



"Giving Nature a Helping Hand"

The Pin Oak

Issue 13

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In This Issue:

News:

**Earth Day 2011
Native Plant Sale
Frank Hardy: Changing Our
Attitudes Toward Gardening
The Tulip Tree**

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Malcolmson Eco-Park

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Correction

Issue #11 featured an article about Mary Malcolmson and referred to Mrs. T.A. Rigby as Mary Malcolmson's granddaughter. This is incorrect. Instead Mrs Rigby is her daughter. Ms. Caroline Rigby (Mary Malcolmson's granddaughter) noted "Although Mary Malcolmson is known principally for bringing Guiding to Canada, she was also a great horticulturist and many people came to her gardens. I had wonderful growing up years in that garden, and today I plant many things that she would have except I do the work and she had good help."

News

The Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park will be celebrating Earth Day on Saturday April 30th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Earth Day at Malcolmson Eco-Park is an annual tradition in St. Catharines. Each year, volunteers come out to remove garbage from the park, repair the trail network, apply mulch to trees and gardens, and plant wildflowers and trees. We will also be having our Annual Native Plant and Tree Sale to raise money for park projects. A second plant sale will be held on Saturday May 14th. We need volunteers so please mark this date on your calendar and we hope to see you on Earth Day.

In other news, the Friends are hoping to conduct a prescribed burn some time in April if weather conditions are optimal. The purpose of the prescribed burn is to recreate conditions that are key to the survival of species found within the park. Prescribed burns assist in the germination of the seeds of native plant species, reduce competition from non-native plants, and cycle valuable nutrients back into the soil.

The Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park would like to welcome Kasia Zgurzynski and Della Trojan to the Advisory Committee. Kasia is currently enrolled at the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture and Della is a long-time member of the Walker's Creek Neighbourhood Association. On the flip side, we are sad to see Jim and June Streadwick leave the Advisory Committee and we would like to thank them for all the work they have done for the park.

Earth Day 2011 & Native Plant Sale

Saturday April 30th 2011

Time: 8 am to 1 pm

**Location: Malcolmson Eco-Park
Lakeshore Rd. at Niagara St.**

Activities:

**Mulching, Garbage Removal, Pathway Cleanup,
Planting**

2nd Native Plant Sale: Saturday May 14th 2011

Time: 8 am to 12:00 pm

Native Plant Sale

The Native Plant Sale is being held on **Saturday, April 30th** and **Saturday, May 14th** at the Malcolmson Eco-Park compound from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. Below is a **tentative** list of native wildflowers, shrubs and trees that will be available for sale. The list is subject to change depending on availability. Generally, wildflowers will be available in 10-cm pots and trees will be available in 4-litre pots. Please contact Josh Diamond if you require further information.

Trees and Shrubs	Wildflowers and Grasses	Wildflowers and Grasses
Low Service Berry	Jack-in-the Pulpit	Ironweed
New Jersey Tea	White Baneberry	Hairy Beard Tongue
Bush Honeysuckle	Red Baneberry	Pokeweed
Spicebush	Yellow Giant Hyssop	Culvers Root
Fragrant Sumac	Wild Garlic	Downy Yellow Violet
Black Currant	Nodding Wild Onion	Mint
Eastern Redbud	Wild Leek	Grayheaded Coneflower
Smooth Wild Rose	Canada Anemone	Greenheaded Coneflower
Carolina Rose	Purple Angelica	Compass Plant
Bebbs Willow	Wild Columbine	Cup-Plant
Woolly Willow	Butterfly Weed	Tall Cinquefoil
Snowberry	Smooth Aster	Bloodroot
Wild Raisin	New England Aster	Wild Ginger
Swamp Maple	Ontario Aster	Swamp Milkweed
Black Maple	Sky Blue Aster	Sweet Ox-Eye
Speckled Alder	Turtlehead	Cardinal Flower
Yellow Birch	Joe Pye-Weed	Brown-eyed Susan
Redbud	Purple Joe-Pye Weed	Virginia Mountain Mint
Tulip Tree	White Snake Root	Foxglove Beard Tongue
Wild Crabapple	Flowering Spurge	Great Lobelia
Pin Cherry	Closed Gentian	Jack-in-the Pulpit
Peach Leaved Willow	Wild Geranium	Boneset
American Mountain Ash	Prairie Smoke	Pale Coneflower
American Bittersweet	Long-Leaved Bluets	Running Strawberry Vine
Virgin's Bower	Pale-leaved Sunflower	Swamp Rose-Mallow
Glaucous Honeysuckle	Tall Sunflower	Spiked Blazing Star
Moonseed	Pale Flag Iris	Michigan Lily
Chokeberry	Round Headed Bushclover	Mayapple
Button Bush	Dwarf Blazing Star	Hoary Vervain
Winterberry Holly	Michigan Lily	Big Blue Stem
Ninebark	False Solomon's Seal	Little Blue Stem
Narrow Leaved	Starry Solomon's Seal	Indian Grass
Meadowsweet	Solomon Seal	Bottledash Brush Grass
White Cedar	Tall Cinquefoil	Trilliums
White Pine	Hairy Mountain Mint	Blue Vervain
Kentucky Coffee Tree	Grayheaded Coneflower	Arrow Leaved Violet
Dwarf Hackberry	Greenheaded Coneflower	Woolly Blue Violet
Shagbark Hickory	Compass Plant	Black Eyed Susan
Pussy Willow	Prairie Dock	Switch Grass
Witch Hazel	Stiff goldenrod	
Eastern Red Cedar		
Tamarack		

Changing Attitudes Towards Gardening

By: Frank Hardy

There have been many changes in the horticulture industry in the past twenty years. As a landscaper by trade, I remember going to garden centres to purchase plants that had been dug from fields in the spring and placed into containers usually with loose, sandy soil. Extra care was needed when planting, and was often limited to spring and fall. The big change occurred when the large department stores started selling plants. The product was now container-grown in warmer climates and delivered by tractor trailers in huge quantities. Traditional garden centres had to adapt rapidly to this change. To survive, they had to stock these container-grown plants and find many innovative ways to keep their clients. Meanwhile, many new varieties of shade trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials and annuals were being produced. Gardeners now had more choices than ever before. Hybrids were developed to be less prone to disease and grown in a variety of different sizes and colour blooms. For gardeners it almost became an addiction, the desire to have that new variety of hosta or coneflower seemed important. Also, terms such as "pest free" or "pest resistant" were often used by sales staff. We now could have the perfect garden: so many beautiful plants, colours and no bugs.

Lately, however, we have realized that due to a continuing loss of natural habitat, we have the moral responsibility to establish areas that will benefit wildlife. A few years ago, honeybees started dying off in huge numbers. Some beekeepers reported that up to eighty percent of their hives did not overwinter. The popular trend of planting gardens to attract butterflies was now modified, and called pollinator gardens to provide pollen and nectar for more species of adult insects. We also remembered that we had many species of native bees and if we provided habitat for them, they in turn could pollinate more efficiently than the non-native honeybees. Gardeners love nature, that's why we are gardeners, and we are always adapting and trying new things to improve our plantings, more than ever with an environmentally minded approach. Purchasing the latest exotic or newest hybrid doesn't seem that important now. Instead we realize that we need to use native plants in our urban gardens to re-establish habitat for wildlife. The butterfly bush (*Buddleia*) was promoted not so long ago as the ultimate plant and is now viewed in a different way. It may offer pollen and nectar for adult butterflies, but it can't support North American butterflies at any other stage of development. We now realize that if the plants we use in our gardens are not native, they cannot act as hosts for our native insects.

Studies confirm that non-native plants are unpalatable or even toxic to native insects. The plants that were promoted as pest and insect free don't seem so appealing now that our native insect population is so depleted. Ecosystems cannot function without insects. If we look at problems with pest insects we have had to deal with, we find that largely they are non-native species. So now with a renewed passion, urban gardens are being created with ecosystems in mind and native plant use is on the rise. This will help re-establish a food source for native insects and in turn, song bird populations may again have a food source. Hopefully they will be able to recover from the tremendous declines they have been facing. We have tried the exotics and the hybrids - that was fun. But our goal is now clear and also urgent; because wild areas are so depleted and fragmented, urban gardeners need to provide habitat for native plants and insects. The horticultural growers and suppliers will need to change with their clients and increase their selection and availability of native plants to accommodate the better informed and more environmentally minded gardener.

The Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Mary Malcolmson's favourite tree was the Tulip Tree, which is native to the Niagara Peninsula. This tree can reach heights of 35 m with a spread of 15 m and 100 cm in diameter. It can live up to 150 years. The Tulip Tree is found in deep, rich, moist soils. It is intolerant of shade and fast growing. It is recognized by the light green and notched tip leaves. The terminal bud is flat with 2 scales. The flowers of the Tulip Tree are large and "Tulip-like". A large Tulip Tree can be found at the extreme north-end of the park and a smaller tree can be found in the Outdoor Learning Area of the Park. Photo by: Lindley Ashline



2011 Malcolmson Eco-Park: Advisory Committee

Mike Anderson: City of St. Catharines
Greg Eckhardt: Chair
Chris DiRaddo: Committee Member
Sandra Johnstone: Committee Member
Kasia Zgurzynski Committee Member
Claire Theijsmeijer: Outdoor Learning Area

Contact: 905-688-5601 ext. 3140
Josh Diamond: Committee Member
Frank Hardy: Committee Member
Maggie Skov: Committee Member
Della Trojan: WCNA Representative
Doug Woodard: Tall Grass Prairie Coordinator

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City of St.Catharines Contact: Mike Anderson City of St.Catharines 905-688-5601 ext. 3140