



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside

MGOI

Welcome to the May edition of *Inside MGOI*, the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. (MGOI) newsletter. We trust that May finds you safe and well.

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 30 Master Gardener groups throughout Ontario. The Newsletter features member milestones, group projects and activities, short member profiles, upcoming events such as regional technical updates – anything about the functioning and happenings of our groups and our members. Please feel free to submit pictures – they are most welcome!

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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Facebook: Claudette Sims, Halton & Anne Bossart, Georgian Bay
MG Advice Clinic Manager for Canada Blooms: Christine Spence, Etobicoke
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INSIDE MGOI
Newsletter of the
Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc.

May 2020

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

The President's Corner

by Claudette Sims, President MGOI

May 2020 Updates

I would never have imagined that I'd be busier now during this pandemic than I have ever been as a Master Gardener! Here are some updates!

Coordinators' Conference (October 17th, 2020)

- Large gatherings of 50 plus people may not be occurring for some time. If Covid-19 restrictions are still in place in October, we will have to set up a virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) as a yearly AGM is a requirement of MGOIs bylaws. The Board of Directors is also considering doing Regional Meetings via video chat. Stay tuned!

MGOI Members and Mentors (Facebook Group)

- Pamela Dallaire, our Director of Operations, has set up a **CLOSED** Master Gardener only Facebook (FB) group called "MGOI Members and Mentors". This FB group is not open to the public. Master Gardeners can post questions, photos and share information in this group. You can request to join, ideally through your Coordinator, or you can contact Pam by email directly. She'll ask which group you belong to and verify that you are a member in good standing. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1329062317277822/?ref=bookmarks>
- FB Messenger has an excellent video chat app that allows up to 50 people to meet up for an unlimited time for meetings. This would allow groups to meet virtually to keep members connected and active.
- There is also a mentoring feature associated with this group where you can request a mentor. Mentors are ideal for MGITs but also for anyone wanting to learn a new skill in horticulture. To find a mentor click on the "Mentorship" link on the left of the page. Keep in mind that it will take some time to populate the group, but it promises to be a great feature for all our members.

MGOI Facebook Group Update (forum open to the public)

- Our MGOI FB Group has exploded with members and continues to be very active. On April 20th we welcomed our 5,000th member, and on May 12th our 6,000th member. Special thanks to Pam Dallaire who sat at her computer approving members all day as we waited for number 6,000. 😊
- We currently have the following administrators who work hard to answer questions/comment/approve members & posts:
 - Claudette Sims – Halton MGs
 - Cathy Kavassalis – Halton MGs
 - Sean James – Guelph & Wellington MGs
 - Janet Mackey – Halton MGs
 - Anne Bossart – Georgian Bay MGs
 - Pamela Dallaire – Cochrane MGs
 - Dale Odorizzi – Lanark MGs

MGOI Members and Mentors

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- We were thrilled to welcome these new moderators to help with the extra workload in May:
 - Aide Zarkovich – Cochrane & District MGs
 - Bev Wagar – Halton Region MGs
 - Elizabeth Spedaliere – Stratford MGs
 - Emma Murphy – Peterborough & District MGs
 - Karen Sciuk – Kitchener MGs
 - Rhonda Grein – Kitchener MGs
- Help! There is a great need for more Master Gardeners to help answer questions. All MGs are encouraged to add their group name after answering a question. Administrators and moderators have FB “badges” that identify them as being MGs, but there is no way of knowing if others answering questions are MGs or not.
- Files of FAQs are being created to make answering questions easier. Here is a sample of what is currently available. Once you get into FB you can find them under “Files” on the left side of your screen.
 - [On Making Homemade Insecticidal Soap](#)
 - [What Vines Can You Recommend?](#)
 - [NEEM OIL – Why Master Gardeners DO NOT Recommend Its Use](#)
 - [An Informed Approach to Animal ‘Pests’ in the Garden](#)
 - [What’s Making Holes in My Trees?](#)
 - [Goutweed](#)
 - [Japanese Knotweed](#)
- These files will also be available in the resources tab of the MGOI website for the public and MGs to access.

Did you Know?

- You can share this [Map of Nurseries in Ontario](#) with the public? (updated by Claudette as needed)
- Claudette has responded to 20 requests to become a Master Gardener since January. Where there are no MG groups in a vicinity, persons requesting to become a MG are encouraged to contact Cochrane & District MGs. Because Cochrane members are isolated geographically they meet virtually and have a number of "distance members" who volunteer in their local communities.

Video Additions

Here are the newest video additions found under the Education, CEU Information tabs on the MGOI website (member login is required) or follow the links below:

- Doug Tallamy Talk
 - [Hope for the Wild 2019](#)
- Garden for Wildlife Webinar Series – World Wildlife Fund-Canada:
 - Episode 1: [Planning Your Garden](#)
 - Episode 2: [Digging In](#)
 - Episode 3: [Gardening in Small Spaces](#)
 - Episode 4: [Maintaining Your Habitat](#)
 - Episode 5: [Become a Citizen Scientist](#)



THANK YOU!

*Ren Duinker, Coordinator
Prince Edward County Master Gardeners*

In these uncertain times we all need each other. This month I have been struggling with our website. We are back up and running and I want to thank a few people.

I'll start at the top, or the beginning. I contacted Claudette (Sims), President of MGOI, about my problem. Claudette contacted MGOI's trusty webmaster, Jim Cook who immediately contacted me. Thank you, Claudette and Jim.

From there Jim guided me through several steps to get us back online. Jim is a knowledgeable, patient guy with a generous heart. Jim introduced me to John MacKenzie at Ethical Hosting in Toronto. (I know we are not supposed to recommend any businesses but, in this case, perhaps we can make an exception). Jim described John as his mentor and the guy he's learned so much from. I was curious and contacted John.

John not only solved all my problems – problems I'd been trying to solve for almost three years – in a matter of days, he migrated our entire website (for free) and had us up and running smoothly. Jim was right, John is a wizard and our new website address <https://pecmastergardeners.ca/> is launched.

Thank you, John and Jim, I couldn't have done this without you.

One last thank you: I wanted to update the content of our website so I started looking around at other MG websites. The articles and information were so good, I sent a couple of emails to other groups asking if I could share some of their material. The response was delightful, and I want to thank Kate Sault, Halton MGs for sharing their *Cross Pollination* newsletter with us, and Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County MGs and Julianne Labreche, Ottawa-Carleton MGs for sharing their now combined newsletter *Trowel Talk*. And not to forget my friend, Sue Flinders-Adams, Peterborough MGs who graciously allowed us to share her article on *Shrubs* from Peterborough's vast collection of wonderful articles. These contributions have added so much to the content of our website. Thank you to all of you.

Once again, I was shown the incredible generosity of the Master Gardener world I'm so pleased to be a part of. I've learned the meaning of collaboration and working together and in the process, I've become a better MG – and a better person.

Now if this chilly, windy weather would pass (earlier in May), we could all get back out into the garden and do what we all love doing.

Stay safe and thanks to all of you.



Master Gardeners Out & About: Projects & Events

Guelph & Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: Seed to Harvest Course – March 2020

Details: Guelph Master Gardeners were able to have three (3) meetings before the lockdown. We had four students and several MGITs. We kept the lessons fairly informal and started the seeds of plants that benefit from an early start; we were able to touch on a lot of topics.

This was the first time we have done this and we were not sure what we would enjoy doing. The consensus from our MG group was that we enjoyed the informality with lots of questions and discussions.



From left to right: Suzanne Carter, Sharon Leggett, Donna Kahn, and Lianne Krane; the arm belongs to Cris Calley Jones

The course was held at a private home and we had all the supplies ready which meant we did not have to bring them every time. We had 5 lessons scheduled and we think that was enough, not for an in-depth course, but enough for getting students started on their seed adventure. If

we put this course on again this is the model we would use as it gives the most pleasure to the teachers!

We had a good response from the students and we keep in touch with them as their seedlings grow. We again thank the London-Middlesex group for being so generous with the outline of their course as it proved to be a great starting point for our course.

Name: Spring Spirit

Details: Guelph Master Gardeners are keeping up the spring spirit on our website, and we hope to have pictures from our members' gardens posted soon. Our hotline is our line to the gardening community in Guelph. We have also had a few Zoom meetings to keep in touch as a group.



MGOI Board Out & About:

Name: Potential Virtual Screening of *Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf*

Details: Linda Peacock, Coordinator of Simcoe County contacted Kelly Noel, Director of Communications, to see if it might be possible to arrange a screening of this film. The MGOI Board is pursuing what arrangements they might make, e.g. cost, etc. Here is the trailer ...

<https://www.hauserwirth.com/stories/28405-five-seasons-gardens-piet-oudolf>

Kelly sent a note to Hauser & Wirth – and got this response:

Dear Kelly,
My friends at Hauser & Wirth were nice enough to forward me your email request below. They don't have any current plans to offer another free virtual screening, but I have been coordinating virtual screenings directly with other organizations and would be happy to follow up with you if you would be interested in arranging something similar for the Master Gardeners of Ontario. Look forward to hearing from you and thanks again for the interest in - and kind words about - the film!

All the best,
Tom
Thomas Piper, Producer/Director
[Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf](#)

I am sure that most Ontario MGs would love to see a virtual screening of this film!

Kelly is now waiting for further information!



Brantford Master Gardeners

Name: Interesting Websites

Details: In the meantime... if you missed the listings of interesting websites in last month's issue here they are again. Fellow MGs can continue to learn, find something interesting to do or watch! Hope everyone enjoys these!

Stay home...stay safe.

Bringing Nature Home-Catskill Nature Nursery

<https://www.facebook.com/266259994940/posts/10158103043124941/?sfnsn=mo>

The Growing Season

<https://growingseasoncanada.com/>

RBG At Home

<https://www.rbg.ca/athome>

Garden Making Magazine-Virtual Tour of Famous Gardens and Interesting Sites

https://gardenmaking.com/enjoy-a-virtual-tour-of-famous-gardens/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter+Apr+17+2020

Bird Song Opera:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMXD4h5w8D8>



Terra Greenhouses Workshops:

<https://terragreenhouses.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5b994a7ca609d19fdd95ceeca&id=c22894dec8&e=8ca039d1a6>

<https://terragreenhouses.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5b994a7ca609d19fdd95ceeca&id=18a1d58804&e=8ca039d1a6>

<https://terragreenhouses.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5b994a7ca609d19fdd95ceeca&id=f8d3d0fde6&e=8ca039d1a6>

<https://terragreenhouses.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5b994a7ca609d19fdd95ceeca&id=e2b3c88cd9&e=8ca039d1a6>



UPCOMING EVENTS

Master Gardeners of Ottawa- Carleton

ON HOLD! Lectures – 2020 Series Lineup

Northumberland Master Gardeners

Postponed for Now!

Name: Bus Trip to Montreal, Quebec

Dates: June 23rd to June 26th, 2020

Details: Highlights: Montreal Botanical Gardens; Les Jardins Michel Corbeil; Machal Gardens; and Chillane Gardens

Cost: \$580.00 per person based on double occupancy, \$820.00 per person based on single occupancy.

Contact: Christa Bisanz at bisanz@eagle.ca for details.

Stratford Master Gardeners

POSTPONED!! Technical Update

Information:

We asked you to save the date of October 17th, 2020 for our Technical Update, *Gardening for the Planet: Creating Biodiverse Habitats in Our Gardens*. As a result of COVID-19 we felt that we should postpone the event rather than leave people uncertain as to whether it would go ahead. We will re-schedule once the situation becomes clearer. We hope to see you there!

Halton Master Gardeners

Postponed!

Technical Update:

Topic: Refugia: the future of gardening

Date: Saturday, October 24th, 2020

Location: Waterdown, ON

Speakers:

- Dr. Christina Davy, Research Scientist with the Ministry of Natural Resources
 - Catherine Kavassalis, Halton Region Master Gardener
 - Paul Gellatly, Director of Horticulture, Toronto Botanical Garden
 - Claudette Sims, President MGOI
 - Other special guests TBA
-

2020 Coordinators' Conference

SAVE THE DATE – October 17, 2020

Name: 2020 Atlantic Master Gardener Conference – Cancelled until Summer 2021

Topic: Designing Adaptive Gardens in Atlantic Canada

Location: Truro, NS on July 8th & 9th, 2020

Keynote Speaker: Julie Moir Messervey, award winning landscape designer from Vermont and author of *Landscaping Ideas that Work* and other books, has indicated that she is willing to come next year. Registrants will have their money refunded ASAP.

Name: MGOI Website

Details: If you would like your Master Gardener event posted on the MGOI website under the **News & Events** tab, please send details to our webmaster Jim Cook at webmaster@mgoi.ca. Images need to be in .jpeg or .png format.



COMMUNICATIONS – EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN!

**Let's talk to each other
announcing mgoi@groups.io**

Before Facebook, before Twitter, before Instagram there were email "lists" – where people with a common interest could share information – sending one email would reach everybody who had put their name on the list.

MGOI has had one of these for 20 years. All members were MGs in Ontario. The current list – the MG-list on yahoogroups – has not had a lot of action in the last few years. It had some issues – joining was a bit complicated and attachments did not work for everybody. Recently yahoogroups decided to discontinue allowing new groups to form – old groups could stay. But the whole process still had the same issues.

Members of the MG-list were polled and several indicated that they still valued an opportunity to communicate exclusively with other MGs. And many new members probably didn't know this communication possibility even existed!

SO

We have set up a new list on another platform called groups.io. The email address is mgoi@groups.io. We were in the process of investigating this just when the shutdown began. It seems to run very smoothly – and has many useful and "modern" features, like the use of #hashtags, live chats, polls, a calendar of events, a wiki, a website where messages and photos are stored. It is free. For people who like detail: <https://groups.io/helpcenter/membersmanual> But if you have an email address, you already know how to send and receive messages, and that is all you really need!

Putting your name on the list is easy – and all of the people you communicate with this way will be other MGs in Ontario. If you ask a question, the answer will come from other MGs.

Let's find out if this is useful and will be used. TRY IT!!

To put your name on the list:

send an email to: mgoi+subscribe@groups.io

just click and SEND – no message necessary.

You will immediately get an "if you want to join, reply to this email" message

just click reply and send – again, no message necessary.

Once membership is confirmed, you will get a WELCOME email with some useful information. The confirmation might not be immediate, but should be same day.

If you have a strong spam filter set, it MIGHT go into your junk mail. If you don't get a confirmation, send an email to info@mgoi.ca.

Kelly Noel, Director of Communications

