

## **Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists**

### **Outings Schedule for September 2011**

by

**Mary Voisin – Outings Director**

September is a great month to enjoy the outdoors and observe the transition from summer into autumn. Plan to join us for an outing or two. If you would like to lead an outing or have suggestions for new outing locations, please email me at [maryvoisin @rogers.com](mailto:maryvoisin@rogers.com) or speak to me at a meeting.

Occasionally there will be a Meet, Greet and Explore Together outing. There is no designated leader for this outing. It's a shared experience!

Meet at the given location.

Greet your fellow naturalists. (experienced and new) Guests are always welcome.

Explore together. Share your questions and knowledge as you enjoy your hike together.

*Note regarding guests* – Please email me for waiver form for your guest to sign and drop the signed form off at the next meeting. You may also print a copy from the Outings Page on the Web Site at [www.kwfn.ca](http://www.kwfn.ca).

#### **Fern Hike at Stamm Woodlot**

**Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011.**

**Fraser Gibson 519 576 9287**

#### **Meeting Time/Place**

**9:00 a.m. at Trinity Evangelical Missionary Church on Conservation Drive at Westmount Rd.**

Join Fraser on a leisurely walk through this beautiful 36 acre hardwood forest in the north west section of Waterloo. The outing focus will be on ferns and fern relatives. Ferns have been on this planet for many centuries and have an interesting method of reproduction. Even though the Stamm forest has been surrounded by subdivisions on three sides, it still offers great fern diversity. (We should be able to see about 10 species.)

Fall Raptor Migration at Hawk Cliff

**Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011. (Rain Date: Friday, Sept. 16)**

**Randy Fowler 519-576-2788**

**Meeting Time/Place:**

**8:00 a.m. at the carpool parking lot, Fountain Street (Homer Watson) and the 401. (In the event of poor weather, this outing will take place on Friday, September 16)**

Once again we travel to Hawk Cliff near Port Stanley to observe raptors as they migrate south to their winter destinations. Hawk Cliff is one of the best places in Ontario to witness this spectacle due to its geographical location and cliffs along the shoreline.

Various species such as Sharp-shinned Hawks, Kestrels, Northern Harriers, Osprey, Broad-winged Hawks, Merlins and Bald Eagles will be moving at this time of year.

If you get tired of watching hawks, then check out the migrating warblers and other passerines that are usually found in the nearby trees and thickets along the roadside.

Bring a lunch and drinks, a chair to sit back in, your hat, binoculars, field guide and a scope if you have one. This outing will consume most of the day with a one and a half hour travel time each way. Porta-potties should be on location. If you would like to meet us there, you can get directions on the Hawk Cliff website. For detailed information and photos, go to: [www.ezlink.ca/~thebrowns/HawkCliff/](http://www.ezlink.ca/~thebrowns/HawkCliff/)

**Chesney Wilderness Area (west of Drumbo)**

**Saturday, September 24, 2011**

**Scott Beemer**

**Meeting Time/Place:**

**9:00 a.m. behind the gas station in Laurentian Plaza at the corner of Westmount Road and Laurentian Drive (south of Ottawa St.) in Kitchener.**

Chesney Wilderness Area, a 93 hectare (230 acre) natural area controlled by the GRCA, is located 30 minutes from Kitchener between Drumbo and Innerkip. The Hemlock Trail, as reflected by its name, is special because it passes by a large number of mature hemlock trees. The varied landscape includes mixed woodlands, a pine tree plantation, bog, swamp and some scrubland. The trail has a hard earth surface with occasional tree roots and hills farther into the woods. Bring along a snack and drink, as well as your binoculars and field guides. This will be an all morning outing.

Health Valley Trail  
**Tuesday, September 20, 2011**  
**Marco DeBruin 519-658-5372**

**Meeting Time/Place:**

**9:30 a.m. at the Riverworks parking lot, St. Jacobs, at the extreme east end  
(follow the signs for buses and campers)**

We'll explore the Health Valley Trail, which is part of the Trans Canada Trail, from St. Jacobs to Martin's Creek and back. Varied habitats will be encountered as we follow the trail along the river through woods, cross open pastureland and skirt some backwater ponds. We'll be on the lookout for a variety of wildflowers, butterflies (Monarchs are on the move migrating south) and birds such as warblers, flycatchers, herons and shorebirds. Bring a drink and snack for this leisurely 2 ½ hour hike. Binoculars, field guides and appropriate footwear would add to the enjoyment of this outing.

**September 2011 at a Glance** - refer to this Heron for full outing details

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Stamm Woodlot 9:00 a.m.
11	12	13 Fall Raptor Migration 8:00 a.m.	14	15	16 (rain date) Fall Raptor Migration 8:00 a.m.	17
18	19	20 Health Valley Trail 9:30 a.m.	21	22	23	24 Chesney Wilderness Area 9:00 a.m.
25	26 KWFN Meeting	27	28	29	30	