

# Morgan ARBORETUM

# TreeMail

Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec 514-398-7811 [www.morganarboretum.org](http://www.morganarboretum.org)

## August 2010 ... In this edition:

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For all registrations or general enquiries, please call 514-398-7811 or email [morgan.arboretum@mcgill.ca](mailto:morgan.arboretum@mcgill.ca).

## AGM 22 September

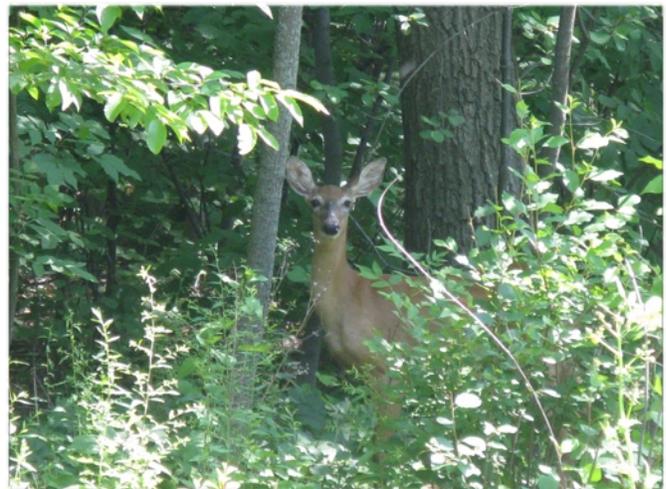
The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Morgan Arboretum is on **22 September at 7:00 pm** in the Conservation Centre. We invite all members of the Friends to come and join in the discussion about where we are going, to hear the reports of your Representatives and the plans for the future from the Academic Director and his staff. This is the time to elect new members to the committee of The Friends or better still to stand for office yourself. The Arboretum cannot provide the services its members seek without members volunteering to help in the management and direction of the place – we urge you to come forward and do your part to make sure our forest endures and improves. Working on, or alongside, the Representative Committee is a lot of fun, it's interesting and worthwhile – please don't leave the future to others, be a volunteer yourself.

## Translator needed

We are looking for volunteers with strong abilities in translation from English to French to help from time to time with our communication efforts. If you'd like to lend a hand, please contact Anne Godbout at 514-398-8697 [anne.godbout@mcgill.ca](mailto:anne.godbout@mcgill.ca)

## Membership Renewal

We have received most of our renewal forms for membership subscriptions for the 2010-2011 year. However, if you have not yet renewed your membership, do it now!



## The Weather Outside Is Frightful...

But a fire is so delightful! Firewood is now available. Regular firewood (no poplar) is \$125 a cord, with a special this year on cords of poplar logs for only \$60 a cord. Order yours now, by contacting the gatehouse.

## Are you Visiting our Website?

There are many activities being organised at the Arboretum, with something of interest to everyone. To discover more about what is happening, visit our new, improved website ([www.morganarboretum.org](http://www.morganarboretum.org)) and check the listings on the Calendar page. While there, make sure to read the latest postings on our Nature Journal (look for the large green link on the home page) and join the on-line Community to share your thoughts and ideas with members and visitors. There is also a News page listing information about changes to time or venues of activities, breaking news, updates on the condition of the trails and other matters of general interest to visitors.

**A Note to Photographers:** The Arboretum appreciates the many contributions we receive from our talented photographers. In future, however, we encourage all of you to post your Arboretum pictures in a personal Photo Gallery in the website's Community section.

## What Do you Expect?

Everyone who visits the Arboretum, especially members, comes with certain expectations and desires. It would help The Friends and the McGill staff if we had a better idea of what you are looking for when you visit. We get very little feedback from our over 1,500 members. As the AGM approaches, we would appreciate if everyone took five minutes to send a short note to us at [morganarboretum@gmail.com](mailto:morganarboretum@gmail.com) – tell us what's right, what's wrong, what you'd really like to see organised in the forest, and what your expectations are. And please, be as blunt as you like. We don't even mind if you send your thoughts anonymously but we really would like to know if we are working along the right lines for a majority of members. Your contribution will help us in planning events and improvements during the coming months and years. We'll read everything and give you our responses in a future TreeMail.

## Calendars for 2011

We are very excited about the forthcoming Arboretum calendar. This year's crop of photographs is truly wonderful, and the calendar makes a great gift, for either yourself or for loved ones. Look for the forthcoming opportunity to purchase your calendars.

The competition is stiff, so photographers take note: start thinking about getting shots for the next year!

## Feast in the Forest

Some of you may have hesitated to join us for this event because you thought the bugs, (and mosquitoes in particular) would be bad. Those of you who did venture out found that it was a wonderful day! After enjoying our picnics in the shade of a maple tree, some of us sauntered down the hill and through the woods to Blossom Corner and then to Chalet Pruche. The others took the Orange Trail to the same destination. We encountered some butterflies and birds but few, if any, bothersome bugs! So remember that if you keep to the open trails on a dry, sunny day with a gentle breeze, the Arboretum can be lovely place to savour the summer.

## Notes from the Field

*Chris Cloutier, Naturalist, Morgan Arboretum*

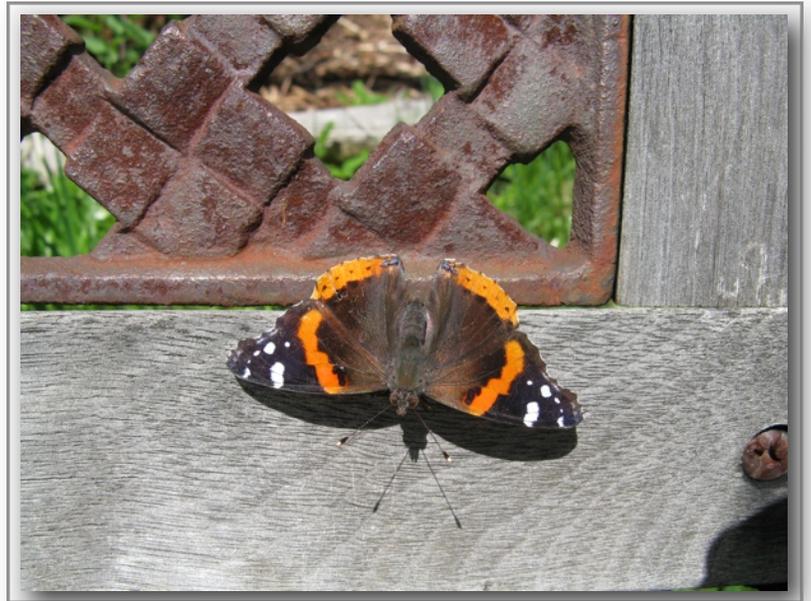
The last weekend in June was certainly a busy one compared to most, with two Nature walks – both of them spectacular! The evening of Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> was the Arboretum’s first summer excursion hosted at night. The goal of the walk, which was entitled **“Bats, Bibites, and BedSheets!?!?”**, was to locate some of those hard to find nocturnal creatures (in particular, you might guess, bats and insects). The “Bedsheet” idea came from one of my favourite forms of insect trap, which is known as a light trap. To describe it simply, a bed sheet or other white cloth is stretched between two posts and is illuminated with the help of some large flood lamps. The light attracts all sorts of nocturnal flying insects, including moths, beetles, and sometimes even a praying mantis or two! Many thanks go to Claude and Wendy Cloutier for constructing the light trap. A little brown bat flew at a fairly close range, but we were also able to observe a Northern Flying Squirrel, a Blue-spotted Salamander, a Red-backed Salamander, and a beautiful light show staged by those tiny little beetles, the fireflies!



A Blue-Spotted Salamander was a pleasant sight on the night walk  
(Photo: Chris Cloutier)

The walk on Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup> was entitled **“Butterflies that Flutter-by”** and was a way for Arboretum visitors to experience the amazing world of butterflies. As an added bonus, those who attended the walk were able to help document species that appear in the Arboretum. We identified 16 species – a very respectable number,

considering that it is nearly half of all the known species observed here to date! With nets in hand, we explored all of the spots known to attract these beautiful creatures and were certainly treated to some impressive and even rare sights. Some of the species highlights were the Hackberry Emperor, the Northern Pearly-eye, the Great Spangled Fritillary and the Banded Hairstreak.



A Red Admiral Butterfly suns itself on a bench by Blossom Corner  
(Photo: Chris Cloutier)

A special thank you to all who participated in the walks so far this year and for those who helped behind the scenes. It is with your support that the Arboretum is able to host these wonderful workshops and to help all visitors discover and better understand nature.

Have fun out there and we hope to see you on one of our fall tours!!!

## **Arboretum Birds 2010**

There are some 180 species of birds that have at one time or another been seen in the Arboretum, some regularly and others only very occasionally. This year, Richard Gregson issued a challenge to members of The Friends to keep a tally of the number of species they have seen during the year – a challenge known in birding circles as a “Big Year” and so, in our context, an “Arboretum Big Year” or ArBY. So far, two thirds of the way into the year, Richard has ticked off 86 species without, frankly, working too hard ... and he is pretty sure that Chris Cloutier, our Naturalist-in-Residence, can put his name to even more. Stars of the year have been the repeated viewings of the Barred Owls during the winter months and the appearance of a very rare Red-bellied Woodpecker who really should never have been this far north. Commoner birds have been the Chipping Sparrows and Song Sparrows (which are all over the place and regularly call to you as you arrive in the CC parking lot), the many species of Warblers, assorted Flycatchers, Woodpeckers and our resident Hawks

**How many have YOU seen?**

# Up and Coming: Fall Tours

Please visit our [web site](#) for additional details on the guided walks and the [RASC – Montreal Web site](#) for star gazing events.

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**Sunday August 8, 2010 10:00-12:00 Prehistoric plants!!!** Learn about the plants that have been around longer than the dinosaurs!

**Sunday August 8, 2010 13:30-15:30 What's Buggin' you?** Come and discover the marvels of the insect world.

**Thursday August 12, 2010 20:00** (Rain date: August 13<sup>th</sup>) **Perseids Meteor Shower** Observation event organized by RASC - Montreal Centre

**Saturday August 21, 2010 20:00 Public Stargazing** Observation event organized by RASC - Montreal Centre

**Saturday September 11, 2010 9:00-12:00 Monarch Melee** Discover the fascinating world of the Monarch butterflies before they leave on their epic journey to Mexico. Bilingual event.

**Sunday September 12, 2010 13:00-15:00 Webs of Deceit** Spiders: the misunderstood creatures

**Wednesday September 15, 2010 9:00-13:00 Put Your Garden to Rest** A workshop on how to prepare the garden for the winter

**Saturday September 18, 2010 20:00 Public Stargazing** Observation event organized by RASC - Montreal Centre

**Saturday September 25, 2010 10:00-12:00 (English) and 13:30-15:30 (French) ALIENS!!!** Meet our foreign invaders as well as creatures straight out of science-fiction!

**Friday October 1, 2010 19:30-21:30 Nocturnal Rummage** Uncover the secret lives of nocturnal creatures (Repeated in French on Saturday October 9 19:30-21:30)

**Sunday October 3, 2010 12:00-16:00 Oktoberfest** Come and enjoy a German snack, the Macdonald lumberjacks' displays, guided walks, educational kiosks and a brand new naturalist rally!

**Thanksgiving Monday October 11, 2010** *In French at 13:00/in English at 14:30* **Fall Colors Walk** Find out what's behind the forest's fiery hues.

**Saturday October 16, 2010 20:00** **Public Stargazing** Observation event organized by RASC - Montreal Centre:

**Sunday October 17, 2010 9:00-12:00** **Paddles, Predators and Phosphorous -The Story of Lac St. Louis** Learn about its rich history and ecology

**Thursday October 21, 2010** *In French at 13:00/in English at 14:30* **Fall Colors Walk** Find out what's behind the forest's seasonal fiery hues.

**Saturday October 30, 2010 20:00** **Halloween Stargazing** Observation event organized by RASC - Montreal Centre

