

OHS 2024 GREAT POLLINATOR GARDEN AWARDS (GPGA)



OVERVIEW

CONVENOR: Julianne Labreche

GPGA JUDGES : Sandy Garland, sgarland@teksavvy.com | Berit Erikson, cornerpollinatorgarden@gmail.com

The Ontario Horticultural Society (OHS) proudly launched its inaugural **OHS Great Pollinator Garden Awards (GPGA)** contest this year. Inspired by the crucial role of Ontario's native pollinators, the OHS aimed to celebrate those who created their own pollinator gardens. Participants competed for bragging rights and a distinguished plaque to showcase their winning efforts.

The awards were given to Ottawa gardeners who designed pollinator gardens focused on attracting beneficial pollinators. While native plants were critical to the design, non-native plants were also incorporated into the space. Design components required both host and nectar plants for pollinators.

GPGA CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA OVERVIEW

CATEGORIES:

Category 1: A beautiful and biodiverse **front** yard garden;

Category 2: A beautiful and biodiverse **back** yard garden;

Category 3: **Boulevard** and **streetscape** plantings on **city property**; and

Category 4: Use of **balcony** or **patio** garden.

CRITERIA:

- Design (balance, originality, plant arrangement);
- Condition and maintenance (free of disease, good garden practises)
- Habitat for pollinators (variety of plants, including natives).

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WINNERS

Category 1: A beautiful and biodiverse **front yard** garden.

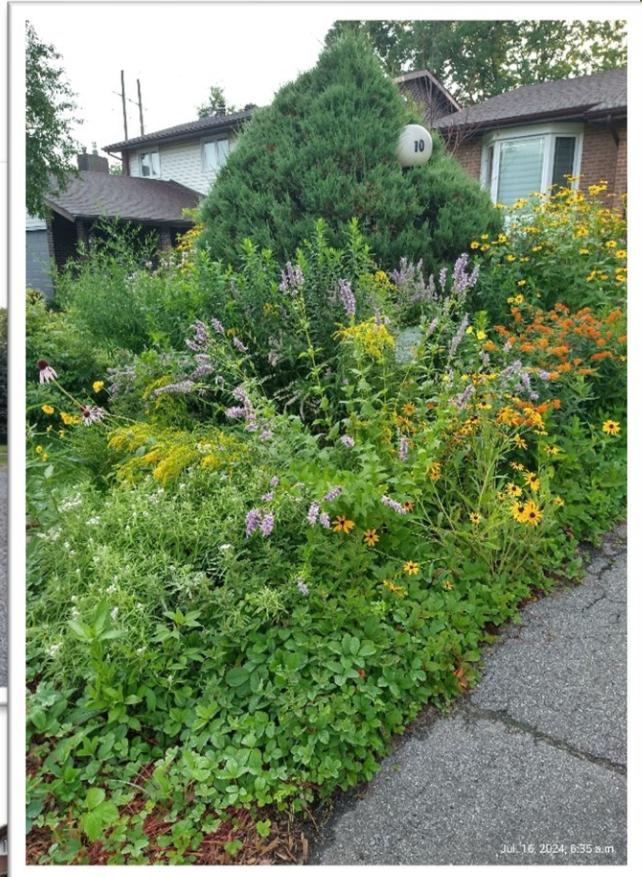


OVERALL, WINNER: Nina and Craig Foster McLaren

Judge's comments:

"Featured a lovely mix of structural woody species and herbaceous native plants that provide shelter and food for pollinators and birds from spring to fall. Grass paths that weave through the colourful island beds allow for pollinator observations and help the yard look well-maintained to passersby".

Photos courtesy of Nina and Craig Foster McLaren



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Category 2 – A beautiful and biodiverse **back yard** garden.

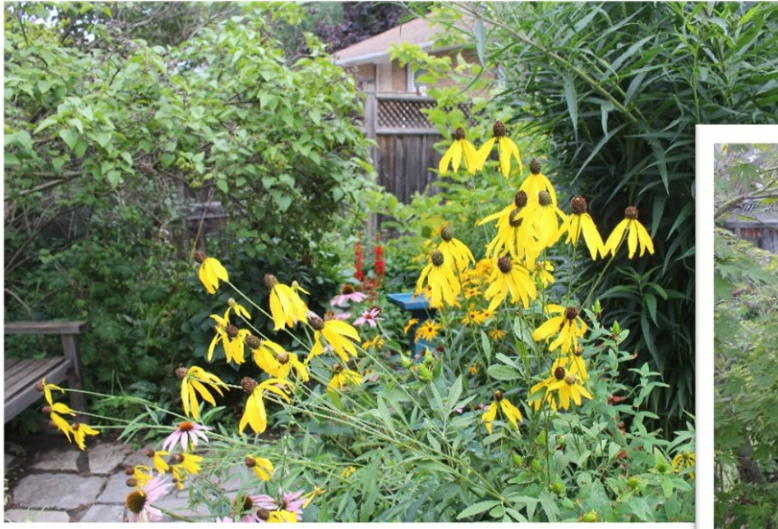


WINNER: Tuula Talvila

Judge's comments:

"This attractive informal design proves that you can pack many species of native pollinator plants into a small space without compromising esthetics. The flagstone paths, seating, rustic twig edging, and bird baths provide focal points and draw the eye through the garden."

Photos courtesy of Tuula Talvila



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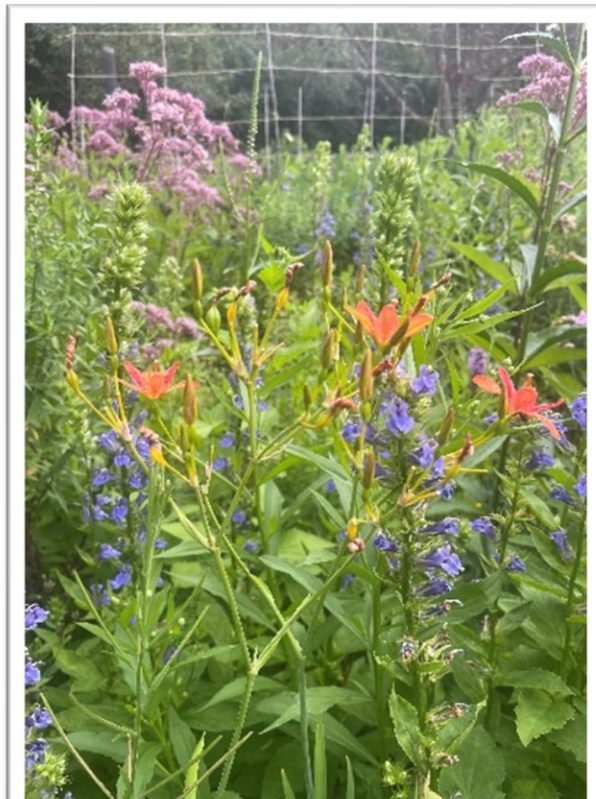
Category 2 – A beautiful and biodiverse **back yard** garden.

HONOURABLE MENTION: Adair Heuchan

Judge's Comments:

"Planting in rows of gradually increasing height, neatly divided by stone paths, creates order and structure in this naturalistic pollinator island bed."

Photos courtesy of Adair Heuchan



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Category 3 – **Boulevard** and **streetscape** plantings
on **city property**.

WINNER: Christine Edmonds

Judge's comments: *"This is a show-stopping original, naturalistic design with repeated groupings of native plants, pleasing combinations of flowers and textures, and Little Bluestem grasses dotted throughout to tie the garden together. This garden includes lots of native flowers providing nectar and pollen throughout the growing seasons, as well as host plants for butterflies and moths."*

Photos courtesy of Christine Edmonds



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Category 4 – Pots

WINNER: Catherine Disley

Judge's Comments:

"We liked that the native plants in this pot covered two blooming seasons."

Photos courtesy of Catherine Disley

