

Morgan Arboretum



Photo: Kimberly John

As you probably know, amphibian migration takes place within the Arboretum at this time of year. We received excellent news this week from a member visiting the Arboretum: salamanders have been spotted (pun intended) waking up from hibernation. Many amphibians will soon be setting out on a journey from their winter homes in the forests to their fresh water breeding habitats.

CAUTION ON THE ACCESS ROAD: The amphibian crossing warning signs will be out during the migration to remind you to slow down as you drive up the access road, from the intersection with the road on your right leading east towards the back of the EcoMuseum(about 100 m before the Gatehouse) to where you park, as well as on the way back of course.

Let's all be vigilant to help protect amphibians on a mission.

AMPHIBIAN MIGRATION DATA COLLECTION INITIATIVE

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

While it is clear to us from previous years' observations that a number of species pass over the access road as they migrate from the forests on their way east towards Stoneycroft Pond, we want to get a better understanding of the scale of the migration and the challenges that can impede the success of their journey.

We are seeking help to collect data during the next three weeks, noting temperature and road conditions, as well as identifying and counting individuals as they cross the access road. The main species on the move are the Red-spotted Newt, Blue-spotted Salamander, American Toad, Wood Frog, Spring Peeper and some beetles.

This will take place from Monday, April 15 to approximately Friday, May 3. During that period, we are hoping to do one one-hour sweep of the road every evening. We are also interested in comparing the situation at different times of the day and night. The evening shifts will start at 8:30 pm, but we will also need help before sunrise and at any time during the day. The results of the 2019 survey will be made public and the citizen science volunteers thereby acknowledged.

If you would like to take part in this initiative and are available to collect data during the next three weeks, contact us at morgan.arboretum@mcgill.ca to let us know of your interest, availability and experience in biological identification (beginners are welcome). A training session to learn how to proceed with data collecting will take place at the Conservation Centre, on this coming Monday, April 15, 8:00 to 9:30 pm – please mention if you will be able to attend.



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www.arboretummorgan.org