

Minerva Service Organization 2023 Spring Garden Workshop

The MSO, hosted its annual Spring Garden Workshop on April 22. As usual, the program offerings were outstanding.

Thank you the MSO, Selena LeMay and Lisa Salamon for an enjoyable and informative afternoon.



Walapinis

Bonnie Vicki presented on walapinies which are essentially an underground greenhouse. The bulk of the structure is underground which allows the greenhouse to stay warmer longer. This can extend your growing season from a few weeks to perhaps

a few months. The Aymara Indians in the South American Andes have been using this technique for generations to augment their harvests.

Growing Your Own Oyster Mushrooms

Andy LeBlanc from Indian Lake gave a demonstration on propagating your own oyster mushrooms in a plastic coffee canister. LeBlanc is a familiar site at other venues sharing his mushroom growing skills. He has made it his mission to include locally harvested mushrooms in his meals at least five times per week. Which he says, he has been very successful at. Lisa Salamon and Mary Irene Lee volunteered to help with the packing of the coffee canisters with the various



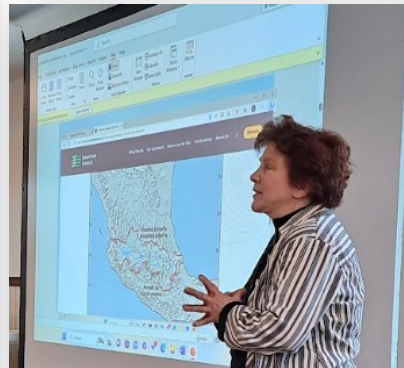
Flower Photography

Sharon Stone shared her passion for flower photography with the group. Using her own photographs she explained how timing, lighting and weather can impact photographs. Also discussed were purpose, perspective and the rule of nines.

Community Composting

John Culpepper from the Adirondack Compost for Good project presented on the benefits of community composting. Culpepper spoke to the

amount of actual compostable product goes into our waste facilities and what the benefits would be if that waste were to be composted instead. Benefits include keeping the waste out of our waterways, healing our soil and, reducing greenhouse gases.



Following the Monarchs from Minerva to Mexico.

Ann Brown shared her trip to Mexico with her partner Rose in 2015 to find the habitat of the Monarchs. An avid monarch supporter,

Brown has 30 aquariums at her home in which she uses to keep the monarch cocoons she locates safe until they open. Last year alone she released over 300 monarchs from her home in Minerva.

Through photos taken on the trip and her own research, Ann shared her concern for the ever diminishing habitats that monarch butterflies need to survive. Ann also shared a bit of the history of how the migratory path of the monarchs was discovered and shared tips for helping to support the monarch population survive.