



www.kwfn.ca

The Heron **September, 2013**

**Upcoming Club Meeting:
September 23, 2013 at 7:30 pm**

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

**September Speaker:
David Lamble, Master Bird Bander**

“Bird Banding and Facts That May Surprise You”

Birds are a complex group of organisms. Around since 40 million years ago, they have evolved unique behaviours. During our talk, we will look at their amazing vision and their surprising intelligence. We will also examine some unique habits of birds in our area, using banding data as a source of information. At all times, during the talk, questions are encouraged.

Penny Drive Results

Your contributions to our penny jar resulted in 15 kg of pennies (and other coins). The end result was \$105.40 for the MCC Trees in Haiti project. That will buy 319 seedlings.

Thank you for making our penny drive a success.

Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists

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

Mark Your Calendars

October 28—Byron Gilvesy-Alternative Land Use Services

November 25-Andalyne Tofflemire-Moths

January 27—Marion Nash- Peregrine Foundation

February 24-Peter Raspberry-slide show presentation highlighting the beauty and complexity of our fragile planet

March 24 —David Brewer- Penguins

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Restrict submissions to a
maximum of 700 words.

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GET WELL AND BEREAVEMENT CARDS

We like to send words of encouragement and sympathy on behalf of the KWFN to members and/or their families. To facilitate this process, please make the Membership Director aware of the necessary contact and related information.

Thank you for your assistance.

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The Heron

Submission deadline for the
October issue will be on

September 10th.

This is due to the early KWFN
meeting date in September.

**Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists
Board of Directors
2013-2014**



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FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR
submitted by Carol Foxall

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We ended the 2012-13 Membership Year with 173 memberships representing 262 members. The corresponding numbers for 2011-12 were 167 memberships representing 245 members. It is time for current members to renew their memberships and invite others to join our club!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The September edition of The Heron is mailed to each membership. Our Membership Form for 2013-14 is enclosed with this newsletter for your convenience. The membership fees are unchanged. Please check the mailing label on your September issue of The Heron. **If there is an R following your name, it is time to renew your membership.** Thanks in advance for doing it now! Please pop your completed FORM and CHEQUE in the mail or bring your completed FORM with CHEQUE or CASH to the September 23, 2013 meeting.

A Few Words about the Membership Form

1. Please check the footnote regarding Family/Couple membership in the first section. To be included as a member, the name of each family/couple member must be given on the Membership Form. If you have any questions, please contact the Membership Director.
2. Be sure to check either New Member or Renewal.
3. Regarding Item 1 Newsletter Choice, please choose one option. If you wish to, in the future, you can change your choice by notifying the Membership Director.
 - a. Print Group: A printed copy of The Heron will be available for you to pick up at each general meeting. Those not picked up will be mailed shortly after the meeting.
 - b. Download Group: You will receive an email the Thursday prior to each general meeting that tells you The Heron is available via the KWFN website and provides a link to the newsletter. This email will be sent to the email address(es) you provide near the top of the Membership Form.
4. Please take time to respond to items 2 and 3. This information will be most helpful to the Board of Directors. Thanks!

DONATIONS

When renewing their memberships some members also include a donation to one of our special funds – Operating Fund, Sanctuary Fund or Young Naturalists/Youth Fund. These donations, like the membership fee, are tax deductible.

Donations to the Operating Fund help us deal with the ongoing costs of operating our club.

Donations to the Sanctuary Fund are used to further our conservation efforts.

Donations to the Young Naturalists/Youth Fund support these groups of young people in the development and extension of their interests in the world of nature.

Cheques should be made payable to K W Field Naturalists with a note in the memo section indicating the designated fund. Donations may be mailed to the club address shown in The Heron or given to the Membership Director at a meeting. Cash at a meeting is also welcome.

We extend our appreciation to the following donors to one or more of our special funds:

Marco and Donna DeBruin, Margaret Dickson, Thelma and Ron Beaubien, Joan Ferraccioli, Shelagh and Derek Hitchens, Lios Magee. Publicis, Doreen Stuart, Sun Life Financial, Claire and Shierley Wigle, Anna Maria Ammirato, Peter and Colleen Bisset, Janet and Ken Dance, Athena Fung, Rolf and Joanne Rogde, Julie Trip, Elizabeth Earle, Marjorie Short, Lizette and Iize Valdmanis, Andy Kwong, Elsie Moorcroft, Margaret Dickson, Paul Bigelow, David Gascoigne and Graham Macdonald. It should be noted that many of these gifts were made as memorials to Bob Newbery and David Collins, two long time members of KWFN who will be missed by many.

.....continued next page

Membership Director's Reportcontinued

NAME TAGS

At the September meeting each member should find their name tag on one of the green name tag blankets. If you do not find your tag on the blanket please inform the Membership Director. Before leaving the meeting, **please return your name tag to the collection box.** You do not have to reattach it to the blanket.

Stick-on name tags are available for guests, visitors and new members. For new members, a pin on name tag will be available at the meeting following the receipt of their membership fees.

Wearing your name tag at each meeting facilitates communication. Be a FACILITATOR please.

Huron Natural Area 2013 Butterfly Count RESULTS July 13, 2013

	Total
Cabbage White	28
European Skipper	5
Clouded Sulphur	3
Common Wood Nymph	43
Pearl Crescent	3
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	4
Black Swallowtail	2
Pecks Skipper	1
Northern Pearly Eye	3
Question Mark	1
Tawny Emperor	1
Little Wood Satyr	1
Red Spotted Purple	1
Great Spangled Fritillary	5
TOTAL	102

Article by Dr. Chip Taylor, Monarch Watch.....Monarch Population Status

<http://monarchwatch.org/blog/2013/05/monarch-population-status-19/>

Outings and Events Schedule

September Outings

Again we are entering a season of transition. Most activity is centered around preparing for the coming winter whether that be migrating, caching or hibernating. Get out and enjoy that last days of summer. Go on one of our planned outings. We are in need of outing leaders. If you could lead an outing any time in October or November, please contact me at 519-699-4695 or by email at burrellsc@golden.net. Give back a little of your time to others within our club.

Grand Valley Trail - west of Brantford

Date: September 10

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Meet at the car park on Homer Watson Blvd. at Fountain St.

Leader: Wayne Buck - 519-662-2529 - email: waylyn2@cwisp.ca

Hike duration will be approximately 4 hours, including driving time. The focus will be on native plants but we will look at birds and other natural features.

If you are interested and plan to attend, please send me an email so I can determine how many people are potentially interested so I can decide whether to go ahead with this or not.

Recommendations:

- Wear sturdy shoes for walking on trails
- Carry insect repellent
- Carry water. It's summer. Possibly a snack
- Wear a hat; carry sunscreen
- Binoculars, field guides optional

A Big Sit

Date: Saturday, September 14

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Culvert on Beaver Creek Rd., Waterloo

Leader: Jim Burrell 519-699-4695

Bring a lawn chair, a coffee (or beer) and a pair of binoculars for a relaxed evening of sitting. We will keep an eye on the Laurel Creek reservoir to see what comes in for the evening. Keep your eye on the weather and dress accordingly.

Hawk Cliff and Environs

Date: Saturday, September 21

Time: 8:00 am

Location: Fountain St carpool lot in Cambridge

Leaders: The Burrells 519-699-4695

Join us for this annual migration spectacle. With any luck, we will hit the big push by Broad-winged Hawks. Regardless, we will join others for a day of watching for migrating raptors. We will also visit other closeby sites for other migrating birds. Bring a lunch, drinks and a lawn chair as well as your viewing equipment

Outings Continued

Cranberry Marsh Hawk Watch, Lynde Shores, Whitby Harbour and possibly Thickson's Woods

Date: Saturday September 28

Time: 7:30 am

Location: Kiss and Ride parking area on Highway 6 just south of Hwy.401. We can carpool from there

Leader: David Gascoigne 519-725-0866 theospreynest@sympatico.ca

Duration: This will be a full day's outing, but people could choose to leave whenever they wished.

Itinerary: We will start the day's birding at the Cranberry Marsh Hawk Watch in Whitby. If the winds are favourable and the migration is good we will spend two to three hours there. Late September is prime time for migrating Broad-winged Hawks and sometimes there are spectacular concentrations of this raptor. We will also be scanning the skies for other raptors. On and around the marsh there may already be a build up of waterfowl, Great Blue Herons, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and various warblers, thrushes, flycatchers etc all primed for their journey south. A check of Lake Ontario might turn up Common Loons and Red-necked Grebes in good numbers. We will keep a close eye on reports of rarities during the week prior to our outing and modify our plans if need be to take advantage of significant sightings.

The Lynde Shores/Cranberry Marsh complex can be excellent for passerines and Whitby Harbour may turn up surprises.

Clothing: Dress according to the weather.

Washroom stops: There are washrooms available at many locations along our route.

Lunch: Bring your lunch with you. We'll pick a spot to eat as time dictates.

Photographic opportunities: There are excellent opportunities for photographs with many species being quite close.

What to bring: It goes without saying that you should bring your binoculars. The leader will have a scope but people are encouraged to bring a scope so that more people have a chance to see a bird in a scope. The leader will bring a good selection of books but a field guide is always useful for each participant. A lawn chair is probably a good idea if we have a protracted stay at the hawk watch.



rare outing

L-R. Katherine McLeod, the well-versed Research and Education head at *rare* finishes the July 4th, 2013 tour of North House, the gardens and the pavillion on the *rare* property with Mary Ann V, Ronata R., Janice Bock and Graham Macdonald (photographer).

The President's Corner Graham Macdonald

I am proud to have been asked to take the position of President of KWFN, and to help lead the club through this its 80th year. I also think that our 80th Anniversary on 10 May 2014 deserves to be celebrated in some meaningful ways. All our members and their families, and the Young Nats and their parents need to be part of this celebration. Eight decades of service to our natural heritage is no small feat – and the coming decades will be very challenging for Nature.

With the support of the Board, I have set up a special 80th Anniversary Committee, chaired by our Vice President David Gascoigne, to propose, plan, and implement ideas for these events, and any activities that they can come up with that the Board deems appropriate. You will be hearing more soon. I am sure he will welcome input from the membership.

Since last November when I accepted the VP position, I have been very conscious that I was following in the tracks of some very hardworking and capable people. I must recognize the work of **Fraser Gibson** who never seems to sleep, has an encyclopaedic memory, and always has a thoughtful and measured response to my questions. He has worked his way

off the Board (again!), but continues as Ontario Nature Representative, where he liaises through the Nature Network. I also thank **Janet Ozaruk** who moves to the Past President's chair this year. Her light touch at the podium, her attention to detail, and her tireless communication during her year as President, has been an inspiration to me, one that I will have a hard time emulating. I know she will be a pillar of strength and a great memory jogger during the coming year. **Larry Hamel** has done double duty – as Membership Director and as Website Manager. The dedication and attention to detail he has given to both jobs is remarkable. He has been a steadying influence and a voice of reason at the Board table. He continues as Website Manager. **Valerie Hill** has served for five years, as Conservation and as Publicity Director. Through her we have had the use of the Record Boardroom for our meetings, as well as timely articles in the paper. Thank you all.

I welcome **Carol Foxall** for Membership, **Roger Suffling** for Publicity, and **David Gascoigne** in the VP position. **Shailyn Drukis**, who has been volunteering with Young Naturalists, will take over that liaison job from **Kelly Holdaway**. Thank you all for stepping forward to help.

Thanks to the careful fiscal management of the Club over

the last several years, to the slow but steady membership growth, to the generosity of our donors, and to the efforts of so many volunteers, all aspects of our operations are in excellent shape, to the point that the Treasurer saw fit to say at the AGM, that our financial health “was becoming an embarrassment”. What this means is that we need to be finding ways to apply our success for the greater benefit of Nature and our members.

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

Young Naturalists Update

By Kelly Holdaway

After a presentation of the nature photographs we took at the May meeting, the Young Naturalists headed to the pond for an activity that is always a favourite. We caught a lot of interesting creatures and I couldn't believe the size of a couple of frogs that were caught!!

This was our last meeting of the year. Thanks to all families that joined this year and we hope to see you again in the fall!

Come visit our blog to see what we've been up to:

<http://kwfnyn.blogspot.ca/>

Shailyn Drukis will begin her Young Nats updates in the October issue of The Heron.

Editor



By Fraser Gibson

Ontario Government Abandons Endangered Species

Submitted by Anne Bell, Ontario Nature

The future for species at risk in Ontario does not look good right now, as the provincial Cabinet announced on May 31 its approval of sweeping exemptions for industry under the Endangered Species Act, 2007. Our heartfelt "thanks" to all of you for your support of our efforts on this issue. Though we didn't win this round, we are committed to working with you to fight for better protection of species at risk and biodiversity in Ontario.

Creating a Sustainable Rouge National Urban Park

Submitted by Kevin O'Connor, Friends of the Rouge Watershed

Toronto's Rouge Park was created in the 1990s and the federal government recently announced that the park will become Rouge National Urban Park, Canada's first urban national park. However, their national park concept has raised some serious public concerns. We encourage you to support a 100-square-kilometre Rouge National Urban Park by signing our petition that will be presented to parliament this fall, or by writing a letter to key decision-makers. For more information and to sign this important petition, visit

www.rougenationalparkfriends.com.

Ontario Nature Welcomes New Board Members

Submitted by Lisa Richardson, Ontario Nature

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to several new board members who joined us this spring. Angela Martin (formerly Northern East Regional Director) and Kevin Thomason (formerly Director-at-Large) have assumed the roles of President and Vice-President, respectively, while Otto Peter is Ontario Nature's new Secretary/Treasurer. Additionally, we'd like to welcome 3 new Regional Directors: Anita Caveney (Carolinian West), Rick Cathrae (Northern West) and Franco Mariotti (Northern East).

NATIVE PLANT NUTS

By Wayne Buck

They're No Angels

One of the pleasures of naturalizing your property is the unexpected things that arrive that you often don't know from whence they came or how they got there. To be sure some undesirable things arrive like Garlic Mustard and Dame's Rocket, but every once in a while some nice things arrive "out of the blue"; literally and figuratively.

One morning in May as I was walking along our laneway after fetching the newspaper from out at the road, I noticed some large, deeply divided green leaves along the edge of our wet meadow. Closer inspection revealed it to be Great Angelica or Dark-purple Alexanders Pat Deacon called it in his inventory of The Montgomery Sanctuary. Its scientific name is *Angelica atropurpurea* which refers to the solid dark purple of its hollow stem. It's a member of the parsley family. I recognized it by its large deeply cut compound leaf and thick stem. I knew it wasn't giant Hogweed because it had large purple patches on the smooth stem instead of purple spots on a bristly stem. Angelica has a compound leaf whereas hogweed has a deeply lobed single leaf. A few weeks after this discovery Fraser Gibson and I spotted 2 hogweed plants growing roadside on the Bruce Trail near Shelburne. Fraser informed a homeowner who was weed-whacking just down the road of its presence so he could avoid contacting its caustic sap.

In mid-June I was again hiking along a road north of Lionshead when I saw a plant that resembled Angelica but it was in full bloom with a saucer-like white flower about 20 cm across. It had a thinner stem than angelica and the stem was green with no sign of purple. Like angelica, it had a sheath at the nodes on the stem. This, too was a relative of angelica; Cow Parsnip. A woman in a car stopped to ask directions and commented as she departed, "Nice Queen Anne's Lace." which is also a member of this family. On the next to last day in June, 2013, I was running with my running group along the trail on Blair Rd. near rare in Cambridge when I spotted a similar looking plant with a white flat rounded umbel of flowers growing on stems 1.0 m tall in the wet meadow beside the trail. Many of you are very familiar with this area. I believe it was one of the hemlocks but I am not sure which one it was since I didn't go into the wetness to check it out, not having my copy of Newcomb's with me and not being shod for walking in water. It could have been Poison Hemlock, Hemlock Parsley, Water Hemlock, Cowbane, or Bulb-bearing Water Hemlock. The latter 4 are all native. All 5 are deadly poisonous. Who knows what goodies remain to be found over the course of the summer?

..... Continued on page 11

Jim and Sue Waddington – Retracing the Landscapes of the Group of Seven Painters

Recap by Michael Frind
Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists
Monday, May 27, 2013.

Jim and Sue Waddington, long-time academics as well as naturalists and canoeists, have a unique hobby: to precisely track down the exact locations of artistic inspiration for the famous painters of Northern Canada landscapes. Their focus has been on the Group of Seven, which includes Varley, Jackson, Harris, Johnston, Lismer, MacDonald, and Carmichael. (Johnston later left the group and was replaced by Thomson. Later members also included Casson, Holgate, and FitzGerald.)

In the early part of the 20th century, this consortium produced many iconic, classic paintings that today routinely command prices in the half-million-dollar range at prestigious auctions. Some reside in various art galleries. One hallmark of the majestic paintings is that they tend to be unlabelled as to their exact location of representation. The Group of Seven paintings served to ignite the general public's interest in the Canadian hinterlands, thus instilling and cementing a mystique that remains to this day.

Over the past 30 years, during their remote-area canoe trips and hikes, Jim and Sue have been painstakingly working on nailing down the locations that inspired these painters. By photographing the paintings and diligently comparing each element to the actual landscapes (including photographs of the landscapes from their previous travels), and by making step-by-step comparisons against topographic maps and aerial photographs, they are able to zero in on the hills, valleys, lakes, and mountains which captivated these meticulously passionate artists. The Waddingtons' artistic detective-work requires strong geospatial skills, which both Jim and Sue have honed throughout their many years outdoors together.

The Group of Seven painters concentrated their efforts heavily in the Canadian Shield, a vast area of Precambrian (roughly 4 billion years old, hence dating back nearly to Earth's formation) igneous and heavily metamorphosed rock that is exposed throughout most of its range. It should be kept in mind that the Shield underlies 8 million square kilometres in total, which theoretically provides a very

vast source area of over which the painters could have drawn their inspiration.

Because large swaths of the durable Canadian Shield granitic rock are exposed, their appearance over time retains long-term constancy. Areas which demonstrate change are chiefly those harbouring vegetation. The thin soils of the Canadian Shield do support forests, and logged and/or burned) areas which have naturally regenerated over the 90-odd years since the paintings were done still reveal sufficient amounts of exposed rock formations to enable positive correlations to be made between the vintage paintings and the modern landscape.

Furthermore, certain portions of the Canadian Shield are especially distinctive. The white quartzite rocks (La Cloche Hills) of Killarney delighted Carmichael and were painted with particular relish and verve. Today, Killarney continues to draw canoeists, hikers, and photographers from across the country.

In many cases, it is feasible to locate the same rock on which the painter sat. For example, an old black-and-white photo depicting Carmichael nearly a century ago shows him seated on a distinctive boulder at Killarney, working intently at sketching what he saw. The photo itself pins down the boulder, but it takes a moment for one to recognize that the valley matches up too.

Knowing the topography and physiography, Jim and Sue were able to zero in on the location, despite the changes in vegetation that occurred in the meantime. In most cases, the landscape appears healthier today than it did then, since old-fashioned logging techniques left very prominent scars on the scenic landmarks that attracted these painters. (Modern logging practice focuses on less scenic landmarks, albeit it is more extensive in affected land area overall.)

Because many artists made simple pencil sketches first, in cases where these sketches have been preserved, it is possible to use these to ascertain whether the painter rearranged various aspects of the landscape in order to make the depicted view appear more artistically appealing. In cases where multiple sketches were made sequentially, each one can be interpreted as a "draft revision" that chronicles the thinking process of the painting, thus providing insightful clues into how the painted scene was constructed in the mind of the artist.

For the remaining portion, please read online at:
<http://www.execulink.com/~frind/Kwfn/Heron-Recaps/>



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They're No Angelscontinued from page 9

The second mystery plant appeared 3 summers ago in our sand garden. It was a milkweed that looked different than any milkweed we had ever seen. The leaves were thicker and grayish; rather fuzzy and oval shaped like other milkweeds. It was low growing; about 30 cm tall. We asked several knowledgeable plant people over the course if they could identify it but they couldn't. The only species we could come up with was the tropical species that the butterfly place sells to rear Monarch caterpillars but it didn't look like that. We also wondered if it was a hybrid since we have 5 species here; 3 growing in the immediate area. In June of this year Larry Lamb was attending a function here and I asked him to take a look at it. It took a bit of investigation but Larry identified it as Oval-leaved Milkweed, *Asclepias ovalifolia*; an appropriate name don't you think? How did it get here? It's a plant that grows in the prairies west of Illinois. When I told or son, Graham, he remembered buying the seeds from a prairie seed distributor several years ago. Mystery solved.

Canada Post Publication
Mail Sales Agreement
No. 40037542

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists
317 Highland Road East
Kitchener, ON N2M 3W6

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.

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/membership.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.

"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>

Advertising Rates for The Heron:

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

The Kitchener-Waterloo Field
Naturalists
Is a member of Ontario Nature.
<http://www.ontarionature.org/index.php>