. Seeds can be invasive in some countries or spread plant diseases or other pests. The destination country may destroy the seeds and issue Canada a notice of non-compliance. The CFIA has spokespeople available for interviews, and experts are also willing to write and submit a piece. Contact: Media Relations, Canadian Food Inspection Agency / Government of Canada: cfia.media.acia@inspection.gc.ca; Tel: 613-773-6600

Follow: [Facebook](#) [X](#) [YouTube](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Instagram](#)

Invasive Watch

by *Leslie Ferguson, Etobicoke Master Gardeners*

Plans to wander around this summer? How about joining in an invasive plant watch? Watch for: *Impatiens glandulifera* (Himalayan balsam) and *Alliaria petiolate* (garlic mustard).

1. *Impatiens glandulifera* (Himalayan balsam)



Introduced in the 1800s to North America as an ornamental plant, this invasive plant spreads quickly and efficiently to crowd out native plants. Mature seed capsules explode when touched,

ejecting seeds as far as five metres. Producing a significant amount of nectar, this flower can attract pollinators away from native plants.

What to do? Watch for seedlings and when found hoe to allow sun and wind to dry seedlings out so they die quickly.

Cut plants below the first node to reduce regrowth and branching.

Cutting will minimize soil disturbance as



seed from this plant can remain viable for two years. Hand pull or fork out plants from a lower section of the stem, removing both the plant and the root system. This is best done in spring and early summer, ideally before flowering. Smother seedlings on level or slightly sloped ground with cardboard, organic matter or any compostable material. Top up the mulch for a few years to destroy viable seed.

- <https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/invasive-plants/species/himalayan-balsam/>

2. *Alliaria petiolate* (garlic mustard)



Native to Europe, garlic mustard was introduced to North America in the late 1800's by settlers who used it as food and herbal

medicine. Like many introduced plants, garlic mustard escaped cultivation and became a vigorous, daunting addition to many terrains in Ontario.

On a two year cycle, garlic mustard sets a basal rosette the first year that remains green during the winter and grows to a tall plant the second. The plants are easily pulled as the root is a short "j" or "s" shape, and should be pulled before the flower appears or goes to seed: seeds are prolific and viable in the soil for 5-10 years. Control by removing the plant before seed develops, placing it in a black garbage bag to solarize, after which the plant material may be put in the garbage. See below for best management practices:

- <https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/invasive-plants/species/garlic-mustard/>
- <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/invasive-plants/garlic-mustard/>
- https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/OIPC_BMP_GarlicMustard_1.pdf



Master Gardeners Out & About

Projects & Events

Simcoe County Master Gardeners

Name: Garden Expo

Details: On Saturday, May 2, the Barrie library hosted Garden Expo. Simcoe County Master Gardener members Joan Nieman-Agapas and Joan Sundeen staffed an advice clinic at the event. Their large poster, 'Know Before You Grow' (courtesy of Vandermeer Nursery) shows eight popular but invasive ornamental plants, and for each one a native alternative. The poster attracted a lot of attention.

Joan and Joan gave a presentation, 'Invasive Plants: Everything You Want To Know But Are Afraid To Ask.' They explained the harm that invasive species do and suggested native plants that could replace them in the garden. The presentation also showed the relationship between native plants and specialist insects.

The emphasis on native plants comes out of SCMGs current project, 'Grow Natives!' Through presentations and dozens of native plant profiles on the SCMG website, the project shows gardeners how to support the environment by growing native plants.

As Joan and Joan made clear in their presentation, growing native plants is something everyone should do to make a meaningful difference to birds, bees, and everything else that shares our ecosystem.



Northumberland Master Gardeners

Name: Vienna's Butterfly Garden

Details: In the fall of 2023, the NMGs were approached to help build a memorial garden for a local toddler whose death deeply impacted the local community. A butterfly symbol is used by the community to help commemorate Vienna's life and memory, and so the garden was specifically designed to support pollinators.

Located near the community playground, the garden is shaped like a butterfly. Old birch logs form the body of the butterfly with garden beds creating the wings. There is a path in the middle, a bench, pergola and a little library. The NMGs and other volunteers still play an active role in maintaining this garden. We did some weeding and pruning while we waited for visitors!

On May 24th, a community event was held at the old schoolhouse to observe. Families were invited to paint rocks for the garden and tour the garden with a Master Gardener. The weather was a little rainy but we had many people brave the rain to come and see the garden and ask questions. The MGs that attended all dressed in colourful overalls that were a big hit with the kids.



L-R: NMGs Sarah, Kathleen, Kat, Claire & Michelle



Name: Warkworth Lilac Festival

Details: Northumberland Master Gardeners held an advice booth at the Warkworth Lilac Festival on May 30th and 31st. In addition to answering gardening questions, volunteers distributed seeds and encouraged visitors to participate in some of our new interactive games for kids and adults:

- Match the pollinator to the plant
- Sort invasives vs. natives
- Sort the parts of the plants we eat (roots, shoots, tubers, seeds, etc.)

The Lilac Festival is an annual event on the last weekend in May so mark your calendars and make the trip to Warkworth, a charming town nestled in the hills of Northumberland County. The NMGs look forward to returning next year and sharing our love of gardening with festival visitors.



Selfie-MG Kat



MG Hedy Koski showing seedlings under grow lights at Centennial Botanical Gardens

The Conservatory staff is also responsible for planting annuals and perennials at various city parks, and we were fortunate to view all the plants in the 3 new greenhouses before they were planted. They grow and supply over 64,000 plants each summer, including 58,000 annuals and 8,000 perennials.

MGs in the greenhouse



Bridge in the main area

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Name: Tour of Centennial Botanical Conservatory

Details: The Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners were excited to tour the newly renovated and expanded Centennial Botanical Conservatory. It had been closed since February 2024 and had over \$12 million in renovations. MG Hedy Kosky is an employee at the Centennial Botanical Conservatory and arranged for a behind the scenes tour. It was wonderful to see the automated systems that have been installed as well as her integral part in designing the new cactus & succulent gardens.

MGs on tour in the cactus garden



Halton Master Gardeners

Name: HMGs First Ever Plant Sale

Details: Our first plant sale ever was a huge success. But it was a windy event—almost hurricane force winds right off the lake. A huge thanks to our intrepid Treasurer MG Patty King for all her time and effort in organizing such a hugely successful sale.



Early morning set-up



Getting the plants ready



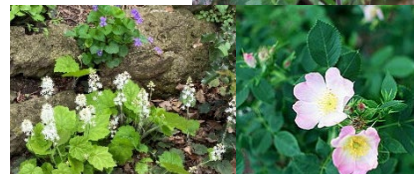
MGs Shayla Harbridge, left and Carol Tucks-Rigg organizing one of the tables

This was a wholly native plant sale held on the grounds of Dundurn Castle in Hamilton. HMGs sourced all the plants from Verbinnen's, a wholesale native plant nursery just outside of Hamilton. The sale was hectic. Half the plants were sold within the first hour—then things heated up again at the end.



10am and half the plants were sold!

Ferns were very popular, as were *Geum triflorum* (Prairie Smoke) and *Tiarella stolonifera* (Foam Flower). Everyone loved the *Rosa blanda* which was in bloom.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosa_blanda



Last of the trees

A happy customer with space to fill cleared out the rest of the trees at the end of the sale, including a red oak tree, and we were only left with a few perennials.

Lessons learned—next time we would organize the plants by growing conditions, i.e. sun / shade, moisture requirements, etc. Also E-transfers were very popular so it may be useful to invest in a square to expedite sales.

We all enjoyed ourselves, and it was very heartening to see the enthusiasm for native plants!





Group shot – HMG Plant Sale Team
 Thank you, Shayla (front left) for the picture!



Opening Hour Crowd!



MG Sean James provides advice to local gardeners

Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: Annual Plant Sale

Details: The GWMG plant sale was held Saturday, May 16th at Harcourt United Church in Guelph.

Despite the cold, slow spring, we had a very successful, profitable sale! Thanks to all the MGs who participated.



The smile of a future MG



MG Cathy McNabb shares how to make newspaper plant pots at the children's table



Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Name: Herb Workshop at Millbrook Library

Details: MGs Joan Harding and Rachel Burrows discussed growing herbs in containers and had lots of questions at the event, held at the Millbrook Library (south of Peterborough). Topics included plant requirements, choosing containers, preparing the pots, suitable herbs, location of the container, and where to buy good quality herbs.

Ten eager participants each planted up an herb container and took it home with them. Rachel brought some food samples and everyone had a taste of herb muffins with basil and a little savory, rosemary biscuits and herb butter with parsley. Recipes to try were shared as well.

It was a fun workshop as those present were all so keen. Millbrook Library want us back next year for two workshops!

Name: Technical Update – A Day for Gardeners

Details: A Day for Gardeners was held on April 25th. Our yearly fundraising event was sold out. It was a chilly and rainy day - not ideal for gardening but perfect for learning and talking about gardening. We had over 100 garden enthusiasts who were excited to be indoors learning about Healthy Gardening, Gardens, and the Birds & the Bees!



Everyone enjoying the day

Our advice table was running all day and was well attended. We received great feedback on the evaluation forms.



Marilyn Homewood at our advice table with lovely daffodils from her garden

Everyone enjoyed morning treats, lunch with delicious hot soup and tasty chili provided by our Master Gardeners. There was a plenary speaker, door prizes and free gardening books and magazines, everything appreciated by our attendees. Attendees selected three of the following six workshop sessions:

- Gardens that BUZZ: Designing with Native Plants for Beauty and Life (Silvia Strobl, MG)
- Healthy Gardens, Healthy Gardeners (Anne Craig, MG)
- Seasonal Gardening for Birds (Thom Luloff, MG)
- Rose Care: A Beginner's Guide (Jennifer Guertin, MG)
- Resilient Landscaping for Community, Humans and Food Webs (Deanna Hergert, Guest Speaker)
- Mini session combo - Unusual Culinary Herbs (Carol Ireland, MGIT); Seeds - Heritage vs Heirloom vs GMO (Jillian Bishop, Guest Speaker)
- Plenary session - Growing Well: How Gardening supports Longevity, Health and Happiness (Mary-Jane Pilgrim, MG)



MJ Pilgrim spoke at the Plenary session



The exchange of information inspired many questions, and in some sessions a group discussion broke out, which made the experience very deep-seeded!

Save the date: next year's event is on April 24, 2027!

Lanark County Master Gardeners

Name: June Monthly Meeting

Details: One of our group's favourite places to visit is the fen at Purdon Conservation Authority. Our June meeting was early, and spring was cool, so this visit was missing our beautiful orchids. As always there are many other interesting plants and birds and blackflies.



Purdon Pitcher Plant



Purdon Bunchberries



Purdon visit—I to r, Victor Wark, Paul Pietsch, Nancy's daughter, Nancy Barnard, Kelly Morrison, Gerda Franssen

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: April 15th EMG Members Meeting

Details: Speaker Rodger Tszanz, University of Guelph, Greenhouse Technician and Sessional Lecturer spoke on *Encouraging the Next Generation of Horticulturalists*. Rodger noted that current students demonstrate a great deal of interest in food production and sustainability.

He stressed the importance of community connections between the U of Guelph and local secondary school students participating in *Students in the Greenhouse*, Co-op programs, and learning about future opportunities in horticulture. With a great deal of humour and expertise, Roger Tszanz reflected on many interesting events during his 47 years in agriculture.

Thank You Rodger!

Name: June 10th EMG Members' Meeting

Details: Speaker Peggy Mooney, Nature Steward and former EMG Master Gardener, spoke on *Community-Led Ecological Restoration in an Urban Landscape*. Peggy is a Lead Steward who works with trained volunteers in her neighbourhood, in partnership with the City of Toronto, to support the biodiversity and ecological health of a local ravine along the Humber River. She shared the many gains of the program to support trained volunteers in removing 15 invasive species across Toronto ravines.



At present the Nature Stewards are involved in an impressive 53 sites across Toronto. Check out <https://torontonaturestewards.org/> for more information.

Name: Get Familiar with Flora: Spring Ephemerals Tour at the Humber Arboretum

Details: Speakers included EMG leaders in partnership with Humber Arboretum Staff. This in person outdoor walking tour, held on May 30th, helped participants identify spring ephemerals in bloom as well as many that had finished blooming. Using key essentials for plant identification, participants were able to identify, enjoy and appreciate the contributions of these lovely plants to wooded, wetland and forested areas before the understory begins to grow.

Name: Annual Spring Plant Sale, May 23rd

Details: In spite of the cool temperatures, gusty winds and lashing rain, many interested gardeners turned out to support our Plant Sale. Native plants were very much in demand, as well as tried and true garden staples such as hostas, phlox, echinacea, etc. The tomatoes, peppers and other edible “starter plants” grown by EMG members were also quite popular. We provided support with garden advice, assistance in plant selection, and commiserating about the cold and wet spring we have all been experiencing!



EMG Spring Plant Sale featuring lots of keen home gardeners



Descriptively labelled plants divided into native and non-native plants



Bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis) - a favourite!

Name: Advice Clinics

Details: EMG hosted four advice clinics:

- May 16, Etobicoke Horticultural Society Plant Sale
- May 23, Spring Bird Festival
- May 23, EMG Spring Plant Sale
- June 20, Lakeshore West Garden Tour



L to R: MGs Janice Lewkoski and Kate Hardie provide expert advice on plants and attracting birds at the Spring Bird Festival, Colonel Sam Smith Park, Toronto

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Pollinator Appreciation Day 2026

Details: MGOC offered an advice table at this popular annual event hosted at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden on June 20. Other participants included Wild Pollinator Partners, Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club, Canadian Wildlife Federation and the University of Ottawa. Guided walks were offered through the butterfly meadow, indigenous trees and plants, and more.





Left to right, Jacques Dufort, Catherine Disley and Marian Campbell Jarvis took the morning shift.
Photo by Adair Heuchan



Christina Keys, a Butterfly Ranger for Cardinal Glen and Manor Park, explains how she converted her lawn to a native garden.
Photo by Barbara Sibbald

Name: Garden Tour 2026

Details: Organized by Gail Labrosse and Gayle Singer, the tour was held on two consecutive Sundays. Danielle Beaulieu’s shaded garden in Orleans East was toured on June 7, and seven gardens were toured on June 17 when heavy rain all day failed to dampen the enthusiasm of some 20 MGs and MGITs. On view were: Cathi Fournier’s water garden; MG E.P. Power’s garden with a focus on native plants; MG Candace Dressler’s mature woodland edge garden; Elizabeth Sheehy, a Butterfly Ranger (David Suzuki Foundation) with her native pollinators; Jill Graham’s mature woodland garden; and ecological landscaper Christina Key’s emerging native plant garden. They also squeezed in a visit to long-time member Fran Dennett’s mixed native and ornamental garden.



Fran Dennett (right) has been turning the earth in her garden for 49 years. Adair Heuchan tries to share her umbrella but Fran’s too busy pointing out the beauty of her penstemon.
Photo by Barbara Sibbald

Name: Advice Clinics

Details: Advice Clinics were held at the Barrhaven Market on May 31st, June 14th and 21st; Carp Farmers’ Market May 23 and 30, June 6 and 13; Main Street Farmers’ Market May 23 and 30, plus June 13; Westboro Market May 30 and June 6 and 13; Ottawa Farmers’ Market (Landsdowne) May 31 and June 14; Parkdale Market Night Market June 3; Beechwood Market on June 6; Cumberland Market June 13; and Manotick Watson’s Mill Farmers’ Market June 13.

Name: New Fact Sheets

Details: MGOC volunteers prepared three new fact sheets that are now publicly available on the website.

- Powdery Mildew includes a description of the disease and steps for Integrated Pest Management.
- Buttonbush is a delightful and under-used native understory shrub with wonderful pom-pom flowers that are bee magnets.
- Serviceberry Trees, a lovely compact native tree, is increasingly common in Ottawa’s urban tree canopy.

Name: Talks

Details: Judith Cox presented her lecture “Promising a rose” on June 3 to the Greely Garden Club. June 16 saw a hat-trick of presentations:



Nancy McDonald on “Culinary delights with herbs and edible flowers” to the Ottawa Horticultural Society; Candace Dressler on “Native plants in Ontario” to the Smiths Falls Horticultural Society; and Rebecca Last on “Preserving the harvest” to the Stittsville Goulbourn Horticultural Society.



Grey County Master Gardeners

Name: Members’ Trip to Richters Herbs

Details: Several members of our Grey County MG group participated in a tour at Richters in Goodwood, Ontario. Tour guides provided information on all stages of their vast herb production and collection. These herb specialists offer seeds, plugs, plants, dried herbs, extracts, and more! Business extends across North America!



Richters Greenhouses



Shirley Thorn (left) observes seed starting strategies



I-r, Shirley Thorn, Meriel Bradley & Carole Warren take it all in!

Name: Gardener in Residence Programs

Details: Our club provides free, educational programs to various local libraries across Grey County. Owen Sound’s Gardener in Residence (GIR) programs have taken a hands-on approach this year with monthly sessions that align with what’s happening in your gardens. For example, we began with seed starting, then transplanting and dividing, and will continue with practical topics like tools, maintenance, bulbs and tubers, and “rethinking” your gardens for next year. We promote audience involvement and provide practical takeaways.



Master Gardeners Ann Joyner (left) and Elizabeth Brims at the final June session of their A to Z gardening program



Participants share their plans and designs



The session set-up at the library

Meaford and Thornbury libraries have just wrapped up their 3-part A to Z gardening series that guided participants through the process of planning and designing a garden, including plant selection, budgeting and installation. Summer programs will involve sessions on soil composition, soil type, overall soil health, and tips on composting.



Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: Annual Plant Sale, Teaching, and Educational Day

Details: The Mississauga Master Gardeners had a busy May/June with three big events:

- Our **annual native and ornamental plant sale** was one for the ages. On a day that broke a 177-year record for rainfall, we welcomed and educated the public on the benefits of gardening.



MGiT Andrew Lobo braving the rain

- One of our MGiTs, Betty-May Evans, gave her first talk about **keeping your garden tools well cared for**. Inspiring and very helpful!



MGiT Betty-May Evans ready for her first talk

- Our group had a **June outing to Kayanase**, an ecological restoration and native plant and seed business, located near Brantford. It is dedicated to improving the health of Mother Earth using science-based approaches and Traditional Ecological knowledge.



Mississauga MGs at Kayanase

Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Out & About

- MG Kevin Kavanagh and MGiT Dylan Cowan held a **workshop on Shade Gardening** at South Coast Gardens on June 7th in conjunction with the Long Point Basin Land Trust. MG Laura Rodger attended.



Kevin, left with Dylan at the workshop



- The Grand Erie Master Gardeners completed another successful workshop on Sunday June 14th. This was the second of our free “Back to Basics” series entitled “**The Best Laid Garden Plans**”.

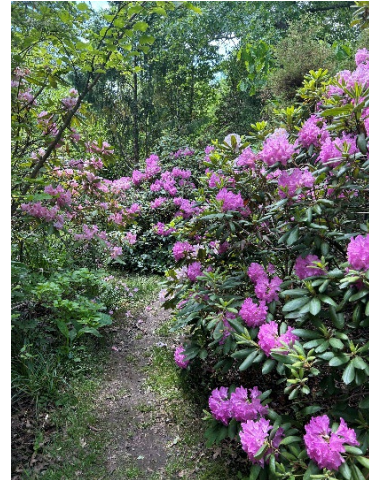


From left to right: MGs Kim Hutten, Georgia McCormick, Lynne Goulet-Smith, Laura Rodger and Liz Hopkins

- Today (June 20th) was our annual Native Plant Sale, which is our largest fundraiser of the year and helps support our volunteer work. We had 61 native species with over 1000 plants available, as well as some clay pots with mixed herbs. All of our plants came from seeds harvested from our own gardens, winter sown and then potted up and grown to sale size. It was a lot of work but it was a huge success with a great turnout from the public. A big thank you to The Friendship House in Brantford who allowed us to set up on their front lawn.



- Photo of **Rhododendrons** in bloom at South Coast Gardens on June 7th - for inspiration!



Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Shaw Garden Tour

Details: The Shaw Garden Tour celebrated its 20th year when it was held June 13, and Niagara Master Gardeners were on hand to answer questions and trade gardening stories at each location. The self-guided tour featured eight private gardens across the Old Town and Queenston in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Musicians were also present to serenade visitors and a local artist at each location painted garden scenes while chatting with passers-by.

The event is organized by the Shaw Theatre Guild and is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Shaw Festival. The guild is a volunteer group that raises money for the theatre company. Ticket sales from the tour help pay for Shaw productions and children’s programs.



Foxtail lilies and foxgloves stand above a shady area at one of the gardens featured in the annual Shaw Garden Tour





A stern terracotta bunny guards a lettuce patch against any real bunnies looking for a snack.

Photos by Niagara MG Eva Weber

Name: Fall Flower-arrangement Workshop

Details: MGs Kendy Steeves, Sue Lusted and Pam Coring recently conducted a planting workshop at Tabor Manor Care Centre (long-term care home). The participants planted *Osteospermum* and *Viola x wittrockiana* plants in decorative containers.



L to R, MGs Kendy Steeves, Sue Lusted and Pam Coring took part in the Tabor Manor planting workshop

London Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: Employee Health Fair at Western University

Details: We attended the Employee Health Fair at Western University in June.

Our volunteers delivered the message about the therapeutic benefits of gardening to inspire university employees to embrace a new hobby or lean into a long-standing one. Our table was visited by 600 people.



From left to right: MGs Mary Leslie, Chris Rickey, Sandra Elfman

UPCOMING EVENTS

Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Next Workshop: July 26

Location & Time: 115 Front Road, Port Rowan, 1-4pm

Stay Tuned: More upcoming events planned with more information to come!

Grand Erie Master Gardeners		
FREE	APRIL 19	BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND! IT'S SPRING! LET THE GARDENING BEGIN! BIRDS CANADA (115 FRONT ROAD, PORT ROWAN) 1 PM - 4 PM
FREE	APRIL 23	GRAVEL GARDENING COUNTY OF BRANT PUBLIC LIBRARY - BURFORD BRANCH (24 PARK AVE, BURFORD) 6:30 PM - 8 PM
FREE	MAY 24	BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND! THE BEST LAND GARDEN PLANS: RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE BIRDS CANADA (115 FRONT ROAD, PORT ROWAN) 1 PM - 4 PM
FREE	JUNE 14	BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND! THE GARDEN PLOT THICKENS! BIRDS CANADA (115 FRONT ROAD, PORT ROWAN) 1 PM - 4 PM
FREE	JUNE 20	GEMG PLANT SALE FRIENDSHIP HOUSE (452 GREY ST, BRANTFORD) 10 AM - 2 PM
FREE TBD	JULY 26	GEMG CUT FLOWER WORKSHOP THE GARLIC SHED (1908 HWY 24 SOUTH, SIMCOE) 1 PM - 3:30 PM
FREE	SEPTEMBER 20	BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND! SHIFTING GEARS... CLOSING THE GARDEN SEASON WITH PURPOSE BIRDS CANADA (115 FRONT ROAD, PORT ROWAN) 1 PM - 4 PM
FREE	OCTOBER 18	BACK TO BASICS - AND BEYOND! FOR THE LOVE OF FOOD: APPLES TO (HARDY) ORANGES... WITH A SIDE OF VEGGIES BIRDS CANADA (115 FRONT ROAD, PORT ROWAN) 1 PM - 4 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION, VISIT GRANDERIE.MG.ORG



Grey County Master Gardeners

Name: Owen Sound Gardeners in Residence
Programs

Dates: Programs began in March and run monthly except for July, August & December. Next workshops run:

- September - Rethinking Your Garden
- October - Bulbs and Tubers
- November - Gardening Tools

Details: More information can be found at the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library in Owen Sound. Photos and details to follow!

Halton Master Gardeners

Garden Journeys/Open Days 2026

Garden Journeys



Open Days

Dates: August 8 - 9 & 14 – 16

Applications: close June 30th

Details: This is your opportunity to visit beautiful gardens across the City of Hamilton. Gardens will be open for visitors, and

gardeners will be available to discuss their own journey to eco-friendly gardening, from first steps to fully mature gardens.

Hamilton Area Gardeners: If you are working towards a biodiverse eco-friendly garden, **consider applying to be a host gardener @:**

<https://haltonmastergardeners.com/garden-journeys-open-days/>. It is a wonderful way to inspire members of the public and to meet other like-minded gardeners to exchange ideas.

Out-of-Towners: Curious about gardens that support biodiversity and our ecosystem? Taking steps to build your own nature-friendly garden? Looking for garden inspiration and practical ideas for gardens that are both beautiful and sustainable? These **free** open gardens are worth the trip to Hamilton!

Questions: Email us at:

gardenjourneysopendays@gmail.com

Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Fall Plant Sale

Date & Time:

Saturday, September 12;

9am – noon

Place: Vineland Research & Innovation Centre, QEW & Victoria Ave.

Details: Niagara Master Gardeners will be holding their annual Fall Plant Sale on Sep. 12th this year. It is our largest fundraiser. See poster for details. Cash only.

