

Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists

Outings Schedule for November 2011

by

Mary Voisin – Outings Director

Drynan Regional Forest

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Neil Taylor 893-6469

Meeting Time/Place

9:00 a.m. for car pool at parking lot at Highway 401 & Homer Watson Road, otherwise meet at the Drynan Tract parking lot 9:30 a.m. Located on Concession 8, east of Dumfries Road, south of Greenfield Drive.

The Drynan Tract is a 45-hectare site located in North Dumfries, a rolling forest with rugged topography and low lying marsh as well as several small lakes. This Carolinian forest provides habitat for several significant species. We will be exploring nearby wetland areas as well. This will also include stops at various other birding hotspots in the area.

Dickson Wilderness Area and Bannister Lake

Tuesday November 8, 2011

Marco DeBruin

519-658-5372

Meeting Time/Place

9:30 am in the carpool parking lot at Fountain St (Homer Watson) and the 401. Fountain is Homer Watson on the Kitchener side of the 401

Dickson is a 98-acre property originally bought by KWFN and donated to the GRCA. The property encompasses two ponds and provides a home for a variety of birds, plants, fungi etc. The boardwalks through the wetland are good locations for bird watching and seeing chickadees and nuthatches up close. Don't forget your camera, binoculars and seed to feed the birds!

If time permits we will also visit Bannister Lake to see any remaining waterfowl. Sandhill cranes have been seen here in the past.

Hidden Valley Treasures

Saturday, November 12, 9:00 am

Rain date: Sunday, November 13, 1:30 pm

Neil Taylor 519-893-6469

Meeting Time/Place

9:00 am (1:30 pm if rain date) at the junction of Goodrich Dr. and Hidden Valley Rd. in Kitchener (near the tracks past the old Goodrich plant)

A visitation to Hidden Valley might be of interest as a result of the update Neil Taylor has provided in the current Heron. The hike will take us along spectacular eskers left behind during glacial melt by the deposition of sediments from melt water rivers flowing on the ice (channel fills) or beneath a glacier (tunnel fills). After the retaining ice walls melt away, stream deposits remain as these long winding ridges. In Hidden Valley, the eskers are made up of sand and gravel sediment and cobble-sized rocks. The vernal ponds and upland deciduous forest, habitat of the Jefferson Salamander will be noted. A good variety of fall migrants and late fall flora should be seen. We may cross a beaver dam so sturdy hiking footwear is suggested for this approximately 3-hour outing.

Tour of Region of Waterloo Archives

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Lesley Webb (Region of Waterloo Archivist)

519-575-4757 ext. 3027

Meeting Time/Place:

7 pm in the main lobby of the Region of Waterloo Headquarters Building

150 Frederick Street, Kitchener

Free parking available (after 6 pm) at KPL and (possibly) Centre in the Square

The Region of Waterloo Archives welcomes KWFN members to tour the Archives research room and gallery. Visit the storage vault to see where and how the KWFN collection is stored. Learn how you can access KWFN archives through a demonstration of our online database and subscription service with Archive-It, the Internet Archive. Questions are welcome throughout.

Dumfries Conservation Area

Saturday, November 19, 2011

Jenny Clayfield

519-653-6965

Meeting Time/Place:

9:00 am at the Cambridge YMCA, 250 Hespeler Road, Cambridge. Park at the back of the parking lot where the trail starts.

Join Jenny on a morning walk through Dumfries Conservation Area.

Dumfries offers a surprising number of diverse habitats for naturalists to explore.

“The area contains a forest consisting of a variety of species including red and white oak, maple, beech, white pine and white cedar and an arboretum planted by Cambridge Horticultural Society. Other vegetation includes hawthorn, red-osier dogwood, poplar, aspen, black cherry, sedges, swamp buttercup and skunk cabbage. Water features include two ponds and Groff Mill Creek. Numerous bird species can be found in the conservation area including screech owl, Canada goose and mallard duck. A large lilac stand (which blooms each spring) is found in the northeastern portion of the park beside one of the former homesteads.” (description from www.grandriver.ca)

If time permits, we will do a portion of the nearby Linear Trail.

Searching For Gulls at Niagara

Saturday, November 26, 2011

Jim, Mike, and Ken Burrell

519-699-4696

Meeting Time/Place:

8:00 am in the carpool parking lot at Fountain St (Homer Watson) and the 401.

Fountain is Homer Watson on the Kitchener side of the 401

Join Jim and sons Mike and Ken for this all day outing to the Niagara River in search of various species of gulls that congregate there for the winter. Rare species of gulls are sometimes present as well as other interesting waterfowl. The boys will head to Hamilton first then onto Niagara River and the Falls. It is always cold so wear layers of warm clothing and good boots. Bring a lunch, binoculars, scopes and field guides. Walky talkies may be useful, too. It should be a good day; lots of birds and tiring ☺

Christmas Bird Count – Learn the Basics – Part I

Saturday, December 10th, 2011

Neil Taylor 893-6469

Meeting Time/Place:

9:00 a. m. Parking lot of Doon Presbyterian Church (with permission) at 35 Roos

St., Kitchener, (off Old Mill Rd. in Doon).

The annual Christmas Bird Count for Kitchener will take place later on December 18th. New participants are needed to complete this census and make it successful. If you would like to take part in the count but are unsure of what's involved, then join Neil to learn the basics and gain self-confidence to volunteer for this year's CBC. Dress warmly and bring your binoculars, field guide, notepad, and pen/pencil. To volunteer, see the notice elsewhere in this month's Heron or see the Web Page for contact information. Neil confesses that he is also using this outing as a means of scouting out his area for rare birds in advance of the count itself. You may and really should register for the CBC in advance of this event. Sturdy hiking footwear is suggested. (3 hours)

Christmas Bird Count – Learn the Basics – Part II

Sunday, December 11th, 2011

Neil Taylor 893-6469

Meeting Time/Place

1:00 pm at the parking lot of Pioneer Memorial Tower. From Fairway Rd., take King St. E. past Riverbank Dr. and Highway 8. Turn right onto Deer Ridge Dr. and follow to the end, ignoring Pioneer Tower Road. Turn right onto Lookout Lane and proceed to the parking lot.

This is a repeat of the December 10th outing, but in a new location in the area of Doon Pioneer Tower. See the earlier information.

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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Drynen 9:00 am	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Dickson Wilderness Area 9:30 am	9	10	11	12 Hidden Valley 9:00 am
13 <i>rain date</i> Hidden Valley 1:30 pm	14	15	16 Waterloo Archives 7 pm	17	18	19 Dumfries Conservation Area 9:30
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Niagara Gulls 8 am
27	28 KWFN Meeting	29	30	31		