



*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario*

# Inside

# MGOI

Welcome to the June edition of *Inside MGOI*, the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. (MGOI) newsletter. As we slowly come out of lockdown we hope that June has found 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](mailto:newsletter@mgoi.ca).

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#### **INSIDE MGOI**

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

**June 2020**

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton**

## Milestones

### Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

#### In Memoriam

by Lynda Bobinski, Coordinator

**Ralph Bullough ~ August 26, 1951 – June 3, 2020**

It is with sadness that the Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners (TBDMGs) honour a very special Master Gardener ~ Ralph Bullough. Ralph has been our leader and mentor and has given our organization direction at a local, provincial and international level.



Sitting down and writing about Ralph's generous, sharing nature is not an easy task. We have received so many tributes to recognize his kindness, expertise and never ending support so it is best to share these words instead. The following tributes show just exactly the kind of man Ralph was and how he has impacted our lives:

*"Ralph served on the executive of the Ontario Master Gardeners, The Canadian Rose Society, TBDMGs and contributed to all things gardening in Thunder Bay. He was always helpful with questions and kept a bountiful, beautiful garden".*

*"He was such a mentor to me and I am forever grateful that I could call him my friend".*

*"Ralph was one of the founding members. He devoted his expertise and guidance with humility and humour. Master Gardeners is a special group because of people like Ralph".*

*"We have lost a special man in our lives who has given so much to all of us as a caring mentor and dear friend".*

*"I am very sorry for the passing of our MG friend Ralph, who gave so much to our organization with his expertise in horticultural matters".*

*"Ralph always found good in everything, and he devoted so many hours to our group and mentoring upcoming MGs, while also educating us and the public. A big loss for our group, and of course for his family".*

*"I always admired his depth of gardening knowledge. I enjoyed working with him on the committee that Ralph led on "Insects and Diseases of the Thunder Bay District, A Gardener's Handbook". This innovative project by the TBDMGs won the International Master Gardener 2013 Search for Excellence Award".*

*"As a new Master Gardener in Training I did not know Ralph personally but from all your fond recounting of him, I'm sure I missed out on knowing a real treasure. He sounded like a very kind and knowledgeable man who will be missed. I am sad that I did not get to know him".*

*"As a MGIT, I chose Ralph to be my partner the first time I gave my gardening presentation at the Waverley Library. He supported my highly structured method as opposed to his free flowing extemporaneous way. The important thing that he emphasized to me was to watch the time while he was talking as he could easily get carried away and forget his time limitation! Since then he had been my mentor, a devoted guru and better than Google resource in terms of gardening experiences".*

*"I met Ralph 30 years ago when Gert and I would travel to Thunder Bay for the MG meetings Over the years he did several presentations for our Horticultural Society, some on his travels to different gardens in foreign places and of course on ROSES. In the early 90s he came to our first GARDEN TOUR. I remember him enjoying the chili in the log cabin in our back yard. Many memories".*

*"Ralph has been a mentor for me for 23 years as a Master Gardener. He was such a knowledgeable and experienced gardener and horticulturist. You could always count on him to answer the most challenging gardening situations ... especially with roses. He was a true expert and was the director of the Canadian Rose Society! Ralph was a real gentleman and a true colleague".*

*"He welcomed me to the group when I joined and always supported me in any way that he could. He was very generous with his time, knowledge and friendship and will be greatly missed".*





*Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners - Through the Years with Ralph*

As you can see it is no secret that Ralph was our hero! As MG Lynda Lahtenmaa said, if there was a Marvel comic superhero that could save plants in peril and help gardeners in their troubles and woes, it would be Captain Ralph!

Kind, gentle, funny and knowledgeable, Ralph was a larger than life figure in the gardening world - advising, cajoling and reminding us of the value and importance of plants in our lives and in the world we live. He led MGs in Thunder Bay to city hall to save our Centennial Botanical Conservatory and had written countless petitions for the sake of a healthy gardening occupation.

Ralph's passing is personally a huge blow to a lot of us who have known him for many years, and professionally a tragic loss to the gardening community. Having said this, a true mentor like Ralph never really dies; his work lives on forever within us. We have been blessed and touched by his courage, wisdom and grace and those things can never die.

Captain Ralph, we know that your rose garden in heaven will be a source of joy, solace, and peace to all heavenly and earthly spirits. We will sorely miss you.





We share this "Never Alone Rose" blooming so eloquently in my garden this morning to honour Ralph and everything that he has been to all us.



be. Rest in peace our dear friend. And may these many loving thoughts of friends bring comfort to your family.

### ***From Prince Edward County***

*Barbra Stock, Prince Edward County Master Gardeners*

As another signature on the Letters Patent and as a Master Gardener who helped in the formation of Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc., I remember Ralph as a kind thoughtful man. He was always at the front in calming the many problems that arose with the start of such a large organization. Ralph was always willing to go the extra mile, always giving MGOI his knowledge, support and time.

I didn't know Ralph socially, but his contribution and support to MGOI will not be forgotten.

*from Prince Edward County Master Gardeners*

On behalf of all of us, we would like to express our profound sadness to hear of Ralph's death. He was a giant in Master Gardeners and his kindness and mentorship to so many of us will always be remembered.



## **Haliburton Master Gardeners**

### **In Memoriam**

**Terry Goodwin – May 28, 2020**

*by Liz Case*

Our Haliburton County Master Gardener Terry Goodwin passed away suddenly on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Gone doing what he loved best: gardening. What more could a gardener ask?



*Terry Goodwin*

Terry joined Master Gardeners in 2016 with our Haliburton group and zoomed through courses until he also obtained his Horticultural Certificate from the University of Guelph. He was a doer, always helping someone, and was so enjoying his new gardening endeavours after his retirement. Sadly, at 59 years old, too little time.

Losing him leaves a big hole in our group. We'll think of him often especially when in our gardens (or at the compost heap!). Now he is in Heaven's garden.

More about Terry in 'The Highlander':

<https://thehighlander.ca/2020/06/15/terry-goodwin-remembered-as-an-exceptional-person/>

### ***Tributes to Terry:***

Pauline: Terry was always helping someone and was so enjoying his gardening endeavours after his retirement. We will always remember him for his good humour, patience, and clear head when, as the only male member of our group, he was trying to 'herd the cats' as he described our group meetings.



Eileen: Terry was my "digging Buddy" for our Spring Plant sale. Our speciality was Lupins from our secret place. I miss his chuckle as he was digging. He will be greatly missed.

Lori: Gone doing what he loved; what more could a gardener ask for? Now he is gardening in heaven.

Dinah: I miss Terry every time I do anything with the group. He had a level head and could also sort out solutions. He had a great sense of humor. Again I miss him very much.

Lee Ann: I will miss Terry's wry comments, his sense of humour and our chats about Newfoundland that brought out his chuckle. I think of him often when I'm in my garden.

Marilyn: Terry had a way of connecting with everyone he met; he was a thoughtful listener whose wry comments would make you smile even if he was disagreeing with you. He will be greatly missed.

Carolyn: I don't know what to say when your gardening buddy dies. Terry loved doing stuff and had a huge appetite for learning. I know he helped a few of you with jobs at your home and expected nothing in return. In the days ahead I think we will hear from many, many people that Terry helped out. He enjoyed your company, he enjoyed learning from you and it was a part of his DNA to help where he could.

Terry died doing what he loved. He was cutting the grass and tidying up the overgrowth at the Highlander office in Haliburton this morning. Yard maintenance, small carpentry jobs and moving dirt around with his mini excavator was his gig.

Liz: Terry was always there to help so many of us. The week before he died he came to help transfer my partially frozen compost heap to the next pile. Nick and I really got to know him that day. Each time I visit the compost heap I am reminded of him – which is almost daily!



## London Middlesex Master Gardeners

### 35 Year Anniversary - WOW!

Eva Norman-Vestergaard

This year we are thrilled to be celebrating the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MG Eva Norman-Vestergaard who continues to be a very active member of our group! She was the very first MG to be accredited in Ontario.



Eva never quits learning. She is such a terrific volunteer and knowledgeable resource. Eva gives her time and energy to many volunteer activities and we are fortunate to have her as part of our MG family. Congrats on achieving this amazing 35 year milestone Eva!

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Ginette Blake  
Darlene Davis  
Congratulations!

### New Master Gardeners in Training

Jonathan Aristone  
Sherree Mahood  
Nicole Steward-Seekins

Welcome - glad to have you on the team!



## Toronto Master Gardeners In Support of Racial Equity

In support of racial equity, the Executive of Toronto Master Gardeners shared the following statement with its members:

The Toronto Master Gardeners Executive is following the news and paying attention to the hardships of Black, Indigenous and Persons of Colour (BIPOC) peoples, as we are sure many of you are. We believe it is important at this time to look inward as an organization and to have difficult conversations about who we are and how we can become more inclusive and representative of Toronto.

Let's set the path for change, for new alliances with diverse Toronto communities and for an understanding of everyone's right to belong to, and learn from our services as, Master Gardeners.

We are listening and always welcome your comments.

To demonstrate our continued commitment to change and do better, the Executive later followed up by sharing a list of garden organizations led by BIPOC peoples in Toronto to assist its members.

Toronto Master Gardener Cynthia Levine-Rasky has provided a list of garden organizations led by Black, Indigenous and People of Colour peoples in Toronto. TMGs know the benefit of growing your own food—why not help others have the same access through these worthy groups. If you can help with an individual donation please do:

1. Black Creek Community Farm  
<https://www.facebook.com/BlackCreekCommunityFarm/>
2. Food Share  
<https://www.facebook.com/FoodShareTO/photos/a.427874235194/10163964864105195/?type=3&theater>
3. Sundance Harvest  
<https://www.sundanceharvestfarm.com/>

4. African Food Basket  
<https://africanfoodbasket.ca/>
5. Green Circle Food Hub, donation link to Virtual Farmers' Market, Black Food Toronto  
<https://virtualfarmersmarket.ca/collections/donations/products/black-food-toronto>  
<https://blackfoodtoronto.com/>
6. We Seed Change (via Rhonda Teitel-Payne/BCCF Director Leticia Deawuo)  
<https://weseedchange.org/words-from-seedchange-chair-we-cannot-talk-about-food-without-talking-about-racism/?fbclid=IwAR1Y663V-pTCZAA-fmExQE7h9AnV4zn9-5X2lySrbKFCs7fNPHRedzbAdf0>
7. Black Farmers' Collective Toronto  
<https://www.facebook.com/blackfarmerscollectivetoronto/>
8. Good Food Boxes to Black and Indigenous peoples (posted by Lorraine Johnson)  
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/m/34403/donation> or via  
<https://bit.ly/3eLSRhF>



These are the first steps; we hope to follow through with more.





## The President's Corner - June 2020 Updates

by Claudette Sims, President MGOI

I was so saddened to hear that Ralph Bullough, charter member and first president of the Master Gardeners of Ontario passed away on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ralph was a member of Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners and dedicated his whole life to gardening and Master Gardeners. Ralph had stepped up as president again when I joined the Board of Directors and I was impressed with his natural leadership, kindness, and honesty. He was a mentor to many MGs, including myself when I became president. He had an amazing memory and knowledge base about anything to do with MGs. Ralph reached out to all the provincial MG groups in Canada and built the impressive network of MG contacts that I use to this day. I could not have asked for a better mentor to guide me through those first years on the Board – he will be dearly missed. You can find his inspiring obituary at this link:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ChronicleJournal/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=196304696>

Your Board of Directors voted to make a donation in Ralph's memory on behalf of Master Gardeners of Ontario. A grove of 35 trees will be planted in Superior National Forest on the U.S./Canada border, north of Lake Superior – a fitting memorial as Ralph worked tirelessly to forge connections with MGs in the U.S. and abroad.

Here are some ways to honour Ralph individually or as a MG group:

1. Send a message of condolence to Ralph's family  
at <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ChronicleJournal/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=196304696>.
2. Donate to have a memorial tree planted in Canada (various options from \$10 up)  
<https://cause2give.unxvision.com/EDMWeb/DonationForm.aspx?FormID=5&LanguageID=1>
3. Plant a grove of 10-35 memorial trees for \$60-\$85 in Superior National Park (Minnesota). See this link for details:  
<https://sympathy.legacy.com/en-ca/funeral-flowers/productdetails/?type=obituary&p=196304696&pn=ralph-bullough&affiliateid=3593&v=02&pm=240&sku=tre-ctim>
4. Be a mentor to a Master Gardener in Training! We've added a mentorship program to our closed Facebook group "MGOI Members and Mentors". There are currently only 21 members in this group, but we'd love to have more. Make sure you let any new MGITs know so that they can sign up. Contact our Director of Operations Pam Dallaire to request to join, ideally through your coordinator, so she can verify that you are a member in good standing. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1329062317277822/?ref=bookmarks>

### MGOI Facebook Group Update (forum open to the public)

- We now have **8,000** members in our forum – that's another 2,000 members since May!
- Help! There is an even greater need for Master Gardeners to help in answering questions. Even if you're not a current FB user, consider creating a profile just to answer questions. You'll be astounded at how much YOU can learn!
  - We suggest that MGs add their group name (e.g. Halton MGs) when answering a question as there is no way of distinguishing us from the other forum members.
  - When giving an answer, MGs are encouraged to supply a link where possible, e.g.: I think your tree has oak wilt. [https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/understanding\\_oak\\_wilt](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/understanding_oak_wilt)
  - When giving a plant ID, give the common AND botanical name with a link so that the poster can confirm the ID, e.g.: This plant looks like Prairie Smoke (*Geum triflorum*)  
<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=286420>



## MGOI Website Updates

A number of resources or links have been added to the [Resources](#) tab of our website to support MGs and the public. You can copy the link to send the entire file or simply copy and paste the relevant information. Thanks to our amazing webmaster Jim Cook who made all the updates despite being in the middle of a move to Nova Scotia!

Here's a sample of what's been added out of several Gardening Fact Sheets (created from our MGOI Facebook group):

- [What can I plant over a septic tank?](#)

### Gardens for Pollinators and Birds

- [Butterfly Larval Host Plant List](#) (Penn State)
- [Halton Region Butterfly and Host Plant List](#) (.pdf)
- [Larval Shrubs and Trees](#) (Bee Sweet)
- [Native Butterfly Host and Nectar Plants](#) (Carolinian Canada)

### Invasive Plants and Weeds

- [9 Invasive Shrubs to Avoid in the Landscape](#)
- [13 Common Garden Weeds](#)
- [Credit Valley Conservation Priority Invasive Plants](#)
- [Noxious Weeds in Ontario](#)

### Native Plants

- [Native Plant Database](#) (Missouri Prairie Foundation)
- [Native Plant Encyclopedia](#) (Canadian Wildlife Federation or CWF)
- [Native Plant List for Breeding Birds](#) (Credit Valley Conservation or CVC)
- [Native Shade Garden](#)
- [Native Plants for Sandy Soil](#)

### Plant Identification & Plant Lists

- [Ontario Ferns](#)
- [Ontario Grasses](#)
- [Ontario Trees & Shrubs](#)
- [Ontario Wildflowers](#)

### Trees

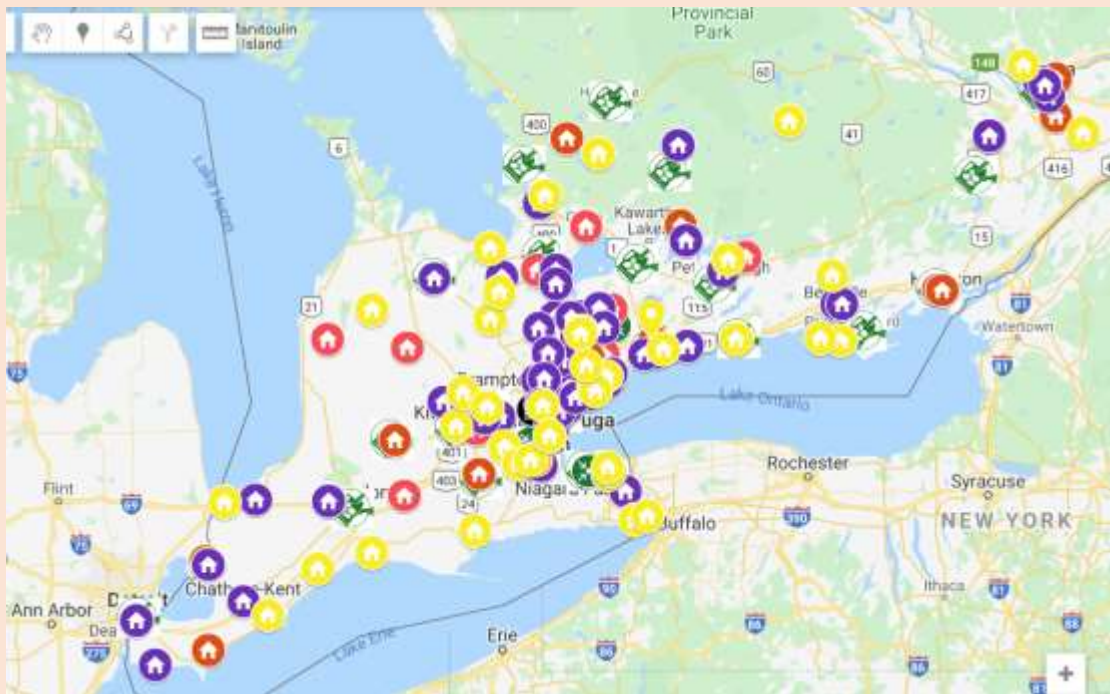
- [Ontario's Tree Atlas](#)
- [Selecting a Tree for Your Region](#)
- [University of Guelph The Arboretum](#) (see lists by family)





## Become a MG Enquiries

- I've personally answered over 50 requests to become a MG since January! Interested members of the public are mapped and directed to the closest group or groups to contact.
- You can get an idea of the locations on these 2 maps.
  - Yellow - 50 requests in 2020
  - Purple - 65 requests (2019)
  - Red - 34 requests (2018)



Check the information your group has on the map on our website under [Groups/Advice](#). All groups were asked to provide information regarding meeting location and interests. Details will make your group more attractive to the public! Contact Claudette to update your group information. Peterborough MGs are a good example of what your information could look like.



## Master Gardeners Out & About: Projects & Events

### Etobicoke Master Gardeners

#### Name: EMG Members Spring Plant Swap

**Details:** On May 30<sup>th</sup> EMGs held a plant swap for members only. Back in April, even as we announced the cancellation of our annual Plant Sale, the EMG executive was looking at options where members might safely swap and share their plants.

Keeping the health and safety of members uppermost in mind, we planned for a couple of different areas set up in the driveways of three adjacent properties: a “Drop Zone” for people to bring their plants to one spot, a “Check In” table to register and to draw a number to determine



position on the wait list, and a “Social Zone” on a driveway where wait spots were marked with an X so everyone would be properly physically distanced to chat during their wait time.

In between it all, plants were spaced in ‘islands’ throughout the garden: shade plants along one driveway, sun loving plants on the garden path and veggies and herbs in front of the garage. Arrows pointed the way, starting at shade plants, then through sun and finally ending with veggies.

Only one person was in each area at a time and they would advance as soon as the person in front of them moved on. There were only ever three people in the gardens at once and everyone could cycle through multiple times if wanted.

Little details to help keep everyone safe:

- ✓ All plants labelled with Sun or Shade for volunteers to easily move from “Drop Zone” to proper island
- ✓ Use signage wherever possible to reduce physical interaction (chalk arrows, sign in sheet, instructions)
- ✓ Pre-sanitized pens, used once and then discarded in a separate box
- ✓ A hockey stick to remind everyone what 6 feet looks like
- ✓ Remind everyone to bring their own hand sanitizer and water

Sounds complicated but to keep everyone safe and still have a good time, it was worth it.



### London Middlesex Master Gardeners

#### Name: What a difference a year makes! 2020 Online Impact of Master Gardeners

*Communications/Webmaster – Linda Armstrong  
Coordinator – Nancy Abra*

**Details:** What a year for Master Gardeners in terms of our impact online! Since the ‘stay at home’ restrictions in mid-March, our lives have changed. People hunkered down and spent time completing household tasks but many also turned to the internet and social media to learn by following Facebook groups, participating in webinars and doing online research.

With the arrival of spring and warm weather, there’s been an explosion of gardening interest. We have seen a huge increase in people searching for growing advice. The range of questions covers everything from identifying plants, to beautifying the outdoors, to growing vegetables and herbs. Gardening has been an uplifting activity for many and this upsurge is likely to continue.

First we just have to say how impressed we are with the number of posts and the quality of answers on the MGOI Facebook group. Kudos to all who administer that site! In the past it has been difficult to find practical ecological garden advice in Canada. When googling a topic the first sites that popped up often promoted garden myths and unsustainable garden practices. We are on the right track with building an Ontario resource that can be trusted by the public!



In recent months, the gardening questions submitted to us directly at London Middlesex Master Gardeners via 'gmail' have actually been down slightly, which is surprising. But our website hits and London Middlesex Master Gardener Facebook 'likes' and 'followers' have increased a lot over this period. It's clear that the preference of new gardeners and those of the younger generation is to 'google' or use social media.

As of June 16, 2020, our website, <http://www.londonmiddlesexmastergardeners.com/>, has had more than 30,000 views and 20,000 visitors. That's more hits already this year than we received for the entire year in 2019. **Year over year in May we were up more than 200%!** The chart at **the end of this section** reflects the dramatic monthly growth since January.

We believe the majority of our visitors are relatively new to gardening. The trends and interest this year seem to be: how to grow various edibles (such as peppers, beans and tomatoes); how to deal with invasive plants; creating rain gardens; and gardening in raised beds.

Our aim has been to focus on sharing accurate relevant posts of high quality that will attract Google and other search engines to choose our information when people research certain gardening topics. We have found that it's essential to keep our on-line presence engaging and current. Our Facebook page is actively followed by >900 people. We post regularly there and also use it to highlight new blogs from the website.

As well, we issue a regular newsletter promoting recent blog posts. Since Feb 2019, we've published six newsletters to a small but steadily growing subscriber base of approximately 300.

**Website Blog Posts** – So far in 2020 we've published 20 blog posts. Some examples are:

- [Gardening with Fewer Chemicals – Introduction to IPM](#)
- [Japanese Beetles – Coming Soon to a Plant near you!](#)
- [Before you cut a tree - Bylaws, Permits and Rules to Know](#)
- [Make your own plant pots – low cost, recycled, kid-friendly](#)

- [Goth Gardening – Wow! Black Plants add Drama!](#)
- [Hydrangea Leaf Curl](#)
- [Create a Habitat-Friendly Yard 10+ Ways](#)

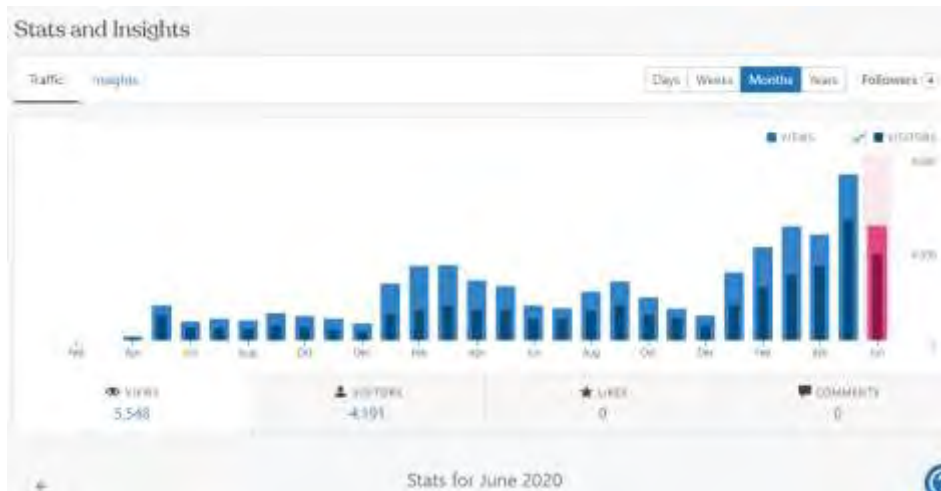
### What's Next?

We would be happy to offer our posts to other Master Gardener groups who would like to share them on their sites.

We are also interested in **your** posts as we want to link to the best materials created by Ontario Master Gardener groups. If you have something to share, please contact us at [lonmidmastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:lonmidmastergardeners@gmail.com)







## Brantford Master Gardeners

### Name: Interesting Websites

**Details:** If you missed the listings of interesting websites in the previous 2 issues of *Inside MGOI* here they are again. Fellow MGs can continue to learn, find something interesting to do or watch! Hope everyone enjoys these!

#### 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](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=18a1d58804&e=8ca039d1a6>

[https://terragreenhouses.us8.list-](https://terragreenhouses.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5b994a7ca609d19fdd95ceeca&id=e2b3c88cd9&e=8ca039d1a6)

[manage.com/track/click?u=5b994a7ca609d19fdd95ceeca&id=e2b3c88cd9&e=8ca039d1a6](https://terragreenhouses.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5b994a7ca609d19fdd95ceeca&id=e2b3c88cd9&e=8ca039d1a6)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

*N.B. All upcoming events are currently on hold except for the Coordinators' Conference which may proceed virtually.*

### Master Gardeners of Ottawa - Carleton ON HOLD! Lectures – 2020 Series Lineup

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#### Stratford Master Gardeners

#### POSTPONED!! Technical Update Information:

We asked you to save the date of October 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 as soon as the situation becomes clearer. We hope to see you there!

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

#### Topic: Designing Adaptive Gardens in Atlantic Canada

**Location:** Truro, NS on July 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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### 2020 Coordinators' Conference SAVE THE DATE – October 17, 2020

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### Halton Master Gardeners

#### Postponed!

#### Technical Update:

#### Topic: Refugia: the future of gardening

**Date:** Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 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
- 



## Of Possible Interest to Master Gardeners

### 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](mailto:webmaster@mgoi.ca).

Images need to be in .jpeg or .png format.



### New Book



Linda Kershaw (see the May 2019 Newsletter for a look at her previous book) along with Lorna Allen have published a new book entitled *Vascular Flora of Alberta: An Illustrated Guide* (Kershaw and Allen 2020). A useful reference, this book is the first comprehensive look at the flora of Alberta since 1983. It includes all vascular plant species growing wild in Alberta, incorporating the 372 'new' species that have been found in the province

in the past 40 years.

Also, since the 1980s, there have been world-wide changes to plant classification and taxonomy, and reconciling names in earlier references with the current nomenclature can be confusing and difficult. The guide follows current taxonomy, but also includes names from previous regional floras.

Both authors have worked as botanists in Alberta for over 40 years – Linda Kershaw in research and consulting and as an author of popular field guides such as *Trees of Ontario: Including Tall Shrubs* and *Ontario Wildflowers: 101 Wayside Flowers*; Lorna Allen in protected areas inventory with Alberta Parks.

Traditional keys to plant identification often focus primarily on floral characteristics, but in this guide we begin with easily determined vegetative features whenever possible, and then move on to flower structure or other more technical considerations, as necessary.

Language is simplified where possible, and a glossary is provided to define the more technical terms that are used. Drawings of each species are provided, highlighting distinguishing characteristics. The result is a highly usable guide that is invaluable for identifying vascular plants in Alberta.

The guide includes:

- Diagnostic features for 123 families, 657 genera & 2,010 species.
- Over 3,000 illustrations focused on key characteristics.
- Labeled drawings illustrating the main features of most families.
- Currently accepted scientific names, along with alternate names used in recent local references.
- The current status of all rare native species & exotic weeds.
- An illustrated glossary defining technical terms.

The *Vascular Flora of Alberta: An Illustrated Guide* is now available through Amazon.ca and Amazon.com.

