

### The Heron October, 2013

Upcoming Club Meeting: October 28, 2013 at 7:30 pm

Wing 404/Rotary Centre, Dutton Dr., Waterloo VISITORS WELCOME

# October Speaker: Bryon Gilvesy, Alternative Land Use Services(ALUS)

**Bryon Gilvesy** will be introducing us to ALUS, an new exciting conservation movement taking place in the farming community.

Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) is an emerging program that is based on the idea that conservation can be led and developed by communities and delivered by farmers. By harnessing the skills of the people on the land in a new engaging way, conservation benefits can be realized not only from protected or regulated spaces, but from the working landscape as well. ALUS is also leading development of new market based tools to introduce new sources of funding to drive conservation across the country.

As well, ALUS is a voluntary, incentive based project testing the concept of providing payments to farmers for retuning marginal, environmentally sensitive, or inefficient farmland into native vegetative cover and wetlands.

#### Nominations for KWFN Awards

Conservation Award – The Conservation Award acknowledges the contributions(s) made by an individual, group, organization or corporation toward the conservation/preservation of the natural environment of the Region of Waterloo. The nominee shall have participated in or instigated or increased public awareness of (an) endeavour(s) that has/have contributed to the conservation/preservation of the natural environment of the Region.

Honorary Life Membership Award – this prestigious award acknowledges the valuable and exceptional service made by an individual to the KWFN. The recipient must be a long-time KWFN member who has demonstrated outstanding personal service and made a significant contribution to KWFN over a long period of time.

On behalf of KWFN, the President invites members to submit, in writing, nominations for these two awards. Prospective nominators must contact the President to receive a copy of the Award Criteria, prior to submitting a nomination. (Please see page 2 for contact information).

Due date for submission of nominations for both awards is December 15, 2013.

### **Mark Your Calendars**

November 25

Andalyne Tofflemire-Moths

January 27

Marion Nash- Peregrine

Foundation

February 24

Peter Rasberry-slide show presentation highlighting the beauty and complexity of our fragile planet

March 24

David Brewer- Penguins

#### **KWFN**

is a registered charitable organization. Membership fees and all donations are tax deductible.

### **KWFN Directors**

#### **President**

Graham Macdonald (519-634-5633) grahammacd@execulink.com

#### **Vice President**

David Gascoigne (519-725-0866) theospreynest@sympatico.ca

#### **Past President**

Janet Ozaruk (519-893-0490) janeto@golden.net

#### Conservation

Karen Buschert (519-880-8321) karen.buschert@gmail.com

#### **Treasurer**

Paul Bigelow(519-888-7516) paul@pbigelow.ca

#### Membership

Carol Foxall (519-743-9995) cfoxall@rogers.com

#### Secretary

Kelly Holdaway (519-742-1006) kellyholdaway@rogers.com

#### **Programs**

April Morrissey (519-696-3677) amorrissey@golden.net

#### **Publicity**

Roger Suffling (519-742-4577) rcsuffli@uwaterloo.ca

#### **Outings**

Jim Burrell (519-699-4695) burrellsc@golden.net

#### **Heron Editor**

Thelma Beaubien (519-886-7118) thelma-editor@rogers.com
Submit articles on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.
Restrict submissions to a maximum of 700 words.

### **Other Contacts**

#### **Web Site Manager**

Larry Hamel (519-894-5140) hamell@sympatico.ca

#### **Mailing Team**

Rick and Jan Hook (519-742-7419) rickh550@gmail.com

#### **Librarian Archivist**

Mary Ann Vanden Elzen (519-741-872) mave@microverse.on.ca

#### Native Plant Nuts

Wayne Buck (519-662-2529) waylyn2@cwisp.ca

# F. H. Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary

Marg Macdonald (519-634-5633) margmac63@execulink.com

#### **Young Naturalists**

http://kwfnyn.blogspot.com/ Shailyn Drukis (519-807-3525) Shailyn.drukis@gmail.com

### **Noteworthy Bird Sightings**

Ken Burrell (519-699-4695) kenard89@hotmail.com

# Ontario Nature Representative

http://ontarionature.org/index.php Fraser Gibson (519-576-9287) fn.gib@sympatico.ca

# Kitchener's Natural Areas Program (KNAP)

http://kitchener.ca/en/livinginkitchener/KitchenerNaturalAreasProgram.asp

Josh Shea

(519-741-2600) ext 4177 Joshua.Shea@kitchener.ca

Fraser Gibson (519-576-9287) fn.gib@sympatico.ca

### Waterloo Stewardship Council

Neil Taylor (519-893-6469) neiletaylor@sympatico.ca

#### Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists 2013/2014 Young Naturalist Program

#### Who Are We?

We are a club sponsored by the K-W Field Naturalists to encourage kids to enjoy nature. It's a great place for kids (7-12 years of age) to get together, share exciting nature experiences and stories, and learn more about our amazing local environment. The programs will be held at the Laurel Creek Nature Centre, and will take place on Saturday mornings from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon unless otherwise announced ahead of time.

Contact: Shailyn Drukis at <a href="mailto:shailyn.drukis@gmail.com">shailyn.drukis@gmail.com</a>

Sat. Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> – Pond Study

Sat. Oct 26 - Forest Giants

Sat Nov. 23 – Sciensational Sssnakes

Sat Jan. 25 – Snowshoeing

Sat. Feb. 22 - Shelter Building

Sat. March 29 - Sugar Shack

Sat. April 26 - Salamander Hike

Sat. May 24 – Bats and Moths

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### **Outings and Events Schedule**

#### **October Outings**

For many of us, the start of school marks the beginning of the new year. Old schedules take over, new additions are added, and friendships are regenerated. It's the same with we of KWFN. When you receive this newsletter we will have already met for our first meeting of the year. Once again I will be gently prodding you for your help with our monthly outings. **Please** contact me if you are willing to lead an outing at any time this year or even if you have an idea about a possible outing. My numbers are listed on the inside page of every Heron. We have a lot of knowledge and skill within our membership. Please get involved.

#### Schneider's Woods

Date: Tuesday, October 8

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Wideman Road and Wilmot Line in Waterloo

**Leader:** Dale Ingrey 519-884-3667

Join Dale for a leisurely fall hike through the woods and hills of Schneider's Woods. We'll try to spot some late fall migrant birds as well as the residents and whatever else happens to be in the area. We'll also see the trees, asters and goldenrods, etc. in their autumn splendour. Bring binoculars, field guides and a drink for this approximately two hour hike. We'll meet and park on Wideman Road just east of the Wilmot Line.

#### Geological Tour of the Baden Kame

Date: Thursday, October 17, 2013 Time: 9:00 am

Jim Cappleman, 519-885-0380

Meeting Place: 2774 Sandhills Road, Baden

Join Jim and Irene for a tour of their woodlot atop the Baden Hills. Learn firsthand from Peter Russel, former curator of the Earth Sciences Museum at the University of Waterloo, how this land formation was created and covered after the last glaciation. Of course, there will be other living things to see during the hike. Wear sturdy footwear and enjoy an autumn ramble through an intriguing natural area of Waterloo Region.

#### **Dryden Tract**

Date: Monday, October 21, 2013

Marco DeBruin, 519-658-5372

**Meeting Time/Place:** 9:30 a.m. at the carpool parking lot at 401 and Fountain St (Homer Watson)

Join Marco for a morning walk through the Dryden Tract. The hills of the moraine are covered with an impressive maple-beech forest. Several "Carolinian" species occur here at their northern limits. There is a lookout which should give us a really nice view of the countryside in its fall colours. Wear sturdy footwear as this area quite hilly in places. Don't forget your binoculars, camera and a drink or snack.

# Membership Report By Carol Foxall

It is time to renew your membership for the 2013 –14 membership year. If you have already renewed, thank you! If not, please fill out the membership application form you received with your September Heron and give it to the membership director at the September or October meeting, or mail it to the address on the form. Can't find the application form? Ask the membership director for another one or print it from our website (<a href="www.kwfn.ca">www.kwfn.ca</a>) by selecting Membership, Membership Form, then clicking on the download Membership Form link. Those who have not renewed by November 15<sup>th</sup> will no longer receive the Heron.

#### Sympathy/Get well cards

Bereavement cards were to sent to Barbara Quickfall and her granddaughter Sarah Leffler for the loss of Barbara's husband, and to Wende Gregory-Frei for the loss of her mother.

# Conservation Report By Karen Buschert

I would like to bring attention to an important local and national issue about a proposed change in an existing oil pipeline that crosses the Grand River near Brantford. Enbridge, which operates the 38 year old pipeline, is proposing to transport 'bitumen' or heavy oil through this line, for which it was not designed. The consequences of a rupture would result in serious environmental problems. For anyone wishing to learn more about this issue,

For anyone wishing to learn more about this issue, please see the Waterloo Region Coalition Against Line 9 on their website at:

#### http://noline9wr.ca/

If you wish to sign a petition opposing this change, please see page 2 of The Heron for the contact information for Conservation Director Karen Buschert Details are also posted on the KWFN website at: <a href="https://www.kwfn.ca">www.kwfn.ca</a>

#### From The Heron Editor

Share your nature stories with an article (up to 700 words) and/or picture. Subject can be local or somewhere in the Province of Ontario.

It is your newsletter.....let's hear from you, the member!

Contact info for the Editor on Page 2.

### **Board of Directors Meeting Update:**

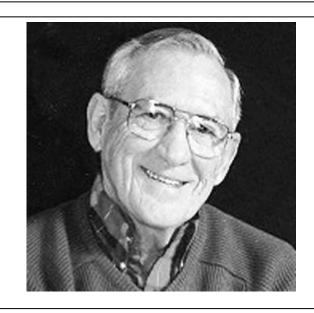
The following matters were discussed at the September 9th Board of Directors Meeting:

- Requests for support by environmental activist groups and possible political implications to the club of participating
- Confirmed the establishment of an 80th Anniversary Committee
- The place of *The Heron* as the the only means of communication with the membership in an increasingly electronic environment
- Use of members' e-mail addresses for club purposes other than Heron distribution
- The club's aging demographic and the need for renewal

#### In Memoriam

Longtime KWFN member **David Collins** died peacefully on May 12, 2013 in his 89th year. He served in the Royal Canadian Navy (1943-1945) on North Atlantic convoy duty and was a long time representative of the London Life Insurance Company. He continued his membership with KWFN right up until 2012 when he was no longer able to attend meetings.

We thank the family for choosing K-W Field Naturalists as the recipient of donations and extend our sincere condolences to his family.



# The President's Corner Graham Macdonald

I live in a retirement community in which the residents can enjoy walking about 4 km of trails that wander through the very attractive landscape of the development. The trails are quite well used but can become boring after regular use. This past summer I advertised in our community newsletter and started up a Trail Walkers group to explore further afield on the trails in and around the Region of Waterloo, a different trail every week. Our little group of up to six has been finding gems of woodland, wetland, ponds, meadows, creeks and rivers hidden among the houses and high-rises that line the roadsides. Many of these oases are populated with native flora - like the extensive Huron Natural Area. or the tiny Lookout Park in the Clair Hills Villages that is a gorgeous stand of Big Bluestem grass with Ironweed and Wild Bergamot interspersed, a miniature prairie all in full bloom as we climbed the hill up to the sundial at the top. This was the start of our walk along the Geo-Time Trail that wanders around the Clair Hills, interpreted with

illustrated panels prepared by our own Alan Morgan to explain the geology of our moraines. Sadly, the trail has become quite overgrown and the surface is badly eroded in some places; the wildflower planting in the loop above the kettle lake feature has been invaded by Canada Thistle and some garden escapees; but there is a magnificent stand of Cup Plant. The view from there today is of a desolate and barren landscape awaiting new homes. the topsoil scraped away, and the sands, silts and gravels of the moraine bulldozed into artificial mounds for the new Westside sub-divisions.

Forwell creek runs through an unexpected valley in Forwell Park and Hillside Park in Waterloo. Starting from Blue Springs Crescent the multi-use trails are excellent, following the creek under Lexington Road, past recently established cells of native plantings, to end on University Avenue near the Waterloo waste treatment Plant. A new trunk sewer is to be installed underneath one of the trails, a good way to avoid further fragmentation of this wild corridor that is home to covote and fox, as a sign at the trailhead tells us. Unfortunately, the whole valley is infested with Himalayan Balsam.

Our group exclaimed "How Pretty! What is that plant?" The sad news is that the plant is an invasive alien.

My observation of these areas is that our cities are not maintaining their investment very well, and the trails are very little used, at least on Tuesday mornings, even though the kids are on holiday. In 8 weeks of walking we could easily count on one hand the people we met on each trail, many with earbuds attached! Only one other group of six ramblers was encountered, grey haired like us, and no earbuds!

Perhaps KWFN should be partnering with our cities and neighbourhood associations in raising awareness of these disappearing gems and facilitating the conservation and maintenance of the habitat that is needed so much.

What do you think?
Please let me know,
and share your ideas for other
ways in which we can help
nurture nature

We have an excellent Board of Directors – we all look forward to serving you this year.

### Report on Baillie Birdathon 2013 - Neil E. Taylor

I have completed my records for the 2013 Birdathon. Once again I set my goal for \$3501. Last year, I managed to collect \$3001. This year I fell quite short of that amount, raising only \$2196.17. While I had new pledges, I lost some others. Perhaps it was because I missed some meetings. However I sent over 500 emails trying to solicit funds. I trust I was not nagging.

Bird Studies Canada records are incomplete, but at this point, I have raised a total of \$20,665.17 over the 30+ years.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists will receive 25% of the amount raised. Bird Studies Canada will use the balance for the many great programmes that it supports.

I am ever so grateful for the generosity of all who have supported this worthy cause over more than 30 years that I have been a participant. Thank you so very much.



By Fraser Gibson

# Ontario Nature Works with the FSC to Protect Northern Nature

Submitted by Julee Boan, Ontario Nature Ontario Nature has been working to encourage industry to meet Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards in timber harvesting and to blow the whistle when these standards aren't being met. We made a significant contribution to the evaluation and identification of potential protected areas on Resolute Forest Products' tenures in northwestern Ontario over the past decade, and are pleased to announce that those efforts have paid off. This summer, as a result of our input, FSC auditors informed Resolute that it has not met FSC requirements for protected areas. and risks losing its FSC certification. We will be there every step of the way to ensure consumers know that the FSC label is helping to protect the environment. To learn more, contact Julee Boan at iuleeb@ontarionature.org.

# Save Ontario's Bees: Ban the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides

Submitted by the Ontario Beekeepers' Association Ontario's bees are dying in massive numbers due to the pervasive use of neonicotinoid pesticides on our agricultural field crops. Join Ontario beekeepers and our agricultural, environmental and scientific partners in urging Premier Wynne to ban neonicotinoid pesticides by signing our online petition <a href="http://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/save-ontario-s-bees-ban-the-use-of-neonicotinoid-pesticides">http://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/save-ontario-s-bees-ban-the-use-of-neonicotinoid-pesticides</a>. Without bees, Ontario's food supply will be in serious trouble!

# Ontario Nature Receives Grant for Massasauga Rattlesnake Project

Submitted by John Urquhart, Ontario Nature
With support from the MNR's Species at Risk
Stewardship Fund, Ontario Nature launched a
Massasauga rattlesnake project this summer. The
project focused on threats to Massasauga rattlers on
the Bruce Peninsula, particularly around our nature
reserves, and the information we gather will help us

develop an outreach campaign to encourage local landowners to become stewards of this at risk species. For more information about our work with Massasauga rattlesnakes, contact John Urquhart at johnu@ontarionature.org.

#### Ostrander Point Wind Farm Approval Revoked!

Submitted by the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

The Prince Edward County Field Naturalists (PECFN) are very pleased to announce that the Environmental Review Tribunal has revoked the approval of the Ostrander Point wind project! Finally, a balance has been struck between the demands for green energy and conserving our environment. The Tribunal wisely realized that the construction of the turbines and associated roads would irreversibly harm the endangered Blanding's turtles that call Ostrander Point home. Congratulations to everyone involved in this very important appeal!

ON Nature magazine online at: http://www.vdocshop.com/doc/on-nature-magazine/summer-2013/2013053101/#0

# BLACK SWALLOWTAIL Papilio polyxenes



The above image was processed from two separate images.

# Amber Alert- The Missing Monarchs By Wayne Buck

I am writing this on Aug. 04, 2013. To date I have seen 2 Monarch Butterflies, the lowest number in my 69 years on Earth. I saw my first Monarch in our area this year on July 26, the latest that I have ever seen the first Monarch. I was prompted to write this by an article in The Globe and Mail, dated Aug. 01, 2013, Byline: Vidya Kauri and Paul Waldie about the decline of Honey Bees and Monarch Butterflies. They stated, "In an average year, 350 million monarch butterflies are seen wintering in Mexico. This winter, there were only about 60 million - a difference of more than 80 per cent, according to an official count by the World Wildlife Fund and the Mexican government."

"Monarch populations have been gradually declining over the last eight years, according to Donald Davis, chair of the Monarch Butterfly Fund, who has been tagging monarchs since 1967. Experts don't know for sure why the monarch is so late to appear this summer or why their numbers are dwindling. One reason could be a loss of habitat, Mr. Davis says. Monarchs rely exclusively on the milkweed plant to reproduce, but over the years milkweed has been treated aggressively with pesticides for being a noxious weed."

This is where the native plant issue comes in. There are several species of milkweed native to Ontario: Common, Swamp, Butterfly Poke, Sullivant's, Green, Whorled, Purple with many additional species found in the U.S. as the Monarchs migrate from their wintering grounds in Mexico to Canada, all of which are capable of supporting Monarch larva. In fact, as almost every student in elementary school knows, milkweeds are the only plant capable of supporting Monarch larvae. I wonder if the chickens have finally come home to roost. That is, have our decades of declaring war on milkweeds finally reduced its numbers to a point where Monarchs can no longer find enough to sustain their numbers? To eliminate milkweed is to exterminate Monarchs. I know many well-intentioned people defy local by-laws and grow milkweed in their gardens but that is not sufficient to support the Monarch population in Ontario. Growing milkweed should not be a criminal act.



"Another potential factor could be the drought in the spring and summer of 2012 in the central United States, Davis says, "The butterflies don't do well or reproduce in drought."

Last year, monarchs showed up early in Ontario, after migrating through drought conditions. They arrived before milkweed was even out of the ground.

The combination of drought and loss of milkweed not only would have affected the monarchs' ability to reproduce, but also to store fat reserves in their abdomens for the journey back to Mexico, Davis says. Dry conditions in some parts of Ontario last fall would not have helped the monarchs either, he adds.

This year, the migration back to Ontario wasn't any easier for the monarchs - already low in numbers - with a chilly spring all across the south. The cold-blooded insects are extremely sensitive to temperature, says Elizabeth Howard, founder of Journey North, the organization that tracks the monarchs' migration through reports of first sightings across the continent.

"They can't even fly until their flight muscles are 55 degrees Fahrenheit [13 C]. So, they can't even migrate. They are basically stuck in their tracks by the cold," she says.

Since a monarch's life span is only about two to four weeks - one migration can comprise several generations of the butterflies - an entire generation is missing in Ontario.

"What that means is that each generation is not producing very many monarchs, " Ms. Howard says. "The significant thing beyond that is that fall migration starts in August. So, we're looking at the breeding season ending before the numbers really build."

Ms. Howard says the monarchs need warmer temperatures to make up their numbers. "This year is an extreme. Nobody knows if they can recover from these levels. They may bounce back, but it doesn't look very good."



### By Ken Burrell

#### **Sightings**

The summer period throughout WR (and southern Ontario) is a time when birds nesting are at their peak, song is incredibly active in the first part (June) and dies off equally as fast as it started up. The last half of July is a time when birds start to move off their breeding territories starting to fatten up for their fall migration south. By the end of August many birds have already departed, and it is a time when neotropical migrants are starting to move, while Shorebirds have already been on the move since mid-July.

Notable sightings throughout WR were widespread, with many interesting sightings throughout. Most noteworthy, in terms of breeding species was a new breeding species recorded for WR - Common Raven! A pair was found nesting in an abandoned silo, near Winterbourne and managed to fledge 1 young (unkown observer). This brings the Regions all-time breeding bird list to 176! Peregrine Falcons again returned to KW, with 'the' pair managing to fledge 3(!) young in downtown Kitchener (mobs). Other noteworthy breeders (or at least suspected of so) included an American Bittern at Grass Lake (a somewhat rare breeding bird; Kevin Tupmari), Tufted Titmouse on the Walter Bean Trail (Kellie Superina), Hooded Warbler at the Sudden Tract (mobs). One of the more unusual breeding birds recorded in the Region was a singing male Prairie Warbler on June 18<sup>th</sup> along the Avon Trail, near Wellesley (Steve Thorpe), only the 4<sup>th</sup> record for WR.

Shorebirds, a group that most birders in WR have few records for were pleasantly rewarded with the Hespeler Mill Pond being a productive location for 18(!) species! Highlights were numerous and included: a single American Golden-Plover on August 21<sup>st</sup> (Caleb Scholtens), a single Baird's Sandpiper August 16-17 (mobs), several Stilt Sandpipers throughout the latter half of July and August (Fred Urie, mobs), a single Wilson's Phalarope August 30-31 (the 6<sup>th</sup> record; Fred Urie), and a single Red/Rednecked Phalarope August 13<sup>th</sup> (probable Rednecked: Fred Urie).

#### **The Coming Season**

Heading into 'real' fall (i.e., September-October) means we should be in the fall migration, checking any locations with 'decent' habitat could pay dividends, however, places with access to water, such as Laurel Creek CA, Columbia Lake, Bannister

Lake or areas along the Grand River will be consistently the best locations for finding a wide variety of species, as well as the more noteworthy ones too.

Songbirds, shorebirds, as well as raptors will be going through the Region in peak numbers at this time. Remember that 'cold fronts' are what bring these birds in higher numbers. Inclement weather is another indicator to for bringing large numbers of birds south and 'dropping' them. Days with light rain are often very 'birdy'.

#### **Bird News**

I'm encouraging members (and others who are reading this) to send sightings to the KWFN or myself. My email address is

<kenard89@hotmail.com>. Preferably, you can submit and share your bird sightings within WR to the KWFN eBird account (username: "k-w fn"). To setup the KWFN account as a 'friend', instructions can be found online at:

<u>http://ebird.org/ebird/manage/contacts</u> or through contact with myself.

#### From the KWFN Website

# Burell Family Reports Their Baillie Birdathon Results for 2013

We (Carol, Mike, Ken and I) completed our annual Birdathon in support of Bird Studies Canada, spending May 6 at Point Pelee National Park (and adjacent area). It was a cool but sunny day along the Lake Erie shore and quite warm further inland; a great day to be out and about!

Our day started with American Woodcock on the way to the Park. A stop inside the Park at the Marsh yielded American Bittern and Common Yellowthroat. To read the rest of this story click the link:

http://www.kwfn.ca/Notices/Baillie\_Birdathon/Burrell%20Baillie%20Birdathon%20Report%202013.pdf

To review the list of species observed on May 6 click the link:

http://www.kwfn.ca/Notices/Baillie\_Birdathon/Burrell%20BB%20Species%20List%202013.pdf



### By Neil Taylor

The Waterloo Stewardship Council (WSC) has been an active steward of lands in the Region of Waterloo (ROW) and has served as an environmental leader in this community for over 10 years acting to preserve and protect the natural heritage of the ROW.

The Waynco tallgrass prairie complex which includes the 'Branchton Prairie and Branchton Swamp Savanna' is an extremely rare and nationally significant tall grass prairie ecosystem and the only representative type of this scale and significance in the ROW. Tallgrass prairies and savannas are natural grasslands with a great diversity of grasses, wildflowers, and animal life. In southern Ontario, less than 3% remains. Most tallgrass communities have been lost over the past 200 years due to human use for agriculture and urbanization.

Since 2006, the WSC has been working in a partnership to identify and implement an environmental protection and restoration plan for this unique area. The WSC has spearheaded a number of initiatives to bring awareness to this area, combat and eradicate invasive species, and restore and enhance the native flora and fauna. Previous actions that have been conducted on the Branchton section of the property include: management and removal of Manitoba Maple and European Buckthorn, four prescribed burns to reduce competition from invasive species and increase and promote growth of native species, seed collection, propagation, and the spreading of prairie species to promote ecosystem resilience and enhance biodiversity. Several educational hikes and field trips/tours led by WSN members to educate and engage members of the public in prairie management and preservation have been conducted.

The purpose of this funding request is to provide WSC with financial support to assist in their continued work of restoring and enhancing the Branchton Prairie complex. This significant environmental area requires immediate and on-going management in order to reduce significant threats from invasive species and to enhance ecosystem integrity and resilience by increasing biodiversity and reintroducing natural fire cycles into the system. By restoring Branchton sections and continuing the

efforts within Waynco, we will be improving and enhancing natural corridors and linkages between the sites and improving the transfer of native seeds, encouraging the movement and colonization of native wildlife between and within sites and improving the overall integrity of the tallgrass ecosystem. The proposed project for 2013 is part of an on-going restoration plan. During 2013, we will be preparing the site for a future prescribed burn and conducting ongoing site management. The main objective of this work (and previous actions) is to reduce competition from invasive species including Manitoba Maple, European Buckthorn and other cold season nonnative/agricultural grasses.

A long-term objective for the WSC is to develop a set of guidelines and restoration templates for the management and stewardship of prairie ecosystems in ROW. The WSC works to steward public natural heritage by forming partnerships and offering assistance to individual landowners, regional and municipal government agencies and other environmental organizations. The WSC is a significant environmental resource in ROW and will continue to work with the ROW to identify and network to implement restoration initiatives on regional properties. Promoting better stewardship and implementing associated projects is an on-going WSC objective.

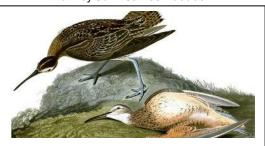
This report is a cooperative effort of the Waterloo Stewardship Council that outlines an edited rationale for a request for funds from the Region of Waterloo

#### **Eskimo Curlew: Symbol of Failure, Hope?**

A national Postmedia News article by Randy Boswell published on August 2, "From Endangered to Extinct: The Tragic Flight of the Eskimo Curlew," provides an excellent in-depth consideration of the curlew's disappearance, and its significance. Watch for informative and thought-provoking insights throughout the piece from Bird Studies Canada's Director of National Programs Jon McCracken.

Contributed by Neil E. Taylor with permission from Bird Studies Canada

Artwork by John James Audubon



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Paul Gross, Kitchener with Cecropia larvae (caterpillars).

# A Citizen Scientist By Thelma Beaubien



PAUL GROSS is a Citizen Scientist who quietly goes about rearing butterflies and moths.

As a child, he collected and mounted butterflies and as well, he found Cecropia larvae on apple trees in his Grandmother's garden. This then started a passion for his dedication to a hobby.

His small yard in Kitchener has numerous garden areas where he grows nectar and host plants including milkweed, parsley, dill, Joe-Pye Weed, zinnias plus numerous other plants.

The fluttering of wings is evident as you enter his backyard. White netting on plants and trees as well as his own home made cages provide the high-class rearing enclosures.

#### Butterflies Paul rears include:

Monarchs on Swamp and Common Milkweed, Black Swallowtail on dill, parsley and rue, and Giant Swallowtail on rue.

#### Moths include:

Cecropia on Choke Cherry, Manitoba Maple(Box Elder), Apple and Lilac, and currently 2 Poplar Sphinx on Poplar.

Paul uses two methods for rearing, cages and netting. He mentions that, "The varieties with a shorter life cycle are usually kept in cages where they will attach themselves to the lid and pupate. It is easier to control the food source that needs to be replenished frequently and some plants are not suitable for placing sleeves on, as they are too pliable. I raise Cecropia moths both ways and feed the ones in cages a variety of host plants."

After the Waterloo Region Record featured an article on Beau's Butterfly Garden, Paul came by to introduce himself to me. I was very humbled when he described his rearing efforts. Now I have a tremendous support person and educator to assist me. Thank you Paul!



#### Our optics are worth looking into!

We carry Swarovski, Leica, Vortex, Kowa, Minox, Celestron & Eagle Optics.

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### Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists 317 Highland Road East Kitchener, ON N2M 3W6

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#### Membership Annual Fees

Family/Couple \$35 Senior Couple \$30 Adult Individual \$30 Senior (60+) \$25 Student (19+) \$25 Free Membership for youth 18 and under. Club year runs from Sept. to August

Cheques made payable to:

K W Field Naturalists.

Bring payment to the next meeting or mail to: KWFN at 317 Highland Rd E., Kitchener, N2M 3W6

Membership details, on our web site at: http://www.kwfn.ca/member ship.html

KWFN is a registered charitable organization.
Membership fees and all donations are tax deductible.

#### **Objectives of the KWFN**

TO acquire and disseminate knowledge of natural history.

TO protect and preserve wildlife.

TO purchase and hold appropriate parcels of land for the advancement of conservation.

TO support public interest in nature and its preservation by supporting the enactment of wise legislation and by other means as falls within the scope of the Corporation.

#### **General Information**

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month, September to May with the exception of December. Our meetings are free and visitors are always welcome.

Outings are scheduled almost every month.

Advertising Rates for The Heron:

Size	Per issue	Full year (9 issues)
full page half page quarter page 1/10 page (business card)	\$200 \$100 \$ 50 \$ 25	\$1600 \$ 800 \$ 400 \$ 200

"The Heron" is the official publication of the KWFN. Information is written and submitted by volunteer members of the club. Articles reflect the views of the authors and are not necessarily the views endorsed by the KWFN club.

The Heron is published from September to June with the exception of December.

Print copies of the newsletter are available at meetings free of charge to members.

Newsletters available on Our web site at:

http://www.kwfn.ca/newsletter.html

The Kitchener-Waterloo Field
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Is a member of Ontario Nature.
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