

Wonderful Fur & Feather Workshop – Review



Sarah explains how to distinguish tracks in the snow



Sarah finds a cache of . . . human snacks!

The tour was photographed by Tom Kingsbury

Last Saturday morning, Naturalist Sarah Dixon led a small group of enthusiastic explorers along the Black Trail (Snowshoe) in what we describe as perfect winter weather: sunny skies and a rising temperature around zero.

As the group walked through Blossom Corner, Sarah pointed out an old Crow's nest that was reused by a pair of Cooper's Hawks last spring, a typical behaviour of some birds of prey.

The now famous [Dale Field red fox](#), was also a topic of discussion with the group. Sarah had originally found its tracks in the first snows of the early winter and from her finding, member Pascal Marchand was able to realise an incredible 40 minute compilation from his patient encounters with the wild canid – find it on his web page: [The 4K Guy](#).

The Barred Owl – also featured by [The 4K Guy](#) – was nowhere to be seen during the tour – several people have been reporting seeing one (or more?) this winter in various central locations of the Arboretum. Sarah showed the group one of its pellets, which she had found a day or two after observing the owl swallow a rodent whole. Owl pellets are a treat to Sarah's inquisitive mind: within it one finds a fascinating collection of intact bones that can reveal the prey's identity down to the species!

Participants went away with some handy skills on how to look for signs of the presence of wildlife in their surroundings and to enjoy the rest of a truly beautiful winter day.

Sugaring Off

Sundays 12 – 4 pm, March 24 & 31, 2019

You'd have to have been hibernating to have missed the recent sunshine and lengthening of the days, but the best part of this time of year is running through the trees: maple sap!

Our Sugaring Off events will take place on both of the last Sundays of this month. Activities will be **ongoing** throughout the afternoon. It takes about an hour and a half to see and do everything. Come and enjoy a staple of Quebec history with us!

[More Details](#)

[March 24th Facebook Event](#)

[March 31st Facebook Event](#)



Boiling sap in the shack Photo: Paul Scheiwiller

Call for Volunteers

Wow! Thank you so much to everyone who contacted us last week to volunteer for the activities listed in our last edition.

We were pleasantly surprised and very grateful for the number of you who came forward. We still have room at the following activities for anyone who is interested and available to help. Cheers!

Maple Sap Collecting and Boiling

Are you generally available during the coming few weeks to work in the outdoors?

Write to [Scott Pemberton](#) to offer your services or request additional details.



One drop at a time Photo: Paul Scheiwiller

Sugaring Off Events Support

Sundays, March 24 and March 31, 12 – 4 pm

Tasks include:

- cooking or serving food or taffy
- taking tickets
- baking goodies
- leading tours
- helping organize parking

Contact [Scott Pemberton](#) for more info.



Sarah Dixon explains the making of syrup Photo: Frans Lecluse



Info : 514-398-7811

www.morganarboretum.org