



HIGH PARK *Stewards*

February 2021

Leave the Leaves for Wildlife and more things to do this spring...

Now that spring-like weather is here, we gardeners are desperate to "get in the garden" but the insects need us to hold on just a little bit longer. Garden waste pickup begins next week but we urge you to wait so that pollinators do not get thrown out with your leaves.



The **Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation** has some excellent articles on why and how to help our pollinators and other garden insects safely start their new year. **Don't spring into garden cleanup too soon!** and **Leave the Leaves to Benefit Wildlife**

Lorraine Johnson also has some advice to share:

A note about soil and these first warming days, for those newly embarking on growing projects and who are wondering if now's the time to start prepping. In general, it's a good idea to avoid walking on planting beds (which compacts the soil), to not root around in the soil (it's busy doing its own important work), and to not remove any mulch covering planting beds (there's sure to be cold days ahead, and mulch is great protection and moderator of temperature swings). This time of year always reminds me that patience is a virtue in my relationship with soil."

More Gardening Opportunities

Even though our stewardship work is not currently happening there are a number of other groups that you can join to provide habitat for wildlife, even if it is in your own yard or balcony. Collectively we can create "nature corridors" throughout the city. Obtaining native plants is sometimes a challenge so you are invited to join **Project Swallowtail**, **Pollinator Partnership** and **LEAF** who are going to be providing a variety of native plant kits and information on growing them. For those also interested in growing edibles and herbs for yourself and pollinators too, the **Toronto Urban Growers** have great resources.

Our **website** continues to have more links to **other groups and recordings** containing a wide variety of gardening and stewardship topics as well as Jaclyn Scobie's **activities at home**. **The High Park Nature Centre** will also have some offerings for adults and children.

COVID rules will still apply for the foreseeable future when stewardship activities resume so only a few people will be allowed at on-site sessions. If you did not receive an invite last year and have not already done so this year and would like to be invited to any on-site sessions when they occur this year please enter your name and email in this **form** and check the *Update* and *On-site sessions* boxes.

We are happy to have people on our list who just want to keep up with what we are doing but if you do not want to receive our messages please ***Unsubscribe*** using the option at the bottom of this message. Please send any questions to stewards@highparknature.org

