

October 2025 Newsletter

Please let us know about your connections, your plants and your activities for our next newsletter at projectswallowtail@gmail.com. Our **Facebook Group** has lots of postings on members activities and inspiring nature photos.

October 18: Native Plant Give-Away at Karma Co-Op in the Annex

Project Swallowtail has purchased native plants so we can give them to our members to plant right now. Fall is a great time to plant before the ground freezes.

Karma Co-Op in the Annex 10 am to 2 pm.

739 Palmerston Ave. Toronto ON M6G 2R3

(A 7 minute walk N from the Bathurst Subway station on Markham Street.)

The species include Foxglove beardtongue, dense blazing star, Rudbeckia, zigzag goldenrod, swamp milkweed, yarrow, prairie smoke, grey-headed coneflower, pale purple coneflower and more.

There will be a 10 plant limit per person (before 1:30). Block Ambassadors may have extra plants for their neighbours. There will also be one seeding tray with a mesh covering available for each person who wants to be a seed sitter. The plants will be in individual pots so if you have your own trays please bring them to use or to share.



This is an opportunity to meet fellow Project Swallowtail members, to let us know how your gardens did this summer and what plants you would like to have us provide next spring.

If you are a seed sitter, let us know if you have extra plants and if you have a need for our help for this year's seed overwintering. We will be sending out a special newsletter to help with your projects. If you are a new seed sitter you can let us know by updating your profile using the link at the bottom of this newsletter and check Seed Sitter.

We hope to see you there. Project Swallowtail Steering Committee

Events

**Oct 18: Specialist Relationships Between Plants, Insects & Other
Creatures with Lorraine Johnson**



Sat, Oct 18, 1:30-3:30 pm

Doors open at 1pm (PWYC)

PARC (Parkdale Activity-Recreation Centre)

1499 Queen St. West Toronto, M6R 1A3

This is a super exciting opportunity to meet best-selling author Lorraine Johnson, and learn about something many of us know little about. Some of us are familiar with the relationship between monarch butterflies and milkweed. This is just one example of the many, many crucial, co-evolved relationships between native plants and insects, birds and other creatures.

In this illustrated talk, Lorraine explores some of the little-known specialist relationships that exist between native plants and bees, beetles, wasps, ants, butterflies, moths, birds and a myriad of other creatures we can - and need to - support in our gardens. There will be plenty of time for questions and to purchase any of Lorraine's books.

*25% of the proceeds will be donated to **PARC (Parkdale Activity-Recreation Centre)** that does incredible work in the community with people facing mental health and substance use challenges, homelessness, poverty, and food insecurity. They have offered their space to use for free. This event is being presented in partnership with the **South Parkdale Community Pollinator Gardens**, **Horticultural Society of Parkdale & Toronto**, **Anishnawbe Nibi Gitigaan** and **Project Swallowtail**. More on **Lorraine Johnson**.*

Register for the presentation or email spcommunitypollinatorgardens@gmail.com

**Oct 19: Monarch Butterfly Eco-Art
Workshop for Kids & Adults (SPPG)
2-4 pm**

Anishnawbe Nibi Gitigaan (Indigenous
Water Garden) in Dunn Parkette South of
245 Dunn Ave. Toronto, ON M6K 1S6

Family Friendly! Come and learn about the
Monarch Butterfly while creating your own
piece of art.

Email to register

spcommunitypollinatorgardens@gmail.com

Suggested donation \$5 to \$20



Free Black Oak Tree Seedlings

One of our South Parkdale Community Pollinator Gardens wonderful neighbours, Michael, germinated and grew over 50 black oak seedlings from the old growth oak savannah in High Park. He is giving them away for free (or a small donation to help recuperate costs). Please drop him a line if you're interested at darlingtonwm@gmail.com Thank you Michael!

**Pollinator Partnership Canada
Participate in a Project Wingspan workshop in Toronto
on Sunday October 26 from 2:00 to 4:30 pm**

North York Memorial Community Hall, 5110 Yonge St. Toronto, ON M2N 6M1

Attendees will increase their awareness of monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) management in Canada, as well as how they can make a positive difference locally and regionally. Participants will learn about plants important to the monarch and other pollinators and how to collect seed from them using best management practices. There will also be a hands-on component, where participants will have the opportunity to process common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) seeds from start to finish. **Register and for more details**

Articles

Pollinator Partnership Canada Resources, Projects and Education

Pollinator Partnership Canada has many resources available for everyone including a Fall Guide on helping pollinators overwinter. There are also guides on seed collecting and propagating native plants. <https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/>



Garden Blooms at United for Literacy

By Marg Campbell, for The Garden Club of Toronto

On September 5 and 6 2025, volunteers from the Garden Club of Toronto, United for Literacy, and Project Swallowtail came together with shovels, plants, and lots of heart to transform the front garden at 35 Jackes Avenue Toronto, ON M4T 1E2. (Yonge St. south of St. Clair) Together, we planted a beautiful native garden that will welcome visitors, support pollinators, and add a touch of nature's magic to our community space.



We worked in partnership and made it happen! United for Literacy cleared out the old garden beds and with RAINscape TO's expertise a new design was created and they landscaped and prepared the paths and garden beds. 1200 plants were sourced and arranged at the site through Project Swallowtail who also helped over 25 volunteers with the planting. October is a great time to visit this new garden before winter sets in. To continue reading see the [**full article**](#).

Fall Gardening: “Bug Hotels”

By Liz Dobson, Garden Club of Toronto (GCT) member

As Junaid Khan wrote in last month's Newsletter, fall clean-up doesn't mean stripping your garden bare. On the contrary, he recommends keeping leaves and chopped stems on the ground to provide insulation for plant roots and habitats for “beneficial critters”.



To ensure the survival of these critters, you may also want to consider adding one or two “bug hotels” to your garden. These provide havens for pollinators and other beneficial insects during Toronto's cold winter months. Bug hotels come in a wide range of materials, sizes and complexity. A log piled with branches and drilled with different sized holes or a home-made bundle of hollow stems are two simple examples that work well. To continue reading and for more photos see the [full article](#)

Outdoor Learning School and Store (Indigenous Learning)



The Outdoor Learning Store is a Canadian, non-profit organization that provides resources and training for outdoor education across Canada and beyond. Located in Invermere, British Columbia, it serves schools and organizations nationwide, offering Indigenous-inclusive content and donating all surplus proceeds to other non-profit outdoor learning initiatives.

"Our awesome team" works hard to provide a refined list of excellent resources, equipment, tools & training. We offer this in partnership with over **100 non-profit organizations** from

We'd Love to Hear From You!

We're looking for more stories, events, photos, and updates to share with the Project Swallowtail community in our newsletters!

- To share an event, please add it to the **Event Form**.
 - To contribute articles or messages, use the **Newsletter Content Form**.
 - Feedback on our interactive maps. (available only to map participants)
 - Gardening and plant info on our [Google Drive](#)
 - Our new [Project Swallowtail website](#) available
 - Project Swallowtail [Sign-Up form](#) (for friends and family you are signed up)
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