

# **MASTER GARDENERS OF ONTARIO INC.**

**Summer Workshop, July 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture  
Program Outline**

**The classroom sessions will take place during the hotter part of the day or during periods of inclement weather.**

## **1. Creating Gardens – A Designer’s Approach.**

**Instructor: Darren Schmahl, NPD**

This workshop will explore a designer’s approach to creating gardens. Too often we put so much emphasis on plants that we mix up the order of operations when making our gardens. The day will be constructed to take gardeners through the garden design process from beginning to end. Discussions will include how to look at one’s garden objectively, establishment of criteria and constraints, development of a cohesive conceptual plan, placing objects in the garden and finally – planting design. Case studies that vary in size and scope will be examined showing images and designs before, during and after completion.

## **2. The Carolinian Zone – Understanding A Unique Habitat**

**Instructor: Darrell Bley**

**Instructor/Curator of Woody Plants**

**Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture**

Many of us live within or close to the forest region that is known as the Carolinian Zone, and we plant various trees, shrubs and perennials that are indigenous to this specific area. Before using Carolinian species in our own gardens, we need to be more knowledgeable about the elements that make up the Carolinian Zone, climate, topography and geology. We need to understand the various ecosystems and plant communities that we can expect within the zone. Plants that are native to the zone, can they acclimate to the conditions that are not Carolinian or marginally Carolinian? Can the seeds of plants grown within a forest region or outside a forest region retain information related to the environment where the seed’s parent grew? How far afield should we be sourcing seed/or plants from within the Carolinian Zone? Should we be using Carolinian plants in our local non-Carolinian like subdivisions? Can we design, create and implement over time, environments and gardens that are more Carolinian in the truer sense of this unique forest region?

It is these questions that we will be exploring during this workshop. If the weather is suitable we will have some of these discussions within a Carolinian forest, a good place to go for answers.

### 3. Urban Agriculture

**Instructor: Kris J. Mahoney, PhD**  
**Instructor/Curator of Integrated Pest Management**  
**Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture**

At some point in our lives we have probably told a child: “Hey! Get that out of your mouth, you can’t eat that.” Or can you? Join Kris as we learn about the overlooked contribution of weeds to supplementing the food harvested from your backyard. We will also explore topics of soil quality, composting and the environment.

The fee for this two-day workshop is \$260.

If you would like to receive more information on the Summer Workshop, please contact June Streadwick at [streadwick@sympatico.ca](mailto:streadwick@sympatico.ca), telephone 905-934-6137, or Yvonne Causer at [ycauser@hotmail.com](mailto:ycauser@hotmail.com), telephone 289-969-6587.

#### **About the Instructors.....**

**Darren Schmahl, Darrell Bley, and Kris Mahoney** are the instructors for the two-day workshop and bring extensive horticultural experience to this educational event.

**Darren** is a graduate of the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture where he is also an instructor in landscape design. He teaches horticulture with the Niagara Catholic District School Board in a unique hands-on program delivered at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens. He is also a graduate of the John Brookes’ School of Garden Design in England, which has had a great influence on his work.

**Darrell** is the Instructor/Curator of Woody Plants at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture. He lectures on subject matter related to arboriculture with a focus on the horticultural practices for young and older trees. Additional lectures focus on Plant Identification including conifers and deciduous trees in summer and winter. Darrell also oversees the student internships for the third-year students.

Curatorial responsibilities include the Arboretum, the Residence gardens and the woody plants within the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens. Darrell has taught courses for the Continuing Education Horticultural Certificate Program at Niagara College for 25 years. Darrell co-authored the woody plant section for the book entitled “The Best Garden Plants for Ontario”. He enjoys designing and consulting for horticultural projects throughout the Niagara Peninsula.

**Kris** is the Instructor/Curator of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture. He is responsible for curating selected areas as well as preparing and instructing courses in plant identification, taxonomy, botany and IPM. He has over 10 years of experience in research and teaching since receiving his PhD in Plant Agriculture, specializing in Weed Science from the University of Guelph. He has written over 20 peer reviewed articles in various plant science and agricultural journals.