

## **Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists**

### **Outings Schedule for February 2012**

by

**Mary Voisin – Outings Director**

#### **Huron Fringe Festival May 25 – June 3, 2012**

Online registration for the Huron Fringe Festival at MacGregor Provincial Park begins *February 1<sup>st</sup> at 8 a.m.* 80 events are being planned during the 8 days of the festival, which runs May 25 to June 3. These events include birding hikes, workshops and presentations, photography sessions, wildflower walks, geomorphology and bus tours. Please make note that the Festival's Schedule of Events will be published at 8:00am on February 1, 2012. Some of these events fill quickly. You will want to register for the Festival as soon as you are able. If you do not have camping equipment, you may like to consider renting one of MacGregor's 16 yurts.

#### **Laurel Creek**

**The Great Escape (searching for Insects in Winter)**

**Saturday, February 4, 2012**

**Dan Schneider 519- 821-9268**

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

**10:00 am at the Laurel Creek Nature Centre, Beaver Creek Rd, Waterloo**

After frenetic activity in summer and fall, insects seem to vanish into thin air by winter. We'll search for insects that are hiding from winter by hibernating, and find many other signs that they have been here. We'll discover (and taste) goldenrod gallfly larvae, burr caterpillars, the beautiful artwork of engraver beetles, and much more.

#### **Riverside Park Cambridge**

**Wednesday, February 15, 2012**

**Marco DeBruin**

**Meeting Time/Place: 930am at the entrance to Riverside Park (off King Street) in Cambridge, just outside the gate along the wall**

Join Marco for a refreshing walk in Riverside Park in Cambridge. Weather permitting, this could be a good opportunity to see up close and photograph some of our winter birds. The terrain is fairly level with a good portion of boardwalk. If time permits, we could take a short walk along the Speed River and check out some of our over-wintering waterfowl. Dress appropriately and don't forget your binoculars and your camera.

**Cross Country Skiing at Schneider's Farm**  
**Saturday, February 11, 2012**  
**Jim Galway, 519-699-4520**

**Meeting Time/Place:**

**9:30 am at the North Entrance to the farm, 1169 Berletts Road, Waterloo, approximately 300 metres west of the Wilmot Line.**

Join Jim for this leisurely skiing hike as we explore this natural area in winter. There are a few hills, but we'll avoid the more difficult ones for safety reasons. Bring your binoculars, drinks and of course your skis.

**Owls in Kitchener's Natural Areas**

**Saturday February 11, 7-9pm , 2012**

**Huron Natural Area, 801 Trillium Drive, Kitchener**

***Meet at the School Portable***

Spend an evening learning about the different owls that live in Kitchener's Natural Areas. We will begin with an indoor slideshow about owls and their habitats and behaviours. We will also go for a night hike to call and look for owls in the Huron Natural Area.

Dress appropriately for the outdoor hike. Free -All Ages Welcome!

**Note:** Washroom facilities will not be available.

***LIMITED SPACE - REGISTRATION REQUIRED!*** Anyone interested in registering for this event should contact Josh Shea at: [knap@kitchener.ca](mailto:knap@kitchener.ca) or 519-741-2600 ext 4177.

**Birding Lakeside Park**

**Saturday February 18, 2012**

**Kevin and Ken Dance**

**519-463-6156**

**Meeting Time/Place**

**9:30a.m. Park entrance/parking lot on Lakeside Drive adjacent to the park playground.**

Lakeside Park is an excellent example of an urban park, which provides a variety of habitat types for birds and other wildlife. Join us for a winter hike through the park searching for winter birds and evidence of mammals and other wildlife that call the park their home. We will also discuss some of the history of the park as we search for wildlife. As the date of this hike falls within the time for the Great Backyard Bird Count, all of our bird observations on during the hike will be recorded and submitted as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count.

**February 2012 Outings at a Glance** - refer to this Heron for full outing details

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Laurel Creek 10am
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Cross Country Skiing 9:30 am
					Register ahead of time for Owl Prowl	Huron Natural Area 7- 9 pm
12	13	14	15 Riverside Park 9:30 am	16	17	18 Lakeside Park 9:30 am
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 7:30 p.m. KWEN General Meeting & Silent Book Auction	28	29	30	31	