

Morgan ARBORETUM

TreeMail

Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec 514-398-7811 www.morganarboretum.org

June 2010 ... The city is packed with people and the noise of construction and traffic fills the air... why not escape to a place that makes it all feel far away without actually going away? The Morgan Arboretum has much to offer in the summer, so take advantage of this resource!

For some, summer is no more than a mosquito-infested interference to the ski season, but that couldn't be further from the truth. We must give summer its due credit; many trees are in their most majestic state, wildlife is abundant, and the weather is great. In order to welcome this marvellous time of year, the Arboretum will be hosting some exciting and educational workshops and lectures. Subjects will include butterflies and other insects, trees, forest ecology, bats, ponds, and stars! With the school year coming to an end, these interpretive walks are great summer fun for the whole family. In addition, the Friends of the Morgan Arboretum is looking forward to hosting the Arboretum's first community picnic in June. Hopefully there will be a little something for everyone! You will find a full schedule of events at our website (and be sure to check out the site's great new features as well).

- Feast in the Forest
- Upcoming nature walks
- Dog committee searching for volunteers
- Dog Round-up
- Our new website - check it out
- Spruce-up Day
- Chalet Pruche available for rent
- Volunteer of the Year
- A thank you from the gatehouse

A note for early birds: the entrance gate will open at 6:30 a.m. until further notice.

For all registrations or general enquiries, please call 514-398-7811 or email morgan.arboretum@mcgill.ca.

Feast in the Forest

Pack your picnic baskets and come to our community picnic on **Sunday, June 20th**.

The FMA invites all members of the Arboretum community to celebrate the summer solstice with an old-fashioned picnic, between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., weather permitting.

You will meet with old friends and make new friends as you discover just how large our forest community is. You will also have the opportunity to chat with the FMA committee and share your dreams for the Arboretum's future. Your children can participate in the organized games (three-legged race,

anyone?), but also bring your frisbees and badminton sets. We will take a huge family photograph of all 2,000+ of you – dogs, children, and all!

Kindly note that you must provide your own picnic lunch as no food preparation may be done on-site. No alcohol please. Please also note that dogs should be on leash at all times during this event.



DWW

Fun for the Family - Forthcoming Nature Events

A Note from our Naturalist : As a regular visitor to the Morgan Arboretum you have probably asked yourself many questions about the various things that you encounter on your visits here. You may have wondered, “What is that thing?” as a strange insect buzzes by your ear or, “What was that sound?” as you hear a strange whining sound coming from the trees. Thankfully, the Arboretum will be hosting many interpretive walks this summer that will answer these questions among others. Join our naturalists and explore the curious world of the Arboretum as never before!

Take your pick of the nature events listed below. You can also visit the calendar page of our website for the dates and times of the various activities. Most of our activities require a reservation, so please RSVP by stopping by the gatehouse or by calling 514-398-7811. The meeting point for all events is at the Conservation Centre. We hope to see you there!

Friends - \$10 adults/\$6 children

Non-members - \$12 adults/\$8 children

Astronomy - free

Bzzz! Bugs of the Arboretum: Do you want to learn more about insects? Join Arboretum naturalist Chris Cloutier on *Sunday, June 6th* as he points out the diverse species that call the Arboretum their home. Learn how to identify and collect insects, but also about their ways of life and their importance to our planet. The French insect walk will be from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and the English walk will be between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

Dragonfly Blitz: One of the most fascinating groups of insects is the dragonfly, but little is known about which species live in the Arboretum. With a fondness for collecting and identifying dragonflies, Chris Cloutier hopes to search far and wide to find out. Join him on *Saturday, June 19th* from 1:00 until 3:30 p.m. for an afternoon of high velocity insect catching. Be a part of this species blitz!

“Star Light, Star Bright”: We invite you to attend public stargazing events on *Saturday, June 19th* and *Saturday, July 24th*, both at 8:00 p.m. Hosted by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, these evenings will begin with introductory lectures about the night sky. No cost, no reservations required.

Bats, Bibites, and Bed Sheets?!: Ever wonder what goes bump in the night? Many creatures are stirring after the sun has set. Come and discover some of the wonders of the nocturnal world with Chris Cloutier on *Saturday, June 26th*. He will show you how to appreciate the mysterious nocturnal world at the Arboretum! The event will start at 8:00 and end at 10:00 p.m.

Butterfly Blitz: We are in need of your observational skills! Join naturalist Chris Cloutier on *Sunday, June 27th* on an ongoing quest to find the many beautiful species of butterfly that reside in the Morgan Arboretum. This summer’s walk will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

If a Tree Falls in the Forest: If you would like to learn more about the Arboretum’s beautiful forest, why not come out on *Sunday, July 4th* for a nature walk with Chris Cloutier? In particular, you will learn about tree identification and forest ecology. Chris will tell you about the complex interactions of forest organisms and past ecological events that have shaped this region into what it is today. The French walk will be held between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., while the English event will run from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m.

The Living Museum: Did you know that the Arboretum is home to nearly 330 different horticultural species? If you want to learn more about the botanical collections found here, join John Watson on *Saturday, July 10th* between 9:00 and 11:30 a.m. as he tells us how these species made their way to the Arboretum.

Pond Life: Plants and Pollywogs: Of all the places to find amazing creatures both big and small, nothing beats heading down to a muddy pond! Join Chris Cloutier on *Sunday, July 18th* and explore one of his favourite ecosystems. Learn about some of the spectacular ways plants and animals thrive both above and below the surface. The French event will be held from 12:00 until 2:00 p.m. and the English event will follow, from 2:30 until 4:30 p.m.

Help out the Dog Committee

Are you a dog-owning member of the Arboretum? Our hard-working dog committee is seeking a couple of people to join them. You would help with dog-related matters and policy, and look after assessment sessions for new dogs. If you are interested in this important role or would like more information, please send an email to morganarboretum@gmail.com.



Dog Round-Up - Thank you

The FMA would like to extend a big thank you to our dog members for adhering to the revised and simplified dog regulations, which have eliminated nearly all of the problems that we had been enduring. The enlarged dog parking lot, the almost total lack of feces on the ground once the snow melted (a first – thank you, thank you!), and the mutual respect between dog walkers and non-dog walkers on the trails has generally improved the experience for all visitors to the Arboretum.

New and Improved: the Arboretum Website

By now, many of you have checked out the Arboretum’s new website, but if you have not yet done so, we invite you to visit us at www.morganarboretum.org. If you register in the Community section, you can post your thoughts, create a personal Arboretum photograph album, and make friends. The new site includes a **calendar** of forthcoming events and is more up-to-date on Arboretum news than ever before. It is truly your one-stop shop for all things Arboretum related!

Arbo-Nature: While you are exploring the website, make sure to click the green “Nature” button and visit the nature journal that our naturalists are maintaining. You can discover what is currently growing, showing, and interesting in the forest – this week and every week.

Chalet Pruche: Available for Rent

Remember that Chalet Pruche is available for rent for special events such as family get-togethers, business gatherings, and wedding receptions. Enquire at the gatehouse for details.

Volunteers Brave the Elements for Spruce-Up Day

Many thanks to the hardy members who braved the inclement weather and participated in our annual spruce-up day on Saturday, May 8th.

*Carolyn Fletcher
Diane Wood
Jim Fyles
Christine Zaccardelli
Diana McNeil
Kristin McNeil
Myrna McLean*

We would like to acknowledge your enduring enthusiasm and good cheer under the adverse conditions, as well as the value of your hard work! A big thank you also goes to “crew boss” Chick Taylor for coordinating the clean-up.

Volunteer of the Year

The FMA wants to highlight the enormous contributions made by Mariner Palmer over the past couple of years in putting together the team that has worked so hard to renovate Chalet Pruche. Without his hundreds of hours of dedication and cheerful organization, this universally appreciated improvement to the most important facility in the forest could never have been accomplished. Thank you, Mariner, from the entire forest community.



Thanks from the Gatehouse

The gatehouse staff offers a tip of the hat to all members who give them a friendly wave or show their dog card before driving on to the parking lot, and to the members who stop and identify all car occupants and pay for visitors. These small courtesies make their job a whole lot easier!