



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside

MGOI

Welcome to the April 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. *Inside MGOI* features member milestones, group projects and activities, short member profiles, upcoming events such as webinars/conferences – anything about the functioning and happenings of our groups and our members. Please feel free to submit pictures – they are most welcome! Contributions to future editions of *Inside MGOI* may be sent at any time to the Newsletter Editor, Isabel Belanger, newsletter@mgoi.ca.

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INSIDE MGOI

April 2024

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

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

Niagara Master Gardeners

Honorary Master Gardener

Alan Large

by Lois Johnson, Director of Membership

Master Gardeners of Niagara would like to acknowledge a long-standing benefactor by nominating Alan Large as an Honorary Master Gardener. Alan has been a mainstay supporting our group's various fundraising and community events for 23 years.

Having served in Britain's Royal Navy, Alan immigrated to Ontario with his Tool and Die Maker papers in hand and arm around his wife Barbara. Barbara, now an esteemed member of Master Gardeners of Niagara, joined in 2001; Alan has steadfastly supported her horticultural endeavours ever since. As a direct result, the group has benefited from his generous endorsements over those years, both practically and monetarily.

A dedicated naturalist in his own right, Alan is a key contributor at our annual Plant Sale. Year after year, his pop-up garden tool sharpening booth has netted between 10 – 20% of sales income at this fundraiser. Additionally, his hand-crafted bee and bird houses not only contribute to revenues, but have also sparked interest and awareness in creating sustainable environments in the garden. He graciously offers his time to bolster the success of other events like our Seedy Saturday / Seedy Sunday outreach days. Alan can be counted on for the many behind-the-scenes logistical tasks that contribute to the success of our events: plant transportation; seed packaging; as well as an event day volunteer.

When not on safari, cruising the Nile or marvelling at mammoth icebergs in Antarctica, this globe-trotting couple apply their travel inspirations to their substantial, uniquely crafted ravine garden. Alan is quite conversant about the cultural attributes of their niche biota, and if one is fortunate enough to visit their property you will see the depth of skill and resulting harmony that emanates from this blissful space. A symbiotic spot for pollinators and an envy of horticulturists!

Alan, thank you for all your support and inspiration to *keep us calm and garden on!*



Alan & MG Barb Large at the 2019 Master Gardeners of Niagara annual plant sale

Editor's Note: The title of Honorary Master Gardener was created to recognize outstanding individuals who are not members of the MG program: <https://mgoi.ca/about-us/honorary-mgs/>.

10 Year Anniversary

Bev Campeau

5 Year Anniversary

Lois Johnson

Congratulations to Bev on marking her 10th year as a MG in Niagara!

Congratulations are also due to Lois who marks 5 years as a Niagara MG.



Bev Campeau, left, shows her 10-year name tag.

Photo right: Lois Johnson, left receives her 5-year pin from Niagara MG coordinator Sue Lusted



Thunder Bay and District Master Gardeners

25 Year Anniversary

Lynda Lahtenmaa

Congratulations Lynda on attaining 25 years as a Master Gardener!



Lynda has been involved in many projects over the years. As a certified Horticultural Therapist, she developed and led a popular horticultural therapy program for residents with dementia at Hogarth Riverview Manor. She also assisted in designing their

outdoor gardens. She has been very active with the Thunder Bay Art Gallery Garden Tour for over 20 years as part of the committee that selects the gardens and organizes the event. Lynda has held various positions and is currently our Membership Coordinator.

Lynda's passion is succulents, and she also loves to share her knowledge of botanical names. She is a mentor and wonderful role model. Thank you, Lynda, for your dedication.



Durham Master Gardeners

by Norine Blyth

Transfer In

Mark Denee

DMG would like to welcome Mark who has transferred from Niagara Master Gardeners. Mark was with Niagara Master Gardeners since 2020. Born in Hamilton, he grew up in Dundas, and lived in Niagara for over 25 years until recently moving to Oshawa.

In Mark's words "I've been a professional horticulturist for 25+ years working for large commercial nurseries or greenhouses in Niagara, more recently for municipalities, and gardening at work and home for 15+ years. I love all plants (including a large collection of tropical houseplants), but I'm particularly fond of herbaceous perennials. I like to saunter in the woods as per John Muir, photographing native plants and sharing them on social media. Other interests include cooking and pints of fine ales and lagers.



Mark, we look forward to having you with DMG!

Durham Environmental Awareness Award

Congratulations to one of our DMG members, **Kyla Paonessa**, who has been given the Durham Environmental Awareness Award presented by the



Kayla's Award

Durham Environmental Awareness Committee. Kyla received the award for being the driving force behind creating a pollinator garden in one of the green spaces around her neighbourhood. The boulevard / green space was home to one lonely tree, grass and weeds. Kyla approached the Town of Ajax with a wonderful proposal that would not only beautify the

space but would also be a great haven for precious pollinators. She also highlighted the benefits a garden would bring to her neighbourhood such as biodiversity, enhancing the natural beauty around them, as well as promoting environmental stewardship and education.

The Town of Ajax embraced Kyla's proposal by recognizing the value of creating a sustainable and inviting space for both nature and community.



This project was brought to life with the enthusiastic support from the town of Ajax, and in partnership with TRCA (Toronto and Regional Conservation Authority) and SNAP (Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program), a program developed by the TRCA to help embrace neighbourhoods. SNAP was not only there donating their time and expertise, they donated over 400 plants for this incredible project. On the day of the planting, community support was truly inspiring.



Kyla, your enthusiasm and drive to educate people about gardening and pollinators is so inspiring. Thank you!

Watch the full story on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2UVQ6bZ2rw>.

Visit Kyla's Instagram account, @mamasinthegarden, here:

<https://www.instagram.com/mamasinthegarden/>



Guelph Wellington Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Janine Robertson

Lee Ann Lennox

Rosemary Fernandes-Walker



Coordinator Danielle Gignac, right with Janine Robertson



Coordinator Danielle Gignac, right with Rosemary Fernandes-Walker



Coordinator Danielle Gignac, left with Lee Ann Lennox

Photos by Paul Lander



Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Leslie Farooq

Congratulations Leslie for receiving your MG Certificate in February 2024! Leslie transferred from Georgian Bay MGs in September 2022 and is a valued member of the PMG.

Along with being a supply teacher and busy Mom to two teenagers, Leslie is an administrator for PMGs Facebook page 'Over the Fence', screening new member requests and answering questions. She volunteered at a large local



yard sale by helping all day at a MG advice table that has encouraged her to sign up for more advice tables.

Leslie regularly attends PMG meetings and has volunteered at the PMG 'Day for Gardeners' acting as an official photographer. She has just joined the newly refreshed PMG Communication Committee and will be focussing on preparing the PMG newsletter.

Leslie's contributions to Master Gardeners and gardening are many and they are very appreciated!



Marilyn Homewood, left with Leslie

province between April and July, 2024.

For more information about the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards or to submit a nomination for next year, visit the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards [webpage](#). The deadline to nominate is November 15th each year. Nominations received after the deadline will be considered in the following year.



Three of the TMGs recipients of the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards, left to right: Susan Lipchak, Dawn Scott, Maureen Hulbert at TMGs first in-person meeting since the pandemic



Toronto Master Gardeners

2024 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards

Judy Clarke
Maureen Hulbert
Susan Lipchak
Lesli Muscar
Dawn Scott
Sheila Smith

The Ontario government is recognizing 6,650 community leaders through the 2024 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards. The annual award honours adult and youth volunteers for their outstanding contributions and continued service.

The 2024 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards will recognize TMG members with 15-years of service, and TMGs are delighted that our six nominees will be recognized this way. This year's recipients will be honoured during one of the 45 local award recognition ceremonies planned across the



London Middlesex Master Gardeners

15 Year Anniversary

Rhonda Persichilli



Coordinator Sandra Elfman, left with Rhonda



Master Gardener Status Achieved

Chris Boyes



Chris specializes in tomato and pepper growing. He has experience with both indoor and outdoor settings, and enjoys constructing gardens and greenhouses. He also has a budding interest in urban / suburban homesteading. Chris's main expertise and interest is in vegetable gardening and perennials.

Congratulations Chris on achieving full Master Gardener status!

New Master Gardeners in Training

Ann Marie Allen
Linda Pistor
Cathy Lynch

Ann Marie gardens in the Blackfriars area of London and in her neighbour's yard in raised beds. Her manure of choice is Alpaca Manure, because, as you know, it doesn't burn the plants, and does not have to age to be beneficial. Ann Marie's main focus every year is to grow her winter food supplies which she then dehydrates or freezes.

When she isn't gardening vertically, she is a garden Ambassador for Blackfriars Community Gardens and an active member of gardening groups on social media.

Welcome to our group Ann Marie – this group may just fulfill your lifelong dream!

Linda loves trees, and has a large property with many hydrangeas, dogwoods, Japanese maples, pines, cedars, magnolia, and tulip trees. This ½ acre ravine property also has a few invasives she is trying to curtail – garlic mustard, periwinkle and sweet woodruff.

Linda is looking to pursue a passion for spending time in the gardens while on a new journey of lifelong learning in all things gardening and things connected to it. She believes that mental health can be improved by spending time in nature and the fresh air. Her hope is to bring her passion for gardening and designing interesting places to organizations and people that need to find healing, and a sense of calm or security that comes from being in garden spaces. She is hopeful that by working toward this goal she will learn from experts who have knowledge and specialties that she can connect with and share with others. Linda believes that gardening should bring joy, healing, and improve our community and environment. We anticipate getting to know you better!

Cathy's favourite gardens are her perennial beds anchored by a red oak and a weeping cypress. She annually plants a veggie garden with garlic, tomatoes, hot peppers and whatever strikes her fancy that year. She enjoys her hostas in her backyard shaded by a mature fir tree. Cathy's favourite gardening activity is watching the bare, dry pelargoniums come to life after winter storage. She also loves to see the rejuvenation after pruning an overgrown bush. Congratulations Cathy, welcome to LMMG!



Halton Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Dawn Crothers

A very warm welcome is extended to our new MGIT!



1000 Islands MGs

New Master Gardeners in Training

Alan MacDonald
Gwen Smith
Gail Walker

WELCOME!





MGOI By-law Update / Code of Conduct Review

by Dianne Wheler, Director of Operations

The government of Ontario has updated the rules for not-for-profit corporations (ONCA – Ontario Not-for-Profits Corporations Act). The objective of these changes includes clarifying the rules for governing a not-for-profit corporation, increasing accountability, simplifying financial review processes and defining member rights.

Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. is required by law to update our by-laws to incorporate these changes. The new by-laws will become effective October 18, 2024. These by-law updates must be voted on for acceptance in a Special Meeting of Members (one vote per group) that will occur by Zoom at the end of June (date to be determined).

A copy of “by-laws update pending” can be found on the members’ side of MGOI website: <https://mgoi.ca/> on the ‘MGOI Organization’ tab. Should you need it your Coordinator will have the password.

Also available at that same location is “MGOI Code of Conduct”. Please review this also.

Questions or concerns re either document should be discussed with your Coordinator or Regional Director who will summarize them before bringing them to the board for discussion no later than **May 31, 2024**.





Messages from the MGOI Webmaster, Jim Cook



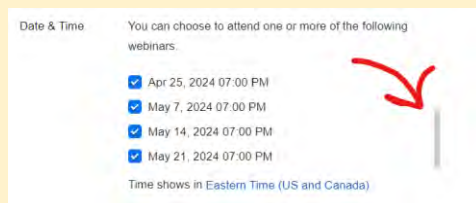
The three post convention webinars deal with the use of allowable pesticides for pest control. Registration is now open! **Registration details are in Kate's email of March 23rd, 2024.**

- Information about speakers and presentations can be found at the registration link.
- For the 3 remaining webinars in May you will need to move the slider down to see the boxes (see image below).
- Once you register, you will receive a Zoom link to join the webinar and reminders one week, one day and one hour before the webinar.

All presentations start at 7 p.m. They will all be recorded and added to our MGOI website at the end of the series. Each webinar is worth 2 CEUs.

- Tuesday May 7th: Tim Hannah - Pesticides and the Law
- Tuesday May 14th: Kris Mahoney - Using Pesticides from the Allowable List, Part 1
- Tuesday May 21st: Kris Mahoney - Using Pesticides from the Allowable List, Part 2

Move the grey slider bar to see the last 3 webinars:



Access to Past MGOI Webinars

The link is on the MGOI website, <https://mgoi.ca/>; members' login is on the far right. Your Coordinator will be able to provide you with the password. Once in the members' section, scroll down to the bottom and click on workshops/webinars.

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. Thanks!

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.

Thanks!
Jim

The MGOI Members Facebook (FB) Private Discussion Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1329062317277822/>.

This is a private group: 'A discussion page for registered members of the Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc., Canada; this includes current active MGs and MGITs. To join, you must be an active member of the Master Gardeners of Ontario and belong to a local MG group.' You must also answer 2 questions that you would know the answers to. **The group is:**

Private - Only members can see who's in the group and what they post. **Visible** - Anyone can find this group.

History - Group created on January 3, 2020. Name last changed on October 12, 2023.

See more - May include flagged content. Admins may allow some posts and comments to be visible in the group even if they're flagged by Facebook's systems. [Learn more](#)



MGOI Board Vacancy Vice President

Karen Sciuk, President MGOI

MGOI currently has this board vacancy: Vice President (VP). The job description for the VP position follows below.

Interested candidates should contact me, Karen Sciuk at 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 and 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



Master Gardeners Out & About Projects & Events

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Name: Spring Gardening Presentation – “Tubers, Rhizomes, Corms & Bulbs. What’s the Difference?”

Details: On March 16th Hedy Koski (MGiT) travelled from Thunder Bay to the Nipigon Library (135 km-1 way) to present on “Tubers, Rhizomes, Corms & Bulbs. What’s the difference?”. She also demonstrated how to divide bulbs and she had giveaways. The Terrace Bay Library gardening club was also invited. The turnout was fantastic with over 40 people in attendance, a great success. Thanks to Hedy for your enthusiasm and hard work.



Hedy Koski



Hedy, middle demonstrating how to divide a dahlia tuber

Name: Seedy Saturday

Details: The Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners participated in a second Seedy Saturday on the April 6th weekend. This event was in the community of Nolalu, which is approximately 50 km west from Thunder Bay.

They had an abundance of seeds on hand as well as an information board on “Milkweed Seeds-All the Facts, None of the Fluff”. It was well attended as many gardeners are eager to start growing as the weather improves.



(left to right) Sylvia Goodheart (MG), Laura Jones (MGiT) & Jack Van Gemeren (MGiT)

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Photo Contest, Fall 2023

Details: MGOC often “tries things”, and we had a bright moment last fall when a photo contest was proposed for any of our members who wished to participate. An independent judge was retained to determine the winners. Lots of exquisite photos were submitted with the winners in each category shown below:

First prize in the category Colour, Light and Line: Ginette Starkell



First prize in Native Flora or Fauna: Julianne Labreche



These kits include top of the line stands with built in lights, timers, seed starter, seeds, pots, watering cans, misters, etc. They will be used primarily in grade 3 classes where the curriculum includes information about growing plants.

A detailed instruction package was put together by some of our MGs. Other members researched and purchased products. A team assembled the kits, and other members will deliver the kits. Virtual training and support will be provided to the educators and 90% of the items included in the kit will be reusable for future years. What a great way to help students and their families with food security while providing valuable lessons on how to grow food! Photos by Danielle Gignac.

First prize in the category “Unexpected Beauty”: Rebecca Last



Building the plant stands



Each kit contains these items

Guelph Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: Seed Starting Project for Grade 3 Students

Details: At the beginning of this year one of our Master Gardeners, Rosemary Fernandes-Walker was able to obtain \$15,000 in funding from ‘100 Women Who Care Guelph’ for a much needed project. The Guelph Wellington Master Gardeners have been able to put together 20 seed starting kits for classrooms across Guelph.





Teamwork!

Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Sunday in Apsley

Details: The 2nd Annual Apsley Seedy Sunday event on March 24th, held at the Apsley Public Library, was a great success again this year. Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners Anne Craig and Sylvia Green provided advice non-stop from 11 am to 2 pm at the busy seed exchange table. Over 100 people attended the event which featured 8 vendors of seeds, bulbs and plants! Vendors came from as far away as Kitchener, Eganville, and Chapeau, Quebec.

Master Gardener in Training Silvia Strobl led the organization of the day ably assisted by the North Kawartha Public Library's Technology and Programming Manager and 2 other members of the garden community. Anne and Sylvia sorted the many remaining packages of seed from the exchange table into the Apsley Public Seed Library to be made available to library visitors over the next few weeks.



MG Anne Craig (red apron)



MGs Sylvia Green, left and Anne Craig, to her right

Simcoe County Master Gardeners

Name: Innisfil Seedy Saturday

Details: MGs Inez Marckini, Joan Sundeen and Cynthia Lauer staffed the SCMG desk at the Innisfil Seedy Saturday on March 2nd. Questions ranged all over the place from indoor plants to tomatoes to designing a pollinator garden to tackling invasive species. They were able to share knowledge with approximately 64 adults and 17 children.



L to R, Joan, Inez, and Cynthia



London Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Saturday 2024

Details: This year's Seedy Saturday on March 2nd had a record breaking attendance of 1111 people!! Everyone was thrilled to be out seeing what was new with our vendors and taking in any of the three speakers that were offered.



We had Kim Dealney from Hawthorne seeds talking about growing, saving and selling seeds. Our own MG Kim Nikkel talked about her start with one package of seeds 25 years ago to today. Last was Diane O'Shea who is very well known in the London area, who spoke about preserving the harvest.

Our Seedy Saturday committee did an *outstanding* job again this year! Plans and requests from vendors for next year are already in the works.



Seedy Saturday Crew

Tri-County Master Gardeners

Name: Pollinator Gardens 101 – Goderich

Details: On Saturday, April 13th in Goderich, the Tri-County Master Gardeners (formerly Stratford and Area MGs) hosted the first of 3 identical presentations, titled Pollinator Gardens 101. The goal of these presentations is to help educate the public in each of our three counties (Huron, Oxford and Perth) about the importance of pollinators and native plants, garden design, how to amend your soil and guidance about choosing the best native species for your space. Rick Gray, co-author with Shaun Booth of the fabulous book "The Gardener's Guide to Native Plants of the Southern Great Lakes Region" was a special guest in Goderich.

The next two presentations will be in Stratford and Innerkip in May.



Tri-County Master Gardeners at the Goderich Workshop
Left to right: Jim Fitzgerald, Dianne Wheler, Elizabeth Spedaliere, Rick Gray (author), Michele Young, Carolyn Schmidt, Leslye Glover, Krista MacMillan

Halton Master Gardeners

Name: Halton Master Gardeners Presentation to the Paris Horticultural Society

Details: On April 3rd, Halton Master Gardeners Pam MacDonald and Kirsten McCarthy presented to The Paris Horticultural Society some information about how to create habitat that brings birds to your backyard. The talk primarily focussed on the importance of growing native plants in your garden to help bring more insects – with more insects come more birds!



The talk also highlighted the best native shrubs, trees and grasses that help with nesting, protection from prey and food for migration.



MG Pam MacDonald, left with MG Kirsten McCarthy

Name: Bite of Brant (29th Annual Event)

Details: Over the course of two days, Tuesday and Wednesday April 9th and 10th, members of our group including Lynne Goulet-Smith, Anne Saunders, Katie Iarocci, Carolyn Bennett and Marilyn Park visited with over 500 students who came to learn where our food comes from. We showed students how to plant tomato and basil seeds and how to care for them.



L to R, MGs Carolyn Bennett, Marilyn Park and Laura Rodger (photo taken by Lynne Goulet-Smith)

Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Haldimand Horticultural Society's Seedy Sunday

Details: MGs Lynne Goulet-Smith, Carolyn Bennett, Laura Rodger and Marilyn Park attended this Seedy Sunday event on April 7th in Caledonia. We provided information to the public, especially about native plants. We had native pollinator plant seeds available, as well as some beautiful garden signs, plant garden markers and bookmarks to help fundraise for our group so we can continue our educational efforts.

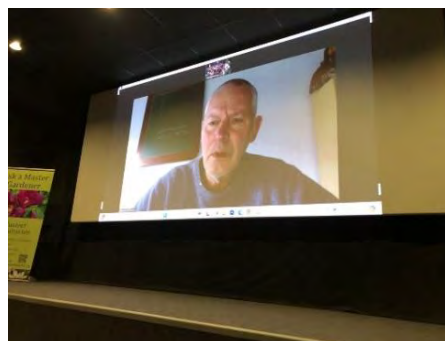


Haldimand Horticultural Society Seedy Sunday event, April 7th

1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Name: Screening of 'Planet Soil: The Power of the Underground' at Kingston's Screening Room

Details: Along with their audience, on Saturday April 20th the 1000 Island MGs enjoyed a detailed graphic film exploring the multitude of microorganisms beneath our feet, and the farming practices that support them. A Q&A with a member of the film's production team, Ignas van Schaick, below, followed this amazing film. He is from and was speaking from the Netherlands.



Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Hands-On at Niagara Parks

Details: Volunteers worked on some interesting projects at a hands-on session at Niagara Parks' greenhouses at the end of March. Niagara Parks staff oversaw the activities.



Niagara MGs get some instructions on planting marigold seeds in trays of soil from Niagara Parks' greenhouse staff

During both workshops ('Celebrating Spring' and 'Volunteer Appreciation Day') participants put together lovely arrangements featuring spring flowers.



From left, Yvonne Causer and Kendy Steeves with flower arrangements at the Celebrating Spring event April 10



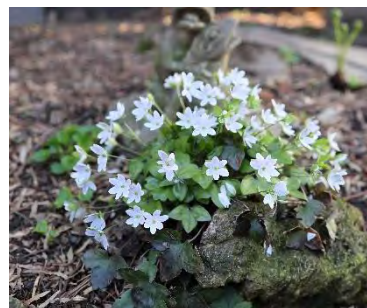
MGs Mary-Lyn Hopper, left and Yvonne Causer prune back some Colocasia plants that have a few weeks to go before being planted outside



From left, Sue Lusted and Kendy Steeves with arrangements at the Volunteer Appreciation event April 15

Name: Hospice Niagara Workshop

Details: Niagara MGs led a couple of workshops at Hospice Niagara in St. Catharines in April. MG Kendy Steeves organized the event and gathered materials for each of the regular workshops.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

Technical Update: A Day For Gardeners 2024

Date & Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024, 9:30am – 3:00pm

Location: Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbrooke St., Peterborough ON

Cost: \$60

Registration / Information: Please see the poster below.

PETERBOROUGH AND AREA
MASTER GARDENERS PRESENT:

A DAY FOR GARDENERS 2024



Saturday May 4, 2024

Westdale United Church

1509 Sherbrooke St, Peterborough, ON

9:30am to 3pm (estimate)

Four Seminars, lunch & door prizes	All seminars are presented by Peterborough Master Gardeners.
Cost: \$60 early bird \$75 after Apr 15	Session 1: ☐ Creating a Garden Sanctuary OR ☐ Sustainable Gardening and Xeriscaping
Come join us for a fun day of learning, lunch and friendship!	Session 2: ☐ Container Gardening (Hands-On) OR ☐ Attracting Wildlife to Your Garden
	Session 3: ☐ Winter Sowing (Hands-On) OR ☐ Grow Me Instead: Replacing Invasives with Natives
	Plenary: Explore the Future of Gardening
For more information and registration, see: peterboroughmastergardeners.com	



Tri-County Master Gardeners

Name: Spring Workshops: Pollinator Gardens 101

Design, choose native plants and create a successful pollinator garden.

Participation fee: \$15.

Locations, Date & Time: This workshop will be held:

~~May 4, Avondale Church, Stratford, 9 a.m. – noon – Sold out!~~

May 11, Drop-in Centre, James St., Innerkip, 9 a.m. – noon

1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Volunteer Opportunities:

Timeframe: Thursdays at 1:00 for *Ask a Master Gardener* ZOOM series.

Description: We are requesting MGs and MGITs to volunteer for presentations. Our dedicated members offer outstanding advice and information in these 30-minute sessions. Their wide audience engage in the following categories:

- 1) Edible Gardening
- 2) Back to Basics, Gardening 101
- 3) Climate Smart Gardening
- 4) Biodiverse Gardening
- 5) Native Plants
- 6) Bonus Week, topics of seasonal interest

Guelph Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: Annual Plant Sale

Date & Time: May 25, 2024, 9am – 1pm (time to be confirmed)

Location: Guelph Legion (parking lot and inside) on 57 Watson Parkway South, Guelph

Details: As in past years this will be a joint sale in conjunction with Pollination Guelph, Nature Guelph, and the Enabling Gardens. Annuals, perennials, native plants, veggies and trees will be available!

Northumberland Master Gardeners

Name: Master Gardener Technical Update

Date & Time: Sat., May 25, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – noon

Place: The Gathering Place (St. Paul's United Church), 60 Main St., Warkworth, ON

Details: Save the date for the Master Gardener Technical Update during the Warkworth Lilac Festival. Our speaker will be Sean James of Sean James Consulting & Design: (<https://www.seanjames-consulting.ca/>), exploring layered gardening techniques. As usual, the NMGs will also host an advice clinic on the Millennium Trail during the festival weekend.

Registration:

<https://peterboroughmastergardeners.com/register-for-the-lilac-festival-2024/>





Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: Annual Spring Plant Sale

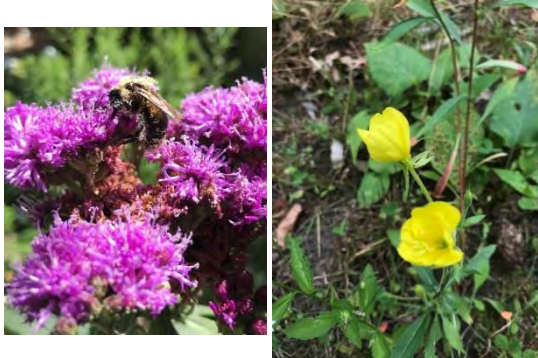
Date: Saturday, May 25, 2024

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: 6 Kingsway Crescent, Etobicoke



Details: Free Advice Clinic, native plants for native pollinators, herbs, tomatoes, houseplants and more!
www.etobिकemastergardeners.ca



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Create Your Own Pollinator Paradise

Date: June 22nd

Details: The Gardening for Nature Committee is planning to hold a pollinator kit sale for creating a pollinator paradise at Kim's property.

Name: Technical Workshops with Kevin Kavanagh

Details: Plans are in the works for 3 technical workshops in June, July and September. These include "A Walk in the Woods", "Creating a Native Pollinator Garden" and "Gardening with Native Plants". Details to come...



Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: 18th Annual Shaw Guild Garden Tour

Date & Time: Saturday, June 15, 2024, 10am – 3pm

Details: This year the tour will feature 8 fabulous, private gardens, several of which are on historical properties. Master Gardeners will be on hand in every garden to answer your questions. Music and plain air artists will enhance your visit. This year, you may take photos for personal use.

Plan your day in beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake to see all the gardens and enjoy all that the area has to offer! To purchase tickets, please visit <https://shawguild.ca/garden-tour/>. The Garden Tour is the major fundraising event for the Shaw Guild.

Cost: [BUY TICKETS NOW!](#)

Regular tickets April 1 - June 14 = \$30

Tickets purchased at the gardens on June 15 = \$35

[Watch a short video of the Shaw Guild 2023 Garden Tour on YouTube.](#)

[Download the 2023 Shaw Guild Garden Tour Magazine here.](#)



Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) – Oak Wilt Disease

Reminder – Do Not Prune oak trees (*Quercus* spp.) from Now until November: winter pruning should be the new normal.



Calling anyone who deals with oak trees including nurseries, garden centers, homeowners, [Master Gardeners] and tree professionals!

Let this be your friendly reminder: you should hold off on pruning your oaks until November to protect trees from oak wilt disease.

As the pathogen that causes oak wilt (*Bretziella fagacearum*) is now present in the Ontario environment, this is a reminder that prevention is your best form of defense against oak wilt. All ages and sizes of oak trees are susceptible to oak wilt.

<https://onnurserycrops.wordpress.com/2024/04/02/reminder-no-pruning-oaks-from-now-until-november/#more-6673>

Oak Wilt, or *Bretziella fagacearum*, is a fungal disease that can kill oak trees within one year. Red oaks are particularly susceptible. The Ontario government advises ‘you should not prune or wound oaks between April and November, when the sap beetles that spread the disease are active’.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/oak-wilt#:~:text=Oak%20wilt%20is%20an%20introduced,Falls%20area%20of%20Southern%20Ontario>. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is strongly advising against **pruning oak trees until November** to help prevent the spread of oak wilt.

This disease can cause serious damage to Canada's oak tree population. Pathways by which oak wilt can spread include:

- 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; and
- human-assisted spread through the **movement** of things such as firewood and **pruning** during high-risk periods.

How You Can Help: Given Master Gardeners’ expertise in the industry, and because we are a leading voice in the field of tree and plant health, the CFIA would like us to share this message with the public, our clients, and staff. Please review the **links** and incorporate messaging into your own communications. Content could be promoted in various ways including your website, newsletter and social media. Further information including photos can be found here: <https://inspection.canada.ca/plant-health/invasive-species/plant-diseases/oak-wilt/eng/1325624048625/1325624535106>.



Oak wilt disease in an oak tree.
Photo credit: Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org
https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/oak_wilt_diagnosing_and_preventing



CFIA – Spotted Lanternfly

While you’re checking for oak wilt, why not check for spotted lanternfly (SLF) at the same time? Canada is preparing for the potential arrival of the SLF, which is present in the United States and getting closer to the Canadian border. The spotted lanternfly could be devastating for Canada’s wine, fruit, nursery and forest industries. For more information, please visit [Canada.ca/spotted-lanternfly](https://canada.ca/spotted-lanternfly).

Timeline (from CFIA)

Sep to Nov: egg laying, Oct to Jun: egg mass
May to Jul: early stage nymph, Jul to Sep: late stage nymph, Jul to Dec: adult



The city of Philadelphia has excellent information including identification on their website.

The CFIA has spokespeople available for interviews, people who are experts in plant health imports and



<https://www.phila.gov/2020-10-13-stop-the-spotted-lanternfly-identify-and-destroy-their-eggs/>



CFIA Seeds Alert

Canadians are encouraged to connect with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) before sending seeds abroad.

As 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 such as the destination country destroying the seeds and issuing 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.

exports. CFIA 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

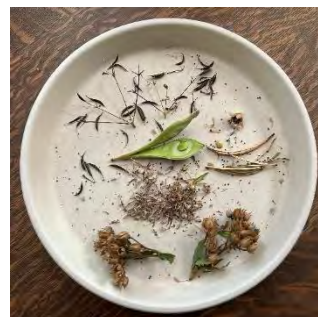
Additional Links & Background information:

- [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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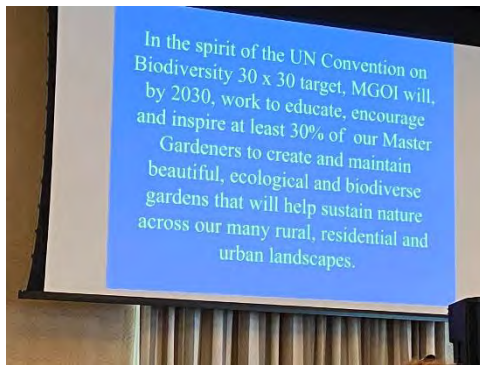
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Stay Tuned! Conference 2024 Highlights Coming to the May Newsletter!

Photos courtesy of Rhonda Grein and Betty Knight, Thank you!



The MAIN ATTRACTIONS

MGOI Conference, April 26/27, 2024 Guelph



TREES with Darrell Bley



BIRDS with Kevin Kavanagh



RAIN GARDEN with Sean James

Photos by Josie Pazdzior, Pauline Yelle, Belinda Boekhoven, all of Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

