

CROSS POLLINATION

Newsletter of the Halton Master Gardeners



Georgia O'Keeffe at AGO – 22 April to 30 July

The **Art Gallery of Ontario** will be the only North American stop for a major exhibit of the works of Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986), notable to us for her floral and landscape paintings. Over 80 works of art on view reveal O'Keeffe's deeply personal connection to nature and the landscapes that inspired her singular vision. And a collection of 45 photographs by Alfred Stieglitz, Ansel Adams, Paul Strand, and Arnold Newman explores how photography influenced O'Keeffe's artistic style, and vice versa.

Jimson Weed, 1932



Oriental Poppies, 1927

Red Amaryllis, 1937



April
2017

"Nobody sees a flower, really. It is so small it takes time. We haven't time. And to see takes time – like to have a friend takes time." – Georgia O'Keeffe



April to-do list:

- Over-seed bare spots in lawns
- Divide or transplant perennials
- Buy extra cinnamon to fight damping off of seedlings
- Put bird nesting boxes in place
- Prepare for return of Ruby-throated hummingbirds & track their northward migration at hummingbirds.net/map



Time to plant your April vegetables:

Beets	Early potatoes
Broccoli	Parsnips
Brussels sprouts	Peas
Cabbage	Radishes
Lettuce	Spinach
Onions	

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The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada has recommended that the **Monarch** butterfly's status be moved from "Special Concern" to "Endangered" (passing over the "Threatened" category entirely).

Claudette Sims & Janet Mackey have recently facilitated Monarch education seminars for Environment Hamilton, and offer this list of host plants to attract and support Monarchs and other butterflies in our gardens.



Butterfly

Host plant

Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)

A variety of different milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.) with different flowering times is ideal, e.g.:
Butterfly weed (*A. tuberosa*)
Common milkweed (*A. syriaca*)
Swamp milkweed (*A. incarnata*)

Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*)

Dill, parsnip, carrot & other carrot relatives (*Daucus* spp.)

Painted Lady & Red Admiral (*Vanessa* spp.)
Angel Wing & Comma (*Polygonia* spp.)

Thistle (*Cirsium* spp.), **nettle** (*Urtica* spp.)

Lycaenids, e.g., **Hairstreak** (*Satyrion* spp.) & **Azure** (*Celestrina* spp.)

Willow (*Salix* spp.), **oak** (*Quercus* spp.), **aspen** (*Populus* spp.), **cherry** (*Prunus* spp.)

Karner Blue (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*),
Frosted Elfin (*Callophrys irus*)

Wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)

Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)

Poplar (*Populus* spp.), **ash** (*Fraxinus* spp.), **elm** (*Ulmus* spp.), **willow** (*Salix* spp.)

Baltimore Checkerspot (*Euphydryas phaeton*)

Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)

Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*)

Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), **Spice bush** (*Lindera benzoin*)

Fritillaries (*Argynninae*)

Violet (*Viola* spp.)

Spring Azure (*Celastrina ladon*)

Dogwood (*Cornus* spp.), **Sumac** (*Rhus* spp.),
New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)

Pearl Crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*)

Aster (*Aster* spp.)

Eastern Tailed-Blue (*Cupido comyntas*) &
Hoary Edge (*Achalarus lyciades*)

Showy tick trefoil (*Desmodium canadense*)

Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*)

Blue vervain (*Verbena hastate*)

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More butterfly & pollinator resources

BAMONA – An excellent resource for identifying the **Butterflies and Moths of North America**, this website has a searchable database, and helpful photos of all the confusing colour variations present within a single species → butterfliesandmoths.org/

We know milkweed is the Monarch's larval host, but which plants are its favourite **nectar sources**? → xerces.org/2016/12/07/to-save-monarchs-we-need-more-than-just-milkweed/



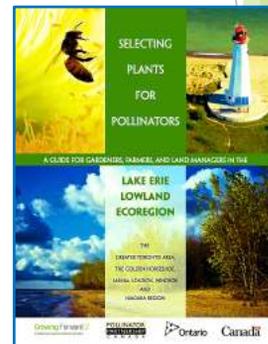
Common name	Species Name	# reported observations of monarchs using this plant
Tall blazingstar	<i>Liatris aspera</i>	16,451
Bearded beggarticks	<i>Bidens aristosa</i>	1,893
Tall thistle	<i>Cirsium altissimum</i>	1,197
Seaside goldenrod	<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	309
White crownbeard	<i>Verbesina virginica</i>	211
Stiff goldenrod	<i>Oligoneuron rigidum</i>	197
Whorled milkweed	<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	196
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago</i> sp.	193
Common milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	186
Late-flowering thoroughwort	<i>Eupatorium serotinum</i>	171

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Some top-notch resources specific to the **Great Lakes region** for supporting pollinators:



Pollinator Partnership Canada's **Selecting Plants for Pollinators – Lake Erie Lowlands** → pollinator.org/PDFs/Guides/Ontario-Planting-Guides/LakeErieLowlands-2016.pdf



Xerces Society's **Monarch Nectar Plant Guide for the Great Lakes** → xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Great_Lakes_Monarch_Plant_List_PRINT.pdf



The sun was warm but the wind was chill.
You know how it is with an April day.
When the sun is out and the wind is still,
You're one month on in the middle of May.
But if you so much as dare to speak,
a cloud comes over the sunlit arch,
And wind comes off a frozen peak,
And you're two months back in the middle of March.
— Robert Frost, *Two Tramps in Mud Time*, 1926



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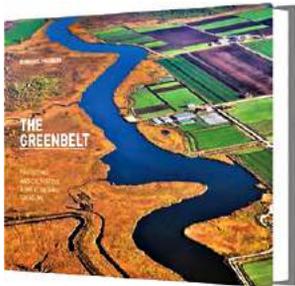
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Book Release:

The Greenbelt – Protecting and Cultivating a Great Ontario Treasure

by Burkhard Mausberg

Published by Ontario's Greenbelt Foundation, to be released 17 April, this beautiful coffee-table book is a portrait of Ontario's Greenbelt and the people who nurture it. Stretching from the Niagara Peninsula to Tobermory – with farmland, forests, and watersheds – the Greenbelt is the largest and most protected peri-urban landscape in the world. ***The Greenbelt*** is bursting with gorgeous photography that will inspire and delight anyone who has walked its trails, driven its roads, or tasted its fresh bounty.



The book also celebrates the people who live in the Greenbelt—artists, farmers, entrepreneurs, cyclists, mountain climbers, and so many others who have been enriched by what makes us quintessentially Canadian: our land.

Anyone who appreciates the beauty of Ontario, and especially the allure of its farms and hamlets, waterfalls and caves, fields and trails, will find this book an essential and compelling read.

Local book launch events will be held:

Wednesday, 3 May, 7-9pm
Epic Books, 226 Locke St. S., Hamilton
(RSVP online by 26 April)

Wednesday, 24 May, 7-9pm
A Different Drummer Books, 513 Locust St.,
Burlington
(RSVP online by 17 May)

An excerpt of the book can be found online at:
greenbelt.ca/book



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