

A wide-angle photograph of Niagara Falls, Canada, showing the water cascading over the falls and creating a large mist. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The foreground shows some greenery and a rocky outcrop.

Magnolia Society International Annual Meeting 2010 Niagara Falls, Canada

ITINERARY

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Registration Room opens in the afternoon at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Dinner on your own.

Pre-meeting Tours

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Morning visit to the Niagara Parks Floral Showhouse and the adjacent magnolia alley. Visits to private gardens before and after lunch at the Queenston Heights National Historic Site. Afternoon presentation on location at a land restoration site. Winery tour including vineyards and the horticultural aspects of growing grapes in the Niagara region. For those not interested in the winery, an optional visit to historic Niagara-on-the-Lake with its interesting shops, beautiful old homes, and floral displays along the main street. Bus transportation included. Dinner on your own.

Friday, April 30, 2010

Morning tour of the School of Horticulture and Botanical Gardens. Tour of Butterfly Conservatory, including an exclusive look behind-the-scenes. Box lunch and free time at the Botanical Gardens. Afternoon guided nature hike into the Niagara Gorge. Alternatives to the hike: a boat ride on the Maid of the Mist (if open), or a tour of the Niagara Falls Aviary, followed by a self-guided walk through Queen Victoria Park and Oaks Garden Theatre, a block from the hotel. Bus transportation included.

Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture

Established in 1936, visitors enjoy 40 hectares (99 acres) of beautifully maintained gardens, including perennials, rhododendrons, azaleas, a formal parterre garden, shade, herb and vegetable plantings, an aviary, as well as a world-famous rose garden featuring over 2,400 roses. Footpaths wind past the Butterfly Conservatory and butterfly garden, ponds and an arboretum featuring one of Canada's finest collections of ornamental trees and shrubs, including Magnolias.

Board of Directors Meeting

Friday evening, April 30, from 6:00 – 8:00. Dinner included.

MSI Annual Meeting

Friday evening, April 30, 2010

Welcome Reception beginning at 5:00 includes hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Dinner on your own. At 8:00, we will conduct the Annual General Meeting, followed by member presentations and an open session for discussions on magnolia topics. Our featured speakers include:

Mike Bula A retired school teacher, Mike has been pushing the limits with a wide variety of plants, giving his garden a subtropical appearance during the summer months. He is a long-time member of MSI who has had considerable success in growing *Magnolia grandiflora* in the Niagara region. His city garden is located 2 km. south of Lake Ontario. His presentation will be "*Magnolias in Niagara*".

Kevin Parris will give a presentation titled "Benefits of Flow Cytometry to Magnolia Breeding Efforts". Kevin is a new member, but a long-time Magnolia enthusiast. He is a Horticulture Instructor and Arboretum Director at Spartanburg Community College in South Carolina, and is also enrolled in a Ph.D. program at Clemson University where his research is focused on Magnolia. Under the direction of Dr. Tom Ranney of N.C. State University, Kevin has extensively surveyed the relative genome size of a diverse collection of Magnolia species and cultivars. He will present some of this data, discuss the relationship of genome size to ploidy level, and describe benefits of this technology such as verification of hybridity.

Dennis Ledvina and Mark Haines Who doesn't know of Dennis' hybridizing program in Green Bay, Wisconsin? Dennis and Mark will discuss magnolia hybridizing and their efforts to develop flower-bud-hardy magnolias that can successfully be grown in a Zone 4-5 environment. Equally important is the development of later blooming magnolias that are not damaged by late spring frosts common in Eastern North America and Europe. They will also discuss the more difficult challenge of developing pink/red flowering, hardy, evergreen magnolias.

Saturday, May 1, 2010

All-day trip to the Long Point Conservation Area, Walsh, Ontario (near Lake Erie) to view endangered native *Magnolia acuminata* at two locations. If time permits, a visit to Whistling Gardens, Wilsonville, Ontario, a rare plant nursery and an emerging private botanical garden already featuring a large collection of conifers. Lunch included.

Evening Banquet (cash bar) with keynote speaker Sara Oldfield, whose topic will be “Working together to conserve *Magnolias*”.

Sara Oldfield is Secretary General of Botanical Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and co-author of “The Red List of Magnoliaceae”. In her role with BGCI, Sara leads the strategic development of this membership organization that brings together around 600 botanic gardens. She is also responsible for the organization’s world-wide programs, addressing the conservation of plant diversity, environmental education and biodiversity policy objectives. During her presentation, Sara will update us on the exciting world-wide activities in the conservation and sustainable utilization of *Magnolias*.

Sunday May 2, 2010

All-day trip to the Royal Botanical Gardens at the western tip of Lake Ontario. Morning visit to the Rock Garden and an afternoon tour of the Arboretum. Lunch in a private room at the Botanical Gardens. Luncheon speaker Marian Jarvie.

Dinner at ‘Elements on the Falls’ immediately adjacent to the waters rushing over Horseshoe Falls.

Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington, Ontario

Established in 1930, the 1,100 ha. (2,700 acres) Gardens include a nature sanctuary, formal gardens, an Arboretum and a large rock garden in a former gravel pit. The Gardens include 1,100 native species including Canada’s most endangered tree species, *Morus rubra*. The Arboretum includes a magnolia collection and the world’s largest collections of lilacs.

Marian Jarvie is a well-known horticultural speaker in the Toronto area. We will be honoured with her presentation on interesting trees and shrubs that can be grown in southern Ontario. Note: On the post-meeting tour, we will visit her garden just north of Toronto. It includes a dizzying variety of plants in a suburban setting.

Post-meeting Tour

Monday, May 3, 2010

Travel to Toronto. En route, visit the mature private garden of Richard Birkett featuring rhododendrons and magnolias, the rare plant nursery, Lost Horizons and its private garden, then the diverse garden of Marian Jarvie. Lunch included. Dinner on your own in downtown Toronto.

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Travel to Ottawa. En route, visit the garden of member David Hinton, featuring several magnolias and many of his own hand-crossed mature rhododendrons. Lunch at Casa Dea Estates Winery. Dinner on your own in downtown Ottawa.

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

A guided morning tour of the Dominion Arboretum and the adjacent Dow's Lake tulip gardens, which are part of the Canadian Tulip Festival (officially opens on May 7th). Lunch on your own. Afternoon trip to Gatineau Park to see spring wild flowers, including thousands of native *Trilliums*. Dinner on your own in downtown Ottawa.

Dominion Arboretum, Ottawa, Ontario

Established in 1889, the arboretum covers 26 ha. (64 acres) and includes 1,700 species and varieties of trees and shrubs, which have had to endure temperatures as cold as -39°C. The magnolia collection includes large *Magnolia fraseri* and many others. Adjacent to the historic Rideau Canal, it is part of the 247 ha. (1,055 acres) Central Experimental Farm, which is also the headquarters of the Canadian Department of Agriculture. Ottawa's famous tulip plantings are located on the other side of Dow's Lake and within walking distance.

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Morning visit to members Gerald and Ruth Taaffe's garden, which features a wide range of plants, including several magnolias. This will be followed by a guided nature walk through the Mer Bleue Sphagnum Bog. Boots not required. Lunch at the Chateau Montebello. Travel to Montreal. Dinner on your own in downtown Montreal.

Friday, May 7, 2010

All day visit to Montreal Botanical Gardens and adjacent Biodome. Lunch included. Optional afternoon bus tour of Montreal. Dinner on your own in downtown Montreal.

Montreal Botanical Gardens

Established in 1931 and designed by Henry Teuscher for the City of Montreal, the 75 ha. (185 acres) include indoor conservatories, an Arboretum, Chinese, Japanese, shade, ericaceous, alpine, rose and even a poison plant garden. The magnolia collection is likely Eastern Canada's largest.

Saturday, May 8, 2010

Travel to Quebec City. Traditional French Canadian lunch at Le Domaine Joly-de-Lotbinière. Optional guided historical and horticultural walk in the areas surrounding Old Quebec City with Larry Hodgson. Overnight accommodation inside the old walled city. Dinner on your own.

Larry Hodgson grew up in Ontario but established a horticultural career in Quebec City where he quickly fell in love with the beauty of the city and the French Canadian culture. Larry is a garden writer with a weekly column in a local newspaper and the host of a gardening radio talk show. Larry will share his enthusiasm for his home city and the gardens it contains during our visit Saturday afternoon and on Sunday.

Sunday, May 9, 2010

Morning visit to Bois de Coulonge, former home of the Governor General of Canada. Arboretum includes an American chestnut. Afternoon visit to the Roger Van Den Hende Botanical Gardens, including rhododendrons and some of the most northerly planted magnolias, then to the private garden of Bernard Carrier, a true plant collector's garden. Lunch included. Grand Finale dinner in the world renowned Chateau Frontenac.

Monday, May 10, 2010

Bus returns to Niagara Falls with stops at Quebec City, Montreal (Pierre Trudeau) and Toronto (Pearson) airports as needed by attendees. Prepare for a long bus ride. Comfort and meal stops will be provided.