



What's Growing On? The Fletcher Wildlife Garden Newsletter

www.ofnc.ca/fletcher

August - September 2012

Monarch merriment!



Christine spotted this Monarch Butterfly hanging out in the Butterfly Meadow in late September. Not heading to Mexico just yet!

As the leaves slowly start to change colours, we're still busy collecting seed from late-blooming plants with a view to next year's plant sale. Lots of things are still in bloom in the BYG, keeping us from thinking about the impending snows.

Late summer and early autumn has seen several work bees to tackle DSV as well as student groups providing some much-needed person hours outside of those Sunday mornings. This year marks a new record for outside volunteer groups coming to help out!

The Butterfly Meadow is looking spectacular, with wonderful survival rates for plants despite the drought. The nursery is getting ready for winter with our plant frames – our attempt to keep SOME plants off our furry

tenants' snack schedules. Our new shed will face its first full winter, and the Manitoba Maple (*Acer negundo*) felled to facilitate its installation refuses to let go, re-sprouting again and again despite cutting.

In the BYG, Isabelle and crew have started to clear out the back area to expand the garden, and a new bench in memory of Juliet Hutchings has been installed facing the pond. Next year will see the plants around the pond also shifting to provide a better vista.

This edition of the newsletter is dedicated to butterflies, the Monarch Butterfly in particular. Don't forget, we also publish at least weekly on our blog at fletcherwildlifegarden.wordpress.com, so be sure

to bookmark the page or sign up for email alerts to not miss a single bit of goodness!

Next edition will be the last newsletter of 2012 before hibernation, so stay tuned!



Photo by B Cottam

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Mowing down the birds and the butterflies

text and photos by C Hanrahan

So, there you are, walking down a trail, enjoying the bounty of wildflowers, watching a monarch butterfly laying eggs, bees lazily buzzing as they gather pollen, a myriad of insects nectaring. It is a fine summer day, full of life and promise.

And then, a few days later, back you go, and horrors... all the vegetation has vanished. Mowed to the ground, everything destroyed, and the trail verges quiet and empty.

This scenario repeats, with slight variations, throughout the City of Ottawa, on both federally-managed (National Capital Commission and other Crown) land, and on city-owned land. Mowing along roadsides to allow for good visibility is not in question, but excessive, extensive cutting of roadside verges and mowing of nature trails, is something that defies logic.

Many, if not most, NCC and City-maintained nature trails are routinely mowed through the summer, constantly destroying flowering plants which provide nectar for a diversity of butterflies and beneficial insects. Furthermore, eggs and larvae of many butterfly species are destroyed. Nor do birds escape, for many species nest on the ground under or near shrubs, in tall vegetation, along verges.

Time was, mowing of natural areas was a rare event. Trails used for skiing were perhaps mowed in autumn, many others were rarely touched. I can't recall when this peculiar trend toward treating natural areas as extensions of city streets began, but it must date back at least a dozen years.

It is not only nature trails that we should be concerned about. Huge swathes are regularly mowed along roads, far beyond what common sense would dictate for safety. Indeed, could it be that extreme mowing is as much a matter of aesthetics as perceived safety, our manic desire to "tidy up" nature? In so doing, we are destroying important habitats for many invertebrate species, as well as for birds and small mammals.



No mowing, 7 July 2012

Meadow-type habitat and old fields are on the decline



here, as elsewhere, but the verges of roads and trails provide a linear substitute of sorts, with their mix of grass and wildflowers, so attractive to butterflies and other wildlife.

In Britain, roadside verges are recognized as important habitats. In the US, many states are now looking at their policies of continued summertime mowing of verges. The City of Ottawa and the

After mowing, 21 June 2012

NCC would do well to review policies on this practice. We need to question why it is deemed necessary to mow nature trails, for one thing. And for another, we should be looking at how best to provide safe visibility along roads, while still maintaining floriferous verges. It can be done, but there must be a will before there is a way.

Mowing, however, is not *de facto* a bad thing. Left un-mowed, nature will reclaim open sites with trees and shrubs. It is less the fact of mowing and more the timing, that is so frustrating. In the first flush of summer, when plants are lushly blooming, and larval host plants are plentiful, encouraging butterflies to lay eggs, along comes the mower and kills off everything. Then, just when it is all growing back, it is once again decimated. We probably all have tales to tell of witnessing such destruction.

And so, we must educate the powers that be, about the importance of these roadside and trailside verges. We have to ask why the desire to mow natural areas and other places rich with flowers just when they are at their blooming best.

If you Google terms such as "impacts of roadside mowing on wildlife", many articles, both scholarly and not, will pop up, providing many good talking points on this issue.

Ed Note . . .

The debate about mowing for purposes other than grassland regeneration is complicated stuff on many levels, such as for invasive plant species management and tick control. FWG has inquired before about the reasons behind mowing schedules, and the usual response is that mowing occurs when the contractor is able to - and most mowing is done with larger equipment than in the past, therefore larger swathes are cleared even with a single pass.

To learn more about the aesthetics debate of mowing, read some of J Nassauer's work - one of the earlier and more prolific researchers into messy ecosystems and orderly frames (selected papers below) or revisit a quick discussion in our August 2011 newsletter (<http://www.ofnc.ca/fletcher/newsletter/Aug2011.pdf#page=10>):

<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~nassauer/Publications/09LUPNeighborsNassauer.pdf>
http://www-personal.umich.edu/~nassauer/Publications/Nassauer_Opdam_2008_design_in_science.pdf

Monarch Teacher Network Workshops

text and photo by Joan Harvey



Can you imagine your child excitedly coming home after the first day of school to tell you about the Monarch Butterfly that hatched in her classroom? Or listening to your four-year-old tell you that a passing butterfly was a male Monarch? Or that Monarch caterpillars shed their skin five times before turning into a chrysalis?

If this happened, then in all likelihood, your child's teacher took a Monarch Teacher Network workshop. Every summer the Monarch Teacher Network of Canada holds a series of 2-day workshops across Canada. They provide teachers with the knowledge, skills and resources to raise Monarchs in the classroom. Raising Monarchs is used as a vehicle to teach all areas of the curriculum: literacy, math, science, music, art and gym. This July, we were fortunate to have two workshops in Ottawa, one in English and the first-ever French workshop.

Workshop participants were fascinated as they watched caterpillars emerge from eggs, chew on milkweed leaves, shed their skins, form chrysalides and emerge as butterflies. They learned to feed the adult Monarchs sugar water so that, in the fall, the butterflies would be well-fed before starting their journey to their overwintering sites in Mexico. One of the highlights of the workshops is the release ceremony, where well-fed adults are released back into the environment.

The existence of overwintering sites in Mexico was a mystery until the 1970s when they were discovered through a tagging program undertaken by Professor Fred Urquhart of the University of Toronto.

Workshop participants visited existing school gardens and were taught how to set up "Monarch Waystations" in their schools. These gardens provide host plants (milkweeds) for the caterpillars and nectar plants for the adult butterflies.

(Continued on page 5)

Participants learned about the Canadian website "ebutterfly.ca" that is used by scientists, citizens and students to add their observations and sightings of butterflies across Canada. This is a very useful tool for tracking migration routes and gaining information about the environment and butterfly habitats.

As always, the workshops were filled with excitement, laughter and amazement. The participants left enthusiastically and well prepared to start teaching their students in September about the Monarch butterfly.

Joan Harvey is a retired teacher and an avid supporter of all things Monarch. We met her when we were asked by a local teacher for help setting up a butterfly garden at her school. Joan attended the FWG Monarch meeting last spring and has become a key ally in the butterfly conservation network we are creating.

The screenshot shows the website for the Monarch Teacher Network of Canada. The top navigation bar includes 'HOME ABOUT CONTACT'. The main heading is 'Teaching & Learning WITH MONARCH BUTTERFLIES'. On the left, there is a sidebar menu with the following items: 'Subscribe to E-news', 'About Us', 'Find a Workshop', 'Past Workshops', 'Fellowships', 'Volunteers', 'Sponsors and Partners', 'Teacher Support', 'Resources', 'Links', and 'Scientific Collectors Permits'. The main content area features a large photograph of a monarch butterfly perched on a purple flower.

<http://www.monarchteacher.ca>

Other Monarch Butterfly teaching resources ●●●

Journey North: <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/monarch/Resources.html>

The Children's Butterfly Site: <http://www.kidsbutterfly.org/>

Canadian Geographic: <http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/wildlife-nature/?path=english/learning-resources/monarch-butterfly-climate-change>

University of Minnesota Monarch Lab: <http://www.monarchlab.org/default.aspx>

US Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/monarchbutterfly/teacherandstudent/index.shtml>

Birth of a Monarch Butterfly

photos by Isabelle Nicol

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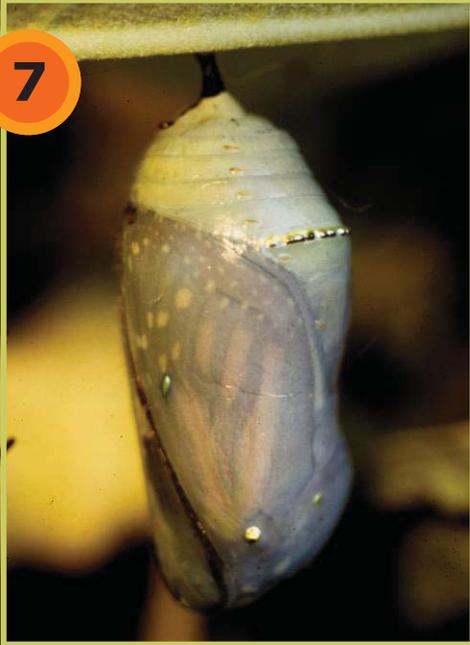
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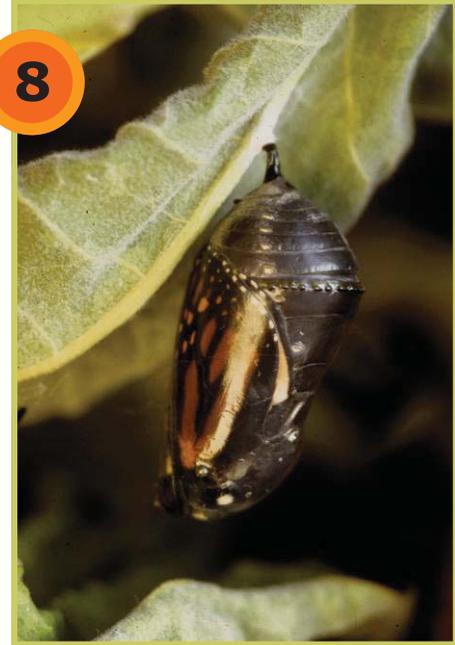
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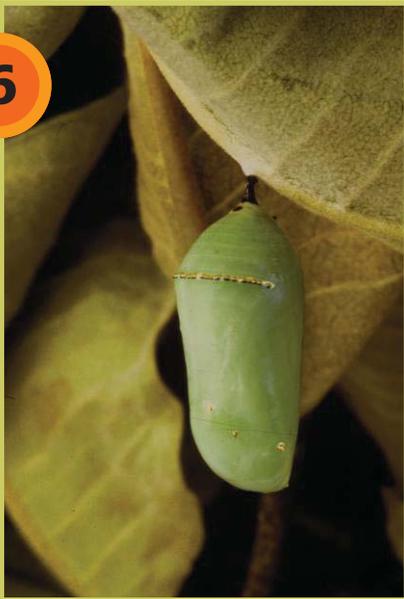
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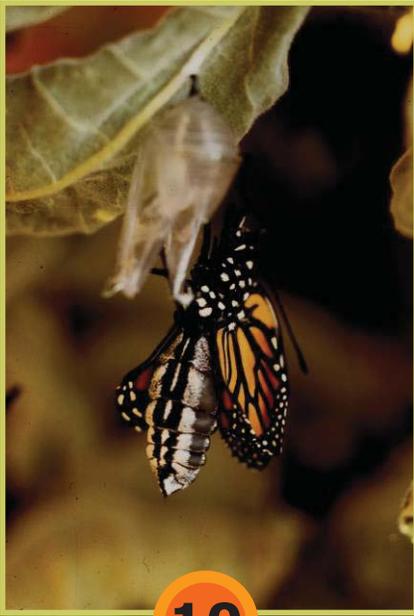
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* Photo 0 by C Hanrahan



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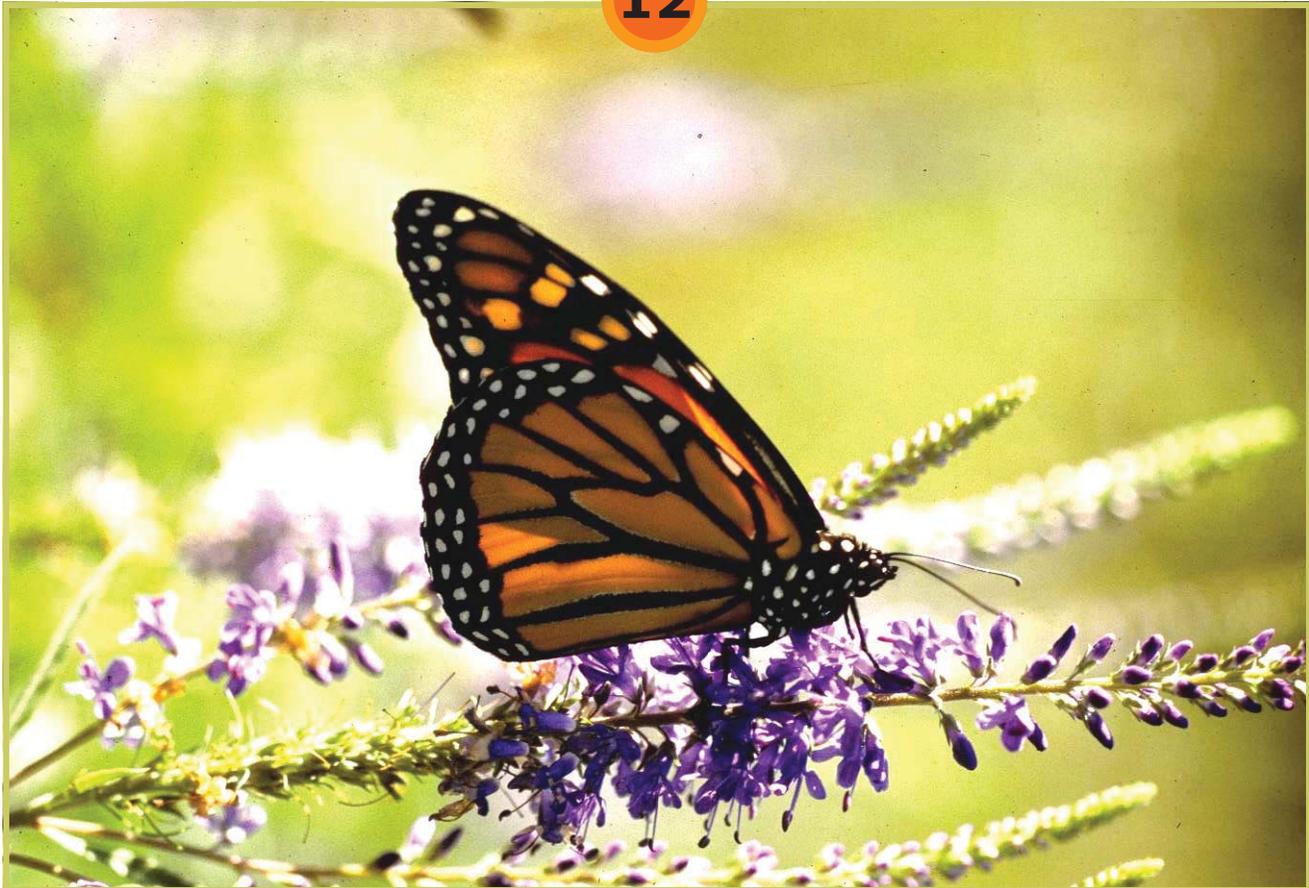


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News from the Monarch Network

As part of our Monarch Waystation Project, we invited people involved in butterfly conservation to a meeting in spring 2012. We hope this is the beginning of a network to share information and support each other's efforts. Here's some news from some of the members.

• • • 1000 monarch records in eButterfly

From Maxim Larivée, chef de section, Collections entomologiques et recherché, Insectarium de Montréal

From the eButterfly perspective on Canadian monarch research and education, we are working on defining a detailed collaboration with the Monarch Teacher's Network, and we plan on integrating our efforts with those of the monarch educational monarch initiatives at the Montréal Insectarium.

eButterfly now has a simple dedicated monarch submission form and a project page displaying all the monarch records submitted since the beginning of the 2012 season — nearly 1000 records from across the country and the third-most submitted species. (The link is not yet visible on the web site but you can see it at www.ebutterfly.ca/records/project_monarch.)

We encourage you to share all your butterfly sightings and talk about the website to anyone into monarchs and butterflies in general. Although we have yet to establish official collaborations with Monarch Watch and Journey North, I guarantee that all the information we gather about monarchs on eButterfly will be shared with any other North American monarch initiative that would like to use it.

• • • Potential waystation at Cairine Wilson Secondary School

From Kathryn Currie, teacher

I guess I should apply to get our little Butterfly Garden status as a Monarch Waystation. Its small (20' by 10'), but shows what can be done in a small space.

Unfortunately, our school year doesn't quite mesh with the monarch life cycle as school is out for July and August, but we raised Painted Ladies (*Vanessa cardui*) for release successfully this year and I think that is very much a "gateway" activity to butterfly conservation. Much thanks to Joan Harvey who shared a few of her Painted Ladies last year, which got us onto this. The response was very positive and we would like to do this regularly.

The company we buy larvae from, Boreal Northwest, is in St. Catharine's Ontario, so the butterflies are native and raising them in May and releasing them in June fits nicely into the school calendar. The instructions are quite clear and it is worth the few extra dollars to get a proper conservatory for them, which can be used year after year. And we have a nice garden in which to release them.



Photo by fellow teacher, Anne Donaghy

Waystation Maitland Garden of Hope ● ● ●

From Colleen O'Connell and Dave Cybulski, Maitland Garden of Hope and monarch waystation owners



We have had a very successful butterfly summer. Our registered Monarch Waystation has attracted more monarchs than last year and we were fortunate to have them lay eggs on the milkweed. The wildflower garden was full of Eastern Swallowtails and I have never seen so many Red Admirals and Painted Ladies. They loved the zinnia garden. At 2 in the afternoon, we would have 40 to 50 in the gardens. Approximately two weeks ago, we had many Black Swallowtails attracted by our Queen Anne's Lace in the wildflower gardens.

Due to the hot summer, our butterfly feeder was a big hit, and oranges were the main draw. Maitland Garden of Hope (<http://maitlandgardenofhope.wordpress.com>) had 300 visitors this summer. We met many avid naturalists, who kindly shared their knowledge with us.

Take care and enjoy Canada's beautiful fall season.

Great season for butterflies ● ● ●

From Jean Lauriault, associate of the Canadian Museum of Nature and local butterfly expert



Monarch Butterflies spotted on a patch of chives in late May, 2012. J Lauriault

I'm sure you've already heard that this is one of the best summers ever for the Painted Lady, not at my home in Aylmer, but south of Ottawa. A few weeks ago (in mid-August), driving on highway 416, we saw literally hundreds of Painted Ladies; they were all over — crossing the highway. Friends who have a farm near St Pascal saw the same phenomenon at their place — hundreds of Painted Ladies near the forest or in damp areas.

I've never seen so many butterflies in one area except in Mexico or at Point Pelee.

For monarchs at my home in Aylmer, I would say it is the same as last year; they were not numerous, but we saw a few each week in my fields.



Painted Lady by Anne Donaghy

News from the Monarch Network

• • • Butterflies at the FWG

From Sandy Garland, FWG Management Committee

Our “monarch season” has been a series of highs and lows this year. It started when we saw the first one on June 6 — in the Butterfly Meadow!

We were very pleased to note that all the milkweeds planted last fall had survived their transplant and winter and were doing well. Unfortunately, the mid-summer drought wiped out most of the new plants, although we have hopes they’ll come back next year.

We saw monarchs often and found eggs and caterpillars on Common Milkweed plants every now and then. Unfortunately, they seemed to disappear by the following week, and we were worried that they were falling prey to parasites or predators.

Christine enrolled the FWG in the University of Minnesota’s Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (<http://www.mlmp.org/default.aspx>) and has dutifully reported all sightings of eggs, larvae, and adult monarchs. She also reports all butterflies seen at the FWG to eButterfly (<http://ebutterfly.ca/>).

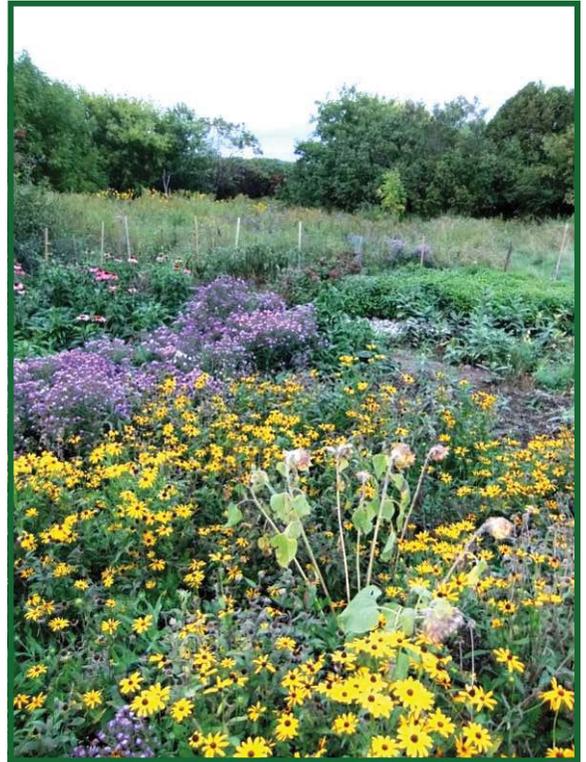
Because monarchs prefer fresh leaves to lay eggs on, we tried cutting back some of our milkweed plants in July after they had finished blooming. Possibly because of the dry hot weather, the expected side shoots never appeared and these plants just stopped growing.

Meanwhile, Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada mowed a strip of grass along the service road that runs through the FWG (Green Heron Lane) and, within a couple of weeks, milkweed shoots were popping up there — and we found eggs on them!! Five! But, by the next week, they were gone.

Finally, a few weeks ago, some of our volunteers found four large monarch caterpillars in the backyard garden, this time on Butterfly Weed. This was doubly exciting because it was the first time we had evidence that monarchs use this plant. The same week, we found another last-instar caterpillar on the milkweeds next to Green Heron Lane.

We’re hoping those five “cats” have pupated successfully and are now ready to burst out and fly off to Mexico.

Meanwhile, we are still battling Dog-strangling Vine and other invasives, hoping to make space for the hundreds of milkweed plants we’ve grown for our waystation.



Butterfly Meadow, late September 2012

FWG WANTS YOUR AUTUMN LEAVES!



We add leaves to our compost and as mulch to save on weeding and watering.

Please: No dog poop, large sticks or garbage.

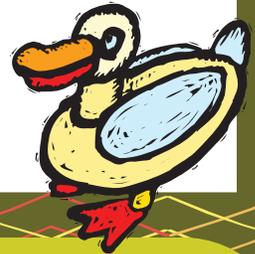
Leave bags by shed.

fletcher@ofnc.ca

Thank you!!!



Christine captured these Black Ducks feeding in the Amphibian Pond - few things are more entertaining than watching ducks bob down, thus mooning the rest of us!



WANTED: Items FWG Could Use!

- ✧ 3 and 4-inch SQUARE pots, or shrub-sized large pots.
- ✧ 6-inch SQUARE pots
- ✧ 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!
- ✧ Old newspapers we can use for mulch by the Butterfly Meadow
- ✧ Pool liner pieces
- ✧ If you have Common Milkweeds to donate, now is the time to dig them up. Please wrap the roots (and as much soil as possible) in plastic bags and bring the plants to the FWG. They can be left in the shade next to our shed, but please let us know so that we can plant them as quickly as possible - fletcher@ofnc.ca

The New FWG Blog!

Fletcher Wildlife Garden

A long-term habitat project of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Home About Contact Posts

SEARCH

GO



FEATURED POSTS



Still looking for native plants for your garden? Updated sale list here!

After a day of great sales (thank you!), we have now had a chance to re-inventory our stock and decide what will still be available for sale. The pdf contains this information. Some plants are listed as 'ASK', which means we have very limited numbers. We do have a few plants of Wild Bergamot and... [Continue reading](#)

WORK BEES! COME ON OUT!

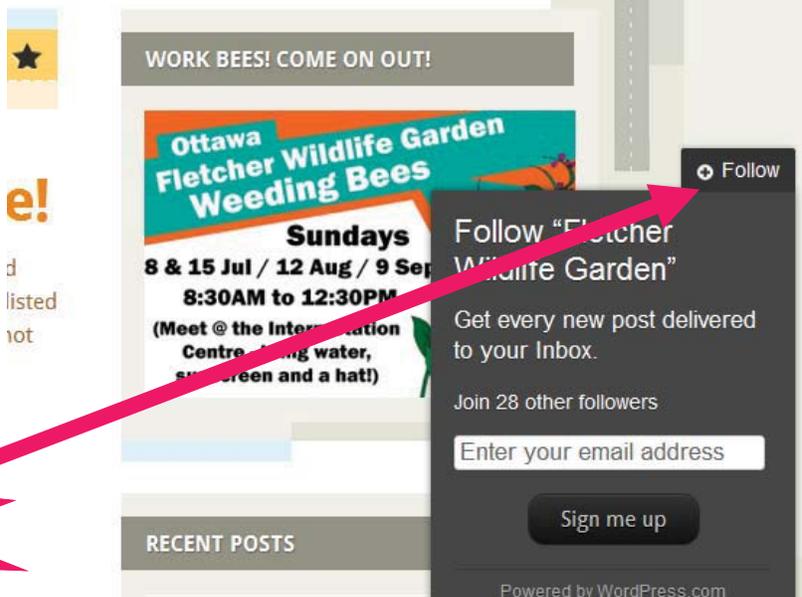
Ottawa Fletcher Wildlife Garden Weeding Bees

Sundays
8 & 15 Jul / 12 Aug / 9 Sep
8:30AM to 12:30PM
(Meet @ the Interpretation Centre - bring water, sunscreen and a hat!)



Last issue, we announced our brand new blog, which will allow us to share information and photos with you more easily. So far, we are getting "hits" (Internet-speak for page visits) from around the world! Have you visited the blog yet to read the content? We try to publish two or three items a week and, for the forgetful among us, there is a handy feature that will send you a notice every time something is published (see smaller image, this page)! Don't be left out; be in the vanguard so you can claim that you read it FIRST!

Look for the "Follow" box at the lower right-hand side of your screen. Click on it to get this larger box where you fill in your information. Conversely, you can scroll down to the very bottom of any page and at the left-hand side you will see a light grey button that says "Follow". Click on this to accomplish the same thing!



click!

In case you missed it, FWG also has a photo blog

When considering hidden jewels, FWG is to the City of Ottawa much like our PBase gallery is to FWG – few people know about it, but those who do are great enthusiasts. The images used in the Nature Notes section are gleaned from the monthly galleries, while others in the newsletter or blog are frequently from back galleries.

PBase is an online photo sharing tool, where users pay for an account of a certain storage size. FWG (through Christine Hanrahan) maintains multiple galleries, including photos arranged by month for the last two years. More importantly, the PBase gallery contains a visual database of most insects found at FWG, making identification easier for visitors.

There are also photos from the history of FWG, and of mammals, amphibians, birds and plants – although these galleries are not as comprehensive as the insect ones.

Most photos are accompanied by a description or short story, written by Christine. Many photos are taken by other FWG volunteers and visitors.

New images are uploaded every week, and an excellent way to follow bloom times, leaf colour time and other changes in the natural world around us.

So, if you want to experience FWG from the comfort of home, or work on your identification skills, a visit to the FWG photo blog at PBase is not to be missed!

PBase | galleries | forum | search | help | login
 Fletcher Wildlife Garden | profile | guestbook | all galleries | recent | tree view | thumbnails

The Fletcher Wildlife Garden turned 20 in 2010!

The Fletcher Wildlife Garden (FWG) was initiated in 1990 on a 6 hectare site on the Central Experimental Farm located in the middle of Ottawa, close to downtown. It is adjacent to the Dominion Arboretum and close to the Rideau Canal. Our goal is to encourage as many people as possible to create or restore natural landscapes on their urban or rural property for the benefit of wildlife and the environment.

The FWG site contains a variety of natural habitats which have been restored and enhanced over time. Ongoing maintenance ensures that these habitats provide a wide range of potential homes for regional wildlife.

For more information about the FWG, please see Fletcher Wildlife Garden. You'll find a wealth of information about wildlife, gardening with wildlife in mind, gardening with native plants, and much more.



:: FWG Blog:
September 2012 ::



:: FWG Blog:
August 2012 ::



:: Moth
Caterpillars ::



:: Slugs and Snails
(Gastropoda) of
the FWG ::



:: Monarch
Waystation Project
(3 Sub-galleries) ::

<http://www.pbase.com/fwg>

In and Around FWG



FWG is the honoured recipient of a bench for contemplating nature. At the back of the BYG, a second bench was installed facing the pond. The Hutchings family wanted a memorial bench for Juliet Hutchings, who visited the BYG frequently and found great joy in its beauty.

To the left of the bench, work has started on expanding the BYG. A dry river bed garden will meander beneath the Wild Plums, and over the next gardening season the area will be a focus for new planting.

Meanwhile, most of the trees planted this year in the ravine have survived their first summer, although the drought did take its toll (especially on our Bur Oaks and Eastern White Hemlocks). Steven Hum, Brian Haddon and Sandy Garland were among the regular waterers who braved the slope, hawthorn thorns and hose hauling to provide much needed moisture. We did start a trial of tree watering bags late in the season, and found that on a slope they were slightly problematic in their desire to tip over despite tying them to stakes. The bags are also not designed for shrubs and still



Sandy happily gets the hose nozzle to stay in the bag opening, and then patiently waits until it fills.

require a hose to be hauled around for filling. Next season, we'll see what the weather brings and try them on trees in very specific situations. We're also pondering other alternative watering systems that would require fewer human hours.

Multiple bags can be zipped together for larger trunks. . . or attempted around multi-stemmed shrubs with less success.



Diane is thrilled at the help in the Birch Grove.

Over in the Butterfly Meadow, changes are happening in what we call the Birch Grove, which forms a buffer between the meadow and the farm road that divides this zone from the Ash Woodlot. The birches are mostly European varieties left over from the early days, when this land was slated for a botanical garden. Many are now at the end of their life cycle, and so the opportunity exists to add more native birch species and shrubs. Diane (the Butterfly Meadow habitat manager and head of the Wednesday volunteer group) has had her eye on the area, but the Monarch Waystation Project initially focused efforts on the open areas of the meadow. Regular Wednesday volunteers are usually busy in the open areas as well. (Think about joining them next season - this group is the only one that operates outside regular workday hours from 6 or 6:30 pm until dark).

Regular Friday volunteer Renate saw an opportunity to incorporate this FWG project into her class curriculum at Carleton University. She knows our negative feelings about students who abuse FWG land, so why not introduce us to those students who will contribute their energy for positive change? Over two work sessions, her students are providing the bulk of the human labour needed to remove unwanted trees, dig holes, plant trees and pull out the usual masses of Dog-strangling Vine. And, wow, this group certainly made a huge difference very quickly! We're thrilled at this partnership, as we are with all groups who come to FWG to volunteer.

Finally, we've started preparing the Interpretation



Ted works with students to remove larger trees using our tree wrenches.

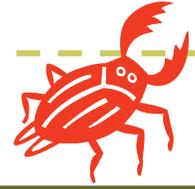
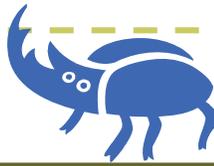


The removed woody matter will be used to construct brush piles for animals to live in. Some birch trunks will also be used to edge paths in the Butterfly Meadow. Their pale bark is great for visibility even in low-light situations.

An amazing amount of large woody debris was carried out, but usually we would leave such things on the ground as part of a healthy forest ecosystem.

Centre for the coming cold weather. Down come the screens from the windows and up go the storm windows. We'll need to replace our ribbon strings which are used to prevent bird collisions with the glass panes. Soon, the Interpretation Centre will have a festive appearance! We'll also have to stop up any means of entrance for eager red squirrels that somehow find their way in - not that they can be blamed, as who wouldn't want a heated, climate-controlled nest?

FWG Event Space



Get ready, get set and mark your calendars!

October

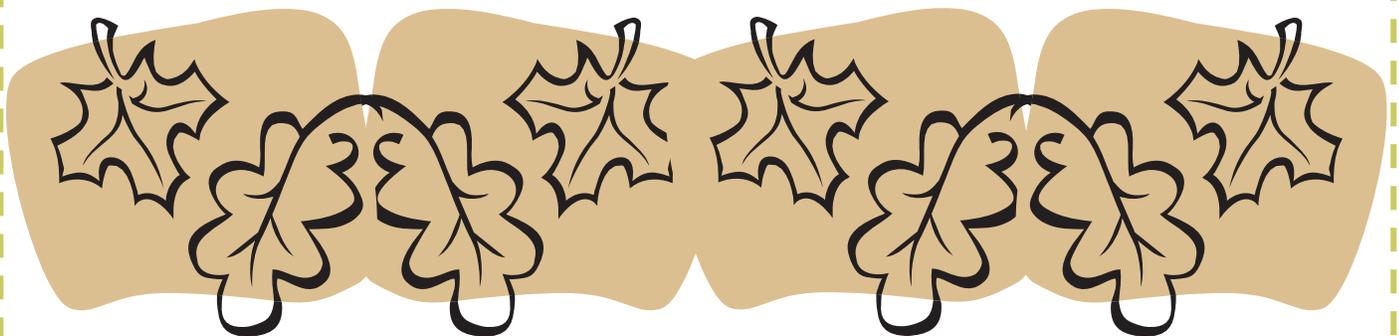
>> Saturday, **20 October, 3:00 PM to Sunday, 21 October, 3:00 PM - Ottawa-Gatineau Fall Bird Count**

Location: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre

Come out for this great traditional birding event in the Ottawa-Gatineau area! You don't need to be an "expert" birder to join in - even counting birds at your feeder from the comfort of your own home can be an important contribution. The more participants the better - to discover what's out there in our area during the fall and winter seasons! Volunteers cover the area within a 50-km radius of the Peace Tower.

The post-count compilation (free pizza, coffee, soft drinks and dessert for all participants!) will be held after the count on Sunday, at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretive Centre approx. 4:30 - 8:00 PM For more information, please contact birdcounts@ofnc.ca with "Information on the Ottawa-Gatineau Fall Bird Count" as the subject heading.

This is a wonderful way to join in a citizen science activity and contribute important information about our urban and rural bird populations!



Links:

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

(OFNC) - For OFNC events, visit www.ofnc.ca/events.php for information.

(FoF) - For FoF events, visit www.friendsofthefarm.ca/events.htm for information.

November

>> Sunday, **18 November, 7:00 PM - Glimpses of Wildlife - A Collection of Short Videos**

Presenter: Jeewa Mendis

Location: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre

Jeewa has captured precious moments of wildlife on her video camera. These include activities in air, on land and in water, of various birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. Come see what can be accomplished with much patience and skill.

December

>> Sunday, **2 December, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Insect Workshop**

Leader: Fenja Brodo (613-723-2054, fbrodo@sympatico.ca)

Location: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre

This will be an introduction to basic entomology with the focus on distinguishing the main orders of insects (Orthoptera, Ephemeroptera, Diptera, Coleoptera, Lepidoptera, etc.). Microscopes, books, keys and real specimens will help participants see and appreciate the beauty and the intricacy of insect structures that set the different groups apart. We need to limit this workshop to 12 people so please register with Fenja if you plan to attend.

FWG Management Committee meetings are the 4th Wednesday of the month, starting at 7:00 PM. Volunteers are welcome to attend!



Sparrows at the BYG water bath. Soon, we'll take the basin inside to protect from freezing.



Creative Corner: Be a Monarch Butterfly this Halloween!

Home-made costumes can be daunting for many non-sewers, but here is a no-sew version of a Monarch Butterfly! You can make this simpler or fancier depending on whether you decide to sew, have patience for measuring and cutting, or make the wings more accurate. This is a great costume for our cold climates, and we provide two versions accordingly. If you like to knit, why not make a striped sweater for baby in the colours of a monarch caterpillar? Dress yourself up as a flower and head out with the family to go nectaring - ahem, trick-or-treating - this October 31st! You can make any butterfly with this design.

You Will Need

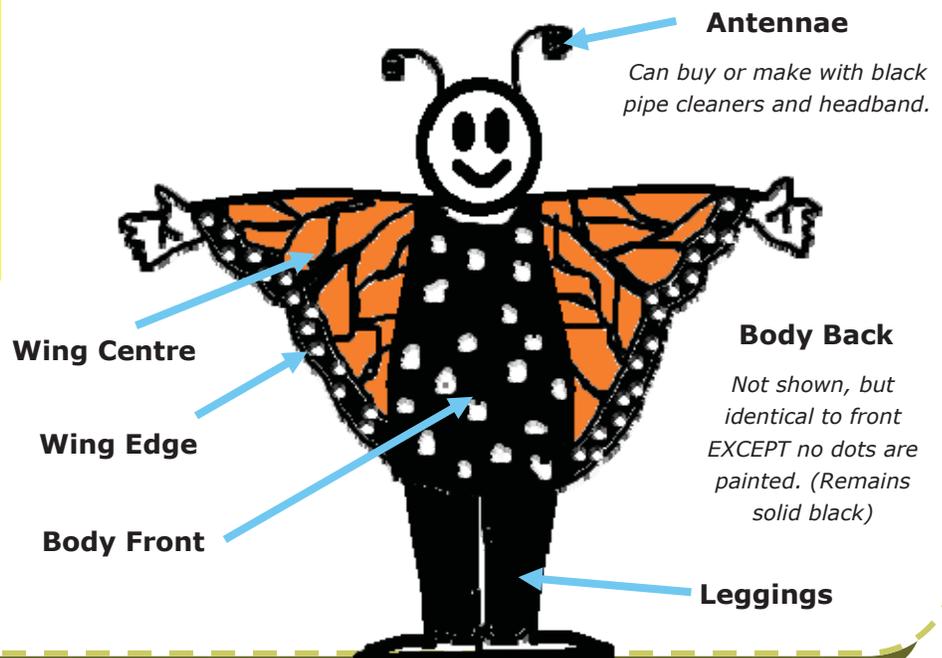
- ✂ Orange fabric
- ✂ Black t-shirt or pillow case (you can dye a white cotton one with fabric dye)
- ✂ Black fabric paint
- ✂ White fabric paint
- ✂ Fabric glue
- ✂ Good scissors
- ✂ Chalk
- ✂ Pins
- ✂ Measuring tape or ability to eye-ball
- ✂ Black leggings, tutu with tights or trousers

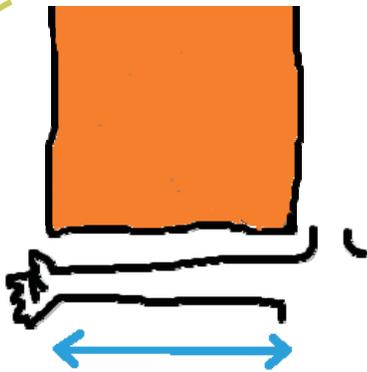


The amount of fabric you need will depend on the size of the t-shirt and length of the costumee's arms. The perfect shade of orange is always available at this time of year for Halloween, but if you can't get fabric then simply dye a cotton sheet. Buy a larger t-shirt if you want it to go past the costumee's bum, or use a dyed pillow case and cut out head and arm holes (easily done by placing a t-shirt over top and marking with chalk the opening widths.)

Version 1 of the costume glues the wings to the side of the t-shirt or pillow case (hereafter referred to as 'body'). Version 2 is measured the same way, but the wings are glued to the edges of a pillow case cut all the length of its long edges, or two rectangular pieces of black fabric. V2 fits like a poncho, and you just need to glue the wings at the wrists to make hand openings, preventing the poncho from de-centering during wear and wing flapping. Ideal for putting over winter coats!

Use face paint to decorate the face (just Google for ideas) and optionally face glitter. Consider spray glitter for the wings for added pizzazz.

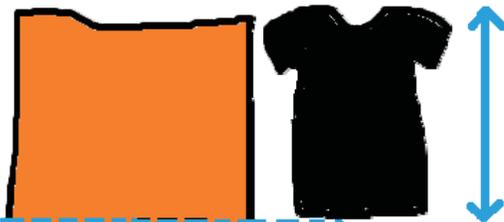




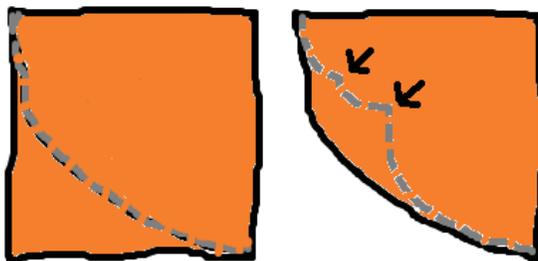
✂ Measure the length of the costumee's arm from mid-shoulder to wrist. You will need the fabric width to be this wide. You may need to glue multiple pieces together.

✂ Measure the length of the t-shirt or case from shoulder to hem. This is the length of your wing and fabric. Multiply this by two, since your wing has two sides. You need a rectangle for each arm.

✂ Take your rectangle and fold it over. You can test the length by draping it over the costumee's outstretched arm and ensuring it reaches to the hem.



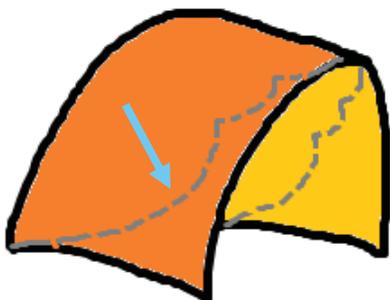
✂ Trace the outline of a wing. The top wing has two bumps, the bottom only one. Refer to our simplified butterfly drawing below. You may find it easier to first draw a curve from top corner to bottom corner opposite to create boundaries.



✂ Cut the folded fabric along your wing chalk line ONLY. Now you have a wing. Repeat on the other rectangle for the other arm.

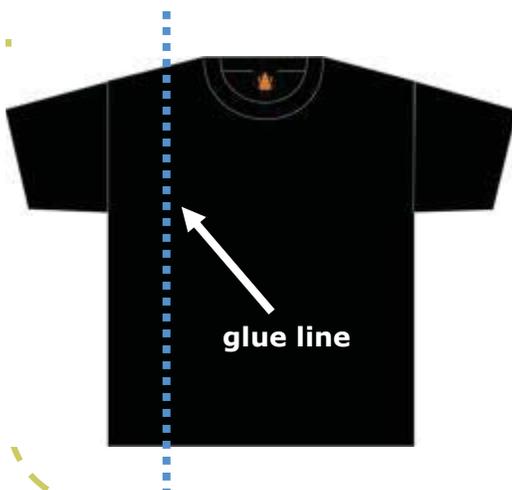
✂ Glue the long edge of the wing to your t-shirt, lining it up so it goes over mid-shoulder. Be sure to glue all along the edge, and not just at the shoulders!

✂ Paint a thick black border along the wing edges, and the wing veins in black. Look at our simplified wing image below. Let dry. If feeling ambitious, make the wing border out of black material and glue on (just trace the existing wing.)

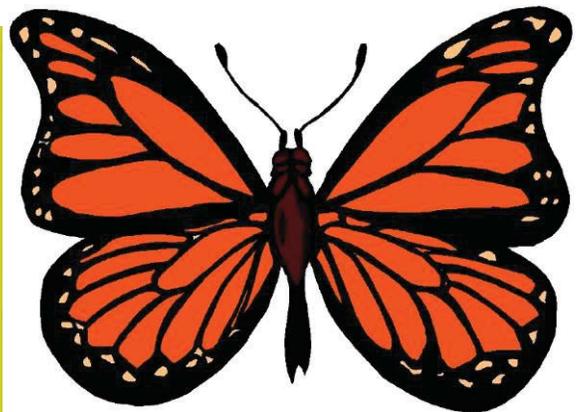


✂ Paint the white dots on the wings and the front of the body. Refer to Monarch Butterfly photos for inspiration on patterns!

✂ Try it on and have fun! Share monarch facts with neighbours instead of a trick!



See how the front body and face have white dots?



Note where veins are thicker and where the dip in the upper wing occurs.

Nature Notes: Plant of the Month



Isn't this a beautiful pattern? Barry photographed this leaf, completely riddled by a leaf-mining insect. There are any number of insects who do this kind of thing, so it could be a leaf-mining moth, or a fly. It's less likely to be a beetle as the lines are too fine. At any rate, whatever insect made this pattern, it is beautiful.

Photo: B Cottam

Nature Notes: Bird of the Month

While sitting on the bench at the Butterfly Meadow, I could hear a House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) calling repeatedly nearby. Eventually I saw a couple of wrens including the pictured juvenile and an adult.

According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, "In summer, House Wrens are at home in open forests, forest edges and areas with scattered grass and trees. Backyards, farmyards, and city parks are perfect for them."



Nature Notes: Bug of the Month



Thanks to Diane for identifying this large moth, a Darling Underwing (*Catocala cara*) as photographed by Al. Catocala moths are in the Noctuidae family. This one is a new species for our FWG moth list!

Photo (left): A Beaulieu

Right: with wings slightly open - note the tell-tale stripes. Photo: P Dyer



All Nature Notes photos and text by Christine Hanrahan unless otherwise stated — see more on our PHOTOBLOG: www.pbbase.com/fwq!