



What's Growing On?

The newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc.

Autumn, 2004

Spotlight on...

The Niagara Flower and Garden Show

Over 7,000 visitors attended the first Niagara Flower and Garden Show which took place from June 11 to 13, 2004.

Congratulations to event co-ordinators June Streadwick of the Master Gardeners of Niagara and to MGOI Provincial Administrator, Wendy Chrystian, together with the 208 volunteers who helped make the show such a success! The show featured 100 vendors, a



An old-fashioned carriage filled with potted plants greeted visitors to the Niagara Flower and Garden Show in June.

speaker's tent, demonstration tent, a flower show area and food and hospitality tents.

"It truly was a remarkable event for us here in Niagara", says Wendy. "Not only did we put together — after almost two years of worry and work — a successful and profitable outdoor garden show, but it

didn't rain the entire time!"

In January of 2003, June and Wendy approached the Niagara Parks Commission Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture with a proposal for the show. Although shows of this kind have taken place at VanDusen Gardens in Vancouver (not to mention Chelsea and Hampton Court Palace in England), a show of this kind had never been mounted in the Niagara region.

"We are extremely grateful to [the marketplace] vendors for having faith in us", says June. "After all, we did not have a track record when it comes to running shows! We are equally grateful to the many speakers and demonstrators who gave generously of their time and talents."

Topnotch speakers and demonstrations, first-class vendors, a fabulous flower show and even an on-site Agriculture Canada inspector for visitors from across the border who wanted to export plant purchases — what more could a show offer? Well, Wendy and June and their team of dedicated volunteers have plenty of ideas for an even better show next year, so don't miss out on what we hope will be an annual event!

Executive notes

... from the MGOI board

MGOI Board Meeting

The next MGOI board meeting will be held on October 1 and 2 at Guelph Turf Grass Institute. Agenda items from all MG groups across the province are welcomed and should be submitted to Mary Beverley-Burton at marybb@sentex.net.

MG Gardening Calendar

A new supply of MG calendars (for Zones 5 and 6) is available from Wendy Chrystian at 50 cents each. The calendars are available to all MG groups as a fund-raiser and should be sold for \$1 each. Plans are under way to develop a calendar for Zones 1 and 2. If you are interested in helping out on this project, please contact Mary Beverley-Burton at marybb@sentex.net.

Zoning in

... news from our 11 zones

Zone 3

Sarnia/Lambton Master Gardeners, together with the Sarnia Horticultural Society, the Herb Society and Lambton Wildlife, is maintaining a demonstration garden at College Park in Sarnia. MG co-ordinator Ginny Schleihauf says it's, "a nice area, although challenging to maintain!"

London-Middlesex MGs will be out in force at London's annual Western Fair which takes place from September 10 to 19 (www.westernfair.com). The group plans to create a cottage garden display, answer questions and deliver lectures.

Zone 4

Guelph and Wellington

County MGs have been busy planting and caring for the Ornamental Grass Collection donated by Humber Nurseries at the Guelph Turf Grass Institute. The grasses will be ready for display in the summer of 2005. For details, contact Susan James at susan.james@sympatico.ca.

Zone 5

Nine residential gardens in Brantford opened their garden gates during the Garden Thyme Tour on June 27. The Brantford Garden Club as well as five local garden centres helped with ticket sales.

Zone 6

MG Advice Clinics were held at 10 Sheridan Nurseries locations in the Greater Toronto Area this spring. More than 200 MGs from Durham, Mississauga, Toronto, Lake Simcoe South as well as Burlington, Guelph and Brantford helped to raise over \$10,000 to fund activities for the upcoming year.

Zone 8

Thirteen of the 27 members of the Ottawa-Carleton group have been busy writing articles for a series on gardening published in the Ottawa Sun. Keep those green thumbs typing!

In support of the town of Perth's new pesticides by-law, Lanark County MGs are working with the town to create and deliver information sessions on alternatives to pesticides. For details, contact Dale Odorizzi at odorizzi@storm.ca.

Zone 9

In a close partnership with Peterborough's Ecology Park, MGs have been giving advice to the public and working with the Ecology Park staff and volunteers on the design and implementation of the shoreline restoration project.

Two Peterborough members have also helped supervise cadets in the design, construction and maintenance of an edible garden at the new St. Joseph's at Fleming seniors' residence.

Meet MGOI President Mary Beverley-Burton

Director of Zone 4, Mary Beverley-Burton has been a Master Gardener for nine years. She started as a member of the Kitchener/Waterloo group and was one of the founding members of the Guelph and Wellington County Master Gardeners. Mary is a retired biologist who has taught at the University of Guelph as a professor of zoology. But her wish has always been to have a career in agriculture and to be an avid gardener — a dream she has fulfilled in retirement!

As president of MGOI she hopes to achieve three goals over the next year. The first is to increase membership, especially in urban areas. Secondly, because the Toronto MG group serves nearly three million people, she is looking for help in founding two new groups in the area in 2005. And lastly, she would like to see improvements in communications to and from the MGOI board as well as between MG groups and the Ontario Horticultural Association.



The zone's lakeshore group has held clinics at both Port Hope and Cobourg farmers markets. They've also conducted a workshop and education sessions for kids in grades 1 to 6.

News to use

... tips for Master Gardeners

MG gardening togs

T-shirts, aprons and vests with the MG logo are available to all MG groups. Brochures will be sent to co-ordinators in September. If you do not receive one, please contact Barbra Stock at 613-393-1114.

Guelph Revamps Courses

The Ontario Agricultural College at the University of Guelph, as part of its restructuring process, closed the Independent Study/@access unit as of January 1, 2004 and the program transferred to the university's Office of Open Learning (OOL). Stephen Fleischauer, Manager of Program Development for Horticulture, Landscaping & Turf at the OOL expects the new MG courses to, "provide for interaction with content, the facilitator and other Master Gardeners. Courses will be re-designed to clarify learning objectives, evaluation methods and course requirements resulting in a more exciting and dynamic learning experience." The redesigned courses will be available beginning January 2005. Students presently in the program may continue using existing Horticulturist I, II and III materials with a required completion date of April 30, 2006. Master Gardeners working towards the Advanced Master Gardener Certificate should also aim for an April, 2006

completion date as course availability may change after this deadline, says Fleischauer. A description of current programs is available at www.open.uoguelph.ca. For questions or concerns, contact Pat Shaver (pshaver@open.uoguelph.ca) or Steve Fleischauer (sfleisch@open.uoguelph.ca).

Introduction to Soil Science, a core course for those studying for the Ontario Diploma in Horticulture (ODH), has also been revised and is now available.

If you have questions about enrolment, progress reports, record-keeping or general questions about the MGIT program, Advanced Master Gardener Certificate or ODH, contact Michelle Fach at mfach@OAC.uoguelph.ca, or 519-824-4120.

Meeting Venues

Rachel Burrows of the Peterborough group has been conducting a monthly garden club for a local senior's residence in exchange for the free use of their crafts rooms for MG meetings. What a great, cost-saving idea!

Tributes

... activities & achievements

First MG Advanced Grad

Congratulations to June Streadwick of the Niagara MGs who is the first to complete the MG Advanced Certificate Program. It took June only a year and a half to finish her studies. Especially useful were the mandatory courses on Ornamental Plant Protection and Weed Control which made her more comfortable in answering

questions from the public about plant and weed problems.

MGIT Grads

MGITs Dianne and Gary Westlake of Zone 9 will be graduating in September. Nancy Seppala, co-ordinator of Ottawa-Carleton's lecture series, has also attained full MG status.

In Memorium: Neil Pigott

Neil Pigott, a graduate of the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture, died suddenly at his home at age 37 on Monday, July 12. He will be sorely missed by members of the Sarnia-Lambton MGs and the Sarnia Horticultural Society.

Waterloo Award

Anne Morgan has been granted the Waterloo Award for her work in promoting environmental awareness. Her garden has won both the Eco-friendly and Communities in Bloom awards. She is currently working with G.R.O.U.P. (Get Rid of Urban Pesticides: www.pestinfo.ca/documents/GROUP-KW.htm).

Honorary MG

Denise Edwards of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF) has been awarded an Honorary Master Gardener certificate for her many years of contributions to the Master Gardeners of Ontario.

On the wires

... the electronic MG

Organic gardening tips

The London/Middlesex Master Gardeners have created a new website. Visit Immastergardeners.tripod.com and browse the tips on organic gardening.

MGOI list-serv

Members from across the province are sharing their tips and expertise on the MG list-serv. So far this year 157 MGs have joined the email list which is available to all Master Gardeners in the province. (Guelph-Wellington MGs are leading the way at 19 subscribed members!) Considering that our total membership is around 730, there are many MGs missing out on a great resource. Watch the list for upcoming discussions on hot horticultural topics as well as on MG group administration. For instructions on how to join, contact Avalon Hamlin at hamlin@ebtech.net.

Peterborough Gardening FAQs

Visit the Peterborough MGs' website at www.peterboroughmg.ca for a wealth of information including factsheets on dealing with the Asian Longhorn Beetle.

Ottawa-Carleton website

Web master Astrid Forman has been busy creating a website for the Ottawa-Carleton MGs. Visit www.geocities.com/mgottawa_carleton/index.html to

discover lots of good information including a list of links to plant and gardening societies and organizations.

OHA website

Take a peak at the Ontario Horticultural Association's revamped website at www.gardenontario.org.

Calendar

... upcoming horticultural events

September 11

Technical Update

(Hosted by Bruce South)

Davidson Center, Kincardine
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

\$20 (lunch included)

A seminar on how to develop a prairie garden and presentations on new plants by John Gatis of Proven Winners and Janet Anderson of Janet Anderson Distinct Perennials are followed by afternoon tours of Kincardine hosted by Communities in Bloom. Reservations required by September 1. Contact Carole Douel, Bruce South, 519-396-5848.

September 11

University of Guelph Arboretum

Plant Sale

9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Hilton Centre, Arboretum
College Ave. East

October 1 to 3

Gardens of Diversity

American Community
Gardening Association
Toronto

Workshops and tours focusing on innovations in community gardening. Information: www.communitygarden.org/conferences.php

October 2

Zone 6 Technical Session

(Hosted by Mississauga)

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Humber College (Hwy 27 north)
Keynote speaker Tony Fleischmann, Manager of Forestry for the City of Mississauga, will be talking on the challenges of the urban forest. Details at www.mmgtupdate.com.

November 6

Zone 5 Garden Conference

Paris Fair Grounds

Exhibition Hall, 9 a.m.

\$30 (buffet lunch included)

Speakers include Beckie Fox, author of *The Potted Garden*, David Tomlinson speaking about The Environmentally Friendly Garden and Denis Flanagan who will review new trends for 2005. To register, send cheque to Anna Nesbit, 526 Westview Ave., Ancaster ON L9G 1N9. For details, contact Pat Locker at patrice@worldchat.com or 519-448-1081.

November 13, 14

Niagara Region Orchid Society Annual Show, Plant and Art Sale

CAW Hall, St. Catharines

Contact: Tom Cunningham at tessiercunningham@cogeco.ca or 905-934-8289.

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What's Growing On? is published four times a year for Master Gardeners in Ontario. To submit news about your Master Gardener group, contact Lorraine Flanigan, Editor at gardenmart@sympatico.ca.