



What's Growing On?

The newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc.

Summer, 2007

Ontario Horticultural
Association Convention



Mark your calendar for the OHA Convention in Owen Sound, August 10th - 12th. Keynote speakers include Patrick Lima and John Scanlon of Larkwhistle, Victoria Serda who will speak about Al Gore's Climate Project, David Phillips on The Climate of Ontario - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow and Trevor Ashbee, Gardening: The Heart of a Community. For information and to register, visit www.gardenontario.org/sho/spe.php.

Executive notes

... by James Lee

The spring and early summer of 2007 has been a very active one for the MGOI board. Following a very successful Coordinators Conference in April your board has been busy designing our new web site (soon to be launched) as well as completing the final steps of our new educational program.

Both of these initiatives will enhance the visibility and training of members of Master Gardeners of Ontario. I am very excited about the potential of the new educational program. The education committee has been and continues to work very hard to ensure that the roll out of the program will be seamless and easy for all potential Master Gardeners in Training. Additional details about the program have been forwarded to coordinators across the province and further updates will be provided at the Annual General Meeting, to be held in Owen Sound on August 10 at 4:30 pm.

The education committee is also busy designing new, hands-on continuing education and training for current MGs. Further details will be available at the AGM and into the fall as they are finalized.

Your board has been active

in following up on many of the suggestions from the feedback survey distributed at the Coordinators Conference, such as ongoing education and enhanced communication amongst groups across the province.

All of these initiatives have been undertaken to assist you, the Master Gardeners of Ontario, to encourage new members, provide additional training and upgrading of your horticultural knowledge base and to encourage retention of our members.

I also want to welcome Charlotte Vorstermans to Master Gardeners of Ontario as our new Provincial Administrator. Many of you will meet Charlotte at our AGM in August. I also want to thank all of you who contributed to the gift for Wendy Christian. Wendy has made many Master Gardener friends over the years and we all wish her the very best for the future.

I look forward to working with your very active board to continue to grow our organization and to make us all proud to be a Master Gardener in Ontario.

Do enjoy your garden this very warm summer and I hope to see all of you in Owen Sound on Friday, August 20.

James Lee
President, MGOI

Zoning in

... news from our 11 zones

Zone 4

The Guelph & Wellington County MG plant sale was very successful – plants sold in three hours for a grand total of over \$7,000. All members spent time digging and potting up, collecting and delivering plants to the sale site, setting up, pricing, assisting customers and finally clearing up.

The group has also volunteered at many garden tours and flower shows including an advice booth at the annual Herb Fair in Elora. They are also looking forward to a trip to some beautiful gardens in Toronto.

Zone 9

Northumberland Master Gardeners have been volunteering for several local garden tours and have held information clinics at farmers markets and local garden centres. At their last education seminar Peter Keeping of Bowmanville conducted a workshop on how to propagate clematis vines.

Tributes

... activities & achievements

Essex-Windsor

Three new MGITs have qualified as Master Gardeners, including Lynn Imeson, Joanne Miehls and Scott Hitchins. In addition, eight MGs received their 5-year service pins and seven garnered 10-year pins. Recognized for 15 years' service are Sandy Ellenor, Joyce Ray and Eleanor Scfalcin. The following MGs hve achieved 20 years' service: Alan & Karen Batke, Charles & Florence Bowyer, Mary

Coyle, Margaret Snyder and Albert and Juliette St. Pierre. Congratulations to all!

Lake Simcoe South

On June 15, gardening personality Charlie Dobbin and Lorraine Mennen of Pathways to Perennials were presented with honorary MG certificates by the Lake Simcoe South MGs. The ceremony was followed by a wine and cheese celebration. Congratulations to both!



From left to right, ODH grads Linda Ford, June Streadwick, Mary Beverley-Burton, Marjorie Latimer and Maureen Millar.

Lanark County

Congratulations to Kathleen Lang, of Lanark County, who has successfully completed the Exemption Exam. Well done!

This year, Lanark County MGs celebrate their 20th Anniversary with a Garden Party at Rockwall Gardens on August 25. All Lanark County Master Gardeners, past and present, are invited!

ODH Graduates

In June, the last graduates of the University of Guelph Ontario Diploma in Horticulture were honoured in a convocation ceremony that was the last for the former ODH and Independent Studies programs. The diploma has been in existence for 47 years. Attending the ceremonies were several former staff members, including Pat Shaver, Donna Kangas and Steve Fleischaer. It was a proud night for MGOI with no fewer than four Master Gardeners accepting diplomas, including Linda Ford (Brantford), Marjorie Latimer (Halton), Maureen Miller (Halton) and June Streadwick (Niagara).

Honorary Master Gardeners



Lorraine Mennen and Charlie Dobbin pose with their MG certificates with Lake Simcoe South coordinator Judith Rogers

Education

... training Master Gardeners

Master Gardeners' Certification Training by Carol Dunk

Master Gardeners in Training (MGiTs) must successfully complete an educational component and also complete the required annual volunteer hours before they become certified as Master Gardeners. There are three paths towards completing the educational component for certification in Ontario.

These are the three paths to becoming a Master Gardener in Ontario.

1. Guelph Courses

You may take three courses from the University of Guelph. You must register on your own as would any other student. The fee for each course is \$495. I believe much of the work is online. Your transcript will be proof of your completion and should be forwarded to the administrative office of Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. (MGOI): 113 Mill St., Creemore, Ontario, L0M 1G0 in order to establish your qualifications for certification. More information about the course is available at admission@registrar.uoguelph.ca or admission.uoguelph.ca/home.aspx

The three courses required for MG certification are:

- *Cultural Practice for Plants*
- *Introduction to Plant Identification*
- *Growing Plants*

2. Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Master Gardener Program

Another path towards

certification as a Master Gardener in Ontario is to complete the Master Gardener Program from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. MGiTs may begin their program from NSAC on October 1, 2007. To register, visit nsac.ca/reg.

Information about the Master Gardener courses is available at nsac.ca/cde/courses/DE/Master-Gardener.

This program is comprised of four courses with a cost of \$250 each. The courses are:

- *The Science of Gardening*
- *Maintaining the Garden*
- *Plant ID*
- *The Art of Gardening*

Note: There is no requirement at this time for Ontario Master Gardeners to complete a summer course in Nova Scotia.

Your transcript from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College showing successful completion of these four courses should be forwarded to Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. at the MGOI administrative office: 113 Mill St., Creemore, Ontario L0M 1G0.

3. Certification Exam

If you have recently completed a diploma or degree in horticulture or have extensive horticultural knowledge, you may choose to sit a Certification Exam.

You may also choose to prepare for certification on your own and sit the Certification Exam. You will be given a list of the required knowledge by your coordinator and may take up to three years to prepare for the exam.

The Certification Exam is an open-book exam that is to be completed in two and a half hours under supervision of an invigilator chosen by your local coordinator. The cost of the exam is \$100. You are required to pass

this exam with a mark of 70 per cent or more.

The present Interim Exam will be available until November 30, 2007. On December 1, 2007, the Certification Exam will replace that exam. After November 30, 2007, you may take the Certification Exam on these dates (or the closest weekday to these dates): December 1, March 1, May 1 and September 1.

When you have chosen your path, register your choice with your coordinator. Whichever path you choose, you will have three years to complete your training. Training time starts from time of registration with your coordinator.

For questions and further information, contact Carol Dunk, Education Coordinator, at carol@caroldunk.com or 705-737-0147.

On the wires

... the electronic MG

Gardening Questions

Essex-Windsor MGs have recently implemented an e-mail account to receive gardening questions from the public. The address is essexwindsor@mastergardeners.fastmail.fm.

Northumberland Hotline

The Northumberland MGs have established a Hotline for Q&As. It is active from March to November and monitored frequently on a two week rotation. The hotline number is 1-877-544-8686.

Master Gardener Hotlines

Did you know that a list of MG Hotlines throughout the province is available online at www.gardenontario.org/mas/hotline.php. Check it out!

Calendar

... upcoming horticultural events

August 10 to 12
OHA Convention 2007
Owen Sound

Keeping Ontario Beautiful:
Visions of our Future

The focus of this year's conference is on the challenges of our time to our lives, to the future viability of societies and the strengthening of networks among organizations that share a common vision. Full details, including speaker schedules and competition guidelines at www.gardenontario.org/show_up_conf.php; online registration at www.gardenontario.org/show_con_reg.php.

August 16
Trials Day, noon to 8 p.m.
University of Guelph

Guelph and Wellington County MGs have been assisting Roger Tschanz with his Seed Trial Garden Open House. Plan to visit and learn how this year's new plant introductions have performed. Information and notes on past trials are available at www.plant.uoguelph.ca/trialgarden.

August 25
Master Gardeners of Niagara
Technical Update
Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture

The day includes lectures by Dr. Allan Armitage, professor of horticulture at the University of Georgia, on Crazy Plants for Crazy Gardeners and Robert Ritchie, parks naturalist, who will speak about the park's restoration projects. The day includes a buffet lunch and garden tours. Limited seating; to register contact Barbara Large alan.large2@sympatico.ca, June Streadwick streadwick@sympatico.ca or Sandy Bibeau sbibeau@cogeco.ca.

September 29
From the Ground Up
Lake Simcoe South
Technical Update
Trinity Anglican Church
Aurora, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The day includes talks by Lorraine Mennen (The Good, the Bad and the Ugly), Ken Nentwig (Garden Design) and Carol Dunk (Soil 101). MGs, \$30, non-members, \$35. Lunch, additional \$10. Information: Valerie Liney, valerie.liney@sympatico.ca.

October 13
Stratford (Zone 4) Technical Update
Kiwanis Centre
9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Keynote speaker Ed Lawrence explores planning and supporting an ecosystem that complements the natural environment, plus a Q&A session. Space is limited, so register early. Information: tryan1@rogers.com

October 20
Zone 8 Technical Update
Kemptville

Lanark County MGs are hosting a Technical Update on Climate Change in the Garden. The day features three terrific speakers: Paul Eglington who will talk about the impact of climate change; Ken Farr, a noted author and member of Canadian Forestry Services; and Diana Beresford-Kroeger, scientist, author and gardener.

\$30, including a hot lunch. Contact Barbara Baker at 613-989-1556 or email bbb331@magma.ca to register or for more information.

October 27
The Delights of Diversity
Toronto Master Gardeners
Technical Update
Toronto Botanical Garden
8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Three inspired lectures, including Chris Graham on Twiners, Stickers, Clingers & Hookers; Sean Fox, U. of Guelph Arboretum, speaking on Rare Trees & Shrubs of Ontario; and Brian Bergman of the Ontario Regional Lily Society who will be talking about Liliium - Known, Unknown & Future. \$25, public; \$20 for Master Gardeners. Optional lunch, additional \$15.

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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.