

MAY 2010



The Heron

KITCHENER-WATERLOO
Field Naturalists

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Next Club Meeting:

May 31 , 2010 at 7:00PM

Wing 404/Rotary Centre, Dutton Dr., Waterloo

Build a Butterfly Garden ...and more

Thelma Beaubien will present her spectacular photography in an audio visual show about gardens, and how to build them to attract birds and butterflies.

Coffee and Tea Available
at the Meeting



Please remember to bring
Your Mug!

KWFN Contacts for the 2009/2010 Season

Directors

President

Mary Ann Vanden Elzen (519 741-8272)
mave@microverse.on.ca

Vice President

Dale Ingrey (519 884-3667)
ingreyda@hotmail.com

Past President

Levi Moore (519 747-2080)
lcmoore_04@yahoo.ca

Conservation

Valerie Hill (519 578-8113)
vhill@therecord.com

Treasurer

Irena Baltaduonis (519 699-4520)
irenastclements@gmail.com

Membership

Larry Hamel (519 894-5140)
hamell@sympatico.ca

Secretary

Katharina Walton (519 954-6478)
hamptonstreet@rogers.com

Programs

Jim Cappleman (519 885-0380)
jim@mcdsigns.com

Publicity

Neill Stewart (519 954-5991)
kingjarrah@yahoo.ca

Outings

Mary Voisin (519 884-6881)
maryvoisin@rogers.com

Other

Editor

Deb Fowler (519 576-2788)
deb.heron_editor@rogers.com

Mailing Team

Marco and Donna DeBruin
marco_debruin@sympatico.ca

ON Representative

Fraser Gibson (519 576-9287)
fn.gib@sympatico.ca

Young Naturalists

Pat Bigelow (519-888-7516)
bigelow@sympatico.ca
Kiirstin Maki (519 745-5899)
kiirstin@uc.org

Noteworthy Bird Sightings

Ken Burrell (519 699-4695)
kenard89@hotmail.com

Librarian Archivist

Betty Cooper
(519 743-3827)

Native Plant Nuts

Wayne Buck (519 662-2529)
wbuck@golden.net

KWFN Webmaster & Waterloo Stewardship Committee

Representative

Neil E. Taylor (519 893-6469)
neiletaylor@sympatico.ca
www.kwfn.ca

Kitchener's Natural Areas Program

David Hunsberger 519-886-5588, dph@golden.net
Fraser Gibson 519-576-9287, fn.gib@sympatico.ca

Editor's Corner

Spring is a busy time for the Field Naturalists. Bird migrations, Tree Hunts, tender green shoots showing up in woodlands everywhere, but who's complaining? Not me!

Deb Fowler



Submissions for the Heron need to be received by the 15th of the month.

Submit via email,

<deb.heron_editor@rogers.com>

or mail to 30 Calmcrest Drive,

Kitchener N2E 1V3

Information for everyone

The 2011 Champion Tree Hunt of Waterloo Region

Three local arborists are in the process of initiating The 2011 Champion Tree Hunt of Waterloo Region. Their goals are twofold.

One is to locate and identify trees within the Region of Waterloo that would qualify as Champion Trees and the second goal is to educate and raise public awareness on the value of tree preservation.

The committee has already received helpful information from KW Field Naturalist's archivist, Betty Cooper, on The Great Tree Hunt of 1990.

A website is currently being developed that will provide all the pertinent information regarding this event and updates will be posted in The Heron.

Update from the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met April 12. The following is a summary of what was discussed.

- The Board continued discussing progress on the KWFN website.
- A policy was approved that will limit Board Meeting length.
- A Research Award proposal was submitted to Board members for review.
- Tax exempt status for the club's two properties was discussed.
- Years of service on the Board are not limited.
- The Board received the Management Plan and Annual Report from the Montgomery Committee.
- KWFN's presence at various upcoming events.
- Members participating in the Baillie Birdathon in 2009 have raised \$995.20 for the club. Thank you!
- The KWFN brochures are being revised and will be ready for the upcoming events.

If you are interested in reviewing the minutes of the Board meeting, they will be available in the library next month, once they are approved by the Board. Alternatively, you can receive the minutes by email by contacting Katharina Walton. The next Board meeting will be held on May 3.

Plant Exchange

Got any extra plants, seedlings, cuttings or bulbs? Bring them, labelled, to the May 31st club meeting. Someone will provide them with a happy new home.

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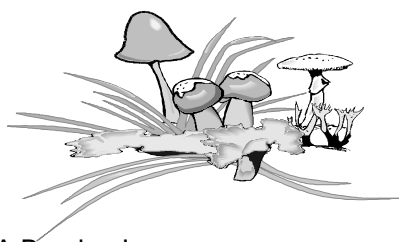
Droll Yankee, Aspects, Duncraft, Audubon and more



Also at St. Jacobs Farmers Market

****And now at the Stratford Farmers Market****

Native Plant Nuts



A Burning Issue

The headline in the April 6, 2010 Waterloo Region Record read, "Spring grass fires hit region". And with little wonder. The University of Waterloo Weather Station Summary - March 2010

Warmest March in 10 years with below average precipitation and no snow

It was a very warm March with only 3 colder than average days, which all

came at the end of the month. Overall it was 3.4 degrees above average,

making it the warmest March since 2000 and the 6th warmest since records

began in the region.

Several grass fires across the Waterloo Region kept crews busy in several locations that included: New Dundee Rd., North Dumfries, and New Hamburg. Most were caused by fires that were set by people intentionally but got out of control due to high winds and dry conditions. But at least one was caused by "natural" causes.

On the previous Saturday afternoon, (April 3) my son, Graham and I were driving north on Wilmot Easthope Rd. As we crossed highway 7&8, we saw 2 fire trucks turning north onto Wilmot Easthope Rd. heading in the same direction we were. We watched from a distance as they turned into a farm lane just across the railway tracks. Looking west, up the tracks, we could see that a fire had started there, in the grass along the roadbed, and had proceeded to burn its way up both sides of the embankment and on into the corn

field where it now burned. Then we saw the adjacent corn field ablaze, with several firefighters working at putting out the flames, trying to head them off before they reached a pine plantation.

This was the first time I had actually seen a fire that was caused by sparks from a passing train; probably sparks caused by the braking train as it crossed the road. I have heard stories for years about how prairie remnants along side railroad tracks were preserved by sparks from passing trains. In the old days (like when I was a kid) sparks could have come from the coal-burning boilers that powered these steam engines. But here was evidence that even modern diesel engines can cause sparks that can ignite the grass alongside the roadbed. This was like finding one of Santa's mittens or the tooth fairy's purse.

These fires along side roadbeds have helped preserve prairie remnants with periodic fires that impacted the non-native plants which are not adapted to fire, allowing the native prairie plants to thrive because they are adapted to fire. Many prairie plants actually grow better after a fire. First, the fire knocks back the competition of the non-native species which, after an early spring have already greened up. After the burn, the prairie species start to grow again more quickly, giving them an advantage over the non-native plants. Prairie grasses are warm season grasses and would have still been dormant. Secondly, the black ash on the soil surface absorbs more of the sun's energy, enabling the plants to grow more quickly in the warmed soil. Thirdly, the minerals in the ash of the burned plants provide much needed nutrients im-

mediately, since many prairie soils are nutrient poor, rather than waiting for decomposers to break them down.

In historic times, prairie fires were caused by lightning strikes or First Nation people who wanted to rejuvenate the area from which they obtained their food, medicine, and building materials. A local example is the Waynco Prairie, near Cambridge. The prairie was used as grazing land for cattle for many years. With the suppression of fire, the non native plants made large inroads until the entire field was predominantly non native species. A railway ran along the west edge of the field, and periodic fires caused by the trains, allowed some of the prairie plants to grow by knocking back the non-native vegetation. Several local groups, including the Waterloo Stewardship Network have been working diligently to restore this prairie using a number of different techniques.

First, seeds of prairie plants growing along the roadbed have been collected in the fall and redistributed to facilitate the spread of the prairie species across the landscape. Second, prescribed burns have been conducted annually in the spring for the past 3 years, in an effort to knock back the invasive species and to encourage the fire-resistant native species. Thirdly, this past fall, brushing removed many invasive trees such as Manitoba Maple that were creating pockets of shade, reducing the ability of native prairie vegetation to regenerate. I hope that within my lifetime, we will see this gem of a prairie remnant restored to its original beauty.



~ Fraser Gibson

Reminder of Ontario Nature's AGM and Conference, May 28 - 30, 2010

Please join fellow Ontario Nature enthusiasts for their 3 day conference, "Exploring Our Watersheds" at Lambton College, Sarnia on May 28-30, 2010. This major conservation event will showcase the rich diversity of Carolinian Canada's coasts and Lambton County's watersheds through a variety of presentations, workshops, field trips, and a special evening cruise on the St. Clair River!

You can register online at www.carolinian.org. Check out the Conference 'Programme at Glance' at www.ontarionature.org/agm.

For more information, call Ontario Nature at 1-800-440-4399 ext 240 or Carolinian Canada at (519) 433-7077.

Calling All Teen Birders!

Bird Studies Canada Invites Teen Birders to Apply for the 2010 YOW!

The 2010 Doug Tarry Natural

History Fund's Young Ornithologists' Workshop will be held at Long Point Bird Observatory near Port Rowan, Ontario, from Friday, July 30 to Sunday, August 8. Participants will receive hands-on field ornithology training, including bird banding, censusing, field identification, birding trips, preparing museum specimens, guest lectures, and more! Six of Canada's most promising ornithologists between the ages of 13-17 will be selected to attend, and will receive the Doug Tarry Bird Study Award to cover all on-site expenses. For those traveling long distances, special grants may also be available to help offset air travel costs. **Applications are due April 30, 2010.** For more information and an application form, email

lpbo@birdscanada.org, or visit the Bird Studies Canada website at www.birdscanada.org/longpoint.

Reptile and Amphibian Atlas

Those of you who enjoyed participating in the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas or who are interested in contributing to citizen science may enjoy taking part

in Ontario Nature's Reptile and Amphibian Atlas. This is only its second year of data collection.

Ontario Nature began work on the Atlas project in partnership with the Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF), the Ministry of Natural Resources' Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC), and other government agencies and nongovernmental organizations.

The objective of the atlas project is to improve our knowledge of the distribution and status of Ontario's reptiles and amphibians by collecting observation submissions from the public, carrying out field surveys and amalgamating existing databases.

Volunteers are needed to submit observations of reptiles and amphibians found throughout Ontario. Observations can be submitted via an online form, an Excel spreadsheet (useful for submitting multiple observations) or a printable data card that can be mailed in. For more information visit: www.ontarionature.org/herpetofaunal_atlas.html

Baillie Birdathon

The board wishes to thank Jim, Ken and Mike Burrell and Neil Taylor for their participation in the 2009 Baillie Birdathon. Through their efforts, \$3772 was raised. Of this amount, \$995.20 was returned by Bird Studies Canada to KWFN as our share of the proceeds. Many thanks, also, to all club members who contributed financially or who participated in any way to this worthy cause.

Outings Schedule



By Mary Voisin

Springtime in Backus Woods

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Colleen Dale 519-428-0944

Meeting Time/Place

9 a.m. at Homer Watson Blvd./ Fountain St. 401 carpool
Come out and join naturalist Colleen Dale for a springtime stroll in the unique Carolinian trails of Backus Woods. (2 K north of Port Rowan) This is a great time to view the abundance of spring ephemerals carpeting the forest floor and search for woodland wildlife such as frogs and salamanders. Backus Woods is one of the best remaining examples of Carolinian forest remaining in Canada and provides important habitat to many species at risk. Don't forget to bring your binoculars, as this is a great spot for bird watching as well!

Spring in Homer Watson Park

Saturday May 1st, and Sunday, May 2nd, 2010

Neil Taylor 519-893-6469

Meeting Time/Place

8:30 a.m., Saturday, May 1st or 1:00 p.m. Sunday, May 2nd, 2010
Parking lot on north side of Homer Watson Park, (Wilson Ave., Kitchener)

Homer Watson Park offers a wonderful experience for the novice or the enthusiastic naturalist of any age. Join Neil at his neighbourhood park, a special natural area for an all morning walk on Saturday or an afternoon hike on Sunday. Wear sturdy footwear for the varied terrain. Binoculars and cameras are recommended. .

Health Valley Trail

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Meet, Greet and Explore! A shared experience!

Meeting Time/Place:

9:00 am at the Riverworks parking lot, St. Jacobs, at the extreme east end (follow the signs for buses and campers

Lakeside Park in Spring

Saturday, May 8, 2010

Ken Dance 519-463-6156.

Meeting Time/Place

8:30a.m. at the parking lot on Lakeside Drive located half way along the western margin of the park.

Ken Dance will lead a Saturday morning nature hike to view the birds, vegetation and aquatic life that abounds in this City of Kitchener park.

The walking is easy and the hike will last 1½ or 2 hrs.

Montgomery Property – Periwinkle & Trail Maintenance

Friday, May 14, 2010

Fraser Gibson 519-576-9287

David Hunsberger

Meeting Time/Place

1:00 pm at the Nith River bridge on Bridge Street west of New Dundee. Park on the roadside east of the bridge

The Montgomery committee needs your help – many hands make light work.

This work party will re-lay the tarpaulins displaced by flooding and remove remnant smaller areas of periwinkle by hand. Trail maintenance will remove fallen limbs and other debris, remark blazes. Bring rubber/work boots, work gloves, sickle or whip cutter, clippers. Insect repellent advised. Approximately 2 – 2 ½ hours.

Leaders : Periwinkle – Fraser Gibson; Trail – David Hunsberger

Huron Natural Area (HNA)

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Josh Shea 519-208-8442

Meeting Time/Place

7:00 pm at Pavilion area – 801 Trillium Park Dr. **Directions** – Take Strasburg Rd. south from Bleams Rd. to Trillium Drive . Turn west (right) about 1 km. to the parking lot on south side (left).

This 360 acre park, Kitchener's largest, is a very valuable wildlife area containing an amazing representation of this area's biodiversity. It contains a cold water stream that supports a population of brook trout flows through the site. There is a diverse habitat including significant wetlands, kettles, ponds, upland maple/ beech forest, cultural meadows, as well as pine plantations. Significant species breed here and the ponds are visited by migrants. Join Josh as we look for birds, listen for frogs and watch for any other wildlife that may be watching us.

rare, Blair and Barry's Lake

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Bill Wilson 519-653-1274

Meeting Time/Place:

7:45 am in the parking lot of rare Charitable Research Reserve (www.raresites.org), Lamb's Inn, 1679 Blair Road, in the Village of Blair.

We'll visit several habitats, as time permits, within *Environmentally Sensitive Landscape 2*, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, to observe a mix of spring migrants and birds on territory. Expect a variety of flycatchers, woodpeckers, warblers, sparrows and swallows. Bring binoculars, footwear for hard-pack trails with possibly some damp to wet sections, and appropriate snacks and water for a four-hour outing.

KWFN MONTGOMERY PROPERTY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT TO BOARD
OF DIRECTORS & MEMBERS
March 2010

MANDATE

In accordance with The Management Plan for the property, the Conservation Director of the club is asked to submit an Annual Report about the property to the Board. The Montgomery Committee is to prepare the report. This reporting requirement has been included in the Directors' Duties Manual. This report covers the period from June 2009 to March 2010 and will be published in the Heron for the information of the members.

REPORT OF ACTIVITY – PERIWINKLE ERADICATION

A visit on 21 June 2009 showed that the winter floods had obliterated the markers for all but one test plot, and completely stripped all the laid tarpaulins. Nonetheless, previously tarped areas showed almost complete clearance of periwinkle. Recovery and relaying of the tarpaulins remains to be done in 2010.

REPORT OF ACTIVITY – INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

During the winter of 2008/09 the Nith experienced a 75-year high flood event, plus a second lesser event in addition to the spring flood. These events left major blockage of the trail by deadfalls and debris at the northwest end of the trail that were cleared by a work party on 24 June 2009.

The 11 numbered marker posts have been installed along the trail.

TRAIL GUIDE

The major achievement of the Committee for 2009 was the finalization and production of the 75th Anniversary Trail Guide, a 3-fold, double sided interpretive guide to the property. Printed copies of the guide were made available at the September 2009 KWFN Club meeting. A donation of \$1.00 per copy is suggested to help cover the costs of production. Approximately \$35 has already been returned to the club as a donation from the Committee.

The Trail Guide has received very positive comment and has been given, at her request, to Joan Daynard, the new Great Lakes West Region co-ordinator for Ontario Nature for use as an example for a trail that she is helping to develop.

The requirement of the Management Plan that called for the updating and publication of a description of the property has been satisfied by publication of the Trail Guide. More detail is available in the updated Management Plan (see below).

SIGNAGE

A work party installed the new sign for the property, made by David Hunsberger on 24 June 2009. The sign is located closer to the bridge than was the original and looks very professional.

In response to Committee and Board concerns about public liability for trail users, a "Caution" sign will be installed near the start of the trail but not visible from the road. Jim Cappleman has designed, and will supply and install the sign in April.

Report compiled by Graham Macdonald, March 5, 2010.

REPORT OF ACTIVITY – OUTINGS

Marco DeBruin led an outing in June 2009.

MONTGOMERY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Management Plan has been updated and reissued. The Plan is now a comprehensive document that brings together in one place, most, if not all, of the information about the Montgomery Property: location, history, legal and physical description, survey data, biological inventory, objectives of KWFN and the Committee, Completed Committee activities, forward plans, and reporting requirements,

It is proposed to make a printed file copy available to members on the information tables at the monthly KWFN meetings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Thanks to all who lent tools and donated supplies. Above all, thanks to all the committee members for donating their time and effort throughout the year, both on site, in hosting and attending meetings, in recording the work, and in producing the Trail Guide.

Respectfully submitted,
The Montgomery Property Committee:
(in alpha order) Pat and Paul Bigelow, Wayne and Lynda Buck, Marco DeBruin, Fraser Gibson, Valerie Hill, David Hunsberger, Graham & Marg Macdonald, April Morrissey.

RAPTORS ON THE WIND SPEAKERS RECAP

Do wind farms result in high raptor mortality rates? Kevin Dance shared some results from his Masters studies at the University of Waterloo. He compared mortality rates for raptors at 3 different international wind farms as well as the Erie Shores Wind Farm where he did his research.

1. Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area in California. This is located in the mountains east of San Francisco. This facility has 5400 turbines with a combination of new and old generation technology. With the newer models, there is less opportunity for the raptors to perch on the turbines. The blades rotate more slowly so the birds can see them and have a better chance to avoid them. The mortality rate at this facility is high.
2. Tarifa, Spain. This is located in the Straits of Gibraltar in a migration path from Europe to

North Africa. It is located in a mountainous area. The mortality rate is high but lower than at the California facility but there are fewer turbines. In 2008 the mortality rate was lower than expected. Two rows of turbines are responsible for the most deaths.

3. Smola Wind Farm in Norway. This facility is located in the northern part of Norway. It is not in a migratory route but is a breeding area for White-tailed Sea Eagles. From August 2005 to March 2007 there were 10 fatalities of the eagles.

Erie Shores Wind Farm: this is the facility where Kevin did his research. It is located in a migration corridor with a large number of birds passing through. Would this result in higher raptor mortality rates? Kevin found that 2 raptors died each autumn for a total of 4 birds over 2 years. This is in the middle for raptor mortality for comparison sites in Canada and the USA. The raptors passing through the Erie Shores Wind Farm were able to adjust their flight to miss the tur-

Submitted by Karol Grainger

bine blades. The turbines here are spread out unlike those in California and Spain which are located much closer together.

Kevin concluded that a high number of birds did not result in high mortality rates for raptors moving through wind farms.

EAGLE WATCHING IN THE ISLE OF MULL, SCOTLAND

Ken Dance treated the audience to his adventures in eagle-watching on the Isle of Mull, 3 hours north of Glasgow by train.

He showed slides of the White-tailed Sea Eagle which was almost wiped out in the 1950's. The species was reintroduced with birds from Norway and Sweden. Today, there are 12 breeding pairs in Mull.

He also viewed a Golden Eagle nest located on a hillside. The adult pair appeared bringing dinner – one was carrying a lamb.

Membership Report

Submitted by Larry Hamel

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Our membership list continues to grow! Please welcome Lien Lien, Mary Anna Roe and Robert Roe to our ranks. We look forward to their increasing involvement in the activities of the KWFN as they become familiar with the operation of our club.

MEMBERS GREETING NEW MEMBERS

All members are encouraged to make a point of extending a personal greeting to one or more of our new and returning former members as listed in this and previous editions of The Heron.

JOINING THE KITCHENER-WATERLOO FIELD NATURALISTS

At any meeting of the KWFN, persons interested in joining our club should approach the Membership Director, Larry Hamel, for assistance. Not sure who he is? Just ask a current member or go the table at the rear of the hall and ask one of the members distributing the newsletter for assistance. Other options include a visit to www.kwfn.ca where you can find information and a Membership Form or you may contact Larry directly at hamell@sympatico.ca.

VISITOR NAME TAGS AVAILABLE

Name tag materials are available on the name tag blanket table for all guests and visitors. Please encourage their use.

Neil E. Taylor
KWFN Representative
Waterloo Stewardship Network
April, 2010
WSN Core Projects



Waterloo Stewardship Network

“providing Waterloo Region with knowledge necessary to continue responsible stewardship of the natural resources we all share”

This is a brief report to update KWFN members on WSN Projects.

Prairie Species At Risk (SAR) Program - This project involves the restoration of tall grass prairie remnants and enhancing of new prairie sites in the North Dumfries area and adjacent properties in Brant County and Hamilton. This program is largely funded by a grant from the MNR SAR Stewardship Fund. An application to continue this work was submitted in December. A Burn Plan is in progress for the Peter Kyle property and Waynco. Seed collection, planting and invasive species control are also part of the plans. Grant for 2009-10 was \$56K. Funding application for 2010-11 was \$55K.

Trees From Seed - This project is underway and continuing. Karen Buschert has been hired with dollars from the City of Kitchener LEAF Fund and WSN support. Total project cost in 2010 is about \$22K. The 2010 commitment to finish this season is about \$8K. WSN contribution to this is expected to be about \$10K. An application was submitted for 2010-11 in the amount of \$31K from the City of Kitchener to help with expansion of the program and to provide Karen with assistance during busy parts of the program. The Region's Stewardship program grant has been approved to help 2010 hard costs.

Rural Landowner Workshops - These could have a significant impact and presence with landowners in the ESL areas. The first workshop held in concert with GRCA cost of about \$600. At least one more workshop is anticipated for the 2010-11.

Drynan Forest - Restoration of this site and creation of a commemorative grove of trees is planned. Funds have been sought through the Regions Environmental Stewardship Fund and the SAR Stewardship Fund. These applications (\$6K & \$8K) should cover costs of plant materials and any site preparations required. There is leadership within the council and its members to help steer this project through.

Grand River Envirothon 2011 - This program has been successful in the past. The program costs about \$1.5K for the lead council and \$1K for supporting council per season. A series of workshops and a competition are part of this program.

Aquatic Renewal Program - There is an opportunity to pursue a Trillium, RBC Bluewater, COA or Fish Forever Grant to take this program to the next level and possibly pass it on to another organization. A contractor is in place to complete 4 workshops in 2010. There is the potential to engage schools at Strasburg, Forwell, and Kolb Creeks and other waterways. Support volunteer groups on Laurel and Canaguiguige and other waterways in the upper Grand River watershed is possible through this program as it develops.

Roadside Trees - Through the Region's Stewardship Fund \$12K was approved to help plant roadside trees. Council and landowner commitment id required for this program.

Ontario Stewardship Rangers - This is an excellent program where we share a crew with Wellington. Partners enjoy the assistance from the rangers for tree maintenance, small stream projects, assessment activities and the planting of prairie plugs created in the "Trees from Seed" program.

Garden Tour - Completing another garden tour in the fall would be a nice compliment to the successful one help in May 2009. The cost is less that \$1K.

SW Zone Meeting - Each year one of the stewardship councils in the south west zone hosts a meeting for coordinators and council members. This year there is an opportunity to share these responsibilities with the Wellington Council. This would be an opportunity to line up speakers we are interested in hearing and show off some of our project sites to other stewardship people. The event target date is early October.

Partner Support

Laurel Creek Headwaters ESL Committee - This project has been supported with coordinator time and development of the Rural Landowner Stewardship Guide and workshops. Other small projects that have developed through this committee involves helping the two ESLs do water quality monitoring, assessment of an eroding stream, a stream restoration project on a relatively good quality stream, a few landowner visits, and deferral to GRCA for some tree planting projects.

Cambridge Stewardship and Pollinator Park - This project will see a planting of pollinator species in a prominent location in a Cambridge park. Financial cost is minimal (possibly \$2K). Support from

President's Corner

By Mary Ann Vanden Elzen

Cambridge City Hall - Taking the LEED

Back in 2008, Terri Meyer Boake of UW's School of Architecture, gave a fascinating presentation at the May KWFN club meeting entitled, "Green is NOT a Colour." She spoke about the new certification in architectural design. Called LEED, (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) it sets a high standard in sustainable building design.

Throughout her presentation, the screen lit up with buildings from around the world that had achieved LEED certification. I was most intrigued at the mention of a local example - Cambridge City Hall. I thought, "I'd love to know more about that building."

Recently, the opportunity arose. A group of local activists had arranged for a tour. They agreed to let me tag along.

The hour long tour was led by Bob Paul, the city's facilities manager, and Adam Cheney, manager of operations. As we progressed, it became clear that, not only did these sustainable design features reduce this building's environmental footprint, many also created a healthy work space for the employees.

Upon entering this, the first LEED gold certified city hall in all of Canada, one is struck by its brightness. Sunshine pours into the cathedral-sized atrium from windows high above. Natural light penetrates 75% of the building. For those recesses requiring artificial lighting, motion sensors turn off the low mercury fluorescent bulbs after 15 minutes.

All materials used in the structure were meticulously researched for sustainability, durability and level of off-gasing. Most were sourced from within 300 km. An impressive 80%

of waste construction material including wood, metal and paper was recycled.

Cambridge City Hall features a lot of wood in both its construction and furniture. Light colours permit light to bounce about rather than be absorbed. Simple, elegant lines allow for fluid air flow.

An ingenious computerized weather station sits atop the roof monitoring wind, rain and temperature. It is plugged into a control system directing windows to open and close automatically. Strategically placed reader boards instruct employees to open or close windows in their work spaces. Thus begins a natural drafting process throughout the building reducing the need for air conditioning.

A prominent feature is the beautiful wide staircase. Working on the theory, "If you don't hide it, people will use it," it was designed to promote healthy exercise. Elevators are located behind the stairs.

A 10000 litre cistern, off-limits to visitors, collects rainwater for flushing toilets.

But it is the "living wall" that really draws the eye! This four-storey backdrop of green consists of 3000 lush tropical plants all specifically

selected for their enhanced bio-filtering qualities. Located behind the wall, a system of fans draws air through, accelerating the plants' natural ability to absorb and filter airborne contaminants. The fresh, clean oxygenated air then circulates throughout the building. No sleepy drowsy employees here!

On the leading edge of green technology, the living wall is fully integrated into the building's heating and cooling system. In addition, with water tinkling down moistening the roots, and then transpired through the leaves, humidity levels are maintained at a comfortable 40%.

Future plans call for solar panels and an expanded green roof.

Cambridge's city hall was built at a cost of \$22 million and is the most expensive project ever undertaken by the city. Of this, \$1.6 million was expended for its green elements, only a fraction of which have been mentioned here. However, LEED design is really planning for the future. In a world where utility costs are on an upward trajectory, Cambridge City Hall realizes \$160,000 in savings every year.

Lower footprint, lower utility costs, healthier employees - Cambridge City Hall - LEEDing the way!



Wild Birds Unlimited

951 Gordon St., Guelph
519-821-BIRD (2473)
<http://www.guelph.wbu.com>

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May 2010 at a Glance - refer to page 6 of this Heron for full outing details

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 Homer Watson 8:30am Backus Woods 9 am
2 Homer Watson Park 1pm	3	4 Health Valley Trail 9 am	5	6	7	8 Lakeside Park 8:30 am
9	10	11	12	13	14 Montgomery Property 1:00 pm	15
16	17	18 Huron Natural Area 7 pm	19	20 rare, Blair and Barrie's Lake 7:45 am	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 KWFN Meeting 7:00 PM					

a Restoration Technician could be about \$4K. The rest of the Cambridge stewardship project proposal approved in March 2009 includes close to a \$4500 commitment and time of the council and staff members.

Bolender Park Restoration - Working with the Township of Woolwich and other partners, this site will have a bioengineering project installed in the stream and possibly a naturalization plan developed for the park. Financial costs are expected to be minimal but coordinating work, partners and activities at EDSS could take some council and coordinator time and energy.

Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival - WSN has supported this program with \$3K for 2010 and staff and volunteer support. It is anticipated that this type of contribution is expected to be maintained for the 2011 season.

Schoolyard Greening - In 2009-10 WSN supported two schools with \$5K each towards schoolyard naturalization. There is a commitment for 2010-11 for another two schools (\$5K each) already in place (King Edward and Waterloo Oxford). The support of future projects will be examined on a case by case basis.

Woodlot Association - Support of this group has involved a small amount of the coordinator's time and minimal financial support (\$200 in 2009-10).

City of Kitchener KNAP & HNA Enhancement - The council has worked with the KWFN and City with various projects including Earth Day events and restoration activities.

University of Waterloo Student Support - Support for students conducting research through this venue was provided by the coordinator in 2009-10. Help with future projects of undergraduate and graduate students is expected in 2010-11. The coordinator worked with students from the Ecology Lab of Environmental Studies on three projects and one project with students from Environmental Engineering. Students may also be a significant source of volunteer labour for programs like the Trees from Seed, Aquatic Renewal, and prairie initiatives.

Earth Day/Partner Events - In 2009-10 the council was present at Earth day events in Waterloo and Kitchener and the Fall Parks Day as well as the GRCA's 75th and the Outdoor Farm Show in Woodstock. Generally these are one day events with minimal financial commitments. Their value to the council and participants should be evaluated on an event by event basis.

Respectfully submitted,





Kitchener, ON N2M 3W6
317 Highland Road East

Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists

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Membership Fees
September to August
(After Feb. 1/10 - 1/2 price*)

* new members only
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Senior Couple
\$30.00

Adult Individual
\$30.00

Senior Individual
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Bring payment for membership to the next meeting or mail to KWFN at 317 Highland Rd E Kitchener N2M 3W6

Pesticide Policy
Nov. 8, 2000

'that it is KWFN policy to not use pesticides on any club properties or during any club activity'.



Objectives of the KWFN

- to acquire and disseminate knowledge of natural history
- to protect and preserve wildlife
- to purchase and hold appropriate parcels of land for the advancement of conservation
- to support public interest in nature and its preservation by supporting the enactment of wise legislation and by other means as falls within the scope of the Corporation

General Information

Meetings are held monthly from September to May, on the fourth Monday of the month with the exception of December. Our meetings are free and visitors are always welcome. Outings are scheduled almost every month.

KWFN is a registered charitable organization. Membership fees and all donations are tax deductible. KWFN is affiliated with Ontario Nature (FON) and Nature Canada (Canadian Nature Federation)

www.kwfn.ca



"The Heron" is the official publication of the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists' Club and is produced by volunteer members of the club. It is published nine times yearly from September to June, except for December.

Copies of "The Heron" are available at meetings but will be mailed (free of charge) to members if not picked up.

Articles reflect the views of the authors and are not necessarily the views endorsed by the KWFN club.