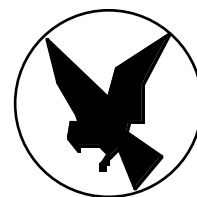


EARTHWAYS[®]



Earthways is a publication of LAMBTON WILDLIFE INCORPORATED - P.O. BOX 681, SARNIA, ON N7T 7J7

Gordon Catterson - Editor

Cheryl Veary-Webmaster

April, 2009

Website: www.lambtonwildlife.com

All indoor programs are open to the public and are held on the last Monday of the month, from September to November and January to March at the YMCA Learning & Career Centre 660 Oakdale Avenue at 7:30 pm. Articles in Earthways represent the views of the author and not necessarily the views of Lambton Wildlife Inc.

Indoor Program

LWI A.G.M. & Banquet:

This is coming up on Saturday, April 18, 2009, at the Mandaumin United Church. The AGM will start at 4:30 and the pre dinner social time and awesome bucket raffle will start at 5:00 pm. Dinner, at 6 pm, will be the usual fabulous Lambton County Church Ladies turkey dinner with delicious home made pies. Our guest speaker will be Phil Roberts, the well known "Nature Guy" commentator on CBC Windsor. Phil is also the President of the Essex Field Naturalists. He will be talking about the Bald Eagle satellite telemetry program on the Detroit River.... totally leading edge stuff!

Tickets can be obtained through Janet Bremner, Alexia Gladdy or Malcolm. The price is unchanged at an extremely low price of \$15.00.

Donations for our annual bucket draw are now being accepted. These are always interesting, varied and much appreciated by all. These may be picked up if necessary or brought to the Church hall before the dinner. Please let us know soon enough for donor signs to be made for each item.

Please call Janet Bremner at 519-542-2797 or Krista Cowieson at 519-869-6409 for tickets and/or bucket draw contributions.

Attention all gardeners:

May 2, 2009 is the Lambton Wildlife Native Plant Sale. It begins at 8 am and ends at noon. Usually we are sold out by 10 am so it is wise to arrive early for best selections. Every year people begin lining up at 7:30 a.m.

We are in need of people who are willing to donate spring native plants from their garden, or who wish to help with the day of the sale in the area of setup and take down. The week before we need people to label plants. Also after the sale we need people to store plants in their garden over the summer and winter.

Please mark May 2, 2009 on the calendar as the date of our famous Native Plant Sale. The sale is at John Teasell's home on the corner of Lakeshore and Carl street (just east of Murphy),

Brenda Kulon 519 869 2833 kulon@cogeco.ca

Outdoor Program

* These events are or can be a half day.

*Howard Watson Nature Trail Clean-Up

Sunday, April 19, 2009

Meet: 9:00 a.m. at the Modeland and Cathcart trail entrance. This year the cleanup is being sponsored by Tim Horton's.

Inquiries: Gord Catterson 337-1246

*Highway 402 Clean-up

Saturday, April 25, 2009.

Meet at 8:45 am at Wawanosh Wetlands parking lot.

Inquiries: Joe Haselmayer 542-2826

Note that we try to straddle these cleanups around "Earth Day" which is April 22 each year.

*Canatara Park Spring Warbler Walks with Gerry Clements

Wednesdays, May 6, May 13 and May 20, 2009

Meet: 6:00 p.m. at the entrance to Tarzanland.

Inquiries: Gerry Clements 336-3513

Spring 2008 Camping at Point Pelee

Tuesday, May 12 to Saturday, May 16, 2009— 4 nights/5 days

Cost will be \$16.00 per night. Site reservations for 9 people. .

Index

Indoor Program	1
President's Message	2
Outdoor Program	1
Board of Directors	8
<u>Reports</u>	
ON Regional Meeting ..	6,7
March Indoor Meeting .	4,5
Outdoor Living Expo	7
Winter Birding	7

Notices

Deadline	8
AGM & Dinner	1
Native Plant Sale	1
Badger Awareness	8
Botany on the Bruce ...	3
Monarch Teachers	8
Birding at Pinery	3
Damselflies	3
Butterfly Count	3
Butterflies on HWNT ..	3

Greetings from the President

This is the time of year that I have mixed thoughts about our LWI By-laws which prohibit members to sit on our Board for more than one consecutive three year term (unless they are within the President-Elect/President/Past President/Treasurer exceptions). The Nomination Committee has done a great job of seeking new volunteers for the Board. The downside is that those of us who remain on the Board will very much miss those who are leaving. On behalf of Lambton Wildlife I wish to thank all retiring Board members for their contributions to our goal of raising awareness of the need to understand and protect the natural environment.

Wayne Bowen didn't talk a lot at Board meetings but when he did, everyone listened and learned. He offered different approaches - different ways of looking at things. His enthusiasm and sense of humour will be greatly missed. His knowledge of Lambton County, because of his career as a land surveyor, was very valuable. Wayne has also contributed to LWI as Property Manager of Mandaumin Woods.

Mary Martin had the important role of being the Board Secretary. I found her assistance indispensable. She had the understanding and insight to record what the policy related issues were, not the many discussion points. She sat beside me at the meetings and was a steadying influence...whether it was the quick 'look' of incredulity or a gentle whisper...that I was missing something or going in the wrong direction.

Cheryl Veary, our webmaster, kept us thinking about better ways to do things. Some people call it transparency, do the right thing and keep people fully informed. Cheryl is tuned into the views of our youth who care about the environment especially the importance of honesty in dealing with environmental issues. She practices her beliefs through her lifestyle: keeping as natural and close to nature as possible and remaining optimistic and upbeat. She keeps reminding us that communication through our website is the way of the future. Best of all, she has agreed to stay on as our webmaster and we are undertaking to give her more resources to support that big job.

Janet Bremner, our current Past President, continues to be a major influence in LWI. She has extensive Board experience, through the Presidential terms of Diane Haselmayer, Larry Cornelis, her own 2 year term and my 2 year term. Marketing is her special interest and she is very good at it. Thankfully Janet continues as the Chair of the Program and Publicity Committee and is encouraged to attend Board Meetings for information purposes, in the same manner as Gord Catterson (as LWI archivist, Earthways Editor and Chair of the Natural Environment and Howard Watson Nature Trail Committees).

In the past, there was limited flow of information between the various standing committees and the Board. Larry Cornelis recognized this when he was President in 2004-05 and established a Special Organization Committee composed of Larry, Peter Banks, Janet Bremner, Gord Catterson, Dick Maxfield, Joe Connop and myself. Don Smith was not formally on the Committee, as he was away from Sarnia for long periods, but he was consulted. The report of the Special Committee was approved by the LWI Board on October 18, 2005 and has been updated annually. The LWI By-laws were changed where required to accommodate recommendations of the Report. The 3 general committees are: The Program & Publicity Committee (Chair Janet Bremner), The Land Trust Committee (Chair Malcolm Boyd) and the Natural Environment Committee (Chair Gord Catterson). The Report has become a working document for the Board to use when overseeing the work of the Committees and individuals who are appointed by the Board. Each Committee should have a representative present at Board meetings for reporting and information purposes.

We have built up a substantial 'nest egg' to support our ongoing programs, especially for our Land Trust function, maintenance of our ecologically important lands and funds to go towards purchase of new lands. The good news is that we didn't invest with Bernie Madoff type ponzi schemes or other investments which offered high interest. We do have one particularly solid Canadian corporate bond and the rest our funds are in good, reliable Canadian banks so we continued to see our savings grow through the recent financial crisis. There had been discussions of trying to get a better return for our savings, but thankfully we stayed with low interest returns of the safe (so far) Canadian banks.

I wish to also offer the following from the Globe & Mail: April 9/09, p. L6, as food for thought.

THE ORGANIC DRAWBACK

"Organics don't contaminate soil and groundwater with pesticides and chemicals like regular farming does", writes Sarah Wexler of Marie Claire magazine, "but there's a surprising downside: Since organic farming is only about half as productive as conventional farming, it requires far more land to produce the same amount of food. Dennis Avery of the Hudson Institute's Center for Global Food Issues estimates that modern high-yield farming has saved 15 million square miles of wildlife habitat, and that if the world switched to organic farming, we'd need to cut down 10 million square miles of forest. Less-productive farming could also lead to even less food for the world's undernourished."

Malcolm Boyd

Some additional Outdoor Events:

*Birding at Pinery Provincial Park

Saturday, May 16, 2009

Great birding with Larry at Pinery PP where migrating birds concentrate along the Lake Huron shoreline.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. at the Riverside Trail – Pinery Provincial Park (entrance fee charged) or 7:10 a.m. for carpooling at Bright's Grove plaza (near Shoppers Drug Mart)

Inquiries: Larry Cornelis 1-519-627-8785

*Dragonflies and Damselflies (and Butterflies)

Saturday, June 20, 2009

The LWI managed Port Franks Forested Dunes property is a great place to find these beautiful insects. Come and see what these areas are like and what types of insects (i.e. dragonflies, damselflies, butterflies and myriad of other small insects) live here. Bring a lunch and lots of water. Heat brings them out.

Leader: Robert DiFruscia 332-0830. Limit of 10 persons.

Meet: 8:30am Brights Grove plaza (near Shoppers Drug Mart). Robert may decide to go to a more productive place.

Botany on the Bruce Weekend (Warton area)

Friday May 29 to Sunday May 31

This weekend event will be hosted by Joan and John McPhedran at their cottage on Berford Lake. To get there, drive up number 6 hwy. past Warton and turn right at the Mar sideroad. Mar is 10 km north of Warton. The second sideroad is the Berford Park Rd. (3 km.) Turn right on Berford Park Rd. and drive past the park and through the gate to 76 Berford Park Rd. to a place called McCottage. (Second driveway on the right after gate.) (See map)

The weekend begins around 4 pm with a social gathering at the cottage. Please bring contributions – wine and snacks. This will be followed by supper (pizza) for those who wish it. The Saturday program is not finalized but we hope to take advantage of the fact that this is the Orchid Festival weekend at Tobermory. Saturday evening will be a catered dinner at the cottage at a reasonable cost. On Sunday we will go to the Oliphant area for a walk in the fen and then over to a restaurant on the beach, Allen's Sandy Bay, for lunch. This should be a good time both for wildflowers and migrating birds.

There are a number of motels and B &B's in the area but book soon because of the Orchid Festival.

Please call Joan McPhedran at 519-336-4913 for details and to register. Space is limited.

Cottage phone is 519-534-5779.

* Annual Pinery and North Lambton Butterfly Count

Saturday, June 27, 2009 (Heavy rain date: Sunday, June 28)

No experience is really needed to help. We will partner you with a knowledgeable guide. All participants are charged a \$5 fee (same as Xmas bird count), which goes to the North American Butterfly Assoc. to help with the conservation of butterflies. Lunch is provided by the Friends of the Pinery. The count ends at 4:30 pm, but you may leave before then. If you can borrow a net, great, but we will have extras. This is a great way to learn about butterflies from an expert.

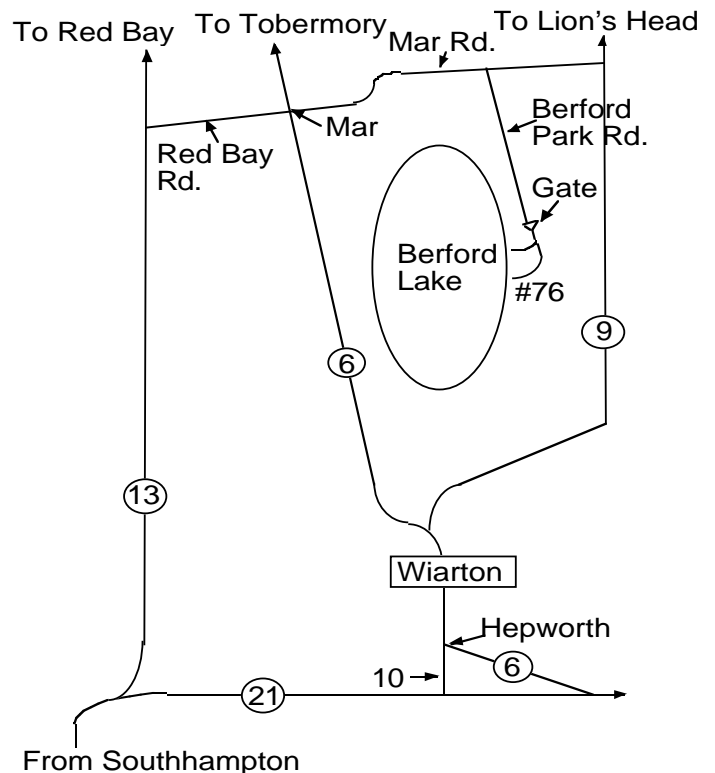
Meet: Pinery Visitor Centre at 8:30a.m. (report at the gate that you are doing the Butterfly Count)

Notify Brenda or Ben Kulon 869-2833, if you would like to participate and/or would like to car pool.

*Butterflies of the Howard Watson Nature Trail

Sunday, July 12, 2009.

This is a new event, held jointly with the Sydenham Field Naturalists. Meet at 2:00 pm at the Modeland and Cathcart Trail entrance. Leaders: Larry Cornelis: 1-519-627-8785 and Robert DiFruscia: 519-332-0830.



March Indoor Meeting:

Another good turnout thanks again to an article in the Observer preceding the meeting. The speaker was Stan Caveney who talked on insects.

Stan was introduced by Malcolm Boyd who said he was a retired Professor of Entomology from the University of Western Ontario. He was also a moving force for the Thomas Talbot Land Trust, which was associated with the McIlraith Field Naturalists of London until it became a separate entity a few years ago. One of their major purchases was Joany's Woods which many LWI members are familiar with.

Stan commenced by quoting, "Every insect has a story to tell". He said unfortunately insects are seen negatively by many people, seeing them as creepy, crawly things. However he said there are no bad insects. They are either beneficial or at worst neutral, and even the neutral insects are not fully understood. They all benefit either humans or animals as they are a protein rich food source for birds and other animals. Even humans eat them in some countries. I recall seeing an article on fried grasshoppers as a preferred food in one of the African countries and an important source of protein.

Stan continued by saying that insects are the most diverse and largest group of life forms on the planet. There are over 300,000 species of beetles alone with 50,000 insect species in Canada and 30,000 in Ontario. He mentioned that if humans were to disappear the planet would not be harmed, but if insects were to disappear life as we know it would collapse. They are essential to devouring all of our waste products and are an essential food source for many species. Without them civilization would disappear.

Stan spoke of the various types of insects which include mayflies, stoneflies, damsel and dragonflies, grasshoppers, crickets, mantids, cockroaches, earwigs, thrips, lice, lacewings, snakeflies, dobsonflies, true bugs (bugs is a catchall name with no particular scientific meaning but there are some known as true bugs), fleas, scorpion flies, moths, butterflies, caddisflies, beetles, wasps, bees and ants. Within each category there are many species. For example some 4500 true bugs, 140 grasshoppers, 275 butterflies and 16,000 wasps, bees and ants.

He then mentioned some good reference books. He said that the Peterson Field Guide is a good, handy general book and that Bugs of Ontario by John Acorn is a good book covering the common insects. The bible of insects is by Stephen A. Marshall entitled Insects-Their Natural History and Diversity. Lastly he mentioned the insect study done by Jeff Skevington, sponsored by Lambton Wildlife Inc., whom he congratulated for doing so. It is called Insects of North Lambton and documents some 3,000 species.

Stan said at the beginning that he would not be talking about butterflies but rather insects that are somewhat less familiar. His first photo did include a butterfly but the rest were of other species. His next photo was of an insect

called the jumping bristletail and said it was the most ancient one we have. It is called "Old Jaws" and fossils from 390 million years ago appear identical to the modern insect.

He then showed many exquisite pictures of a whole array of insects, a few familiar but most not. He had a picture of an insect called a firebrat which likes extreme drought. Then a picture of some damage done by silverfish in his attic. He talked about the small winter snowfly which you might see early in the winter walking on snow. It is restricted to a fairly narrow temperature range. He had a photograph of them mating.

He then showed pictures of the Odonates, damselflies and dragonflies. They included the ebony jewelwing, slender spreadwing, familiar bluet (a damselfly), blue dasher, white-faced meadowhawk, yellow-legged meadowhawk and the best known dragonflies the green darner and the black saddlebags, so called because it appears to be carrying saddlebags. He said someone in the U.S. had managed to attach some tiny transmitters to these insects and traced their migration. It turns out they follow a zigzag route unlike birds which tend to fly in straight lines.

One interesting insect was the band-winged grasshopper. It has really colourful hind wings so it can be easily followed when flying. However when it comes to rest and folds the hindwings it becomes virtually invisible as the forewings completely blend in with foliage. It produces a cracking noise when flying. A similar insect is the black-winged grasshopper or "road duster", also called the Carolina locust. It too has spectacular hind wings and is often mistaken for a mourning cloak butterfly. There are no locusts here but in western Canada this insect can become a pest at certain times. This insect is also hard to spot when it closes the hind wings.

Stan also described the common meadow katydid and the bush katydid which makes a sort of tch-tch-tch sound which he demonstrated. Apparently only the female can hear. He then demonstrated the sound made by the black-horned tree cricket which is a bzzzzz sort of sound.

Stan then mentioned the Chinese mantid, an insect purposefully introduced as a pest control agent. It is unusual in that it goes from egg to adult in a single stage. He also talked about the familiar European mantid, known more familiarly as the praying mantis because of its posture. The latin name is *mantis religiosa* and the name is often misspelled as preying mantis as it is a predatory insect.

Another insect that is unusual is the northern walkingstick which has six legs and is almost impossible to see. He showed a photograph of one which he took and only discovered it after the photo was developed.

Stan said that the European earwig was introduced from Europe and appears to have no redeeming features. He also said this was the bug most often collected by students when, as part of a course project, they were required to assemble an insect collection. He said 100% of them would include earwigs.

Other bugs mentioned were milkweed bugs, a true bug which predates other insects by sucking the moisture out of them, the candy-striped leafhopper also a sucking bug, and May bugs which communicate by sound. Also the green stinkbug (which he called the "happy face" bug as it has a pattern that resembles a happy face) and the bedbug killer which has a huge proboscis and feeds on bed bugs. Also ambush bugs in which the male is a complete freeloader which rides on the female who does all the work and feeds on prey killed by the female, and finally the leaf-legged bug which gets its name from projections on its legs.

The dog-day cicada is active during the "dog days" of summer when it is hot and humid. This does not refer to dogs but to the dog star, Sirius, which is currently prominent in the night sky. Follow Orion's belt to the east and it is the bright star a little ways away. They were called the dog days because Sirius was the brightest star in the heavens after the sun. They feed underground, start out grey and then darken later in their life cycle.

Next Stan referred to the treehoppers. He said they are quite fascinating. They radiate out from the U.S. and use various hosts. They all appear identical but are not as they use various tree species as hosts. e.g. tulip trees, redbud trees etc. They are tended by carpenter ants in a symbiotic relationship.

Stan then covered various flies including the crane fly whose legs can span a tulip tree leaf, the buzzer midge or lake fly which makes a noise like a high voltage wire, the robber fly which mimics and preys on bumblebees, and the horsefly, a notoriously bad biter. The male of this last one feeds on nectar while the female feeds on blood which she needs to get protein for the eggs. The tiger bee fly can hover like a bee and is not very common, and the fleshfly which feeds on the flowers of witch hazel.

Next were beetles which included the six spotted tiger beetle (which had eight spots), trox beetles which feed on keratin and the pine jewel beetle. The trox beetle is a type of scarab beetle and Stan had a picture of one feeding on coyote scat. They have a special enzyme which allows them to digest keratin. The ancient Egyptians considered them sacred as they seemed to be able to live on dung. They have also been called dung beetles and were often carved into jewelry by the Egyptians.

He continued with the eyed click beetle which is our biggest click beetle and which uses its body to produce the clicking sound. Also the burying beetle which mates for life and which carry mites and lives on maggots and flies. Australia attempted to use them to control bush flies, but it didn't work.

Other beetles included the swamp milkweed beetle, dogbane beetle, Japanese beetle, the rose chafer, the oil beetle which releases a yellow oil and is related to the Spanish fly which is not a fly but a beetle, the red-winged blister beetle which is parasitic to bees and the colourful wedge-shaped beetle. Amongst fall beetles he mentioned the goldenrod beetle and the locust borer.

He then talked briefly about the emerald ash borer and the destruction caused by it. He said it was everywhere and seemingly impossible to control. The U.S. is experimenting with some parasitic wasps and digger wasps which find the borer and pinpoint infestations.

He also talked about the hickory bark beetle and showed a map of an infestation around London. It erupts every century or so and kills about 80% of the hickory trees. Fortunately it did not reach Sarnia. It seems to be related to several dry years in a row.

Next were moths including the clouded underwing whose eyes glow back at you, the very pretty spicebush silkmoth and the owl moth which is native to Texas and the Caribbean but which occasionally gets blown up to Canada. It is very rare here.

The beautiful wood-nymph and the pearly wood-nymph mimic bird droppings while the gypsy moth is actually quite pretty with nice red dots. Only the male can fly and it follows a zigzag flight and never seems to land. Stan said he did not support spraying for gypsy moths as the spray kills all caterpillars.

Finally were wasps and bees. The honey bee is perhaps best known. The pigeon tremex is a food source for *ichneumon parasitoid* (there is no common name), which is a family of parasitic wasps. They deposit eggs in the pupae, larvae or eggs of host insects. Many are quite colourful as this example was with a beautiful purple colour and a 4" long stinger.

Others included the thread-waisted digger wasp, a spider-hunting wasp whose venom is identical to that of the green mamba snake, the organ-pipe mud dauber, the European paper wasp and the carpenter bee.

The last two mentioned were the scorpion fly, the male of which has a scorpion like tail and the hanging fly which hangs by two legs and has four wings.

Stan concluded by discussing what we should be doing to encourage insects. He recommended a book by Douglas W. Tallamy called *Bringing Nature Home* subtitled *How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*. He said we need to create urban habitat for insects for several reasons. These include providing nectar and pollen sources when crops are not in flower, conserving our natural heritage, being critical for "fussy" herbivores and providing a high protein diet for birds.

He mentioned several trees and the numbers of caterpillar species supported. For example oaks support some 517 species, willows 456, cherry 448, birch 413, maple over 300 and hickory over 200.

Stan was thanked for an amazing talk by Dorothy Tiedje who said she had difficulty remembering fauna names and found it hard to think of remembering so many insects. All in all a very good and satisfying presentation. Thanks, Stan

ON Regional Meeting:

The spring meeting of the Ontario Nature Carolinian West region was held on Saturday, March 28th at the Kinsmen Centre on Lakeshore Road in Sarnia. The host club for the meeting was the Sarnia Urban Wildlife Committee.

In attendance were Sydenham Field Naturalists, Lambton Wildlife, Sarnia Urban Wildlife, Elgin County Field Naturalists, Ingersoll Nature Club, McIlraith Field Naturalists, St. Thomas Field Naturalists, Carolinian Canada Coalition, Ontario Nature and a new member club the Otter Valley Naturalists.

The meeting commenced as usual with member clubs giving an update on activities since the last meeting.

Larry Cornelis reported on the Sydenham Field Naturalists. He mentioned that they are working on establishing 2 snake herpetariums to assist Eastern fox snakes, Eastern milk snakes and Queen snakes. This is being done in association with Stewardship Kent.

Larry also mentioned the property located at the east end of Wallaceburg which they are working to rehabilitate, similar to what was done with Wallaceburg Sycamore Woods at the west end of the town. As there are pawpaw trees in this wood the tentative name is Wallaceburg PawPaw Woods. It is about 4 acres with the potential of adding an additional 1-1/2 acres which is currently farmland.

Malcolm then discussed some of the LWI recent initiatives including the questionnaire results published in the last edition of Earthways, the work of the Young Naturalists and greenwashing. He also talked about the Bird Identification and Native Plant courses which LWI have developed over the past few years and his wish to produce a DVD which can be used by other clubs. He suggested that ON would be a good organization to promote this.

McIlraith mentioned the public discussions that have been held in the London Public Library recently and the excellent turnout they have experienced. As well they talked about the issue of deer at the Sifton Bog and the discussion about whether or not to initiate a cull. This is similar to the controversy surrounding this same matter at the Pinery some years ago. Also mentioned was the spraying of Warbler Woods west of London and Springbank Park to stop the infestation of Gypsy moths, again similar to the question of whether or not to spray in Canatara Park.

Then the newest club to join Carolinian West, the Otter Valley Naturalists spoke. Don Allensen said they were a very young club and were centered in Port Burwell. Originally a birding group they have expanded and now have more than 40 members. They have had some short outings, some speakers and are very interested in butterflies.

St. Thomas mentioned their Carolinian Forest Festival which focused on Elgin County but also involved Oxford and Middlesex counties. The program targets grade 6 & 7 students and will be held in October. The mandate is to introduce students to nature. Also discussed was the updating of the maps for their heritage trees program. The

one for St. Thomas has been redone while West Elgin is in process. The maps need redoing from time to time as new trees are identified and other trees either die or are cut down. They are also just about ready to print their latest book on reptiles. Malcolm asked if LWI will be approached and they said yes, however they have had so much success with the books that they are now confident enough to proceed without pre-sales.

Brenda Lorenz then updated the group on the activities of the Sarnia Urban Wildlife Committee. She mentioned the forest woods at the Bright's Grove sewage lagoons and the problem with vandalism. There is considerable damage from ATV's as well as hunting. The plan is to install signs to try and reduce the problem and make people aware that the area is used. Every time the City puts up a new fence it invariably gets cut down. She also mentioned the plan for SUWC to host the ON 2010 AGM in Sarnia with assistance from LWI, Carolinian Canada and the Sydenham Field Naturalists.

The next item was mentioned by yours truly and concerned Brenda Kulon's book *The Butterfly Whisperer* which LWI is hoping to publish. A committee made up of Brenda, Gerry Clements, Floyd Elliott, Don Smith and Gord Catterson is working on it. The purpose in bringing it up was to let attendees that they will be approached for support and pre-sales.

Ingersoll Nature Club then mentioned their Ontario Hummingbird Project and said that they had had Cindy Cartwright as a speaker. They said she was outstanding as a speaker and is one of only three people in the Province of Ontario who is licensed to band hummingbirds. They also mentioned that they have updated their website and have piggybacked on the county site.

Carolinian Canada introduced their *Species at Risk (SAR) Almanac*. It is similar to the *Farmers Almanac* written in plain language with short articles, anecdotes, tables etc. which focus on species at risk. It will also include such topics as birding hot spots, plants to attract butterflies, and how to build bluebird boxes. They will be looking for submissions at the appropriate time. Also mentioned was an Ontario Parks/Carolinian Canada Coastal Conference to be held at Point Pelee October 22-23, 2009.

Clare Mitchell then did the ON Board update as Anne MacArthur the regional director was unable to attend.

She talked about the ON AGM being held on May 30th in Southampton in partnership with the Huron Fringe Birding Festival. This year it is being sponsored by TD Friends of the Environment.

The Nature Almanac was mentioned. This is the on-line resource for member clubs to publicize their local events. Also Nature Network News, the monthly newsletter, featuring articles from local clubs.

A new program called *From the Ground Up* was introduced. This was made possible by a Trillium Grant and is meant to engage youth in nature. The idea is to work with existing

Young Naturalist groups. A manual is available on-line.

Clare thanked everyone for their support of the new Species at Risk Act. She said the regulations for the first 10 species are ready to go. They will be looking for comments. Also the Greenbelt project around Toronto had its anniversary on February 4th.

She mentioned the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan being spearheaded by Aileen Carroll's constituency office. She can be contacted at <acarroll.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org>

She also talked about a new initiative called Boreal Connections being funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Future Fund. Also legislation protecting 50% of the boreal forest is expected this spring. The Save Our Boreal Birds petition garnered over 60,000 signatures.

The Nature Network Resources is a good source of available resources for member clubs. It is a good source of speakers as well as various materials.

Finally Kim Gledhill did her RAP program focusing on Species at Risk and the Remedial Action Plan in the Sydenham watershed. LWI members who attended the February indoor meeting will recall Kim's enthusiasm for the subject and her catchy RAP lyrics. She was enthusiastically received by the group.

The fall meeting will be held on October 31st and will be hosted by Friends of Rondeau.

Gord Catterson

Winter Birding Highlights Continued

By Blake A. Mann

As it is now spring (finally!) I will mention some more birding highlights. White-winged crossbill numbers had decreased considerably by the end of February. I saw my last two (males) here in Wallaceburg 28 February. Perhaps some late ones will be seen during the spring in southwestern Ontario.

Spring American robins were late in arriving, but by early March, there were lots around.

Ducks on the St. Clair River quickly disappeared for the most part, but the incredible number of long-tailed ducks remained. There were well over 200 on the river 8 March when I took a drive up to Sarnia.

That day the Harlequin duck pair near the Suncor plant were still present. This pair was first seen 1 March. The spotted towhee at Point Pelee was still present at the time of this writing in late March.

A western grebe first discovered in mid February at east Toronto, was remarkably still present by late March.

A very co-operative black vulture was present just outside of Rondeau Provincial Park 13 March. It was last reported 16 March.

Most notable in March was the presence of snow and Ross' geese both at Hillman Marsh, Essex County and near Northville, Lambton County. A record 44 Ross were recorded at Hillman Marsh, and at least 8 or more were near Northville. Over 200 snow geese were also recorded near Pinery. It has been a remarkable year for the once rare Ross' geese in southwestern Ontario!

My records indicate that five varied thrushes were reported in the province over the winter—none near here though. That was about average for this wandering member of the thrush family. The Townsend's solitaire, another regular western thrush in Ontario saw two records in the province. It is always interesting what birds will show up, and this spring will be no different. Stay tuned for more highlights!

LWI at the Outdoor Living Expo

More than 450 people visited Lambton Wildlife's display booth at this year's Outdoor Living Expo held at DeGroot's Nursery March 28th and 29th. The venue offered an excellent opportunity for LWI to showcase its club to the community, to answer questions, and to attract new members. LWI volunteers handed out program brochures and offered field guides for sale.

Thanks to Janet Bremner, Joan DiFruscia, Krista Cowieson, Janice and Richard Maxfield, and Joan McPhedran for volunteering their time to staff the display.

The door prize winner of a year's complimentary membership in Lambton Wildlife was Linda Taylor.

Volunteers to staff future LWI displays are always welcome. If you would be willing to give an hour or two of your time to help promote LWI in the community, please contact Janet Bremner at 519-542-2797 or jbremner@cogeco.ca.

----- CUT AND MAIL -----

To help us serve you better please circle or check (optional):

Age Groups: Under 12 12-20 20-40 40-60
60-80 over 80 or M. Y. O. B.

Interests: Birds Flowers Animals Insects
Fungi Fish Trees
Conservation Environment
Other _____

Activities: Hiking Camping Bicycle Riding
Canoeing Walking Talking
Writing Cross Country Skiing
Other _____

Might be willing to:

Serve on Committee
Chair Committee
Serve on Board
Act as LWI Representative
Come to Indoor Meetings
Go on Outings
Participate in Slide Show
Be an Advisor

Other Information to Share with LWI:

Need transportation to meetings _____
Special skills or work experience _____

Badger Awareness Campaign

I'm a member of LWI and I want to pass along some information.

My sister, Danielle Ethier and part-time Oil Springs resident, is currently working on her M.Sc at the University of Guelph studying badgers in Ontario. Her research is dependent on eyewitness reports from the community to help document the ecology of this critically endangered species. She has a website (www.ontariobadgers.com) and was just granted full project funding from the WWF Species at Risk Research Fund for 2009-2010.

If LWI is able to help get the word out in any way please contact Danielle directly through the website or at ethierd@uoguelph.ca.

Thank you,
Mary Ethier

Monarch Teacher Network Canada –

Summer 2009 Workshop in Sarnia

The Monarch Teacher Network Canada is group of Canadians interested in the environment, promoting a global community and bringing the inspiring story of the monarch butterfly to classrooms. We are partners with the United States and Mexico in forming a North American network of teachers committed to the preservation of the monarch butterfly and its habitat.

Each summer, volunteers from the Monarch Teacher Network Canada offer workshops to all interested educators. It is a combination of classroom and field experiences. Participants learn:

the life cycle, ecology and conservation of monarchs
to raise and tag them

to teach effective, cross-curricular lessons to develop a school butterfly garden and natural classroom and more!

The goal is to provide teachers with the knowledge, experience, materials and confidence to raise monarchs in their classroom in September and produce an outstanding learning experience for students. One course will be held in Sarnia, Ontario on July 30th and 31st, 2009 at Cathcart Boulevard Public School. For further information, go to: www.monarchcanada.org.

Board of Directors:

Malcolm Boyd	President
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Deadline for Summer issue is

Friday, July 3rd, 2009

Please leave typed material or discs in
mailbox
at 502 Roosevelt Drive
or email to:
gpcatt@xcelco.on.ca

----- CUT AND MAIL -----

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to : Lambton Wildlife Inc. Box 681 SARNIA, ON N7T 7J7

Name: _____

Address: _____ email _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Date : _____ Earthways via email? Yes _____ No _____

Membership fees: Single \$20 Family \$25 Young Naturalist \$15 (\$5 ea. add'l child) (Circle one)

Donation \$ _____ (Business number 11900 4620 RR0001) Total \$ _____

