



*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario*

# Inside

# MGOI

Welcome to the August edition of *Inside MGOI*, the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. (MGOI) newsletter.

The Newsletter focuses on you, Master Gardeners! This is your venue for providing updates, insights and the inside scoop from MGOI Board & Committee members, Directors, and the 29 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).

#### **MGOI Board Members:**

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Statistician: Rhonda Grein, Kitchener  
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 Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Dianne Azzarello, Toronto

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#### **INSIDE MGOI**

**Newsletter of the**

**Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc.**

**August 2021**

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton**

## Milestones

### Essex Windsor Master Gardeners

#### In Memoriam

Charlie Bowyer



Our hearts are broken. Our lifetime member, Charlie Bowyer, passed away on Thursday July 29, 2021. He had travelled the province during his over 30 years as a Master Gardener, touring our gardens and making

meaningful relationships along the way. He will be missed.

He was predeceased by his wife Florence, of 59 years. Together they founded Master Gardeners of Essex Windsor. They were members of three different Horticultural Societies: LaSalle, Greater-Windsor and Fort Malden. Charlie will be missed by many friends in the horticultural community. Donations to the LaSalle Horticultural Society in his memory will be appreciated.

<https://windSORstar.remembering.ca/obituary/charles-bowyer-1082925552>



### Toronto Master Gardeners

#### 2021 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards

Carol Bairstow, 20 years service

Anne Kotyk, 25 years service

Eleanor Ward, 20 years service

Three Toronto Master Gardeners will receive an Ontario Volunteer Service Award in 2021.

Congratulations!



### Mississauga Master Gardeners

#### New Master Gardeners in Training

##### Ryan McKendry

Ryan has completed a Horticultural Technician Certificate and has had past experience restoring farmland in Ontario. Ryan's interests include pollinator gardens, permaculture and Japanese gardens.

##### Natalie Scola

Natalie has over ten years volunteer experience and she is currently completing a Masters Degree. Natalie's interests include historic gardening / landscaping, community led engagement, seed libraries, native plants and archival research.

The MMGs welcome both Ryan and Natalie to the group!



### Niagara Master Gardeners

#### 20 Year Anniversary

##### Barb Large

*By Susan Lusted, Coordinator*

When I joined the Niagara group, it was meeting in members' homes. When Barb Large became coordinator, she found us a meeting room at the St. Catharines Public Library downtown.

She has been active in our group in many ways. She has chaired our plant sale committee since its inception ten years ago. It remains a major fundraiser for our group. She has coordinated our presence at Rice Rd Greenhouse in the spring to advise gardeners. Our hospice programme is coordinated by Barb who arranges the schedule and then pretty much lets us go with our creative juices. Each year, at the plant sale and seedy Saturdays, Alan, Barb's husband, sharpens garden implements and the monies raised are donated to the group. Alan has made bird feeders and bee homes as well.



Barb and Alan maintain a stunning garden filled with a wide variety of plants and shrubs. This year, Barb started the ball rolling with a garden tour of members' gardens with a simple list passed around to members. We always see her photos in our monthly slide show of plants and gardens. She is an invaluable member of our group. It is always a pleasure to work with Barb.



## Muskoka Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

#### Sara Drawehn

This month we held our first actual meeting of 2021 at Pioneer Village in Huntsville. It was wonderful!

Our main event was to present Sara Drawehn with her MGOI Master Gardener certificate which she successfully achieved from Dalhousie University at the end of 2020.

Unfortunately, not all our members were able to attend but it was certainly enjoyed by those present.



*Sara Drawehn with her Master Gardener Certificate*

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

#### Betty Moulton

Betty joined our group in August of 2019 and has achieved her Master Gardener status this past spring. She passed all her tests with flying colours. In a time when it's hard to do, Betty has achieved her volunteer hours and then some.



She is just one of four MGITs we have who have achieved Master Gardener status this year. We look forward to working with Betty.



*Muskoka Master Gardeners Group Photo*





# They're Real & They're Here! Jumping Worms

By Cathy Kavassalis & Isabel Belanger, Halton Master Gardeners

Please be on the lookout for Jumping Worms. Inspect all plants and soil for these earthworms and/or eggs. Remove any you find (see below). Do not move plant material to cottages or other properties. While all earthworms are invasive in Ontario, Jumping Worms pose a serious threat to your gardens and our environment. If you find Jumping Worms contact our local Canadian Food Inspection Agency office (CFIA) Tel: 647-790-1100.

## What Are They?

Jumping worms are a group of invasive species of earthworms from multiple genera. Thought to have been first brought to the southern United States on plant material from Korea and Japan in the 1800s, some species are now moving northward and raising alarms. There are at least three species of concern: *Amyntas agrestis*, *Amyntas tokioensis*, and *Metophire hilgendorfi*. They have been spotted in a garden in Toronto and have been collected for species identification.



The jumping worm has a smooth, light-coloured ring around its body compared to the raised, ridged, pink ring of a nightcrawler.

Photo: EarthwormWatch.org

[Jumping Worms: The Upcoming Environmental Disaster – Laidback Gardener](#)

forest ecology, and reduce biodiversity.' [Invasive in the Spotlight: Jumping Worms | Extension \(unh.edu\)](#)

## What to Do – The Laidback Gardener (Larry Hodgson) suggests:

- Throw live worms in the trash or place them in a bag and solarize them for at least 10 minutes, then trash the bag.
- Pay attention when sharing and moving plants and check for worms and eggs/cocoons.
- Clean compost, soil and debris from vehicles, personal gear, equipment and gardening tools before moving.
- Do not buy or use jumping worms for bait, vermicomposting or gardening.
- Ensure compost has been heated to appropriate temperatures for a sufficient duration.

## Learn More

Jumping Worms: [Jumping Worms: The Upcoming Environmental Disaster – Laidback Gardener](#)

The Atlantic: [Jumping Worms Are Taking Over North American Forests - The Atlantic](#)

GOT WORMS? Introduction to Invasive Asian Earthworms Forest-Pest Identification & Management Course:

[PowerPoint Presentation \(eomf.on.ca\)](#)

Invasive in the Spotlight: Jumping Worms: [Invasive in the Spotlight: Jumping Worms | Extension \(unh.edu\)](#)

Jumping Worms Wisconsin: [Research Update: Jumping Worms and Sleeping Cocoons | UW Arboretum \(wisc.edu\)](#)

Snakeworms: Invasive earthworms in horticulture and forests: Josef Gorres, Maryam Nouri-Aiin:

[Snakeworms and Trees \(umaine.edu\)](#)



Jumping worm. Photo: Josef Gorres, University of Vermont

[Jumping Worms: The Upcoming Environmental Disaster – Laidback Gardener](#)



*Amyntas* cocoon (at arrow) surrounded by earthworm casts.

(Photo: Marie Johnston)

[Research Update: Jumping Worms and Sleeping Cocoons | UW Arboretum \(wisc.edu\)](#)

## Master Gardeners of Ontario Facebook Group

by Karen Sciuk, President, MGOI &

Claudette Sims, Past President, MGOI and MGOI Facebook Administrator

The MGOI Facebook (FB) group was created by Linda Hugli in 2010 way before many groups had their own FB pages. While some MG groups have their own FB pages or forums today, many don't have the capacity to field questions and monitor comments from the public. In today's evolving social media world, it makes more sense than ever for MGOI to have an active presence on social media including FB.



The stated aim of our MGOI FB group forum is to share the joy of gardening and provide:

- Education about current topics of interest in gardening
- Sustainable, science based answers to gardening questions for gardeners in Ontario and similar growing zones
- Promotion of MGs & MG members' accomplishments
- Networking (not-for-profit groups / individuals / public)

### Education & Sustainable Science Based Answers

If you're not following the forum, you're really missing out on a fantastic learning opportunity. It's one of the best ways of keeping up with the latest news about horticulture. Every day there is something new to be discovered just by scrolling through posts and reading the comments and following links that are shared. Breaking news such as the recent Jumping Worms discussion ensures that forum followers and MGs receive the most current information available.

Battling garden myths is ongoing and countered with science-based research and links to current gardening practices. The forum contains a wealth of information that is useful for both MGs and MGITs. Many are in the form of announcements created to inform the public and MGs of a specific issue. Others are in the form of factsheets that groups can share with the gardening public.

Here are some examples: (Note - you may need a FB account in order to follow the links provided.)

- [Natives, exotics, weeds, invasive plants...](#)
- [Invasive? Not-in-my-yard! The Concepts and Controversies of Introduced Species](#)
- [Perhaps I should put right at the top ... we are not advising putting eggshells on your plants!](#)
- [Animal Pest Issues – An Informed Approach](#)
- [What can I plant over a septic tank?](#)

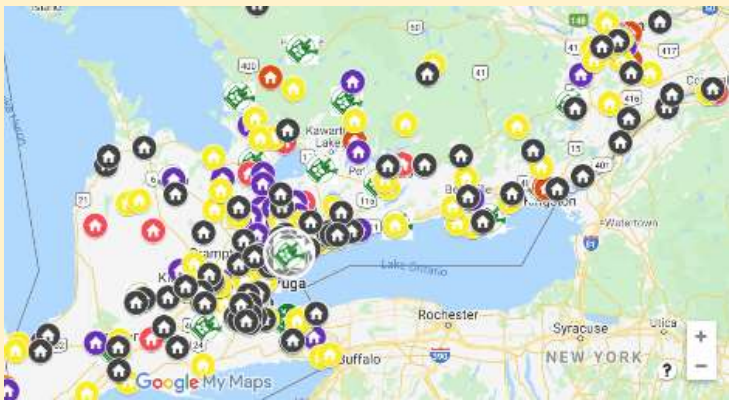
Because information about ecologically important native plants, invasive plants, and pesticide recommendations are not yet part of our MGOI formal education requirements, the forum becomes an important learning space for MGs. Interest in these important topics inspired the choice of our 2020 Co-ordinators' Conference keynote speaker, Cathy Kavassalis, who highlighted the importance and impact of our plant choices.

### Promotion of MGOI – Recruiting New Members

No one promotes MGOI more than our forum! The proof is in the record number of enquiries about becoming a MG. Each time someone from the public requests to join the forum, they are asked if they are interested in becoming a MG. A link connects them to a form on our website. From there, our Director of Membership Maureen Hulbert emails interested people, locates the closest group and shares information about meeting dates and location.



The coordinator is automatically copied in this email so that the conversation can continue. Given that our forum currently has over 23k members, a lot of people have seen this information!



Check out these requests that Maureen has had from all over Ontario. The "black" houses on the map show the location of interested people – she's received 155 requests to date this year! Requests come from all the way to Sioux Lookout in the far reaches of northwestern Ontario and beyond (north of this map, 391 km northwest of Thunder Bay, so far west they are on Central Daylight Time).



We also get forum members who ask how to increase their knowledge or become a MG in posts. Administrators (admins) and moderators do their best to recommend the group that is nearest the member and share upcoming events or meetings.



## Promotion of MGOI – Events & Networking

Our MGOI FB forum posts and promotes all garden activities we know about. In June, we supported Garden Days (see the end of this Newsletter) with a series of posts that promoted both them and MGOI using the hashtags #GardenDays & #MasterGardenersofOntario. We also post the CBC Online chats that occur Mondays from 12:30 to 1:30 during garden season. This creates awareness of our vision to inspire the gardening public. MG groups are encouraged to take advantage of our larger forum to promote themselves and share newsletters, information and special events. This is a great way of increasing awareness of what your group is doing.

## Promotion of MGOI – Tools & Opportunities for MGs & their Groups

There are numerous other ways that individual groups and members benefit from our forum. Here are just a few:

- During the pandemic, time spent researching and answering questions on our forum has been a great way for MGs to fulfill their 30 hours of volunteer service. Social media is now an important tool for educating the public about horticulture and will likely offer continued opportunities for meeting volunteer hour requirements.
- MG groups are welcome to share any factsheets which are posted under the "files" section of our website.
- MG groups are welcome to use the group photo with our watering can logo for their websites/social media.
- Groups and individuals can search our site and use answers we've provided – an impressive database for everyone.





## Planning for the Future

We are so very lucky to have a number of expert non-MG members who routinely chime in with fantastic quality answers and hope they will continue to support us. We have grown to almost 23.7K members and our moderators and admins currently come from 10 of the 29 different MG groups: Algoma, Cochrane District, Grey County, Halton, Kitchener, Lanark, Niagara, Muskoka, Peterborough and Stratford. Admins and moderators work together to make the forum a success. With a team of about 25 admins and moderators and almost 24K members, it can be a challenge to answer questions in a timely fashion. But each member of our team contributes in their own way to make the forum a success. Here are a few of the things we do:

- Each member and each post must be approved beforehand
- Monitoring discussion, deleting inappropriate comments, closing posts
- Answering questions of course!

It would be ideal if we had representation on our admin team from all our MG groups. That would allow all groups to monitor what's happening in the province and also promote themselves. Please contact Claudette through your coordinator if you're interested in helping out.

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## YouTube Slideshows

MGOI is running the YouTube slideshows from May to October this year. Please forward 1 or 2 pictures of your garden as it evolves through the seasons for the 2021 MGOI YouTube Slideshows. Although we would like to suggest you pay special attention to more unusual plants, native plants and pollinator magnets this year, please feel free to also send favourite pictures of your plants, garden and landscape. Send your photo(s) to [photos@mgoi.ca](mailto:photos@mgoi.ca).

### **Put in the subject line or all in one line in the email:**

#### **your name, group, a caption and date**

That will make it quick and easy to copy and paste it on the slide. *Example:*  
Flora Green Ottawa *Ratibida pinnata* August 16

**Note:** iPads / iPhones sometimes automatically downsize an image before sending. Try to avoid that – the photo gets blurry when it's increased back to slide-size.

We will send a link to the slideshow each month from May to October with *Inside MGOI*.



Thank you for participating.

Adrienne Hanbidge,  
MGOI Director of Communications

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## Master Gardener Group Websites / Links

A Message from Jim Cook, MGOI Webmaster



<https://smejoinup.com/5-google-webmaster-tools-alternatives/>

The MGOI website lists current links to group websites and social media, such as Facebook and Instagram: <https://www.mgoi.ca/groups/groups.html>. This is a reminder to please inform myself, Jim Cook, MGOI webmaster of any changes to your links to keep them up-to-date. My address is: [webmaster@mgoi.ca](mailto:webmaster@mgoi.ca). Thanks!



## Master Gardeners Out & About *Projects & Events*

### Mississauga Master Gardeners

**Name:** Mississauga Master Gardeners' Potluck

**Details:** Some MMG members got together for a potluck for the first time since February 2020. Jeannie McRight (@bloomingboulevards) hosted the event in her beautiful garden by the Carolynn Creek, giving all of us something to aspire to with native plants. The new members got a chance to meet up and chat with some of the experienced members of the group.



### Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

**Name:** Partnership with the Ottawa Public Library

**Details:** Master Gardeners of Ottawa - Carleton had been invited by the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) to give Zoom talks on gardening in April and May. We are now continuing the series throughout the summer. Several members have stepped up to provide talks. Of particular interest is that some talks are in English and some in French.

Check out topics and register for any of the remaining sessions via the OPL website [here](#).



### Grey County Master Gardeners

**Name:** New Garden at the Owen Sound Regional Hospital

**Details:** Grey County Master Gardeners have been working with a dedicated group of individuals, businesses, and organizations on a project to naturalize and beautify the barren property at the Owen Sound Regional Hospital.

A master plan was created in the fall of 2019, and the first major part of the project, the transformation of a grass island directly in front of the hospital into a garden, was formally opened this month. The garden comprises over 200 perennials, 60 perennial native grasses and 300 spring bulbs.

Our participation has been led by our Co-Coordinator, Vicky Thompson, who chaired the committee in charge of the project. In addition to our role in the planning and development of the garden, we also donated \$1,000 for the purchase of plant material.

The picture below shows the transformation of what was a grass strip into a welcoming space that we hope will provide a measure of comfort and ease to those entering the hospital.





## **Name: Self Indulgence Day**

**Date:** August 14

**Details:** It has been a tradition for our group to treat ourselves once a year to a day that is just for us. We have been to a number of local places of interest through the years, and this year we visited the Inglis Falls Arboretum and wildflower meadow.

The Arboretum consists of a 5 acre collection of trees from around the world and a more recent addition, a 1.4 km trail that leads through 21 acres of woody plants native to Grey Bruce. We had beautiful weather, sunny and cool, for our walk and the picnic that followed. Next year's "self-indulgence day" will have to be good to top this one!



*The wildflower meadow at the Inglis Falls Arboretum*

## **Halton Master Gardeners**

### **Name: August Monthly Meeting**

**Details:** For the first time in well over a year Halton MGs met in person at EcoHouse in Hamilton, the home of Green Venture. MGs who attended the August meeting were instructed to bring their masks (in case the weather turned) and had to answer a pre-screening Covid-19 questionnaire. It was also a 'bring your own refreshments' event. The weather held and everyone had a great time.

Green Venture began in 1994 and became the lead agency to promote sustainable living in the Hamilton area. 'Green Venture helped pioneer the use of Blue Boxes, Green Carts, rain barrels, and Energy Auditing in the Hamilton area in the 1990s and 2000s.' <https://greenventure.ca/our-history/>.

In 2003 they moved to the Glen Manor estate and transformed it into a showcase for various green initiatives.



<https://greenventure.ca/our-history/>

Giuliana Casimirri, Director of Green Venture, wrote an email thanking HMGs for visiting EcoHouse, stating that it was 'wonderful to spend an evening with real live plant people'.



*Halton MGs Group Photo*



## Upcoming Events

### Master Gardeners of Ottawa – Carleton

**Name:** Trowel Talk Live – Learn over Lunch

**Dates:** Every Tuesday until November 2, 2021



Learn over Lunch with  
**Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton**  
Tuesdays at 12:30pm, April 6 to November 2  
Live on Zoom

Each session will include a presentation on the topic of the week followed by Q&A - 25-30 minutes total.

Registrants will receive a confirmation email with the Zoom link and a weekly email reminder with upcoming topics.

Past presentations are on the MGOC [YouTube channel](#)

### Master Gardeners of Ontario (MGOI)

#### Name: MGOI 2021 SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Presented by the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture

#### Dates/Time:

7 pm Wed. Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>

7pm Wed. Sep. 1<sup>st</sup>

7pm Wed. Sep. 8<sup>th</sup>

7pm Wed. Sep. 15<sup>th</sup>

#### Topics:

1. Aug. 25: *Mutualism is the Key to Success* - Darrell Bley
2. Sep. 1: *Foe-cast (Part 1) - Who's watching for what?* - Kris Mahoney
3. Sep. 8: *Plant Distribution - Global Perspective* - Darrell Bley
4. Sep. 15: *Foe-cast (Part 2) - 'Who's watching for what?'* - Kris Mahoney

**Registration:** Details will be sent via email to Ontario MGs.

Kate Sault, Director of Education, MGOI



## Webinar Speakers

**Darrell Bley (Curator/Instructor @Niagara Parks School of Horticulture):** Darrell has been working in and teaching horticulture for the past 37 years. Currently he is the Instructor and Curator of the Woody Plant Collections at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture. He is responsible for all things related to woody plants from Plant Identification to Arboriculture. Darrell provides knowledge and guidance for the maintenance of the woody plant collection within the Botanical Gardens that includes the international seed exchange program. As well he oversees NPSH 3<sup>rd</sup> year program related to internships that allow the students to study and learn outside of NPBG on the national and international stage. Darrell has spoken at numerous international, national and local conferences on a wide range of horticultural subjects.

**Kris Mahoney (Curator Instructor @Niagara Parks School of Horticulture):** Kris is the Instructor/Curator of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture. He has 15 years of experience in research and teaching since receiving his PhD in Plant Agriculture, specializing in Weed Science, from the University of Guelph. He has written over 20 peer reviewed articles in various plant science and agricultural journals.

### Grey County Master Gardeners

#### Name: Annual Plant Sale

**Date:** Saturday, September 18

**Details:** We are happily making plans and potting up plants for our annual fall plant sale at the Heritage Place Shopping Centre in Owen Sound. Hopefully a year without this event has sharpened the appetites of all gardeners and would-be gardeners in Grey and Bruce counties, ensuring our main fund raising event is a success.



## **Name: 2021 Atlantic Master Gardeners Association (AMGA)**

**Webinar Series: *Spring, Summer, & Fall* via Zoom**

**Fall: Growing Under Cover - Techniques for a more productive, weather-resistant, pest-free vegetable garden**

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, September 21 at 7:00pm ADT

**Details:** Join award-winning author Niki Jabbour as she shares her secrets to growing more food, reducing pest problems, and dealing with unpredictable weather in her vegetable garden.



She will spotlight a wide variety of season extenders like shade cloth, row covers, cold frames, and polytunnels, and show you how to use garden covers to prevent damage from pests. Put Niki's techniques to work in your garden so you can enjoy a year-round harvest in any sized space.

**Registration:** Opens 31 July, 2021 for non-members.

**Cost:** \$20 for non-AMGA members via e-transfer. Register here:

[https://www.atlanticmastergardeners.ca/fallwebinar?utm\\_campaign=c49ae866-0a2e-4aba-8cdf-28c3982dd2b7&utm\\_source=so&utm\\_medium=mail](https://www.atlanticmastergardeners.ca/fallwebinar?utm_campaign=c49ae866-0a2e-4aba-8cdf-28c3982dd2b7&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail)

## **Master Gardeners of Ottawa – Carleton**

**Name: Lecture Series**

**Details: THE FRIENDS OF THE FARM PRESENTS LECTURES BY MASTER GARDENERS OF OTTAWA-CARLETON**



**Please join us from 7pm to 8pm  
VIA ZOOM.**

MGOC presented 3 lectures in April and May. The series resumes in September.

**Tuesday September 21: "Another Gardening Year Behind Us":** Come fall, there is still lots to do in your garden. Planting, planning, cutting, trimming, composting ... tasks to enjoy as you wrap up all things gardening for another rewarding season.

**Tuesday September 28: "A Garden for the Birds":** Wild birds are currently facing a multitude of threats across North America. Many bird species are in decline. This talk will review the most common threats and provide gardeners with some practical, positive ways to encourage birds to visit your garden. Make your garden more bird-friendly year-round.

**Cost: \$10 for Non-Members of Friends of the Farm  
TO REGISTER AND OBTAIN MORE DETAILS:**

<https://friendsofthefarm.ca/fcef-annual-events/master-gardener-lectures>

## **Brantford Master Gardeners**

**Name: BMG Native Plant Sale**

**Details:** BMG will be holding an online plant sale in Sep. People will be able to choose from approximately 50 different native plants and place their orders online by Sep. 20<sup>th</sup>. Orders will be available for curbside pickup at three different locations: Brantford, Cambridge, and St. Williams on **Sep. 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> between 1-5 pm.**

## **Events on Hold until Further Notice**

### **Stratford Master Gardeners**

**POSTPONED!! Technical Update: Topic: *Gardening for the Planet: Creating Biodiverse Habitats in Our Gardens***

**Information:** We had asked you to save the date of October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for our Technical Update. As a result of COVID-19 we postponed the event rather than leave people uncertain as to whether it would go ahead.

### **Halton Master Gardeners**

**Postponed! Technical Update! Stay Tuned!**

**Topic: Refugia: the future of gardening**

Originally scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Speakers:** Dr. Christina Davy, Research Scientist, Ministry of Natural Resources; Catherine Kavassalis, Halton Region MG; Paul Gellatly; Claudette Sims, Past President MGOF; Other special guests TBA





## Of Possible Interest to Master Gardeners



*by Sundaara Alford-Purvis, Executive Director  
Society for Organic Urban Land Care (SOUL)*

Urban greenspaces are taking on an ever-greater role in supporting our quality of life and the resilience of increasingly stressed ecosystems.

To raise the profile of landscapes that are cared for in ways that help them to accomplish both of these things, the Canadian Society for Organic Urban Land Care (SOUL) has launched Greener Greenspaces, a program to recognize best practices and highlight examples of successful stewardship.

The award is open to groups, schools, campuses, institutions and municipalities that look after greenspaces which are publicly accessible. The award is site-specific and could include a particular park, public greenspace or portion of a public space, such as a pollinator garden or wildlife corridor.

To be recognized as a Greener Greenspace the site must be cared for in ways that:

- increase biodiversity and support plant health
- improve soil health and protect air and water quality
- take steps to minimize waste and energy consumption
- actively avoid the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers

This isn't a competition; we'd like to add as many examples of land care as possible to the map and profiles that we'll be putting together from the nominations.



We would also love to hear about creative ways or places that you know of where the four criteria are being applied.

- Does your municipality allow (or encourage) the creation of pollinator gardens on boulevards?
- Has a local business offered up their landscape for an Indigenous medicine garden?
- Has a portion of a public park been designated as wildlife habitat, under the stewardship of a volunteer organization?
- Is there a space or project that you would like to nominate? You can find details and the application form here <https://organiclandcare.ca/greener-greenspaces>
- Is there a group or organization that you think SOUL should reach out to about their work? Please let us know at [greenspaces@organiclandcare.ca](mailto:greenspaces@organiclandcare.ca)
- SOUL is accepting applications for the 2021 year until October 15th and will share profiles of the qualifying greenspaces throughout the fall and winter.



*Constructed in 2014, Corktown Common in Toronto incorporates native species and organic practices throughout the park. <https://organiclandcare.ca/Corktown>*



*The Corktown Common wetland provides wildlife habitat, flood mitigation for the surrounding community and filters the water from the park's splashpad.*





*The grounds at Sunnybrook Health Sciences centre in Toronto have been maintained with organic practices, including on-site composting, since 2005.*  
<https://organiclandcare.ca/Sunnybrook>

## Ask the Arb Shrub ID

**Thursdays, September 9,  
16, 23 and 30, 2021,  
12 - 1 PM**

**Format:** Online via Zoom  
**Instructor:** Shelley Hunt

[Learn more](#)



Ontario has dozens of native shrub species, from dogwoods to viburnums, blackberries to spicebush, and everything in between. Where to start in learning to identify them? In this workshop, spread over 4 zoom sessions, we will cover basic shrub morphology and learn the key ID features of a wide variety of these diverse woody plants. The 3rd session will include a virtual tour of shrubs in The Arboretum's collections.

**Fee:** \$50 (plus HST) per person.

[Click here to register](#)

## University of Guelph Arboretum

### **Name:** 2021 Virtual Workshops

**Details:** Guelph Arboretum continues to run on-line courses which may be of interest. Sign up for a series or for an individual session. Further information is available here:  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/educationandevents/workshops>.

### Ask the Arb

**Tuesdays, August 31,  
September 28, and October 26,  
Noon - 1 PM**

**Format:** Online

**Instructors:** Arboretum Staff

[Learn more](#)

Bring your garden, nature, and wildlife related questions to our free one-hour live session on Zoom.

**FREE!**

[Click here to register](#)



## Message from the President

Karen Sciuk,  
President MGOI



**It is with pleasure and excitement that the Canadian Garden Council, supported by *Canada's Garden-Family*, is proud to proclaim 2022: Canada's Year of the Garden.**

MGOI, as part of Canada's Garden-family, is proud to support **Year of the Garden 2022** in principle. Interested groups are encouraged to send letters of support to their local Federal MP (see below). The following is an excerpt from their website: <https://mailchi.mp/31db1d978b80/kvutnht865-13371271?e=116ef0a728>

Join Us! There is so much to do and there are so many benefits to gardens and gardening that this year we are going to celebrate the many joys of gardens and gardening with daily themes.

- Every day we will offer suggestions of great ways everyone can engage with our themes.
- Our experts will weigh in on their favourite topics.
- We will share links on great articles, books, podcasts.
- We will use our social channels to connect with everyone who loves a garden.
- We will invite our "Garden Family" and the public to tell us how they relate to the daily themes.
- Scotts Canada Ltd. will offer prizes to those that participate.

### **Toronto City Council unanimously proclaimed 2022 the Year of the Garden in Toronto**

**Toronto** became the first municipality to commit to being a Garden Friendly City through proclamation.

**Communities in Bloom** in collaboration with the **Canadian Garden Council** invites each municipality to do the same to celebrate the importance of gardens and gardening for the quality of life of its citizens. We can send you a model Proclamation of the **Year of the Garden 2022** that you can submit to your elected municipal officials.

### **Government Support**

The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau's motion to parliament to recognize 2022 as Canada's Year of the Garden should be tabled in the days to come.

### **Government still needs to hear your voice**

If you have not yet done so, please express your support to your Member of Parliament for an official designation of 2022 as Canada's Year of the Garden. [Contact your Federal MP today!!!](#)







### Remember: Time to Plan for 2022

**How can you as a member of Canada's Garden-Family benefit from the Year of the Garden 2022?** We invite you to engage by thinking about how you will celebrate, how you will engage your clients, what will be your special project, and how you will engage with the nation-wide **Year of the Garden 2022** marketing and promotional campaign. Are you joining Canada's **Year of the Garden 2022** celebrations?

**The Garden-Family Resource Guide** provides you with ideas and links to various tools and information to help you plan your participation. Check the website for the Resource Guide: [www.yearofthegarden.ca](http://www.yearofthegarden.ca)

### Reminder: Hope Is Growing

We encourage you to accept [Communities in Bloom's invitation](#) to plant a Hope Garden in 2021. These very special gardens will set the stage for the **Year of the Garden 2022**.



We keep receiving letters of support. We are happy to share them with you and quotes from them on the website.



*Ctrl+ Click to learn more*

