

# Arboretum Morgan



*The Arboretum looks great in green! Photo: Paul Scheiwiller*

## A special time to visit the forest

Oh how the forest has changed! In only the short time since we sent the last Arbo Info update, the forest has practically exploded into its most verdant shade of green: leaves are opening, ferns have unfurled, ephemerals are **finally** blossoming in large numbers and many species of migratory birds are passing through (see next article!). Fortunately, the chilly weather seems to be keeping mosquito populations down. If you're unable to visit in person, keep an eye on our Instagram story to experience the awe-inspiring sights and sounds of the spring forest.



*Solitary Sandpiper*



*Yellow Warbler*



*Yellow-rumped Warbler*



*Tree Swallow*

## Attention bird enthusiasts!

An important notice to birders of all levels: we are at a critical point for species-spotting here. Our communications assistant, Hannah, has been on two bird-spotting walks this week along the end of the Yellow Trail (by the quarry) and the Canada 150 Trail. Some pictures she caught are shown above. Although she spent one summer at Le Nichoir, Hannah considers herself a novice birder (at best).

She was able to identify the following list of birds (ordered by Hannah's Scale of Excitement):

### **Appealing**

Red-winged Blackbird  
Purple Finch  
American Goldfinch  
Blue Jay  
Chickadee  
Chipping Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Crow

### **Interesting**

Eastern Phoebe  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
Tree Swallow  
Solitary Sandpiper  
House Wren  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
White-breasted Nuthatch

### **Breathtaking**

Indigo Bunting  
Nashville Warbler  
Chestnut-sided Warbler  
Black-throated Green Warbler  
Black-throated Blue Warbler  
Magnolia Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Eastern Wood-pewee



**Mind-blowing: two male scarlet tanagers at 13:45 on 24 May, 2019!!!**

Per Richard Gregson's guide to [Birding at the Arboretum](#), the end of May is *the* time to spot many species as they move north towards their breeding ground, and the last weekends of May are a particularly good time to spot many MANY species of warbler. The delay in warm weather means that lots of spring events (including the blossoming magnolias) have been delayed long enough for everyone to get a chance to enjoy.

Don't wait any longer to take a nice long walk at the Arboretum – the mosquitoes will be emerging soon!



*Director Jim Fyles thanking the volunteers. Photo : Hannah Legault*

## Review – Volunteer 5 à 7

On Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup>, the Arboretum hosted its annual volunteer appreciation 5 à 7, treating volunteers to a BBQ, spruce, fir and birch “beers,” and a delicious assortment of salads and cookies from Stoolies in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. Naturalist Sarah Dixon ran the BBQ and Chick Taylor saved the day by picking up a new tank of propane! Director Jim Fyles made a brief but eloquent speech expressing the sincere gratitude we have for the efforts and enthusiasm of our volunteers: without you, the Arboretum would not be the place that it is!

Thank you again to all who pitch in!



*The group assembling before the tour*



*Red-backed Salamander*



*Blue-spotted Salamander*



*Heading to the pond!*

*Photos : Hannah Legault*

## Where the Wild Things Are

Wow! The Where the Wild Things Are tour that took place this past Sunday was such a huge success that we have added a **second tour date for this Saturday May 25, 9 – 11 am**. Although the morning rain startled some into cancelling their reservation, the warm temperature and clearing skies later on meant perfect weather for finding salamanders! Bryanna Pilkington led the tour through three key Arboretum ecosystems - forest, field & pond - pointing out all of the mini-fauna along the way. In the forest, the Red-backed Salamander was easy to find, and we saw the very popular Blue-spotted Salamander, along with many worms, slugs, and the Woolly Bear Caterpillar. The pond habitat was also bountiful with creatures, including some impressive dragonfly larvae and cool snails!

If you missed the tour because of your long weekend plans, don't miss **tomorrow's** opportunity to see the incredible mini-fauna of the Arboretum – all ages are welcome and this tour **will fill up fast!** Call the Gatehouse to reserve your place.

[More details](#)

[Facebook Event](#)



*We have many chipmunk members at the Arboretum! Photo : Tom Kingsbury*

## Membership Subscription Reminder

June 1 is just over a week away! If you haven't joined yet, now is the time to sign up. Remember that the membership period is fixed, and delaying renewal does not prolong the duration of your membership. To make the most of your annual membership, pass by the Gatehouse before June 1 to fill out your membership form and receive your car decal (a parking permit granting access from sunrise to sunset)!

For renewing members, if you have not sent in your form, please stop by the Gatehouse at your earliest convenience.

The majority of the Morgan Arboretum's funding comes from your annual contributions and we hope to count on your support for the coming year!



*Fieldworkers at the Tree Pruning Workshop. Photo : Hannah Legault*

## Call for Volunteers: Culling of Invasive Species

As the leaves unfurl and flowers begin to bloom, we are noticing the emergence of foes that do not belong in the Arboretum! At the moment, it is Garlic Mustard and Siberian Squill flowering season, a time when they are easy to spot and suppress. For those who can join the squad, a brief training session on the species to be tackled will be followed by a survey of their location in the Arboretum. We will be weeding them out of the ground as we find them. Let us know if you can land us a hand for half a day next week by emailing us: [morgan.arboretum@mcgill.ca](mailto:morgan.arboretum@mcgill.ca).

## Reminder for perennial divisions

We are still hoping to receive some perennial divisions from all those hard at work in their gardens at this time. The bunches can be brought to the Gatehouse during regular opening hours.

## Reminder about ticks

To protect yourself and your dog from tick bites, please follow the precautions listed in our [tick guide](#). For additional information or to report a tick, visit [etick.ca](#).



**514-398-7811**

**[www.morganarboretum.org](http://www.morganarboretum.org)**