



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside

MGOI

Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2023 and the January edition of *Inside MGOI*, the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. (MGOI) newsletter.

The Newsletter aims to be the voice for 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.

MGOI Board Members:

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Statistician: Rhonda Grein, Waterloo Region
Webmaster: Jim Cook webmaster@mgoi.ca
Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton newsletter@mgoi.ca
Database/Supplies: Kelly Noel, Ottawa database@mgoi.ca, supplies@mgoi.ca
Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County
Facebook: Claudette Sims, Halton & Cathy Kavassalis, Halton
Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Vacant

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INSIDE MGOI
Newsletter of the
Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc.

January 2023

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

In Memoriam

Celebrating Joyce Young, Master Gardener Emeritus



We are all feeling rather sad right now since the passing of our dear friend Joyce Young. Joyce was a driving force in the establishment of the PEC Master Gardeners and even went so far as to fill the coffers with her own money once when finances became dire.

Joyce always looked after the money at our plant sale, and she was always accurate and meticulous. She was a woman of many talents, and both our group and The County were the recipients of all her generous gifts.

She thought nothing of sitting down at her sewing machine and running off twenty aprons for all of us. All our gear was stored in Joyce's garage until she had to move into a home at the age of 92.



Dropping anything off at Joyce's home was always fun. She was an interesting character with a wicked sense of humour, and she always had time to chat and was interested in everything around her.

Joyce has a huge family: a proud mother of six, grandmother and great grandmother of many many children, she was delighted with her family and celebrated all their achievements.

Our deepest sympathies to Joyce's family. She will be missed.



Rideau Thousand Islands Master Gardeners

10 Year Anniversary

Nancy Louwman

Nancy has 10+ years of service and is now partially retired. Nancy is passionate for Pollinators, and an expert on roses and garden design. She is a regular presenter on our weekly 'Ask A Master Gardener' zoom call-in, every Thursday at 1pm: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2023-online-ask-a-master-gardener-series-registration-244077701977?u=ef75ac4d93b8ce06d326b65d5&id=7936f73525>

5+ Year Anniversary

Joyce Hostyn

Teresa Roseboom

Joyce is a passionate Rewilder and native plant enthusiast. She is also interested in edible forests and permaculture. She is writer extraordinaire of our group's weekly public newsletter. Sign-up here: <https://us19.campaign-archive.com/?u=ef75ac4d93b8ce06d326b65d5&id=7936f73525>

Teresa is a talented florist, potted plants/flower expert, and Butterfly Ranger. She works as a Horticultural Technician.



Master Gardener Status Achieved

Susie Everding

Anna Sadura Healey

Anton Burzminski

Jane Bailey

- Susie achieved MG status in August 2022. She grows specialty veggies including espaliered fruit trees, as well as native plants. Susie is a regular presenter on our weekly 'Ask A Master Gardener' zoom call-in (see above).
- Anna achieved MG status in January 2023. She volunteers with Kingston Area Seed System Initiative (KASSI) growing out, harvesting and saving seeds at a community garden. Anna is also an 'Ask a Master Gardener' blog writer (AAMG – summary of the weekly zoom call-in).
- Anton achieved MG status in January 2023. He is a vermicomposter and is interested in invasive species and organic gardening.
- Jane will achieve MG status in February 2023. She is an Organic Horticulture Specialist and enjoys native plant cultivation, naturalization, and low-water gardening.

New Master Gardeners in Training

We welcome 8 new members in 2022 and 2023.....

- Josh Cowan: Interests include organizing, planting, connecting folks, speaking, and nature-based solutions.
- Elsabe Falkson: A native plant enthusiast, Elsabe is skilled in environmental sustainability initiatives.
- Matt Keenan: A small business owner of Renew-a-lawn, Matt specializes in soil health, fertility, cover crops, and indoor farming.
- Katherine Macklem: Interests include woodland gardens and raised veggie beds.
- Layla Mayboudi: Interests include ethical gardening, ecological design, edible gardens, seeds, propagation, and climate change.
- Nathan Nesdoly: Interested in discovering and identifying native species in the wild, including mosses, lichens and ferns.
- Jim Puckalo: Interests include plant taxonomy, cultivation, urban gardening, fruit production, social media, streaming, public speaking and event management.

- Joanne Whitfield: Co-founder of Little Forests Kingston and a board member of Lakeside Community Garden, Joanne is interested in fruit tree care, plants indigenous to here, soil, compost, rewilding, and beneficial insects.



Guelph – Wellington Master Gardeners

20 Year Anniversary

Christine Hamilton



Co-Coordinator Danielle Gignac (right) with Christine

5 Year Anniversary

Elizabeth Stegges



Co-Coordinator Danielle Gignac (left) with Elizabeth



Lanark County Master Gardeners

35 Year Anniversary

Helen Halpenny



25 Year Anniversary

Ankaret Dean

20 Year Anniversary

Dale Odorizzi

David Hinks

Judy Wall



From L to R, Dale, Judy, Ankaret

Garden Heroes

Helen Halpenny

David Hinks

Lanark County Master Gardeners were fortunate to have two Garden Heroes. Our group voted for and selected one and Almonte Horticultural Society selected the other.



Grey County Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Jennifer Deeks

When Jennifer started working on her diploma in

horticulture back in 2019, she had no intention of becoming a Master Gardener. A believer in life-long learning, she had a passion for playing in the dirt and wanted to understand how all the different pieces of gardening fit together. She comes by her love of growing things honestly. Her grandparents farmed in Southwestern Ontario and as a child secretly she dreamed of being a farmer. At home in Mississauga she grew up with big summer vegetable gardens and a mother with a serious green thumb (something Jen claims she didn't inherit, but we think she's being modest). She does admit to inheriting her mother's love of house plants – she's den mother to more than 120 of them, including a bougainvillea that she regularly coaxes into blooming.

Jen also has a long-standing connection to animals. She has been a registered veterinary technician for more than 20 years, first in Toronto and Mississauga, then in Guelph where she lived for a decade, and now in Owen Sound since 2019. While living in Guelph, as a member of the Guelph Horticultural Society, she came across her first Master Gardener on a garden tour. The concept resonated with her own belief in the importance of volunteering and sharing knowledge and skills with others. She joined the GCMGs in March 2020, just as the pandemic hit. Since then, she received her Diploma in Horticulture (with distinction) from the University of Guelph. Currently, Jen looks after the GCMG website and helps moderate the main Facebook page of MGOI.

She also has a thriving gardening business, "Jenny's Farm", named after what she calls her "micro farm" – slightly more than half an acre, in town. Her first client sought her out after weeks of driving past her property, as Jen worked on her own gardens. "Can you do that for me?", he asked. Word of mouth did the rest. Jen is truly living her dream – a dream she shares with her husband, Ian, and three much-loved dogs.



MG Jennifer Deeks and friends



Halton Master Gardeners

Retirement

David Marshall

After 30 years of service as a Master Gardener with the Halton group David Marshall retired in October of last year. His wise counsel, encyclopedic knowledge of gardening, warm personality and readiness to support his fellow members will be missed.

David was born in Sheffield, England, the son and grandson of avid gardeners. He received his diploma in civil engineering from the University of Leeds in 1956 and immigrated to Canada in 1966. He was employed with Ontario Hydro until his retirement in 1991.

David completed the Ontario Diploma in Horticulture from the University of Guelph in 1994. As a result of high achievement in the program and exemplary service to the community, he received an Award of Excellence from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. In 2009, he received an Award of Merit for Valuable Contribution in the cause of horticulture in the province of Ontario, from the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA).



David Marshall, August 2019

As well as being a member of Halton Master Gardeners, David belongs to the Oakville Horticultural Society and to the Bronte Horticultural Society where he has given and continues to give countless hours of volunteer time, writing articles as well as hosting tours of his garden and helping out at Sovereign House in Bronte. A friend and colleague of 30 years, Lorne Sparrow, says "A visit to his garden in Oakville is visual confirmation of his horticultural knowledge and skill. I always enjoyed our drive together to the monthly Master Gardener meetings. In the spring he always enquired if Elaine (my wife) had started her seeds and what she was growing."

Of his garden in southwest Oakville, David likes to say "I have gardened in the same place for 52 years and I am definitely not leaving behind all of that compost".

We wish David all the best and trust that he will not be a stranger to our group.

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Margaret Larson

Kathleen Terry

Margaret and Kathleen recently achieved their Master Gardener status through the Self- study/Exam program. Margaret and Kathleen both live in Oakville which made it easier for them to study together and encourage each other.

Margaret, formerly a teacher of First Nations children in Canada's far north has always had a deep appreciation for nature. She has invested much of her time in recent years to highlighting the plight of Monarch butterflies and working to restore their habitat.

Kathleen's gardening journey began in 1977 after the purchase of a new home. Previous generations of her family (parents and grandparents) were gardeners and she found that much of their advice was what we now consider current garden wisdom. She works with not-for-profit organizations and some private clients offering gardening advice.

Both Margaret and Kathleen mention that the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of botany and science-based gardening practices is one of the major motivations for joining Master Gardeners.



L-R Margaret Larson & Kathleen Terry, December 2022



New Master Gardeners in Training

Olga Marranca
Olga Leonenko

A warm welcome to Olga Marranca who joined Halton Master Gardeners in October and has been helping with our newsletter, *Cross Pollination*. Also new to the group is Olga Leonenko who joined HMGs in November and who first developed an interest in horticulture through her studies in Biology and Botany at the Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok, Russia. She came to Canada in 1993 and after purchasing a home has renewed her interest in gardening. We are pleased to add these two new members to our group in recent months.



Master Gardeners of Ottawa Carleton

20 Year Anniversary

Kelly Noel
Mary Reid

15 Year Anniversary

Josie Pazdzior

10 Year Anniversary

Susan Bicket

Retirements

Anita O'Connell
Marion Runstedler
Mary Ann Van Berlo
Ann McQuillan
Anne Price

The New Year brought changes in personnel at Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton. We sadly said goodbye to six retiring members and will miss their many valuable contributions. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

New Master Gardeners in Training

Adrian Barber
Nancy McMahon
Barbara Sibbald
Guy Monette
Balancing the losses, we are delighted to welcome four new members.

Northumberland Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Kat Kinch

Kat is an avid gardener. Her passion is gardening with native plants and trees. Kat converted her front garden using a method she has coined "Bermaculture" which she describes as "Gardening on a sunny slope with a permaculture twist". Kat was part of a community group who developed and planted "The Warkworth Little Forest" which was recently "the garden photo of the day" at FineGardening.com. Congratulations Kat!



Kat Kinch, left receiving her MG certificate
from Coordinator Carol Anderson



Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Anne Craig



Congratulations to Anne on receiving her Master Gardener Certificate! Anne joined the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners in October 2020 in the midst of pandemic restrictions. Covid did not slow her down! She is a member of our programme committee, a

moderator on MGOs Facebook page, a volunteer for our 'Year of the Garden' Library Garden project, a volunteer for the Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulations, and the MGOI East Regional Director. She has also participated in and organized our PMG 'Winter Walks'. Thank you, Anne for all your valuable contributions and for providing the following bio.

Anne has been a keen gardener since she first bought a house almost thirty years ago. This passion was sparked by her mother who was a lifelong gardener. Anne's garden continues to evolve as she continues to learn – invasive species are now making way for more native planting and fussy is making way for more easy-to-maintain.

Anne studied Environmental Studies at the Universities of Waterloo and Toronto. That environmental background has influenced the way she gardens.

For the last twenty-five years, Anne has worked at Ontario Parks in various roles. She currently manages the Ontario Parks visitor research program and is working for the Director on special projects.

Anne will be retiring at the end of April. She is looking forward to having more time to volunteer, travel and read...and pledges to finally get on top of that goutweed that is creeping over from the neighbours on all sides!

PMG Garden Hero for Year of the Garden 2022

by PMG Emma Murphy

A founding member of the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners, Beryl Harris has been an incredibly active and enthusiastic member for more than 30 years. She



Emma Murphy, left with Beryl Harris

joined in September 1988, and at 88 years old is the last surviving member of the original 22 who passed the entrance exam and signed up that evening.

Beryl is an active member of the Ontario Horticultural Association (Garden Ontario) and has been presented with their highest award for service – the Silver Medal for outstanding work in the advancement of horticulture.

Beryl has always been incredibly active, representing Peterborough at the provincial level, travelling to help write the MG mandate, speaking at Canada Blooms, and staffing the MG booth there and at the Royal Winter Fair. In Peterborough she and other MGs provided advice tables in the local mall, ran garden tours, and helped with gardening in seniors residences. Beryl (and Hazel Wilson) started the Spring Garden Show in Peterborough (since renamed the Peterborough Garden Show) which was recognized as one of the very best in Ontario, but unfortunately ceased as of this year.

Until a recent bout of poor health, Beryl put in 500-600 volunteer hours per year related to gardening, giving presentations, running garden clinics, participating in garden tours, and working at plant sales. For 19 years she wrote a newsy letter called "Gardening with Beryl" that went out to a long email list. She worked as a garden consultant for Loblaws for almost 20 years, with people coming to her for advice. Known locally as the "Flower Lady" (perhaps because of her very flowery hats as much as her garden knowledge), she is frequently stopped on the street to answer gardening questions.



Lake Simcoe South Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Ashley Gatto

Congratulations to Ashley for achieving Master Gardener Status!

New Master Gardeners in Training

Sam Berman

Julie Frend

Josie & Steve Turner

Kerryanna Lisozi

Mike Budgell



Stratford Master Gardeners

Retirement

Rose Roi



We regretfully accept Rose Roi's retirement after twenty plus years of service. Rose volunteered with the Woodstock Horticultural Society and was always impressed with the work of Oxford Master Gardeners, vowing to become a member on her retirement. When the Oxford Master Gardeners group disbanded, she joined the Stratford

Group. She continued to be actively involved in events at farm shows and the Woodstock Horticultural Society. She enjoyed answering questions from the public and regularly attended the Stratford Garden Festival where it was a pleasure for other Master Gardeners to be paired with her.

Being a master gardener means that you get as much out of it as you put in.

Rose agreed to let us quote her:

I am proud and honored to have served as a Master Gardener for the past 20 years.

I was so impressed with the knowledge of the Master Gardeners in the Woodstock Horticultural Society that I was determined to become a Master Gardener upon retirement. The best part of becoming a member of this organization is to see how the members care for each other, for the community and of course nature and the environment. I will always be grateful for my time spent with this group.

We are looking forward to continuing to see Rose at horticultural events.

Member Profile – Past MGOI Director, South & West Region

Jim Fitzgerald

Thanks to Jim for representing the South & West Region as Director on the MGOI provincial executive for the last two years. Jim found it a rewarding position that kept him busy. Our group is grateful to Jim who is always willing to get involved and to go above and beyond for Master Gardeners. We wish his replacement every success in the role.



Mississauga Master Gardeners

5 Year Anniversary

Jeanne McRight

Stuart Plummer



Congratulations Jeanne and Stuart on receiving your 5 year pins!



London Middlesex Master Gardeners

In Memoriam

Andreea Nicola



It is with great sadness that we report that one of our members, Andreea Nicola, passed away on December 19, 2022. Andreea joined our group in May 2021 and was an active Master Gardener in Training, sharing her beautiful garden with us on YouTube.

Finding You in Beauty

By Walter Rindor

The rays of light filtered through
The sentinels of trees this morning.
I sat in the garden and contemplated.

The serenity and beauty
Of my feelings and surroundings
Completely captivated me.

I thought of you.
I discovered you tucked away
In the shadows of the trees.
Then, rediscovered you
In the smiles of the flowers
As the sun penetrated their petals
In the rhythm of the leaves
Falling in the garden
In the freedom of the birds
As they fly searching as you do.

I'm very happy to have found you,
Now you will never leave me
For I will always find you in the beauty of life.

10 Year Anniversary

Amy Turnbull

Congratulations to Amy on her 10 Year Anniversary! Dr. Turnbull, professor and coordinator at Fanshawe College in London, engages in speaking on diverse topics such as heirlooms vs. GMOs, how to extend the growing vegetable period, everything to know about melons, key facts on soil and how to amend it. Check out her amazing YouTube videos.



*Coordinator Sandra Elfman, left
presenting Amy with her 10 year pin*

Amy, most recently, is conducting a study with her students using MGs compost samples to evaluate and report on bacteria in compost. This benefits her students in undertaking a real project and gives our members insight into their compost. Thank you, Amy, for your continued volunteerism!

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Cathy Melo

Congratulations to New Master Gardener Cathy Melo!

Cathy joined our group in 2019 and attained her certification in November 2022. Cathy is involved with answering emails and helping at our Seedy Saturday Event. She looks forward to spring flowers after a long winter.



*Coordinator Sandra Elfman, left
presenting Cathy with her MG
certificate*

Member Transfer

Jennie Girard

Jennie has transferred to LMMG from the Stratford and Area Master Gardeners, and we are glad that she has. Jennie joined Master Gardeners in April 2021. She is passionate about all aspects of gardening and enjoys learning about all aspects of gardening and enjoys learning about horticulture and garden design. Welcome Jennie!



Exceptional is the only word that can describe the diversity and hard work of the entries received and my pride as a Master Gardener to present them to our esteemed judges.

Early last spring we issued a challenge to all our Master Gardener groups to celebrate The Year of the Garden. The criteria were simple: host an event on sustainable gardening and capture the event in words, photos or video. Three judges would be gauging entries by their desires. Frank Zaunscherb, who heads up marketing for The Year of the Garden would want to see the colour red, involvement/adoption by local governments and visits to gardens. Claudette Sims representing Master Gardeners of Ontario would look for the values instilled in our vision and mission statements. And our third judge, Shauna Dobbie of Canada's *Local Gardener* magazine desired colourful content for their article, well written/interesting videos/photos with potential to participate in a podcast.

We received emails from many groups who were working on projects that would extend into 2023. All feedback was positive: "It was a fantastic project for us improving camaraderie and team work as well as helping to serve the public. Very satisfying overall!"

Four entries were received:

Lanark County – The Blakeney Project – transformed 2 acres of field into a sustainable edible garden with regenerative plantings and organic practices for the Lanark Food Bank. They work with the food bank to optimize plants for acceptable yield. Beginner gardeners learn from team leaders. They produce about 15,000 lbs. of food annually. Tremendous value is had in creating a legacy of growing food sustainably for the community.

Peterborough and Area – Library Commons and Native Plant Garden – They partnered with a Public Library to reimagine an existing garden to serve as a demonstration native plant garden: to create a child and adult friendly area for presentations; and remove invasive plants and add locally sourced, pollinator friendly native Ontario plant species. Nine volunteers working with four Library staff to remove non-native and invasive plants, improve the soil, and plant 33 species of native Ontario plants. The garden demonstrates the importance of having not just any garden, but the value of creating pollinator friendly, native plant spaces.

London Middlesex – Bloomin' Tour – They had a Year of the Garden 2022 Garden Tour. It featured different member gardens, each with a theme – a shade garden, a no-mow garden, a native pollinator garden and a flower farm with beekeepers. At each garden there was a welcoming red geranium and Year of the Garden signage. The diversity of gardens on the tour helped to demonstrate that gardens are not just pretty (although they are), but there are different types of gardens each with their own benefits to the ecosystem. They created a legacy of educating the public with an event that has periodic potential and fundraising opportunities.

Ottawa-Carleton – Meet the Monarch – A native plant celebration garden touching on many of the Year of the Garden goals: educating and entertaining the public, especially children; Indigenous connections; and a sustainable gardening legacy. Compact, fun, entertaining, hands on, story-telling, food (butterfly cookies!) are great ways to turn education into lasting lessons provided to the children. This proved to be a concentrated community engagement activity.



Comments from the Judges

"I have reviewed them all and was impressed by the individual scope and the execution of each project, as well as the way they represented the values Master Gardeners espouse. Congratulations to all of the Chapters for their efforts and participation in the contest."

"Congratulations to these 4 motivated and hard working groups!"

"They are all very impressive in what they've done and are doing! I didn't realize when I agreed to do this what a difficult job it would be!"

And the winner... Ottawa-Carleton – Meet the Monarch submitted by Julianne Labreche

Julianne's submission focussed on a day-long event in June called Meet the Monarch. She sent 13 photos, an article about the day and a video of the event tied into National Indigenous Day, also held the same weekend. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeiawdF0N4k&t=179s>



Ottawa-Carleton's winning entry will be featured in the up-coming issue of Canada's *Local Gardener* magazine. Julianne has also been asked to participate in a podcast.

Our heartiest congratulations to all four Master Gardener groups: Lanark, Peterborough and Area, London Middlesex and Ottawa-Carleton. I look forward to the article featuring Ottawa-Carleton and listening to the podcast.

If you would like to subscribe to Canada's Local Gardener, they are offering \$4.00 off the annual subscription rate to Ontario Master Gardeners.

Here's the link: <https://localgardener.ca/index.php/on-sale/sale/1-yr-subscription-mgo>

Kathleen Gorsline

Director, Marketing and Partnerships



A Message from the President

Karen Sciuk, President MGOI

The Vice President (VP) position on the MGOI Board is vacant. Additionally, both the Director of Communications and Director of Operations positions are now vacant; these are immediate openings. The job description for Operations Director follows below, the VP job description is on the right, and the Communications Director job description is on the next page.

A MG who is interested in the Vice President position will be appointed to the Board, ideally with a few months of overlap prior to assuming the presidency.

Interested candidates should contact me, Karen Sciuk at president@mgoi.ca.

Job Description – Director of Operations

The Director of Operations:

- Works with a team responsible for Policy/Procedures, Information Technologies, and Annual Reporting
- Requests and receives the Annual Review information from groups and prepares the MGOI Annual Report, including analysis of the data
- Provides approved interpretations of MGOI policies and procedures as contained in the Handbook, and amends it as necessary
- Reviews MGOI technologies and makes recommendations for an annual budget for technology or related resources to support MGOI (e.g., website fees, software, emails, virtual conference services)
- Supports the use of survey tools, as needed

Interested candidates should contact me, Karen Sciuk at president@mgoi.ca and their Regional Director.

Board Vacancy – Vice President

I do not expect to continue my term past the end of 2024. I would like to find a VP to start as soon as possible so that they are well aware of how the Executive functions before they become President.

If MGs are interested in this position we like to appoint them to the Board as VP before they transition into the President's position.

Please see the VP job description below. Please feel free to contact me, Karen Sciuk at president@mgoi.ca.

Job Description – Vice President

- Supports and works closely with the President to assist with his or her duties, especially regarding governance
- Monitors the progress of the organization's goals and objectives
- Reviews information submitted in Annual Reviews and in the Annual Report in order to recognize achievements, share best practices, and identify potential areas of concern
- Assists the relevant Director to resolve potential areas of concern, and if necessary, bring them to the attention of the Board of Directors
- Works with the Director of Membership and others to fill vacant Board positions
- Assumes the duties of the President in his or her absence
- Succeeds the President



Job Description – Director of Communications

The Director oversees the Communications Committee which is responsible for managing internal communications:

- **Website** and subdomains – managed by Jim Cook, our webmaster.
- **Newsletter** – managed by Isabel Belanger, our editor.
- **MG membership database** – managed by Kelly Noel, former Director of Communications.
- **MGOI group email** – managed by Kelly Noel, former Director of Communications.
- **Handbook updates** – managed by Past President Claudette Sims with input from the Board.
- **MGOI group facebook** – administered by Claudette Sims and Cathy Kavassalis.
- **MGOI twitter** – administered by Dale Odorizzi.

Currently the Director of Communications is directly responsible for these specific tasks:

- **Coordinators' and Board Member Contact Lists** – manages updates and distribution to the website, newsletter, and internally.
- **Email Communication** – communicates board decisions to Coordinators, e.g. policy changes/clarifications/updates, events, surveys, and reminders in conjunction with Regional Directors.
- **info@mgoi.ca Emails** – either responds directly or forwards the inquiry to the appropriate Board member or MG group, in particular forwarding new member inquiries to the Membership Committee.

Messages from Jim Cook, Webmaster

Advertising Technical Updates

Does your group have a technical update you'd like to advertise on the MGOI home page? We can link to your website registration page.

Please forward information to Jim at webmaster@mgoi.ca.

Thank you.



Master Gardener Group Websites / Links

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.

Thanks!



Master Gardeners Out & About

Projects & Events

Lanark County Master Gardeners

Name: Blakeney Project

Details: The Blakeney Project was conceived in 2020 when a local farmer offered the Lanark County Food Bank two acres to grow food. The food bank and Lanark County Master Gardener David Hinks joined forces to submit a grant application in order to have funds to install a water capture and distribution system, and the tools necessary to work the land.

The grant came through and in 2021 a rush was underway to install the water capture, work the ground, and plant. Volunteer teams were organized so that 6 days a week people were on hand to plant, weed and harvest. Many plants and seeds were planted, in some cases overwhelming the foodbank—Butternut Squash is one example. At the end of the year, it was deemed an overwhelming success.

In 2022, there was more time to plan what was needed in the food bank and to be more strategic about what was planted. Garlic was planted in the fall of 2021 and harvested in 2022. Fruit trees and bushes were also planted, and regenerative gardening practices introduced. Less poundage of food was produced but it was more appropriate to the Food Bank's needs. Master Gardeners David Hinks and Gerda Franssen were key players in the success of this ongoing project.



MG David Hinks, left, demonstrates the new Tiller to MG Paul Pietsch at the Blakeney project

Name: Ongoing Education

Details: With the introduction of Virtual Meetings, 2022 was the year that we introduced speakers to our meetings. We had a speaker present to us each month from January to April.

With the summer, we visited various sites such as: Purdon Conservation Authority, a location with many unusual native plants; a Market Garden that employs regenerative garden practices; and a local garden that grows over 200 varieties of apple trees using espalier techniques, rows and rows of raspberries, and 2500+ lavender plants.

A jaw dropping visit!



Guelph – Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: The Great Dahlia Divide

Date: November 26, 2022

Details: Members attended a workshop on the dividing and storing of Dahlias on a balmy day in late November! Danielle our co-ordinator was our group leader and we all learned something new, whether it was a different storage technique or how to find those “eyes”.

During the workshop Elizabeth and Christine received their 5 year and 20 year name badges (see photos above).



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Holiday Get Together

Details: Grand Erie MGs held our holiday get together on December 1st at our member Martine Emery's lovely home. It was a small gathering but very nice to be able to see each other in person again.

Thank you to Martine for being such a gracious hostess.



Northumberland Master Gardeners

Name: Holiday Potluck Social

Details: Northumberland Master Gardeners gathered for a Festive potluck on December 14th 2022 prior to the December meeting. It was a great opportunity to socialize while enjoying a selection of appetizers, beverages and desserts.



Northumberland MGs group photo

Rideau 1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Name: 4th Season: Ask a Master Gardener Zoom Call-in

Details: Every Thursday from 1pm – 1:45pm we host an 'Ask a Master Gardener Zoom Call-in':

<http://rideau1000islandsmastergardeners.com/2023/01/10/welcome-to-season-4-of-ask-a-master-gardener/>.

Blogs summarize the info from most weeks and are on the website:

<https://rideau1000islandsmastergardeners.com/blog/>.

Name: Little Forests Kingston

Details: For the last 2 years we partnered with Little Forests Kingston and successfully helped fund and plant 9 Little Forests totalling 2,700 native trees. Plans are to continue this partnership for 2023. Co-founders are Joyce Hostyn, a MG, Joanne Whitfield, a MGIT, and Maureen Buchanan, Director of Kingston Indigenous Language Nest (KILN)).

Find out more here:

<https://rideau1000islandsmastergardeners.com/little-forests-kingston/>

and here: <https://littleforests.org/blogs/video>



Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: December Meet/Get-together

Details: In place of our December meeting, the Niagara MGs had a fun evening celebrating the season with 'fun, friendship and finger food' at the lovely home of MG Betty Knight. We were asked to bring a story about our 2022 gardening season, and we did! It's always fun to hear tales of stresses and successes from fellow master gardeners.



From left, Niagara MGs Betty Knight, Carol Tuck-Riggs, Brenda Sawchuk, Kit Thompson, Mary-lyn Hopper and Yvonne Causer. Photo by Michele Young





From left, Linda Wade and Diane Turner. Photo by Michele Young

Name: 'Hands On' at Niagara Parks Greenhouses

Details:

Niagara MGs had a productive morning working with ornamental grasses at the Niagara Parks greenhouses Nov. 29th, 2022.

Our assignment was to divide clumps of the perennial grasses and

replant them, two or three stalks at a time, into new pots. This process keeps the grasses healthy and growing vigorously, and provides more plant material for the



*From left, Carol Tuck-Riggs, Yvonne Causer, and Patrick Burgess working on clumps of *Pennisetum setaceum rubrum* - dividing them with two-foot-long (very sharp) horticulture knives*



From left: Marie Claire Groulx, Jennifer Qusen and Lois Johnson replanting grasses into small pots.

Niagara Parks gardens. The divided plants will sit in a cool greenhouse over the winter, to be planted out in late spring. Each large mature clump became approximately 30 new plants for 2023.

Name: January 2023 General Meet

Details: At our Jan. 12th general meet, speaker Liz Benneian spoke about community organizing (to bring about positive changes in environmental policy at the local government level), and about successes and lessons learned in her nearly 20 years of advocacy work.

Those wins include urban-forest programs, where she said helping with smaller community-level projects, such as tree planting, can build a foundation for much bigger issues and successes down the road.

Another point she made was that people are eager to do the work to help the environment – you just need to make the activities easy to do.

Liz is a great speaker and her talk was full of valuable advice and information.

You can visit OntarioGreen.ca to find out more.



January speaker Liz Benneian, a former journalist and newspaper editor, has been leading environmental advocacy and educational groups in Oakville, and now Niagara Region, since 2004, including Ontario Green, an environmental education group (OntarioGreen.ca).

Urban Forest Initiatives: Lessons Learned



1. It's easy to laugh at tree huggers but not tree planters. Doing the community work gave us the legitimacy and currency to fight and win on the big issues ahead.
2. Start small — it's a lot easier to build from success to success rather than try and recover from failure.
3. People are eager to engage in meaningful activities to help the environment — you just need to make them easy to do.
4. If something isn't working, stop doing it — constantly evaluate and revise strategies and tactics.
5. Know you have succeeded when everyone wants to take credit.

A screenshot from Liz Benneian's Zoom presentation.



Name: Seed Packaging

Details: On Jan. 13th, Niagara MGs gathered to package seeds for the upcoming Niagara Seedy Sunday in St. Catharines on Feb. 26 (please see the Upcoming Events section for more info!). Helping Niagara MGs members were a group of international students who were an enormous help.



MGs and a group of international students work together to package seeds for our Seedy Sunday event in February.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa Carleton

Name: December Potluck

Details: Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton plus spousal support units attended the annual winter potluck on December 7th. Many thanks to Lesley Peace for hosting this lovely and delicious event.



Photo by spousal support unit Richard Guenette

Name: Operation Big Fat Juicy Bulbs

Details: As part of the annual winter festivities, Master Gardener Mary Reid generously shared a selection of juicy amaryllis bulbs, which pot-luck participants could purchase for a donation.

As a result, we were able to donate \$400 to the Ottawa Mission, which works with people experiencing homelessness and poverty. Those attending the potluck also brought a considerable number of non-perishable food items which were donated to the Ottawa Food Bank.

Name: Launch of a new website

(See: <https://mgottawa.ca/>)

Details: MGOC is indebted to new member Caroline Koehler and a team of MGOC volunteers who have worked tirelessly over the past two years to revamp the group's website. The new site features a seasonally renewed banner of attractive photos taken by members, and a plethora of information for the gardening public. A password-protected Members' Only area allows members to sign up for volunteer activities and track their volunteer hours throughout the year, with total hours available to the coordinator at any time.

Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: January Potluck Dinner and Meeting

Details: The MMGs welcomed in 2023 with a potluck dinner. We thank Mary Jean Kucerak (front row on the far right), our outgoing Coordinator, for all her hard work and dedication to keep us informed, especially through the difficult Covid times. We welcome Diana Westland (third row far right) as our new Coordinator and thank her for her role as Secretary these past two years.



Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Successful Toronto Master Gardeners TU!

Details: Thanks to all who attended the Toronto Master Gardeners Technical Update, *Ecological Gardening Part 2: Digging Deeper into Our Changing Relationship with the Garden*. This year's TU was just what nearly 300 Master Gardeners and members of the gardening public wanted on a Saturday in January, and a great way to begin the new year. The Toronto Master Gardeners extend a big thank you to everyone who logged on to hear our three amazing speakers this year.

Dr. Jennifer Grenz, Dr. Karen Christensen-Dalsgaard, and Benjamin Futa gave inspirational talks on different aspects of our theme which were interconnected in a wonderful way that provided a deep, thoughtful look at ecological gardening. Thanks too, to our *Lunch and Learn* presenters, Central Region Coordinators Pat Concessi, Diana Westland, Linda Gordon and Sherry Dobson. The consensus: we all came away enriched and inspired by what one attendee described as "such a stimulating day of garden learning".



Dr. Jennifer Grenz: Applying an Indigenous Ecology to the Garden



Dr. Jennifer Grenz,
(photo courtesy
Faculty of Land and
Food Systems, UBC)



Dr. Karen Christensen-
Dalsgaard (photo
courtesy MacEwan
University)



Benjamin Futa
(photo courtesy
Ben Futa)

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Christmas Luncheon December 10, 2022

Details: Finally, after two years of zoom calls we met in person for our annual Christmas Luncheon.

We thought we'd try a new venue this year and we chose the newly renovated hotel in town, The Royal. The weather cooperated and those of us who had



Clockwise: Cathy Thompson, Margot Rivers, Susan Warrack, Andie Wiens, Carol Wilson, June Crocco, Quentin Wyne, Dianna, Barbra Stock.
Photograph, Ren Duinker

quite a drive all managed to attend. We made some plans for 2023 and got caught up with everyone's news. The lunch was great, the conversation even better!

Stratford and Area Master Gardeners

Name: Releaf Stratford – 2023-2024

Details: Building on the work of [Releaf Stratford](#) in 2022, SAMGs are happy to be continuing their partnership with the Stratford Public Library for a new series of garden talks which run from January 2023 to April 2024.

In January, ReLeaf presented the first of a series of speakers as part of *The Gardening in a Changing Climate Series* hosted by the Stratford Public Library. In *Climate Change and the Garden* Lorraine Johnson talked about how we can make our gardens resilient in an era of more frequent droughts, habitat loss, and species decline. She discussed some of the connections between climate justice action and land-based practices such as gardening. In this action-oriented talk, Lorraine focused on the many ways that our gardens can be places of ecological healing and beauty.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MGOI 2023 Spring Collection Webinars

Details: Registration is open! These free webinars are exclusively for current members of Master Gardeners of Ontario. Registrants only need to register once and can choose to attend one or more of the 14 webinars. Three have already occurred in January, but there are 11 more to help while away the winter cold. Each webinar counts as 2 CEU credits. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email as well as email reminders one week/day/hour before the webinar starts. Please do not share your link as it is unique for each registrant.

All webinars will be recorded and links added to our MGOI website and the [MGOI Mentors and Members Facebook](#) page. (Note: The MGOI Mentors and Members Facebook page is exclusively for Master Gardeners. If you want to join, you need to apply and state your MG group and the name of your coordinator.). Please be patient as it takes some time to edit, process and post the webinar recordings.

Dates and Time: All webinars start at 7:00 p.m. and run from Jan. 12 – Apr. 13.

MGOI education

2023 SPRING COLLECTION

A new season of learning!
MGOI has designed a great
collection of free online seminars
for Ontario Master Gardeners

Kris Mahoney, Darrell Bley, and
Dr. Connie Soros bring back the botany!
Presentations start at 7 p.m.

January 12 -- Kris, Plant Pathology Part 1
January 19 -- Connie, Floral Morphology
January 25 -- Kris, Plant Pathology Part 2
February 2 -- Connie, Alternation of Generations Part 1
February 9 -- Connie, Alternation of Generations Part 2
February 16 -- Darrell, History of the Plant Kingdom Part 3
February 23 -- Darrell, History of the Plant Kingdom Part 4
March 2 -- Kris, Plant Pathology Part 3
March 9 -- Connie, Plant Hormones
March 16 -- Connie, Plant Nutrition
March 23 -- Darrell, Wood Anatomy
March 30 -- Darrell, Pruning, tree and shrub
April 6 -- Caroline Soros Pottruff, The Landscape Architect's Guide to Creating Native Landscapes
April 13 -- Kris, Plant Pathology Part 4



exclusive events for current members
of Master Gardeners of Ontario--
www.mgoi.ca. For more information
contact MGOI Director of Education
Kara Sault: saultkara@gmail.com
www.mgoi.ca

Registration: Here is the Registration link for the MGOI 2023 Spring Collection Webinars:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aMhi5JnWSK-JRVOXR0dYXA. Please do not share this link with others.

Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: First Meeting of 2023

Date: February 2nd, 2023

Details: GEMGs will plan out our events for this coming year at our first meeting.

- The group plans on participating in the annual *Bite of Brant* event held in April each year. We are hoping that Paris will hold its 'Springtime in Paris' event this year and we'll be able to participate.
- Equal Grounds Community Gardens in Brantford plans on building a greenhouse to be used for growing and for educational purposes, and have asked that we participate and lend our knowledge to this worthy cause.
- We plan on expanding our social media presence to help grow our membership as well as educate the public. GEMGs will also be looking at another plant sale and possible fundraising events this coming year. Lots to do this coming year... so we best get busy!

Grey County Master Gardeners

Name: Annual Eco-Responsible Gardening Zoom Seminar Series

Dates & Time:

Seminar 1: Saturday, February 4, 2023

Seminar 2: March 4, 2023

Time (for both): 11 a.m.

Zoom registration: Registration for both seminars is limited to 500 participants. Registration for Seminar 1 has been extended to Feb. 1 but could be sold out by press time.

Registration for Seminar 2 opens the week of February 6. Register through [Grey County Master Gardeners](#).

Details: Grey County Master Gardeners is offering two exciting virtual presentations for this year's third annual *Eco - responsible Gardening* zoom seminars.

Seminar 1: Tony Spencer presents **Wildscaping: Explorations in Naturalistic Planting Designs**. Hear firsthand how wildscaping uses plant-driven landscape design to create and sustain dynamic garden spaces filled with beauty and wildlife.





GREY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

PRESENTS

"THE 2023 ECO-RESPONSIBLE GARDENER"

Two Zoom seminars, 1.5 hours each, to help you create and maintain an environmentally sustainable and beautiful garden.

Seminar 1

Wildscaping: Explorations in Naturalistic Planting Design

Saturday, February 4, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

Join Tony Spencer – Canadian writer, planting designer, photographer, speaker, award winner and tour de force behind *The New Perennialist*, as he introduces us to the international world of naturalistic landscape and garden design.

This is your opportunity to hear firsthand how *wildscaping* uses plant-driven landscape design to create and sustain dynamic garden spaces filled with beauty and wildlife, to rekindle our relationship to the natural world. Come prepared for an encounter with some of the international designers, innovations, issues, and landscapes leading the way – along with a look at Tony's own experimental design projects – to inspire garden-making with a sense of purpose on the wild side.



To register for this first Zoom Seminar, please visit our website. Registration will close on January 27, 2023, or when our maximum capacity is reached, so register early!

www.greycountymastergardeners.com

We look forward to seeing you on our first Zoom Seminar of 2023!

Seminar 2: Ben Caesar presents *The Best Plants for Ontario Food Forests*. He identifies the most accessible and easy to care for trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials for sustainable crop harvesting. All of these plants respond best to organic cultivation methods and nurture healthy soils and surrounding wildlife. A food forest is one of the best ways to sequester carbon in the soil while growing food for ourselves.

Ben, born and raised in Elmira, Ontario, has been experimenting with perennial edibles for many years. He opened Fiddlehead Nursery in 2012 where he manages an ever-expanding demonstration garden showcasing some of the best plants for edible and beautiful landscapes. He's passionate about growing gardens that mimic the diversity and structure of natural ecosystems as they build soil and produce food.



Ben Caesar at Fiddlehead Nursery / photo Sarah Tacoma

Lake Simcoe South Master Gardeners

Name: Pollinator Webinar Series

Details: Free, three-day virtual Pollinator Series. Parts 2 and 3 happen in Feb. Registration is required on Eventbrite; the link is here:

<https://www.facebook.com/LakeSimcoeSouthMasterGardeners/events>

Webinar 2: Attracting Pollinators to the Garden, Feb. 9th, 2023, 7:30 pm

Webinar 3: Planning your Pollinator Garden, Feb. 23rd, 2023, 7:30 pm

Details: Feb. 9th – in this presentation you will learn how to attract pollinators to your garden with easy and practical tips.

Feb 23rd – in this presentation, you will learn what to plant and how to plant them in order to attract a variety of pollinators.

Presenters: Sally Hossain, Josie & Steve Turner



THE LAKE SIMCOE SOUTH MASTER GARDENERS PRESENT:

A FREE VIRTUAL POLLINATOR WEBINAR SERIES



POLLINATORS IN CRISIS

January 26 from 7:30pm-8:30pm

In this presentation, you will learn about pollinators, their life cycle and some of the main reasons for their decline.



ATTRACTING POLLINATORS TO THE GARDEN

February 9 from 7:30pm-8:30pm

Learn how to attract pollinators to your garden with these easy and practical tips.



PLANNING YOUR POLLINATOR GARDEN

February 23 from 7:30pm-8:30pm

In this presentation, you will learn what to plant and how to plant them in order to attract a variety of pollinators.



REGISTER ON [EVENTBRITE.CA](https://www.eventbrite.ca) OR USE YOUR PHONE TO SCAN THE QR CODES ABOVE



Stratford Master Gardeners

Name: Gardening in a Changing Climate

Dates & Time: Third Thursday of each month from January to April at 7:00 pm

Details: [Gardening in a Changing Climate](https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/gardening-in-a-changing-climate-1391449) brings four dynamic speakers right to your living room via Zoom on topics that are good for the climate and for the soul as we hunker down during the frostier months. (Note: talks will likely focus on hardiness zones 5b-6b.).

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/gardening-in-a-changing-climate-1391449>

Next Speaker: February 16, Jen Llewellyn, Plant Health for a Changing Climate

Higher daily temperatures and longer growing seasons are having impacts on our landscape plants and the ecosystems around them. Jen will discuss gardening practices we can all employ to support beneficial organisms, minimize stress and increase resilience to pests in an ever-changing climate.



Gardening in a Changing Climate

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
JAN TO APRIL
7:00 PM
ON ZOOM

SPL is teaming up with Stratford and Area Master Gardeners for a new Zoom series! Join us and learn how to adapt your garden practices in our changing climate.

- January 19 | Lorraine Johnson | Climate Change and the Garden
- February 16 | Jen Llewellyn | Plant Health for a Changing Climate
- March 16 | Sean James | Fusion Gardening
- April 20 | Cathy Kavassalis | Transforming Landscapes in a Changing Climate: Beware the Sleeping Beauties

Register at spllibrary.ca/gardening
Questions? Contact Robyn at rgodfrey@spllibrary.ca or 519-271-0220 x 132

ReLeaf Stratford Stratford Public Library

19 ST ANDREW STREET | 519.271.0220 | [SPLIBRARY.CA](https://spllibrary.ca)

Guelph – Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: A Day In the Garden (DITG): Horticultural Resilience

Date: Sunday Feb. 26, 2023 (8:30-3:00)

Details: Includes lunch, vendors, speakers and more!

Location: Victoria Park East Golf Club, 1096 Victoria Rd. S., Guelph ON

Cost: \$65.23 Early Bird; \$70 after February 15

Registration Information:

https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/a-day-in-the-garden-2022-horticultural-resilience-tickets-501347713507?aff=ebdssbeac&keep_tld=1

6 CEUs for this event

GUELPH-WELLINGTON MASTER GARDENERS

A DAY IN THE GARDEN
HORTICULTURAL RESILIENCE

SUNDAY, FEB 26TH, 2023
8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

REGISTER ONLINE BY FEB 15
EARLY BIRD DRAW

VICTORIA PARK EAST GOLF CLUB
1096 VICTORIA RD. S GUELPH, ON

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS:

Doreen Bley – Instructor and Curator of the Woody Plant Collections at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture – Topic – A Systematic Approach to Diagnosing Plant Problems

Sean James – Educator, Professional Speaker, Eco-landscape designer and consultant and Owner of Sean James Landscaping and Design – Topic – Life Magnitude: Creating a Layered Native Garden for Biodiversity

Karin Davidson Taylor – Educational Officer at the Royal Botanical Gardens – Topic – The Healing Power of Plants

- 3 lunchtime workshops
- Gardening Vendor & Displays
- Breakfast and catered lunch
- Loot bags
- 6 CE Units

• \$60 in advance & \$70 after Feb 15
• www.gwmastergardeners.ca
• Questions? gwmastergardeners@gmail.com

Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Sunday 2023

Date: Feb. 26, 2023

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: St. Giles Church, 205 Linwell Rd., St. Catharines

Details: Niagara members are busy packaging seeds for our big **Seedy Sunday** event in February!

There will be speakers, vendors, seeds for sale and exchange, and a family-activity table. Coffee and snacks will be available as well. Do not miss it!

MASTER GARDENERS OF NIAGARA presents

SEEDY SUNDAY

February 26, 2023
10:00am – 3:00pm

St. Giles Presbyterian Church
205 Linwell Road • St. Catharines



Name: Shaw Garden Tour**Date:** June 24, 2023

Details: Niagara MGs has some open spots for volunteers for the Shaw Garden Tour in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Interested MGOI members can contact Carol Tuck Riggs at tuckriggs01@outlook.com.

Duties: Include a plant-naming 3 weeks before the garden-tour day (approximately 2 hours), plus 3.5 hours (morning OR afternoon) on the garden-tour day.

Volunteers receive a free pass to see the other gardens in their free time that day.

London Middlesex Master Gardeners**Name: Seedy Saturday 2023****Date:** March 4, 2023, 10am-3pm**Location:** Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre, 656 Elizabeth Street, London, Ontario N5Y 6L3**Cost:** \$5.00 at the door. Skip the Line Tickets available on Eventbrite.

Details: The London Middlesex Master Gardeners are happy to announce that after 2 pandemic years we are back at the Carling Heights Community Centre for our 16th Seedy Saturday. This year we are pleased to announce that we have the following speakers:

- Sean James – Nifty Natives
- Jennie Girard – Bees, Bees, Bees
- Aaron Deacon – Natural Fertilizers

Of course, there will be lots of vendors, exhibitors, and demonstrations, as well as the always popular Seed Swap. Come join us!

Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners**Name: A Day for Gardeners 2023****Details:** Save the Day! March 4, 2023**Location:** Activity Haven, 180 Barnardo Ave., Peterborough**Cost:** \$50 early bird, \$55 after Feb 14**Registration Information:**www.peterboroughmastergardeners.com

PETERBOROUGH AND AREA MASTER GARDENERS PRESENT:

A DAY FOR GARDENERS 2023

We are thrilled to be back and hope you can join us!!

Saturday March 4, 2023

❖ Activity Haven, 9:30am to 4pm

❖ Three Seminars plus lunch

Cost: \$ 55 per person (\$50 early bird)

Registration begins early January: peterboroughmastergardeners.com

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners**Technical Update****Topic: Eastern Regional Technical Update – Prince Edward County****Date:** Saturday, July 8th, 2023**Location:** Prince Edward County Lavender, 732 Closson Rd., Hillier, ON**Cost and Registration Information:** Coming this spring.

Details: Our private tour of the Lavender fields will take place on the day the famous Lavender Festival begins. We will be admitted to the site before the public and have a private tour of the fields and farm with the new owner, Rolande Leblanc. There's lots to see and explore. At the farm you will find many cultivars of lavender offering a myriad of colours, scents and tastes. Some of their cultivars are praised for their exceptional essential oil qualities, while others are best kept for culinary creations or crafts. Shop the boutique, tour the fields of lavender and the knot garden in the summer and marvel at our other flower beds. *



* <https://peclavender.com/prince-edward-county-lavender/>



Rideau 1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Technical Updates: Year of the Biodiverse Garden 2023, Eastern Region

Date: August 2023

Location: Greater Kingston Area

Registration Information: TBA

Details: Our MG group will showcase a series of garden tours in August 2023. Each group in the region will showcase something different from May – October.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Technical Update

Topic: Wild About Wildflowers

Date: Saturday September 9, 2023

Location: Kitchissippi United Church, 630 Island Park Dr., Ottawa, ON K1Y 0B7

Cost: to be determined

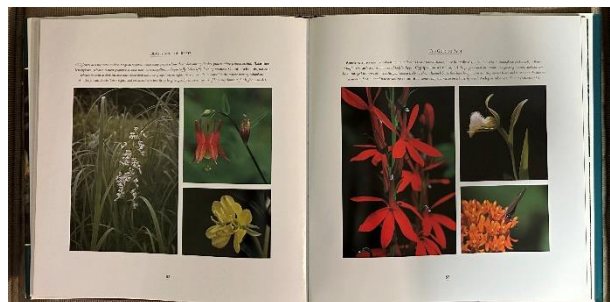
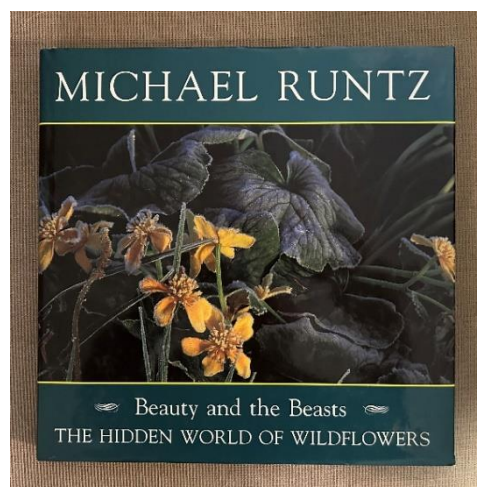
Registration Information: stay tuned...

Details: We are delighted that Michael Runtz has agreed to be our speaker at the Technical Update, coordinated with the Lanark County Master Gardeners. The two-hour morning seminar is called **Wild About Wildflowers**. Michael's focus is on Ontario wildflowers, especially those found in Algonquin Park, one of his favourite places.

Michael Runtz is one of Canada's most highly respected naturalists. He is also a talented nature photographer and a natural history author. A Carleton University biology professor, he has been involved in publishing fourteen natural history books. As well, he is a dynamic communicator, entertaining audiences with his offbeat sense of humour, uncanny ability to captivate audiences with his wisdom of the natural world, and his adventure stories of trekking Ontario's wilderness.

This event promises to be a dynamic, entertaining morning. An informal field trip to observe local wildflowers in their natural habitats around Ottawa will follow.

Local Master Gardeners will be encouraged to photograph wildflowers. Photographs will later be used in our talks and in our newsletter, *Trowel Talk*.



Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation (CCIPR)



December 2022 Update

Thank you for your ongoing work this year in continuing to advance the mission of CCIPR. We have recently updated our mission statement based on feedback and an evolving understanding of what we want to accomplish:

To protect our economy, environment and public health from invasive plant species, Canada needs to:

- **Improve policies and legislation.**
- Establish a **permanent national body** with responsibility for nonindigenous invasive species.
- Create a science-based national plant **risk assessment database**. This database would provide the name(s) and description of each nonindigenous plant sold in Canada along with its regional ranking as a high, medium, low, or an insignificant invasion risk.
- Require that all imports of **plants new to Canada** undergo risk assessments.
- **Ban the sale** and movement of **high-risk** invasive plant species, where regionally appropriate.
- **Require labelling** to identify and educate the public about lower-risk invasive plants.
- Provide continued and stable funding for public **education**.
- Incentivize the adoption of the National Voluntary **Code of Conduct** for the Ornamental Horticultural Industry.

We are currently **working on a white paper** to guide our initiative going forward. The issues around the regulation of invasive plants are so complex that this has turned out to be huge. We have posted a **summary** of what will be supported by research to [our Blog](#), and hope to share the longer, detailed document with all of you in 2023. We also intend to schedule a formal meeting to review our progress at that time.

Understanding international constraints on legislation has already helped us as we begin discussions with members of parliament and policy makers. Ontario MP Pam Damhoff has reached out to the Minister of Health on our behalf. We are awaiting responses to a series of questions revolving around the fundamental inquiry:

What new regulations and policies are necessary for Canada to reduce the flow of invasive ornamental plants into and across Canada, so that Canada can better meet its obligations under the *Convention on Biological Diversity*? (e.g., EU Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species).

Unfortunately, we were not able to connect with Minister Guilbeault in time for the upcoming UN Biodiversity Conference: COP15 in Montréal. However we are pleased to see the [A New Global Framework for Managing Nature Through 2030](#). Key targets include: **“Prevent or reduce the rate of introduction and establishment of invasive alien species by 50%, and control or eradicate such species to eliminate or reduce their impacts.”** This gives us more authority to call for change.

Several members along with Claudette and Cathy have been presenting on the need for invasive plant regulation to various groups, and many talks are scheduled for 2023. **Cathy has been invited to present to the Manitoba Master Gardeners Association in Winnipeg** to share our progress and encourage their greater participation. We hope to engage more such organizations outside of Ontario in 2023.

We ask for your continued assistance to reach out to individuals and organizations to secure their support. **While our supporters and partners continue to grow**, we are still far from our goal of achieving the critical mass necessary to leverage policy change. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and recommendations at our next meeting at the end of January. Watch for updates and reminders on our Facebook page and website.



Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Seeds Alert

Canadians are encouraged to connect with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) before sending seeds abroad. Canada's plant health regulator, the CFIA, plays an important role in making sure seeds from Canada meet internationally agreed upon regulations. Over the past year, the CFIA has seen an increasing number of notifications of non-compliance from foreign countries about seeds exported from Canada without proper phytosanitary (plant health) certification. Seeds can potentially be invasive in some countries or spread plant diseases or other pests. That's why it's important to check requirements with the CFIA. Not meeting requirements has consequences. For example, the destination country may destroy the seeds and issue Canada a notice of non-compliance. All seeds, including those in small packets for gardeners, must comply with the import requirements of the destination country.

Please share this information with the Canadian public to increase awareness of the important steps to take when shipping or exporting seeds to protect international plant resources, our economy and the environment. The CFIA has spokespeople available for interviews, people who are experts in plant health imports and exports. Our experts are also willing to write and submit a piece if that is of interest. Please contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Media Relations, Canadian Food Inspection Agency /
Government of Canada:

cfia.media.acia@inspection.gc.ca

Tel: 613-773-6600

- Additional links/Background information: [Shipping and exporting seeds from Canada](#); [Plant health at the CFIA](#); [Chronicle 360: plant health](#); [Canada's plant health hero challenge](#); [Join the plant health movement](#) (Chronicle 360)

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