



The Heron

Fall 2015

Visitors Welcome

Reception Hall
Waterloo Knox Presbyterian Church,
50 Erb Street West, Waterloo

The Peregrines of Kitchener-Waterloo

By Dale Ingrey

Our KW Peregrine Family 2015

February began with a minor crisis. Fraser Gibson informed me by email that the Sun Life peregrine nest box was missing. When I called the Canadian Peregrine Foundation, I learned that Sun Life was planning roof maintenance and had removed the nest box to discourage our resident falcons, Caster and Mystery, from using the box this year. I also learned that CTV was willing to allow a nest box on the same microwave tower that our peregrines had used two years ago. The problem was that CPF had no funds to buy materials for the new box. My urgent request to WRN President David Gascoigne resulted in a flurry of emails among board members and within a week, Treasurer Paul Bigelow had provided the necessary funds.

Unfortunately construction was delayed, and late approval from CTV head office resulted in a very late installation date of March 24. As the nest box was raised by pulley that afternoon, Caster was soaring and vocalizing overhead, observing the proceedings. Perhaps he was telling us, "It's about time, guys." It was indeed just in time. Caster brought Mystery to the site the next day; the first egg appeared on March 28 and three more eggs followed over the next week.



© KAREN VON KNOBLOCH

Three chicks hatched on May 5, the fourth on May 6, and then the fun began, as anyone with internet access could click on the CTV webcam and observe the chicks jostling for position as the adults brought them food packages. On May 26, the chicks were banded, weighed and named—Ginnie, Reggie, Chroma and Redbud, the last name chosen by WRN.

Continued on pg.8

WE'VE MOVED!

Waterloo Region Nature meetings are now taking place at:
Knox Presbyterian Church
50 Erb Street West, Waterloo

WRN Directors

President

Joshua Shea
519-208-8442
president@waterlooregionnature.ca

Vice President

Stephanie Sobek-Swant
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Past President

David Gascoigne
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Conservation Director

Shayne Sangster
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Treasurer

Paul Bigelow
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Archivist

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Noteworthy Bird Sightings

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birds@waterlooregionnature.ca

Ontario Nature Representative

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onrep@waterlooregionnature.ca

Native Plant Nuts

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Marg Macdonald 519-634-5633
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Kitchener's Natural Areas

Program (KNAP)

Josh Shea 519-741-3400 ext.3349
Fraser Gibson 519-576-9287
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Waterloo Stewardship Council

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wscrep@waterlooregionnature.ca

Other Inquiries

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Heron Editor

Jenna Quinn
519-362-7921
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Submission Deadlines ***NEW***

Winter Issue:

October 15th

Spring Issue:

February 15th

Fall Issue:

July 15th

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

All WRN Club meetings will be held in the Reception Hall
of the Waterloo Knox Presbyterian Church
50 Erb St. West

Doors open at 7pm for regular meetings.

All parking is **FREE**.

All parking access is off Dupont Street.



Riding on the Wings of Change

What an exciting time to be taking the role of president! This organization been such an important part of my personal and professional life over the past 15 years and I am honoured to be able to give back and lead our club into this new chapter.

We begin this journey with a new name, new meeting location, some new board members and most importantly many new and exciting projects that will ensure our club remains the positive and influential organization that it has been for the past 80+ years.

I take on this challenge knowing that those before me have set an amazingly strong and solid foundation and appreciate all the work that has been done to ease growing pains and help me transition into this role. Our previous leaders, David Gascoigne and especially Graham MacDonald have worked tirelessly to help create a framework for our club's future and I looking forward to the challenge of making the vision a reality

We have been working behind the scenes on creating a social media plan which will help engage more of our community members in the appreciation and protection of nature. This plan involves identifying media tools such as Facebook and Twitter, creating and writing content for a new club website and developing an exciting 'Ecoposts' project (keep reading this newsletter to learn more). You will be hearing more about and being asked for input on all of these projects as the year unfolds. We encourage you to get involved and help shape the direction for these initiatives and the face of Waterloo Region Nature.

Having served on this board before, I am often reminded what a reward it is to be surrounded by people who share a passion for nature, care enough to get involved, and have the skills and talent to make things happen. Certainly with so many projects and initiatives underway, it takes a team of people to lead this club and I am fortunate to be a part of the Waterloo Region Nature board. Hopefully over the next year you will get to know our team and realize what an amazing and dedicated group they are!

Over the past year, I have come to appreciate that change is something to be embraced and is an important element of resiliency for our club. We are taking new risks, going in new directions and working to build strength in our organization so that we remain a local source of knowledge, a voice for the birds and butterflies, and a catalyst for environmental engagement in our community.

-Josh Shea



Group of Waterloo Region Nature volunteers at the Wonders of Nature festival. Photo by Pat Bigelow.



If you're new to Waterloo Region Nature, you need to know that **OUTINGS** are the best part! And this fall there are a lot to offer. Check out the list to find out when and where you can meander moraines, learn ferns, pinch puffballs, dig dunes, master migrants, prowl owls, behold beavers, and maybe spot species #116!

Thank-you to the wonderful outing leaders who volunteer their time and share their knowledge so we can enjoy nature and learn together.

Do you know a great place to explore nature but don't want to be a leader? Suggest a "meet 'n' greet." You set a time and place and everybody just walks and enjoys together without a leader. Easy and no stress!

Start thinking about what outing or meet-n-greet you'll suggest this winter! For questions about a specific outing, please contact the leader listed with each outing.

Be sure to take advantage of WRN's amazing outings!

-Marg Paré

Outing FAQ

Are outings for members only?

It is ok to bring a friend who is not a member. They'll want to join!

Do I need to register in advance with the leader?

Many leaders love to know you're coming! But no, you can still come if you didn't let them know in advance

Are outings weather dependent?

Naturalists love rain and some outings do go ahead but some don't. Check for a last-minute e-mail (to all members who've provided an address) before you go even if the weather is fine just in case the leader is sick or there's a problem at the site.

All these outings sound great, but how will I remember them all?

We'll send you reminders about up-coming outings. We know you're busy.

HAVE AN OUTING SUGGESTION?

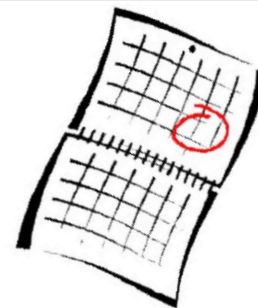
Contact Marg Paré

519-585-2377 h

519-500-3450 c

outings@waterlooregionnature.ca

Next outing deadline is October 15, however ideas are welcome at any time!

Nature at RiverSong**Date:** Almost any Thursday, Friday or Saturday year-round**Time:** See description below**Location:** RiverSong Banquet Hall, 632 Hawkesville Road, St. Jacobs**Duration:** See description belowLeader: John Pries, 519-664-0532, john.h.pries@gmail.com**Description:**

Our property is located by the Conestogo River about 3 km west of St. Jacobs. It hosts a range of wildlife including red bellied, garter, and milk snakes; several frog species including green, leopard, grey tree, chorus, and bullfrog; snapping and painted turtles; 115 species of birds so far; mink, fox, muskrat, groundhog, deer, and other mammals; and a wide range of flora. We have areas where one can sit and simply listen to the birds singing and water cascading over rocks as well as trails to access different parts of the property.

Susan and I are happy to open up our property on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays during our RiverSong hall business hours from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. for those who wish to come and enjoy the outdoors. I am typically working around the property on Fridays and Saturdays and, based on my availability, would be pleased to take you on a tour. It is a great place for photography, painting, enjoyment of nature, contemplation, and relaxing in any season (yes, even in winter).

If you email me first, there is a better chance I can join you if you want. Or, if you drive by and the OPEN sign is up, just stop in. Please note that the Cafe/Bakery is open year round but will be closed for a few weekends in September and in January.

(From late spring to sometime in the fall John will continue "turtle tours" to see the snapping turtles that nest on the property.)

Fern Hike at Laurel Creek Nature Centre**Date:** Saturday, September 12, 2015**Time:** 9:00 a.m.**Location:** At the entrance to Laurel Creek Nature Centre, 525 Beaver Creek Road (We'll meet at the gate. We may drive in to park near the centre if the gate is open.)**Duration:** 2 hoursLeader: Fraser Gibson, 519-576-9287, fn.gib@sympatico.ca**Description:**

Join Fraser on a leisurely walk through the Nature Centre's beautiful hardwood forest. The focus of the outing will be learning to identify some of Waterloo Region's common ferns. We should be able to find about 10 species on the property. We'll be on the lookout for any other objects of interest so bring your sharp eyes and curiosity.

A Big Sit**Date:** Saturday, September 12, 2015**Time:** 5:30 p.m.**Location:** At the Culvert on Beaver Creek Road, Waterloo**Duration:** As long as you like

Leader: Jim Burrell, 519-699-4695

**Description:**

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

Pinery Provincial Park**Date:** Sunday, September 13, 2015**Time:** 10:00 a.m.**Location:** At the parking lot of the Park Store**Duration:** 2 - 3 hours (and there's more to explore on your own)**Leaders:** Marco & Donna DeBruin 519-658-5372**Description:**

Let's explore the oak savannah and freshwater dune habitat of Pinery Provincial Park just south of Grand Bend, Ontario.

This could give us an opportunity to see a variety of fall migrants as well as a number of other flora and fauna. Tufted Titmouse and Purple Finches are common here. Most trails here are not too challenging, but a good pair of hiking boots/shoes is recommended for this 2- to 3-hour hike. As in much of southern Ontario, we need also to be aware of Black-legged (Deer) Ticks. The Park also has a very informative Visitor Centre. We plan to be camping in the park, therefore, you will need to find your own way there. Park entrance fees will apply. Should you need to contact us on the previous Saturday then try my cell 226-220-6978.

There is no planned "rain date" for this outing.

Schneider's Woods**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015**Time:** 9:00 a.m.**Location:** Wideman Road and Wilmot Line in Waterloo**Duration:** 2 hours**Leader:** Dale Ingrey, 519-884-3667, ingreyda@hotmail.com**Description:**

Join Dale for a leisurely fall hike through the forests and hills of Schneider's Woods. We'll try to spot some late fall migrants as well as the resident birds 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.

Tree Hike at Cappleman's Woodlot**Date:** Thursday, October 1, 2015**Time/Location:** 9:15 a.m. at the Beer Store in the Highland Hills Mall, Highland Road and Fischer Hallman, Kitchener or 9:30 a.m. at 2774 Sandhills Road, Baden**Duration:** 1.5 - 2 hours**Leader:** Fraser Gibson, 519-576-9287, fn.gib@sympatico.ca
or contact Jim Cappleman, 519-634-9711**Description:**

I know this is a maple but is it a sugar, black, Norway, red or silver maple? Tree identification can be made much easier once you have grasped a few basic concepts and learned some ID clues. Join Fraser and Jim on a tree ID walk through Jim's woodlot. We will spend our time identifying coniferous and deciduous trees while learning some uses and historical facts about our local trees. Come out and improve or practice your ID skills.

As always, we will keep our eyes and ears open for anything else of interest. Dress appropriately. The hike will be slow paced.

Owl Prowl at rare**Date:** Tuesday, October 13, 2015 (raindate: Tuesday, October 20)**Time:** 6:30 p.m.**Location:** *rare* ECO Centre, 768 Blair Road, Cambridge (the Slit Barn)**Duration:** 2 - 3 hours depending on weather and owls!**Leaders:** Jason Bracey leadingJenna Quinn hosting, 519-650-9336 x111, jenna.quinn@raresites.org*Description:*

Join Jason Bracey as he shares his knowledge of the species of owls found in Ontario and at *rare*. Learn many unique adaptations of owls and how to identify their various species. Jason will lead you on a “prowl” to see and hear these beautiful night birds on *rare* trails. Dress for the weather, bring a flashlight (if desired).

Dryden Tract**Date:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015**Time:** 9:30 a.m.**Location:** The carpool parking lot at 401 and Fountain St. S. (Homer Watson Blvd.)**Duration:** 2 hours**Leaders:** Marco & Donna DeBruin, 519-658-5372*Description:*

Join Marco and Donna for a morning hike through the Dryden Tract.

The hills, mainly eskers and moraines, are covered in an impressive maple and beech forest.

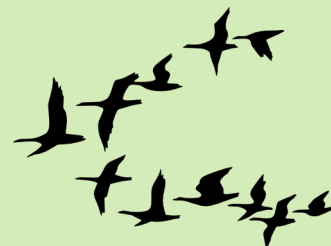
Several “Carolinian” species occur here at their northern limits, such as Pignut Hickory and Witch Hazel.

Wear sturdy footwear as this area is quite hilly in spots. Don't forget your binoculars and something to drink.

Hawk Cliff and Environs**Date:** Saturday, October 17, 2015**Time:** 8:00 a.m.**Location:** The Fountain St. and 401 carpool parking lot in Cambridge**Duration:** All day**Leaders:** The Burrells, 519-699-4695, burrellsc@golden.net*Description:*

Join us for this annual migration spectacle. With any luck, we will hit a push by migrating raptors.

Regardless, we will join others for a day of watching for migrating raptors. We will also visit other close-by sites along Lake Erie to look for other migrating birds. Bring a lunch, drinks and a lawn chair as well as your viewing equipment.

**Mushroom Mania!****Date:** Saturday October 31 - Hallowe'en!!**Time:** 10:00 a.m.**Location:** Homer Watson Park, parking lot at the dead end of Wilson Drive**Duration:** 2 hours**Leader:** Janet Ozaruk, 519-893-0490 (H), 226-748-9905 (C)*Description:*

Join us as we explore the mysterious and ephemeral world of slime molds, sac fungi, puffballs and gilled mushrooms. This will be an easy ramble through the woods at Homer Watson Park where we will search out and attempt to identify any fungi we come across. Bring your powers of observation and any field guides you may have. Of course, we will also look for any other signs of nature along the way, be it mammal, bird, plant, etc.

Mill Run Trail, Cambridge**Date:** Wednesday, November 18, 2015**Time:** 9:30 a.m.**Location:** The Mill Run Trail parking lot where Clemens Ave. meets Sheffield St. in Cambridge. (Clemens Ave. can be accessed from Fishermills Rd. Fishermills is an continuation of Maple Grove Rd. which is an extension of Sportsworld Dr.)**Duration:** 2 hours

Leaders: Marco & Donna DeBruin

Description:

Join Marco and Donna for a leisurely morning walk along the Mill Run (Riverbank Trail). This trail follows the Speed River past a variety of habitats. The trail is fairly level and has some boardwalk sections along its length.

We should be able to see a good variety of waterfowl along with other birds. Beavers and muskrat have also been seen along this trail.

The Peregrines of Kitchener-Waterloo*continued from page 1*

This year Chroma, the largest of the four chicks had to be rescued twice, the first time on Sunday, June 14 when she flew from the nest to the medical building on Pine Street and failed to reach the roof. She made it back, limping, to a lower perch on the CTV tower where she was rescued. Her release on June 15 did not go well as she came down on King Street. Fortunately LRT construction was finished for the day and she was captured safely. Her second release on the afternoon of June 16 was more successful when she flew from the CTV building to the Kings Towers apartment building. There she was joined by Reggie, her more nimble male sibling, and the next morning all four juveniles were observed on the apartment building roof.

The next two weeks progressed well with more frequent and longer flights accompanied by smoother landings as the young falcons learned to take advantage of wind currents. Any intruders to the territory such as turkey vultures or red-tailed hawks were summarily chased away, sometimes with a quick smack from an adult falcon's clenched talons. This is the same way the peregrine takes its prey, mainly pigeons. The falcon dives in a stoop, reaching speeds of 300 km per hour, to deliver the blow which usually kills the prey instantly.

As I write this in early August, our four young falcons are playing flying games with each other, dive and swerve, catch me if you can, all the while being tutored by their parents in the fine art of catching live prey on the wing. They have shifted their base to the Sun Life roof, the highest building in the twin cities. In September they will migrate, perhaps as far as South America. If they are lucky, they will survive the first two years and be ready in 2017 to start their own families.



*Peregrine chick being banded.
Photo by Don Thomas.*

WRN Promotes the Region's Natural Heritage through "EcoPosts"

By Roger Suffling

WRN has received two grants for communicating information about Waterloo's natural heritage! We have been awarded \$4972 from the Regional Municipality of Waterloo's Community Environmental Fund and \$2312 from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. The grants have been topped up by the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo so that we have been able to hire co-op student Peter Liu for the summer.

These resources are funding production of notices about the web pages at local natural areas using QR codes (See example, right). Each QR code on a field notice is linked to a different web page in each season of the year. So, for instance, you will be able to see site-specific information on winter animal tracks in January, warblers in May, dragonflies in August and trees in fall.

The QR codes will also link to a form accepting information from the user – about trail conditions, sightings and management issues, etc.

The web pages and the QR-code notices will link to the upcoming renewed WRN website as well as those of other bodies like Ontario Nature, so promoting them among general public. The overall strategy is to encourage outdoor recreationists to engage actively in nature clubs and conservation.



Example of EcoPost notices to be installed

Possible sites for the EcoPosts include Dickson Wilderness CA, downtown Galt (Chimney swift roost), the confluence of the Grand and Speed rivers, Stanley Park CA, the new Westmount Road soccer pitches in Waterloo and WRN's own peregrine falcons at the CTV tower. WRN is grateful for the support of the Region of Waterloo, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, and the University of Waterloo without whom this project could not proceed.

HOW TO USE A QR CODE

As an example, this QR code can link you to the WRN website.

On your cell phone or tablet, activate the "app" that handles QR codes (e.g. Smart Tags on a BlackBerry). Point the device camera at the QR code and you will be automatically directed to the WRN website (You must have web-capability, either through a data-plan or through a WIFI connection).



Membership Directors' Report

By Carol Foxall

It is time to renew your membership for the 2015-2016 membership year. If we have your email address you have received a renewal notice via email. Otherwise you will receive a membership form with your print copy of the Heron. Please fill out the form then mail it, and a cheque made out to 'Waterloo Region Nature', to the address on the form. Alternatively, you may bring the form and payment (cheque or cash) to the next meeting.

Email addresses provided on the membership form are used for club purposes only, we do not distribute them to other parties. Some of the ways in which we use the email address are: notification that a new issue of the Heron is available on our website, outing reminders or cancellations, requests for volunteers, renewal reminders, etc. At any time you may opt out of receiving all emails or specific categories of emails – for example those related to outings.

We ended the 2014-2015 membership year with 170 memberships representing 253 members.

This is a slight increase from the 2013-2014 membership year which ended with 163 memberships representing 244 members.

Welcome New Members!

Matt Karger
Douglas Woodley &
Sharon Sargeant Woodley
Rebecca Hay

Thank You Donors!

Matt Karger
Margaret Dickinson

Cards were sent to convey our sympathy for the deaths of:

Barb Quickfall, member &
grandmother of member
Sarah Leffler
Henry Krebs, husband of Marlene

In Memoriam

Erwin Meissner with his wife Annie were active and well liked members of the KWFN, now WRN, from the 1970s to the 90s when they retired to northern Ontario. Rest in peace Erwin.



Erwin Meissner attending a WRN club function. Photo courtesy of Harold Russell



City of Kitchener: Zoning By-Laws in Review

By Shayne Sangster

Over the next three years the City of Kitchener is undergoing a comprehensive review of its zoning by-laws. This year natural heritage conservation zones are being proposed from the previous parks category. WRN is pleased to see the creation of these zones, which will further protect our local natural heritage. Our Conservation Director, Shayne Sangster has submitted an official comment on WRN's behalf.

Sept 3, 2015

Subject: Comprehensive Review of the Zoning By-law 2015-001: Component

Dear Ms. Goss and Ms. Coutu:

It is with great honour and privilege that I submit the official statement on behalf of Waterloo Region Nature (WRN), a local organization of community members dedicated to the conservation, preservation and enjoyment of nature in the Region of Waterloo. Waterloo Region Nature, officially incorporated as Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists, played an integral part of the establishment of the Kitchener Natural Area Program and so we as a whole are pleased to see the Natural Heritage Conservation (NHC) Zone in Component A of the Zoning By-law 2015-001.

The NHC adds further protection to our local natural heritage by putting City of Kitchener by-laws in line with the following:

1. Ontario Regulation 150/06, which is under the Conservation Authorities Act,
2. Ontario Department of Natural Resources Area's of Natural and Scientific Interest, City of Kitchener ecological restoration areas, and current park space.

The Board of WRN is pleased to see this level of protection codified in the proposed by-law.

We the Board of WRN also praise the inclusion of the research and identified areas from the Strategic Plan for the Environment incorporated within the NHC Zone and the protection of water courses and fish habitat. The Board of WRN commends the City of Kitchener in maintaining our protection of our natural heritage for future generations.

Respectfully submitted,

Shayne Sangster
Conservation Director
Waterloo Region Nature



FH Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary Annual Report 2014-2015

MANDATE

Prepared March 15, 2015; By Margaret MacDonald

In accordance with The Management Plan for the property, the Conservation Director of the club is asked to submit an Annual Report about the property to the Board. The Montgomery Committee is to prepare the report. This report covers the period from March 2014 to March 2015 and will be published in the Heron for the information of the members.

REPORT OF ACTIVITY

Spring and fall clean-up days were uneventful except for some excellent sightings on the fall property inspection day to be described below. Spring clean-up dates 2015 have been determined (April 24 or May 1- weather dependent)

PERIWINKLE ERADICATION:

In spring 2014 tarps were moved and new tarps laid down. The areas subjected to 2 years of darkness have definitely shown die-off of periwinkle but old established untreated areas continue to flourish. A new tarp is available this spring so we will continue.

Other Invasives:

We continue to cut Manitoba Maples as found.

In 2014 encouraged by the enthusiasm & leadership of Wayne Buck we organized a garlic pull. Open to club members we were joined by Anne Morgan, Ross Dickson, Mary Ann Vanden Elzen, John Sanderson, Elaine and Mike La Ronde, Michelle Tomins. We collected 24 bags of the weed, for a total weight of 135kg. (298lbs.).

Trail Guide:

As promised Fraser Gibson chose new features for posts 3 and 6 whose features have been down for several years. At Post 3 the values of the forest canopy are described while at Post 6 a very entertaining description of the fern especially its reproductive cycle is the focus for the trail explorer. We also updated the change of the name of KWFN

to Waterloo Region Nature, and the entrance location change. 200 copies of the revised Trail Guide are now available to our membership. We ask for a donation of \$1 for each guide.

Montgomery Property Report Inspection

Inspection was performed on a lovely day October 24, 2014. The inspection report was submitted and approved by the KWFN Board. Of note in this year's inspection – a new tarp was laid. Hickory Tussock Moth Caterpillar was seen several times on the trail and photographed. First reported sighting of Screech Owl (photographed).

Wood Duck Boxes

This is always the highlight of our day. This is the second season that they have been in place. One box "WDBox West" is close to the Nith. For the second year we found evidence of wood duck breeding! We found one unhatched egg and 13-14 egg membranes along with many feathers! In addition blue jay feathers indicated that they had also used the box in some fashion or had been a prey item for someone.

Our second box is in the interior "WD Box East. Again we found evidence of breeding - not wood duck but our screech owl returned. They also had successful breeding according to the debris found in the box. An unhatched egg and eggshells were present. On top of that was a bumblebee nest, so we also had bumblebees reproducing in our box. Blue jay feathers were again present and in larger numbers than the West box. We cleaned the boxes out and renewed them with wood shavings provided by Wayne Buck.

Meanwhile Donna DeBruin is looking up into the woods behind the box and sights an owl on a branch and calls over to us. We all saw the owl and, lo and behold, there was our screech owl, the first ever sighting reported in Montgomery!

FH Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary Annual Report 2014-2015

80th Anniversary KWFN

On the 25th of May Marco DeBruin led an enthusiastic group of about 20 through Montgomery as a part of the 80th Anniversary celebrations of the Kitchener Waterloo Field Naturalists now Waterloo Region Nature on an absolutely beautiful day. Vegetation was very lush and we saw lots of plants species and heard warblers and red bellied woodpeckers among others..

Acknowledgements

Thank you again to all our committee members who not only provide their hours of work but also needed

supplies and equipment for our work. And a special thank you to our volunteers who help with extra projects.

Respectfully submitted by ,

The Montgomery Property Committee (in alpha order):

Pat and Paul Bigelow, Wayne and Lynda Buck, Marco DeBruin, Jim Cappleman, Fraser Gibson, Graham & Marg Macdonald, April Morrissey and Shayne Sangster (Conservation Chair).

Garlic Mustard Pull at Montgomery WS

By Wayne Buck

The grim-faced volunteers assembled silently along the side of the road, speaking in quiet tones so as not to alert the enemy that lay unsuspecting in the nearby forest. As they applied their insect repellent, they reviewed the planned assault that lay ahead of them. At the appointed hour, the 13 brave men and women; 6 from rare, 7 from WRN, carrying a variety of plastic and paper bags, headed silently into the underbrush.



Before (left) and after (right)
Photos by Wayne Buck

They fell upon the enemy at post No. 6; 26 eager hands ripping and tearing at the thousands of garlic mustard plants that were densely arrayed all around us. The recent rains made the roots easy to pull intact out of the damp soil that had nourished them for the past 2 years, their seed pods full of hundreds of developing embryos, ready to propagate hundreds of thousands of offspring in the coming season.



Thanks to the volunteers! Photo by Wayne Buck

When the battle ceased, almost 300 pounds of garlic mustard had been stuffed and crammed into mostly plastic garbage bags which were carried joyously back to the road. Here, eager hands emptied the plastic bags containing the garlic mustard into used paper yard waste bags. These were quickly transported to the yard waste section at the Regional Landfill Site where they were unceremoniously dumped in the yawning maw of the awaiting bin.

Thanks to the 6 people from *rare* and the 7 WRN people who helped in this endeavor.



*Thelma Beaubien & Josh Shea
Photo: Pat Bigelow*



*Thelma Beaubien, Anne Morgan, Lynda & Wayne Buck
Photo: Pat Bigelow*

WONDERS OF NATURE Festival



*Pat Deacon displays a diversity of
mammal skulls. Photo: J. Quinn*



*Miriam Bauman & David Gascoigne.
Photo: Pat Bigelow*



*Anne Morgan talks pollinators and the
flowers they love. Photo: J. Quinn*



*Roger Suffling & Paul Bigelow busy at the button-
making booth. Photo: J. Quinn*



*Ken Dance teaches all about raptors.
Photo: J. Quinn*



A Year in the Life of a Herper

Next WRN Meeting:
Monday, Sept 28th, 2015
KYLE HORNER
7:30-10:00pm



About the Presentation

From Spring in southern Ontario through Summer on Georgian Bay, to Fall in Illinois and Winter in sunny Florida, this presentation takes the form of a year-long journey down the eastern seaboard of North America in search of the region's most fascinating reptiles and amphibians. Accompanied by an array of unique photos, Kyle will share some natural history and some of his favourite stories from the road!

Photos: J.Quinn, D.Radoslav



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AND join us in October & November for our monthly meeting!

Oct 26: The Barn Swallow Project
 Barn Swallows & social cues: Research Questions & conservation challenges
 Presenter: **Zoé Lebrun-Southcott**

Nov 23: Speaker To Be Determined
 Check our website for up-to-date information on all upcoming meetings!
waterlooregionnature.ca

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

Objectives of WRN

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.

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Information is written and
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The Heron is published
three times per year.
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