

BATH GARDENING
CLUB NEWSLETTER
– SUMMER 2026

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Sylvia Whalen





LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE: BATH EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP BY PAT CHOWN

On Sunday, April 19th, approximately 30 Gardening Club Volunteers joined other community volunteers for the annual Great Bath Clean-Up.

Hosted by Fast Freddy's (Free Flow Petroleum) and in partnership with Loyalist Township, the Great Bath Clean-Up takes place annually, coinciding with Earth Day. This is a special event where we work together, meet new friends and neighbours and have an opportunity to honour and to celebrate Planet Earth.



Teams of volunteers spread out across the area, combing streets, parks, and green spaces to collect bags of litter and debris left behind over the winter months. It did not take long to spruce up Bath from Finkle Shore, the Marina area, behind the shopping centre and north on Church Street past the school.

Over the years an assortment of articles has been unearthed. This year's great find was a computer printer left sitting in a ditch!



Thanks to the Township for our reflective vests and, of course, for scooping up the bags that we had deposited curbside. Many thanks to Chandra Brown, Manager of Fast Freddy's, for organizing the event and to Country Style for providing drinks and goodies after our work was completed.



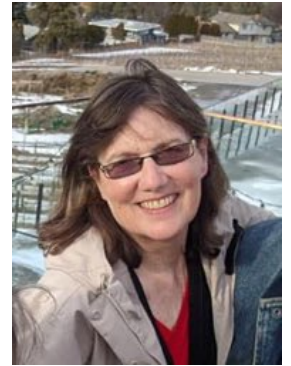


MEET OUR GRANT COORDINATOR –

THE QUIET FORCE BEHIND MANY GOOD THINGS

Marjory Brunsdon moved to Bath in 2022, joining the club soon after to meet new people, build connections, and give back to the community. What she didn't expect was to embark on an entirely new adventure.

When she stepped into the world of grant applications and annual filings to the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) and Service Ontario, it was a sharp turn from her long career in accounting and bookkeeping. Spreadsheets and ledgers? Old hat. But crafting compelling narratives, aligning funding priorities, and navigating detailed reporting requirements? That was new territory.



Her first impression? “Wow – this is a lot more work than I thought!” And so much writing! What looked straightforward on the surface quickly revealed layers of detail, deadlines, and documentation. Fortunately, she wasn't starting from scratch. The strong foundation built by our previous grant writer, Laurie Minorgan, paved the way and provided a clear roadmap forward.

This year Marjory helped the club apply for grants from the OHA, Loyalist Township, and Amrize. These funds will help our community truly bloom – supporting village plantings that brighten our streets, enhancing the beloved Sunday Market in Bath, and nurturing the Pollinator Garden and Memorial Grove as vibrant, welcoming spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Outside of grant writing, Marjory happily trades deadlines for dirt. She loves spending time with family, tending her garden, diving into genealogy research, playing pickleball in the summer, and heading out for walks all year round.

She finds there's something oddly therapeutic about pulling weeds – a quiet satisfaction in restoring order, one stubborn root at a time. Her garden is a cheerful mix of flowers and a few vegetables, blending beauty and bounty in equal measure. Petunias hold a special place in her heart. Each year, she and her husband plant overflowing window boxes in rich purples and deep pinks, creating a vibrant splash of colour at the front of their home.

If you see Marjory, be sure to thank her for the incredible work she does behind the scenes – and if you happen to have a piece of chocolate to share with her, even better!



NEW BEDS, NEW BEGINNINGS; CREATING A GARDEN THAT “FLOURISHES”



At our March meeting, Tristan Nagler delivered a presentation to our club called *Installing a Garden & Establishing New Plants*.

As many of you already know, Tristan is the owner of Flourish Lawn & Garden Care, an established, family-run, landscaping and design company operating out of Bath, Ontario.

During the presentation he covered the full lifecycle of getting a garden established, from site preparation and proper installation techniques to essential first-week watering care. He also highlighted the importance of mulching and soil health, and helped participants learn how to recognize early signs of plant stress and support recovery for long-term garden success.

Not only did Tristan share a lot of practical, easy-to-use advice during the talk, he also gave us a handy one-page takeaway guide to help us put everything into practice for our next gardening project!

YOUR TRANSPLANTING CHECKLIST

Take This Home with You

Before Planting	At Planting	After Planting
<input type="checkbox"/> Choose right plant for the right place	<input type="checkbox"/> Dig hole 2-3x wider than root ball	<input type="checkbox"/> Apply 2-3" mulch, keep away from stem
<input type="checkbox"/> Check drainage & amend if needed	<input type="checkbox"/> Set crown at or above soil level	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor soil moisture daily – week one
<input type="checkbox"/> Pick a cool or overcast planting day	<input type="checkbox"/> Backfill with native soil, firm gently	<input type="checkbox"/> Watch for stress signals
<input type="checkbox"/> Have mulch ready to apply	<input type="checkbox"/> Water deeply immediately after	<input type="checkbox"/> Avoid fertilizing for 4-6 weeks



On a personal note, Pat Chown shared enthusiastic feedback about how Tristan's company transformed her back garden into a charming butterfly-shaped design, turning the space into the truly delightful and eye-catching feature you see here.

A sincere thank you to Tristan for the insightful presentation, which helped transform what can sometimes feel like an intimidating process of creating a garden into something approachable, down-to-earth, and entirely achievable.

A special thank you is also due for his ongoing support of the club, from helping water village plantings and sourcing plant material to generously contributing in other meaningful ways.



THE JOYFUL ART OF GARDEN DESIGN

Heather Campbell is the owner of Design Cachet in Bath and an active member of our gardening club. She is an award-winning landscape designer, offering design consultations and tailored garden concept plans for homes and businesses across Bath and the surrounding areas.

Heather used to work in finance, but clearly the plants were calling her all along. When she retired, her employer kindly gifted her the jacket she's wearing in this photo – complete with the initials “CFO.” You might assume that stands for Chief Financial Officer... but in Heather's case, it was clearly *Chief Floral Officer*.



At our March meeting, Heather enthusiastically led us through her “miracle happens here” process – revealing how a landscape designer takes a client's garden in its raw, before-state and transforms it into a vibrant, cohesive “after.”

She explained that whether renovating an existing landscape or creating an entirely new garden, a thoughtful plan brings vision and practicality together in a way that saves time, reduces costly mistakes, and creates lasting enjoyment.

She went on to say that a garden plan helps shape spaces that flow naturally, solve recurring challenges, and reflect the personality of a homeowner or the identity of a commercial brand. It provides clarity from the very beginning – outlining the scope of work, guiding plant selection, recommending materials and labour, and making budgeting far more accurate and manageable.

More importantly, it creates confidence. A clear plan allows projects to be completed in stages while maintaining consistency and flexibility for future changes. It becomes a valuable reference point not only for the owner, but also for landscapers, contractors, and even future property owners.

Beyond the practical benefits, a garden plan unlocks creativity. It turns ideas into immersive spaces filled with atmosphere, beauty, serenity, and joy.

Moving on to the principles of garden design, she explained they work together much like the elements of a great piece of art. Emphasis establishes focal points and guides the eye toward the most important features within the landscape, while balance creates a sense of equilibrium through the thoughtful arrangement of shapes, colours, textures, and forms. Contrast introduces excitement and variety, drawing attention through differences in size, colour, texture, or plant type, while repetition brings rhythm and unity by echoing lines, materials, and planting patterns throughout the space.

Equally important are proportion, movement, and space. Proportion ensures that every element relates harmoniously to the whole, creating comfort and visual cohesion. Movement encourages the eye – and the visitor – to travel naturally through the garden, linking one space to another and creating a feeling of flow and connection. The careful use of positive and negative space further enhances the design, allowing open areas and planted areas to work together to create emphasis, depth, and breathing room.

Thank you so much Heather for your fantastic presentation on garden design. Your energy was incredibly inspiring, and we're very grateful for the time you gave us. We could have happily listened to much more detail!



ALL ABOUT VEGGIE GARDENING FOR ME *BY SYLVIA WHALEN*

I get so excited this time of year! Everything renews and refreshes, the greens are greener than green, and flowers give a nod that summer is soon to follow.

For me I'm a little too anxious for spring so I notoriously start my seeds way too early! This is typically okay for flowers/perennials (my petunias had started flowering), but not for vegetables. This meant, again this year, I lost some. The beginning to mid-April is lots of time for most seeds to be ready for the garden. Those that want a vegetable garden can by-pass growing seedlings and access multitudes of choices at most garden centers.

You don't need a large space to grow a few favourite vegetables. You can even add them to your flower gardens or containers. This past week I got my vegetable garden planted in between rainy days, light frost and heat spells. Now I anxiously await the magic.



I learned a lot over this past winter from garden club discussions, online and hard copy resources, and webinars I took in. I was very focused on soil health so invested in Triple Mix this year. I have a large vegetable garden so instead of raised beds we put 3-4" of this black goodness on top of the base soil in approximately 3' x 10' sections with a pathway between.

Then, using what I learned about companion planting, *gardenary* and square foot gardening, I jammed each one of the 9 'plots' full of plants and seeds ("giving them just enough room to grow and no more"). The tall plants in the middle, the root vegetables around those and the herbs and smaller plants and flowers in the perimeter. I had enough room gardening this way to dedicate one plot to a strawberry patch.



I did revert to using the remaining garden plot for rows of corn (so pollination could occur) and mounds for squash, cantaloupe and watermelon. The potatoes will be going in a 'trench' along the back of the garden. This coming week I will add in the trellising for the pole beans, peas, cucumbers and tomatoes. I will also be adding some straw mulch around the plants as they appear, for weed and water control.

I'm hoping my two rain barrels will be enough to help mother nature out with the watering this year. Last year we ran out of water for almost three months. This meant very little produce due to the drought and NO canning for the first time in as long as I can recall!



My sealers, vacuum packer and fermentation equipment are ready for a bumper crop this year. Any produce I have too much of goes to friends, family and community food initiatives.

I love how vegetable gardening gives me a chance to slow down, work with my hands, and enjoy food in a completely different way. There's something rewarding about growing plants from seed, caring for them through the season, and sharing the harvest with others.

*Gardening tip for corn growers: add a radio to your patch when the cobs begin forming to keep raccoons away.

* To keep rabbits away, use dog fur among their favourites.

Gardenary: <https://www.gardenary.com/>

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

Our club had a great time participating in this year's Communities in Bloom event, held on Saturday, April 11 at the Best & Bash Arena. This year's theme, therapeutic gardening, came to life through our club's vibrant display, which was filled with colour, creativity, and inspiring ideas for anyone interested in the wellness benefits of gardening.



Visitors loved stopping by to reflect on what therapeutic gardening meant to them - many shared thoughtful, heartfelt quotes about how tending plants brings peace, joy, and a sense of connection. Here are some of their comments about gardens:

- ... they make my heart happy
- ... the warm soil makes my hands feel good
- ... they make me smile
- ... they engage our eyes and ears
- ... they calm me by immersing myself into nature and all its beauty
- ... they make me happy
- ... they allow me to forget everything else and enjoy nature
- ... they are teeming with life
- ... they are quiet



It was a fun, uplifting experience all around, and we're proud to have been part of such a meaningful event! A big thank-you goes to Carol Cartier for pulling everything together so beautifully, and to all our wonderful volunteers who helped man the table and share their enthusiasm.



A VERY BUSY BEE GEOCACHE BY THE BATH GARDENING CLUB

Our club's geocache went live on the Geocaching app/geocaching.com website on May 10th, 2026. Since then we've had 3 people find it; here are some of their comments:

- "A lovely peaceful place that we did not know about."
- "I had no idea this little garden was back here, but once I found the gate I was at the GZ in no time. The redirect took me a while but there it was, nice and obvious when I looked in the right spot."
- "This cache was so well done and super cute! I had no idea this place was here and my kids loved it too! Big favourite point from me!"
- "... one of the nicest multi caches I HAVE DONE IN ALL MY YEARS OF GEOCACHING... I ALSO loved the scavenger hunt that was available too...what a great place to bring cachers with family."

A link to our geocache: https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GCBP43T_a-very-busy-bee-by-the-bath-gardening-club

What is Geocaching?

Geocaching is a real-world treasure hunt that uses GPS coordinates to help people find hidden containers called “geocaches.” This fun activity combines technology, exploration, and problem-solving, making it a fun way to discover new places.

Did you know that Lennox & Addington County is one of the premiere geocaching destinations in all of Canada, with about 1,500 geocaches hidden within its borders?

Why Geocaching at the PG and MG?

Placing a geocache in the PG and MG area encourages outdoor exploration, environmental education, and community stewardship by connecting visitors with pollinator conservation initiatives and native habitat restoration efforts. Our cache includes educational information about bees and their essential role in supporting healthy ecosystems.



Our geocache is a small waterproof container hidden outdoors in the PG and MG area. Inside is information about bees, a logbook to sign, and small trinkets to take away.

We don't want to give away too many secrets... but here's a sneak peek at what geocachers will discover at the first stage of the hunt - a clue that points them toward the hidden geocache described above!

Travel Bug



From time to time, we'll place a Travel Bug in our geocache. It's a tracking tag with a goal for geocachers to try and complete!

The first tag is already on its way to the Oyamel Fir Forest in Mexico - the incredible overwintering site where millions of monarch butterflies gather each year before beginning their long migration back home to Bath.

To see our Monarch Migration Travel Bug's progress, go here:

<https://www.geocaching.com/track/details.aspx?tracker=TBB2MQZ>

We have four more tags to place and would love your suggestions on where they should go. If you have an idea for a great location, please send an email to Kim or Carol at info@bathgardeningclub.ca



HELPING GARDENS GROW: OUR ANNUAL FRITZ' FERTILIZER SALE

Each spring members of the Bath Garden Club look forward to our club's popular fundraiser: the annual Fritz' Fertilizer sale. More than just a chance to stock up on a trusted gardening product, the sale helps support the club's many community projects and educational initiatives throughout the year.

The fertilizer is well known among gardeners for its high-quality, water-soluble formula that provides plants with the nutrients they need for healthy growth and abundant blooms.



Members and local gardeners eagerly place their orders each year, taking advantage of the opportunity to purchase an excellent fertilizer while supporting a good cause. For many local gardeners, the Fritz Fertilizer sale has become an annual tradition - one that signals the start of another growing season.

The fundraiser is also a wonderful example of the club's community spirit. About 25 volunteers helped secure the ingredients, mix and bag the fertilizer, organize orders, coordinate pick-ups, and ensure that everyone received their fertilizer in time for the busy spring gardening season.

Diane Nolting extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported this year's sale, with special appreciation to St John's Community Hall for generously providing indoor space for fertilizer mixing.





CARSON ARTHUR SPEAKS ABOUT FOOD INSECURITY

At the May meeting, the Bath Gardening Club welcomed Carson Arthur for a presentation on “Food Insecurity and Community Solutions” at St John’s Community Hall in Bath.

BATH GARDENING CLUB PRESENTS

TV AND RADIO PERSONALITY CARSON ARTHUR

WE INVITE THE COMMUNITY TO JOIN IN OUR DISCUSSION ABOUT “FOOD INSECURITY AND COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS.”

WHEN: THURSDAY, APRIL 16TH AT 2:00PM
WHERE: ST JOHN'S HALL, BATH - 216 CHURCH ST

DONATION TO THE FOOD BANK WOULD GREATLY BE APPRECIATED

GUESTS ARE WELCOME, SO PLEASE BRING A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOUR

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN MUG FOR TEA & COFFEE. TREATS WILL BE SERVED.

CARSON IS A WELL-KNOWN CANADIAN LANDSCAPE DESIGNER, EXPERT GARDENER, TV AND RADIO PERSONALITY AND OWNS CARSON'S GARDEN & MARKET IN BLOOMFIELD.
[HTTPS://WWW.CARSONSGARDENA.COM](https://www.carsonsgardena.com)



Carson, owner of Carson’s Garden and Market in the County and host of “Take It Outside with Carson Arthur” on CJBQ radio, spoke to a well-attended gathering that included not only garden club members, but also students and teachers from the Bath Public School, and other members of the community.

In his presentation, Carson emphasized that every person should have access to food that is available, affordable, and accessible - yet, in 2026, that goal is increasingly out of reach. He outlined the causes behind rising food insecurity and the growing impact it’s having on communities. Carson pointed out how Prime Minister Carney has made food security an item in the top 10 things his government needs to address.

He noted that food prices have increased by approximately 34% since the pandemic and continue to climb. With increasing “US First” policies in the United States, imported food costs are expected to rise further as demand grows and export availability declines.

While about 80% of processed food is produced in Canada, access to fresh produce remains a challenge. Canada imports roughly 75% of its fresh fruit and 50% of its vegetables. While “Buy Canadian, Support Local” remains a common message, Carson explained that Canadian food producers face challenges competing with the large-scale agricultural “machines” in countries such as the US, Mexico, and Peru. In addition, Canada’s relatively short growing season - about 95 days here vs 365 days in California - limits domestic production capacity.

Carson also highlighted related health impacts, including rising obesity rates, which he linked to increased consumption of processed and fast foods due to cost pressures.

He shared that middle- and lower-income households are now spending up to 30% of their monthly income on food, contributing to increased reliance on food banks. In some communities, one in three families now uses food banks to help meet basic grocery needs. Seniors, many on fixed incomes, are also being significantly affected by rising food costs.

To address food insecurity, Carson encouraged a return to community-based food growing, like the Victory Gardens of the post-WW2 era. He suggested that households grow food for their own use and share surplus with others, with preserving methods such as freezing, canning, and drying helping extend access through the winter months. He also pointed to initiatives such as food banks, United Way's "Fresh for All" program, community gardens and garden stands as important supports for those in need.

Carson is also involved in an initiative that trains teachers to help students learn how to grow food, with the goal of preparing the next generation with practical food-growing skills.

He concluded by stressing the importance of community cooperation to ensure that everyone has access to food that is available, affordable, and accessible.

SUNDAY MARKET IN BATH RETURNS FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

The Village of Bath came alive on Sunday, May 10, as the Sunday Market in Bath officially opened its 2026 season. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Centennial Park at 336 Main Street was filled with the cheerful sounds of conversation, music, and kids' laughter as residents and visitors gathered to celebrate another year of this lovely community tradition.

Each Sunday from May through October, more than 30 local vendors will be offering fresh produce, baked goods, preserves, plants, artisan crafts, and specialty foods. The market's mission is simple but meaningful: to connect people with local farmers, food producers, and makers while fostering a strong sense of community.

Here's what shoppers and vendors had to say about opening day.

Shoppers:

"Our family comes every Sunday morning for Lei's dumplings, it's a tradition."

"We came to check out the vendors and see what's available this year."

"I'm hoping to find handmade gifts for my daughter's upcoming birthday."

"Our kids had fun getting their faces painted and decorating a tote."

Vendors:

"The location is excellent, with strong visibility from the street. We really enjoy the live music and the beautiful park setting. The organization of the market is top notch."

"We're new to Bath. We're here to grow our business, network with other vendors, and make new friends."

"This is our second year in business and our first year at the Sunday Market in Bath. We're here to sell our plants and share our passion for gardening."





To find out which musicians are performing live each week - and to explore the kids' crafts and activities running all season long - visit the market's website for the latest lineup, updates, and special events here:

<https://sundaymarketinbath.com/events>



A heartfelt thank you to Linda Cohen for leading the market on behalf of the Bath Gardening Club, and to market manager Tarra Williamson, a respected organizer and agricultural entrepreneur whose dedication helps keep the market thriving and full of life.

PG & MG UPDATE: GROWING SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL TOGETHER

Before we get into the details, we owe a big thank you to the OHA and Amrize for helping our Pollinator Garden and Memorial Grove bloom a little brighter this season through their generous funding support.

A shout out to Marjory Brundson, our grant coordinator, for all the work she puts in behind the scenes - tracking down opportunities, putting together applications, and following up on grants and donations.

We're also grateful to Tristan at Flourish Landscaping for sourcing and delivering the new plant material that will help create a more vibrant, welcoming habitat.

OHA Pollinator Habitat Grant

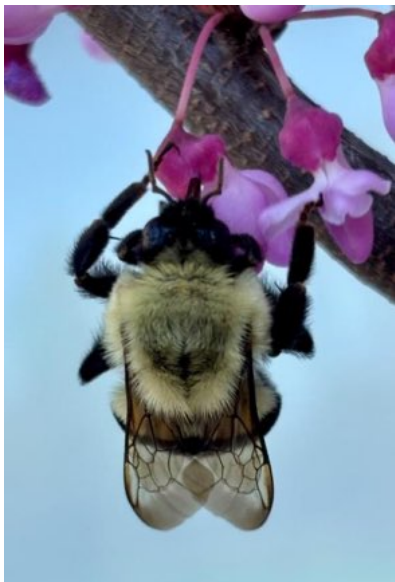
We're fortunate to have a thriving community of native bees and hoverflies at the PG & MG, but we'd love to encourage more bumblebees, butterflies, and hummingbirds to visit as well.

So, this spring, we planted 2 False Indigos to serve as host plants for six species of hungry butterfly caterpillars, 2 Ruby Spice Summersweet bushes to offer late-season nectar for hummingbirds before they fly south, and 2 Little Bluestem grasses to provide cozy overwintering shelters for bumblebees. (Image generated by AI).



We planted the Summersweet shrubs next to the garden bench so visitors can relax and enjoy their lovely fragrance while spending time in the garden.

OHA Tree Grant



Two new Eastern Redbuds have joined the Memorial Grove — and we think they're going to steal the show.

These native trees pack a lot of charm into a 6–9 metre size, making them a perfect fit for the space. In early spring, they're covered in brilliant pink flowers that provide an important early-season food source for bumblebee queens, like the one at left spotted on one of our new trees.

By summer, the trees trade blossoms for graceful heart-shaped leaves. All in all, they're beautiful, wildlife-friendly, and perfectly sized for the Grove.

Grant from Amrize (previously Lafarge Canada)

Did you know that several years ago, Lafarge Canada played an important role in shaping many of the features we now enjoy in the Pollinator Garden and Memorial Grove? Their generous donation made possible the Memorial Grove's beautiful serviceberry trees, the handcrafted wooden garden sign, additional pollinator-friendly plantings, and even the metal directional sign helping visitors find their way to the PG & MG site.

This year, they stepped up once again with another generous contribution. Thanks to their support, we've been able to refresh our signage with their new name and logo and replace one of the serviceberries that had become heavily affected by fire blight.



PG & MG Upcoming Events

Exact dates and times will be announced closer to the events once we've checked the weather forecast, so stay tuned.

The Great Garden Census: Pollinators Edition



Drop by the PG, MG, and Bugtel during Pollinator Partnership's Bioblitz week for a closer look at the busy world of pollinators. Under Don Taylor's guidance, we'll be out with cameras in hand, photographing insects and uploading our sightings to iNaturalist to help document the species that share our space.

This year, we're especially hoping to spot a swallowtail butterfly - the featured pollinator of 2026. To welcome them we've planted dill, a favourite host plant for their caterpillars, and we're crossing our fingers that it does its job.

Much Ado About Mothing

We've never really explored the PG, MG, and Bugtel after dark, but that's about to change. This year, we're joining the world of "mothing" during National Moth Week (July 18-26) to see who's visiting when the sun goes down.

We'll be lighting up the gardens with special red flashlights - along with more than 170,000 participants around the world - while we photograph and share moth sightings to help researchers better understand moth diversity, distribution, and ecology.

This new column explores how phones, apps, and websites can help you connect more deeply with the natural world right outside your door. We'll look at tools that identify mystery plants in seconds, track monarch and hummingbird migrations as they make their way back to us, recognize bird calls in the garden, and much more.

Notes:

- The club mentions tools and technologies for educational and informational purposes only. We do not endorse specific products or platforms. Members and visitors use such resources at their own discretion and assume full responsibility for their use.
- Please use discretion. Use the information provided as a clue not a final verdict. Double-check anything important with a trusted field guide, reputable plant database, etc. before acting on the information.

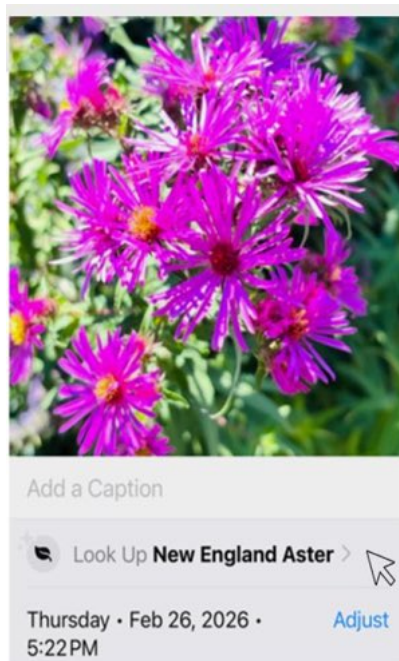
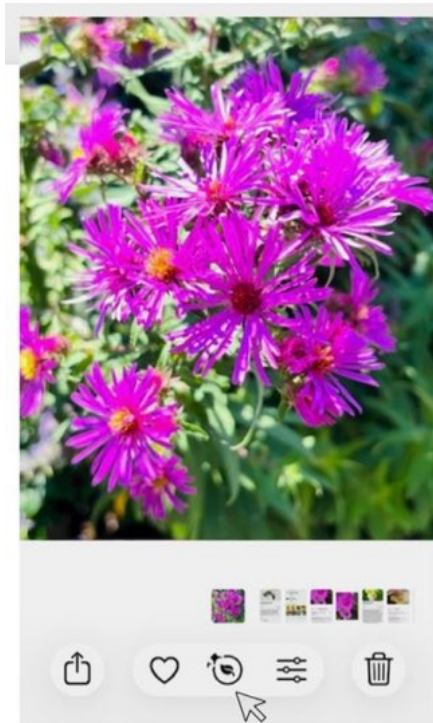
The Garden's Guess Who

Use Apple's free Visual Look Up feature to help identify a mystery tree, flower, "suspicious" weed in your garden or while out hiking. It will also identify insects and animals.

Image 1

Image 2

Image 3



Step 1

1. Take a photo using your iPhone/iPad or use a picture already in your Photo app
2. Click on the picture
3. Click on the leaf within the circle, as demonstrated by the arrow in Image 1

Step 2

1. A 'New England Aster' suggestion appears in Image 2
2. To get more info, click on 'New England Aster', as demonstrated by the arrow

Step 3

1. Click on any of the links for more info

To see if your iPhone/ iPad supports this feature, consult the Apple article called "Look up what's in a photo with your iPhone or iPad", at <https://support.apple.com/en-ca/104962>

Other suggestions:

- **iNaturalist Seek** is a free, simple app that helps people identify plants and animals as they come across them. Available from the Apple App Store
- **Google Lens** uses your camera and AI to recognize what you're looking at and shows helpful info about it. Get this free app is from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Backyard Bird Calls: Who's Singing in Your Garden?

You're enjoying a quiet moment in the garden when a cheerful whistle comes from the trees. You listen... but have no idea who's singing.

The free Merlin Bird ID app from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology can help. With its Sound ID feature, you simply tap a button and let your phone listen. Within seconds Merlin begins ID'ing the birds it hears - robins, chickadees, sparrows, cardinals and more.

It's a wonderful way to discover who's sharing your space. At the Memorial Grove we've used it to identify Bobolinks, Bluebirds, Chickadees, Flycatchers, Goldfinches, Hummingbirds, Jays, Juncos, Kingbirds, Meadowlarks, Nuthatches, Warblers, Waxwings, Wrens, and yes, even a Merlin.

The app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and works on most modern iPhones, iPads, and Android phones or tablets.



Pollinators may be small, but they play an enormous role in maintaining healthy ecosystems and food production around the world. In Kazakhstan, bees, butterflies, hoverflies, beetles, and other pollinating insects are essential to agriculture, wild plants, and biodiversity. As environmental pressures increase globally, protecting these important species has become more urgent than ever.



Kazakhstan's diverse landscapes, from the mountain valleys near Almaty to the vast grasslands of the steppe, support many native pollinators. One especially important species is the Tien Shan honeybee; a rare native bee associated with the wild apple forests of the Tien Shan Mountains. These forests are home to wild apple trees, believed to be one of the ancestors of many modern apples.

DNA studies have confirmed that these trees are the primary ancestor of the domesticated apples we enjoy today. Geneticists and environmentalists from around the world continue to emphasize the importance of protecting these rare forests, as their wild genetics may hold the key to future disease resistance for commercial apple crops worldwide.

Their delicate, sweetly scented white blossoms were a gift to our senses and a gentle reminder of both the beauty and fragility of our ecosystems. Standing among them, it was impossible not to reflect on the importance of protecting the natural world for future generations, something Kazakhstan is clearly striving to do.

What struck me most during our visit was how visible nature is within the city itself. During a walk through the heart of Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest city, I could see rewilding efforts firsthand. Corridors of trees, native plants, grasses, and flowering shrubs line many of the roads and pathways. We easily walked the two miles from our hotel to the downtown core through interconnected green spaces and parks. It was a delight to experience a city that seems to value both people and nature together.

The abundance of green space provides important habitat and food sources for pollinators. Even in busy urban areas, bees and butterflies can be seen moving among flowering plants. These natural corridors not only beautify the city but also help support biodiversity and improve environmental health.



Kazakhstan has also recognized the importance of protecting its wild apple forests and mountain ecosystems from development, climate pressures, and habitat loss. Conservation efforts in and around the Tien Shan region aim to preserve both the forests and the pollinators that depend on them.

As gardeners, we understand that creating pollinator-friendly spaces does not require vast landscapes. Whether in Kazakhstan or here at home in Bath, every garden filled with native plants, flowers, and pesticide-free spaces can help sustain these tiny but essential creatures.

Walking through Almaty reminded me that even large cities can successfully weave nature into everyday life. It was inspiring to see how green spaces, native plantings, and conservation efforts can coexist with urban living — and how protecting pollinators ultimately helps protect us all.



HELP TO CREATE A SPECTACULAR CANADA DAY FLOAT!



HELP WANTED!!!! We need your help with the stars of our float. Finishing touches on our 9 little sheep will include: gluing, cutting, tying, and hand sewing. There is also a job to spray paint some flowers. No experience necessary!! Sound interesting?

Come on out and join us!

