



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside MGOI

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the 2017 gardening year, and the January edition of the Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI) Newsletter. Our focus is on you, 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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Co-Director of South & West Region:	Karen Sciuk, Kitchener

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Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke newsletter@mgoi.ca
Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County
Facebook: Linda Hugli, Sudbury
MG Advice Clinic Manager for Canada Blooms: Christine Spence, Etobicoke
Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Adrienne Hanbidge, Toronto

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INSIDE MGOI

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

January 2017

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Milestones

Ottawa – Carleton Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved:

Margaret Ryan

New Master Gardener in Training:

Mary Jonsson

Lanark County Master Gardeners

15 Year Anniversary:

Judy Wall

New Master Gardener in Training:

Laurie Chennette

Member Transfer:

David Hinks, from Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners



David Hinks & Judy Wall

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved:

Melissa Bell

Peggy Mooney

Suzanne Zacharczyk, Coordinator, presented Melissa Bell, left and Peggy Mooney, right, with their MG certificates.



Halton Region Master Gardeners

10 Year Anniversary:

Patty King

New Master Gardener in Training:

Howard Cole

Of Interest:

Kate Sault is the new Coordinator for the Halton Master Gardeners.

Guelph – Wellington Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved:

Charlene Janes

Ann Davis

Joanne Garnett

New Master Gardeners in Training:

Kim Nixon, May 2016

Pablo Díaz Arce, May 2016

Alberto Aguilera, Sept 2016

Stacey Curry-Gunn, Sept 2016

Andrea Harris, Nov 2016

Donna Kahn, Nov 2016

Member Profiles:

Robert Pavlis, GWMG, has written a book: *Building Natural Ponds*. The book explains how to create a clean, algae-free pond without pumps, filters, or chemicals. Scheduled for release in May 2017 but the book is ready for pre-order now with a 20% discount:

<http://www.buildingnaturalponds.com/>

Sean James, GWMG, gave generously of his time and expertise in revising the 3rd Edition of the Reference Manual for Ontario Master Gardeners.

Of Interest:

Co-Coordinators:

GWMGs Inger Knudsen and Charlene Janes have tried something different! They are serving as GWMGs Co-Coordinators for the next three years. It's a great way to share the responsibility and lighten the load, with both bringing different and complementary skill sets to the Coordinator's role.

Good News to Grow On!

MGOI has set aside \$4000 to support our 31 Master Gardener groups. Any group wishing to apply for funding for a special project should fill out an application stating how they intend to use the money, and submit it to their regional director by February 28, 2017. Money will be available around March 31, 2017, and funds should be spent by the end of 2017.

The Boreal Garden Project - Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Prince Edward County (PEC) Master Gardeners have applied for funds and will donate their allocation to *The Boreal Garden Project*, to help sustain and continue the work started by Steve Vassallo in the remote First Nation community of North Caribou Lake.

Challenge

The biggest challenge now is to build on Steve's success and encourage others to invest in his vision. PEC MG's will allocate the funds from MGOI, and in addition match any money received. **We want to challenge other Master Gardener groups across Ontario to partner with us by donating their funds to this project:**

<http://www.theborealgardenproject.org/pilot-project/>.

Our federal government is working to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. What better way to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday than to sow seeds of hope and reconciliation by creating new generations of First Nations gardeners! That truly would be Good News to Grow On!

Background:

Steve Vassallo is a former landscape designer who left the business seven years ago to start a market garden in Markham. After a number of years of success as a local market gardener, he began to wonder how he could make a difference in the lives of Indigenous peoples. The Boreal Garden Project was born. In the fall of 2015 he began fundraising with a goal of raising \$25,000, and in 2016 he was able to ship tools, seeds and building materials to the North Caribou Lake First Nation, a community about 320 km north of Sioux Lookout, and accessible only by plane or ice road during the winter.

Elders in the community remember when they used to grow potatoes, carrots and other produce, but these skills have been lost by succeeding generations. Steve made seven visits to the community last summer to give expert instruction and encouragement. The resulting harvest of 75 heads of lettuce, 18 pounds of carrots, kale, onions and other produce may not seem like much, but it was the first truly fresh produce eaten there in years. With his help, the community also built a greenhouse to extend the growing season, which although short, is augmented by the long daylight; things will grow well with experience and knowledge. Steve's goal is to see the program spread to other First Nation communities and to bring some interested participants south for further instruction on growing and nurturing vegetables and fruits.

Canada Blooms 2017

Canada Blooms is fast approaching – March 10th to 19th inclusive. Master Gardeners will run two advice clinics during the show, answering gardening questions from the public. Last year we had over 2500 questions posed to our knowledgeable volunteers. This year promises to be equally busy as enthusiasm for our participation is on the rise. Therefore, all hands will be needed.

Watch for a forthcoming email from Christine Spence, with sign up instructions, dates and time slots. Shifts go fast, so sign up as soon as possible - the more the merrier. Let's make this a truly province wide effort for "O Canada 150".

Adrienne Hanbidge, ahanbidge@hotmail.com



Master Gardeners Out & About

Projects & Events

Toronto Master Gardeners (TMG)

Name: Technical Update (TU) 2017 - Gardening without Chemicals

Details: Braving the freezing temperatures, gardeners from Niagara to Peterborough gathered to eat & learn at the Toronto Master Gardeners Technical Update on January 7, 2017.

This sold-out event was addressed by well-known keynote speaker, Mark Cullen, 2016 Order of Canada recipient and Chair, Highway of Heroes Tribute.



Keynote Speaker Mark Cullen

Mark's topic *Changing Your Mindset* suggests that the vision of a garden changes with each generation. The coming decades will see a continued shift away from the ornamental, perfectly coiffed landscapes of yesterday to gardens that reflect the

desire, and possibly need, to grow food, attract pollinators and sustain biodiversity. An exciting time to be a gardener in Canada!

However, as Lisa McLean, Natural Resource Specialist, Urban Forestry, passionately reminded us, biodiversity does not include invasive species, and we need to take caution and recognize those plants that come to haunt the ravines and gardens throughout Ontario. Continuous vigilance for evil dwellers like Garlic Mustard and Dog-Strangling Vine (I'm relieved it does not strangle dogs) should be on our agendas from spring thaw to winter freeze.

Our fellow Master Gardener Sean James, writer, teacher, and environmentalist, whose landscape projects include naturalizing urban gardens and creative rainwater retention solutions, shared his passionate belief that we are all connected by the landscape. Although our gardens are isolated in themselves, they are part of a larger ecosystem and what happens upstream, happens downstream.

His creative designs to help mitigate the negative effects of our built-up environments were presented to the group. It is far easier to work with nature to create solutions than it is to create opposing barriers.

Closing the conference, Paul Zammit, Nancy Eaton Director of Horticulture, Toronto Botanical Garden, was infectiously energetic as usual. Paul instructed us on how to feed the garden, from the garden: stealing full leaf bags from your neighbours' driveways to use as mulch, leaving pruned clippings in mounds between shrubs, and composting everything green (except invasives and corn cobs). This is how Paul's garden stays well fed. More important than what is above ground is the growing media below ground, including beneficial bacteria and worms. Healthy soil is key to a healthy garden, in turn generating healthy plants that ultimately return to the soil.

To run an event of this scope, a hard-working team of organizers (under the leadership of Gwen Rattle, TU Chair), is required. Kudos to Gwen & her team for all their hard work. Mark your calendars for our next technical update, Saturday, January 13th, 2018!

Thank you to all our amazing speakers, sponsors, donors, organizers and registrants for a truly successful day!

Marion Comper, Communications Coordinator, TMG



Awesome Raffle Ticket Sellers – the arms-length special was popular



EMG MGIT Beverly Trought (in green) picks up her prize which included a bottle of wine



Mark Cullen signing his new book

Grey County Master Gardeners

Name: 1996 to 2016 – Celebration of our 20th Anniversary

Details: We celebrated our 20 years as Master Gardeners in Grey County by:

- Acknowledging our remaining 6 founding members with special name badges with the words "Founding Member"
- Thoughtfully putting together a hard cover binder recording our 20 years of service
- Celebrating in August with a power point presentation of our history and enjoying cake & tea
- Adding an archive webpage to our web-site in September, and for the next 5 months highlighting our membership, community involvement, education and giving
- Please visit us at:
www.greycountymastergardeners.com - Archives

Lanark County Master Gardeners

Name: This year marks the 30th Anniversary of Lanark County MGs.

Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Good to Know

Did you know that Bell Canada has an individual volunteer grant of \$250 offered through their Employee Giving Program to support any organization where Bell employees and/or retirees volunteer? If there are two Bell employees/retirees along with community volunteers in the organization, they qualify for \$2500.

Thanks to Margaret Higgins, one of our Peterborough Master Gardeners, who has received \$250 a year for the Peterborough MGs for the past two years.

New Year's Resolutions Gardener Style

Master Gardeners, you may wish to read:

The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm Winter 2017 Newsletter, in which Edythe Falconer with Dale Odorizzi (Lanark) shared Master Gardeners new years' resolutions.

<http://friendsofthefarm.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Winter-2017-Vol29-No1.pdf>

Dale plans to accept caterpillars into her garden.



Caterpillar of the Black Swallowtail Butterfly, Papilio polyxenes; photo by Ruth McMurtry in Kentucky

<http://www.backyardnature.net/caterpil.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Guelph – Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: A Day in the Garden

Date: Sunday, February 26, 2017; 1096 Victoria Rd. S., Guelph

Details: \$50 includes lunch, prizes, demonstrations, and 3 speakers: Robert Pavlis on *Trough Designs*, Frank Kershaw on *Vines for Urban Gardens*; the 3rd speaker is yet to be arranged. There are 3 ways to register:

Phone: 519-824-4120

Email: mgguelph@hotmail.com

Mail-in (form available at):

<https://guelphwellingtonmastergardeners.wildapricot.org/>



Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners Present:

A DAY IN THE GARDEN

Sunday, February 26, 2017
8:45 am – 2:30 pm
Victoria Park East Golf Club
1096 Victoria Rd S. Guelph, ON.

\$50 includes lunch, prizes, demonstrations and 3 speakers:

- **Trough Designs** Robert Pavlis (author: *Building Natural Ponds; Garden Myths*)
- **Vines for Urban Gardens** Frank Kershaw (educator, award-winning horticulturist)
- **Third Speaker TBA**

Phone: 519-824-4120 ext. 56714 3 Ways to Register Email: mgguelph@hotmail.com
Download and mail in form: guelphwellingtonmastergardeners.wildapricot.org

Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Name: Technical Update - A Day for Gardeners

Date: Saturday, March 4, 2017 from 9:15 am – 2:15 pm

Location: Activity Haven (1st floor), 180 Barnardo Ave., Peterborough, ON K9H 5V3

Details: For the new gardener who is not quite sure where to start, or the homeowner who loves to garden and would like to find out more.

Topics include...

- Caring for Orchids (Dianne Westlake)
- Container Gardening: Thinking Outside the Planter Box (Gary Westlake)
- The Rain Garden (Cauleen Viscoff)
- Edible Landscape (Cathy Hooper)
- Integrated Pest Management (Sue Flinders-Adams)
- Gardening Trivia: Test Your Knowledge (M.J. Pilgrim)

Registration Information: Cost is \$30 per person (includes lunch). Please preregister by completing the form, available on our website

<http://peterboroughgardens.ca>, and sending a cheque for

\$30 (made payable to Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners)

before February 24 to

Carol Bulmer, 7017 –

300 Hedonics Rd.,

Peterborough ON, K9J

7T1.

Questions? Email: mgcontact@peterboroughgardens.ca



A Day for Gardeners

Northumberland Master Gardeners

Name: March into the Garden Lecture Series - 4 Mondays in March

Dates: March 6, 13, 20, 27 at 7:30 pm

Location: Calvary Pentecostal Church
401 Croft St. E., Port Hope

Details: Tickets will be available soon. Great speakers, in order of date, include Kevin Elchuk, Giboshihill Hostas; Darren Heimbecker, Whistling Gardens; Marion Jarvie; and



Paul Zammit, TBG.

Presented by Northumberland Master Gardeners, series tickets are \$40 for the four lectures. Individual lecture tickets are \$15 and are only sold at the door and if seating is available.

Email: allthingsgardening@hotmail.com for further info.

Come join us - it's a wonderful way to spend Monday evenings in March!

Canada Blooms 2017

Dates: Fri., March 10th – Sun., March 19th inclusive

Details: Hailed as the gardening event of the year, Ontario Master Gardeners will play an integral role in answering the public's gardening questions. Master Gardeners will also provide informative and interesting talks.



Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Name: The 17th Incredible Peterborough Garden Show

Dates: Friday April 7th, 5pm to 9pm; Saturday April 8th, 10am to 5pm; Sunday April 9th, 10am - 4pm

Location: The Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough, ON

Details: The Peterborough Horticultural Society and the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners are not-for-profit organizations of passionate volunteers who host the garden show to raise money. We return it to our community with scholarships for students in horticulture-related studies, to support Master Gardeners in Training, and to provide grants to community gardens. It is our major fundraiser.

Some of the speakers this year include Paul Zammit, Darren Heimbecker, Steven Biggs, and Cathy Dueck!

Admission: \$ 8/day OR get a weekend pass for \$12. Children under 12, with adult: Free
NEW this year – e-tickets...

<http://www.peterboroughgardenshow.com/tickets.html>

There are also several locations for advance ticket sales.

For more info email info@peterboroughgardenshow.com or check out our [Garden Show webpage](#) or [Facebook](#) page!



Peterborough Garden Show 2016



Peterborough Garden Show 2016

Etobicoke Master Gardeners & Humber Arboretum

Name: Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring

Date: Sat., March 25, 2017 (changed from March 11th)

Details: Will present the 2016/2017 Eco-Gardening Community Workshop Series in collaboration with each other.

Sessions run from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

To register for the free community events, please e-mail: arboretum@humber.ca or call 416-657-5009.

Organic Master Gardener Courses

Details: Canadian Organic Growers (COG) are offering the Organic Master Gardener Course in 3 locations across Ontario this winter. Only the Toronto course is still open.

What is the Organic Master Gardener Course?

The course examines the connections between soil, plant, human, and environmental health while addressing sustainable land management practices to maintain food and ornamental gardens in the urban landscape. The course is designed for all types of gardeners: community and backyard gardeners, landscapers, organic farmers, and anyone who enjoys growing and eating their own food without the use of pesticides and chemicals.

Registration Deadline: Registration for the Toronto course is open until Friday, February 17, 2017. For more information and to register visit COG's website at <https://www.cog.ca/our-services/OMG/>

Name: Richters Herbs

Location: 357 Highway 47, Goodwood, ON L0C 1A0 (north of Toronto to the end of the 404, then east to Goodwood); Tel. 1.905.640.6677 Fax. 1.905.640.6641

Details: Richters Herbs is offering seminars at their greenhouse location this winter and throughout the year. For more information visit:

<https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=Events/events.html>. They also offer free on-line seminars at <https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=events/events2016.html>.

The 2017 Richters catalogue is available and is filled with culinary, medicinal, and aromatic herbs and seeds.



9th Annual M.G.O.I. Summer Workshop – 2017

Dates: July 8th/9th, 2017

Details: There will be three topics again this year, from which two may be chosen:

1. Urban agriculture
2. Garden design
3. Native plants/Carolinian forests.

Further details will be available shortly, as the program is in the process of being finalized. Plan to attend the workshop this year and enjoy a weekend immersed in horticulture, learning from enthusiastic, knowledgeable instructors, and to meeting other Master Gardeners and Master Gardeners in Training from across the province.

Save the Date

Name: Coordinators' Conference

Date: Saturday, October 14th, 2017

Location: Landscape Ontario, Milton ON

MGOI VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Director of Events

Timeframe: 2 years, January 2017 – October 2018 (potential to stay on until October 2022)

Description: Immediate opening for this rewarding Board position. The Director of Events has the privilege of providing vision and guidance for any event that welcomes MG volunteers from all over Ontario. Detailed procedures and timelines are available. Teams for both Canada Blooms and the Coordinators' Conference are already in place, so year 1 would be a very leisurely acclimatization to the role. Have more questions? I would be delighted to answer any questions at casey.vanandel@sympatico.ca.

Be warned! You'll have to be prepared for some gushing about how much fun and how being the Director of Events changed my life. It could change yours too!

