



Emma Biggs

Emma Biggs is a 12-year-old gardener who loves growing edibles. She has grown over 100 varieties of tomato and has a passion for colourful crops. She grows her gardens in the ground, on the garage rooftop, in containers, and in raised beds. She takes over more of her dad Steven Biggs's garden each year. Emma is the co-author of *Grow Gardeners, Kid- Tested Gardening with Children* and is currently working on a book with Storey Publishing about gardening for children.



Steven Biggs

Steven Biggs is an author and speaker specializing in gardening, farming, and food production.

A life-long gardener, one of his earliest garden memories is stealing a carrot from his Baba's prized vegetable garden. He encourages his three children to steal as many carrots as they want from his own garden.

With a degree in horticultural science from the University of Guelph, he has worked in greenhouse and nursery production, plant propagation, biological controls, horticultural supplies, and farm marketing.

Steven loves to share personal stories in his talks and writing. Just ask him about his parsnip wine! He believes the best way to grow non-gardeners into avid gardeners is for them to see how *fun* gardening really is.



Ken Brown

Ken Brown is a horticultural consultant, writer and photographer. He received his bachelor's degree in horticulture from the University of Guelph. Ken worked as the Superintendent of Horticulture at the Toronto Zoo when it was being planned and built, where he was responsible for the planning and planting of all the indoor gardens and the overseeing of the outdoor landscaping contractors. He owned and operated "The Plant Manager" an interior landscaping company for 20 years where he built and maintained a wide variety of public and private interior gardens.

He also has a horticulture teaching degree from the University of Toronto and has taught a variety of related courses. Ken is a certified horticultural judge and he is a frequent speaker at horticultural meetings and seminars. Ken's writing and photography continue to be published in several magazines and newspapers. www.gardening-enjoyed.com, his web page, is a great source of advice, tips and updates. His own gardens feature his Iris collection and a wide range of plants that he is trialing. In a space of their own and interspersed throughout all his gardens, Ken grows a comprehensive list of vegetables in some innovative ways to maximize the use of space. He currently spends most of his non-gardening hours writing for his web site, www.gardeningenjoyed.com and ezine *Dallying In The Dirt*.



Ben Cullen

Ben Cullen is a fourth-generation gardener who – in pursuit of his love of food and growing - started his education at the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus where he completed a Diploma in Agriculture. After working in agricultural research, Ben headed east where a Bachelor's of Commerce from Dalhousie University in Halifax eventually led him into the food industry. Three years into the food business, Ben took a break to pursue a dream of travelling overland from London, UK to Shanghai, China. Since returning in January 2016, Ben has worked full time alongside his Dad, Gardening Expert Mark Cullen, sharing the joys of Canadian gardening."



Jane Eligh-Feryn

Jane Eligh-Feryn is educated in Geography and Planning with a Masters Degree in Landscape Architecture. Over the last 25 years she has worked as a park planner for Metro Toronto Parks; as an Environmental Planner with Ecologistics Ltd. Consultants of Waterloo; and as a Garden Designer and Owner of Ginkgo Designs in Stratford.. For the last five years Jane has taught Landscape Design and Landscape Architecture at both Fanshawe College in London and the University of Guelph. She has a keen personal interest in environmental issues and has been involved in a number of Native Plant Gardens and Ecological Restoration Projects.



Jim Fitzgerald

Jim Fitzgerald has been a member of Stratford Master Gardeners for fifteen years. He and his family live on a large, garden-filled lot in Sebringville. As a life-long gardener, he's been getting his hands soiled since his dad gave him his first trowel at the tender age of four. As well, for over 40 years, he has been starting and raising almost all his own flowers and vegetable plants from seed in his own home, graduating over the years from one small cold frame to a hobby-sized greenhouse. He also has experience in growing, exhibiting and judging vegetables at area fairs and flower shows. He specializes in giving seminars on starting and growing your own plants, as well promoting the joys of running a hobby greenhouse. Jim also cultivated a large vegetable garden in the Community Garden in Stratford for the 15 years. All his gardens have supplied his family, many friends and neighbours with a wide variety of vegetables every summer, fall and well into the winter. His extensive experience in starting, and growing a wide variety of vegetables and flowers has given him a good knowledge, useful to beginning and experienced gardeners alike.



David Hobson

David Hobson is a humorist, storyteller, and weekly garden columnist for The Waterloo Region Record and The Guelph Mercury — and the creator of the Garden Humour Website. He is also the regional correspondent for Canadian Gardening magazine. A lifelong gardener, David happily shares his passion speaking to many horticultural societies and gardening groups, over the fence to neighbours, innocent bystanders, in fact anyone who will listen. He has spoken at venues such as Canada Blooms, The Canadian National Exhibition, The International Home and Garden Show, Ontario Horticultural Association Convention, and The South Eastern Flower Show in Atlanta, Georgia.



Sean James

Named by Garden Making magazine as one of “20 Making a Difference”, gardening has been Sean James’ hobby and profession for over 30 years. A graduate of Niagara Parks School of Horticulture, a Master Gardener, a public speaker, writer, and teacher; Sean focuses on eco gardening techniques, which makes sense since he grew up surrounded by nature near Crawford Lake. He sits on several environmental committees and has appeared on several television and radio shows. Sean ran Fern Ridge Landscaping & Eco-consulting for over 20 years, recently handing it over to his leadership team. He now owns ‘Sean James Consulting & Design’, focusing on teaching, speaking, writing, designing and consulting.”



Lorraine Johnson

Lorraine Johnson is the author of numerous books on environmental issues and gardening. Former president of the North American Native Plant Society, her areas of expertise include gardening with native plants, urban agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and urban forest protection.

Photo by: Wayne MacPhail

Some of the books she’s written include: *The New Ontario Naturalized Garden*; *Grow Wild!*; *Green Future*; *The Real Dirt* (which she co-authored with Mark Cullen); *Tending the Earth*; and *City Farmer*. A new edition of her book *100 Easy-to-Grow Native Plants* has just been published.

Along with the books she has written, Lorraine is also the Canadian editor of the *What Plant Where Encyclopedia*; *Garden Plants and Flowers: A-Z Guide to the Best Plants for your Garden*; *Canadian Gardener's Guide*; and *The Natural Treasures of Carolinian Canada*.

She regularly teaches in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University, edits the magazine *Ground: Landscape Architect Quarterly*, and is a Patron of the Toronto Botanical Garden.



David Lara

David Lara has been one of the designers at *A Touch of Dutch Landscaping & Garden Services* since 2005. Through the years he has been involved in planning and installing a wide range of landscape projects involving plants, hardscapes and water features; each project varying in size and complexity. In 2014 he completed the Certified Landscape Designer program. This certification is administered through the Canadian Nursery and Landscape Association in combination with the Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association as a way to establish a high standard of excellence for the landscape design profession.



Bob Reeves

Bob's passion is his conviction that: Soil Health = Plant Health. He began the Root Rescue project in 2005 with a discovery he made at his family's nursery / garden centre, Reeves Florist & Nursery, in Woodbridge, Ontario. He's worn many hats over the years: grower, nursery buyer, IT manager, and landscape designer & estimator for his own design-build company, Revisions Designs. Bob was also the original developer of the widely-used landscape design and quotation software suite - DynaScape. At the centre of his career has been the pursuit of his twin loves: landscape plants, and industry innovation. He advocates strongly for a holistic approach to growing and sustaining the landscapes we all work with. The secret to plant success (and our success) is hiding under our feet.



Kate Seaver

Kate Seaver, M.Sc. is a horticulturist, floral designer and garden décor expert. After almost twenty years as a corporate executive, Kate followed her passion for gardening and created *Kate's Garden*, a botanical retail studio specializing in perennial gardening services as well as botanical seminars and events. Kate is a professionally trained speaker, frequent television guest, charity fundraiser and magazine writer.



Stratford Hort Society

The Stratford and District Horticultural Society was founded in 1878. Our floral emblem is the Iris, which is also the civic flower of Stratford. The Society is vibrant with over 200 members of all ages and horticultural backgrounds.

Brenda Sutherland

“Dare to be Square” small space gardening for people of all ages and all living spaces! Whether you are in an apartment, a small city lot or just downsizing your garden ambitions as you get older, Brenda brings lots ideas for easily accessible gardening using a ‘plant by the square foot’ approach. Join Brenda Sutherland of Earth Bound Gardens & Greenhouses on the Bruce Peninsula as she walks you through this simple, financially feasible and enjoyable way to garden.

Brenda Sutherland of Earth Bound Gardens and Greenhouses has been gardening on 5 acres of land in Red Bay, South Bruce Peninsula for the past 21 years. She has worked with the Wiarton Community Garden Project for the past 3 years using the square foot gardening approach. It has been so successful and so much fun that she would like to share her enthusiasm with everyone.



Tena Van Andel

Tena van Andel has volunteered with the Toronto Master Gardeners since 2003. She has made several television and radio appearances, and she writes and lectures on anything gardening. Although, if you ask her for favourites -- orchids, large trees and the exotic bring a special gleam to her eye.