

Morgan ARBORETUM

TreeMail

Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec 514-398-7811 www.morganarboretum.org

March 2010 ... With the end of the winter season in sight, the Friends of the Morgan Arboretum wish to inform you of news and upcoming events. In this issue:

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- Growing the Arboretum's Online Community
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For all registrations or general enquiries, please call 514-398-7811 or email morgan.arboretum@mcgill.ca.

Spring Snapshots Wanted



As springtime unfolds, the Arboretum will be going through a grand metamorphosis modulated by climatic conditions. During your walks,

don't miss the chance to immortalise the fleeting wonders you will surely encounter along the way

and send us your best shots.

If you do pull out your camera, keep in mind that we are looking for a snap shot to illustrate the front of our promotional pamphlet. More specifically, we are scouting for a high resolution photo of spring scenery with a portrait orientation. The photographs may include silhouettes but close-ups of people will not be considered. The picture does not have to be taken this year so don't hesitate to send photographs from your Arboretum collection. Please submit your contribution to morganarboretum@gmail.com with *For pamphlet* in the subject line.

If it's Springtime, it must be Sugaring Off Time

We hope you will join us on **Sunday, March 21st**, or **Sunday, March 28th** for a time-honoured Canadian tradition that celebrates the start of spring.

Between 12:00 and 4:00 pm, come and take a tour of the Arboretum's maple grove, and learn how the maple syrup is made. We will be providing sausages, drinks, and taffy on snow at a friendly cost. You can also visit Chalet Pruche.

Cost: Members: no charge;

Non-members: Child (4 to 14 years old) \$2; Adult \$5; Student or Senior \$3; Family \$12.

To liven up your pancakes, pick up some of our freshly-bottled maple syrup, available while supplies last!

Sponsor a Birder

Lying between the Morgan Arboretum and the Ecomuseum, the McGill Bird Observatory is one of a national chain of bird banding and migration monitoring stations that does immensely valuable work in the study of ornithology. Like many scientific endeavours, its importance is not reflected in its funding.



On Saturday, May 22nd, a group of supporters and scientists from the MBO will attempt to see as many species as possible in the vicinity of the Arboretum. During the last two years, between 80 and 100 species were recorded in the one-day challenge. The MBO seeks sponsors who will pledge to donate to their fund-raising drive – either a set contribution, or an amount per species. All monies raised will be split between the MBO and Bird Studies Canada. If you

would like to sponsor a birder, please email the Arboretum, and ask for more information. Many thanks for your support!

Dog Update

Many people have recently noticed a marked improvement in the amount of unscooped feces in the Arboretum, and there has been a welcome reduction in the number of reported breaches of dog rules. The newly clarified rules seem to be producing the effect that staff, the FMA, and Arboretum members all wanted.

A full analysis of the way things have gone so far will shortly be carried out, at which time we will report back to the membership. Nevertheless, we thank you all for your



cooperation as we start to turn things around.

Kindly note that as dog owners are now limited to the southern parking lot, we ask that non-dog owners restrict

themselves to the northern lot, so that there are enough parking spaces for all. If, however, you are a dog owner and require access to the northern car park for reasons of age or infirmity, apply to the office for a special permit to display on your dashboard.

We want to encourage all members and visitors to walk clockwise on the Orange Trail, in order to decrease interactions with and between dogs. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Branching out online

Our website is undergoing a transformation. Not only will it be brighter and more user-friendly, it will also be much more interactive. A community feature will allow you to post your own photo albums, hold discussions with other members, and create a network of friends. We hope to introduce the new site in May, so watch for further exciting news as the launch day approaches.

However, at least one change has already taken place. If you have not yet stumbled across the Arboretum Nature Journal, you might enjoy a look at our latest venture, accessible through our homepage. The

“Arbo-Nature” blog is compiled by the Arboretum’s naturalists, and it will keep you up to date with the opening of the spring flowers, the return of migratory birds, sightings of rare butterflies, and the changes of the seasons. A visit to this page is a great way to stay in touch with the plants and creatures that call the Morgan Arboretum their home.

A special thanks

The restoration of Chalet Pruche was one of the FMA’s key projects in 2009. With the beautiful restoration work completed, we wish to extend a special thank you to Mariner Palmer for heading up the project, and giving so much of his time to see it completed. Many thanks also to the numerous volunteers, and to the generous contributions to the Arbo50 fund, which made this project possible. Further updates to the heating and plumbing in the upcoming year will make Chalet Pruche a place to be enjoyed for many years to come.

Nature walks see signs of spring

On Sunday, February 28th, many of us hunkered down to watch the Olympics hockey final. This did not prevent the Arboretum Curator Christina Idziak and biologist Richard

Gregson from hosting a nature walk at the Arboretum, nor did it stop approximately fifteen participants from enjoying the ninety-minute tour.

Cutting a path through the soft and slushy snow, the guides explained how trees and birds adapt to survive the cold winters in North America. Reports from the walk leave us with good news: some of the Arboretum’s birds are already starting to claim breeding territory and get ready for spring!



Winter spirit at the Arboretum

The winter carnival of Saturday, February 20th, organized in partnership with the municipality of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, was a great success.

Participants enjoyed dog sled runs throughout the day – over 150 rides were taken!

Our sculptors put their artistic skills – and the provided garden tools – to good use in creating their masterpieces. Judging was based on creativity, detail, and best use of the snow block. It was hard to choose a winner, and we want to thank everyone who participated. The winner received a family membership for the 2010-2011 season at the Arboretum.

This event was possible due to our fabulous, hard-working group of volunteers:

*Lydia Berryman & co.
Morgan Bradley
Wendy Cloutier
Claude Cloutier
Chantal Cloutier
Carolyn Fletcher
Frans Lecluse
Anne Murphy
Rosita Pollock
Gregory Rand
Will Strachan
Chris Travers
John Wood
Diana Wood
... and staff:
Chris Cloutier
Christina Idziak
John Watson
Mary Ann Pavlik
Anne Godbout*

St-Anne Open Day Prize Winners



Family	Name of sculpture	Family	Name of Sculpture
WINNER: Damien and Deeni Simon, Mel Lefebvre & family	Cabane Sainte-Anne	2nd PLACE: Joanie the Pony Davidson, Tommy Lefgon	Cat and Mouse
3^d PLACE: Ophélie Turgeon	L'éléphant heureux	Andrew, William, and Jonathon Sublett	Dice
Daniel Seracino	Stanley Cup	Rajvinder Kain	Devil
Emily, Haily, and Robin Perry	Robot	Sylvie Charbonneau	Stairway to Heaven
Page Mallett	Hot Chocolate	Tran family	Shelter for Rainy Days
Lecluse family	Inukshuk		

Recent events ...



Sugar shack in operation -
boiling down the sap



John and his crew pump the maple sap



Cedar Waxwing at Blossom Corner