



Toronto Master Gardeners Technical Update

Urban Agriculture: Growing Food in Cities

January 11, 2014

8:30 a.m.— 3:30 p.m.

Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue East

Urban agriculture refers to the practice of growing food of all sorts - fruits, vegetables, eggs, meat, honey, even space-using grains - in urban areas that haven't traditionally been dedicated to food production. Urban agriculture can take place in yards, vacant lots, community gardens, highway medians, and other open spaces. Urban food production is practiced by large parts of the urban population in developing countries .

What about here ?

8:30	Registration and refreshments	12:10	LUNCH (included in registration fee)
9:15	Welcome / door prizes / quiz	1:40	Welcome back (Donation-Endeavour Draw)
9:45	Keynote Address: Lorraine Johnson City Farmer: Adventures in Urban Food Growing	2:00	Plant Watch update; Cauleen Viscoff
10:45	BREAK (Community group displays)	2:15	The Power of Urban Farming: Paul Zammit
11:10	Sustainable Food Production at Niagara Parks Commission Botanical Garden: Charles Hunter	3:15	BREAK (Donation-Endeavour Draw)
		3:30	Wrap up

City Farmer: Adventures in Urban Food Growing

An exploration of some of the ways we can tap into the productive potential of the urban environment, telling stories of people and projects that are growing food in inspiring ways and in unusual places.

In more than 15 years of writing, Lorraine Johnson has become known for her unconventional outlook on the world of gardening. Advocating for organics in the days when synthetic chemicals ruled, writing about native plants before most people had heard the term, promoting community gardening when politicians were wary of involving people in parks, profiling guerrilla gardens when the idea still sounded vaguely dangerous, Lorraine has always been ahead of the curve.

Not easily pigeon-holed, her work is often about the surprising corners where the impulse to nurture and sustain growth intersects with the human need to cultivate meaningful connections—with the earth and with each other. She views gardening as a strenuous conversation with the planet—indeed, as one of the most transformative ways to find our place in the world and what we want that world to be. She's not afraid to include failures, hopes and dreams in that conversation.

Lorraine's career follows her passionate interests, and her more than 10 published books have covered a broad range of topics—from composting and native plant gardening to censorship and travel. Unabashedly an advocate, she has been promoting urban food production not only in her writing but in her involvement with community organizations such as the Toronto Community Garden Network, Toronto Botanical Garden, the American Community Gardening Association, and others.

Her most recent books are *City Farmer: Adventures in Urban Food Growing*, published by Greystone Books in 2010, and *Canadian Gardener's Guide*, published by DK Books in 2012, for which she was the Canadian editor.

Lorraine lives in Toronto in a barn-shaped house with her cat and 3 chickens — and dreams of including a dwarf goat in her backyard.

Sustainable Food Production: Charles Hunter

Increasingly we are seeing the need to embrace change in the way we eat and how we grow our food.

Sustainability has become a household word, but in most cases we do not really understand what that means or more importantly how to achieve it.

Charles will explain how the Niagara Parks Commission Botanical Garden is working towards achieving just that. This session will discuss the principles which emphasize the importance of proper site evaluation and selection of crops and how to properly prepare for a productive garden space while supporting a more ecologically sound approach to vegetables.

Charles Hunter NPD presently holds the position of Curator Instructor of Vegetable, Rose & Herb Gardens at Niagara Parks Commission Botanical Gardens & School of Horticulture. A 1995 graduate of the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture, Mr. Hunter has held many positions in the field of horticulture. More recently he was the Chief of Horticulture for Mosaicultures des Internationales de Montreal 2003 & 2004. He has also managed Canada's first "agro-tourism" facility, participated in 11 international horticultural exhibitions, supervised landscape maintenance crews, managed estate gardens, appeared on TV, hosted garden radio and lectured to university, college and foreign faculties on horticulture.

The Power of Urban Farming: Paul Zammit

Paul will explore and discuss the power of modern urban farming. The increasing interest in fresh, local and organic food is a gift and an opportunity for horticulture. As a result, more individuals are exploring growing some of their own food. Paul will explore the impact of this movement and also provide examples of modern veggie farming in the city.

Paul Zammit, a graduate of the University of Guelph, is the Nancy Eaton Director of Horticulture at the Toronto Botanical Garden. Formerly, he was employed at Plant World, a large retail garden centre where he was the perennial department manager for almost two decades. He is a regular speaker at garden clubs and horticultural trade shows across Canada and in the U.S and abroad.. He has appeared both on television and in print.

Paul and his wife's home garden has been featured in several magazines and has been recognized by awards from the City of Toronto Garden Contest followed by an award in 2003 for the Best Use of Plant Material in the City of Toronto West District Garden Contest. Paul's container designs have also been showcased several times in assorted gardening magazines. In 2008, he won first place in the Scott's Miracle-Gro, Do Up the Doorstep competition, for his container entry at Canada Blooms. The November design issue of *Garden Making* features one of Paul's creations.

Urban Agriculture

Saturday, January 11, 2014, 8:30am registration
Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave. East

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ PCode: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Payment by cheque only, payable to Toronto Master Gardeners

Public : \$50.00* ea _____

Master Gardener: \$45.00* ea _____ Which MG group? _____

* Lunch included! Please state any dietary restrictions here. _____



Make your cheque out to Toronto Master Gardeners and send, with this form, to:

Linda Boyko, 38 Peard Rd. Toronto, ON M4B 1T7

Registration questions? Contact Linda at 416-777-3307 (B) 647-995-3307 (H) or lboyko@kpmg.ca.