



The Heron
Winter, 2014-2015

visitors welcome

Wing 404/Rotary Adult Centre
510 Dutton Drive, Waterloo

KWFN ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Monday, December 8, 2014

7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

We're asking members to bring either appetizers or desserts to share. Fair trade bird-friendly, shade grown coffee will be provided, as well as tea and punch.

Remember, bring your mug, plate, utensils and cloth or paper napkin for environmentally friendly munching.

Any members wishing to share their nature-related activities and interests can reserve a table for a display or collection, or laptop presentation. Show us your passion!

Contact Genie Berger at 519-740-2797 or email at gberger@rogers.com

Everyone is welcome!

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, January 26, 2015 at 7:30 pm

Ken Dance - The Importance of Ecological Corridors

The talk will explore the critical nature of landscape connections from the single hedgerow/fence row level to continental scale connections via river valley, lake and sea coasts.

Life forms addressed will include insects, birds, bats and others.

The geographic scope will range from Ontario's boreal forest, through the Carolinian zone into Arizona/Texas and further into Mexico.

Upcoming Club Meetings (meetings begin at 7:30 pm):

Monday, February 23 - Larry Lamb et al - Waynco Rehabilitation Project: Restoring & Managing Waterloo Region's Prairie & Savanna Heritage (Additional Presenters: Graham and Wayne Buck and Pat Deacon)

Please see Page 8 for additional information on this presentation.

Monday, March 23 - TBA

Monday, April 27 – Tony Zammit – Significant Elements of Biodiversity within the Grand River Watershed.

Monday May 25, 2014 – Peter Blush – Foraging

KWFN Directors

President

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

Vice President

Joshua Shea
519-208-8442
jshea501@gmail.com

Past President

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

Conservation

Shayne Sangster
226-792-5441
shayne_sangster@hotmail.com

Treasurer

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

Membership

Carol Foxall 519-581-1090
cfoxall@rogers.com

Secretary

Charlotte Moore 226-220-7188
charlotte.se.moore@gmail.com

Publicity

Roger Suffling 519-742-4577
rcsuffling@uwaterloo.ca

Outings

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

Director-at-Large

Marg Paré 519-585-2377
marg.pare@yahoo.ca

Positions of Responsibility

Program Coordinator

Genie Berger 519-740-2797
gberger@rogers.com

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
519-741-8272
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 Liaison

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

Ontario Nature Representative

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

Kitchener's Natural Areas Program (KNAP)

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
neiltaylor@sympatico.ca

WHAT'S INSIDE:

KWFN Contacts.....	2
Outings and Events.....	3-5
President's Corner.....	6
Membership Report.....	6 & 8
Ontario Nature.....	7
Presentation Information.....	8
Montgomery Workday	9
A Welcome Guest.....	9
Of Birds and Men	10
Stewardship Council	11
Submitted Images.....	12
Marketplace.....	13

Winter Weather Notice

In the situation where a winter storm may arise, please tune to 105.3 Kool FM or 99.5 KFUN or their websites for meeting cancellation notices.

Heron Editor

Thelma Beaubien 519-886-7118
thelma-editor@rogers.com

Submission deadlines are on or before:

Fall Issue August 10th

Winter Issue November 10th

Spring Issue March 10th.

Outings and Events

There are a good number of outings this winter so you do not have to hibernate. Contact the leaders and enjoy some camaraderie with like-minded members. If you wish to lead an outing in the spring session, drop me (Jim Burrell) a line either by phone or email: we are always looking for new areas to explore and things to do. Hope you enjoy the winter; it's our heritage as a northern people.

Niagara and Area Gulls

The Burrells 519-699-4695 burrellsc@golden.net

Meeting Time/Place: Saturday, December 6 at 8:00 am at the Fountain Street carpool area

Join us for an all day outing to the Hamilton and Niagara River area as we search for gulls and other waterfowl. It is always cold so wear layers of warm clothing and good boots. Bring a lunch, binos, scopes and field guides. Walkie-talkies may come in handy also. It will be a good day; lots of birds and tiring.

Christmas Bird Counts – 2014

Cambridge – December 14 (Sunday)

Contact Levi Moore at levicmoore1@gmail.com

Kitchener – December 20 (Saturday)

Contact Mike Burrell at mike.burrell.on@gmail.com

Linwood – December 28 (Sunday)

Contact Ken Burrell at kenneth.qd.burrell@gmail.com

Laurel Creek Nature Centre

Dale Ingrey 519-884-3667

Meeting Time/Place: Saturday, January 10 at 9:00 am at the entrance to Laurel Creek Nature Centre on Beaver Creek Rd. in Waterloo

Join Dale for a leisurely Saturday morning hike through the fields and woods around the nature centre property. Last year we had to cancel this outing due to the damage from the December ice storm. Let's hope Mother Nature smiles on us this year and provides some fresh snow as we search for animal tracks, try our hand at winter tree identification, and also do some winter birding. Bring some seed for the chickadees, binoculars, field guides, and a drink for this approximately 2 hour outing. Be sure to dress appropriately for the weather. If time permits we'll check out the wooded area on the other side of Beaver Creek Road where the wild turkeys and deer sometimes forage.

Cross-country Skiing at the Schneider Property

Janet Ozaruk, 519-893-0490, cell 226-748-9905

Meeting Time/Place: Sunday, January 11, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at the first entrance to the property on Carmel Koch Road closest to Wilmot Line. If you go past the nun's residence then you've gone too far west. Phone if unclear of meet-up location.

This is one of the best areas around for cross-country skiing, with a mix of open field, hardwood forest, plantations, and creeks. The trails are kept in good condition as trail use is limited only to skiing (no foot traffic) in the winter. There are a variety of trails to choose from and we can design a loop suited to our group. Bring your skis, a snack, a drink and hope for lots of snow

Outings and Events

Wellesley Birding Tour

Jim & Ken Burrell 519-699-4695

burrellsc@golden.net

Meeting Time/Place: Sunday, January 18, 2015

8:30 at the Beechwood Plaza (corner closest to Erb & Fisher-Hallman)

We should be finished by noon.

Join us for a morning drive around the countryside of Wellesley and Peel townships. We will be searching for over wintering raptors and whatever else flies in our faces.

Mill Run Trail Cambridge

Marco DeBruin 519-658-5372

Meeting Time /Place: Tuesday, January 20 at 0930 at 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)

Join Marco 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 winter waterfowl along with other birds. Beavers and muskrat have also been seen along this trail.

A Winter Walk Along the Grand

Don Thomas 519-653-7891

thomas7891@rogers.com

Meeting Time/Place: 9:30 am Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at the Preston Memorial Auditorium at the corner of Hamilton and Bishop Streets, Preston

We will walk along the lower level path beside the Grand River to its confluence with the Speed River and return along the upper path to the parking lot. There should be over wintering waterfowl and, hopefully, some northern migrants. We can end at Timmy's (a block away) and discuss the morning. Bring binos and dress warmly.

The Great Backyard Bird Count

Mary Ann Vanden Elzen 519-741-8272

mave@microverse.on.ca

Meeting Time/Place: 930 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015

at the beer store at Highland Rd. and Fisher-Hallman

You may choose to come for the full tour or meet us at 1 of the stops along the way. We will attend 3 backyard feeders and their environs. Below is a rough schedule of the stops:

1. 10:00 at 2774 Sandhills Road at Jim Cappleman's
2. 11:30 at 37 Springdale Dr., Kitchener at Larry Lamb's
3. 1:00 at 122 Lakeside Dr., Kitchener at Brenda Holvey's

Each of these "hosts" will be expecting us at these approximate times. For more information about GBBC, visit the website at www.birdcount.ca

Outings and Events

Riverside Park Cambridge

Marco DeBruin **519-658-5372**

Meeting Time/Place: Tuesday, February 17 at 0930 a.m. at the entrance to Riverside Park (off King Street) in Cambridge, just outside the gate along the wall.

Join Marco for a refreshing walk in Riverside Park in Cambridge. Weather permitting, this could be a good opportunity to see up close and photograph some of our winter birds. The terrain is fairly level with a good portion of boardwalk. If time permits, we could take a short walk along the Speed River and check out some of our over-wintering waterfowl. Dress appropriately and don't forget your binoculars and your camera.

Amherst and Wolfe Islands

The Burrells **519-699-4695** **burrellsc@golden.net**

Meeting Time/Place: Saturday, Feb. 7 at 8:30 a.m. at the ferry dock in Milhaven, Ont.

This is an all day outing to birding hotspots in eastern Ontario. Participants would have to travel to the area and back on their own. We will spend the morning touring Amherst Island and the afternoon on Wolfe Island. These islands are well known as raptor wintering areas, especially owls and hawks. Each participant must supply his/her own food and drink as there are no facilities on the islands. If you wish to participate, call Jim for further details.

Long Point and Environs

The Burrells, **519- 699-4695** **burrellsc@golden.net**

Meeting Time/Place: 8:00 am - Saturday, March 21, 2015

Homer Watson Blvd. / Fountain Street 401 carpool lot

Join us for this popular annual outing to Long Point, one of Lake Erie's birding hotspots. We will focus on returning waterfowl as they stop on their way northward. Bring a lunch, binos, field guides and a scope if you have one. Dress warmly as it may be cooler near the lake at this time of year



Anybody interested in a

birding by bike hike

please email:

Roger Suffling at

rksuffli@uwaterloo.ca

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

David Gascoigne

On 1 November our Club had the great pleasure of hosting the most recent Ontario Nature regional meeting. We were well represented by Fraser Gibson, Graham Macdonald, Josh Shea, Paul Bigelow, Pat Bigelow, Mary Ann Vanden Elzen, and myself. Fraser is our Ontario Nature representative and I know that he was pleased to see so many of our members there to show our support both for him and for Ontario Nature. Several of our members provided cookies and other sweet goods as well as delicious hot soup for lunch. The selection was outstanding and the soups were mouth-watering and very welcome on a cool fall day. To everyone who contributed, please accept a sincere expression of thanks from all of us who enjoyed the food.

Another significant event Miriam I attended recently, in the august company of Past President Graham Macdonald and Margaret, was the donor recognition night of the Bruce Trail Conservancy, where we were presented with a commemorative plaque recognizing our contribution of \$10,000 last year. I will bring this award to the next meeting so that all may see it, and turn it over to our club archivist for safe keeping. Many members went on the organized walks of the three properties acquired and a suitable marker will be placed on the trail signifying the support of the KWFN, so that all who pass by will know of our commitment to the preservation of nature.

I also was very happy to accompany Graham Macdonald and Margaret on a visit to the Preston Horticultural Society where Graham delivered a fine presentation about our club, from its historical origins to present day activities. It was very well received and we were able to deliver membership applications and invite the members of the Preston club to pay us a visit. Many of the aims of our two clubs, and indeed many of the challenges, have a good deal in common, and the members of that club expressed their commitment to encouraging the planting of native species – music to our ears!

Genie Berger has been hard at work planning the December meeting, which will follow the same format as last year, which I believe everyone thought was a huge success. I know that I enjoyed it immensely. Please contact her if you wish to reserve space to display items from your private collection of nature-related materials. She still has tables available, but she has also invited several interesting groups to set up a display, so there will be lots of interesting exhibits for everyone to enjoy. I know that I

was quite astounded, and more than a little impressed, by some of the items brought in for display last year. I am sure that we all learned things about our fellow naturalists that we didn't know before.

As I looked out the window this morning, it was still dark and early, but I could see that the roofs of the neighbouring houses were clad in a light coat of white, a stark reminder of what lies ahead. It did serve to remind me, however, that the Christmas Bird Counts are just around the corner, and I would encourage you to take part in this activity. If you prefer, you don't even have to leave your living room, for you can contribute to the backyard feeder count, which is an important part of the day's activity. The wrap up parties with pot luck dinners are always very enjoyable and it's great fun to hear what everyone observed on the day. One frequently hears the term Citizen Science these days and this is a great example of that activity, where the combined efforts of birders and amateur naturalists contribute to a very important data base, revealing population trends and other valuable information, to aid in conservation of species at risk.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting. In the meantime I wish you all the very best for the upcoming holiday season.

Membership Director's Report

Carol Foxall

Welcome New Members!

David & Susan Beaton
Paul Camp
Dan Daly
Frances Heller
Kelly Foyle & Simon Kiss
Michelle Gordon
Elaine, Dave, Ethan & Claire Gosnell
Mark Hill
Lisa Horn & Raffaele Camasta
Donna Ivey
Larissa Jerome
Lynda Loberg
David & Ann Love
Bev & Pierre-Francois Rimbault
Margot Snyder & Steve Davidson
Cathi Stewart



Ontario Nature Report Fraser Gibson

Ontario Nature Great Lakes West Regional Meeting Held at Laurel Creek

On November 1 the KWFN hosted our Regional Meeting at Laurel Creek Nature Centre. Representatives from seven clubs as well as Ontario Nature were in attendance. KWFN was very well represented with seven members present (David Gascoigne, Graham Macdonald, Josh Shea, Pat and Paul Bigelow, Mary Ann Vanden Elzen and Fraser Gibson). Our lunch was a choice of 6 tasty soups and a selection of seven varieties of yummy cookie and squares all generously donated by our faithful KWFN members.

A few significant points from the meeting:

Ontario Nature thanked KWFN for their \$3000.00 donation towards the purchase of an additional central 100 acres at the Lost Bay Nature Reserve near Kingston

Two new parcels were recently added to the Kinghurst Nature Reserve near Chesley the Youth Council is actively advocating for wild pollinators through post cards, a poster and two videos currently in production

The Ontario Nature AGM, a one day event in 2015, will be held at rare Charitable Research Reserve on Sat May 23.

ON is planning two webinars for the end of November. One will focus on Natural Heritage Systems planning and the other on Canada Revenue Agency reporting.

The well established ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) is well established in Norfolk and is expanding into Grey/Bruce and Eastern Ontario

A Greener York - The Importance of Protecting Nature

This summer, Ontario Nature's Cawthra Mulock Nature Reserve near Newmarket was the backdrop for a discussion about the need to protect nature and what adverse changes to the Endangered Species Act could mean. Search "A Greener York - The

importance of protecting nature" on You Tube to see Dr. Anne Bell, director of conservation & education, and Huronia regional director, Sylvia Bowman speak to A Greener York host, Julia Bachelor about this important issue.

ESA Lawsuit Hearing Scheduled for January, 2015

In September 2013, Wildlands League and Ontario Nature sued the Ontario government over its decision to exempt major threats to species at risk from the province's Endangered Species Act (ESA). Ecojustice is providing the two groups with legal counsel. The hearing is scheduled for January 14-15, 2015.

The new regulatory changes harm species by allowing major industries - including forestry, energy transmission, housing, oil and gas pipelines, mineral exploration and mine development, transit, wastewater management companies - to avoid strict standards intended to protect at risk species and their habitats.

Ontario Nature Produces Video on Dog-strangling Vine

Ontario Nature is pleased to announce the release of a new dog-strangling vine (DSV) control video, created with the generous assistance of Toronto Botanical Garden. To find the You Tube video on this very aggressive invasive plant search for "Dog-strangling vine: Identification, impact and removal".

Editor's Note: Follow the link to the 5 minute video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqA5JDnpAsw>

For pictures and information from the November 1 Regional Meeting of Ontario Nature, check out David Gascoigne's blog spot.

<http://travelswithbirds.blogspot.ca/2014/11/ontario-nature-regional-meeting.html>

The KWFN is pleased to announce that Wonders of Nature will return in 2015. We have partnered with the City of Kitchener, Kitchener's Natural Areas Program (KNAP).

The Event will be held at the Huron Natural Area on Saturday August 29, 2015 from 11 - 2. A few of the activities include bird and butterfly hikes, nature displays and presentations.

If you are able to volunteer on the day of the Event, please contact Ron and Thelma Beaubien using the Editor's contact information in the Heron.

February 23, 2015

**Larry Lamb et al - Waynco Rehabilitation Project:
Restoring & Managing Waterloo Region's Prairie
& Savanna Heritage**

Presenters:

Graham Buck, species at risk biologist, Ministry of Natural Resources.

Wayne Buck, KWFN member, owner of Nith River Native plants, editor of the native plant nuts in the Heron newsletter.

Pat Deacon, ecology consultant for Natural Resource Solutions.

Larry Lamb, regional environmentalist, specializing in botany and ecosystem restoration.

**Presentation: Restoring & Managing Waterloo
Region's Prairie & Savanna Heritage**

The presentation will place emphasis on the gravel pit properties, owned by Waynco, south of Cambridge (Galt) along Hwy 24 and within the Branchton swamp. History of our speakers' involvement with this restoration effort will be highlighted, and other efforts in the the region will be mentioned as well.

Discover unique in Ontario prairies and savannas on the Galt and Paris moraine. Areas here have been brushed out, burned, and replanted over the past few decades. Watch the KWFN activities calendar in August/September of 2015, for field trip opportunities to see the amazing transformation resulting from the efforts spearheaded by this foursome and others.

Considering that as many as 75% of plant and animal species at risk in SW Ontario are associated with prairie and savanna habitats, this work is of great significance in preserving these precious habitats, & their species which are seriously declining in number. A good number of these species will be featured in the presentation.

KWFN has supported these restoration and management efforts financially, funding prescribed burns, and has presented Waynco with the club's conservation award.

Thank you Donors!

Chris Angst
Peter Ashenhurst
Robert and Ann Bean
David and Susan Beaton
Genie Berger
Pat and Paul Bigelow
Deborah Bleackley
Niels Bols
Craig & Jane Campbell
Jim Cappleman and Irene Simpson
Donna Cassidy
Jennifer Clayfield and Robert Oswald
Lynn Conway and Alex White
Betty Cooper
Janet and Ken Dance
Margaret Dickson
Ross D. Dickson
Mark Dorfman
Randy and Deborah Fowler
Julie Fox-Ivey
Bob Fraser
David Gascoigne and Miriam Bauman
Nancy Gibson
Elaine, Dave, Ethan, Claire Gosnell
Grant Greenfield
Anita Hansen
Jo-Anne Harris
Doris & Dennis Hilker
Dale and Nina Ingrey
Marion Kelterborn
Marlene Krebs
Ruth Kroft
Elaine La Ronde
Jim and Joanne Lackenbauer
David and Ann Love
Faye and Curtiss MacDonald
Margaret and Graham Macdonald
April Morrissey
Doug and Su Morton
Toni Moutray
Daphne and Gord Nicholls
Marg Paré
Marilyn and Wil Prudham
Donald and Janet Roberts
Andrew Ryckman and Kaitlin Powers
Stephen Schaller
Jane Schneider
Tom Schneider
Linda Sloka
Deborah Sonogo
Roger and Petra Suffling
Deb and Ritch Swidrovich
Michelle and John Tomins
Julie Trip
Katharina Walton
David Westfall and Sandy & Jamie Hill
Judy Wyatt

**The Montgomery Fall Work Day held:
Friday October 24, 2014 9am – 11am
Marg Macdonald**

On a lovely sunny October day members of the Montgomery Committee gathered to spend a morning in the woods. Fraser Gibson, Jim Cappleman, Paul Bigelow, Ross Dickson, April Morrissey, Donna & Marco DeBruin, Marg and Graham Macdonald. Unfortunately Pat Bigelow and Lynda and Wayne Buck were unable to join us.

Every fall we do a property inspection and report on the condition of the Montgomery Property to the Board. This sets our direction for the following year. We organized into small work groups.

Paul Bigelow and Jim Cappleman set off to check and clear the trail of any debris. They were pleased to discover less debris than expected after this rainy and windy fall.

April and Marg walked the trail checking on the trail feature posts and whether the described features were still present. The features at Posts 3 and 6 have been gone for over a year. There are explanatory signs in place so that trail walkers will know that the feature is gone. By fall 2015 we will have new trail guides with new features for those 2 posts. Otherwise all posts were in good shape, the numbers clear and features present. We also ran across several caterpillars on the trail. Photographs taken reveal them to be Hickory Tussock Moth caterpillars, a new species for Montgomery.

The rest of the group went in to position a newly donated tarp over a patch of Periwinkle.

Boundary Markers were also checked. Fraser reported that #s 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 were present. There is no marker at #7 right by the river. They could not find #8. #1 is near the bridge abutment. It is marked by a surveyor's iron bar.

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! So we had a super day capped off with our customary juice and cookies – the energy to carry us for the rest of the day. A big "thank you" to all our tireless workers! We had fun.



**A Welcome Guest
Wayne Buck**

We had an unexpected guest show up and take up residency on our property this year. I don't know when or how it arrived, but I first noticed it in the wet meadow alongside our driveway in July. At first I thought it was one of the Great Angelicas that I had grown the year before from seeds we collected just down the road along the Nith River. But the stems were not as stout and not purple. When the white umbels of blossoms appeared I thought at first that it might be Black Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) but when I checked it out I could see it was clearly not that since the stems were herbaceous and green, unlike Elderberry which is woody.

So I went inside and brought out our Newcomb's Wildflower Field Guide. I thought it had to be one of the plants related to the Angelicas or the Hemlocks but I wanted to get it right since I knew that several members of this family are poisonous and we have grandchildren. I knew it wasn't Giant Hogweed or great Angelica. The leaves were once compound.

.....cont'd.....Wayne Buck – A Welcome Guest

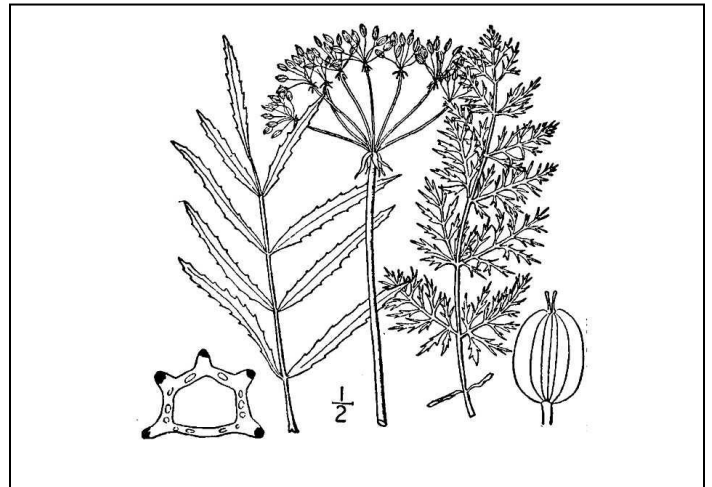
The flower was white and about 20 cm across, resembling an umbrella. I determined that it was Water Parsnip, (*Sium suave* Walter). The flowers look similar to Queen Anne's Lace, being white and shaped like an inverted saucer. Water Parsnip can stand 2-6 ft. tall; ours was about 5 ft. It grows in moist to wet conditions in full sun.

When it was finished blooming, I removed the flower head to prevent it from spreading into our wet meadow. I did the same for the Great Angelica. I like having a variety of native plants that are indigenous to the area in which we live but I want to control their numbers.

Wikipedia tells us; "Water parsnip and water hemlock both have cluster of small white flowers shaped like umbrellas, and both have the same habitat near the shore line of lakes, and rivers. Water parsnip has leaves only once compound, and water hemlock has leaves which are three times compound. Water hemlock has a large swelling at the stem base. All water hemlock is highly poisonous. Water parsnip is not poisonous."

I left it growing there since it is a native plant and is found locally and that's what we're after. I did, however deadhead it so as to be able to control the spread of it. I did the same with the Great Angelica.

You may recall that The Region of Waterloo partnering with The Waterloo Stewardship Council undertook the removal of the Red Pine plantation at Drynan and the restoration of a natural area in its place. On a visit in October, Pat Deacon and Larry Lamb found 2 specimens of Poison Sumac growing where none had been reported before. This is a plant that can cause blistering of the skin etc. if encountered. Watch for it and avoid it! I love Lamb's enjoiner; "It makes Poison Ivy look like skin so soft!". Lamb reasoned that the removal of the pines caused the water table to rise, showing the amount of water they were pulling out of the soil, making the conditions more favorable for this species. Poison sumac is not a stranger to the area. It is found in the wet area of the nearby Sudden Tract and in the now overgrown Dendrology Trail. Ken, Fraser and I saw it there while snowshoeing in the area last winter.



Water Parsnip – Image courtesy of USDA
<http://plants.usda.gov/java/>

OF BIRDS AND MEN

Dale J. Ingrey

And yet another year is coming to a close. I suddenly noticed that the barn swallows, song and Savannah sparrows that have spent the summer darting over the fields near the Stork Family Y are nowhere to be seen. I should have known this before now, but I've been distracted by the osprey pair that set up house on top of a hydro tower at the far end of the field. They too are now gone, along with their two offspring, no longer flying the skies between Laurel Creek Reservoir and Columbia Lake, their two fishing spots. There's still lots of water in the reservoir and Columbia Lake and there are still a few flying insects around in spite of the cool nights, however both the ospreys and the swallows have a long way to go to their wintering grounds and can't afford to stay too long in our area.

Moreover the kinglets, both golden-crowned and ruby-crowned, white-crowned and white-throated sparrows have now moved through on their way south, a sure sign of colder weather to come. Do the birds move because of the shortening days or do they instinctively know that cold weather will soon be here to stay? There's still a plentiful supply of berries for robins and waxwings, and the goldfinches will actually stay all winter, perhaps to be joined by redpolls and crossbills who move down our way when the crop of pine and spruce cones up north is sparse. Predictions are that we will not see an irruption of northern finches this year though, owing to the plentiful supply of coniferous cones in Northern Ontario. Regardless of the reason—shorter days or instinct for survival—most of our summer visitors have either gone or soon will be gone. Thankfully, some of our feathered friends will tough it out all winter just as we Canadians will, well most of us anyway. Some Canadians, like my cousin Larry and

.....cont'd next page

.....**cont'd Of Birds and Men**

his wife Lorraine, will spend the winter in Florida. Others, like my friend Ron and his wife Margaret, will spend the entire year in Mexico, having decided last year that it made sense to move to a warmer climate permanently and thereby avoid all Canadian seasons even the warmer ones.

Meanwhile, I'll feed the cardinals, chickadees, goldfinches, house finches, juncos, mourning doves, nuthatches and tree sparrows, as well as the various woodpeckers who choose to continue their struggle for survival here in Canada. It is a special treat when the beautiful red bellied woodpecker swoops in to consume a few seeds at one of my box feeders. Only the raucous blue jays cause more of a commotion when they scatter their smaller brethren during their frequent forays. Of course this doesn't compare to the frantic fluttering of wings and the cacophony of alarm calls that accompany the attack from above when the Cooper's Hawks discover the doves placidly biding their time at the feeders or on the ground. These consummate hunters and their smaller cousins, the sharp shinned hawks don't always manage to catch their prey, however they succeed enough times to survive all the same. I sometimes wonder if I'm upsetting the balance of nature by providing seed for overwintering birds, and the local colony of squirrels that feed along with the birds. Maybe all this wildlife, both avian and mammalian, should have to fend for themselves, as their country cousins do. But then, why not give them a helping hand to improve their chances of surviving until spring when their migratory counterparts return to compete for food and territory?

As the long Canadian winter trudges slowly toward the soothing rains of April and the spirit lifting sun of May, I'll count the days until those departed ospreys, swallows and sparrows return to their summer homes to grace us once again with their presence, and to remind us that as winter eventually gives way to spring the land comes back to life. Meanwhile those daily visitors to my feeders provide much delight and occasional drama as I wait.

**Waterloo Stewardship Council
Neil E. Taylor**

This is a brief report to update the KWFN members of some of the highlights of recent activities and some future plans. Once again, I sincerely invite suggestions, comments, etc. from the KWFN. I sincerely believe that as a representative to the WSN for the KWFN, there should be a two-way communication.

Project Reports:

Waynco Prairie: The teasel has been sprayed. Seeds were gathered and spread. This is a very successful project and the efforts very worthwhile. Future activities will involve the collection and dispersal of Seeds, particularly blue stem.

Branchton Prairie: This project is more disappointing although the site has a grand display of goldenrods and aster. The scarified area shows no regrowth of suckers.

The Kyle Property Prairie: Grasses are everywhere and will self-seed in the area, however there is a grant for buying seed from the MNR Habitat Stewardship Program.

Seed: Graham Buck has access to big blue stem/little blue stem on his half-acre property. Embers of the WSC will try to harvest these in October subject to weather, and then spread grasses at prairie areas. It is intended to explore other sources of seed, e.g. GRCA, St. Williams, etc.

Drynan Plaques: Josh Shea will check his list of members of the WSC not yet recognized.

Drynan Tract: 25% regeneration of various plants has been successful. Natural regeneration of oak and cherry has taken place however, a couple of poison sumac need to be removed. Albert Hovingh of the Region will attend to this. Part of boundary has no fence, but there were no signs of cattle. Buckthorn, unfortunately, is doing too well.

Doon Management Forest: Signage was not completely, however, it is hoped that these may be obtained from the MNR Office in Guelph. Again, buckthorn is a problem. Members of the WSC will conduct a site visit in October, with the intent of making suggestions which may include some tree planting in specific areas.

Community Environmental Fund: A letter of thanks and a report will be sent to the Region

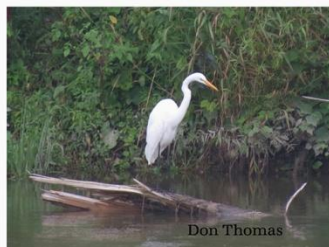
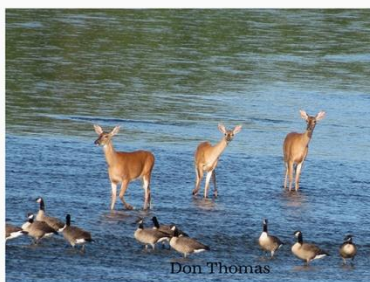
GRCA Update: The Rural Water Quality Program is in its 18th year. It is very unusual for a program to last this long. Funds are now available for restoration of meadow land. The GRCA is establishing wildflower demonstration plots at some nature centres. The hydro right of way next to GRCA HQ is to become demo project on meadow species.



Montgomery Wildlife Area



Images submitted by members





Our optics are worth looking into!

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

"Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialists"
•Birdfood•Feeders•Baths•Field Guides•Gifts



951 Gordon St. Guelph
519-821-BIRD(2473)
www.guelph.wbu.com



CONESTOGO BIRD FEED

4003 Line 73
RR 1 Newton ON N0K 1R0

1-519-595-7587

Manufacturers of Quality Wild Bird Mixes
Over 100 styles of Bird Feeders
Droll Yankee, Aspects, Duncraft, Audubon
And more

Also at St. Jacobs Farmers Market

Now at the Stratford Farmers Market

Fall Sale Last 3 weeks in November

**Dan Frei &
Wende Gregory-Frei**
Sales Representatives



Serving K-W area for over 35 years

Office 519 747-2040
Home 519 454-8033 Cell 519 588-8460
Email danfrei@royalleepage.ca

.....continued

Waterloo Stewardship Council Neil E. Taylor

Envirothon: Josh Shea has had dialogue with the UW (Ecology Lab) about reestablishing the Envirothon for secondary students in region.

New opportunity: Neil Taylor has a friend who has 120 acres north of St. Agatha that is available for projects. GRCA has done some replanting/windbreaks there, but more space is available.

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.
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](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.

"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 three
times per year. Please see
page 2 for details.

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](http://www.kwfn.ca/newsletter
.html)

Advertising Rates for The Heron:

Advertisement Size	Per issue	Full year 3 issues)
Full Page	\$200	\$520
Half Page	\$100	\$ 260
Quarter Page	\$ 50	\$ 130
One-tenth Page (business card)	\$ 25	\$ 65

The Kitchener-Waterloo Field
Naturalists
Is a member of Ontario Nature.
[http://www.ontarionature.org/ind
ex.php](http://www.ontarionature.org/ind
ex.php)