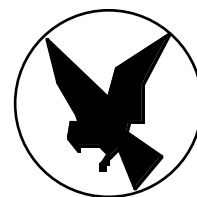


EARTHWAYS[®]



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

Gordon Catterson - Editor

Summer, 2009

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

September 28, 2009

Big Birding Day Across Canada

Paul Pratt, head naturalist of the City of Windsor's Ojibway Nature Centre, has taken part in major birding events around North America, which have included victories at the World Series of Birding, Great Texas Birding Classic and setting a new North American big day record in 2001 and Canadian record in 2006. Paul will describe the thrill of Big Day Birding activities across Canada.

October 26, 2009

A Changing Climate: Implications for the Ecoregion

Gordon McBean, former Chair of the Joint Scientific Committee for the World Climate Research Program, has a long involvement in climate change studies as a scientist, professor and manager. He will provide a global context of climate change and global response strategies and how the climate is projected to change in the Carolinian region, and some response possibilities.

November 30, 2009

Frogs and Kin

Scott Gillingswater, species at risk biologist for the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, will talk about the amphibians of Ontario and their survival status in the face of ongoing habitat losses. Our Young Naturalists will present a short performance about frogs as part of the evening program.

Credit Valley Railroad Fall Colours Tour:

Lambton Wildlife members are invited to join a tour to see the fall colours via the Credit Valley Railroad on Saturday, October 17, 2009. We journey to Orangeville to see Jim Menken's wood carvings before boarding the Credit Valley Explorer scenic rail tour, a 70 km journey, through the Caledon hills, through Cataract and the Forks of the Credit to Inglewood, then on to Brampton before returning to Orangeville. Our train is a restored 1950's classic railcar with panoramic views, reclining seats, heating and air conditioning. Lunch is included on board the train. Supper on the return trip will be at your expense.

Trip includes deluxe motor coach transportation, lunch, all taxes, and services of tour escorts. Cost is \$110 per person. Send payment no later than September 1, 2009 to:

Janice Maxfield
1269 Lakeshore Rd
Sarnia, ON N7S 2L5

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.

*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.

* Tour of Rural Lambton Stewardship Network seed stock fields and woodland tour at the Sinclair Property of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

Sunday, August 23, 2009

Everything will be blooming where the RLSN grows the seed stock for their massive tall grass prairie rehabilitation projects. Meet at 2:00 pm at the Sinclair property, on the east side of Downie Road, south of Bentpath Line (county road #2), north of Bilton Line, former Township of Euphemia, or at 1:15 pm at the St. Clair High School parking lot on Murphy Rd., south of Wellington.

Leader: Larry Cornelis: 1-519-627-8785

* Nature Tour of Stag Island.

Saturday, September 19, 2009

This is a rare opportunity to tour the remarkable natural features of this privately owned island. Tour leader will be John Barker, of the Stag Island Environmental Committee. Meet at 12:15 at the foot of Hill St. in Corunna for the 12:30 ferry (\$1.00 fee) This will be about a 3 hour visit. Maximum group size is 15 so please pre-register with Malcolm Boyd, 344-4424.

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Greetings from the President

Diane Haselmayer-Larry Cornelis-Janet Bremner-Malcolm Boyd. What do these people have in common? For one thing, they have all been presidents of Lambton Wildlife since I have been a member.

Hello everyone, my name is Richard Maxfield and it is my pleasure to take over the reins as president of LWI from Malcolm, and while it would be presumptuous of me to say I will fill the job as ably as my predecessors have done I assure you I will do my best.

My good friend, the late Diane Haselmayer, recruited me to LWI some ten years ago. I had just retired from the Suncor Refinery in Sarnia, and Diane knew I had experience

working with word processors and spreadsheets and thought it would be a good fit for the Membership Secretary's position which was becoming vacant.

I readily agreed and have filled the position ever since. I have also served on the Board of Directors, various committees, President-Elect and now President. I am happy to announce that my wife Janice is now taking over the membership role while I concentrate on the president's duties. Please extend to her your usual cooperation.

On a personal note, we have three children, Jon and Mike in Toronto, and Jennifer and her husband Jon in Thunder Bay. Janice has just finished her teaching career at St. Clair Secondary School in Sarnia and has joined the ranks of the retired. Now that we are both retirees, travel plans are in the future.

By now you should all have received a program brochure for LWI's 2009-2010 season. Although the Indoor Program is in summer recess until September, there are a number of interesting and informative outdoor events ahead. Check your program for events, times and dates. Both the Indoor and Outdoor programming committees have worked diligently to provide a well balanced slate of speakers and activities. There is sure to be something for everyone to enjoy.

Ontario Power Generation has generously donated \$500 in support of Melissa Levi and her Young Naturalist Butterfly Garden project at London Road School. Melissa and her volunteers are to be commended for the fine job they have done. Give it a look the next time you are in the area.

Enjoy the summer and remember: Be safe.

Reminiscing 40 Years in Canada:

Hello Everyone.

A Silent Forest on a Warm Summer Evening prompted this rather reflective note.

This evening, standing again outside the house listening in the dark and drizzle, there is no sound of WHIPPOOR-WILLS or WOODCOCK. Not a cricket or frog chirping. When we came here to this house, a whippoorwill was annually in the garden keeping me awake! More were around in the bush on K.Pt. This place was noisy!

All are gone. Now they are ghosts in a fading memory.

Where have they gone? With feral cats and roaming dogs added to their usual nest predators, no youngsters were fledged for too many years leaving an aging population to die out. Pesticides in the run-off from our gardens have been added to the lethal mix.

This is another sad reflection on our collective carelessness with regard to wildlife.

In the next few years wildlife inventories of the native peoples territories all over Ontario and Canada will be done with their help and expertise and LWI will be there with our experts ready to help when invited. These reserves show as islands of green forest among fields or built-up areas. Hopefully these 'islands' will be found to be refuges for our vanishing wildlife?

In defence of ourselves locally, LWI has worked to curb much of the pollution that was coming out of Chemical

Valley in 1970. Lambton Wildlife Inc. has been instrumental along with many other organizations in voicing well informed criticism, both negative and positive in regard to local pollution and environmental degradation. Also LWI has bought quite a lot of land to preserve it. Mostly with money gained as a result of the skilled and hard work of Peter Banks who has raised many thousands of dollars as a very talented fundraiser.

I am proud to be a member of LWI.

Just look at the list of members, past and present who have made a difference to our country. Many are gone from our view but their good environmental works live on.

This must put a shadow on Shakespeare who said, "The evil that men do lives after them. The good is oft Interred with their bones".

So has LWI proved the Bard wrong? In his time life was much more brutal and the spread of information was very slow and limited so only the big disasters were news.

There is so much more to do and we must work to educate the youngsters of our communities and show them that they are just not little kids but future leaders and hopefully well informed voters too!

Sorry to be so 'down' but a Silent Forest this evening prompted this note to you all.

To be silent would have been a sin.

Best Wishes.

Alf.

Three River Concerns:

A citizen's workshop: Strategizing on the Bi-national RAP'S , St. Mary's River, St. Clair River and the Detroit River was held on May 29, 2009. The Ontario public advisory council, the Great Lakes United and the Bluewater Sustainability initiative were the organizers. It was held at the Suncor Sustainability Center in Sarnia. The purpose of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for the attending participants to share common experiences, state goals, give suggestions and make recommendations for further discussions with state, provincial and federal governments.

The workshop was generously funded by the Trillium Foundation. Mike from the center sincerely welcomed the participants. It is now the home of SLEA. It contains a complete reference library on environmental issues concerning the St. Clair River and a seminar venue affiliated with Lambton College.

The core participants were from Sault Ste. Marie, Detroit, Windsor, Sarnia, Port Huron and two leaders from Kitchener and Buffalo. Although Archie Kerr represented Lanxness he is also a keen environmentalist who is a member of BPAC and FOSCAR. The chair and moderator was John Jackson from Kitchener. He is a long term member of BPAC and the author of a report entitled "Great Lakes Hotspots- Ontario Citizens Speak Up."

The morning session dealt with each AOC (area of concern) – their status, problems and actions to be taken. Further discussions dealt with how to deal with the public, citizens, improving the functioning of PAC (Public Advisory Council) and interacting and coordinating community RAP efforts.

A very focused report with slides of the St. Mary River delta was delivered by its president. The river's main problem is the legacy of two 100 year old industries: a steel mill and a paper-pulp plant still in operation. There are still 11 impairments (BUIS) such as mercury in fish, fish tumours and defective fish. Ongoing problems are: degraded fish and wildlife habitat, impaired benthos (sediment) and beach closings due to 2 sewage plants. The PAC organizes annual clean ups and has achieved 6 beneficial changes since 1988. Environmental curtailments from the Harris years delayed ongoing improvements.

Janice Littlefield reported on the St. Clair River USA side. Lack of funds has been a big problem, often grants are delayed, there is no money for administration and coordinated RAP actions between different departments. RAP–BPAC actions rest with volunteers, whose age and lost interest curtail attendance and are hindered by border crossings. A big concern is how to engage the public. The river has 14 impairments, although fish are declared safe to eat.

A watershed RAP functions on the USA side, but FOSCAR never took off.

Darrell Randell spoke for the Canadian side. The river has 17 stakeholders; many are well organized and represented. FOSCAR in Sarnia selects and manages ongoing worthwhile environmental initiatives and projects. Some examples are the River photo contest and the Youth River Aware-

ness contest. The City of Sarnia is undergoing a long term and costly storm water and sewage separation for the benefit of the river. The river is off the septic tank system.

The Detroit River PAC has a paid coordinator, Natalie Green, which greatly facilitates, requiring coordination etc. The PAC has 2 parts: PAC and outreach – the fund raising arm. Attendance at meetings is poor. The Detroit River inherited major pollution problems from the industries on the Rouge River.

The participants lengthily elaborated on the 4 roles of PAC : advocacy, watchdog, education and RAP actions. They are to be ongoing, forward and consistent.

To achieve these the PAC's have to involve the public, environmental action groups, industry and all levels of governments with adequate funding and regulations. Lobbying the politicians and governments with persistence and dedication will put extra pressure for faster clean up.

Modris Zandbergs spoke on the need of attitude change in the public in order that we can engage it as a pressure group on governments. The Sarnia FOSCAR is currently putting up 7 signage posters along the St. Clair River. A committee is formulating plans to inform the river plants on FOSCAR'S goals, aims, and functions. FOSCAR funded a teaching model in school classes and will also fund a RAP DV on the river's cleanup. Kim Gledhill of LWI elaborated on her involvement. Janet and Modris expressed the need for a stronger united voice from the 14 PACS – so we can present resolutions and lobby for actions and funding. Windsor and Detroit delegates suggested holding annual RAP meetings by inviting the 3 levels of governments as well as members from each party. For an easier way of securing funding the focus should be put on one specific environmental problem and its remediation.

In conclusion, I present a short background on the Great Lakes watershed. The USA and Canadian PAC'S have attempted to remedy adverse environmental impairments in 43 "areas of concern" for the last 29 years. A panel of Canadian scientists prepared The Great Lakes Blueprint: Restoring the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River Ecosystem report. We read this sad summary: the lakes are now under threat. Tragically the treasured biological system and source of drinking water to 40 million people has been polluted by industrial and commercial waste, municipal sewage and surface run off from cities and rural areas. The once thriving and diverse ecosystem has much of its habitat destroyed or degraded and many of its species lost or displaced. Consequently the blueprint details eight key priorities: 1. Improve governance. 2. Enable effective public participation. 3. Connect water quality and quantity. 4. Practice ecosystem based stewardship. 5. Eliminate pollution 6. Upgrade sewage infrastructure. 7. Halt aquatic invasive species. 8. Protect water levels and flows.

This is the reality; however with political will, funding and systematic ongoing RAP actions we have the ability to transform this reality!

Modris Zandbergs BPAC Rep.

2009 AGM:

The 2009 LWI annual general meeting was held at Mandaumin United Church on Saturday, April 18th. The business portion of the meeting was held starting at 4:30 pm with President Malcolm Boyd welcoming the attendees.

The minutes of the 2008 AGM were approved on a motion by Joe Haselmayer, seconded by Dick Maxfield. Carried.

Bill Scott delivered a simplified Treasurer's Report which was approved on a motion by Bill and seconded by Joe Haselmayer. Carried.

Bill also made a motion that Joan McPhedran be appointed to review the books by the September board meeting. Seconded by Carole Buck. Carried. Malcolm also explained that with Carolinian Canada being carried on LWI books it was necessary that a full scale audit be completed in past years, but that what is known as a Notice of Reader would be sufficient now.

Malcolm then presented his President's Report as follows.

President's Report: 2008-09

I became active in LWI when I joined the Board in 2002, at the urging of Peter Banks and support of Diane Haselmayer. I have had the pleasure of working with Larry and Janet and certainly look forward to working with Dick. It is hard for me to separate out this past year, as involvement in LWI is really a continuum. I have been doing things here to raise interest in supporting the protection of the natural environment that I wasn't able to do when I was with Lambton County. Every time I suggested something, whoever was president at the time, said go for it. Peter encouraged my involvement in the Port Franks Properties Committee and that work became my favourite. I recall that he was concerned that being President would take away from my effectiveness as Chairman of the LWI Land Trust Committee, and I now recognize that in the end he was right.

This shows that the effectiveness of our major committees depends to a great extent on the leadership of each committee. Janet Bremner has done a wonderful job as Chair of the Program and Publicity Committee in its task of increasing the awareness of LWI in the community. She has been able to recruit and keep engaged a large number of volunteers who plan and implement the indoor and outdoor programs. Larry Cornelis has been an outstanding supporter of our programs. The recent questionnaire should enable us to keep these programs relevant, retain our current membership and attract new members. Cheryl Veary was handed a huge job as our Webmaster and she has hung in thankfully we are now able to give her more support. Melissa Levi and Chandre Sanio can't be thanked enough for breathing life back into our Young Nats program. The Bird Identification and Native Plant Gardening courses have been a great success, but they take a lot out of the people who put them on. This year we are taking a break, but I will be offering the Bird Identification course next year (because I won't be President).

Gord Catterson also Chairs the Natural Environment Committee along with being Earthways Editor, Chair of the Howard Watson Nature Trail Committee and archivist. That

Committee has accomplished a great deal. The completion of "A Guide to the Natural Areas of Lambton County" was an enormous task. I suggested the need for such a document, but Gord and his committee made it happen. It is now on our Website and they are looking at having it published. They continue to work on trying to publish Brenda Kulon's butterfly book, which I certainly hope becomes a reality.

The work of the Land Trust Committee has been in somewhat of a holding pattern. I can't thank the members of that Committee and our property managers enough for their patience. I am determined to get things rolling again.

When you see our 2009-10 events program you will agree that it is going to be an exciting year. The indoor event I am most excited about is Liz Primeau's presentation "Front Yard Gardens: Growing More Than Grass". In many ways Liz is Canada's Gardening Guru. It would be nice to have an impact on how people in Samia/Lambton landscape their front yards. We succeed when we think globally and act locally.

I trust that the membership will attend as many LWI events as possible, help out when they can and spread the word to their friends and neighbours about what we have to offer. The more people who get involved, the more effective we will be in our prime objective: to encourage and promote the conservation, preservation and protection of the natural environment including plants, natural resources and wildlife. This will happen only if we keep enjoying what we are doing.

Malcolm Boyd

Janet Bremner then presented the Nominating Committee report. Five candidates were approved on a motion by Janet, seconded by Wayne Bowen. Carried. The new directors are Ken Bulgin, Bill Hopkins, Avalon Hamlin, Shawn McKnight, and Doug Winch. There is no President Elect as yet. Malcolm asked for nominations from the floor but none were forthcoming. Malcolm explained that the need was not critical as yet and hoped someone would come forward in the next year. Janet Bremner moved that a President- Elect not be appointed at this AGM and that the nominating committee be authorized to pursue someone for this position. Seconded by John Bellar. Carried.

Janet then mentioned the retiring board members. They are Janet Bremner, Wayne Bowen, Cheryl Veary and Mary Martin.

Bill Hoad then thanked Malcolm for the improvement in the sound system and visuals for indoor meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

The business meeting was followed by a social time and the bucket draw. The results of the bucket draw were as follow.

<u>Prize</u>	<u>Donated By</u>	<u>Won By</u>
2 Bateman books	Gerry Lloyd	Gloria Dawe
Audubon Wildflower Guide	Gerry Lloyd	Norma Gage
Joy of Nature Bottle of wine	Floyd Elliott	Martha Knight

Set of 8 1st day covers 1978 wildlife nature stamps	Blake Mann	George Sunaitis
Norman Knott print	Janet Bremner	Ruth Kernohan
Hand carved soapstone	Ron Warren	Gwen Johnson
\$25 Degroot's gift certif.	Joan Difruscia	Janice Maxfield
Hiking & outdoor vest	Judie Scott	Janet Bremner
Motorola 2 way radios	Janet Bremner	Dorothy Tiedje
Cutlery set	Gwen Johnson	Mary Humphrey
Potpourri	Shelagh Muir	Mary Martin
Teas & Cookies		
Ovenware lunch set	Shelagh Muir	Mary Harman
Friendship blanket	Shelagh Muir	Pat Morreau
Potpourri of new items	Marion Soloman	Joe Haselmayer Brenda Lorenz
Wood carving	Gerry Clements	Cathy Coates
Showy lady's slipper		
China dish	Alice&John Bellar	William Gardiner
Book-Driftwood furniture	Mary Humphries	Krista Cowieson
12 bottles of wine (2 boxes of 6)	Malcolm Boyd	Kenny Garner Scott Kennedy
4 coffee mugs	Marian Soloman	Eric Marcum
Box of nature books	Carol Ellis	Krista Cowieson
Butterfly garden solar lantern	Sharon&Wayne Bowen	Mary Warren
Wood duck box	YMCA Learning Centre	Carol Ritchie
Native plants	John Teasel	Floyd Elliott

Following dinner Malcolm thanked the United Church dinner committee for the excellent meal they provided, as they have every year. The award winners were then announced. They were:

Meritorious Service Award. Presented by Brenda Kulon to Gerry Clements for his many years of service to LWI. He is the only one of the founding members who has been active in the club from its inception to the present time. In 1976 Gerry received the Honourary Life Membership Award recognizing the founding members.

Conservation Award. Presented to the Sydenham Field Naturalists for their work in conservation and promotion of the natural environment. It was presented to Blake Mann and Larry Cornelis by Gord Catterson.

Malcolm Boyd then announced his President's Honour Roll for 2009. Named were Gwen Johnson, Joan McPhedran, Carole Buck, Brenda Kulon and John & Barb Teasel.

Malcolm then passed the President's gavel on to Dick Maxfield who introduced all board members, those retiring, those returning and those newly elected. (See above for those retiring and those newly elected). Those returning are Malcolm Boyd as Past President, Dick Maxfield as President, Bill Scott as Treasurer, Krista Cowieson, Robert Difruscia, Alexia Gladdy, Tania Havelka, Melissa Levi, Eric Marcum and Mary Margaret McGrail.

Following a break the guest speaker, Phil Roberts, was introduced by Malcolm. Phil is the animal control officer at the Windsor airport and is the CBC Windsor nature commentator. He is also President of the Essex County Field Naturalists and the chief bander at Holiday Beach, near Windsor. He spoke on the Bald Eagle Telemetry Program for Detroit River Nestlings.

Phil began by saying the program has two elements, Public Outreach and the Studying of Bald Eagles. He described both the adult and juvenile birds and showed a picture of him holding an adult bird. It's talons are the same size as his hand and he said if the bird were to grip his arm it would take two people to pull the claws out.

He talked about the history of bald eagles in the Detroit River area saying that in the early part of the 20th century there were over 200 nesting pairs. In 1981 this had been reduced to 1 nesting pair that were not reproducing. He mentioned several obstacles which included European settlement and the subsequent loss of habitat, a tendency to shoot them and the use of pesticides in the 60's and 70's. He said the eagles were at the top of the plankton-small fish-big fish-eagles food chain and that contaminants were thus multiplied about 10,000 times. The result was low reproductive success caused by thinned egg shells and severe deformities.

In 1973 bald eagles were identified as an endangered species, in 1983 a monitoring program was started and in 1996 Bird Studies Canada became involved. In 2006 a major initiative, Project Destination Eagle, was launched. In 1980 nesting productivity was 0 while by 2000 it was at 1.5. Below 1.0 the population is declining while above 1.0 it is enlarging.

The project was to try and find where young eaglets were going as they were not returning to the area to nest. At this point the river was still badly polluted. The issue of pinpointing where they went was approached by attaching satellite transmitters to young birds allowing them to be tracked across the country. The transmitters last 3-5 years. It was done by having someone climb a nesting tree, lowering the young birds to the ground, taking a blood sample, weighing and then banding the birds and finally plucking 2-3 body feathers. Then the transmitter is attached. The results are sent to a university for the blood to be analyzed.

The results were quite astonishing. For example one juvenile bird, Olivia, traveled from Detroit to James Bay and back to Galveston Texas all in about one month. Phil said eagles have nested on Pelee Island as well as Peche, Fighting and Boblo Islands. He said that there is a web site www.bsc-eoc.org where the birds can be tracked. Click on Destination Eagle and look for the Eagle Tracker button.

All in all a great talk by an expert in the field.

Gord Catterson

Outdoor Program: Dragonflies and Damselflies:

Saturday, June 20, Robert DiFruscia, leader: (the trip that never gets cancelled). Only 5 of us gathered at Bright's Grove at 8:30. It had been raining through the night and showers were predicted until noon. When I arrived last, I think the consensus was that because of the rain clouds, the odonata (dragonflies & damselflies) wouldn't be flying, and that maybe the outing should be scrubbed. Well, it wasn't raining then, and I was looking forward to going up to the Port Franks Forested Dunes (PFFD) regardless of the habits of the odonata. I had just attended the workshop on preserving the dwarf hackberry in London (see article in September issue) and wanted to sharpen my identification skills for this plant which is designated as being "threatened" under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA). The others were good sports and thought that sounded better than simply going home or undertaking all of the errands that needed to be done. A number of years ago there was a Volunteers for Nature program at the PFFD to find dwarf hackberry and many were marked with pink survey tape. When we entered the trail we were greeted by a number of ebony jewelwing damselflies. They are such a treat to see. It is not that easy to spot the dwarf hackberry as there are a number of similar bushes, but after a while, we all gained confidence in identification. All the time, it was getting darker. We turned back, but not in time. It started pouring. Thankfully with umbrellas and boots (some of us anyhow) we didn't get soaked immediately. A pause for protection in a grove of hemlock was nice, but we had to bite the bullet and headed back onto the trail which was filling with water. When we got back to the cars, Rosemary and Helen (new LWI members, who I hope don't suddenly become past members) decided they had enough and headed home. Robert, Paul and I went to McPhersons for their hot soup and toasted sandwich lunch special. Was it ever good! Their soups are great.

Robert had noted that the forecast was for the rain to stop by noon and when we went outside again, it was starting to clear. We went to the L. Lake Management Area, (Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority), which is accessed from Outer Drive. Within minutes we had great views of female halloween and calico pennants. Robert was ecstatic. The halloween pennant was a lifer for me. Then in quick succession, we saw a Hobomok skipper, Hagen's bluet damselfly, widow skimmer, chalk fronted corporal and finished off with a great view of a hummingbird moth. Great chats in the car on the way home finished off a very satisfying day....as Robert's outings always are.

Malcolm Boyd

Beckoned by the Bruce

It was late May when 18 Lambton Wildlifers armed with bug hats ventured north to the Bruce Peninsula with flower and bird books. It was early spring there and the bracken ferns were so tightly curled that they were almost unrecognizable. "The Bruce" is unique with so many habitats to be explored within a small area. - the sandy shores and warm waters of Lake Huron, the rocky shores and icy waters of Georgian

Bay, and in between, forests, grasslands, small lakes, alvars, and fens.

Joan and John McPhedran were gracious hosts providing us with a BBQ Friday evening and a catered gourmet dinner Saturday evening at their cottage. On Sunday, when the sun shone brightly and the north wind blew us away from the water, they provided us with an alternate plan.

For Saturday John Bellar procured the services of a personable and knowledgeable biologist who led us from Lion's Head in the south as far as Dorcas Bay in the north with many great stops in between. All of us, including Dorothy Tiedje, our own botanist par excellence, learned something new. We brought our lunches to the Bellar cottage where we enjoyed many extras - courtesy of Alice and John. The weather was beautiful until late in the day when our plans to view a bald eagle's nest and a showy orchid were washed out by torrents of rain and wind.

Among the birds that we saw were Brewer's blackbird, not commonly found in southern Ontario; chipping sparrow; cedar waxwing; meadow lark and bobolink now becoming hard to find; eastern bluebird; humming bird; northern harrier; and a group of 8 sandhill cranes feeding. Our guide used a recorded bird call to call out a clay coloured sparrow which had established a circumscribed territory in a grassy, shrubby open area. The bird's curiosity got the better of it and it hid motionless behind leaves calling to answer the machine with its characteristic "buzzz". When it could not spot its rival from this vantage point it summoned up the courage to show itself. We were so privileged to have had a good look at this rare little bird! The piece de resistance turned out to be an American bittern slinking along horizontally behind tufts of tall grass. Every few feet it popped its head up to scout the area. When it heard its call on the machine it flew over us and settled on a bare spot, stretched to its full height and displayed the fan shaped breast feather pattern marking it as a breeding male. A magnificent sight!

We were advised not to touch any orchids with our hands because the oils and salts from our skin could attract deer which might eat the plants. The yellow lady's slipper could be found in full sun, shadowy openings in evergreen forests, and in dry open rocky areas. It is common on the Bruce which has a calcium rich habitat. We were fortunate to have been led to one of the smallest and most inconspicuous of the lady's slippers - the ram's head orchid, which often stands alone or near a tender shoot which will be next year's flower. This delicate flower is rare throughout its habitat. Orchid seeds are as fine as dust and require an underground fungus to act as its "digestive system" in order to germinate.

The Dorcas Bay area is home to the rare Hill's thistle, mats of crested lake iris, sand cherry shrubs, and animals such as the water snake we saw swimming in the fen. Throughout there were bastard toadflax, bird's eye primrose, and Indian paint brush. The latter is a beautiful scarlet hemiparasitic plant which wraps its roots around grass roots for feeding purposes. The low growing glossy rubbery leaved bear berry was known as Kinnick Kinnick by first nation

people who ground them and added them to the meat they dried for the winter. Trilliums were still in bloom including the nodding trillium whose head droops below the leaves. We visited fens which have an inlet and outlet and are alkaline. (Bogs which have no inlet or outlet are acidic.) The carnivorous pitcher plants had just begun to grow. The plants found in bogs are green and the ones in fens are red. Also carnivorous, the lance leafed sundew is a denizen of fens. We wish to express sincere gratitude to the Bellars and the McPhedrans for enabling us to enjoy the wonderful world of the Bruce!

Judie Scott

Highway Cleanup 2009.

It was a hot, blustery morning on April 25th, but the sun was on our back and the wind in our face as we cleaned up the south side of highway 402 from Airport Road to Mandaumin Road. We filled 41 bags with garbage and among other surprises we found a U.S. and a Canadian \$10 bill. A special thanks to the young people who came out: Dineen, Jill, Olivia, Adam & Brian and to Bill and Judie for cleaning up the cloverleaf at Airport Road. Also thanks to President Richard, Marilyn, Pete, Rob & Krista, Bob, Charles, Mary B., Chris, Martha, Pat, Cindy, Gord, Cheryl, Mary M., Dave & Pam, Annette, Carole, Bill, Kevin, Bruce & George.

Joe

Some Spring Notes:

By Blake A. Mann

Spring bird migration was rather average in 2009 mixed with a few good rarities. Weather was a little damper and cooler than average and that slowed things down making for a later migration. Butterflies were not all that numerous due to the cool and damp spring, and this continued into the start of the summer.

Some winter birds lingered. Perhaps a leftover from winter was a hoary redpoll which took advantage of my feeder 15-16 April. That was a very late record for southwestern Ontario, and the first for my yard!

A good fallout of birds occurred at Point Pelee 24 April making for some spectacular birding and creating some false hopes. Many early records were established as a result of this large influx of birds from the south. Contrastingly, there was virtually nothing at Rondeau Park the same day! Many of the Pelee birds lingered for a few days giving birders a much needed lift after a long winter.

About 15 American avocets (the first of many around the area) were at Hillman Marsh at this time, along with many other shorebirds. While at Point Pelee 25 April, Steve Pike and I found the first Henslow's sparrow of the season.

The story of the spring was the presence of many pine siskins in southern Ontario. It was unprecedented, and several were seen well into June. Some indications of nesting were evident. George MacDermid reported juveniles at his feeding station near Forest. The last pine siskin at my feeder was 16 June.

Alf Rider reported a little blue heron at Kettle Point 18 May.

Rondeau's second record Eurasian collared dove was flying past the end of Marsh Trail 22 May as seen by Keith J. Burk.

A fish crow was at Rondeau Park 30 April (John Lamey).

Rondeau Park recorded its fourth ever Townsend's warbler 8 May.

There were many other lesser rarities, too numerous to mention here.

Rondeau Park had its Big Day Competition 9-10 May. This year it was held only within the park boundary. I came up with 132 species, while another team came up with 133. It does not get any closer than that! There were probably 140 species in Rondeau Park within that 24h period. Quite amazing really!

Butterfly watching was rather tough this spring and into summer. The damp weather had a significant bearing with fewer sightings and a later than usual emergence of many species.

At the time of this writing, only one southern (northern oak) hairstreak was seen (26-27 June) at Reid CA. Other hairstreaks were just emerging.

Perhaps things will pick up as the summer wanes!

----- 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:

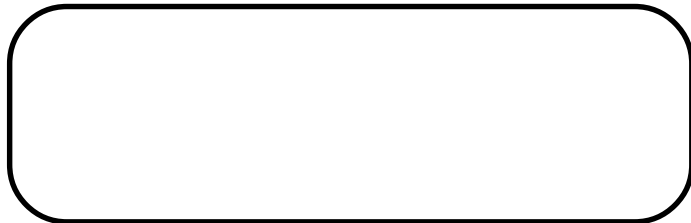
Need transportation to meetings _____
Special skills or work experience _____

Ontario Power Generation Donation:

Malcolm Boyd and Richard Maxfield were invited to represent LWI at Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Earth Day in June. They manned the LWI display booth, handed out brochures and talked with the friendly people.

OPG Environmental Technician, Michelle McKay, gave them a tour of the company grounds to point out the various reclamation projects underway.

To highlight the day, OPG presented LWI with a \$500 donation in support of the Butterfly Garden project undertaken by Melissa Levi and her Young Naturalist group. We thank OPG for their generous support of this project and for their continuing corporate support of LWI.



Monarch Teacher Network Canada –

Summer 2009 Workshop in Sarnia

The Monarch Teacher Network Canada is a 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:

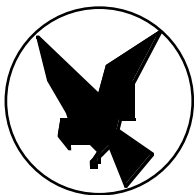
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Deadline for September issue is
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 Please leave typed material or discs in mailbox
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----- CUT AND MAIL -----

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 \$ _____