

NATURE BARRIE

In this Issue:

- Coming Events* p 4
Trip Reports p 7
Monitoring Reports p11
Nature Notes p16
Member Photos p 20

CAROLINA SPRING BEAUTY *Claytonia caroliniana*

A Message from your Editor

Dear Members,

Exciting News!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our new name **NATURE BARRIE**.

The registered legal name will remain as **Brereton Field Naturalists Club**.

Coinciding with this change, there have been additional changes, to provide a consistent image to our members and to the general public.

Our Facebook Group has been changed to Nature Barrie, with links from Brereton Field Naturalists' Club searches.

Our website domain name has been changed to www.naturebarrie.com with links from BFNClub.org.

The next step is a new logo. Paul Forde has presented a request to members to design a Nature Barrie logo or provide design ideas for a logo to him by April 1st., for consideration at the next board meeting.

All this change is happening to bring us up to date with current norms and with consideration to what other area clubs are doing. It will make us more visible and easier to find to newcomers and youth in our area, when they're looking for nature related events and organizations.

New members are vital to any organization as they come bringing new ideas and dreams. Younger members too, present an alternative point of view. Please make all new members feel welcome. They may have skills that they wish to share with our club, or maybe, they have to come to learn and this is a terrific new platform for you to share your knowledge in an informal, non-structured manner.

So, with the onset of a brand-new spring, with a brand



new image, take a moment to reflect as to what can you contribute to your club and what can they do for you, to help your understanding of nature?

We have developed another exciting calendar of events, for your enjoyment. Consider taking a guided outing with one of our knowledgeable folks. We have trips arranged;

to The Gables, to see wild flowers,

to Copeland Forest to see woodland birds,

a trip to Tiny Marsh to see the migrant birds,

or to Little Lake for spring ephemerals and more birds.

You can even go urban birding within the City limits.

All are listed in this Newspaper and in our many brochures.

Would you like to help on a project?

How about joining the SwiftWatchers? They meet once a week and you do not have to expend much energy!

Or, we have the Bluebird monitors needing help. This usually requires a car to get to the locations but is not physically demanding.

We also are looking for help with Tree Planting in May.

Please come out and enjoy the fun and make new friends. It's Spring...a time for renewal.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Blue Heron.

If you would like to contribute an article or share your photos, don't hesitate to contact me.

clareholden5@gmail.com



Canada Goose Eggs by Jennifer Howard

Your Board of Directors (subject to change at AGM)

2018 Club Executive, Directors, Committee Chairs & Representatives

Position	2018	Home	Mobile	email
President	Dorothy McKeown	705-735-0767	705-817-9572	dorothy.mckeown@gmail.com
Vice-President	David Walsh			
Past President	Alex Mills	705-739-1094		
Secretary	Jim Coey	705-252-0277	705-543-1866	jamescoey37@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ormie Van Alstyne		705-717-3336	ormiev@hotmail.com
<u>Directors</u>				
Conservation	Al McNair	705-737-3388	705-331-5743	alcappella@rogers.com
Education and Displays	Gwen Petreman	705-722-5377		gwenpetreman@gmail.com
Field Trip Coordinator	Jim Coey	705-252-0277	705-543-1866	jamescoey37@gmail.com
Meetings Program				
Membership	Judy Watson	705-984-4866		
Newsletter Editor	Clare Holden	705-722-6447		clareholden5@gmail.com
Ontario Nature	Chris Evans		705-722-1136	chrisgevans55@gmail.com
<u>Committee & Project Chairs</u>				
Publicity	Paul Forde	705-725-0750		58Forde@gmail.com
Social	Christine Beggs	705-721-6842		christinecarterbeggs@gmail.com
Welcoming	Claude Cox	705-737-2272		c.cox@sympatico.ca
Project SwiftWatch	Phyllis Tremblay	705-737-2580		petremblay@rogers.com
Bluebird Trails	Dorothy McKeown	705-735-0767	705-817-9572	dorothy.mckeown@gmail.com
Christmas Bird Count	Chris Evans		705-722-1136	chrisgevans55@gmail.com
<u>Club Reps & Liaisons</u>				
LSRCA & Barrie Creeks Project	Gwen Petreman	705-722-5377		gwenpetreman@gmail.com
MTM Conservation	David Eales	705-721-8174		eales@sympatico.ca
North Simcoe Rail Trail	Lisa Levez Bordeleau		705-309-1528	theearthshiring@gmail.com
Helen Emery Award/ Georgian College	Lynne Gibbon	705-721-4599		lgibbon@sympatico.ca

Aims of the Club

- To acquire and disseminate knowledge of natural history
 - To protect and preserve wildlife
 - To stimulate public interest in nature and its preservation
- For membership details see back page*

Coming Events - Meetings *May 2018 - Sept 2018*

MEETINGS are held at the NORTH WEST BARRIE UNITED CHURCH (NWBUC) 464 Ferndale Drive North on scheduled, Friday nights unless otherwise stated. **Please bring your own coffee mug to help reduce garbage.**

NON MEMBERS are welcome to participate in our activities.

Becoming a member will support club activities and Ontario Nature through our Federation club status.

Please note that if you have questions regarding any outing or event, check the website. www.naturebarrie.com or Nature Barrie Facebook Group Events and Discussion sections.

At time of press we currently have no meetings scheduled. Next meeting will be in September. Please check the website for date & time of this event.

There are, however, many field trips planned for your enjoyment. Check out the schedule below to find your favourite outing.

Coming Events & Field Trips *April 2018 - Sept 2018*

FIELD TRIPS The Meeting point for all FIELD TRIPS will be Little Lake Parking lot (LLPL) at the far (east) end of Little Lake Road. Take Duckworth St. Northbound to just past Hwy. 400. Make a right hand turn onto J.C.Massie Way after the lights. (if coming along Cundles then make a left turn). This becomes Little Lake Road. *(see web site for map).*

NO pets please on these outings. Dress for the weather, bring sunscreen & bug repellent. Pack a lunch & water. On many trips, it is advisable to carpool to the rally point. This makes it easier for site parking & for the leaders to keep track of the participants. FOR ALL OUTINGS PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR CANCELLATIONS OR CHANGES!

NON MEMBERS are welcome to participate in our activities.

Please note that if you have questions regarding any outing or event, please call the trip leader or check the website. www.naturebarrie.com

April 21 Saturday 2018 North Simcoe Rail Trail Cleanup

*Sorry this event has been
cancelled*

Celebrate Earth day and the spring migration while cleaning up the rail trail.

Hot dogs will be served at lunch.

Earn high school community service hours.

Easy walking. Ends by noon.



May 2 Wednesday evening 2018 The Gables

Location: Departs from LLPL

Time: 6:00pm.

Leader: Phyllis Tremblay 705-737-2580

Alternative meeting spot at the Gables parking lot at 6:20pm. 250 Tollendale Mill Road at Hurst Drive

This 43 acre urban wilderness park, within the City of Barrie, has many attractive features, including a forested shoreline on Kempenfelt Bay, a hardwood forest, pine plantations, native wildflowers and naturalized spring bulbs such as Yellow Anemones and spring Squill. It also a great spot that attracts spring migrant birds.

Easy walk on trails. Ends by 8:00pm.

May 5 Saturday 2018 Copeland Forest

Location: Departs from LLPL

Time: 8:00am.

Leader: Dave Lord 705-835-6642

Alternative meeting spot at the Copeland Forest parking area off Ingram Road.

First parking lot East of Hwy 93 at 8:30am.

Birds will be active at this time of the year and birding will be an integral part of this trip. It is also a great time to observe spring flowers.

This event will end about noon.

Moderate difficulty walking conditions

May 12 Saturday 2018 Spring migration at Tiny Marsh

Location: Departs from LLPL

Time: 7:00am.

Leader: Don Scanlan 705-726-6591

Tiny Marsh might be the richest spot for birds in Simcoe County. This giant wetland, in Tiny Township, hosts a great diversity of nesting birds. Surrounding the marshes are various swamps and woods, and these too, host many birds, especially migrants like warblers, vireos, and flycatchers. Migration peaks in mid-May, and this is a great chance to see many species.

Pack a lunch. Easy Walk.

May 16 Wednesday 2018 Little Lake Area

Location: Departs from LLPL

Time: 8:00am.

Leader: Phyllis Tremblay 705-737-2580

This will be a 2 part walk. We will spend about 45 minutes birding the park surrounding our meeting place, and then we will drive to the north side of the lake for a 2 1/2 - 3 hour hike observing mid-spring wildflowers and forest birds. This will be a sampling of a small part of the 600 + acres of city parkland around Little Lake. *Medium difficulty.*

May 26 Saturday 2018 Birding Barrie

Location: Departs from LLPL

Time: 7:00am.

Leader: Jim Coey 705-543-1866

Barrie is now a sizeable city with lots of forests, open country, and wetlands, and it also has two waterfronts. We will celebrate the biodiversity of the city by visiting a few of these spots, seeking a diversity of habitat to maximize our findings. We will watch for both breeding birds and migrants, as well as other interesting organisms. *Wear solid footwear and bring sunscreen and bug repellent.*

May 26 Saturday 2018 A night with Whip-poor-wills

Location: Tbd

Time: Tbd

Leader: Alex Mills 647-208-3935

This outing will be restricted to the first 12 people who register with Alex after May 12th 2018.

Location, time and starting place to be determined.

Hearing the Whip-poor-will in Ontario evokes fond memories of warm moonlit nights with fireflies, campfires, and mosquitoes. The campfires and the mosquitoes are still with us but fireflies and Whippoorwills have become far less common than before. Alex Mills has invited club members to join him for an evening with the Caprimulgids. He will be attempting to recover a GPS tag from a bird captured during the spring of 2017.

May 26 Saturday 2018 LSRA -Tree planting

Location: Willoughby Park

Time: 10am.—12 noon

Leader: Gwen Petreman 705-722-5377

Please see page 12 for more information

BFNC is now a key partner with Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority in helping them implement the Creeks Project by involving the community, including members of Nature Barrie (NB), in planting native saplings here in Barrie's watersheds.

May 30 2018 Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Trail

Location: Departs from LLPL

Time:

Leader: Dorothy McKeown

Details to be arranged

Examine the Eastern Bluebird nest boxes with the Brereton monitoring team, near Tangle Creek golf course, to see what eggs and chicks have appeared. Tree Swallows guaranteed. Eastern Meadow Larks, Bobolinks and Bluebirds are very likely to be seen here too.

June 2 2018 Celebrate Barrie

Location: Downtown Barrie

Time: All Day.

Please call Gwen for Scheduling requirements

Leader: Gwen Petreman 705-722-5377

The club has a booth at the Celebrate Barrie event each year. The purpose is to publicise the club and its activities and hopefully to get new members.

Volunteers are needed to attend during the day and to set up and take down the booth.

Information will be posted to the club's Facebook page and the website. www.naturebarrie.com

June 3 Sunday 2018 Oro Rail Trail Flora & Fauna

Location: Departs from LLPL

Time: 8:30am.

Leader: Brian & Lynne Gibbon 705-721-4599

Join Brian and Lynne for one of their delightful rail trail strolls. Breeding birds are in their territories and the first dragonfly and butterflies are just making their appearance.

Easy walking, snack & water, ends 1-2:00 pm

June 9 Saturday 2018 Birding Carden Alvar

Location: Departs from LLPL

Time: 7:30am.

Leader: Brian Gibbon 705-721-4599

Alvars are a rare landscape, places where limestone flats are near the surface, creating conditions for a specialized flora and wonderful bird habitat. Carden Alvar (about an hour's drive from Barrie) is a great place to view a rich diversity of birds, some of which are very difficult to find elsewhere.

Vehicle and easy walking, bring lunch & drinks or enjoy a local restaurant. Ends 3-4:00 pm

June 23 Saturday 2018 4th. Annual Tiny Marsh Bioblitz

Location: Tiny Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area, Elmvale

Time: 6 am .— 4 pm.

Contact: Lisa Levez Bordeleau 705-309-1528

Please see page 18 for more information

This year it's a free event.

Come out and enjoy this day long event celebrating the biodiversity of Tiny Marsh.

A BioBlitz is a series of guided 1 to 3 hour walks where, with the help of knowledgeable naturalists, you count all the species (birds, insects, pollinators, plants, dragonflies, mammals, etc.) found during each outing. This family friendly event is a great opportunity to explore and learn about the natural world found within Tiny Marsh.

Trip Reports

Feb 03 Minesing Raptors – Brian Gibbon



Photo courtesy of Ruth Noland Flores

The weather was sunny but the North-westerly wind was cold making for -10 degree temperatures.

10 vehicles set out with 23 folks. The route was out through Minesing and up Hwy 26 to Strongville Rd. In and around Angus to McKinnon Rd. and back to Barrie.

The tour lasted a little over 4 and 1/2 hours, from 9:15 AM to 1:50 PM. A variety of species were seen but the main focus were the birds of prey.

Birds: (23 species)

- Wild Turkey x27 , Bald Eagle x2, Red-tailed Hawk x1
- Rough-legged Hawk x2, Rock Pigeon x135
- Mourning Dove x7, Snowy Owl x11
- Red-bellied Woodpecker x2, Downy Woodpecker x3
- Hairy Woodpecker x1, Blue Jay x8
- American Crow x20, Common Raven x20
- Black-capped Chickadee x2, European Starling x5
- Snow Bunting x25, American Tree Sparrow x1
- Dark-eyed Junco x1, Northern Cardinal x1
- American Goldfinch x2

Mammals: Coyote x1, North American Porcupine x1

The first Bald Eagle seen appeared to have been a 2nd year bird. However, the second Bald Eagle was a 2nd or 3rd year bird.

Trip Reports

March 10 *Horned Larks and Pancakes – Brian Gibbon*

The weather was overcast with the odd sunny interval but the North-westerly wind was cold making for – 3 degree temperatures.

12 vehicles set out with 26 folks. The route was out through Minesing and up Hwy 26 to Strongville Rd. In and around Angus to McKinnon Rd. and back to Barrie.

The following is a list of sightings over a 4 hour period starting Mar 10, 2018 @ 9:00 AM and ending Mar 10, 2018 @ 1:00 PM

Birds: (25 species)

- Canada Goose x645, Tundra Swan x114
- Swan sp. X33, Mallard x25, American Black Duck x2
- Northern Pintail x12, Common Goldeneye x2
- Golden Eagle x2, Northern Harrier x1, Bald Eagle x4
- Rough-legged Hawk x1, Herring Gull x3
- Rock Pigeon x19, Mourning Dove x2, Snowy Owl x11
- Blue Jay x7, American Crow x5, Common Raven x7



Golden Eagles photo by Storm Morgan

Nature Barrie's Horned Lark Outing ended with a pancake and sausage lunch at Tiffin Center. We had real maple syrup donated by Williams Farm. A great day was had by all.

Many thanks to the volunteers, who made this day a success.

Trip Leader – Brian W. Gibbon with Brian Backland again acted as sweep making sure everyone stayed with the convoy, his efforts are much appreciated.

Cooking Staff – Led by Jim Coey and assisted by Bruce and Jean Wilson, Linda Crome (with two flavours of her famous baked beans), Judy Adams, Joyce Thompson, Judy Watson (with delicious baked goods), and David Walsh,



photos courtesy of Judy Watson



April 7 Spring birds in the Minesing Floodplain – Chris Evans

The trip departed from Little Lake Park at 8:00 and returned @ 1:30 PM for a total of 5.5 hours.

Nature Barrie recognizes and acknowledges that its meeting places and trip destinations are located on the traditional territories of the Haudensaunee, Ojibway/Chippewa and Anishnabek First Nations, and within the lands protected by the Upper Canada Treaty #16 of 1815. May we live with respect on this land, and in peace and friendship with its people.

Thank you to all who came out and made this trip fun and interesting! Special thanks to:

Ruth Noland-Flores, my beautiful assistant and driver, Sylvia and Casey, who did a great job as sweeps for our convoy, Paul Forde, for publicity and Mother Nature and the birds for putting on a great show!

I learn so much every time I lead this trip. It is wonderful to connect with so many people interested in our natural and cultural history. We had a peak of 18 people and 6 vehicles. Those starting at Little Lake Park clocked over 82 km round trip in just over 5.5 hours. Thank you to all who carpooled, conserving fossil fuel and minimizing our carbon footprint. As a reminder to carpool passengers, at a modest \$0.50 /km, this trip cost your driver approximately \$40 in vehicle expenses. The offer of an appropriate portion of this expense to the driver is a considerate and gracious thing to do.



We set off at 8:00 AM, 13 people in 4 vehicles, Linda & Janice from the Muskoka Field Naturalists in Bracebridge, Tony & Monica, Ruth & Chris, Phyllis, Clare,

Sonya, Derrick & Diane, Nora, John, Dorothy, Bill and new members Dave, Sylvia & Casey bound for McKinnon Road, our second meeting place. Along the way we saw 25 Turkey Vultures and 8 Wild Turkeys, including displaying Toms.

McKinnon Road was excellent giving reasonable views of a decent number of Tundra Swans in the big sod fields and stunning views of a male Northern Harrier hunting the north edge of this field in classic Harrier fashion. The Mad River flooded marsh yielded excellent views of a pair of Northern Shovelers with a tag along male, a pair of Hooded Mergansers, two Pied-billed Grebes and a pair of American Black Ducks and many Mallards and Canada Geese. At Osvert's Farm we observed lingering American Tree Sparrows, Song Sparrows, American Robins, Blue Jays, Mallards, Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles and a Northern Porcupine. On the way out of McKinnon we observed a Rough-legged Hawk hovering and hunting the marsh.



Chris honouring the cold Eagles

On the west side, the eagle nest provided distant views of an adult Bald Eagle on the nest which was joined briefly by its mate. Two immature Bald Eagles were observed cavorting and soaring in the vicinity of the nest. On 18/19 Sideroad we then got distant views of a lone Snowy Owl and a flock of 125 Sandhill Cranes. Strongville Road gave us some exciting sights and sounds of Horned Larks.

Glengarry Landing Road South at Marl Creek yielded a fleeting glimpse of a pair of Wood Ducks which flew off before many could see them.

April 7 Spring birds in the Minesing Floodplain (cont.) – Chris Evans

The skies were overcast, temperatures -5C to -3C with Wind Chills -12C to -10C as the wind speed was 25 to 30 km/h gusting to 40 km/h making photography and viewing outside the vehicles challenging, but it kept the birds on the ground or water, many providing exciting viewing and photographic opportunities.

There was comparatively little flooding, though the 2nd Concession Sunnidale was flooded over between McKinnon Road and the Mad River. The Nottawasaga River was beginning to flood the field SE of the Edenvale Bridge and the SW corner of the field at the curve between Ronald Road and Glengarry Landing Road South, which was unfortunately frozen and didn't yield any wildlife. However, a pair of Sandhill Cranes did fly over us and land north of Ronald Road in a field west of Fralick Road and presented excellent viewing. Several more Sandhill Cranes flew over giving great views of these magnificent birds in flight.

Our final stop was Willow Creek at George Johnston Road where we got some decent looks at Ring-billed

and Herring Gulls in breeding plumage, a pair of Killdeer, a Great Blue Heron in flight, some more Sandhill Cranes in flight and an American Kestrel sighting by Dave.

Here is a link to my eBird checklist for this outing...

<https://ebird.org/canada/view/checklist/S44386203>

MAMMALS:

Coyote, Eastern Cottontail,

North American Porcupine



Sandhill Cranes by John Wright

April 11 American Woodcocks – Ian Cook

April 11, 2018 was the date for the annual Nature Barrie twilight outing to see and hear American Woodcock.

These nocturnal, terrestrial, worm-eating shorebirds are hardy little balls, returning to our area as early as March. By April males establish display areas where several congregate to attract females. They do this by way of a lovely display flight, taking off from the ground, spiralling upwards many dozens of meters, then falling like a dead leaf back down to earth. During the flight specially modified primary feathers make a variety of twittering and clicking sounds. Back on earth, they make a nasal "peent" and may strut towards a female.

Winter was very reluctant to relax its icy grip on Huronia this year. As a result the field near Midhurst where Woodcock are known to congregate was still partially snow-covered. The weather was just barely above freezing and it was heavily overcast. It occasionally drizzled. Despite this, both the Woodcock and the

Nature Barrie participants were remarkably cooperative!

Twenty keen naturalists joined us, including several for whom this was their first outing with the group. And the Woodcock rewarded us despite the less than ideal conditions. Very quickly after entering the field, a male's soft nasal sound was heard, and in no time at all he was in the air performing his display. Over the next half hour or so everyone was able to see and hear several displays. We located one or two individuals on three or four occasions on the ground, and the whole group witnessed a low "fly-by" on two occasions.

It's very difficult to determine how many individual birds we saw, as they move around quite a bit. But I'm sure we saw or heard at least three. Another participant thought the number was more like ten. The actual tally is very likely somewhere in the middle!

Thanks to everyone for making this a successful event. I think it is the largest number of people we've ever had out.

Monitoring Reports

2018 Swiftwatch

Excellent news:

In January CTV News & Barrie Today.com reported that the BCC chimney will remain standing for now. The chimney will either be incorporated as part of the redevelopment or will be rebuilt in close proximity to its original position, all according to the MNRFP protocol. This is the same information that we received in November from Andrea Bourrie, Director of Planning & Building Services. It has now been publicized.

From the news of the demolition process, it appears that this chimney will become a "stand alone" chimney and it will be especially interesting to see if chimney swifts will continue to use it!

This chimney may become an excellent opportunity to promote chimney swifts & their habitat.



Barrie SwiftWatch 2018

Nature Barrie's objective for 2018, as participants in Bird Studies Canada's (BSC) Ontario SwiftWatch Project, is to continue to monitor known nest and roost sites as well as identify new swift sites.

Recruit more volunteers to monitor roosts in new and currently active SwiftWatch communities over all five blitz nights in the spring.

Bird Studies Canada's (BSC) priority for 2018:

Participate in the National Population Roost Monitoring Blitz (May 13), 17, 23, 27, 31, June 4, especially at the key roost sites.

In addition, BSC recommends:

Reporting first and last sightings of the season.

Spot-checking previously identified chimneys to determine if they are still active with swifts.

Conducting Presence/Absence Surveys* for new nest/roost chimneys.

Keeping an eye out for potential natural habitat sites (old hollow trees with a 50cm diameter at breast height or larger), as well as swifts nesting in barns, if the opportunity arises.

Installing data loggers in occupied & suitable potential chimneys.

Submitting all data from both new and past identified chimneys to BSC.

Barrie SwiftWatchers' Action Plan:

April 23 - May 5 Observe & report chimney swift (CHSW) sightings anywhere in Barrie.

May 1 – May 8 Install data logger(s) in suitable chimney(s).

May (13), 17, 23, 27, 31 & June 4 National Population Roost Monitoring Blitz

Every Tuesday Evening Starting June 12, cooperate with Barrie SwiftWatchers to spot-check previously occupied chimneys, regularly monitor roosts & identify potential chimneys.

Location: 75 Mulcaster St. (corner of Mulcaster & McDonald; aka The Courthouse and the parking lot at the "Old City Jail")

*Presence/Absence Surveys are conducted during various stages of the chimney swifts' seasonal behaviour. Just before sunset, participants find and track nesting/roosting locations and count the numbers of chimney swifts dropping into the chimneys to nest or roost for the night.

For more information and to volunteer:

www.NatureBarrie.com

Or call Phyllis Tremblay

705-737-2580



Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority Gwen Petremen

Please put aside **Saturday, May 26** from 10 - 12, as that is the date LSRCA has chosen for the Barrie site tree planting, in partnership with their key community partner, Nature Barrie. We will be heading back to Willoughby Park.

Over the years, the park has transformed from a soccer field to a wetland. In 2016, the City, with the support of LSRCA, stopped mowing the area and decided to increase the biodiversity of the area by turning it into a woodland.

Last year, with the help of eager volunteers, we planted about 300 potted native saplings, 200 live Willow and Red Osier Dogwood cuttings. This year, with funds from LSRCA, the City, and \$300 from Nature Barrie, we plan to continue planting as many native, moist tolerant saplings as possible.

Planting tree saplings is a fun and fulfilling experience, in which every member of the family can make a worthwhile contribution to the whole process.

So, *please* set aside May 26 now and when the promotion flyer arrives, just follow the instructions for registering.



The following is a reminder of the important role trees play in promoting and maintaining a healthy environment.

Trees are the cheapest, safest, and most effective tools for mitigating the devastating effects of climate change, such as famine producing droughts and deadly floods.

The roots of trees hold staggering amounts of water thereby, helping to prevent flash floods.

A tree over its lifetime will absorb about 1 tonne of Carbon.

Forested areas provide food, shelter, and protection for a great variety of wildlife.

The health and vitality of Lake Simcoe depend on a canopy of mature trees growing along the shoreline.

The majority of life in Lake Simcoe depends on trees to provide shade for newly laid eggs, too much heat from the sun will destroy the eggs of fish and other aquatic creatures.

By planting trees, we can help create healthier workers needed for a robust and thriving economy and at the same time vastly reduce our health care cost here in Ontario.

The billions of hairs on leaves act like giant brooms sweeping the air clean by trapping, dust, dirt, and 85% of nasty pollutants like sulphur dioxide, sulphates, and nitrogen oxide.

In Ontario in 2004, over \$ 1.2 billion was spent on health costs related to respiratory diseases! It has been shown for every additional 343 trees planted, asthma rates go down in young children. (ref: Trees Ontario)

Smog, which can be absorbed by trees, has been shown to be a critical risk factor in contributing to diabetes.

In 2012, approximately 1.2 million people have been diagnosed with diabetes in Ontario. (ref: Trees Ontario)

Many forms of cancer are associated with pollutants in our environments. Trees help reduce cancers, by filtering out carcinogen compounds, while replenishing the air with oxygen. (ref: Trees Ontario)

Trees also protect us from the damaging rays of the sun which can cause skin cancer.

And finally, trees provide food, dew, shelter, protection, nesting materials, and resting and observation points for our feathered friends.

All very good reasons to come out and join in this community event.

The Helen Emery Award—Lynne Gibbon

The Helen Emery Award for \$1000 was given to Julianne Caspar in 2017.

She is a third year student in the Environmental Studies programme at Georgian College.

The Brereton group has given this award since 2012. Helen Emery was a past-president of Brereton, held a number of other offices on the executive over the years and was an expert birder and plant identifier. She passed away in 2011 and bestowed \$10,000 to the club in her will. A committee was then formed, chaired by Lynne Gibbon to determine what to do with the funds. It was felt that since Helen was a teacher, she might prefer that the money support a student in an environmentally related programme. After a few months of research and contacting various universities and colleges in the area, it was decided to present the funds to the Georgian Foundation, which met the amount with an additional \$10,000. The interest from this fund of \$20,000 is then used to present an award to a student that demonstrates an interest in the protection of our natural heritage and supports our aims to acquire and share knowledge of natural history, to protect wildlife and to stimulate public interest in nature and its preservation.

In 2018, the funds have generated enough interest to allow us to award another \$1000. The current year's applications will be submitted by the end of March and



photo provided by Lynne Gibbon

the suitable candidate, who meets the award criteria, will be decided on by a vote of the executive. The award provides awareness of the club and its goals and hopefully brings new naturalists to our membership.

On Tuesday March 13, 2018, Georgian College created a donor wall to celebrate all those who contribute financially to the college and its student population. This award provided by the Brereton Field Naturalists is now honoured on this wall, providing another opportunity to promote Brereton and its goals, thanks to Helen's donation.

An Honoured guest visits our club – Don Davis

Our club was happy to have a distinguished guest present at our March meeting regarding "The Use of Bird Droppings to tell us about Ontario Pesticide Exposure"

Don Davis is a Life Member of Ontario Nature & Member of Willow Beach Field Naturalists and the Toronto Entomologists' Association.

Two friends of his, now deceased, were founding members of our club, along with Mrs. Mills, Fran Westman and Mrs. R. S. ("Dickie") Carman of Colborne.

Dickie's husband, Ralph, worked for many years at the Angus tree seed plant scheduled to close in 2018.

Bob Carman, the son of Mrs. R.S. Carman, served in the Government of Ontario in many leading roles, including as a Deputy Minister in the Bill Davis Government and later as Secretary to the Management Board of Cabinet in the Peterson Government.

Alex Mills remembers the many field trips the ladies took, in search of enlarging their lifetime bird list. The Angus Seed Plant was a favourite location for outings.

There were some very significant warbler migrations in the area in both Spring and Fall (the latter were particularly challenging with the more muted colours!). The height of sightings was the Hudsonian chickadee (now the Boreal Chickadee) that brought some heavy weight birders up from Toronto.

The closure of the plant is still a mystery. One would think that with the challenge of global warming and the need to have seed sources that can handle climate change, there would be a higher priority for investment, not closure.

Ontario Nature Annual General Meeting



**Ontario Nature's 87th Annual Gathering
"A Weekend in the County"
Isaiah Tubbs Resort & Conference Centre
Prince Edward County
June 1st – 3rd, 2018**

Each year Ontario Nature hosts their Annual Gathering at locations across the province. The weekend-long event provides an opportunity to celebrate shared conservation successes, reflect on the past year and discuss the vision for the year ahead.

This year the Annual Gathering will be held at Isaiah Tubbs Resort and Conference Centre in beautiful Prince Edward County. A designated Important Birding and Biodiversity Area (IBA), Prince Edward County is rich with unique natural features and is home to a great diversity of habitats. In addition to exploring these local ecological treasures, the weekend will also feature:

Inspiring speakers,
Hands-on, expert-led nature workshops,
Conservation Awards to recognize achievements of conservation heroes,
and Guided field trips to surrounding natural areas.

Saturday's workshops are as follows:

Fluttering Across the County: Discover the world of butterflies of Prince Edward County. James Kamstra will walk you through the different types of butterflies, their natural histories and identification tips.

Taking a Liking to Lichens: Learn about the overlooked and understudied world of lichens! Discover their ecological importance and uses in medicine, science and more. Learn about the unusual lichens inhabiting Sandbanks. Workshop leader: Dr. Troy McMullin

Alvars Rock!: Prepare to be amazed by the incredible diversity that these apparent barren vegetation com-



munities offer. Join Mark Stabb as he takes you on a tour of one of the worlds rarest ecosystems.

Nature Through the Lens: This interactive workshop will focus on developing your visual storytelling skills through a blend of group discussion, practical photography skills and field activities. Workshop leader: Josh Feltham

Turtle ER: Rehabilitating Turtles in Ontario. Join in a discussion about Ontario's turtles, their conservation needs and the work being done to rehabilitate these animals. Workshop leader: Wendy Baggs

Sunday Field Trips are as follows

Paddle and Ponder: A Guided Tour of West Lake on Canoes and Kayaks. Accompany guides as they take you on a tour of West Lake by canoe or kayak. You will see the dune systems from the water, the local birds and turtles, and enjoy a day on the water

Lively Landscapes: Discovering the Dunes and Marshes of Prince Edward County . A tour of two of Prince Edward County's treasures, Beaver Meadows Wildlife Management Area and Sandbanks Provincial Park.

Safari on the South Shore: Explore the wilds of the South Shore of Prince Edward County. A variety of stops will showcase the diversity of birds, butterflies, reptiles, amphibians, plants and other species found along the south shore.

The Keynote Address

Bats: A World of Science and Mystery .

Join Dr. Brock Fenton for the Saturday evening keynote presentation There are more than 1,300 species of bats—or almost a quarter of the world's mammal species. But before you shrink in fear from these furry "creatures of the night," consider the bat's fundamental role in our ecosystem. A single brown bat can eat several thousand insects in a night. Bats also pollinate and disperse the seeds for many of the plants we love, from bananas to mangoes.

Ontario Nature – Spring Huronia Regional Meeting

Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre
16160 Highway 12 East
Midland,
Saturday, April 21, 2018
10:00am



Northern Pintails in flight by John Wright

Hosted, this year, by the Midland-Penetanguishene Field Naturalists' Club, this spring meeting, is where the Huronia Region Ontario Nature (Field Naturalists of Ontario) affiliated clubs gather for presentations and discussions on current nature conservation issues and enjoy an afternoon field trip.

The meeting will start at 10 with a welcome and Introductions and the election of the Ontario Nature Huronia Regional Director for a 2-year term. Club Highlights and a talk from Isabella Rombach and David Wilkins, regarding the Huronia Land Conservancy, will follow. This is a nonprofit, charitable organization dedicated to helping landowners and communities protect their land and cultural heritage in North Simcoe County. This presentation will focus on landowner engagement through the ongoing Ontario Trillium

Foundation funded Private Landowner Stewardship Initiative in North Simcoe County.

After lunch (please bring your own), the Midland-Penetang Field Naturalists Club will highlight their programs and projects.

Both the Friends of the Wye Marsh and Ontario Nature Network will give updates.

At 2:00 the group will venture out on the Wye Marsh Trails and visit the Birds of Prey .

A warm thank you to Brian Bissell and Ken MacDonald and the Midland Penetang Field Naturalists for hosting the Ontario Nature Regional Meeting

This is a very good program with interesting speakers and a local field trip in the afternoon. It is a great opportunity to get to meet or reacquaint with members.

Copeland Forest Report

In December the Trails Committee met with staff members of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests.

The meeting was held to provide an opportunity for the Trails Committee to present the results of the Single Track Trail Review, which was initiated and completed in the spring and summer of 2017.

The objectives of the review were to confirm coordinates and assess their viability, assess any identified issues and record ecological observations made during the review.

The Forest was divided into five zones with a team of volunteers assigned to each zone. Zone teams were made up of volunteers from user groups, which included naturalists, hikers, horseback riders, Horseshoe Resort, mountain bikers and snow sports.

At this meeting the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests staff accepted the conclusions of the review, including the informal approach to trail maintenance. The next step is for the Trails Committee to complete & submit a work plan for the next three years.



A Volunteer Opportunity

Do you love to step out into Copeland Forest to see the trees, adorned in lichens and mosses, their branches swaying high above you? Hear the gentle bubble of water as it emerges from a hidden spring? Listen to the chorus of birds in the forest canopy above you? Smell the richness of the soils, where earth and water and plants come together in a combination that is so rejuvenating? The Ecology and Sustainability Committee needs you to help us take care of this special place. Why not join other like-minded Copeland enthusiasts and join the E&S Committee and share your passion for keeping this Forest healthy. Please contact Pat Woodford at strix.woodfordii@sympatico.ca for more information.

Nature Notes

Barnacle Goose – An Unusual Spring visitor

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

It appears from the number of sightings that have been reported of this Goose in our area that we should attempt to find out a little more about its' uniqueness



From the *Audubon guide to North American birds*.

An attractive small goose, nesting on Arctic coasts from northeastern Greenland east to Siberia, and wintering in northwestern Europe. Greenland birds may occasionally go off course and reach northeastern North America. However, this is a popular aviary bird, and most Barnacle Geese seen on this continent have probably escaped from captivity.

The following is *abbreviated from Wikipedia*

The Barnacle goose and the similar Brant goose were previously considered one species, formerly believed to be essentially the same creature as the Goose Barnacle. This gave rise to the English name of the Barnacle Goose and the scientific name of the Brant.

Apparently there are also, a few myths associated with this Goose!

The natural history of the Barnacle Goose was long surrounded with a legend claiming that they were born of driftwood:

“They are like marsh geese but somewhat smaller. They are produced from fir timber tossed along the sea and are at first like gum. Afterwards they hang down by their beaks as if they were a seaweed attached to the timber and are surrounded by shells, in order to grow more freely. Having thus in process of time been clothed with a strong coat of feathers, they either fall into the water or fly freely away into the air. They derived their food and growth from the sap of the wood or from the sea, by a secret and most wonderful



Barnacle Goose photo by Darleen Deemert

process of alimentation. They do not breed and lay eggs like other birds, nor do they ever hatch any eggs, nor do they seem to build nests in any corner of the earth.”

This belief may be related to the fact that these geese were never seen in summer, when they were supposedly developing underwater in the form of barnacles. (They were actually breeding in remote Arctic regions) Thus they came to have the name "Barnacle" because of this legend.

The barnacle myth can be dated back to at least the 12th century. Gerald of Wales claimed to have seen these birds hanging down from pieces of timber and John Gerard claimed to have seen the birds emerging from their shells. This legend persisted until the end of the 18th century.

At the Fourth Council of the Lateran (1215), Pope Innocent III explicitly prohibited the eating of these geese during Lent, arguing that despite their unusual reproduction, they lived and fed like ducks and so were of the same nature as other birds.

However, in County Kerry, until relatively recently, Catholics could eat this bird on a Friday because it counted as fish.

Federal Budget 2018

The Federal Budget 2018 included a historic investment to protect our lands, waters and wildlife in Canada.

The federal government will invest \$1.3 billion over 5 years to support biodiversity and protect species at risk. That will include \$500 million to create a new \$1 billion Nature Fund to secure private land, support provincial and territorial species protection efforts, and help build Indigenous capacity to conserve land and species, for our benefit and the benefit of future generations.

These measures are important steps toward meeting Canada's Target 1 — a pledge to protect 17 per cent of our country's land and fresh waters and 10 per cent of its marine and coastal areas by 2020.

With the greatest single investment ever made to protect Canada's land, freshwater and oceans, the federal

government is walking the talk. It's also following the will of Canadians – 87 percent of whom support the commitment to increase protection from roughly 10.7 percent to 17 percent.

The planet has lost more than half of its wildlife since 1970. "We share the earth with millions of other species and our well-being is interdependent. Let's hope the Province seizes the opportunity by tabling an environmentally-progressive budget as well," said Linda Heron, Ontario Rivers Alliance Chair.

"Protected areas are the cornerstone of efforts to conserve the diversity of life. This remarkable moment, if seized, could provide untold benefit to wildlife, ecosystems and all inhabitants of Ontario," said Alison Howson, Ontario Land Trust Alliance's Executive Director.

Town Standing by its Plover Plan



Piping Plover photo credit to Brendan Toews

Janice Jackson, the Mayor of the Town of South Bruce Peninsula recently issued a statement regarding beach maintenance.

On March 22, 2018 the Town of South Bruce Peninsula was issued a Summons under Section 24 of the Provincial Offences Act by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry related to beach maintenance work undertaken on or about April 13, 2017. On March 28, 2018 the MNRF issued a Stop Order to the Town preventing it from doing any maintenance on the beach until further notice.

The Town was surprised and disappointed in the Summons and the Stop Order. The Town has been in consultations with another branch of the Ministry on an annual beach maintenance plan.

Spring maintenance and habitat protection for the endangered piping plover are important parts of that plan. The draft plan includes elements to enhance and preserve the dune eco-system and provide protection to the piping plover and its habitat.

The Town is interested in working with the Ministry to develop practical and successful approaches to support recovery of the Piping Plover, maintain appropriate habitat and balance human activity on an 11 km beach that draws more than 800,000 visitors every year.

In the meantime, the Town will continue attempts to engage the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry staff in overdue discussions about the management of our local beaches and wildlife.

It is important that we support the MNRF action, in regard to this issue, as it has potential impacts on our local Wasaga Beach and Tiny Township dunes and beaches.

"It is nice to see the MNRF standing up for the SAR and enforcing the ESA, despite the political and economic ramifications. I'm sure they are trying to mitigate and be compassionate about these ramifications, but our compassionate support both for their action and the people affected can't hurt". -

Chris Evans, Nature Barrie - ON Nature Network Rep

Tiny Marsh Bioblitz – Saturday June 23 2018

Tiny Marsh BioBlitz



The 2018 Tiny Marsh BioBlitz is back.

Sat. June 23rd. From 6:00 am. – 4:00 pm.

At Tiny Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area, Elmvale,

and this year it will be better than ever.

Firstly, it's **free!**

Second, we are celebrating National Aboriginal Day!

Join expert naturalists and indigenous teachers and discover the amazing diversity of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, fish and plants that live within this expanse of marsh, forest and field north west of Elmvale.

A BioBlitz is an intense search for as many species as possible in a given space over a given time period. The search is for variety, not quantity, so each species gets counted only once, no matter how many individuals are seen.

For Tiny Marsh BioBlitzers, the space is the provincial wildlife area's approximately 900 hectares. Tiny Marsh is recognized as an Important Bird Area, a globally significant habitat for the conservation of bird populations.

The day starts at 6:00 am, when the bird groups head

out to find waterfowl, songbirds and raptors at the time of day during which they are most active.

A variety of guided walks leaves the Nature Centre at 10 am, and again at 1pm. Bring your own packed lunch for the noon break. The day concludes at 4:00 pm, after a listening circle.

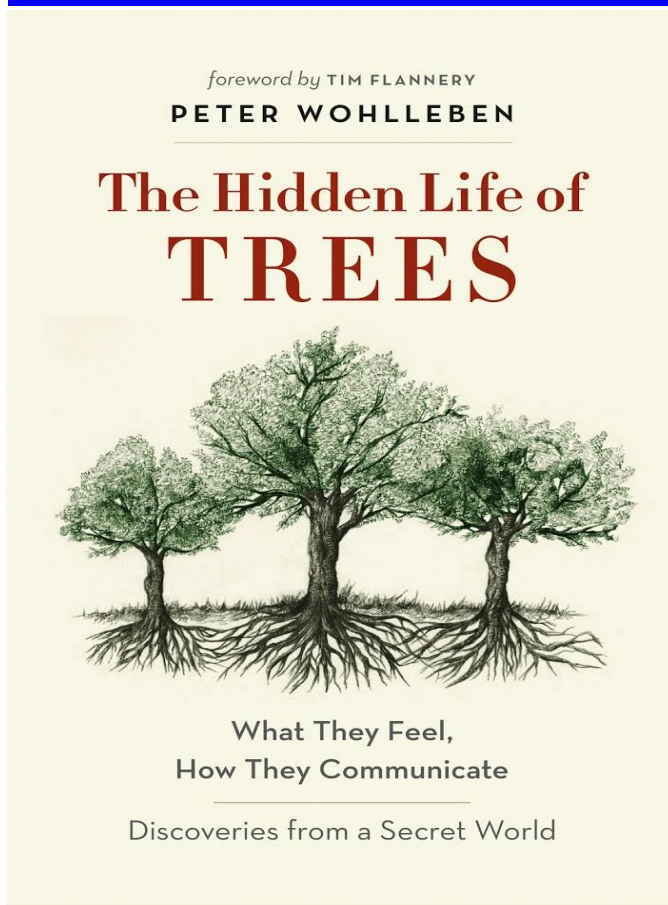
This is a fun day for specialists, amateurs and newcomers to the world of nature. We have found that a 7-year-old is as likely as a seasoned naturalist to spot a rarity. And children delight in the process of discovery and play a role as part of the team.

Arrive prepared with weather appropriate clothing including long pants and closed footwear, PLUS sun protection, sufficient water and insect repellent. Bring snacks (especially those participating in the early morning bird walk). This is a rain or shine event!

Please note there is no potable water available at Tiny Marsh so bring enough water for your day especially if warm temperatures are forecast.

REGISTER NOW on [EVENTBRITE](#) for an exciting and informative day! It is preferred that you pre-register so we have an idea of numbers and ages of people attending, allowing us to better plan the event. Thank you from Lisa Levez-Bordeleau, Kate Harries, Ken MacDonald and Anne McArthur

Book Review - The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben



Trees have friends, feel loneliness, scream with pain and communicate underground via the “woodwide web”. Some act as parents and good neighbours. Others do more than just throw shade – they’re brutal bullies to rival species. The young ones take risks with their drinking and leaf-dropping then remember the hard lessons from their mistakes. It’s a hard-knock life.

A book called *The Hidden Life of Trees* is not an obvious bestseller but it’s easy to see the popular appeal of German forester Peter Wohlleben’s claims – they are so anthropomorphic. Certainly, a walk in the park feels different when you imagine the network of roots crackling with sappy chat beneath your feet. We don’t know the half of what’s going on underground and beneath the bark, he says: “We have been looking at nature for the last 100 years like it’s a machine.”

Wohlleben used to work as a state forester, viewing trees as lumber, then began running survival training courses and log-cabin tours. Since 2006, he has managed the forest on behalf of the community, banning machinery and selling burial plots with trees as living gravestones – *Edited from The Guardian*

Curious Critters - Springtails (*Collembola*)



Springtail photo by Phil Myers

Springtails *Collembola* are one of the most common insects in the environment, although they are inconspicuous and are often overlooked. When suitable habitat occurs, they can develop tremendously large numbers and are one of the most abundant insects.

These insects are very small, commonly between 1/16th and 1/8th inch long. They have moderate length antennae and are usually slender, elongate insects. Most springtails are dark-colored, brown, grey or black

but can be various colours. They are wingless and do not fly but they can jump, using a specialized forked appendage called a furcula, located underneath the abdomen. When not in use, the furcula is tucked under the body, set like a mouse trap. When it is released, it extends down rapidly propelling the springtail forward, jumping up to several inches.

Springtails are associated with damp conditions and organic debris and are found outdoors in soil, leaf litter, lichen, under bark, decaying plant matter, rotting wood, and other areas of high moisture. There they feed on fungi, pollen, algae, or decaying organic matter.

The Snowflea, *Hypogastrura nivicola*, a particular species of springtail, is one of the few insects which can be found active on snow during winter. As soon as the ground begins to thaw in late winter or very early spring, snowfleas become active. Their dark colored bodies are conspicuous against the white background of the snow and they often congregate in large numbers. Despite their abundance, they are harmless to people as they do not bite or sting.

Members Photo Gallery



A "Snowy" Billboard by Ruth Noland Flores



Photo credit to Paul Forde



Otter photo by Darleen Deemert



The convoy by Ruth Noland Flores

Nature Barrie Club Membership

Annual Fees:

Family—\$30 Individual— \$25

Student—\$10 Corresponding—\$15

Memberships run from January 1st to December 31st.

Members get into meetings at no charge, are eligible for discounts at local nature stores and have access to the content of the website. To join Nature Barrie please come to one of meetings or complete **the downloadable application form from our website and send with your payment.**



www.naturebarrie.com

Visit us on our Facebook page! Nature Barrie (public group)

