



*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of  
Ontario*

# Inside

# MGOI

Welcome to the September 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 28 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:**

President:	Karen Sciuk, Waterloo Region
Vice President:	Vacant
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Director of East Region:	Anne Craig, Peterborough
Director of North Region:	Gail Cocker, Simcoe County
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#### **Committee Members**

Statistician: Rhonda Grein, Waterloo Region  
Webmaster: Jim Cook [webmaster@mgoi.ca](mailto:webmaster@mgoi.ca)  
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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.**

**September 2023**

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton**

## Milestones

### Grand Erie Master Gardeners

#### New Master Gardener in Training

Kimberly Hutton

Welcome Kimberly, our newest member.



### Mississauga Master Gardeners

#### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Karolina Marques



*Coordinator Diana Westland (right)  
presenting Karolina with her MG Certificate*

Congratulations Karolina on completing your courses and volunteer requirement and becoming a Master Gardener!



### Northumberland Master Gardeners

#### New Master Gardener in Training

Laura Johnston

*Profile, by Laura  
Johnston*

Hi, I'm Laura. Along with my husband Robert, we run a small business called Primal Patch. Together, we design and build landscape elements such as stone patios and native gardens.



I went to George Brown College in Toronto for Construction Project Management and began working for a small construction business in Cobourg after graduation. Within a year or two the company grew substantially and we ended up winning bids in large commercial projects. I learned how to read blueprints, interpret building codes and work with the other trades to achieve our goals within budget.

I was raised on the North Shore of Lake Superior. From a young age I had the opportunity to tag along with my family on the fall moose hunt, check the traps on the trap line, and fish various ponds, creeks, lakes and rivers. Because of where we lived and our way of life, our family was sustained by nature. We foraged its plants, drank from its springs and ate the fish from its lakes. Because of this beginning, I have always had a passion for conserving the natural environment.

Joining the Master Gardeners has been a wonderful experience and I have met so many wonderful people.



### Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

#### 15 Year Anniversary

Catherine Disley  
Julianne Labreche



## 10 Year Anniversary

Odette McIntyre

## New Master Gardeners in Training

Shelley Pelkey

Victoria Walker

Evelyne (EP) Power

MGOC is pleased to welcome three new MGITs: Shelley joined us in June, Victoria in July, and Evelyne (EP) in August. All three new recruits bring enthusiasm and skills which we know will help to strengthen our group overall.



## Central Region – New Director

Linda Gordon

Linda has assumed the position of Central Region Director. She brings a wealth of experience to the position as the Coordinator of Etobicoke Master Gardeners and formerly as a policy analyst and Team Lead with the Ontario Ministry of Health. Her favourite things about being a Master Gardener are interacting with the public at various educational settings and getting to talk about gardening – something she enjoys very much. More recently she enjoys advising the public on how gardening supports a healthy ecosystem and that every little bit helps.

As a member of the MGOI executive Linda is looking forward to being part of the province-wide discussion and planning, and more about the MGOI oversight structure and committees.



## Messages from the MGOI Webmaster, Jim Cook



## 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.

Please forward information to Jim at [webmaster@mgoi.ca](mailto: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://mgoi.ca/groups/>.

This is a reminder to please inform me of any changes to your links to keep them up-to-date.

My address is: [webmaster@mgoi.ca](mailto:webmaster@mgoi.ca).

*Thanks!*  
*Jim*





## MGOI Board Vacancies

*Karen Sciuk, President MGOI*

MGOI currently has two (2) board vacancies: Vice President (VP); and Director of Communications. The Director of Communications is an immediate opening. The job description for the VP position follows below and the Communications Director job description is on the right.

Interested candidates should contact me, Karen Sciuk at [president@mgoi.ca](mailto:president@mgoi.ca).

### Board Vacancy – Vice President

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

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

Please see the VP job description below and feel free to contact me, Karen Sciuk at [president@mgoi.ca](mailto: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 of Communications 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 facebook group** – 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](mailto: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.



## Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) – Oak Wilt Disease

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) needs our help as a leading voice in the field of tree and plant health.

Oak wilt has been found in Canada, specifically in our province of Ontario. We are strongly advising arborists and landscapers **not to prune oak trees until November** to help prevent the spread of oak wilt.

As you may be aware, oak wilt is a disease that can cause serious damage to Canada's oak tree population. There are several pathways by which oak wilt can spread, including:

- via root grafting, where the fungus travels through the interconnected roots of infected and healthy trees growing in close proximity;
- via insects, such as sap and bark beetles that carry spores of the fungus from an infected tree to a healthy one
- human-assisted spread through the movement of things such as firewood and pruning during high-risk periods.



*Oak wilt disease on an oak tree. Photo credit: Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org  
[https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/oak\\_wilt\\_diagnosing\\_and\\_preventing](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/oak_wilt_diagnosing_and_preventing)*

This is why the CFIA is asking the public **not to prune oak trees between April and November**, as oak trees are at high risk for oak wilt infection during this time.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** Given Master Gardeners' expertise in the industry, CFIA would appreciate if we could share this message with the public, our clients, and staff. Please review the next page **CFIA document** and incorporate messaging into your own communications this fall. Content could be promoted in various ways including your website, newsletter and social media.

By working together, we can help ensure **Canadians are well-informed** on the [signs and symptoms of oak wilt](#) and how to report sightings. Please share this information with others in your network who may be interested in amplifying this content.

The CFIA is currently developing additional communications products in support of oak wilt prevention and will share additional information with us once available.





## Information and resources for oak wilt

Oak wilt is a fungal disease affecting oak trees. It can move from tree to tree through natural spread (i.e. root system, insects, weather) or by human assistance (i.e. pruning trees or movement of firewood). All species and varieties of oak are susceptible to oak wilt.

The fungus grows on the outer sapwood of oak trees restricting the flow of water and nutrients through the tree and causing the foliage to wilt. While some trees can recover from the infection, the fungus can kill the tree.

There is currently no available treatment for oak wilt.

### General Messaging on Oak Wilt

- [Oak wilt](#) poses a significant threat to Canada's trees and forests. While it is a slow moving disease, if it becomes established, it could have a major impact on Canada's natural resources and forest industries.
- The public can help slow the spread of oak wilt by [reporting any suspect finds to the CFIA](#).
- The CFIA also asks the public **not to prune oak trees between April and November**. Oak trees are at high risk for oak wilt infection during this time. Beetles can carry the oak wilt fungus from tree to tree and can enter wounded trees.
- Signs and symptoms of oak wilt include:
  - dull green, brown or yellow leaves;
  - leaf discoloration beginning on leaf tips and moving in towards the centre of the leaf;
  - cracks in the trunk of dead trees;
  - white, grey or black fungus under bark surface of dead trees;
  - and early and sudden leaf drop beginning at the crown of the tree.
- Learn more about oak wilt at [inspection.canada.ca/oak-wilt](https://inspection.canada.ca/oak-wilt)

### Visuals you can use

- [English](#) | [French](#)

### Additional resources you can amplify

- [Report of oak wilt in Niagara Falls, Ontario \(2023\)](#)
- [Pest fact sheet](#)
- [Plant pest card - Oak Wilt](#)
- [Oak wilt response framework for Canada](#)
- [Science bulletin: Early warning research verifies the oak wilt threat is real](#)

## Master Gardeners Out & About

### Projects & Events

## Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

### Name: Murillo Fair

**Details:** The end of summer is rapidly approaching and the fairs are in full swing. On August 19 & 20, Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners were at the Murillo Fair – Oliver Agricultural Society. Murillo is about 24 km from Thunder Bay.

We provided advice and answered general gardening questions. Our presentation board offered 6 reasons on why not to clean up your yard in the fall, leading to lively discussions. It was a wonderful way to participate in the horticultural portion of the fair and promote Master Gardeners.



*Coordinator Andrea Steinhäusser at the Murillo Fair*

### Name: Hymers Fall Fair

**Details:** It was the end of summer, but it was 41 degrees Celsius with the humidex for the Hymers Fall Fair! The fair celebrated their 111<sup>th</sup> anniversary from September 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>. Hymers is approximately 50 km from Thunder Bay. The Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners were in attendance to provide advice and share gardening successes and struggles. We had several displays and activities for both children and adults. Despite the heat, everyone had a wonderful time.



*MG Andrea Steinhäusser MG (left) with MGIT Jack Van Gemenen*



This is the largest cabbage that Andrea has ever seen. It was entered in the fair and won 1<sup>st</sup> place (unknown name of entry). Compare it to the size of a paper plate!

### Name: MGOI Information Booth at the CNE

**Details:** In September, Master Gardener Theresa Love travelled from Mine Centre (281 km west of Thunder Bay) to the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto to volunteer at the MGOI information table. She had a wonderful experience and enjoyed answering questions ranging from rabbit troubles in the garden to what is eating the Hubbard squash. She was also surprised by the number of questions regarding turf. She was excited to meet in person Halton MG Kate Sault and Halton MG Cathy Kavassalis's son. All in all, she had a terrific experience!





Thunder Bay MG Theresa Love at the CNE

## Simcoe County Master Gardeners

### Name: Field trip to Fiddlehead Nursery & Cook Community Gardens

**Details:** On June 9<sup>th</sup> Simcoe County MGs took a field trip to Fiddlehead Nursery, with “rare, edible perennials”, in Kimberly, ON. The owner, Ben Caesar, presented a workshop on edible gardens, contributed a delicious salad for our lunch followed by a tour of his garden, farm and then fun in the nursery. We all learned something new about edible landscaping and shared many laughs.

On the way home we stopped off at the Cook Community Gardens in Collingwood, where one of our Master Gardeners, Marianne Lepa, plays a significant role. Marianne shared the gardens with us and updated us on the series of vegetable growing workshops running for new gardeners in her community.



From right to left: Ben Caesar, Inez Marckini, Pat Duncan, Linda Peacock, Gail Cocker, Christine March and a guest

## Grand Erie Master Gardeners

### Name: September Meeting and MG Kevin Kavanaugh's New Initiative

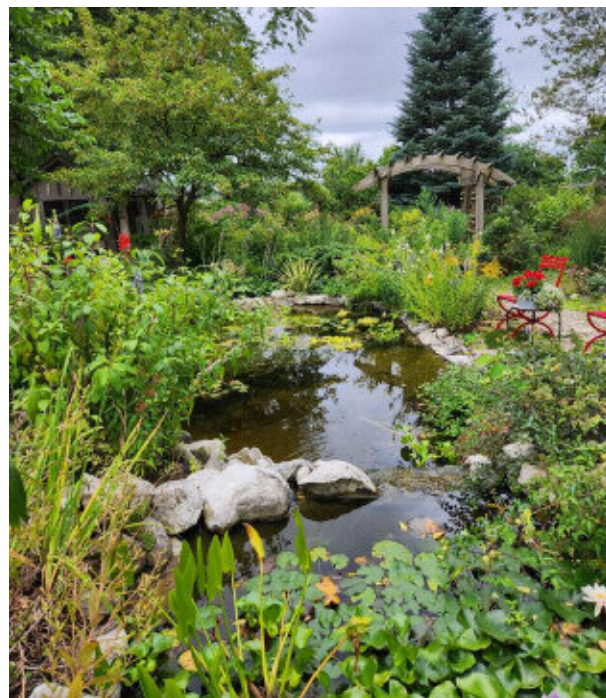
**Details:** The Grand Erie Master Gardeners met via Zoom on September 7<sup>th</sup> after a summer hiatus. We are excited to get back to work.



MGIT Kimberly Hutton's beautiful CWF-certified garden

MG Kevin Kavanaugh is spearheading a new initiative within our group whereby we will be offering to assist our local Horticultural Societies in helping them embrace native plant gardening and invasive plant control to help combat the environmental and biodiversity crisis. Many of our members immediately volunteered to assist.

We are also considering a similar committee to support Horticultural Societies who wish to learn more about growing food.



The stunning pond in MG Anne Saunders' back yard, surrounded by many native species



## Grey County Master Gardeners

### Name: Annual September 9<sup>th</sup> Plant Sale, 2023

**Details:** Grey County MGs took something of a risk when, after more than 20 years, we moved our annual plant sale 20 minutes east from Owen Sound to Meaford. But when folks started lining up at 8:20 a.m., we breathed a collective sigh of relief and started selling. Four hours and more than a hundred gardeners later, the tally came close to \$3,500, double what we'd made in 2022. Our previous location was the parking lot of Owen Sound's Heritage Mall, leaving us subject to the whims of weather and delivery trucks.

The Harbour Rotary Pavilion in Meaford is a much better venue – the stunning location, right on the water, with lots of space to organize plants and people, easy parking and an actual roof (!) to shield us from the sun and rain. Plus many of our members live in the area (so they're quite happy to have one less drive to Owen Sound).

This year's sale focused on a wide range of native and pollinator plants, along with some harder-to-find perennials and shrubs. We dipped into our own gardens, babied others from seed, and received donations and transportation help from local growers – Willow Grass Farm, Jenny's Farm and Williamsford Landscape Co.

Also new this year: an advice clinic, how-to demonstrations, and a Kid's Corner.

Congratulations to MG Stephanie Fletcher and her team! We're a small, but growing group of 20 members, so this really was an all-hands-on-deck event.

And yes, a new tradition has been born. We're heading back to Meaford next year!



*The joint was jumping at this year's Grey County MGs September plant sale held at the Meaford Harbour Rotary Pavilion (photo/Becky Bouwmeester)*

## Etobicoke Master Gardeners

### Name: Etobicoke Master Gardeners Plant Sale

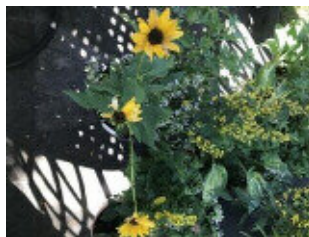
**Details:** EMG held their second Fall Plant Sale on Saturday, September 16 under sunny skies. A wide variety of native and non-native perennials, grasses and shrubs were offered for sale. Native perennials focused on fall flowering species which were popular with customers. Also at the sale were green elephant items, some 'edible' plants, and houseplants. Members were on hand throughout the sale to give advice and planting ideas to the public who came to browse and shop.

Now the Fall sale is wrapped up, our hardworking Plant Sale Committee is turning their sights to next year's spring sale on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



*Customers mingle with plants and EMG members*

Here are the "sustainable planters" we sold, containing fall flowering perennials and plants with interesting foliage. All the plants can be planted in the garden to overwinter and repotted in the planter the following spring.



## Northumberland Master Gardeners

### Name: Warkworth Little Forest

**Details:** The second Warkworth Little Forest was planted on September 17, a hop, skip and jump over from the first little forest, this time in the floodplain of Burnley Creek right alongside the Millennium Lilac Trail. This Miyawaki Little Forest is a collection of "wet meadow" trees and shrubs, chosen for their tolerance of seasonal flooding and their habitat/host plant value.

Trees include: yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), silver and red maples (*Acer saccharinum* and *A. rubrum*), tamarack (*Larix laricina*), tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) and sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*). Shrubs include: elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), sweet gale (*Myrica gale*), ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*), nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*), speckled alder (*Alnus incana*), witherod (*Viburnum nudum*), winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), narrow leaved meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*) and swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*).

All of the trees and shrubs were kindly funded by Northumberland Master Gardeners and supplied by Natural Themes in Frankford. Special thanks to Judy Kaufmann for overwintering the wet meadow little forest in one of her raised beds!



Warkworth Little Forest



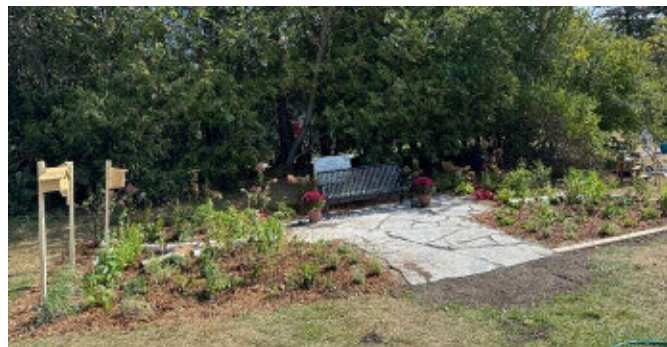
Master Gardener Judy Kaufmann watering the newly planted trees

### Name: Vienna's Butterfly Garden

**Details:** MGs Kat Kinch, Lori Grove, and MGiT Laura Johnston were honoured to provide design work and installation support for Vienna's Butterfly Garden, planted on September 16, 2023. Located at the playground in Camborne, ON, the butterfly garden is a special place for Vienna Irwin's community to honour and remember her, surrounded by butterflies, beauty and growth.



Master Gardener Lori Groves helping to install the garden



Vienna's Garden





## Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

### Name: Review of Intake Process

**Details:** Led by MGOCs Onboarding Coordinator, Claire Leduc, our group is reviewing the process by which we screen and welcome new members.

Throughout the summer, MGOC experienced an unusually large number of people expressing interest in joining us. This is a wonderful problem to have. However, it takes time and energy to interview new candidates, screen them and properly support them when they join so they can succeed in becoming productive full-fledged MGs.

Discussions on how we can best expand our group at a manageable rate are ongoing, so we'll provide more details in a subsequent newsletter.

### Name: Exiting COVID

**Details:** Prompted by a request from MGOC's education committee – Heather Clemenson, Lee Ann Smith and Shazia Hussain – MGOC has opted to fully exit COVID protocols. Sadly, our group does not have, and cannot afford to purchase, the equipment that would enable us to adequately conduct hybrid meetings. To date, we have muddled through, but running a hybrid meeting on a laptop without a tracking camera and proper sound system has meant that our speakers have to sit behind the laptop. This is very limiting both for the speakers and for any subsequent discussion. As a result, our executive committee decided in August to return to in-person meetings only. The exceptions will be meetings in January and February, which will be on Zoom only because of uncertain weather.

### Name: Technical Update: Wild About Wildflowers

**Details:** Due to space limitations, registration for this event held Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> was limited to a few guests, plus our partners from Lanark County Master Gardeners. The event was held in our regular meeting space, a hall at Kitchissippi United Church, Ottawa. MGs brought bouquets of wildflowers to help decorate the space.



*A bouquet of wildflowers prepared by MG Penka Matanska. Photo by R. Last*



*Michael Runtz lecturing on wildflowers  
Photo by R. Last*

The morning featured an informative and lushly illustrated talk by Carleton University professor, Michael Runtz. One of Canada's most highly respected naturalists, nature photographers, and natural history authors, Michael has been a birdwatcher since the age of five. He has lived, breathed and worked with Nature all his life. Michael shared his passion for wildflowers, and wildlife, along with his fabulous photography in an engaging talk that took most of our morning. Michael and his new wife Brita also made copies of his books and cards featuring his wildlife photography, available for sale to the audience.







Brita selling and Michael signing books at the MGOC / LCMG Technical Update. Photo by R. Last.

The light lunch included some wonderful desserts provided by our colleagues from Lanark County Master Gardeners, continuing a decades-long tradition that sees our two groups collaborating to produce biannual technical updates. During the lunch break, guests and MGs alike were encouraged to visit the church's Alcove Garden, which is maintained by MG volunteers.

After lunch, MG participants had a choice of two tours – one of two afternoon excursions as part of the Wild About Wildflowers technical update. One group, led by Paul Sokoloff, a naturalist with the Canadian Museum of Nature, toured Mer Bleue bog in Ottawa's east end.



Paul Sokoloff (on the right) leads a group of MGs on a tour of Mer Bleue bog.  
Photo courtesy of an anonymous passer-by.

The second group visited the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, a project run by volunteers with the Ottawa Field Naturalists. Two of these volunteers showed our group around. Among other features, we saw the pond, an American plum tree (*Prunus americana*) full of fruit, and four different protected nesting sites of the resident turtles.



Setting out on a tour of Fletcher Wildlife Gardens.  
Photo by R. Last.

## Toronto Master Gardeners

### Name: Toronto Master Gardeners Visit the Royal Ontario Museum's Green Plant Herbarium

**Details:** Members of the Toronto Master Gardeners were fortunate to have an intensive tour of the ROM's Green Plant Herbarium, including its history, cataloguing, sample management, how to press a plant specimen, and more.



Assistant Curator Deborah Metzger, Royal Ontario Museum, and members of the TMGs in the ROM's Herbarium  
Photo credit: Judith Lavin

Assistant Curator Deborah Metzger, whose career as a botanist at the ROM spans more than 40 years, and her staff were incredibly generous with their time and expertise; Deb also led a hands-on workshop on Tree ID for the Toronto Master Gardeners earlier this summer.



Deb Metzger described the herbarium as being “a collection of preserved, pressed plants, not dead ones” and this is an idea that really resonated; herbaria serve as a permanent record of our flora, and it was amazing to learn, at least for some of us who are unfamiliar with the process, that it is possible to extract plant DNA from herbarium specimens, even from specimens dating back to the 1800s or earlier.

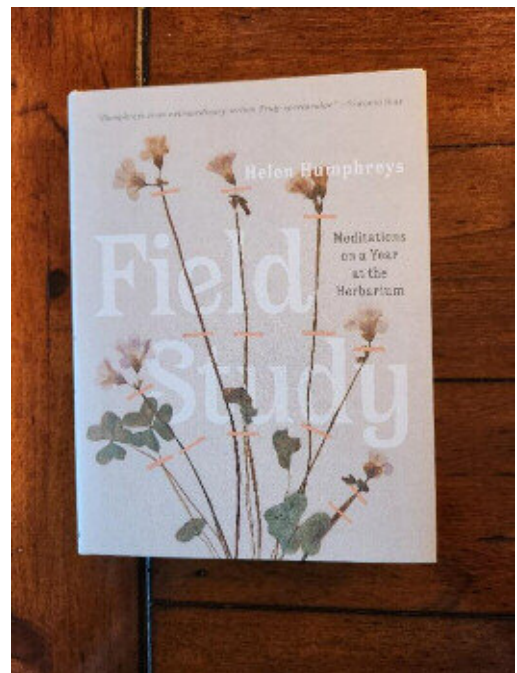


*Vitis riparia* – ROM Herbarium  
Photo credit: Dianne Azzarelo



*Solidago graminifolia* – ROM Herbarium  
Photo credit: Dianne Azzarelo

For those who are interested in herbaria, the Canadian writer Helen Humphreys' latest work, "*Field Study: Meditations on a Year at the Herbarium*", is a fascinating read, beautifully written and illustrated. Toronto Master Gardener in Training Gabrielle Bonneau was curious to learn about a botanical curator's take on the book and she sent along a link to Deborah Metzger's review of *Field Study* from the Canadian Botanical Association Bulletin - scroll to page 16: [https://www.cba-abc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Bulletin\\_54\\_3.pdf](https://www.cba-abc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Bulletin_54_3.pdf). And for another look at the ROM's Green Plant Herbarium: <https://herbariumworld.wordpress.com/2018/01/15/plants-in-toronto-the-royal-ontario-museum-herbarium/>.



"Field Study" by Canadian author Helen Humphreys  
Photo credit: Judith Lavin





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Etobicoke Master Gardeners

#### Name: 2023 Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series

**Details:** Join Etobicoke Master Gardeners and the Humber Arboretum for the 2023 Eco-Garden Community Workshops. Most are virtual; a few are in-person.

Registration for these workshops is through the Humber Arboretum at the following link:

<https://humber.ca/arboretum/learn/adult-programs/etobicoke-master-gardeners.html>

#### Dates & Topics:

- Pruning (virtual), October 14
- Pruning (in-person workshop), October 21
- Indoor Plants (virtual), November 18



## 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. 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. 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](mailto: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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[Instagram](#); [Email subscription](#)







## Gardens and Tourism Coming Together for More Impact

The Canadian Garden Council in collaboration with Destination Greater Victoria has joined forces to organize the International Garden Tourism Conference in Victoria BC, taking place from November 1 to 4, 2023. This innovative event revolves around the theme "Seizing the Moment", recognizing the abundant possibilities for gardens to collaborate with the tourism sector and enhance their appeal as well as their destination, especially post-pandemic, thereby attracting more visitors.

Attendees will have the opportunity to explore how garden and tourism experts from various parts of the world are leveraging their garden experiences to develop and promote their destination.

As the hosts of this conference, we are delighted to extend a special \$400 discount on registration fees to our members! Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity and start making plans to join us in Victoria. We look forward to seeing you there!

### WHY JOIN?

- **20+ top speakers** from the world's most renowned gardens, tourism industry and media share their experiences and best practices on:
  - **Destination Development:** creating and enhancing visitors' experiences and attractions that increase visitation
  - **Destination Promotion:** working with local/national tourism boards and (online) travel platforms and media to attract visitors and enhance the visitor journey
- **Awards Gala**
- **Unique networking opportunities and site-visits**



## **FOR WHOM?**

- **Managers of Gardens, Festivals and Horticultural Expos** (directors, marketing, horticulture, exhibitions) who wish to increase and broaden visitation and create impactful guest experiences.
- **Tourism Boards and Associations** who wish to develop new insights and opportunities to drive visitation to their place and region.
- **Online and offline travel** platforms and operators and (social) media who wish to tap into a growing industry that attracts over a **100 million visitors a year**.

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