

MASTER GARDENERS OF ONTARIO INC.

Summer Workshop, July 17th and 18th, 2010
at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture
Program Outline

“Principles and Practices for Pruning Young Shade Trees”

Instructor: Darrell Bley
Instructor/Curator of Woody Plants
Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture

Young trees are an important component of newer landscapes. These young trees will become the bones of the landscapes in the future therefore how we care for them in their formative years is fundamental to their long term health, structure and aesthetics. This course will focus on the following topics:

- Discussion of the vascular systems of trees, the chemicals that travel within and their relevance to pruning practices
- Explaining pruning terminology, equipment and types of pruning cuts
- Understanding and explaining the plant’s reaction to the various types of pruning cut techniques
- Understanding and explaining the difference between excurrent and decurrent trees
- Review of pruning objectives for a standard form shade tree
- Understand and demonstrate the proper techniques to prune these trees

“Knowing Your Way Around the Perennial Border”

Instructor: Lorne Fast
Instructor/Curator of Collections
Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture

- We will use the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens’ perennial collections as our classroom to focus on perennial identification and culture
- A broad range of perennials will be discussed including alpiners, border perennials, shade and woodland plants, low maintenance and groundcover plants (some common and some more unusual plants)
- Plants in the gardens will be used to point out identification features (e.g. height, type of underground structures, foliage, flower and fruiting characteristics) and ornamental attributes (texture, colour, flowering season)
- Botanical and common names will be emphasized
- The correlation between the plants native habitat (where it grows in the wild) and its cultural requirements will be outlined so that the gardener gets a complete picture of the preferred site for the plant including light requirements, soil moisture/drainage, pH, texture and organic matter content
- Finally, maintenance practices will be emphasized including the need for division, deadheading, common pests and/or diseases as well as propagation
- At the end of the session the gardener should be well acquainted with many perennials which are effective in spring and early summer

The fee for this two-day workshop has remained at \$250, as it has been for the past two years.

If you would like to receive more information on the Summer Workshop, please contact June Streadwick at streadwick@sympatico.ca.

About the Instructors.....

Darrell Bley and Lorne Fast are the instructors for the two-day workshop and bring extensive horticultural experience to this educational event.

Darrell is the Instructor/Curator of Woody Plants and lectures for the following courses: Arboriculture II, which focuses on the arboricultural practices for young trees, Plant Identification IV (Conifers), Plant Identification V (Deciduous trees in summer), Plant Identification VI (Deciduous trees in winter) and he administers the Seminar course.

Curatorial responsibilities include the Arboretum, the Residence gardens and the woody plants within the Botanical Gardens. He also oversees the 3rd year internship program and the international internship program at the Botanical Gardens. Darrell has been teaching courses for the Continuing Education Horticultural Certificate at Niagara College for the past 25 years. He also is involved in many garden design and consultation projects for private and commercial enterprises.

Lorne is the Instructor/Curator of Collections and has the opportunity to be involved in two of the main focuses of the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture: plants and teaching.

Lorne graduated from Brock University (B.Sc. Biology) in 1986, and after a year of working in a local commercial greenhouse operation, attended the School of Horticulture. The time spent at the school allowed him to cultivate his deep interest in plants. Upon graduation in 1989, Lorne was hired as the Horticultural Taxonomist. Documenting and curating the Botanical Gardens' significant plant collections has given him the opportunity to become intimately familiar with a broad spectrum of hardy woody and herbaceous plants.

Lorne's main interests are in learning and teaching about plants, their culture, their use in design and their contribution to the ecology and living environment of inhabited landscapes. He has taught arboriculture, botany and is currently teaching the Year 1 Herbaceous Plants course. He is also the practical instructor for the perennial collections which comprise the woodland garden, the shade garden, rock garden, perennial border and entrance garden collections.