



“Giving Nature a Helping Hand”

The Pin Oak

Issue 16

www.fomep.com

April 2014

Earth Day 2014 & Native Plant Sale

Saturday, April 26, 2014

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 10, 2014
Time: 8 am to 1 pm



Figure 1



Figure 2

News

The Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park will be celebrating Earth Day on Saturday, April 26, from 8:00 am. to 1:00 pm. 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 10. 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 completed a viewing area at the Amphibian Wetland Pond Lookout in 2013 (Figure 1). The new armour stones and gravel base provide an excellent new spot to enjoy the park. There is also a new interpretive sign providing information about the species found at the wetland (Figure 2).

In January, the Friends presented City Council with the 2013 Malcolmson Eco-Park Concept Plan (Figure 3). It was received by Council and provides the Friends with a 3-year plan to improve and maintain the resources of the park. This is an update to the last Concept Plan which dates back to 1995.

The last bit of news relates to our website domain name. For reasons that no one can adequately explain, our domain was acquired by a Japanese company who is currently hosting non-related material. We have a new domain name and website at www.fomep.com. Please change any links you may have.

We hope to see you in the park.

The Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park Malcolmson Eco-Park Concept Plan



Prepared By: The Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park



Figure 3

December 2013

Native Plant Sale

The Native Plant Sale is being held on **Saturday, April 26st** and **Saturday, May 10th** 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.

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

Partnership with Port Weller School Class Raises Future Park Supporters

The Friends were pleased to be contacted last fall by Susan Di Teodoro, a JK/SK teacher at Port Weller School. She was interested in including the park as part of the Early Learning Program, “environment as teacher” for her students. She has also completed a certificate program in raising Monarch butterflies. I, Claire, have visited the class and, using puppets, have introduced them to some of the plants and wildlife in the park. The students really liked the eagle puppet, and chose the name “Wings” for him. Together, we have been learning about how the park provides habitat for birds, insects and animals. We plan to do a special project about Monarch butterflies. In class, we have planted milkweed seeds that had been harvested in the park. The students will care for them until they are ready for transplanting, and then plant them in the prairie in early May. The Friends will invite them back to check on the growth of the plants, and to see if any Monarch caterpillars and butterflies are visible. In past years, there have been frequent sightings of Monarchs, and other butterflies when the prairie wildflowers are blooming!

We hope that this is the beginning of an ongoing relationship with Port Weller students, which will raise young people who appreciate the value of a natural park, and will help protect the plants and wildlife in it.



March
17,
2014

Today we planted Milkweed seeds with Mrs. Claire from the Friends of Malcolmson Park.



Thank you, Mrs. Claire!



Monarch feeding on a
milkweed plant in Malcolmson
Eco-Park

Friends Receive Grant from Niagara Community Foundation to Replant Native Species and Upgrade Entrance

Our sincere appreciation goes to the Niagara Community Foundation, for approving our grant request for \$3000 for 2014! The support we receive from this organization is vital in restoring native species in the park, and keeping the area a natural oasis in a very urban centre. With the Niagara Community Foundation grant, the entrance near the Port Weller Community Centre will be improved and an interpretive sign installed. Native trees, shrubs and wildflowers will be planted in the savannah area south of the path at the Wildwood entrance, and in the edge area north of the path from the same entrance to the Guide Memorial plaque. By improving the park entrance and the area near the Guide plaque, the Friends hope to encourage respect for the park and discourage vandalism. We have applied to TD Friends of the Environment for a grant which is still under consideration. If approved, it will enable replanting of a former mountain bike jump area in the northwest section. We plan to replant native trees and shrubs of the Carolinian Zone which will restore the wildlife habitat and the natural beauty of this area. The second project is the revitalization of an overgrown garden along Lakeshore Rd., to showcase how native plants can be used in a garden setting.

Pawpaw *Asimina triloba*

Pawpaw is a species unique to the Carolinian Forest zone in Southwestern Ontario around Lake Erie and the Niagara Region. It is the hardiest relative of the tropical custard apple family and is sometimes planted for its unusual edible fruit. Pawpaw trees have large, smooth leaves up to 30 cm long and hang down giving the tree a tropical appearance. These trees can grow up to 10m in height and prefer moist soils and part shade. The trunk and branches are gray-brown and smooth until very old. Showy red flowers appear before the leaves emerge in spring. These flowers are actually pollinated by beetles instead of bees. Yellow-green fruit are produced and fall to the ground in the fall when ripe.

There are several of these trees at Malcolmson Eco-Park so be sure to keep an eye out for them. We will also have them available at our plant sale.



2014 Malcolmson Eco-Park: Advisory Committee

Mike Anderson: City of St. Catharines

Contact: 905-688-5601 ext. 3140

Greg Eckhardt: Chair

Josh Diamond: Committee Member

Chris Semenchuk: Committee Member

Maggie Skov: Committee Member

Kasia Zgurzynski: Committee Member

Della Trojan: WCNA Representative

Claire Theijsmeijer: Outdoor Learning Area

Doug Woodard: Tall Grass Prairie Coordinator

Please consider receiving your newsletter via email (in pdf Adobe Acrobat Format). It will save on paper, postage, and your newsletter will be in colour. Also, if you would like your name removed from the mailing list, please contact **Josh Diamond** at jkdiamond@sympatico.ca.

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