

## **Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists**

### **Outings Schedule for December 2011 – January 2012 by Mary Voisin – Outings Director**

#### **Huron Natural Area (HNA)**

**Tuesday, December 6, 2011**

**Meet, Greet and Explore**

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

**9:30 am at the 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).**

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.

This valuable wildlife area is the City of Kitchener's largest park. It contains an amazing representation of this area's biodiversity. There is a diverse habitat including Class I Provincially Significant Wetlands, kettles, ponds, upland maple/beech forest, cultural meadows, as well as pine plantations.

#### **Christmas Bird Count – Learn the Basics – Part I**

**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup> outing, but in a new location in the area of Doon Pioneer Tower. See the earlier information.

**Mill Run, Cambridge**

**Tuesday, January 10, 2012**

**Marco DeBruin**

**519-658-5372**

**Meeting Time/Place**

**9:30 at the Mill Run Trail parking lot where Clemens Ave. meets Sheffield in Cambridge. (Clemens Ave. can be accessed from Fishermills Road. Fishermills Rd. is a continuation of Sportsworld Dr.)**

Come for a leisurely walk along the Mill Run (Riverbank Trail), which follows the Speed River past a variety of habitats. This trail is fairly level and has some boardwalk along its length. A good variety of waterfowl frequent the area along with other birds. Beavers and muskrats might also be seen along this trail.

**Laurel Creek Nature Centre**

**Saturday, January 14, 2012**

**Dale Ingrey 519-884-3667**

**Meeting Time/Place**

**9:00 am at the entrance to Laurel Creek Nature Centre on Beaver Creek Road in Waterloo**

Join Dale for a leisurely Saturday morning hike through the fields and woods around the nature centre property. We'll look for fresh animal tracks, try our hand at winter tree identification, and also do some winter birding. Bring some seed for the chickadees, your binoculars, field guides, and a drink for this approx. 2 hours outing. Be sure to dress properly for the weather. If time permits, we'll check out the wooded area on the other side of Beaver Creek Road as well.

Health Valley Trail  
**Saturday, January 21, 2012**  
**Meet, Greet and Explore**

**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)**

The Health Valley Trail is part of the Trans Canada Trail, from St. Jacobs to Martin's Creek and back. Varied habitats are seen along the trail that follows the river through woods, cross open pastureland and skirt some backwater ponds. 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.

**December and January Outings – - refer to this Heron for full outing details**

**December 2011 at a Glance**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> KWFN Meeting & Potluck	<b>6</b> Huron Natural Area 9:30 am	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Birding Doon Area 9 am
<b>11</b> Birding 1:00 pm	<b>12</b> KWFN Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Kitchener Bird Count – contact Mike Burrell
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

**January 2012**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Mill Run 9:30 am	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Laurel Creek 9:00 am
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Health Valley Trail 9:30 am
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				