

Inside MGOI

Master Gardeners of Ontario Newsletter

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MGOI Wear: Lynn Goulet-Smith, Grand Erie
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Manager, MG Participation in the CNE & RWF: Kate Sault, Halton

October 2026 Newsletter

Inside This Issue

Master Gardeners

- Milestones
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MGOI

- Board Vacancy: VP

Editor: *Isabel Belanger, Halton*

Welcome to the October edition of Inside MGOI, the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. (MGOI) newsletter. Our current goal is to be a voice for Master Gardeners to provide a venue for 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. Pictures are welcome!

We are looking at a revamp for this newsletter. Contributions as well as ideas and inspiration for meaningful change may be sent at any time to: Isabel Belanger, Newsletter Editor, newsletter@mgoi.ca.

Milestones

Halton Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved
Janet Padiak
Morag Johnson

Profiles by Diane Best



Cordinator Kate Sault, left presenting Janet with her MG certificate

For **Janet**, joining Halton Master Gardeners in April of 2024 means she can share her horticultural knowledge with fellow gardeners, including writing for our monthly newsletter *Cross Pollination* and providing advice at plant sales, Seedy Saturdays, and markets. It also allows her to contribute to the growth of a dynamic organization through our two signature programs: the Monarch Awards and Garden Journeys Open Days.

Morag joined Halton MGs in April 2024, shortly after she retired. She is part of the 'behind the scenes' team for the Monarch Awards and Garden Journeys, and started a WhatsApp group for our group. Morag also helps with the website and distributes the monthly newsletter, *Cross Pollination*. She is the Secretary for the re-ignited Dundas Horticultural Society.



Coordinator Kate Sault, left presenting Morag with her MG certificate

At home, she and her husband have converted their suburban lot into a native shrubbery. She enjoys sharing this growing native plant knowledge from the HMG booth at the Dundas farmers' market.

New Master Gardener in Training
Stephen Cross

Welcome Stephen!



Profile by Diane Best

Stephen has been gardening since he was eight years old. What began as a childhood interest has grown into a lifelong passion for plants, gardens and the natural world. Gardening has also provided an important balance to Stephen's emotionally demanding career in child welfare, giving him a place to relax, learn and reconnect with nature.

Stephen joined the Halton Master Gardeners because he wanted to deepen his knowledge of horticulture and learn alongside others who share his passion for gardening. He was also looking for an opportunity to continue learning, connect with knowledgeable gardeners and give back to the community by sharing his knowledge with others. As part of his journey, Stephen plans to complete his horticultural coursework through the University of Guelph.

Stephen's garden reflects his enthusiasm for variety and biodiversity. It includes an assortment of deciduous and evergreen trees, hostas and many plants that attract and support pollinators. Since joining Master Gardeners, Stephen has become increasingly interested in incorporating more native plants into his garden, while also tackling invasive species such as buckthorn and lily-of-the-valley.

For Stephen, gardening is a lifelong learning experience. Joining Halton Master Gardeners is an opportunity to build on that passion, learn from others and share the joy of gardening with the wider community.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa – Carleton

15 Year Anniversaries
Judith Cox
Helena Dlab



Celebrating 15 years as MGs are Judith Cox (left) and Helena Dlab. Photo by Pauline Yalle

10 Year Anniversaries
Agnieszka Keough
Claire Leduc
Candace Dressler
Amanda Corrigan
Cynthia Anderson
Angelina Singson



Recipients included (left to right) Agnieszka Keough, Claire Leduc, Candace Dressler, Amanda Corrigan and Cynthia Anderson. Missing MG is Angelina Singson. Co-cordinators Odette McIntyre (second from left) and Belinda Boekhoven (extreme right) presented the pins. Photo by Pauline Yalle

Congratulations!

5 Year Anniversaries
Andrea Knight, Lee Ann Smith and Shazia Hussain

Congratulations on your 5-year pins!

New Master Gardeners
Celia Schatzky, Ginette Starkell and Nancy Mantle

Congratulations to Celia, Ginette and Nancy!

Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved
Barbara Freuler
Catherine McNabb
Paul Lander



Barbara Freuler (left) with Coordinator Rosemary Fernandes-Walker



Catherine McNabb (left) with Coordinator Rosemary Fernandes-Walker



Paul Lander (left) with Coordinator Rosemary Fernandes-Walker

Durham Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Justin Snaith



DMGs would like to welcome our newest member Justin to our wonderful group. He is a recent graduate from the Horticultural Food and Farming program at DC (Durham College).

Justin brings several years of volunteer experience and has some super interesting hobbies to share with our group! Justin, you never know when one of your hobbies will cross over into the world of horticulture.

We are so happy to have you as part of DMG. Welcome to the team!



Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Retirement

Ray Bielaskie



Although announced last month, this month EMG would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Ray upon his retirement from Master Gardeners.

Ray first became interested in gardening when working with a friend who would do landscaping and garden maintenance for a number of clients. Shortly afterwards, Ray was introduced to the Etobicoke Master Gardeners group and enrolled in his first horticultural course at the University of Guelph. He found all of the courses very interesting, and at times, challenging. In 2012, Ray achieved Master Gardener status.

Over the years he has really enjoyed speaking to fellow gardeners. He especially enjoyed the EMG Plant Sales where he got a chance to speak to fellow gardeners in the community. He also enjoyed working at Advice Clinics such as the one at the CNE that exposed him to many gardeners, from novices to experts, while discussing the issues and challenges they were facing. Ray is grateful for his fellow EMG members and has always found that "Master Gardeners are all amazing and so knowledgeable. I really enjoy getting a chance to feed off of other people's knowledge and abilities."

And as a group, Etobicoke Master Gardeners have benefitted from Ray's expertise, abilities, and thoughtful insights shared at monthly meetings and events. His warm, easy manner and openness was always very much appreciated at each Advice Clinic, Workshop, and Plant Sale. Congratulations and Best Wishes on your Retirement, Ray!

Niagara Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved
Donna Greenall



Donna, left, accepts her MG certificate from membership coordinator Lois Johnson at our October meeting

Congratulations Donna!

1000 Islands Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training
Alan MacDonald



Alan joined 1000 Islands MGs almost 2 years ago and followed his own route to full MG status, successfully passing the exam this summer after years of independent study that included attending Guelph Organic Farming conferences, Ecological Farming Association of Ontario workshops and farm tours, taking a Gaia College Organic Master Gardener course, and "reading piles of books and gardening with nerdy friends."

Alan has taught middle school in the Kingston area for 25 years and became a MG to gain professional development opportunities that support his classroom work.

He shares his passion for ecology, sustainability and food security with his students through experiential activities such as starting seedlings and tending a large community food bank garden. In 2022, his school built a 42-foot geodesic greenhouse and a teaching kitchen to increase food literacy for K-8 students. Alan teaches students how to grow and prepare their own food, understand the science of ecosystems, and make contributions to the community's food security.

"Growing food in a carbon neutral or negative manner also allows for meaningful lessons about climate justice that empower youth at a time when there is much anxiety about the future", he said.

Board Vacancy - Vice President (VP)

MGOI needs 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.

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 reach out to your group coordinator or directly to me at President@MGOI.ca. Thank you.

Anne Craig (Peterborough & Area), President, MGOI

Newsletter Working Group-Update

The second focus group sessions will be held on October 28th and November 2nd. Your ideas are welcome at any time—send them to newsletter@mgoi.ca. Thank you.

The Working Group Team
Mary-Lyn Hopper, Niagara, Deirdre Walsh, Mississauga, Leslie Ferguson, Etobicoke, Isabel Belanger, Halton

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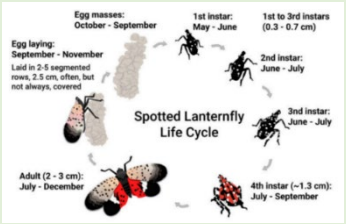
Resources

News release — October 23, 2026 Ottawa, Ontario
Today, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced a regulated area for **spotted lanternfly (SLF)** in the county of Essex, the city of Windsor, the township of Pelee, and the municipality of Chatham-Kent, Ontario. https://www.canada.ca/en/food-inspection-agency/news/2026/10/spotted-lanternfly-in-ontario-regulated-area-put-in-place-for-the-county-of-essex-city-of-windsor-township-of-pelee-and-municipality-of-chatham-kent.html. Under these regulations, all things moving out of the regulated area to non-regulated areas must be free of all life stages of SLF prior to being moved. This includes, but is not limited to nursery stock, outdoor household items, ornamental stones and firewood. These movement restrictions are intended to help slow the spread of this pest and protect non-infested areas in Canada.



Spotted lanternfly - Spot it?
Snap it, catch it and report it

- Read about it in the September issue of *Inside MGOI*: *https://mgoi.ca/newsletters/*
- As a **regulated pest** in Ontario any findings **must be reported** to the **Canadian Food Inspection Agency,** the federal lead for SLF**: Contact CFIA online – Canadian Food Inspection Agency (canada.ca)**.
- The Life Cycle of the Spotted Lanternfly" by Molly Schafer, Mt. Cuba, is available here: https://mtcubacenter.org/the-life-cycle-of-the-spotted-lanternfly/



Worms / Jumping Worms Update / Management
Stay tuned for an updated JW paper with recommended management practices written by Cathy Kavassilis, Halton. **Report sightings** accompanied by a photo of the worm and castings to: **https://www.eddmaps.org/**.
Links to *Earthworms—Two Native Species + Invasive Aliens* and *Hammerhead Worms* were in September's newsletter.

- CCIPR website: https://ccipr.ca/; CCIPR Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1503444570040194
- **Invasive Plants—Comprehensive Article on Invasive Plants by Cathy Kavassalis:** https://haltonmastergardeners.com/2026/07/13/invasive-plants/
- Read **'Invasive plants are available across Canada. Is federal regulation possible?'** posted on the CBCs website on August 20/26: https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/invasive-plants-sale-federal-regulation-9.7312362.
- Cathy's cross-country syndication interview with the CBC. Read here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1503444570040194

Oak Wilt Disease



Do Not Prune Oak Trees (*Quercus* spp.) from April 1st until December [especially in a warm year]**.** Read more: https://onnurserycrops.wordpress.com/2024/04/02/reminder-no-pruning-oaks-from-now-until-november/#more-6673; ontario.ca/page/oak-wilt; https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-species/plant-diseases/oak-wilt/response-framework

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Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Digital Toolkit: digital toolkit — Awareness resources for invasive species; find SLF and other pests on the CFIA **plant pest cards page.** 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 or spread plant diseases or other pests in some countries. 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

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Newsletters

Several MG groups create their own newsletters. Subscribe:

Halton: Cross Pollination - https://haltonmastergardeners.com/2026-newsletters/

Ottawa-Carleton with Lanark County: Trowel Talk - https://mgottawa.ca/trowel-talk-newsletter-subscription/

Toronto: Grow T.O. - https://www.torontomastergardeners.ca/

Subscribe to:

- **The Spread**, The Invasive Species Centre Newsletter: https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/signup/
- **ONnurserycrops Blog:** https://onnurserycrops.wordpress.com/

Past *Inside MGOI* Repository: access past issues anytime at mgoi.ca/newsletters.

Learning Opportunities – from Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

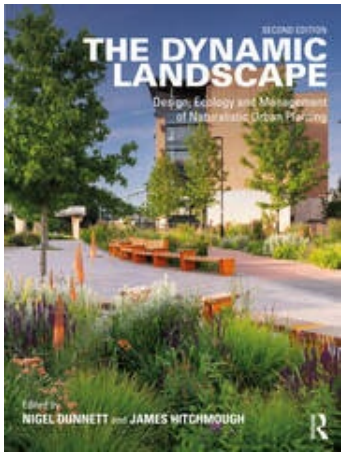
Wildlife-friendly fall garden care: here is the webinar recording link, which you can share widely: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/nuhytKs0yqerAgPhwYwDHXC56J64YI7h3sUtod6q6leaAWVWXk8wl2TeU86fHpJQ.jqBcNP4s-dFWV7FL

And here are some additional links shared during the webinar:

- Dorte volunteer project and business websites: www.cliffcrestbutterflyway.com; www.pollinatorgarden.ca
- David Suzuki Foundation (DSF)'s LawnShare Toolkit: https://davidsuzuki.org/take-action/act-locally/lawnshare
- DSF and partners Bylaws for Biodiversity action alert: https://davidsuzuki.org/action/bylaws-for-biodiversity

Gardens for People

A book review by Beatrice Beaubien, Toronto Master Gardeners



The Dynamic Landscape, 2nd Edition, Routledge 2025.
Editors Nigel Dunnett and James Hitchmough.

How can plantings engage with the people viewing them? This is the focus of this, the second edition of *The Dynamic Landscape*. But it is so much more.

The premise throughout the ten chapters is that establishing gardens should be based on not only well-curated plant selections, but to engender emotional connection and, if possible, delight. Each of the six contributors has their own way to approach this, and in the end you are left feeling that this philosophy is incredibly rich with possibilities.

From widening the possible selection of plants to include varieties that work in a particular ecological niche, regardless of origin and with experience garnered from decades of research (James Hitchmough), to plumbing the public's reaction to different types of landscapes (Nigel Dunnett and Helen Hoyle), each chapter grounds the reader in appreciating how diverse our responses are to naturalistic planting. This leads to suggestions on the how and why of going about increasing the legibility of gardens, in order that the recent style of naturalistic approaches is appreciated - not perceived as messy or untended.

While it is rich in methods and examples, for me one of the most valuable insights came from Helen Hoyle's deep dive into what we have learnt about people and their encounters with nature. To invite individuals to get immersed in gardens, semi-wild or cultivated, is to enhance their lives in measurable ways (children's immune systems have been shown to respond positively to exposure to nature). This is just one example of the emphasis she gives to evidence-based psychology applied to gardens. I've never encountered anything similar.

Although the breadth of expertise of the six contributors is wide and their knowledge deep, the book comes across as well-integrated. The authors worked on building connections between their disciplines. Nigel Dunnett's contributions in particular are beautifully coherent; one paragraph flows into another in a conversational style and his chapters are pleasurable to read.

Go forth and cultivate. With delight.

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2026 Entomology Society of Canada Annual Conference

by Essex-Windsor MG Pat Jefflyn



Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardener Mary Chute Crawford, left, and her sister, Essex-Windsor MG Pat Jeflyn attended a four day conference in Winnipeg this October to learn about the latest research on insects. The theme was “Insect Apocalypse”. When the outgoing President of the ESC heard two master gardeners from Ontario were in attendance, he went out of his way to welcome them, expressing enthusiasm for their presence, as did many others at the conference.

I expected to hear a lot about the abysmal loss of so many insects on our planet. But the scientists weren’t spending much time trying to prove this. That’s old news. Keynote speaker David Wagner from the University of Connecticut put it bluntly: the situation is now so desperate that while individual actions are always good, only changing policies will make a difference.

We learned there are now 350,000 chemical products in use around the world to control and kill insects, and the rate of testing these poisons is shrinking. Another unfortunate trend is the decline in entomology courses at Canadian universities. Participants were encouraged to lobby their alma maters to reinstate courses about insects or create new ones. I was pleased to note that the University of Windsor recently added an entomology course.

Over the four day conference, co-hosted by the Entomological Society of Manitoba, there were 3 keynote addresses, 50 presentations by undergraduate students and 84 from graduate students and established researchers. Many focussed on agricultural issues. Ticks, mosquitoes and bees were among the most common areas of research. New research, for example, is showing that milkweed can have benefits for bees as well as monarch butterflies.

Researcher Fiona Hunter’s 25 years of mosquito surveillance led her to “never say never” in the age of climate change. This happened after two species of mosquitoes common to the southern United States showed up in Windsor-Essex after she had said that could *never* happen. At least for now, they have not been able to overwinter because of freezing temperatures. But, she warned, we have to be prepared for surprises.

Some presentations were especially relevant for master gardeners. A symposium titled “Arthropods and Cultural Imagination” examined how insects are depicted negatively in films and pop culture. Consider how fearful people became of sharks following the movie, *Jaws*. Now look at the hundreds of movies portraying insects as fearsome. Is it any wonder people are afraid of them?

“From phobia to fascination” provided a step-by-step approach to introduce children to insects in a positive way, starting with safe detachment, moving to protected observation and finally to controlled touch.

One study examined how native farmers around the world have used non-chemical methods throughout history to keep insects from eating their crops. By far, the greatest number of Indigenous techniques in the survey came from India. *Lantana* (*L. camara*), for example, is popular among Indian farmers as a pest repellent, as are tobacco, garlic and chilies. Although there was absolutely nothing in the literature from Indigenous peoples in Canada this definitely means this is an area that warrants research and documentation.

The conference was a fascinating experience and one that gave us ideas on what we can do. Without exception, those we met were excited to learn that master gardeners were taking an interest in their work.

Master Gardeners Out & About

Projects & Events

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Name: Visit to Claude E. Garton Herbarium

Details: Recently the Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners toured the Claude E. Garton Herbarium which is located at Lakehead University. The group was hosted by Myles Cummins, Associate Botanist who provided a tour of their greenhouse, detailed explanations of various samples collected in the herbarium as well as a presentation on pressing plants.



Myles Cummins, Associate Botanist LU

The herbarium was established by Claude E. Garton in 1967 and today houses over 115,000 preserved plant and tree specimens from the region as well as other parts of the world.

Thanks to MG Carole McCollum for organizing such an informative tour. Many of us were not aware of this hidden gem. We look forward to participating in their pressing and preserving plants workshop next year.



Carole standing in front of a cabinet of samples



At the herbarium—group shot

Name: Age Friendly Thunder Bay Expo - "No Place Like Home"

Details: Age Friendly Thunder Bay hosted its first expo dedicated to providing seniors with the services needed to stay in their own homes. The Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners were on hand to promote the positive aspects of gardening for seniors as well as how to garden safely, comfortably and joyfully.

We showcased helpful tools for seniors and had a free draw for 2 ergonomic hand tools for attendees.



With studies consistently showing that gardening heals and improves quality of life, these initiatives offer vital support for seniors looking to stay active and healthy in their own home.

The event was very informative and well attended.



Group shot from (l to r):
MGs Andrea Steinhaeusser, Lynda Bobinski,
Carole McCollum, Lynda Lahteenmaa

Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Pollinators and Plants
Details: Earlier this summer, Toronto Master Gardener Jennifer Morley worked with 32 grade 1 students and their families from Our Lady of Peace School to learn about pollinators, gardening and plants.



Pollinators and Plants with Jennifer

Name: Graze the Meadoway
Details: On Sept. 27, 2026 the Toronto & Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) invited Toronto Master Gardeners to participate in Graze the Meadoway, an educational, family friendly event designed to showcase the TRCAs pilot project to use goats and sheep to control vegetation under the hydro lines. The goats and sheep were the big draw of course, but there were lots of questions about native plants, invasive species and ecological gardening.



From left to right: MGs Pat Concessi, Shirley Winter,
Laren Stadelman and Dianna English

The selection of photos was provided by Jennifer Morley.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

September 22-Octobersd 21

Name: New Fact Sheets Now Online
These include “Saplings” by Catherine Disley; “Bare-root tree planting” by Julianne Labreche and “Shade plants” by Lee Ann Smith.

Name: Special Event—Ottawa 200 Block Party
Seven MGOC members participated in the Ottawa Horticulture Society’s miniature garden competition to celebrate the City of Ottawa’s 200th anniversary.

MGOC members' wee gardens showcased at City Hall on Sept 26 included a Rogues' Gallery of invasive species (Andrea Knight); Winter on the Rideau Canal (Julianne Labreche); a canoeing scene (Rebecca Last); and Alien Invasion – with Cake (Tuula Talvila). Three others are shown below.



Imaginary Prehistoric Land, which judges awarded second prize, by Claire Leduc (Photo by Julianne Labreche)

Fantasy Rock Garden by Josie Pazdzior (Photo by Josie Pazdzior)





Sarah Berglas' bog garden replete with pitcher plant and sundews (Photo Rebecca Last)

The MGOC participants are all members of the Ottawa Horticultural Society, going to show that Master Gardeners wear many hats.

Peterborough & District Master Gardeners

Name: Social Event to Wutai Shan Buddhist Garden
Submitted by Anne Trudel-Inglis
Details: The Thyme for Fun Committee organized a social group activity for Peterborough Master Gardeners to the Wutai Shan Buddhist Garden located in Bethany on September 13th. To reduce the number of vehicles parked at the destination we organized a carpool. Our guide – Bhante Bodhicitta, Buddhist Monk – conducted an informative peaceful walking journey through the entire garden, visiting all the different platforms, statues, and places of spiritual significance while we learned about their history, symbolism, and meaning. Some statues may look identical to the layperson however they do have varying differences and meanings.

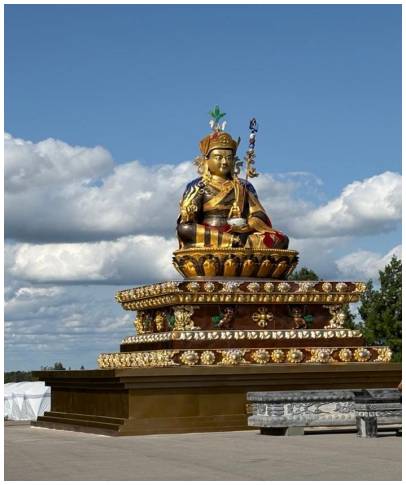
The following are photos of our outing enjoyed by Anne Craig, Jennifer Guertin, Emma Murphy, Lois Scott, Brandi McNeely, Deb Fraser, Mary-Jane Pilgrim, Silvia Strobl, Samm Medeiros & Reuben (her partner) and Anne Trudel-Inglis.



Group Shot



Our guide – Bhante Bodhicitta, Buddhist Monk





L to r, Carol Ireland, Sharleen Pratt, Rachel Burrows, Jennifer Guertin & Chris Freeburn as the day begins

Name: Monarch Festival - September 19

Details: This year's Monarch Festival was a cool one, but the sun did shine and people did come out. Our booth was set up to invite people in, with free native plants to give away (thanks Chris Freeburn, Jenn Guertin & Sam Mederios), beautiful colourful signs on pollinator plants (thanks Anne Craig & Sara Garden), and lots of handouts on pollinators and garden tasks. We had a wonderful team who answered loads of questions, gave away native plants, and handed out pamphlets. Thanks to Sharleen Pratt, Carol Ireland, Rachel Burrows, Joan Harding, Sam Mederios & Jennifer Guertin. A fun day of companionship and sharing our love of gardening!



Joan Harding, Sam Mederios, Carol Ireland & Rachel Burrows (red aprons) answered lots of questions and handed out free native seedlings

Name: Pollinator Workshop - September 26

Details: Peterborough Master Gardeners held their 4th workshop with Ecology Park, where four of our MGs each gave 15 minute talks.

Jennifer Guertin spoke passionately on why it is so important to grow native plants. Marilyn Homewood demonstrated winter sowing and Lois Scott explained what natives could be grown in containers. Chris Freeburn illustrated bee baths and gave tips.

The event was well attended with seniors eager to learn how to help pollinators. Three lucky participants left with a bee bath, and the entire group took home native plants and native seeds to winter sow.



The group listening to the talk. The free native plants the participants will take home are in the foreground



Jenn Guertin speaking on pollinators



Chris Freeburn explaining about bee baths

The children participating were given a hand trowel and instructions on how to correctly plant their seedlings, including digging holes large enough to accommodate the seedling, plant depth and watering. Once finished, each child was given a small white flag on a metal post on which they wrote the common name of the native plant and their name. The flag was placed next to their seedling.





The garden, fenced from the critters and marked by the students with their name and tree variety

Name: Planting a Miyawaki Little Forest
by Carol Ireland
Details: On October 5th and 6th GreenUp staff, volunteers, MG Carol Ireland and students at Burnham PS planted a Miyawaki Little Forest. Students from grades kindergarten through six planted over 700 seedlings and 20 native species in a 200m2 area.

The land had been prepped in early June 2026 with cardboard to cover grass and weeds and then several inches of compost were placed on top, and then topped with mulch. Transforming a patch of soil into a thriving Miyaki Little Forest is a magical hands-on way to connect children with nature. The densely planted native Miyawaki Little Forest can grow up to 10 times faster than a traditional woodland and the kids can actually watch the fruits of their labour shoot up before their eyes.

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: EMG Fall Plant Sale
Details: On Saturday, September 19, the EMG welcomed the community to our second Plant Sale of the year. The weather cooperated and a steady stream of interested gardeners visited our sales tables filled with native and non-native plants including perennials, vines, shrubs and houseplants.



We enjoyed chatting with novice to expert gardeners and providing new homes for these gorgeous plants.



Name: Lakeshore Tree Festival, Ask an Arborist Booth & Tree Talk with Todd Irvine, September 20
Details: The EMGs sponsored arborist Todd Irvine at the fourth annual TreeFest, organized by the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association. Filling the east side of Marie Curtis Park with people, dogs, local merchants, music and food, TreeFest offers 'free advice by Todd' for tree custodians at the *Ask the Arborist* booth.

He also leads and directs a tree talk for about an hour through the varied tree specimens growing in their local habitat. Todd talked to children, teens, and adults about how trees function, heal, and respond to human contact, whether it be with a weed whipper or a large ring of mulch that keeps weeds down and water in.

The audience for this talk has grown every year since the beginning four years ago. This last walk embraced and kept at least 30 individuals entranced by thinking like a tree. Join us next year!

Name: Montgomery's Inn Fall Festival Farmers' Market, Advice Clinic, September 23
Details: Our Advice Clinic joined local artisans and vendors supporting the Farmers' Market. Live music, family-friendly activities and great food provided by local growers rounded out this lovely community building event.

Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: ART, APPLES and Seeds
Details: On October 1st MGiT Mary Lloyd Clifford shared a Power Point and hands on presentation on the topic of seed collecting and saving. A few edible, native and annual seed examples were explored. After the presentation participants could take seeds home. Among the favorites were the swamp milkweed.



Mary at the Small Arms Building in Mississauga teaching about seed collecting

Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Presentation on Urban Forests
Details: At our October meeting, the Niagara MGs were treated to a presentation by Rhoda Dejong from the Vineland Research Centre, on tree planting in urban landscapes. She spoke on the work of the Greening the Landscape Research Consortium (GLRT), which brings together tree nurseries, landscape architects, municipalities from all over Ontario and non-profits, among others, with the goal of growing our urban forests.



Speaker Rhoda Dejong, Vineland Research Centre

GLRT members share info on new technologies, best practices and how to improve soils, survival rates of young trees and long-term climate resilience, along with many other relevant topics. Dejong also shared a useful tool for anyone planting trees: The **Tree Species Selector Tool** that allows you to select options such as zone, soil type, sun/shade, whether you want native trees, etc. It will give you a list of trees that will work best for your site.

There is also lots of information on the GLRT at: https://vinelandresearch.com/research-consortium, including some fascinating videos of past conversations and info sessions.

Name: Fall Flower-arrangement Workshop
Details: Niagara Master Gardeners held a workshop in October at Tabor Manor Care Centre long-term care home, helping residents plant mums and other fun things at a Fall Planting Workshop.



From left, Kendy Steeves, Yvonne Causer and Sue Lusted at the Tabor Manor Care Centre

Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: MGOI Coordinators Conference
Details: On October 3rd, Master Gardeners Lynne Goulet-Smith and Laura Rodger attended the MGOI Coordinators Conference in Cobourg Ontario. GEMG Coordinator and Director of South & West region Lynne Goulet-Smith gave the closing remarks.



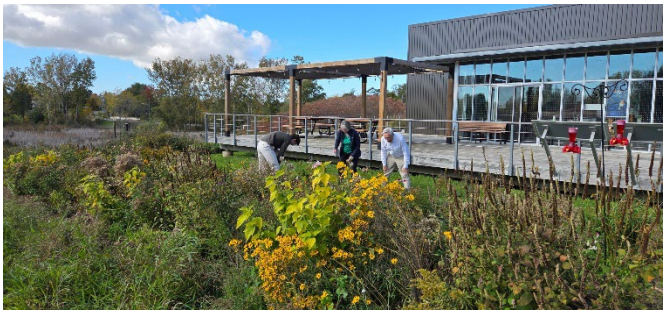
GEMG Coordinator and Director of South & West region Lynne Goulet-Smith giving the closing remarks

Name: Gardening for Birds Workshop
Details: On Sunday, October 18th South Coast Gardens and the Grand Erie Master Gardeners together with Birds Canada presented a Gardening for Birds Workshop at Birds Canada Headquarters in Port Rowan.

The workshop was led by MG Kevin Kavanagh. MGs Lynne Goulet-Smith and Laura Rodger (who also presented) and MGiT Kayleigh Meyer were present to answer gardening questions from participants. Photos are courtesy of Gregor Beck of Birds Canada.



Photo shows Dylan Cowan and Kevin Kavanagh (both of South Coast Gardens) presenting



LtoR, MGiT Dylan Cowan with MGs Laura Rodger and Kevin Kavanagh in one of the native bird gardens at Birds Canada headquarters

UPCOMING EVENTS

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Toronto Public Library sessions
in partnership with the Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Growing Native Plants from Seed
Date & Time: Tuesday November 3, 6 to 7 p.m.
Place: Rexdale Library
Details: EMG will do a 'Growing Native Plants from Seed' demonstration at the Rexdale Library.

Name: Sustainable Gardening: Climate-Resilient Gardening
Date & Time: Wednesday, November 4, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Place: Richview Library
Details: This presentation is sponsored by the Silver Creek Pollinator Project.

Winter Workshops: These are held via Zoom.
Dates:
- January 23
- February 27



Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Saturday, 2027
Date: February 13, 2027
Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Details: Niagara MGs are hosting a **Seedy Saturday** event again in 2027. The event includes speakers, vendors and family activities. See the poster below.

Don't miss it!



Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: Day in the Garden 2027
Theme: "Where We Grow, We Belong"
Date/Time: Sunday, February 21, 2027; 0900-1530hr. Doors Open at 0830hr
Location: Victoria East Golf Course, 1096 Victoria Road South, Guelph ON
Speakers: Tony Spencer, Kiki Alwan, Ben and Mark Cullen
Featuring: Local Vendors, interactive demonstrations

