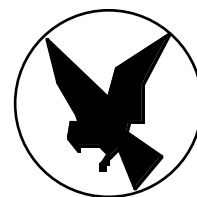


# EARTHWAYS<sup>©</sup>



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

Gordon Catterson - Editor

October, 2008

Cheryl Veary-Webmaster

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

October 27, 2008

### Backyard Bird Feeding: Project Feeder Watch

Hugh McArthur, on the board of Bird Studies Canada and the sponsor of Project Feeder Watch, will describe this program which can make the winter months a lot more fun by watching birds at your feeder and turn a backyard hobby into valuable conservation research - without ever leaving home! He will give helpful hints on bird feeding.

November 24, 2008

### Rural Lambton Stewardship Network

Ron Ludolph, the Stewardship Coordinator for RLSN, will talk about the numerous, comprehensive, multi-partner stewardship projects which focus on projects for habitat restoration, conservation and enhancement. The RLSN promotes private land stewardship at the grass roots level.

January 26, 2009

### Rehabilitating Birds of Prey

Lynn Eves, director of the Bluewater Center for Raptor Rehabilitation, will describe her work in trying to rehabilitate birds of prey, researching their needs and educating the public about these birds and how we can all help to create a harmonious and healthy environment for all living creatures.

February 23, 2009

### Species At Risk: Lambton Area

Kim Gledhill, Conservation Education Technician for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and LWI member, will talk about what has been happening with the Aquatic Species at Risk program over the last few years and the new Tree Species at Risk program, both of which stress best management practices to preserve habitat for species at risk.

March 30, 2009

### Urban Insects

Stanley Caveney will talk about some of our local insects and their fascinating and often bizarre lifestyles. He is an entomologist, recently retired as a professor at Western. His presentation will include a bit about insect evolution, diversity of species and recent invasive species in the Sarnia-Lambton area.

## Outdoor Program

Please note: All youth under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult on the outings.

Items marked with an \* are or can be a half day only.

### Trees of Skunk's Misery

Saturday, October 18, 2008

Come explore this unique Carolinian forest habitat and catch the fall colours of rare species such as flowering dogwoods and sassafras trees.

Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Newbury Hospital Parking Lot on County Rd. 14 just east of town.

Carpool at 9:00 a.m. at St. Clair High School.

Inquiries: Larry Cornelis 519-627-8589

### \*Kettle Point Birding

Sunday, October 26th, 2008.

Meet: 8:00 a.m. at Bright's Grove Plaza (near Goodwill box) or 8:30 at Kettle Point Plaza (Point's Preference)

Lunch at local restaurant.

Leader: Alf Rider 519-786-4213

### \*Point Edward Lighthouse

Saturday November 8th, 2008.

Join Alf around 8:00 a.m. at the lighthouse (end of Fort Street) to look for ducks, gulls and jaegers.

Leader: Alf Rider 519-786-4213

### Birding Niagara

Saturday, November 29, 2008

Meet: car pool from Sarnia or meet at Van Wagner's Beach, Stoney Creek at 7:30 am. We will be searching for uncommon to rare gulls and ducks which concentrate in the Niagara Gorge, from above the falls to Niagara on the Lake. Last year we spotted a Northern Gannett.

Contact leader Paul Carter: 344-2571

## Index

Indoor Program .....	1
President's Message .....	2
Outdoor Program .....	1
Young Naturalists .....	3
Board of Directors .....	8
Notices	
Deadline .....	8
CCC/OLTA Conference	5,6

## Reports

Electronic Earthways..	2
September Indoor ...	4,5
New invader .....	3
Save the Boreal .....	3
New Field Guide .....	2
Kids for Turtles .....	2
Articles	
Questionnaire .....	7,8

## Greetings from the President

**It is really important that you fill out and return the attached questionnaire.**

Please fill out and return the 2 page questionnaire which is attached to this edition of Earthways. It was developed by myself, Janet Bremner, Alexia Gladdy and Tania Havelka, with much of the work being done by our newest Board Member, Tania. As I noted last month, this questionnaire was initially developed to receive input on our indoor and outdoor programs. We normally start working on our programs in December for the next program year. I think that the program committees have done an excellent job over the years by providing innovative and interesting events, but we have not polled the membership in some time. It is important that LWI members start thinking of improvements which can be made...things which especially interest you

and which may not have been adequately covered. We would also like your suggestions of things that LWI should be doing that we are not doing now. Are your interests being met? Are we offering a satisfying program to our new members? Are we reaching out to the community in an effective way? We undertake a lot of projects such as protecting and restoring the natural habitat of the properties that we own and manage. We have information booths at a number of events to help get us better known in the community. We need volunteers for these projects. The more people who volunteer, the less work for those who always step forward to help us out...and the more work we can get done. Please fill out the questionnaire and forward it to us, either by dropping it off at an indoor meeting or mailing it to us, or scan and email it to [info@lambtonwildlife.com](mailto:info@lambtonwildlife.com). Lets all work together to make Lambton Wildlife even more relevant.

Malcolm Boyd

### Electronic Earthways:

Over the past year a couple of changes have been initiated with regard to the distribution of Earthways and I thought it worthwhile to update members on the current situation.

First of all we began electronic distribution with the summer issue of 2007. We now have 93 Earthways being delivered this way.

Secondly as of the September issue we stopped delivering Earthways by hand. While some people enjoyed this monthly task the reality was that it was getting increasingly difficult to find people to do it, and often it was necessary for deliverers to have to drive some distance to do so. Thus except for the libraries and most high schools all non-electronic copies are now being mailed. The schools and libraries can be distributed by dropping their copies at one spot and letting them distribute them.

September 2008	Copies mailed	210
	Libraries	28
	Schools (2 mailed)	9
	Electronic	93
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>340</b>

We continue to encourage members to sign up for electronic delivery by contacting Dick Maxfield at [jdmaxfield@sympatico.ca](mailto:jdmaxfield@sympatico.ca) asking that you be placed on the list for electronic delivery and giving him your email address. Doing so means you will usually receive your copy earlier and will save the cost and work associated with mailing.

Gord Catterson

### New Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Algonquin Provincial Park and Area:

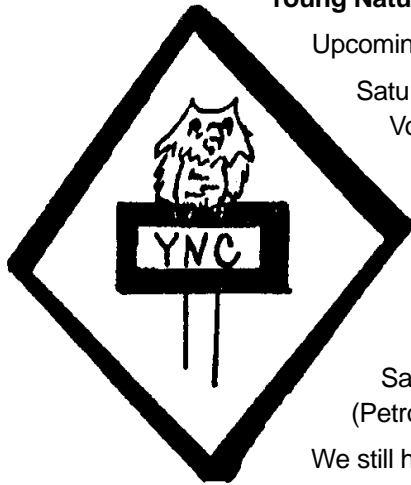
This is a soft cover, 263 page -135 species-guide published by the Friends of Algonquin Park. It is the first of their new "Field Guide" series. Their existing booklets on birds, insects, butterflies and fungi are excellent. It is just now being released and can be purchased online from the Friend's bookstore: <http://store.algonquinpark.on.ca/cgi/algonquinpark/00517.html>. Really good field guides on Dragonflies and Damselflies which cover the Ontario species are hard to find. This one should be a valuable addition to your field guides.

Malcolm Boyd

### Kids for Turtles:

To learn more about the environment and protecting the world around us join Kids For Turtles Environmental Education. Information can be found at [www.kidsforturtles.com](http://www.kidsforturtles.com) or email [info@kidsforturtles.com](mailto:info@kidsforturtles.com) or telephone 705-325-3149. To learn more about phragmites control visit [www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond](http://www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond)

## Young Naturalists



### Upcoming Young Naturalist Events:

Saturday October 18th, 2008:

Volunteer Day @ Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation. Time: 1:00-3:00PM

Saturday November 1st, 2008: Fundraiser – Planning and Production @ Canatara Park (just outside of the Animal Farm). Time: 1:00-3:00 PM.

Upcoming Jr. Naturalist Events (kids aged 12-16):

Saturday October 18th, 2008: Volunteer Day @ Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation. Time: 10:00AM-3:00PM.

Saturday November 15th, 2008: Rammed Earth Bricks Project @ Henderson CA (Petrolia). Time: 10:00AM-3:00PM.

We still have room in both groups. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Melissa Levi

insektivi@hotmail.com

*Reprinted from Amphibian Voice, a publication of the Toronto Zoo.*

### A New Subspecies of Common Reed Grass Invades Our Wetlands

By: Bob Bowles

Many people are aware of a European plant with a beautiful mauve flower called purple loosestrife that has been introduced into North America by garden planting that has become strongly established as an invasive plant in our wetlands due to media coverage by several groups. However, there is another invasive plant that is damaging to wetlands that many have not even heard about. The problem is that this new invasive is a subspecies and very similar to a native species of reed. The new subspecies may have established here as early as 1970 but was not recognized as an alien until the late 1990's. It is very difficult for the average person to distinguish it from the native species and since it is a grass without colourful, showy flowers it may go unnoticed. The plant is European common reed, *Phragmites australis australis* and looks almost identical to American common reed, *Phragmites australis americanus*. Botanists have found that the native subspecies has red to reddish-purple internodes at the base of the stem and lower glumes that measure longer than 4 mm. in length. The invasive European subspecies has pale yellow internodes at the base of the stem and longer, lower glumes measuring less than 4 mm. The highly invasive European subspecies has established itself recently in colonies along major roads and then is spread into nearby wetlands where it flourishes and crowds out native species of plants.

Wildlife and water flow within the wetland help spread the seeds to new wetland locations where colonies soon choke out the wetlands. It has become a major pest of irrigation and flood channels around the world and is able to survive in water up to 2 meters deep or on dry ground. Water draw-down which controls most aquatic plants has no effect on this subspecies. Sensitive wetlands should have buffer

zones exceeding 1 km to prevent colonization of this invasive subspecies. The subspecies is now spreading across Canada from colonies in Ontario and Quebec and just been recently reported in western Canada and the Maritimes. It is expected that within the next 20 years it will be found in all wetlands with roads nearby. Monitoring of the two subspecies will be essential to protect the native biodiversity of Ontario wetlands.

*Members may recall that Jennifer spoke at the September indoor meeting in 2007 about this initiative.*

#### Save Our Boreal Birds Campaign

by Jennifer Baker,  
Ontario Nature

As you know, Ontario Nature and the Boreal Songbird Initiative have developed a nation-wide petition to protect the most significant bird nursery in North America, the boreal forest. Thanks to our partners across North and South America and parts of Europe, we have over 55,000 signatories from around the world demanding that the Canadian government protect the boreal forest, an international treasure and significant breeding ground for migratory birds. We appreciate the resounding support the Nature Network has provided.

We aim to gather thousands more signatures before we submit the petition to our provincial and federal elected officials in the early winter. Premier McGuinty has made a commitment to protecting at least 50% of Ontario's northern boreal and we hope that the Save Our Boreal Birds petition will encourage other provinces and the federal government to follow suit.

We thank you for your help to date in making this a big success! We are making one last big push.

### September Indoor Meeting:

A good turnout was experienced at the September indoor meeting to hear Clint Jacobs, Natural Heritage Coordinator for the Walpole Island First Nation Heritage Centre located on the Walpole Island First Nation territory.

Clint was introduced by Larry Cornelis who said he had known Clint for several years now and had worked with him on various initiatives.

Clint commenced by talking about where Walpole Island is located. It lies on the delta where the St. Clair River enters Lake St. Clair and the native name Bkejwanong means 'where the waters divide'. It is a very appropriate name as this is where the river divides into several channels. The First Nations peoples who live there are Ojibway, Pottawatami and Odawa, all closely related members of the Algonquian linguistic group of North American native peoples, and have occupied this area for many centuries. (On an LWI trip there several years ago Dean Jacobs, then Heritage Centre Director, indicated that it was believed they had occupied Walpole Island for at least 2000 years). It constitutes some 58,000 acres, two-thirds of which is wetland and lies at the heart of the Great Lakes.

Clint then gave an overview of the natural areas of Walpole Island pointing out that there are five major ecological areas. They include tall grass prairie, wetlands, Carolinian forest, oak savanna and coastal waterways. He said that Walpole Island was the place that area native peoples gathered traditional medicines. It was also a valuable source of food through hunting and fishing. Walpole Island has over 60 of Canada's Species at Risk (SAR) including mammals, plants, mussels, birds and reptiles.

The prairie habitat constitutes 466 h.a. which has traditionally been managed by burning. This is particularly valuable for this type of area as burning is a valuable tool for rejuvenating the prairie. Clint continually emphasized the cultural relationship of the native people with their environment and connection to the land. Some of the species represented in the prairie habitat include sweetgrass, one of the four sacred native plants (the others being cedar, tobacco and sage), wild bergamot (a member of the mint family) and the small white lady's slipper. He said that Walpole Island has one half of the population of this plant. Also dense blazing star with over 140,000 plants in 2003, pink milkwort, Ohio spiderwort, prairie dock and the threatened colic root. He also mentioned the Northern Bobwhite quail which is an endangered species. He said that as a youngster he ate these birds as they were a popular hunting target. However as it became apparent that they were being lost hunting stopped about 10-15 years ago and today Walpole Island has the only native population in Canada.

Next Clint discussed the oak savanna. He said that this is a transitional habitat between woodland and prairie. It lies between the eastern deciduous forest to the east and the prairie habitat to the west, and is characterized by widely separated oaks with the spaces between growing Carolinian and other species. On Walpole Island there is 363 h.a. of

oak savanna. The endangered prairie gentian is found here with about 150 plants at 3 sites. Also showy goldenrod with about 1300 plants and abundant wild lupine.

Next was the forest area and Clint again emphasized the cultural ties of the First Nations people with it. He showed pictures of children being taught basket weaving, a traditional skill, using wood from black ash. The forest is also home to some endangered species such as the flying squirrel, common hop tree, 5 lined skink as well as trilliums and white tailed deer.

Then Clint talked about the wetlands and the coastal marshes. Walpole Island has some 8300 h.a. of wetlands and is home to several threatened species. They include the King rail (Walpole Island has one half of the Canadian population), least bittern, Blandings turtle, Eastern spiny shell turtle, several mussels, fish such as the Northern madtom as well as many bull frogs.

He then talked about the Walpole Island Heritage Centre whose native name is NinDaWaabjig which means "Those Who Seek to Find". He joked it could also mean "Those Guys looking for Something". It is, among others things, a research centre and they currently have several projects underway. Some of them include research on goldenseal which is a threatened species, the biology of the endangered pink milkwort in conjunction with the University of Western Ontario and since 2002 the mapping of some 17 species at risk plants using GIS. They want to do the mapping every 5 years. They also tag monarch butterflies and have planted Kentucky coffee tree seedlings grown at Western to enhance the local population.

Clint talked about strategies to protect these species and said they try and use a holistic approach which means involving people. They wish to restore their language and culture along the way. The approach includes education, habitat management, building capacity and connecting with youth. He gave an example of educating with the production of playing cards utilizing pictures of species at risk. They have also attempted to control invasive species such as white clover, purple loosestrife and phragmites. He showed a picture of 15,000 lbs. of white clover collected in 22 days. They paid \$1 for each 5 lbs. collected.

Another initiative is protecting lands in their traditional territory and since 2001 have secured 316 acres of savanna, prairie and forest via acquisition and leasing arrangements. This is out of a total of 6451 acres. They are also looking into setting up a land trust.

Clint mentioned a specific incident where he was able to stop the plowing up of thousands of dense blazing star plants and managed to sign a conservation lease with the owner who wants to sell the property. He mentioned that they have received assistance from the Thomas Talbot Land Trust and the Trillium Foundation. They have also been networking with Carolinian Canada.

The Walpole Island First Nations community has received several awards over the years including recognition as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) in 1980, designation

by Carolinian Canada as a CCC Heritage Site, a CCC Conservation Award in 2004 and a COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Engangered Wildlife in Canada) award in 2007 as well as other awards and recognition.

Finally Clint talked about the many challenges being faced. He said 47% of their population is under 25 and their numbers are doubling every 10 years. This puts incredible pressure on the natural habitat and their species. He said the number of invasive species is increasing as is pollution. They wish to maintain traditional ways, language, culture etc. while at the same time working to remain connected to the natural environment, and promoting sustainable development. He said they must be innovative, network and work collaboratively with other groups.

Clint was thanked by Dorothy Tiedje for a wonderful presentation.

Gord Catterson

**OLTA & CCC Conference:**

Join Us!

October 23rd - 25th, 2008  
Best Western Lamplighter Inn  
591 Wellington Rd.  
London, Ontario  
www.lamplighterinn.ca  
info@lamplighterinn.ca  
519-681-7151  
TF: 1-888-232-6747

The Partners for Land Protection 2008 Conference Committee

Carolinian Canada Coalition  
Ontario Land Trust Alliance  
Parks Research Forum of Ontario  
Thames Talbot Land Trust  
Environment Canada  
Ontario Ministry of the Environment  
Explore, Network and Learn  
A Major Event for Habitat Conservation in Southwestern Ontario.

This conference is geared towards volunteers and professionals who are interested in saving habitat - land trusts, conservation authorities, municipalities, recovery teams, environmental NGOs, landowners, government agencies and industry experts. The impacts of this conference will be felt throughout the conservation community across southwestern Ontario.

Registration Forms and Draft Programs are now available on-line at Ontario Land Trust Alliance and Carolinian Canada websites. Members of OLTA and CCC receive 10% discount on rooms!

**3 Day Conference Highlights:**

- Opening Welcome: Ontario Minister of Natural Resources, Donna Cansfield
- Keynote Address: Dr. John Howard, Ecosystem Health - Balancing Health Care with Land Care
- Four Streams: Opening Plenary, 20+ Seminars & Workshops. Learn about unique tools and partnerships for land protection.
- Regional Forums: Network across Ontario.
- Field Trips: Westminster Ponds and Meadowlily Fields with the Thames Talbot Land Trust
- Entertainment: Exhibitor Draws, Live Band, Silent Auction and two Banquet Dinners
- The Backyard: Coffee, Displays, Networking, OLTA Jeopardy, Bulletin Board, Video Theatre, Community Mapping and One-on-One Clinics

**Spotlight on CAROLINIAN CANADA Workshops**

Thursday, October 23rd  
Conservation Planning in Action  
Canadian Woodland Recovery Update #2  
Hotspot Case Studies (Targets & Tribulations)  
Linking Recovery Strategies  
So YOU Want to Start a CAP?  
Recovery Support: Finding Allies

----- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Friday, October 24th

- Linking Public & Private Stewardship
- Land Protection Leaders Panel
- Working Effectively in the Greater Ecosystem Neighbourhood for Recovery, Health and Survival
- Expanding the Green Pie
- Community Action
- Public-Private Partnerships for Habitat
- Recovery Support: Finding Allies

Saturday, October 25th

- Regional Planning Breakfast
- Spotlight on ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE Workshops

- Conservation Planning
- Google & Aerial Imagery for Mapping
- MNR Conservation Lands Map
- Risk Management: People on the Landscape
- Focus on Municipal Partnerships
- Land Transactions & Stewardships
- Avoiding Red Flags
- The Art of Appraising
- Bi-National Transactions
- Landowner Relations
- Finance, Fundraising & Communication
- Recent Tax Changes
- Local Fundraising
- Valuing Ecoservices

We look forward to seeing you there!

Our mailing address is:  
 Carolinian Canada  
 Grosvenor Lodge, by appointment  
 1017 Western Rd.  
 London, Ontario N6G 1G5  
 Our telephone: 519-433-7077

Conference Sponsors

- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Parks Research Forum of Ontario
- Environment Canada Ontario EcoGifts
- Ontario Trillium Foundation

**Board of Directors:**

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Deadline for November issue is

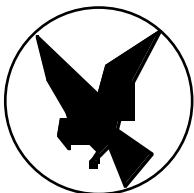
**Friday, October 31, 2008**

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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_



14. What has been your favourite and least favourite recent indoor program?

Most favourite

Least favourite

15. Do you have suggestions for presentation topics for the indoor program? Please circle.

Yes

No

Comments:

16. In spring we offered 5 week long courses on:

(A) Native Plant Gardening and (B) Introduction to Birding

Please circle the following:

Yes I attended course A

I would like to attend course A

Yes I attended course B

I would like to attend course B

17. How many outdoor events do you attend a year? Please circle:

1-5

6-10

11-15+

18. If you attend fewer than than 5 outdoor events per year, why? Please circle:

Time of Day

No transportation

Day of the week

Lack of interest in topic

Facility

Other commitments

Other (Please indicate)

19. On a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high) please rate your interest in the following regular outdoor events:

Hwy 402 cleanup	1	2	3	4	5
Howard Watson Nature Trail cleanup	1	2	3	4	5
Spring camping @ Pt. Pelee	1	2	3	4	5
Native Plant Sale	1	2	3	4	5
Canatara Park Spring warbler Walks	1	2	3	4	5
Botany on the Bruce	1	2	3	4	5
Butterfly Count	1	2	3	4	5
Dragonflies & Damselflies	1	2	3	4	5
Fungi Foray	1	2	3	4	5
Kettle Point Birding	1	2	3	4	5
Point Edward Lighthouse	1	2	3	4	5
Birding Niagara	1	2	3	4	5
Christmas Bird Count	1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

20. What has been your favourite and least favourite recent outdoor program?

Favourite

Least favourite

21. Do you have suggestions for locations or content for outdoor events? Please circle:

Yes

No

Comments:

22. On a scale of 1(low) to 5 (high) rate your overall satisfaction with being a member of LWI.

1

2

3

4

5

Please add comments you feel would help improve the club. (Use another sheet, if needed.)