

Fall 2025



LAMBTON WILDLIFE

Actively protecting nature in Lambton County for over 50 years

LWI – Celebrating 60 years in 2026!

"In 2026, Lambton Wildlife Inc. will be celebrating its 60th year of protecting nature in Lambton County! To commemorate this milestone, special events including guided walks, a picnic in Canatara Park, and an event on June 20th at the Judith and Norman Alix Art Gallery are being planned. At this event the entries to the Kestrel Photo Contest will be displayed. Submissions to this photo contest are open until midnight on November 30, 2025 (email submissions can be sent to mark.roberta.buchanan@gmail.com).

Members will also be able to purchase new merchandise designed by one of our own, Elise McDonald. Orders will be taken for the merchandise with sizing samples available to try on at the November 26th indoor meeting. The 60th Anniversary Planning Committee looks forward to celebrating this incredible milestone with all LWI members next year."

Butterflies at Blackwell Trails, Sunday July 20, 2025



Many thanks to Dale Buchner for leading an enthusiastic group of 18 LWI members on a Butterfly walk at Blackwell Trails. Looking for butterflies is like going on a treasure hunt; you never know what you will find. Our count was a little low. The blue butterfly (above right) is a Silvery Blue; first found in Lambton County by Dale in 2020.



Fall Gall Walk, Sunday September 14th



LWI members explored a section of the Howard Watson Nature Trail in September with our very own Brandy Fenwick, to learn about the diversity of insect galls that can be found there. Insect galls are atypical plant growths created by the external stimuli of an insect. Essentially, the insect “highjacks” the normal development of its host plant’s tissues to provide food and shelter for developing offspring.

We were wowed by the diversity and complexity of insect-plant interactions that many of us walk by regularly, without thinking about the impressive survival strategies of these tiny insects. In a 300-400 metre section of the trail, we saw 12 different species of galls! Each gall is unique to the insect that created it. This species-specific nature often allows us to identify the gall maker without ever seeing the insect itself!

Who Makes insect galls? The ability to make galls has evolved independently among several groups of insects (eg. Flies, wasps, beetles, moths, and aphids). Greater than 13,000 species of gall insects exist worldwide. Gall flies, or midges are the most diverse, which was reflected on the walk with ½ of all the galls seen being made by this group. Gall wasps are perhaps the most well-known and sophisticated group.

The Two Bays Pack: The Coyotes of Inverhuron, David Rankine

Artist, teacher, musician and Coyote Trivia expert! In 2019, David became a Citizen Scientist and focused on Coyotes. It has been 126 years since coyotes arrived in Ontario from the west. While passing through Algonquin, they picked up both wolf and dog DNA. The yips and howls so often heard in the summer are joyful sounds letting other packs know they are a family.

Growing up, in the 1960’s and 1970’s, Inverhuron Provincial Park was a place of magic for David. It is the most diverse park in the Ontario Provincial Park system. Inverhuron was closed to the public in the 1970’s when the Bruce Nuclear Plant was built, allowing the property to become a safe haven for coyotes. David wanted to rekindle the magic he remembered as a kid and began walking through the park in 2019.



By walking the trails in the very early morning, Dave collected detailed data on the Inverhuron Coyotes. Coyotes always take the easy route in their effort to conserve energy. 17% of their diet is deer. Other items on the menu include fruit, nuts, and grass. They are opportunistic omnivores.

They will occupy a den for 2 years, abandon it, then build a new one. Only the alpha female will give birth each season. All the coyote relatives help to bring up the new litter. The young are very playful! They collect lost and discarded toys into a pile. Once finished playing with the toys, they always return them to the pile. (Human children could learn from them!)

David used the detailed data of coyote movement that he collected, matched it to the current weather conditions and the movement of the sun and moon. He was then able to propose a theory showing the unexpected ways that coyotes are connected to their environment.

David's passion for these animals helped him to notice that a love story was taking place. After Windsprinter was injured in the leg by a hunter, her mate Flying Cloud, always walked by her side at her pace and hunted for her for 4 years, until her eventual death.

Coyotes are so often perceived as nuisance animals, but David presented a positive message about coyotes and their family-based social structure. A favourite point was learning "the pointy end of coyote scat (poop) always points to magnetic north!"



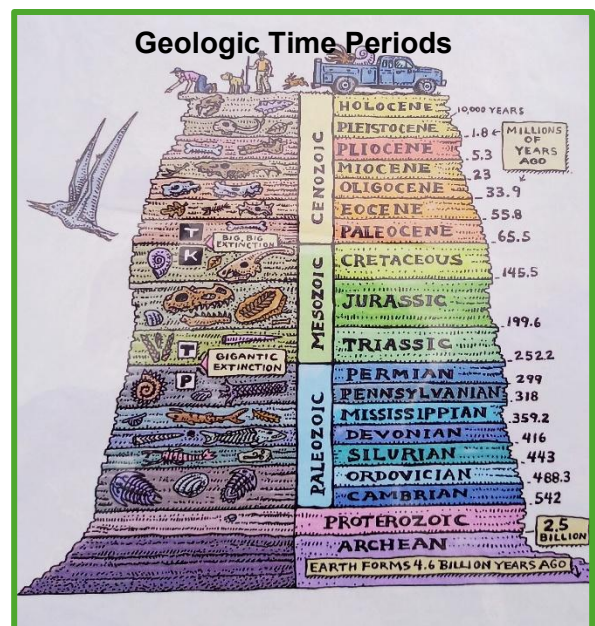
Don't forget to order your LWI 60th anniversary tops and hats for 2026!

[LWI 60th Merchandise](#)





Kate's enthusiasm for all things "rock," inspired 18 LWI members to follow her into the Rock Glen Gorge after a short history on the geology of the area. This area features some of the best Devonian-Era fossils in North America with fossils dating back more than 350 million years ago! Water erosion from Rock Glen Falls and the Ausable River regularly bring new fossils to the surface. The most commonly found fossils are brachiopods, horn corals and crinoid stems.



Young Naturalists in Action!

The LWI Young Naturalists Club sparks environmental enthusiasm with our youngest members. We are very thankful for the time and energy that Kate Brewster and Mike Kent put into running the (almost) monthly excursions. In February, the group will be looking for quirky, colourful ducks and the world's largest gulls during "Weird Ducks and Giant Gulls" along the St. Clair River.



Meet Your LWI Board!

Lambton Wildlife is an organization that relies heavily on its member volunteers. We are a non-profit, volunteer, registered charity, founded in 1966 that is dedicated to the conservation, preservation, and protection of the natural environment in Lambton County. We are particularly concerned with the natural history of the county and the establishment and care of conservation areas and wildlife sanctuaries in Lambton.

Earthways is dedicating space to highlighting a few LWI Board members in this and future issues who volunteer their time to help make our club such a success. The intention of the profiles is to help LWI members become familiar with the Board and the people who sit on the Board. Volunteers are the backbone of our organization. Volunteering for one of the many jobs (small, medium or large) can help to maintain our vibrant organization and provide meaningful impact to our environment. Please reach out to a Board member if you are interested in volunteering.

Brandy Fenwick



1. How long have you been an LWI member? 8 years - I joined in 2017.

2. What brought you to Lambton Wildlife Inc?

Community! I moved to Sarnia in 2013 and didn't know anyone. I had just completed Grad school with a research focus on insect-plant relationships and loved the indoor presentation series that LWI offered to the public. The talent and knowledge that are featured are of such a high calibre, and with my love for learning, I really gravitated to the indoor presentations. What kept me here are the people. This is a wonderful club, with so much knowledge and passion among its members.

3. What are your specific interests with respect to nature?

I grew up next to 100 acres of cattle pasture, that had a creek that ran through it. My brother and I would suck the nectar from the clover flowers in summer, put buttercup flowers up to our chins, catch crayfish and minnows with bread in small traps at the creek, and watch the sucker fish run. My public school also did an erosion protection project on the banks of that creek, and thus my introduction to habitat restoration and protection happened early and literally in our back yard.

I then went to university for Biology and my mind was blown over the diversity of insects (particularly beetles) and a summer job in second year got me hooked on insect galls and the incredible things that nature is capable of.

I'm not much for identification, whether it's insects, birds, or plants- I just can't solidify names in my brain. So what's always fascinated me more are their stories; those life history strategies or ecological interactions that are mind blowing.

4. Where is your top nature get-away?

Killarney Provincial Park. That park has the gorgeous white la cloche mountain range, and scenes from Group of Severn paintings at every turn. It's also where I did field camp courses as an undergrad and then taught at in Grad School. We visited recreationally many times while living in Sudbury; hiking "the Crack", which was always best rewarded with fresh whitefish and chips on the docks of Killarney, watching the otters swim by on their backs. My now husband also proposed to me

there on a canoe trip. This place would be hard to beat, not only because of the incredible nature, but it has all the nostalgic feels.

5. Do you have a nature themed book you would recommend to LWI readers?
“Call of the Mild” It stretched my views of environmentalism in a positive way.

6. What is your favorite menu item from any restaurant in Lambton County?
This one is hard! Cromwell’s breakfast can’t be beat. Selina’s Veggie pad Thai is phenomenal. Guild chocolate is serving up the most beautiful and interesting chocolates.

7. What interested you in becoming an LWI board member?
I was on the Board in 2017-2021 and was Chair for a period in there also. Being on the board is a wonderful way to know what’s happening in the club and meet other members. Many fellow board members from my previous stint are close friends of mine. LWI members are just cool people.

Kate Brewster



1. How long have you been an LWI member?
I attended my first Lambton Wildlife Indoor meeting in December 2022 and I’ve been a LWI member ever since. I am currently in my second year of being on the Board.

2. What brought you to Lambton Wildlife Inc?
I joined LWI because I was new to the city and wanted to make some friends! I had always wanted to join a naturalist club but never felt like I was in a permanent location until I moved to Sarnia. After we bought our house I googled “naturalist club Lambton county” and Lambton Wildlife came up in the results! I said to my husband “look, I’m going to join Lambton Wildlife!” And I did!

3. What are your specific interests with respect to nature?
I consider myself to be a generalist. I love birds, plants, turtles, snakes, butterflies, moths, fungi and frogs. I just enjoy being outside! But if we’ve met, then you know I love rocks the most. I am also learning to bird by ear!

4. Where is your top nature get-away?
I use all my paid time off for camping in the summer, and any Provincial Park with great rocks is my favourite! My shortlist includes Killbear, Killarney, Bon Echo, Lake Superior, and of course Algonquin!

5. Do you have a nature themed book you would recommend to LWI readers?
My favourite nature books are Up North and Up North Again by Doug Bennet and Tim Tiner! I think they’re out of print but they have so much good information and so many fun facts if you can find a copy!

6. What is your favorite menu item from any restaurant in Lambton County?
Being new to Sarnia I’ve had fun trying new restaurants! But my favourite is probably the Bibimbap or Chicken Katsu from Sodam Korea.

7. What interested you in becoming an LWI board member?
I became a LWI board member to learn more about the organization, and to get out of the house a bit more! I work from home so I spend a lot of time at my desk, and becoming a board member gave me an opportunity to get out of the house and connect with people in real life!

John Inch



1. How long have you been an LWI member? Since 2019
2. What brought you to LWI? In retirement I was looking for people with similar interests. An internet search brought me to the LWI website.
3. What are your specific interests with respect to nature? I really enjoy the diversity of trees wherever I go.
4. Where is your top nature get-away? The north part of Algonquin park.
5. Do you have a nature themed book you would recommend to LWI readers? Protected Places: A History of Ontario's Provincial Park System
6. What is your favorite menu item from any restaurant in Lambton County? Frenzies Pizza, # 18.
7. What interested you in becoming an LWI board member? Seeing the experience and dedication that the Lambton Wildlife Inc. members have and trying to do my part for the environment I live in.

Wanda Brown-Maxfield



1. How long have you been an LWI member? I have been an LWI member since 2017.
2. What brought you to Lambton Wildlife Inc? I discovered the LWI indoor meetings through the events page in Sarnia This Week and then a bird banding event, also through the events page in Sarnia this Week; from there, I was hooked.
3. What are your specific interests with respect to nature? I have always had an interest in birds but generally, I love to be outside; on the water in a canoe, in the woods, or on a boardwalk; I am equally happy as long as I have my binoculars in hand.
4. Where is your top nature get-away? My top nature get-away would be Algonquin Park, particularly in the backcountry.
5. Do you have a nature themed book you would recommend to LWI readers? I would recommend everyone read "Collapse" by Jared Diamond.
6. What is your favorite menu item from any restaurant in Lambton county? Butter Chicken from Sitara Indian Cuisine.
7. What interested you in becoming an LWI board member? I became a LWI board member to increase my involvement with LWI in a meaningful way and as a way to give back to an organization that has done remarkable work to preserve and conserve the natural environment in and around Lambton County.

George MacDermid



trip I was in Covid lockdown for awhile.

1. How long have you been an LWI member? – about 15 years
2. What brought you to Lambton Wildlife Inc? – I have always been interested in nature and when I found out about LWI, it seemed an excellent local club to become involved with.
3. What are your specific interests with respect to nature? – I am an avid birder and enjoy just walking in the woods.
4. Where is your top nature get-away? In Lambton County – Upperwash Dunes and Swales trails. In the world – Ecuador. I have been there more than 20 times over the years. Last

5. Do you have a nature-themed book you would recommend to LWI readers? – Kingbird Highway, Ken Kaufman

6. What is your favourite menu item from any restaurant in Lambton County? – The red bean ice cream at Sodom Korean Restaurant.

7. What interested you in becoming a SWI board member? I've been on the board of several organizations over the years and I feel that LWI is doing a great job with conservation/nature locally, so happy to be involved!

January Member's Night!

As the weather begins to turn cold, it's time to start planning another Member's Night. The indoor meeting on January 28th will be the opportunity for LWI members to share their passion for the natural world with fellow club members.

This is a request for anyone who is interested in presenting a nature story to sign-up. They can be brief or longer; you can share cell phone photos or simply use words to tell us about your story; all we ask is that it be somehow connected to nature. I hope the wonderful presentations we enjoyed last January will inspire new presenters to come forward, but we also welcome members who presented this past January to come back with a new topic, or maybe a follow-up. If you are looking for inspiration, think about a nature encounter you had, or a new place you visited.

If you are interested in being a presenter, want feedback on your idea for a topic, or just need a question answered, please contact Mark Buchanan at: mark.roberta.buchanan@gmail.com

Leave Leaves Alone LEAVE THE LEAVES!!

Fallen leaves are not waste: they are home to amazing biodiversity. They provide shelter and protection for small animals; Food and nutrients for the soil. A safe haven for insects, amphibians, and birds. By leaving them on the ground, you protect an entire ecosystem!!



Upcoming Indoor Meetings:

Nov: 26, 2025: Habitat Stewardship & Restoration: Jill Crosthwaite, Nature Conservancy of Canada will highlight the hope, hard work, and rewards of stewardship and habitat restoration in SW Ontario.

Jan. 28, 2026: Members Showcase: A reoccurring favourite where members showcase stories and photos in a fast, fun, and entertaining format.

Feb. 25, 2026: Butterflies on the Brink: The Story of the Mottled Duskywing: This documentary is a captivating tale of triumphs, setbacks, and the unwavering dedication of a group determined to secure the future of this enchanting butterfly.

March 26, 2026: The Endangered Fish Adventure of Port Franks: Jennifer Powell is an aquatic field biologist studying fish, pulling invasives, and educating the local community about the incredible aquatic habitats in Lambton Shores.

Apr. 25, 2026: Annual General Meeting: Guest speaker, Marcie Jacklin, The Owl Foundation

Call for Submissions: Lambton Wildlife hopes Earthways will be a place of sharing and collaboration for our membership. If you have ideas for submissions, member observations, or requests for topics to be covered, please contact us! Email: nethercottsharon2@gmail.com

Yes! I would like to become a Lambton Wildlife member!

Name: _____ Postal Code: _____

Address: _____ City _____

Please circle type of Membership: \$30.00 Single; \$35.00 Family; \$100.00 Corporate; Lifetime Single Membership \$600.00; Lifetime Family Membership \$700.00 Mail to: Lambton Wildlife Inc., PO Box 681 – Sarnia, ON, N7T 7J7 Or on-line registration: www.lambtonwildlife.com (select green button, top right of home page)