



"Giving Nature a Helping Hand"

The Pin Oak

Issue 9

The Newsletter of the Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park

April 2009



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This newsletter is published twice each year. It is written by the Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park.



Website

www.fomep.com

News

Spring has finally arrived after another winter. Since the beginning of March the Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park have been working hard in the greenhouse to get ready for Earth Day 2009 and the Native Plant Sale being held on Saturday April 25th. Earth Day at Malcolmson Eco-Park is an annual tradition in St.Catharines where volunteers come out to remove garbage from the park, repair the trail network, apply mulch to trees and gardens, and plant wildflowers and trees. Earth Day is one of the most important events for the park and this year we will be unveiling our new trailhead sign for the park. 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 9th.

This year we have many activities planned and they include a prescribed burn in the Tall-Grass Prairie area in April, installing new shade cloth on a poly-house and Dutch-house, improving nesting habitat for native bees, and remediating some damaged areas of the park. We can always use your help; please contact the Friends if you are interested in participating.

The Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park would like to welcome Frank Hardy to the Advisory Committee. Frank has a background in landscaping and is very interested in native bees. On the flip side, we are sad to see Cindy Bryson leave the Advisory Committee and we would like to thank her for all the work she has done for the park.

Earth Day 2009

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Native Plant and Tree Sale

Malcolmson Eco-Park
Saturday April 25th 2009

8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Malcolmson Eco-Park

Lakeshore Rd at Niagara St.

Parking: Grantham Lions Club

Activities:

Mulching, Garbage Removal, Pathway Cleanup, Planting

Native Plant Sale

The Native Plant Sale is being held on **Saturday, April 25th** and **Saturday, May 9th** 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

Basswood
Black Cherry
Redbud
Tulip Tree
Yellow Birch
Tamarack
Witch Hazel
Sugar Maple
Red Maple
Red Elder
Common Elder
Hemlock
White Pine
Red Oak
American Sycamore
Black Gum
Blue Beech
Alternative Leaved
Dogwood
Sumac Fragrant
Purple Flowering Raspberry
Virgins Bower
Buttonbush
Chokeberry
Carolina Rose
Bladdernut
Pussywillow
Narrow Meadowsweet
Wild Raisin

Wildflowers

Wild Strawberry
Blue Vervain
Canada Anemone
Brown Eyed Susan
Evening Primrose
White Snake Root
Giant Yellow Hyssops
Pale Purple Coneflower
Michigan Lily
Foxglove Beard Tongue
Showy Tick Trefoil
Dwarf Blazing Star
Sweet Ox Daisy
Swamp Rose Mallow
Wild Lupine
Yellow Pimpernell
Golden Alexander
Canada Rye Grass
Little Blue Stem
Switch Grass
Indian Grass
Joe Pye Weed
Wild Bergamot
New England Asters
Swamp Milkweed
Greyhead Coneflower
Greenhead Coneflower
Cardinal Flower
Butterfly Weed
Wild Columbine

Wildflowers

Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Tall Bell Flower
Starry False Solomon Seal
Bottle Gentian
Turtlehead
Culver's Root
Tall Sunflower
Woodland Sunflower
Wild Geranium
Stiff Goldenrod
Bloodroot
Pale Leaved Sunflower
Wild Ginger
Sideoats Grama
Bottlebrush Grass
Blue Flag Iris
Spiked Blazing Star
Great Blue Lobelia
Hairy Mountain Mint
Heath Aster

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 or 905-646-4810.

Prescribed Burn

Since the mid-1990s the Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park have conducted prescribed burns in the Tall-Grass Prairie area of Malcolmson Eco-Park. The Tall-Grass Prairie, a small area of Malcolmson Eco-Park just north of the main parking lot, contains a rich diversity of wildflowers and grasses that are rare in Niagara. The purpose of a 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 addition of fire into the management of a Tall-Grass Prairie is key to its success. The Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park, with the help of Niagara College and in partnership with the City of St.Catharines and the St.Catharines Fire Department, are hoping to conduct a prescribed burn this April should optimum conditions occur.



Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

Indian grass, a native prairie grass that you will find in Malcolmson Eco-Park, is a species that will benefit from the prescribed burn. Its Latin name is pronounced Sorghastrum (sor-GAS-trum) nutans (NOO-tanz). This tall, handsome plant is drought tolerant and grows to 2 metres (6.6 feet) and has an extensive root network. It flowers in late summer to early autumn and the inflorescence is strikingly yellow. When mature, the gold-coloured, thick seed head tends to bend or droop under its weight, hence the Latin name, *nutans*, to nod. Indian grass is host to the larvae of the wood satyr and common wood nymph butterflies. The species is native to North America, from Quebec to Manitoba and south to Mexico. Keep an eye out for it this year.



Don't be shy, if you would like to contribute an article or pictures please contact our Newsletter Editor Josh Diamond at jkdiamond@sympatico.ca. And as always, the Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park are looking for volunteers. Please consider increasing your involvement in the park. We hope to see you at Malcolmson Eco-Park.

Seed Growing Project with TD Canada Trust Grant

The heritage greenhouse is now filled with flats of wildflower seeds, which are sprouting in the spring sunshine. Thanks to the TD Canada Trust grant received in September 2008, we will have lots of native wildflowers for our Earth Day Plant Sale, and to plant in the Prairie and Outdoor Learning areas. Volunteers are always welcome to assist with greenhouse work, and/or with planting wildflowers on Earth Day or another work party day. Let us know if you are interested.



Malcolmson Eco-Park

Other Upcoming Volunteer Activities

Propagating native plants, transplanting, labeling plants.

Saturday April 18th 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Friday April 24th 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Saturday May 2nd 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Installation of shade cloth on polyhouse and dutch-house

Saturday May 9th 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Please contact Josh Diamond if you are interested in participating. Contact info below.

Other volunteer opportunities will be listed on www.malcolmsonecopark.com

2009 Malcolmson Eco-Park Advisory Committee

Mike Anderson: City of St.Catharines
Joshua Diamond: Co-Chair
Greg Eckhardt: Co-Chair
Chris DiRaddo: Committee Member
Sandra Johnstone: Committee Member
Jim Streadwick: Committee Member
Claire Theijsmeijer: Outdoor Learning Area

Contact: 905-688-5601 ext. 3140
Contact: 905-646-4810 jkdiamond@sympatico.ca

Frank Hardy: Committee Member
Maggie Skov: Committee Member
June Streadwick: Committee Member
Doug Woodard: Tall Grass Prairie Coordinator