



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside MGOI

Welcome to the April edition of the Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI) Newsletter. With a focus on you, the Master Gardeners, this is your vehicle for providing updates, insights and the inside scoop from MGOI Board & Committee members, Directors, and the 31 Master Gardener groups throughout Ontario. The Newsletter features member milestones, new group projects, short member profiles, upcoming events such as regional technical updates – anything about the functioning and activities of our groups and our members. And pictures – please feel free to submit pictures!

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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Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Adrienne Hanbidge, Toronto

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INSIDE MGOI

**Newsletter of the
Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.**

April, 2016

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Milestones

Halton Master Gardeners

25 years:

David Marshall
Sharon Paradis

5 years:

Shirley Novak

Achieved Master Gardener Status:

Marie Clarke-Davies
Elisabeth Richards
Lynn Courtney

Member Transfers:

Lee Anderson – from London Middlesex to Halton Region

Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners

New Member:

Agnieszka Maleszewska-Keough

Simcoe County Master Gardeners

5 years:

Debra Rabbitts


Projects

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Project Name: Community Gardens in Picton

Details: We are in the next stage, beginning to gather materials for the actual construction of the gardens. Raised beds will be built and offered to the public as allotments. Construction is the weekend of May 7th & 8th, and a planting weekend is planned for May 28th & 29th.

Conference 2016

'Come Grow With Us 2016', April 8th-10th, Huntsville, Ontario, was a huge success – and Master Gardeners were all atwitter! 

Master Gardeners Conference 2016 Twitter Feed

From a lot of tweeters: 'A HUGE thank you to all the organizers who put in so many hours! Thank you to all the volunteers for their hard work. It showed and paid off.'

Maureen Hulbert, Toronto 'Met Master Gardeners from Muskoka-Parry Sound who were able to identify, from my description, a local shrub that I have been wondering about for a year!'


Margaret Henshall, Guelph & Wellington 'Well organized conference. Beautiful resort. Wonderful food. Couldn't ask for more. Excellent speakers - so much good information. Favourite breakout sessions: Tree Health by Darrell Bley & How to Answer Any Gardening Question by Tina Cesaroni. Thank you, Thank you, to all the organizers.' 

Pat de Valence, Lake Simcoe South 'Intellectually interesting, emotionally satisfying, great fun!'

Rhonda Grein, Kitchener 'Time out from the seminars to take a wonderful 'Group of 7' on a tour around Huntsville.'



Master Gardeners touring Huntsville

Liz Stacey, Kitchener 'I learnt a number of things from each speaker - but I do like hands-on. I run a number of different workshops for Horticultural societies so it gives more insight into how to work it. (Willow workshop was great). I enjoyed Deerhurst - great food, and employees were very helpful and friendly.' 

Diane Vaughan, Elgin County '4 of our group's members attended, and we only have 5. Didn't want to leave

Linda Boyko, Toronto 'Enjoyed Dr. Peterson's look at the world of beneficial fungi.'



Tracy Bosley, Simcoe County 'Loved the trip into town for the Mural Art Tour. Gorgeous murals. The meals were fantastic. Exceeded all expectations with the selection and quality.'

The resort is awesome, of course. The speakers and events were well run and organized. The selection of gifts at the Silent Auction was interesting and special. Overall, I enjoyed myself immensely.'

Louise Jackson, Simcoe County 'Excellent speakers, great venue, staff, food. Very well organized. Appreciated "List" method of announcing draw prize winner for time constraint.'



Sheila Campbell, Algoma 'Thoroughly enjoyed Bonita Ford's presentation on Permaculture and Eco-logical Design. Got some great ideas for terracing my hillside yard. And great food too.'

Linda Hachez, Coordinator, Sudbury 'Yes, yes, yes to all your questions! It was absolutely amazing, from the moment I walked in and was given such a warm welcome from the Deerhurst staff and all of the MG's. Made some new friends and did some awesome networking! Enjoyed the presentations, and all the activities!' 'My friend, Aileen Reid, also attended from Atlantic Master Gardeners in Nova Scotia, and was immensely pleased and excited about the whole affair.'

Linda Dronseika, Muskoka-Parry Sound 'We had our MG meeting the night after the convention. All who came shared the great information they had learned at the sessions. It was as if one had been able to attend all the different sessions of the convention.'

Judith Cox, Ottawa-Carleton 'I was so very impressed by the obvious hard work of the many volunteers. The attention to detail and welcoming manner made the whole event that much more wonderful.'

Veronica Callinan, Toronto 'Fascinating talk by Liz Hood about why we do what we do. Relationships are the root of our happiness. Gardening makes us happy - our relationship to the earth is more "rooting" and important than we thought.'

Joanna Blanchard, Toronto 'Great conference - well organized, thought provoking keynote speakers and break-out sessions. Just what I was hoping for. Better than 3 years ago.'



Michelle Wilson, Mississauga 'I had a wonderful time. The food choices were fantastic with so many choices.'

Extremely well organized. Dr. James Cahill was the best speaker talking about his research with plant communication. I was fully entertained the full time. Learned many good points on presentations, how to compost, haskaps and the effects of global warming.'

Charlotte Vorstermans, Simcoe County 'The conference was wonderful and beautifully organized. The food was delicious. Wonderful accommodation. Love the loot bags, best ever.'



Holly Tallman, MGIT, Muskoka-Parry Sound 'The support, encouragement and commitment found at tables and sessions throughout the conference made me proud of my decision to join the Master Gardeners. I walked in feeling that I belong to a great group and left feeling I was part of an amazing family.'

Edythe Falconer, Ottawa-Carleton 'Bonita Ford - bright, well-organized, passionate, interactive, great communication skills, generous with her materials. Liz Hood - courage to take on a sensitive topic and did it well. Art Tour - despite the intense cold - a wonderful experience. Deerhurst Hotel - staff friendly and helpful at all times. Forest Gardening - excellent.'

Nancy McDonald, Ottawa-Carleton 'Excellent Friday night dinner featuring menu from Foodland Ontario. J.C. Cahill - excellent opening speaker with 'Smarty Plants' then challenging us during the conference to look beyond our norms and expectations!'

Mary Ann Van Berlo, Ottawa-Carleton 'Amazing conference - highlights included Smarty Plants talk by James Cahill and two sessions by Darrell Bley on trees.'

Odette McIntyre, Lake Simcoe South 'Amazing weekend! Thanks for organizing this. Here's what I learned: From Dr. Peterson: the underground web: we're all connected. From Liz Hood: an ecosystem is more than the sum of its parts; appreciating beauty in imperfection is wabi sabi. From Toronto MGs: adding a Plant ID component in our reg. meetings to build confidence. From Dr. Cahill: learning the secret language of plants. They're speaking to each other and to us. From Dr. Murphy: ecosystem loss has reached point of no return.'

Ankaret Dean, Lanark County 'I would like to congratulate the conference 'bag' ladies, a very nice brown bag full of surprises, like undoing a Christmas stocking!'



*Mr. Spock's, aka Leonard Nimoy's, last tweet:
 "A life is like a garden. Perfect moments can be had, but not preserved,
 except in memory." L.L.A.P. - As tweeted by Veronica Callinan, Toronto M.G.*

Master Gardeners Out & About



Plants being potty trained - Master Gardener Don Farwell, Stratford, never has enough room for over-wintering potted plants, so he 'potty' trains them.

Butterflies of Prince Edward County

April 2, 2016

Details: We were very pleased to have the distinguished entomologist and botanist, Dr. Paul Catling come to our April meeting to speak about butterflies of PEC.



Dr. Paul Catling



Master Gardeners at the Green Living Show

The Master Gardener Advice Clinic at the Green Living Show in Toronto was the place to be on the weekend of April 15th. Master Gardeners partnered with OMAFRA's 'Growing Ontario's Future' in support of pollinator gardens. The OMAFRA reps were tremendously pleased with the value added by the presence of the MGs who were kept busy answering questions.



*Left: Master Gardeners Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke, and Ursula Nocon, Toronto.
 Right: OMAFRA's Chelsea Unger (left) with colleague*



"Garden Design for Evolving Realities"

The Ottawa-Carleton group hosted a well-attended design workshop with a focus on practices that make gardens sustainable and resilient in the urban landscape.



Break time - group coordinator Diane McClymont Peace on the left.

A Moment for Membership

Pam Love, Awards Chair, Director of Membership, MGOI

Master Gardeners Win National Gardening Awards

HUNTSVILLE, ON. Volunteers with the Master Gardeners across Canada have been bestowed with national Awards of Excellence for their pan Canadian projects. The evening was a star studded celebration of outstanding projects that demonstrate excellence in the delivery of the Master Gardener mission.

Halton Master Gardeners received a first place award in the Innovation Category for weekly live on-line gardening chats, in partnership with Canada's CBC radio. The award was presented by Ed Lawrence, star "garden guru" of CBC Radio's *Ontario Today*.



Halton Master Gardeners Marie Clarke-Davies, Donna Parker and Claudette Sims accept their award from Ed Lawrence, left

For the Seniors' Garden Club Project at the West Vancouver Seniors' Activity Centre, a first place was awarded in the Target Audience Category to the Vancouver Master Gardeners. The award was presented by Liz Klose, Honourary Master Gardener, Ontario.



Liz Klose, right, presents the Award to Jill Wright of Vancouver.

Durham Master Gardeners received a first in the Workshop Category for their Sustainability Workshop series. The award was presented by Dr. J.C. Cahill, University of Alberta.



Ingrid Janssen gives Durham acceptance speech, with Tracey Smyth

For their Community Service Project, "Start Me UP Niagara Community Garden", Niagara Falls Master Gardeners received first place. The award was presented by our very own celebrity, Eva Norman-Vestergaard, a 30 year founding member of the London Middlesex Master Gardener group.



Niagara Falls Master Gardeners June Streadwick and Diane Turner (on right) accept their award from Eva Norman-Vestergaard (MGOI's longest serving MG, from London Middlesex, left).

All the projects represented a lot of commitment – a tremendous amount of time and talent. To continue to inspire and share best practices beyond the conference, the projects will be posted on the mgoi.ca website. In addition, key suggestions from the judges will be included to provide insight when planning potential activities for future awards. Look for these by the end of April.

Congratulations, you are all making a difference!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Technical Update – Thunder Bay:

Topic: Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott Presentations

Date: April 30th, 2016

Location: Confederation College, Thunder Bay

Cost: \$20 for the afternoon session; \$35 for a full day

Registration Information: On the TBDMG website: <http://tbmastergardeners.homestead.com>

Details: In a combined Technical Update and public event, Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott (Ph.D.) from the University of Washington will address sustainable landscaping practices with a scientific viewpoint.

Morning Session:

“The Science of Sustaining our Landscape - Selecting and Planting Healthy Plants and Trees” (open to MGs and Invited Guests)

10:00am - 12:00pm

Afternoon Session:

“Exploding the Myths - Separating Fact from Fiction” (open to MGs and the General Public)

1:30pm - 3:30pm

Etobicoke Master Gardeners / Humber Arboretum Eco - Garden Community Workshop Series

Date: May 7th, 2016

Details: The ‘Growing Your Own Food’ workshop will be presented by EMG and Humber Arboretum

Location: Humber Arboretum, 205 Humber College Blvd., Etobicoke, ON

Mississauga Master Gardeners Plant Sale

Date: May 28th 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Details: The Mississauga MGs will have their annual Spring Sale in partnership with the Riverwood Conservancy and in conjunction with the City of Mississauga’s Earth Market. The Earth Market will feature free workshops, art classes, documentaries, and music in addition to the MMG Plant Sale.

Location: The Riverwood Conservancy, 4300 Riverwood Park Lane, Mississauga

Prince Edward County Annual Plant Sale

Date: May 28th, 2016 - 8:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Metro parking lot on Main St., Picton

Details: Perennials, annuals, Native Plants, herbs, local roses and much more, all at reasonable prices.

Etobicoke Master Gardeners Plant Sale

Date: May 28, 2016 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: 8 & 10 Bethnal Ave., Etobicoke; 10 blocks south of Bloor, east off of Prince Edward Drive

Details: For sale will be a variety of plants including perennials, vegetables, annuals, herbs, etc. available for good prices

Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners’ Spring Plant Sale

Date: Saturday, May 28th from 9am to 12 noon.

Location: R.J. Hilton Centre, 384 College Ave. E.

Details: Locally grown hardy perennials, shrubs, and trees will be available. Cash or cheques only. Rain or Shine.



M.G.O.I. Summer Workshop - 2016

Dates: July 16th & 17th

Location: The beautiful Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture

Details: Registrations are coming in regularly, as there appears to be great interest in this year’s sessions. If you are considering attending the Summer Workshop, it is recommended that you register as early as possible to be assured of getting into the sessions which would interest you the most. You may select two of the three being offered.

Tree Assessment (Structure Review, Hazard Review and Risks Assessment)

The instructor for this session is Darrell Bley, who will guide us through both classroom and outdoor instruction. Trees are an important component of our urban landscape and an investment for future generations. We benefit from trees in so many ways and by taking this session, we will learn how to recognize the difference between trees that are structurally weak and trees that are structurally strong. We will categorize species of trees, ones



that are sound and others that are inherently problematic. We will also learn how to coach this problematic group into being successful long term members of the tree community. This is only one of three fascinating topics offered at this year's workshop. The other two are:

IPM – Using the Tools to Beat Key Ontario Pests: Phenology, Entomology, Organics.

The Tiny Garden – Big Thinking for Small Spaces.

For registration information go to www.mgoi.ca.

10th Annual Coordinators' Conference **Coordinators – mark your calendars now!**

The 2016 Coordinators Conference will be held at the Landscape Ontario facilities in Milton on October 15th, 2016. Groups will be invited to send up to 3 members – usually the coordinator, the co-coordinator and a potential coordinator!

The **Annual General Meeting of MGOI** will be held on this day also. Each group has one vote. This vote is usually carried by the coordinator, but any member of a group is eligible to be that group's voting representative at the AGM.

Education Matters

June Streadwick, Director of Education

Reference Manual for Ontario Master Gardeners

The 3rd Edition of the Reference Manual for Ontario Master Gardeners is now on the members' side of the website. Many thanks are given to the following Master Gardeners who gave so generously of their time and expertise in revising this edition: Fran Dennett, Edythe Falconer, Julianne Labreche, Rebecca Last, Mary Reid, Stephanie Sleeth and Pat Beechey (all of Ottawa-Carleton), Sean James (Guelph & Wellington), Cathy Kavassalis (Halton Region), Dale Odorizzi (Lanark County), and the members of the Education Committee: Sue Flinders-Adams (Peterborough), Kevin Long (Lanark County), Kelly Noel (Ottawa-Carleton), June Streadwick (Niagara), Kit Thompson (Niagara) and Claudette Sims (Halton Region) who designed the beautiful cover.

MGOI VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Treasurer/Corporate Secretary:

Timeframe: 2 years plus 6 month transition period, working with the current Treasurer and Corporate Secretary.

Starts April 1, 2016 – term ends with the AGM in 2018.

Description: The Treasurer is responsible for general financial oversight and works with the Board executive and directors. Main responsibilities include banking, book-keeping, bill payment, financial planning and budgeting, financial reporting to the Board, advising on fund-raising.

As 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.

