

# What's Growing On? The Fletcher Wildlife Garden Newsletter

www.ofnc.ca/fletcher.php

May 2012

## May finally feels like spring!



*Green tree frog hanging out on a Common Burdock leaf*

The plants are awakening well and truly at the FWG, with the BYG starting to resemble its usual glorious self. The rest of FWG is also waking, but unfortunately so is the Garlic Mustard, Dog-strangling Vine and other invasive plant pests. Keep an eye on your garden and neighbourhood green spaces and remove them before they set seed and spread!

Our Annual Native Plant Sale is coming up very soon and is causing a flurry of work. The plants look wonderful this year, helped by the warm weather. We're very hopeful to break our record from last year, so be sure to tell your friends about our biggest fundraiser.

The proceeds go to running and maintaining the FWG,

an area maintained by the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club under a "collaborative agreement" with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. So, if you enjoy visiting or walking your dog here, do consider making a donation or buying plants as a gift for a friend. The sale is our primary source of reliable operating funds outside of donations and winning grants or contests.

So, a BIG thank you to the 115th Parkwood Hills cubs and scouts did a rubbish cleanup in the early part of the month, and a group of dogwalkers who organised to do the same -with a special emphasis on dog poop. FWG is a Stoop and Scoop zone, so please remain responsible and encourage others to be the same!

We're also happy to announce a new member of the FWG family – a blog! A blog is basically an online, interactive magazine. It will complement our website, rich in resources, as well as our wonderful photoblog, which is maintained by Christine Hanrahan. You can visit our blog at [fletcherwildlifegarden.wordpress.com](http://fletcherwildlifegarden.wordpress.com), and feel free to let us know what you think. Our goal is to find a way to communicate more easily with you, and share all of the things we find interesting but can't always fit into the newsletter in a timely fashion.

Finally, the planting bee scheduled for May 19 in the Butterfly Meadow is moved to June 16 in order to ensure the plants are large enough. Do mark your calendars and come on out!

### Contact Us!

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# Colour variations in red and grey squirrels

*text and photos by C Hanrahan*



*Eastern Grey Squirrel with tints of red in its coat.*

The ubiquitous Eastern Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) is not always grey. More often up this way, at the northern limit of their range, they are black (a melanistic morph). Colour variations abound, and you can find both the black and grey morphs with red tails, or with a definite red cast to their coats, while some appear to be quite brown. And, they can also be white. Several places in eastern North America are home to populations of white (grey) squirrels, including Exeter, Ontario, where they are a tourist attraction. No wonder some people find it difficult to believe that all these variants are one and the same species.

The further south one goes the rarer melanism becomes. There are various theories for this, including genetic mutation as squirrels evolved and adapted to different - often urban - situations, especially in the northern range. Most biologists believe it has something to do with thermal regulation, the black colour serving as a sort of "solar heater" in our cold climate, in the words of Adrian Forsyth\*. In fact, what this shows is that, even though they are common, we still don't know everything about these adaptable tree squirrels.

The question often asked is, do these variously coloured squirrels exhibit different personalities, as some folk think? Or is it something to do with our seeming predisposition to view dark-coloured animals in a more negative light? For example, black dogs and cats have a harder time getting adopted from shelters. Does this same thinking apply to squirrels? I tend to think that it does. Grey morphs typically are regarded more favourably, considered prettier and less aggressive than their black counterparts. Even when the black pelage is tinged with red, the dark squirrels are still deemed unpleasant. The silver-tipped guard hairs on the grey morph create an impression of greater fluffiness and therefore, I think, cuddliness. However, in all the years I have watched both colour morphs, I've not been able to discern a difference in personality. I recall seeing, some years back, studies demonstrating that neither colour morph was more, or less, aggressive, or more, or less, successful in mating or food foraging.



*Red Squirrel, which sometimes looks grey or even beige.*



And then there is the plucky little Red Squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), which is generally red, but sometimes looks grey or even faintly beige! Perhaps because it is smaller and less frequently encountered in an urban context (although that seems to be changing), the Red Squirrel, no matter the slight variations in colour, generally elicits a more favourable response. Yet this is the dominant squirrel when the grey and the red meet. Anyone who has watched a red ferociously chase away the much larger Grey Squirrel, can attest to their feistiness.

*Melanistic form of the Eastern Grey with tinges of red.*

All of these colour variants in the two species are, as some have noted, no more unusual than seeing some folk with shades of blond, brown, red and black hair — natural variation. While this article has dealt with two of our three tree squirrels (the third is the flying squirrel whose pelage does not seem to vary as much), our two local ground squirrels can also display variants in coat colour. Chipmunks are only very occasionally black, sometimes leucistic or albino, but groundhogs also show quite a range of colour. Whatever the species, whatever the colour, squirrels are fascinating, sometimes vexatious, but always interesting to watch.

*\*Forsyth, Adrian. 1985. Mammals of the Canadian Wild. Camden House, 351 pp.*

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*Christine Hanrahan has been a volunteer at the FWG for 20 years. In addition to monitoring and photographing our plant and animal populations, she has inventoried many natural sites in the Ottawa area and elsewhere.*

*Eastern Grey with a pure black coat.*



©christine hanrahan

## In and around the new nursery

photos by S Garland



*Some of the crew clearing areas in the ravine, adjacent to the nursery.*

At the end of May, we had our first corporate volunteers from Microsoft come and plant trees in some of the areas cleared in the ravine. The ravine is a difficult and sensitive place. No public is allowed down to visit, making this the least-disturbed land for wildlife in the FWG. However, the ravine is rife with unwanted invasive species such as Buckthorn, Amur Maples and Spindletree (also known as European Burning Bush). These seed prolifically and re-grow from suckers, which combined with the ever-present Dog-Strangling Vine create a challenge for maintaining an area while not disturbing wildlife. A grant from Evergreen / Microsoft enabled us to buy some large trees, which we hope will survive and flourish.

In the past, we planted many trees and shrubs, but the trade-off of protecting them from grazers while providing those same animals food during the long winter, and keeping trees watered on steep slopes mean survival is less than 100%. The clearing opened large areas, so another hope with using more sizeable plants is that they will also survive the inevitable attack of DSV. Some of our smaller trees simply become engulfed.

So when you walk by the ravine it may look sparse, but never fear - we do have wonderful hopes and plans for the space!



*Renate weeding and re-potting in the nursery. Our over-wintered plants are proven survivors! Some did so well that their greatly increased root masses need to be moved to larger pots. Just like in the BYG, the nursery and its pots need to be constantly weeded.*



## How to get help if you find an orphaned animal

text by S Garland



Photo by Jeewa

The following panicky message appeared on the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club Facebook page this month:

"I have SEVEN baby raccoons with no Momma! If anyone can help me on where to bring them so that they can be properly taken care of please let me know ASAP!"

The first thing to do when you find a baby animal is NOTHING. Watch it, find out what you can about the species, and make sure that mother is not just waiting out of sight.

If the baby is truly on its own, put it into a box lined with a soft cloth (an old t-shirt works), cover with a towel or sheet, and keep it warm. Do not feed it. Do not cause stress by continually peering at it.

However, in this case of the baby raccoons, their mother had been shot, so there was no question of reuniting the family.

Until several years ago, the Ottawa Carleton Wildlife Centre was the go-to place in emergencies like this one. However, changes in Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) regulations made it illegal to care for wildlife and the centre was forced to stop taking in animals. It remains a wealth of information and wisdom ([www.wildlifeinfo.ca](http://www.wildlifeinfo.ca)).

For help with wildlife problems, the OCWC recommends that you go to [www.wildlifeontario.ca/](http://www.wildlifeontario.ca/), scroll down the right side of the page and, under "Wildlife Help," click on "Orphaned Wildlife Care" for detailed instructions on caring for abandoned babies of various species, including raccoons ([www.orphanedwildlifecare.com/raccooncare.htm](http://www.orphanedwildlifecare.com/raccooncare.htm)). There's also a link called "Locate a Wildlife Rehabilitator in your area." The solution is in sight!!

However, if you choose "Canada" and type "Ontario" and "Ottawa" into the database search form, you will find 0 results. Leaving out the Ottawa field, I searched for rehabilitators in all of Ontario and found one facility in North Gower — the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary ([www.rideauwildlife.org/](http://www.rideauwildlife.org/)). This looks promising, as the web site says they care for orphaned animals, but I was unable to reach anyone for further information. I imagine these volunteers are extremely busy and if I had left a message they would have replied.

A Facebook user also suggested the Constance Creek Wildlife Refuge in Dunrobin, Ontario ([ccwr.ca/help.html](http://ccwr.ca/help.html)). This facility is NOT licensed to take in animals. Although it has applied for a licence, delays at OMNR are frustrating. Its web site provides background information and invites you to sign a petition to help expedite the process.

OMNR, the body that regulates wildlife issues in Ontario, is also somewhat difficult to reach. On

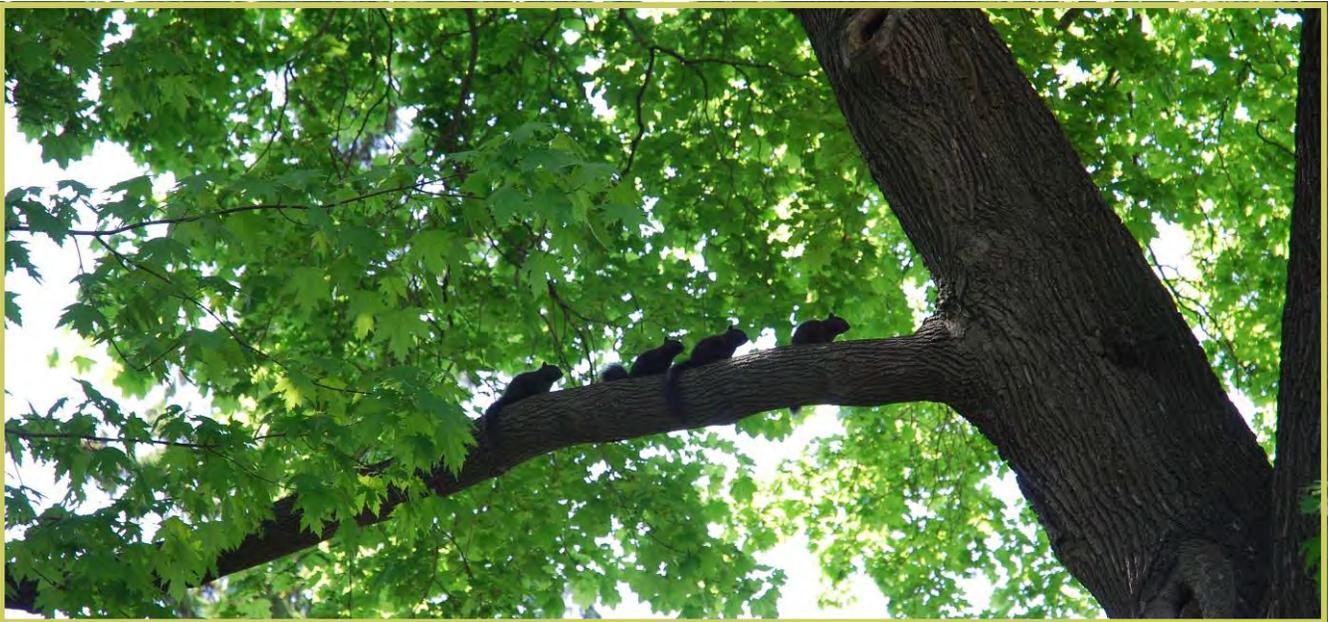
(Continued on page 7)

its web site, the Kemptville office (closest to Ottawa) is listed at 613 258-8204, but that number will get you Peterborough. To reach the "local" office, choose language, then 7 for the directory, then Fish and Wildlife. You may reach a real person, or everyone may be out in the field. If you leave a detailed message, someone will get back to you in one business day.

I realize that with 7 baby raccoons wailing in the background, much of this information is useless. Luckily, in this case, the rescuer was able to report, "they are taken care of and going to a special place here in Quebec where they will be later on released back into the wild!" So, one happy ending!

Unfortunately, the fate of baby animals is not something we think about until circumstances thrust them upon us. What would you do if you were confronted by baby creatures trying to snuggle up to their dead mother? We welcome your comments and suggestions, because people DO find our web site when they are desperately searching for help. Although we are not at all equipped to deal with animals, we'd like to at least point rescuers in the right direction.

I should also mention that when it comes to birds, Ottawa has an excellent rehab facility in the Wild Bird Care Centre on Moodie Drive ([www.wildbirdcarecentre.org/](http://www.wildbirdcarecentre.org/)). The FWG has used it several times, and we support its work with a donation each time we visit. Please do donate to these centres to help them with the cost of their important work!



*Four baby squirrels happily enjoying the shade.*



*I'm going to file this article under  
**IMPORTANT!***

## Bringing back the monarchs – that's butterflies, not royalty!

*text by S Garland*



Now that monarchs are on their way to Canada, we're eager to plant milkweeds, establish our model waystation in the Butterfly Meadow, and see how we can promote butterfly conservation in general.

On May 8, our steering committee met with some local waystation owners, representatives of the Monarch Teachers Network, Max Larrivée (developer of the eButterfly web site), Don Davis (citizen scientist and Monarch fan par excellence) and Jean Lauriault (local Monarch expert).

We learned a lot from the teachers and former teachers who maintain large waystations on their own property. Comparing notes on what flowers monarchs (and other butterflies) prefer and on how to cut back milkweed to ensure a supply of fresh young leaves for caterpillars was very useful.

e-Butterfly, a newly created butterfly reporting web site for Canada, is aimed at both professional biologists and ordinary folk interested in butterflies. The aim is to create a database of observations that can be used for a variety of purposes, including tracking such phenomena as the recent red admiral/American lady migratory wave. An Ottawa-based butterfly group and a provincial association both report observations and help track movements of butterflies, as well as numbers.

Some discussion revolved around engaging large landowners, such as the National Capital Commission and the City of Ottawa, in habitat conservation by, for example, stopping unnecessary mowing of some areas just at the peak time for eggs and caterpillars.

The Monarch Teachers Network Canada is very active and continues to grow. This year, it will be holding workshops across Canada, including two in Ottawa (English and the first-ever French workshop). Besides teaching children about monarchs, nature, and conservation, the network is trying to get a butterfly garden/monarch waystation established at every school. Limitations include finding sources of milkweed plants or seeds and gardening advice.

Although networking in the United States is very effective, Canadian groups seem more disconnected or local. Bringing local enthusiasts together to form a Canadian Monarch Network was seen as an important step toward coordinating and focusing conservation efforts.

The meeting ended with a number of suggestions, including holding a broader public workshop in the fall, once we have contacted potential partners and started to develop a strategy for the future.

For more about the project, which is generously supported by Evergreen Foundation and Fido, please see our web site: [www.ofnc.ca/fletcher/projects/MonarchWaystation/index.php](http://www.ofnc.ca/fletcher/projects/MonarchWaystation/index.php)

# Garden escapees in the Monfort Woods

text and photos by C Hanrahan



Periwinkle in the woods.

Walking through Montfort Woods earlier in the month was an interesting experience. I've not been back to this spot since about 1996, before it was exchanged for Moffatt Farm in a land swap with the National Capital Commission (which now manages and patrols the woods).

At this time of year, you can see the remnants of what was once a magnificent forest, which would have covered an extensive area. There are still small patches of some interesting native plants, such as Cutleaf and Broadleaf Toothwort (*Cardamine laciniata* and *C. diphylla*), both White and Red Trilliums (*Trillium grandiflora* and *T. erectum*), very small stands of Hepatica, a few tiny stands of Canada Mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), which should be abundant there, big swathes of Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*), and so on.

BUT, the sad thing is that the really huge swathes are Periwinkle (*Vinca* sp.) and Deadnettle (*Lamium* sp.). Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is not abundant, but it will be. I found one Barberry (*Berberis* sp.), and Norway Maples (*Acer platanoides*) are beginning to intrude.

The area where the Periwinkle, Deadnettle and also Day Lilies were found is adjacent to what used to be CFB Rockcliffe, and it looks very much like garden waste was dumped over the fence with the resulting invasion! If anyone needed to be reminded why these plants should be kept out of natural areas, this provides a good lesson. Sad. In the photo, that huge swathe of green is all Periwinkle. I actually like Deadnettle and Periwinkle as fast spreaders in a garden setting, BUT. . .not out here.

## More stealthy invaders: problem plants in water gardens

by B Haddon, photos by K Haddon



*Red-veined Dock - it's invasive!*

When you see something for sale in a local nursery, you probably won't assume it is a dangerous plant. Then again, something lovely in one environment can become a raging invasive monster in another.

Water gardening is an increasingly popular pursuit in the greater Ottawa area, and many garden centres cater to this market. "Ponders" are no more likely than other gardeners to seek out exclusively native plants for their gardens, looking instead for plants that are going to be attractive and easy to grow.

Water garden plants can be classified as perennial or annual, hardy or tropical, flowering or non-flowering, sun- or shade-loving, and some are relatively difficult to grow while some are aggressive if not downright

invasive. Some of the most problematic alien invasive plants in our waterways came here by way of the aquarium industry, so you may wonder how they found their way out of the aquarium and into lakes or streams.

The Ontario Invasive Plant Council's recent publication, *Grow Me Instead – A Guide for Southern Ontario* ([www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/files/GMI\\_Booklet\\_spreads\\_2011\\_Final\\_web.pdf](http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/files/GMI_Booklet_spreads_2011_Final_web.pdf)) presents profiles of seven aquatic species that it calls "unwanted." Five of these same species are "recommended" in *Water Garden Plants for Canada*. Who to believe?

In many cases, whether or a particular plant variety is a good or poor choice depends on your circumstances. Plants native to other parts of Canada are not good candidates for "release" in "natural" habitats. And some plants that are native to our region may need to be kept constantly in check in a garden setting.

We have had an alien species of dock at the edge of our garden pond for several years: Red-veined Dock (*Rumex sanguineus*), which is from Europe, Southwest Asia and North Africa. We bought it from a well-respected garden centre. When you look at these photographs, it is easy to understand why the garden industry uses this species in preference to the native Great Water Dock (*Rumex orbiculatus*). Red-veined Dock is an attractive plant that can thrive in a variety of settings, but it can be very invasive. The way to enjoy this species is to remove the flowering stems before they set seed – both to maintain its attractive appearance and to prevent a proliferation of seedlings in your garden.

We also have Lizard's Tail (*Saururus cernuus*) in our pond. This is an example of a species native to our part of the world that can be very aggressive in the favourable conditions of a garden. It doesn't seem to set seed, but it spreads readily in the water and along the edge of the pond.

Experienced local gardeners and garden centres should be able to tell you which plants are likely to work well in your garden and which to avoid. A great source of local information is the Greater Ottawa Water Garden Horticultural Society ([www.ottawawatergardens.com/](http://www.ottawawatergardens.com/)).



Lizard's Tail

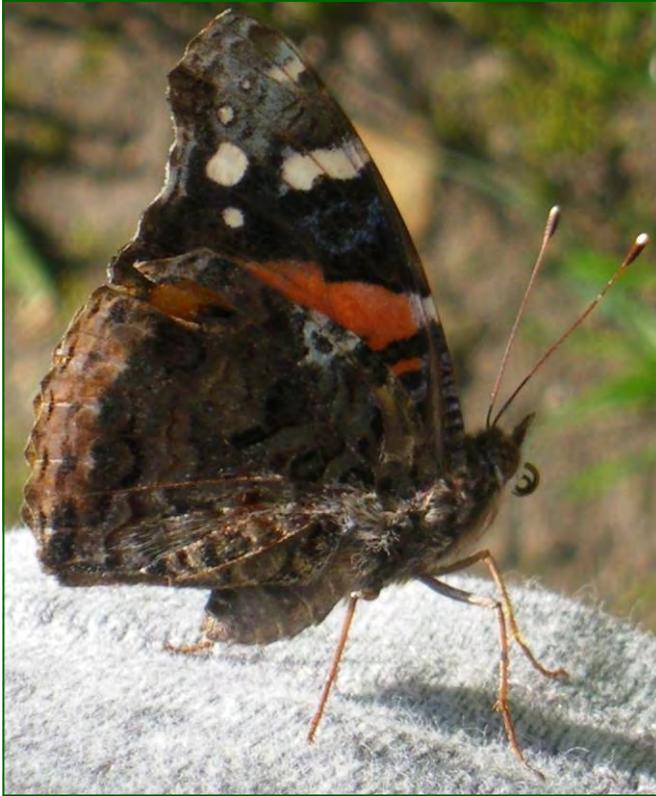
*Brian Haddon is a member of the FWG Management Committee and a frequent volunteer on Friday mornings. His membership in the Greater Ottawa Water Garden Horticultural Society and long association with forestry have made him a tremendous asset to the FWG.*

## WANTED: Items FWG Could Use!

- ✂ Pool liners are always welcome - they are the perfect heavy cover for recently sifted areas in the Butterfly Meadow and elsewhere. Anything else of a similar thickness and size is welcome!
- ✂ Do you have old wooden roll-up blinds, like IKEA sells? We are developing a better shade system for the nursery, ideally one that can be tweaked with solar exposure and stores small. Ditto if you happen to have old camo netting like the military uses.
- ✂ 3 and 4 inch SQUARE pots, or shrub-sized large pots.
- ✂ Plastic venetian blinds in pale colours - we cut these up to use as labels.
- ✂ The Butterfly Meadow needs attractive, light-shaded rocks 12" in diameter or a bit smaller to build more basking areas for butterflies. Slightly rounded edges are best!
- ✂ The Backyard Garden needs attractive river stones to put around the bird feeder - the area where plants refuse to grow due to seed fall. Gravel-sized stones are best, since we don't want squirrels getting leverage and jumping up!

## Going native at home – My story

text and photos by L Heroux



I have been gardening most of my life, either creating new habitats from scratch or taking on existing ones and improving them, depending on where I lived.

Last year, saw me take stewardship of a fairly large property in a small Ottawa Valley town. The previous owner was a “chemicals and exotics” kind of landscaper. I thus inherited a very pretty, impeccably manicured, magazine-perfect property. I am now embarking on the mission of wrecking it all, er, I mean, of restoring it to an organic and more natural ecosystem. No more chemicals, hello jolly dandelions!

Last year, I mostly laid back and observed, through the seasons, what popped up where. This year, I embark in earnest on my mission. I’m tackling all layers: from trees, to shrubs, to host plants, to nectar plants, to ground

cover, and finally, to the soil underneath it all. It’s a huge but exciting, fun and fulfilling endeavour!

I am removing pretty but detrimental perennials such as the Asiatic lilies, host to a pest beetle (*Lilioceris lili*) that has no native predator. I am nurturing a rare and healthy hackberry tree, home to the equally rare (in this area) American Snout butterfly. I am introducing milkweeds and nectar plants and creating an official Monarch Waystation ([www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/](http://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/)). I am creating a small rock garden. A pond is being considered, especially now that I have discovered frogs hopping merrily about. I have built a rustic nesting platform for robins, out of scrap wood. I am leaving various “debris” (dry leaves, fallen twigs, dead stalks, and such) in acceptable locations, for various critters to use as they wish, without turning the place into an eyesore for the neighbours.

I am also, with much perseverance, removing invasives, like the prolific garlic mustard. And after reading last month’s newsletter, I see I will have to rectify some mistakes I have already made. Carried away by passion, I let myself take home from the local nurseries plants that I should not have. List in hand ([www.ofnc.ca/fletcher/newsletter/April2012.pdf](http://www.ofnc.ca/fletcher/newsletter/April2012.pdf)), I will need to pull out and destroy some problematic purchases. There is no shame in still learning, decades into a “hobby”!

I love every minute I spend making one tiny corner of the planet a better place for millions of

(Continued on page 13)



Yarrow

creatures — crawling, digging, climbing, flying, buzzing, hopping (the critters, that is), and for a reading-in-the-shade human. Who needs to go to the gym, do yoga or meditate? I get it all done in the garden, in one fell swoop (like the critters!), and soon I am hoping to be joined by more birds, more butterflies, more bees, more amphibians, and smile-inducing colour high and low, the seasons through!

*Lise has been a fan of the FWG since its birth in 1990 and has been contributing to the FWG in various capacities for some years, but her favourite, bar none, activity is growing native plants from seed, both for the FWG's annual fundraiser sale (June 2, this year) and for expanding the FWG's various habitats.*



## Creative Idea: Basking Rocks

Do you have a sunny, quiet spot in your garden? Why not build a basking rock bed for butterflies! Butterflies like to rest on warm surfaces and "sun" themselves in the warmth. Butterfly metabolism is insufficient to keep them warm or provide them with the energy to fly. Thus, when they bask under the sun, they are keeping their muscles ready for flight and other bodily functions. Their insides become warmer than the outside - just like we "warm-blooded" creatures usually are with our own thermoregulation. This need to absorb heat from their environment is the reason why so many butterflies have darkly-coloured bodies.



Light-coloured rocks are best, as darker rocks can be too hot underfoot. Larger surfaces are ideal, as no one likes an edge poking the wing! Group several stones, or you can just choose one large (over 12" diameter) stone for a feature. Ensure you have plants beloved by butterflies so they have a nectar drink nearby. Visit our own Butterfly Meadow's Model Monarch Waystation to see how we are using stones to appeal to butterflies and other critters that like to bask.



# Volunteer Corner

**OFNC MEMBER OF THE YEAR: 2011 ~~~ BARRY COTTAM**

The OFNC recognised FWG volunteer Barry Cottam as its Member of the Year for 2011. Barry is the driving force behind our invasive species management programme, including his creation of the Tuesday Invasive Species Group. These intrepid souls make a huge swath of difference, keeping DSV as in check as possible. Barry is also active in other FWG projects and sits on the FWG Management Committee.

Barry is also one of the many volunteers who comes in outside of group hours to do work. He says he likes his greencercise, and has definitely lost 'desk weight' since retiring with his activity!



*Barry accepting his award. Photo by G Belyea*

If you happen to be strolling through FWG and see a solitary soul sweating it up with scythe in the DSV, shout out a thank you for all his hard work!

## FILL OUT YOUR VOLUNTEER SURVEY

Are you a current volunteer? Have you volunteered with FWG in the past, in any capacity? If so, then we need your input!

**THIS IS THE LAST MONTH TO COMPLETE YOUR SURVEY. HELP US HELP YOU AND NEW VOLUNTEERS BY PARTICIPATING!**



Please do visit our survey webpage:  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?pli=1&formkey=dDBSRFRYeDZsV2dKTIlpNFFDQzQwVnc6MQ#gid=0)

[viewform?pli=1&formkey=dDBSRFRYeDZsV2dKTIlpNFFDQzQwVnc6MQ#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?pli=1&formkey=dDBSRFRYeDZsV2dKTIlpNFFDQzQwVnc6MQ#gid=0)



## Introducing. . . Greencercise!

**by T Stanton-Kennedy**

Was one of your New Year's resolutions to get more fresh air and exercise? If it was, then maybe we can interest you in some greencercise – the new-fangled fad sweeping the Ottawa Valley! Quite simple in principle: get outside, move a lot and make a difference.

Our Tuesday morning Invasive Species Group is one way to get out there and work up a sweat tackling DSV and pulling Garlic Mustard – the latter is a gentle form of exercise. The Wednesday evening Butterfly Meadow group is another wonderful way to get exercise sifting and planting, especially if you work during the day.

Friday mornings can bring gentle workouts with weeding in the Backyard Garden, or setting off to pull Buckthorn or other more active jobs. If you can't commit, consider coming out to one of our weeding bees – we are having one every month this summer, always on a Sunday. Visit the website for up-to-date details.



*Desk job got you down? Get out there and WEED!*

We also encourage you to be vigilant in your community. Pull that Garlic Mustard under a neighbour's tree (ask permission, but if you are 100% certain as to species, perhaps some guerrilla weeding is necessary). Look for DSV being trellised by well-meaning gardeners who think a new native plant has volunteered itself. Go out and educate. We have various information sheets on our website to help. Make it a family activity and teach your children, school groups, friends and passers-by!

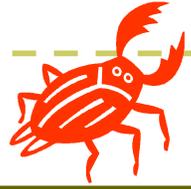
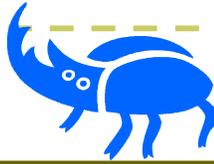
Invasive species management is in large part manual intervention. Keeping plants from spreading when you catch a small colony is very important, and something you can do that WILL make a difference. Educate yourself, and feel free to share our material with others.

DSV and Garlic Mustard are all over Ottawa. We've found it in the Glebe, Sandy Hill, Centretown, the University of Ottawa campus and no doubt it is further afield – those are just reports this year! Even gardening and creating habitat or food sources for pollinators is a form of greencercise. Greencercise is a great way to be active, get fresh air and make a positive difference in the environment – limber up and get on board today!

*Invasive species information on our website: [http://www.ofnc.ca/fletcher/research/invasives\\_e.php](http://www.ofnc.ca/fletcher/research/invasives_e.php)*



## FWG Event Space



### Get ready, get set and mark your calendars!

*It is going to be a busy year at FWG, with work bees, events and reminders of the annual Native Plant Sale. This new space will highlight FWG events for the entire season - so check back each month for additions and date confirmations (our website will always be the most current source.) Visit the OFNC and Friends of the Farm webpages for information on their great activities.*

## JUNE

Saturday, **June 2**, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM - the **Annual Native Plant Sale** at the Interpretation Centre.

Thursday, **June 7**, 6:30-8:30 PM - **An Evening Walk at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden**. Meet at the Interpretative Centre.

Saturday, **June 16**, 9:00 AM-12:30 PM - **Butterfly Meadow Planting Bee**. Meet at the Interpretation Centre or find us in the Butterfly Meadow!

## JULY

Sunday, **July 8**, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM - WEEDING BEE. Meet at the Interpretative Centre.

Sunday, **July 15**, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM - WEEDING BEE. Meet at the Interpretative Centre.

## UPCOMING

Sunday, **August 12** - WEEDING BEE

Sunday, **September 9** - WEEDING BEE

**Ottawa**  
**Fletcher Wildlife Garden**  
**Annual Native Plant Sale**

**Sat. June 2, 2012**  
**9:30AM to 12:30PM**  
 (Prince of Wales Drive,  
 south of the Arboretum)

### Links:

(**FWG**) - Check our website for more details if the newsletter isn't enough!

(**OFNC**) - For OFNC events, visit [www.ofnc.ca/events.php](http://www.ofnc.ca/events.php) for information.

(**FoF**) - For FoF events, visit [www.friendsofthefarm.ca/events.htm](http://www.friendsofthefarm.ca/events.htm) for information.

## Nature Note: Plant of the Month



Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) is a very interesting plant that can be seen on our Woodland Walk - it positively thrives there and reaches incredible heights for the species which is less common in the Ottawa Valley climate. In fall, the vivid red berries add great colour to the woods when most else is brown.

## Nature Notes: Bird of the Month

This Red-winged Blackbird nest is now completed and the female is beginning to sit. As you see, the nest is a substantial, deep cup. I took this photo from a considerable distance and cropped the image. The female was a bit agitated as a crow was flying over the pond and crows, as we know, will take eggs and young from birds such as blackbirds.

Please don't go to the pond edge as you'll disturb our nesting birds - use your zoom from the path or bridge. Now you have an excuse to invest in that super zoom!



## Nature Notes: Bug of the Month



A *Virginia ctenucha* caterpillar. Lots of these little guys around these days. A moth of the Arctiidae family, it is endemic to eastern North America, but has expanded its range westward.

