



Long Point-Carolinian Nature Fest

FRI. MAY 27 - SUN. MAY 29, 2011









Norfolk County - Canada's Biodiversity Capital!

For more details visit www.naturefest.ca or contact us at info@naturefest.ca, 519-410-8878

- All events will start promptly at the Education Centre at Backus Heritage Conservation Area unless otherwise noted. Car pooling is strongly encouraged and will be arranged as required.
- Coffee and muffins/donuts will be available every morning.
- Please bring your own reusable water bottle. We will have water tanks available to refill your bottles.

- Lunch will be available from local service clubs and the Meat Wagon from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. Or visit one of the excellent eateries in nearby Port Rowan.
- Don't forget to bring: sturdy walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, binoculars, camera, field guides, bug repellent, your curiosity and enthusiasm.

LEGEND:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Family Event |  Bus Tour |
|  Easy |  Moderate |
|  Easy |  Moderate |
|  Easy |  Moderate |

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING

A1) 11:30am - 4:30pm

CAROLINIAN CANADA COALITION PRESENTS "LOCATING AND PLANNING FOR WIND TOWERS"

An information Session for Members & Friends with Chair's Lunch & Conservation Awards. Speakers include Douglas Desmond, farmer & lawyer; Ted Cheskey, Nature Canada; and Scott Petrie, Long Point Waterfowl.

Pt. Rowan Royal Canadian Legion

Suggested Donation: \$20

REGISTER FOR THIS SESSION AT www.carolinian.org

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

FISH AND CHIP DINNER

Port Rowan Royal Canadian Legion

Cost: \$9/person, pay at the door

A2) 8:30 pm - 9:45 pm


SPEAKER: BACKUS WOODS: A 50-YEAR ENDEAVOUR TO SECURE PERMANENT PROTECTION by MICHAEL BRADSTREET, NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA; VIDEO: THE BEAUTY OF LONG POINT, by TIM HAGEN

Port Rowan Royal Canadian Legion

Cost: \$10

SATURDAY MORNING

B1) 5:00am - 9:00am

 **TURKEY CALLING**

Leader: Dave Reid

Join Dave and learn all about the wild turkey and the Carolinian woods in springtime including how to talk

turkey' at Ontario's original 1984 release site. Dress according to the weather - camouflage is ideal but brown and green will work.

Max: 12; Cost: \$10

B2) 6:30am - 9:00am

 **BIRDING AT ST. WILLIAMS**

Leader: Barry Jones and George Pond

Early morning birding in St. Williams is a wonderful start to the day. A great spot to see Hooded Warblers, Pine Warblers and Goshawks. Binoculars a must!

Max: 20; Cost: \$10

B3) 7:00am - 9:00am

 **BIRDING BY EAR IN SPOOKY HOLLOW**

Leader: Sheldon McGregor

Discover this 66-hectare property, belonging to the Hamilton Naturalists Club. The hemlock ravines abound with birds, including Red-bellied and Pileated Woodpeckers, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-throated Vireo, and numerous warbler species.

Max: 15; Cost: \$10

B4) 7:00am - 9:00am

 **BIRDING BY EAR IN BACKUS WOODS**

Leader: Rick Dowson

Learn the songs and calls of a variety of bird species along the Carolinian forest trails of Backus Woods. Listen for Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Hooded Warblers, Wood-Pewees, Prothonotary Warblers, Great Crested Flycatchers, Scarlet Tanagers and many other species.

Max: 15; Cost: \$10

B5) 7:00am – 9:00am



EARLY MORNING BIRDING AT LONG POINT

Leader: Mike Burrell

Enjoy an early morning walk along the sand dunes, and lakeshore of Long Point Provincial Park and listen and spot migrating warblers, shore birds and more.

Max: 15; Cost: \$10

B6) 8:00am – 11:00am



MOUNTAIN BIKING

Leader: Rob Luke

Join members of the Turkey Point Mountain Biking Club on a 13 km tour at South Coast Eco-Safari through rolling Carolinian woodlot with some great scenery, including large Carolinian tree species and a look out over Turkey Point Marsh. Bring your own bike.

Max: 12; Cost: \$20

B7) 8:30am – 10:30am



BIRDING AT TURKEY POINT TRACT

Leader: Terri Groh

At 400 ha this is one of the largest Carolinian forest tracts in Ontario. A variety of habitats, including abandoned farmland, scrubland, pine forest, marsh, thickets and bogs, provides wonderful opportunities to see and hear numerous bird species.

Max: 15; Cost: \$10

B8) 9:00am – 11:00am



VANNATTER PROPERTY TOUR

Leader: Shelia Smith

Take a leisurely nature walk through a private woodlot near Turkey Point bluff. In addition to many bird species, keep your eyes peeled for Snapping Turtles, basking Painted Turtles – and if we're lucky – even a Blanding's turtle. Kids bring your aquatic net and look for pond insects!

Max: 15; Cost: \$10

B9) 9:00am – 11:00am



BACKUS HERITAGE VILLAGE TOUR

Leader: Robin DeCloet

Go back in time for a glimpse of our pioneer past. There are more than a dozen restored or reconstructed buildings to explore including the 1798 Backus Grist Mill.

Max: 20; Cost: \$10

B10) 10:00am – 1:00pm



KAYAK BIG CREEK

Leader: Bill Baskerville

Enjoy the relaxing splendour of Big Creek, its habitats and wildlife while paddling downstream in kayaks supplied by Long Point Eco-Adventures

Max: 10; Cost: \$20

B11) 10:00am – 12:00pm



SPOOKY HOLLOW NATURE SANCTUARY

Leader: Frank Morley and Sheldon McGregor

Join Frank from the Hamilton Field Naturalists for a walk around Spooky Hollow - a provincially significant ANSI in recognition of the diversity and quality of the habitat provided by the river valleys and sand plain uplands and the many rare and unusual species present.

Max: 15; Cost: \$10

B12) 10:00am – 12:00pm



HIKE ALONG THE DYKE

Leader: Crystal Robertson

Discover the herptiles of Big Creek National Wildlife Area – this marsh is home to many marsh birds, amphibians, reptiles, and insects including some species at risk.

Max: 20; Cost: \$10

B13) 10:00am – 12:00pm



BUTTERFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES

Leader: Erica Barkley and Mike Burrell

Catch and identify the butterflies and dragonflies found within Backus Heritage Conservation Area. Bring a net along if you have one.

Max: 20; Cost: \$10

B14) 10:00am – 12:00pm



ACORUS RESTORATION TALK AND WALK

Leaders: Paul and Stephanie Morris

Come and learn about the restoration techniques used on this former 95 acre tobacco farm. A guided walk through an ecosystem wonderland will showcase the technique of controlled burning in the restoration of prairie ecosystems, and participate in a restoration activity of broadcast seeding and plug planting to help our prairies flourish!

Max: 15; Cost: \$10

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

C1) 12:30pm - 3:00pm



BIRDQUEST FOR KIDS!

Leaders: Liza Barney and Jody Allair, BirdQuest students

The BirdQuest workshop introduces you to the world of birds! Join us on Saturday at the Long Point Bird Observatory for kid-friendly birding activities including a Bird ID hike, bird-banding, build a nest box or feeder and participate in the activities led by the Grade 6 BirdQuest students! This workshop is ideal for families with kids between 6-12 years.

Max: 20 kids (with accompanying adult(s)); Cost: \$12 for one child, \$20 for 2+ children

C2) 1:00pm – 5:00pm



LONG POINT BIOSPHERE RESERVE BUS TOUR

Leader: Brian Craig

Learn about the unique beauty and importance of the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve and the many projects being conducted here. Visits will include Long Point Provincial Park, the Big Creek Marsh National Wildlife Area, the Causeway and Backus Woods.

Max: 40; Cost: \$20

C3) 1:00pm – 3:00pm



WILDFLOWERS OF BACKUS WOODS

Leader: Colleen Dale

Explore the amazing diversity of spring ephemerals along the Sugar Bush Trail in Backus Woods.

Max: 20; Cost: \$10

C4) 1:00pm – 3:00pm



JACKSON-GUNN PROPERTY

Leader: Peter Carson

Explore the flora and fauna of this spectacular and unique

piece of old growth forest cared for by the Long Point Basin Land Trust.

Max: 15; Cost: \$10

C5) 1:00pm – 3:00pm



LYNN VALLEY TRAIL

Leader: Al McKeown

Enjoy the sights and sounds during a leisurely walk on a portion of the Lynn Valley Trail, a 10 kilometre trail which follows an old railroad track. A smorgasbord of habitats provides some excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing. Late spring flowers will abound, frogs will be croaking, and birds singing.

Max: 20; Cost: \$10

C6) 2:00pm – 5:00pm



CANOEING DOWN BIG CREEK

Leader: Jim Oliver

Take a leisurely paddle down this scenic cold-water creek and look for wildlife along the forests, scrubland, valets and floodplains you pass through. The paddle finishes at the Big Creek Marsh, a National Wildlife Area. Canoes provided by Long Point Eco-Adventures.

Max: 12; Cost: \$20

C7) 2:00pm – 4:00pm



SPOOKY HOLLOW NATURE SANCTUARY

Leader: Frank Morley

Join Frank from the Hamilton Naturalists Club for a walk around Spooky Hollow - a provincially significant ANSI in recognition of the diversity and quality of the habitat provided by the river valleys and sand plain uplands, and the many rare and unusual species present.

Max: 15; Cost: \$10

C8) 2:00pm – 4:00pm



CAROLINIAN TREES OF BACKUS WOODS

Leader: Jane Bowles

Walk among towering beech and giant tulips in one of the best remaining examples of Carolinian forest in all of Canada. Visit a small stand of black gum, enjoy the scent of spicebush, and learn to identify many of our Carolinian tree species.

Max: 15; Cost: \$10

C9) 3:30pm – 5:30pm



BACKUS HERITAGE VILLAGE TOUR

Leader: Robin DeCloet

Go back in time for a glimpse of our pioneer past. There are more than a dozen restored or reconstructed buildings to explore including the 1798 Backus Grist Mill.

Max: 20; Cost: \$10

C10) 6:00pm – 8:00pm



EVENING MARSH WALK

Leader: Ted Barney

Dusk can be a great time to see and hear wildlife, especially in the diverse habitat of Big Creek Marsh. Ted will try to entice marsh birds by playing some calls in hopes to get a response.

Max: 20; Cost: \$10

ACORUS RESTORATION

Evening Activities 7pm-10pm (by donation)

Bon Fire: Bring a blanket or chair and enjoy the night's sky beside a warm fire

Creatures of the night: Observe amazing moths & listen to singing frogs!

Or if you're afraid of the dark...

Come watch a family friendly environmental movie in the Yurt!

For directions visit www.ecologyart.com

C11) 9:00pm – 11:00pm



VOICES OF THE NIGHT IN BACKUS WOODS

Leader: Bernie Solymár

Enjoy the sights and sounds of our nocturnal wildlife during a night hike in Backus Woods. Target species will include frogs and salamanders, Woodcock, Screech Owl, and Southern Flying Squirrels.

Max: 20; Cost: \$10

SUNDAY MORNING

D1) 7:00am – 9:00am



BIRDING BY EAR IN BACKUS WOODS

Leader: Rick Dowson

Learn the songs and calls of a variety of bird species along the trails of Backus Woods.

Max: 15; Cost: \$10

D2) 7:30am – 9:00am



BIRDING AT ST. WILLIAMS

Leader: Mike Burrell

Early morning birding in St. Williams is a wonderful start to the day. A great spot to see Hooded Warblers, Pine Warblers and Goshawks. Binoculars a must!

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D3) 8:00am – 11:00am



MOUNTAIN BIKING

Leader: Rob Luke

Join members of the Turkey Point Mountain Biking Club on a 13 km tour at South Coast Eco-Safari through rolling Carolinian woodlot with some great scenery, including large Carolinian tree species and a look out over Turkey Point Marsh. Bring your own bike.

Max: 12; Cost: \$20

D4) 8:00am – 10:00am



BIRDING AT LONG POINT

Leader: Diane Salter

Join Diane for a morning of birding at Long Point Provincial Park. Learn the art of 'phishing' to attract birds.

Max: 15; Cost: \$10

D5) 9:00am – 12:00pm



RESTORATION WITH NCC

Leader: Tom Bradstreet and Wendy Cridland

Join Nature Conservancy of Canada for a morning of restoration on one of their properties close to Backus Woods. This workshop will include an interpretive hike of the various habitats present on the property, and discuss field and sand pit restoration. As well, you will have an

opportunity to get your hands dirty planting plugs and/or removing invasive species.

Max: 20; Cost: \$15

D6) 9:00am – 12:00pm

 **WHEN NATURE CALLS**

Leader: Colleen Dale

A pond study at Backus Pond lets kids use dip nets to discover varied aquatic life including frogs, crayfish, water beetles, snails and dragonfly larvae. We'll then learn about native snakes at the Scienstational Snakes program, followed by a nature hike on the Cottonwood Trail to look for wildflowers, salamanders, birds, and other animals. This workshop is ideal for families with kids between 6-12 years.

Max: 20 kids (with accompanying adult(s)); Cost: \$12 per child, \$20 for families

D7) 9:00am – 11:00am

 **VANNATTER PROPERTY TOUR**

Leader: Shelia Smith

Take a leisurely nature walk through a private woodlot near Turkey Point bluff. In addition to many bird species, keep your eyes peeled for Snapping Turtles, basking Painted Turtles – and if we're lucky – even a Blanding's turtle. Kids bring your aquatic net and look for pond insects!

Max: 15; Cost: \$10

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Leader: Robin DeCloet

Go back in time for a glimpse of our pioneer past. There are more than a dozen restored or reconstructed buildings to explore including the 1798 Backus Grist Mill.

Max: 20; Cost: \$10

D9) 10:00am – 3:00pm

 **FARMING WITH NATURE AND STEWARDSHIP BUS TOUR**

Leaders: Dave Reid and Paul Gagnon

See examples of habitat restoration in west Norfolk. Learn about "pod planting" vs "row planting" reforestation. See how Norfolk farmers are providing the benefits of nature from their working farms through Alternative Land Use Services (www.alus.ca). At the Y U Ranch (www.yuranch.com), a Texas Longhorn beef farm, walk across a spring creek in a wooded ravine lined with Carolinian trees, including the endangered American Chestnut. Enjoy a lunch of local food catered by award-winning Chef Tracy of the Belworth House (www.bellworthhouse.com).

Max: 30; Cost: \$40

D10) 10:00am – 1:00pm

 **KAYAK BIG CREEK**

Leader: Bill Baskerville

Enjoy the relaxing splendour of Big Creek, its habitats and wildlife while paddling downstream in kayaks supplied by Long Point Eco-Adventures.

Max: 10; Cost: \$20

D11) 10:00am – 12:00pm

 **SPOOKY HOLLOW NATURE SANCTUARY**

Leader: Frank Morley

Join Frank from the Hamilton Field Naturalists for a walk around Spooky Hollow - a provincially significant ANSI

in recognition of the diversity and quality of the habitat provided by the river valleys and sand plain uplands and the many rare and unusual species present.

Max: 15; Cost: \$10

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 **BUTTERFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES**

Leaders: Erica Barkley and Mike Burrell

Catch and identify the butterflies and dragonflies found within Backus Heritage Conservation Area. Bring a net along if you have one or test your photography skills!

Max: 12; Cost: \$10

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

E1) 1:00pm – 3:00pm

 **ACORUS RESTORATION TALK AND WALK**

Leaders: Paul and Stephanie Morris

Come and learn about the restoration techniques used on this former 95 acre tobacco farm, which has. A guided walk through an ecosystem wonderland will showcase the technique of controlled burning in the restoration of prairie ecosystems. AND participate in a restoration activity of broadcast seeding and plug planting to help our prairies flourish!

Max: 15; Cost: \$10

E2) 1:00pm – 3:00pm

 **BUTTERFLIES...AND OTHER INSECTS**

Leader: Ron Allenson

This unique area is rich in butterflies, dragonflies, and other insects. Join Ron for a walk on the 4th Concession and parts of the Wilson Tract and learn about the fascinating world of insects.

Max: 15; Cost: \$10

E3) 1:00pm – 3:00pm

 **NATURALIST HIKE AT WILSON TRACT**

Leader: Kathryn Boothby

Enjoy a leisurely walk in the cool tranquility of the Carolinian woodlot. Flowers, fungi, ferns, birds and more await discovery under a cool canopy of trees.

Max: 15; Cost: \$10

E4) 1:00pm – 2:30pm

 **SUSTAINABLY MANAGING NORFOLK'S NATURAL RESOURCES**

Leaders: Steve Scheers and Mark Sommerville

Visit a county property and compare an actively managed woodlot versus non-managed woodlot. Then visit the St. Williams Conservation Reserve and learn about the challenges in managing this multi-use property. Also learn about local species at risk, including Hooded Warblers and Hog-nosed Snakes.

Max: 15; Cost: \$10

E5) 2:00pm – 4:00pm

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E6) 2:00pm – 5:00pm



CANOING DOWN BIG CREEK,

Leader: Jim Oliver

Take a leisurely paddle down this scenic cold-water creek and look for wildlife along the forests, scrubland, valets and floodplains you pass through. The paddle finishes at the Big Creek Marsh, a National Wildlife Area. Canoes provided by Long Point Eco-Adventures.

Max: 12; Cost: \$20

FREE PROGRAMS at BACKUS HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREA!!

SATURDAY FEATURE: WILD ONTARIO

See live demonstrations with native birds of prey, and learn about human impacts on wildlife, bird of prey identification and biology, all about owls and more!

Plus see raptors up close all day long.

2 SHOWS: 10am and 1pm

SATURDAY FEATURE: WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT:

Realities of the Food Web; Greg Balch

All day large, hands-on display of furs and vocalizations of ducks, geese, deer, wild turkeys, and more. One hour presentations will discuss wildlife conservation including food webs, life spans of animals in the wild and natural predators.

2 SHOWS: 11am and 2pm

SUNDAY FEATURE: SCIENSATIONAL SSSNAKES

Come out for a hands-on educational show about reptiles and amphibians. The show will include a presentation about reptile biology and conservation as well as a chance to interact, hold and touch snakes native to the Long Point-Norfolk area, including Grey Ratsnake, Eastern Hog-nosed Snake, and Eastern Foxsnake.

2 SHOWS: 10am and 1pm

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

BIRD BANDING AT OLD CUT STATION

Visit the Long Point Bird Observatory's Old Cut Station on Long Point, one of the most productive songbird banding stations in North America, and learn about bird banding as staff and volunteers demonstrate the art. A small store on the grounds sells books, gifts, and other birding supplies.

Visitors welcome between 6:00am – 12:00pm. *By donation.*

FEEDER BIRDING AT THE SALTER PROPERTY

Drop in from 1:00pm – 4:00pm on Saturday and see the plethora of feeder birds Diane has attracted to her property. This would be ideal for people who are new to birding & wish to easily see returning migrants & year-round residents. Likely species will be Rose Breasted Grosbeaks, Ruby Throated Hummingbirds, Baltimore & Orchard Orioles, American Goldfinches in their summer colours, Indigo Buntings, Downy, Hairy & Red Bellied Woodpeckers, Chipping Sparrows & perhaps lingering Pine Siskins. You will be able to visit the adjacent Walsingham Flats CA where bird boxes attract Tree Swallows & Eastern Bluebirds. If you have walking issues & can't participate in hikes this is your chance to see birds up close. *No cost.*

GREAT TREES OF NORFOLK: Self-guided Driving Tour

Take a leisurely driving tour through rural Norfolk County to visit the biggest and oldest tree species. Over 100 species are included – many of them viewable from the road, including Tulip Tree, Hackberry, Black Gum, Bitternut Hickory, Choke Cherry, Black Walnut and Swamp White Oak. Make sure to stop at some of our wineries for a wine-tasting or a local restaurant for a meal. Visit www.norfolkwoodlots.com/great-tree-hunt/ to download a self-driving map.

LONG POINT ECO-ADVENTURES

Looking for a unique experience and something that is out of the ordinary? Come and experience breathtaking zip lines and swinging suspension bridges. Glide through the Carolinian forest over native plant, animal and bird life on our world class zip lines. Your adventure last approximately 2 1/2 hours and is fully guided by two fun & knowledgeable guides. Historical & Ecological narratives included. The views of the bay and marsh from our zip lines and canopy tour are outstanding. This exhilarating and educational tree top canopy tour is sure to become a lasting memory!

Visit www.lpfun.ca for more information and to book your zip-line adventure.

SOUTH COAST ECO-SAFARI

This is an experience unlike any other that draws interest from all age groups. This educational interpretive tour utilizes the many features of the Blueberry Hill Estates "Premiers Innovation award" winning farm. Traverse the 13 km course, on specially designed golf carts, as it winds through five distinct wetland and marshland areas showcasing hundreds of varieties of heritage trees, natural grasses and flowers. The area is also a host to a variety of wildlife, including song birds, raptors, waterfowl and much more.

Visit www.southcoastecosafari.com to learn more.

ST. WILLIAMS FORESTRY INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

Visit this unique interpretive centre, located on the property where Canada's First Forestry Station was first established in 1909. Learn about the rich history of the industry on Norfolk's sand plains, including Learn from displays including: how seeds are collected and extracted, the first plantings at St. Williams, growing and harvesting trees, and their many uses, including ship's masts, furniture, musical instruments, pulp production. Interpreter on site.

Visit www.forestryfarm.ca/overview.htm for more information and directions. *Admittance by donation.*

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation

When Nature Calls Environmental Education

Norfolk Field Naturalists

Norfolk Land Stewardship Council

Long Point Region Conservation Authority

Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show

Norfolk County

Acorus Restoration

Long Point Eco-Adventures

Bird Studies Canada