



What's Growing On?

The newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc.

Autumn, 2006

Old Seed House Garden Flourishes



The familiar building is gone and the business has moved but the site of the Dominion Seed House in Georgetown blooms once again. Story, page 2



Executive notes

... by James Lee

It has been a very busy season for your board and the committees of the board, and it is my honour and pleasure to be your president for the next year.

MGOI had a very successful Annual General Meeting held at the Niagara School of Horticulture on Sunday, June 11. Twenty-eight groups were represented, and it was great to see support from across the province. We were very pleased that Denise Edwards of OMAFRA was present as well as Marlene Bruckhardt, our Ontario Horticulture Association (OHA) liaison member.

We discussed our participation in the International Master Gardeners conference in 2007 and 2009 as well as the potential for MGOI to host the 2011 International Master Gardeners conference. The board is developing a proposal and will keep you informed of its progress in future issues of *What's Growing On*. An excellent question and answer session dealt with the development of the new curriculum for Master Gardeners, including procedures concerning the interim exam as well as a brief structure/outline of possibilities for the new curriculum.

Over the past few months the MGOI board has established various committees to deal with the goals of our strategic plan.

Education Committee (Mary Beverley-Burton, chair): This committee has been very active in further developing outlines and the structure for the new curriculum, parts of which it and its timing was incorporated into our Trillium application. Once we hear how successful we are with our application we can implement the new educational program, which we continue to plan to launch with the Niagara School of Horticulture in September 2007.

Finance Committee (Carol Dunk, chair): The planning and budgeting has been developed for the next three years and will be incorporated into our Trillium application. MGOI is actively seeking new ways to develop revenue streams, which will enhance communication to our members, update the website and develop new criteria for consistent technical updates for our members across the province.

Communications Committee (Ron Rosini, chair): The committee has been reviewing the communications strategy and examining ways to improve the dissemination of information to members and to the public.

Partnering/Liaison

Committee (James Lee, chair): Through meetings with the OHA and the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects the committee has been exploring partnership opportunities for current and future members.

Event Committee (Patricia Draves, chair): This committee is reviewing ways MGOI can become more prominent in garden shows across the province, and how we can solicit greater participation amongst our members and encourage new members to join the Master Gardener program.

Human Resource

Committee (Edythe Falconer, chair): The committee meets with the provincial administrator to ensure that current level of activities reflects workload and responsibilities.

I would like to thank members of *your* Board for their hard work over the past few months. They make my job much easier and I am sure you are very proud of them; I know I am.

The Niagara Flower and Garden Show was a great success with many new initiatives and the feedback we received from the vendors was very positive. The exit survey we conducted with our visitors also indicated a high degree of enjoyment and pleasure. Tourism overall was down during the summer months. The Niagara Parks Commission's results showed a 43 per cent decline in US attendance, which was attributed to the terrorism arrests in Canada. Unfortunately this decrease in attendance resulted in a small deficit for the show. The good news though, is that MGOI and the Niagara Parks Commission and the School of Horticulture have agreed to hold another show in 2008 *if* we

succeed in acquiring a major sponsor. We all agree that this is a wonderful venue and a great garden show but to continue, we must have financial support from our sponsor/sponsors. I would encourage each of you to contact your zone director if you have sponsor ideas or contacts. On behalf of the MGOI Board I want to thank all of the volunteers who came out and worked very hard to make the show the success it was!

On behalf of the Board of MGOI I also wish to congratulate our 20-year Master Gardeners. MGOI could not be as strong, have as many members and local groups as we do without you!

MGOI is here to support your local initiatives and to provide ongoing training for MGITs and helping to update the skills of our current MGs. I welcome your comments and suggestions and encourage you to pass them on to your zone director.

Zoning in

... news from across the province

Zone 3

Elgin County MGs celebrated its 10th anniversary with a dinner at a local restaurant on September 28. The group was founded by Dale Smith and Diane Vaughan, and numbered 14 members, four of which are still part of the group.



Left to right: Irene Bouris, Ron & Brenda Swindell, Diane Vaughan, Helen Smith, Beulah & John Turner, Richard Cartwright, Bob Fox, Dave Vaughan & Gail Jacques.

Old Seed House Garden

The site of the former Dominion Seed House property on Highway 7 in Georgetown is being transformed into a garden. In 1995, members of the Georgetown chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women rescued acres of abandoned daylilies, peonies and irises. A 'Dig-Your-Own' plant sale in 1996 raised an amazing \$40,000 – seed money to begin the project. Since then, the Friends of the Old Seed House Garden (all volunteers) have raised \$425,000 in cash and kind to build a unique sunken garden within the foundation walls of

the original old Tudor style building. Phase 1 was officially opened on May 31.

Phase 2 involves creating a dry stone riverbed leading to a naturalized pond. This phase will emphasize trees, shrubs and perennials in an informal setting. Phase 3 will be more formally laid out with pathways and a band shell. --*Belinda Gallagher*

In recognition of Belinda Gallagher's many years of dedicated work for the Halton Region MGs, the group purchased a Kentucky coffee tree that will be planted in the garden in her honour.

Zone 4

Over the summer, the Humber Nurseries Ornamental Grass collection was opened at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI). Speaking at the dedication, Dr. Rob Witherspoon recognized the contributions of volunteers from the **Guelph and Wellington County** MGs who planted 120 grass species and cultivars and supplied plant identification signs for the display garden.



Mary Beverley-Burton speaking at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

Guelph and Wellington County welcome incoming coordinator, Leonie Reinhart and Lynn Gillespie as co-coordinator, a new position that will enable a smooth transition from past-coordinator, Ann Ironside. The group also helped out at the Guelph Arboretum's annual plant sale. It was a rainy day but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of those waiting in line since 7.30 a.m.

Stratford MGs answered questions at two garden shows this summer in St Marys and Tavistock, and assisted the Stratford Horticulture Society at the eight locations of the Stratford Garden tour held in early July.

Zone 5

The **Halton Region** MGs

participated in the Ontario Hummingbird Festival held at the Royal Botanical Gardens. Over 200 visitors attended, and listened to nine speakers give presentations on hummingbirds.

The Halton group set up a garden information table and MG Claudette Sims gave an enthusiastic hands-on presentation of the top 10 plants that attract hummingbirds.

Zone 6

Christine Says, a long-standing MG, has been appointed co-ordinator of the **Oakville** MGs. Mary-Lynn O'Shea, influential in founding the group, will continue her involvement as secretary.

The **Toronto** MG group expects to welcome 15 to 20 new MGITs for 2007. Members of the group also volunteered at the official opening of the gardens at the Toronto Botanical Garden on September 16. Among the dignitaries at the event was Toronto Mayor David Miller who, along with an enthusiastic crowd, helped release a cloud of butterflies as part of the ceremonies.

Zone 8

Four new MGITs have joined the ranks of MG groups in **Zone 8**. They are Diane McClymont Peace, Gina Dobrodzicka and Catherine Canning. Welcome!

Zone 9

The **Northumberland** MGs helped celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Port Hope Fair

by providing an information booth during the three days of the fair.

The group also teamed up with the **Peterborough** MGs for the International Plowing Match in Keene, Ontario. The event included an educational

display about vegetables.

In mid October, **Peterborough** MGs are planning a full day workshop to assist with the training of four new MGITs. The workshop will be held at the Peterborough Ecology Park and will focus on tree identification and diseases of trees.

Tributes

... activities & achievements

Alastair Crawford

Simcoe County MGs mourn the loss of founding member, Alastair Crawford, who passed away on July 9, 2006. Alastair was also a past president of OHA, and for many years served his community and his group well.

Halton Region Grads

Congratulations to the follow members who received their Master Gardeners Certificates Maureen Millar, Marg Catley, Sheila McCallum and Larry Aldebert

Interim Exam Grads

The Guelph and Wellington County MGs congratulate Brenda Atkin, Judy Brisson, Liane Howell, Karen Ince, Denise Jupp and Robert Newman who have passed the Interim Examination to

qualify for Master Gardener status.

OHA Honour Roll

David Marshall of Halton Region received the OHA Honour Roll Award for 2006 in recognition of his many years of horticultural service to the community.

Peterborough Grads

Congratulations to Peterborough grads Sally Ayotte, Don Nicholson, Cathy Tapner and Mary Witalis who have completed the Guelph training program.

Stratford 20-Year Service Awards

Anna Peterson and Dorothy Elliott were recognized for 20 years of volunteer service.

On the wires

... the electronic MG

Weed I D

Toronto MG Elizabeth Stewart has found an excellent weed identification website provided by the Illinois Council on Food and Agricultural Research. Check it out at web.aces.uiuc.edu/weedid.

Calendar

... upcoming horticultural events

October 14

The Times They are A-Changing: Gardening in an Era of Climate Change

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

Grey County MGs invite you to join them for a seminar that includes speakers Shannon Wood on how plants adapt to environmental changes, and how global warming is changing the way we garden; John Tripp on the federal government's Plant Hardiness Project; Joan Klaassen on Gardens of the Future: Opportunities and Challenges, which examines the impact on gardeners of our changing climate. \$25 (includes lunch). To register, contact Jackie Campbell at 519-364-2597 or andrew.campbell3@sympatico.ca

October 21

Wild, Woody & Captured!

Toronto Botanical Garden

The Toronto MGs are holding a fun and information-

filled technical update featuring seminars by Anna Leggatt on Great Plants that Spread, Marion Jarvie on Small Trees with Big Impact and Pat Anderson on Digital Photography in the Garden. An optional tour of the newly planted TBG gardens will be conducted by horticulturist, Cathie Cox. Fee for MGs other than Toronto, \$20. To register, contact Pat de Valence, 416-383-1648 or pat.devalance@rogers.com.

February 17 - 24, 2007

Cuba Beyond the Beaches

Join this eco-tour of Cuba, sponsored by the Peterborough & Area MGs and Horticultural Society, and discover eastern Cuba's most interesting botanical gardens, including Jardin Botanico Granma and Organoponico Gardens, the micro-climates of the Sierra Maestras, the cloud forest and other specialty gardens. For itinerary and prices, see www.realcubaonline.com, "Eco-tours: Gardens of Eastern Cuba". Or contact Don Nicholson at dr.nicholson@sympatico.ca; (705) 749-5604.

May 2 to 5, 2007

International Master Gardener Conference

Little Rock, Arkansas

Registration is now open for the next Master Gardener conference. To register online, go to mg2007.uaex.edu and click on Registration Information. If you have any questions, contact Janet B. Carson, Extension Horticulture Specialist, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service at (501) 671-2174 or jcarson@uaex.edu.

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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 lorraine.flanigan@sympatico.ca.