



The Heron

Winter 2015

Visitors Welcome

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

Upcoming Speaker:

Join us November 23 for a mini-
presentation from Evergreen's Susie
Turner, and a silent auction
featuring a variety of items from the
old facility

See pg. 14 & 15 for more info

Don't forget
about the
venue change!

Have you
renewed your
WRN
membership?

The Haunting Call of the Crane

By Ken Dance

The February 1957 issue of the KWFN newsletter contained an article by Robert (Bob) Pickering regarding a trip to Northern Michigan in 1955 and his first in a life-time sighting of Sandhill Cranes. Bob was a very active birder but had not seen these magnificent birds in Ontario.

Fortunately the Sandhill Crane population in the Eastern Flyway has increased dramatically in the last 30 years. After expending considerable effort during the June to October period in 2015, Janet and I have encountered numerous Sandhill Cranes in suitable habitat in Brant and Oxford Counties and in the Region of Waterloo. I'm convinced that there are numerous more breeding pairs than we were able to detect.

Fall staging and migrant numbers are considerable, with the Bannister Lake wetland hosting over 60 Sandhill Cranes on several dates in 2015.

According to ebird data, Luther Marsh, near the

headwaters of the Grand River, also provides a staging/migration habitat for over 100 Sandhill Cranes.



Juvenile Sandhill Crane. Photo by J. Dance

It's such a pleasure to listen to and view these amazing birds. They can also be considered a key indicator of environmental quality, since they require both undisturbed wetland and terrestrial habitats to nest and rear their young successfully.

Continued on pg.8

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Heron Editor

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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

Regular Meetings begin at 7:30pm. Doors open at 7pm.

All parking is **FREE**.

All parking access is off Dupont Street.



Share Your Gift

As a child, I grew up in rural Nova Scotia where I played in the stream, built forts in the woods, threw rocks at ducks (yes I admit to that... ☹️), created make-believe adventures and simply spent time outside interacting in some way or another with natural surroundings. It was these experiences combined with the encouragement and support of parents, grandparents, family members and people within Waterloo Region Nature (WRN) that I developed my own environmental ethic and now find myself working as a professional in the field and current president of our club. If you were to ask one of your fellow WRN members about their childhood, you are likely to hear similar stories, perhaps with talk about life on a farm, time spent outside, a person in their lives who cared enough to take them camping or was around to provide them with an outdoor nature experience that has had a lasting effect.

We unfortunately live in a world that is dominated by urbanization where it is even harder to enjoy nature. A lack of free time is becoming commonplace and interactions with our own species are occurring more frequently between screens than in person. It has even been suggested that our younger generations are suffering from nature deficit disorder and spending more time indoors where they are missing out on the essential experiences and nature connections that many of us are so fortunate to have. This affliction could easily be found in most members of our society, not just younger generations.

As naturalists, or people who have an affinity for the outdoors and an appreciation for the natural world, we have both a gift and a responsibility. Our gift is our time and our interest in the natural world. Our responsibility is to share this gift with someone else in our community by helping to provide them with their own nature moment and outdoor experience. You may choose to share your moment with someone in your family like a child, grandchild, niece or nephew or you could take a co-worker or friend. Regardless of who you choose, the experience doesn't have to take a great deal of time and will not require expert skills in nature identification or knowledge of natural history. The location can be anywhere you like but should try to include one of your favourite nature spots such as a nearby stream, local forest or overgrown field. From here, you can allow nature to do the rest. I have personally been the recipient of many of these gifts and have spent countless hours in the company of others who share a common interest in nature.

The simplicity of being outdoors and your gift of time is enough to help create that spark and long-term difference in someone's life. I encourage you to help champion this environmental change by supporting and encouraging others in their personal discovery of nature. A simple invitation and gesture can go a long way in creating a community that values, appreciates and understands the natural world. This is something that I am sure we would all want to see happen and would believe is a worthy cause for our time. After all, it is still the season of giving and the gift of nature discovery is one gift that will forever live on.

-Josh Shea

Consider nominating someone in our club or greater community for a WRN Conservation Award. Or, nominate one of your fellow WRN members for a Lifetime membership. More details available, see Josh for more information.



Here's a new batch of outings to enjoy this winter! Remember to check for an all-member email the day of the outing in case of cancellation for weather or other circumstances.

To offer a future outing, contact Marg Paré at outings@waterlooregionnature.ca. For more information on a specific outing, please contact the outing leader.

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 below

Leader: John Pries, 519-574-8550 , john.h.pries@gmail.com

Description:

Our property is located adjacent to the Conestogo River about 3 km west of St. Jacobs. It hosts a range of wildlife and has places to sit and enjoy the surroundings 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 Café/Bakery 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 e-mail me first, there is a better chance I can join you if you want a tour or some company on your walk. Or, if you drive by and the OPEN sign is up, just stop in. Please note that the Café/Bakery is open year round but will be closed for a few weekends in January.

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

Leaders: Marco & Donna DeBruin 519-658-5372

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.

Niagara Area Gulls**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2015**Time:** 8:00 a.m.**Location:** Carpool lot at 401 and Homer Watson Blvd. / Fountain St.**Duration:** All dayLeaders: The Burrell's Jim: 519-699-4695 burrellsc@golden.net*Description:*

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 2015

Kitchener — Saturday, December 19, 2015

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

Cambridge — Sunday, December 20, 2015

Contact Levi Moore, levicmoore1@gmail.com

Linwood — Monday, December 28, 2015

Contact Ken Burrell, kenneth.gd.burrell@gmail.com**Wellesley Raptors****Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2016**Time:** 8:30 a.m.**Location:** Beechwood Plaza (corner closest to Erb & Fisher-Hallman)**Duration:** We should be finished by noon.Leaders: The Burrell's Jim: 519-699-4695 burrellsc@golden.net*Description:*

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.

Winter Tree Identification**Date:** Saturday, January 23, 2016**Time:** 10:00 a.m.**Location:** Lancaster Business Park Trail - We will meet at the parking lot approximately 400 m north of the KW Humane Society on Riverbend Drive**Duration:** 1-2 hours

Leader: Chris Robinson crob_starr@hotmail.com 226-751-2588
RSVP appreciated but not necessary.

Description:

We will wander the trail along the Grand River identifying trees and shrubs by their winter features — anything but the leaves! Participants should wear warm clothing and bring any guides that they feel might be useful.

Exploring Nature in Winter by Snowshoe**Date:** Saturday, January 30, 2016**Time:** 10:00 a.m.**Location:** *rare* ECO Centre, 768 Blair Rd, Cambridge (the Slit Barn)**Duration:** 2 hours

Host: Jenna Quinn 519-650-9336 ext.111 jenna.quinn@raredsites.org
RSVP welcome but not necessary.

Description:

Come out for a fun winter adventure and snowshoe some of the trails at *rare*. Snowshoes will be provided for those who do not have their own. First time? You aren't alone! Come give it a try. We will look for animal tracks and enjoy the scenic winter landscape. Dress for the weather! If there is not enough snow, we will hike instead.

Kingston Area Raptors**Date:** Saturday, February 20, 2016**Time:** 8:30 a.m.**Location:** The ferry dock in Millhaven, Ontario**Duration:** All day

Leader: The Burrell's Jim: 519-699-4695 burrellsc@golden.net

Description:

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.

HAVE AN OUTING SUGGESTION?

Contact Marg Paré 519-585-2377 h 519-500-3450 c
outings@waterlooregionnature.ca

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

Long Point Area Migrants**Date:** Saturday, March 12, 2016**Time:** 8:00 a.m.**Location:** Carpool lot at 401 and Homer Watson Blvd. / Fountain St.**Duration:** All dayLeader: The Burrell's Jim: 519-699-4695 burrellsc@golden.net*Description:*

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.

North Shore of Lake Ontario**Date:** Saturday, March 19, 2016**Time:** 8:00 a.m.**Meeting Place:** The commuter parking lot on Highway 6, just south of Highway 401**Duration:** All dayLeader: David Gascoigne theospreynest@sympatico.ca
519 725-0866 Cell: 226 747-7299*Description:*

We will start our day at LaSalle Park in Burlington where the largest concentration of Trumpeter Swans in Ontario will be present, in addition to a whole range of gulls and other waterfowl. A walk along the boardwalk through the wooded area might yield Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, woodpeckers, sparrows and for those who enjoy doing it, a chance to hand feed Black-capped Chickadees. Eastern Screech Owl is possible. Many other common passerines should be seen.

Our next stop will be at Sioux Lookout Park which for many years has been my most reliable location for Long-tailed Ducks at close range. The water is very clear and the ducks can be seen "flying" underwater. Large rafts of Common Goldeneye are usually present, by now well into their entertaining courtship routine. All three scoters are possible as are Red-breasted and Common Mergansers, Bufflehead, Mute Swans and others.

We will proceed eastwards along the lake, stopping at various points (e.g. Paletta Park, Bronte Harbour, Lakeshore Promenade) being guided by recent reports and the time of day. Somewhere along the way we hope to encounter Red-necked Grebe and possibly Horned Grebe.

There is no shortage of washroom stops along this route and we will stop somewhere to have lunch together. This is a full day's outing so be sure to pack a lunch and snacks if you need them. Dress according to the weather, bring binoculars, a field guide and lots of enthusiasm.

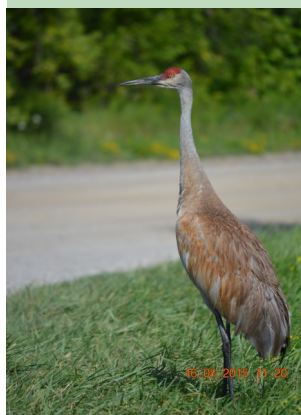
Here is a link to the account of a previous trip to this area: <http://www.travelswithbirds.blogspot.ca/2013/03/kitchener-waterloo-naturalists-field.html>

Check your email and the WRN website for future event updates, including the Great Backyard Bird Count!

The Haunting Call of the Cranes

continued from page 1

These cranes appear to be quite adaptable to integrating into the human-dominated landscape. Apparently they will feed on handouts from humans at recreational resorts in



Adult Sandhill Crane.
Photo by K. Dance

Florida. In Illinois, a recent study found that Sandhill Cranes can nest adjacent to “urban” development. Unfortunately, some cranes were found killed by motor vehicles. During our 2015 outings we saw near collisions between cranes and cars, trucks and a bicycle. In these instances, the adults were walking

young from wetland, across a road to upland foraging habitat. We also observed several instances of overzealous photographers distracting the cranes while on roadways, with the result that approaching vehicles posed another complication for the cranes to address while watching out for the safety of their young. Despite the hazards, Sandhill Crane populations are increasing locally and throughout their range in Ontario. So if you are like Bob Pickering and want to check off Sandhill Crane on your Ontario bird list, the odds are much better now than they were in 1955. Keep watching and listening, since their calls can be detected over a range of 4km. Good luck in your searches for this inspiring bird.
Ken Dance Tel: 519-463-6156

Plug Planting at Waynco (HWY 24) Prairie

By Wayne Buck

On Sunday, Sept. 13, 2015, 13 volunteers from various organizations, including WRN, arrived at the Waynco Prairie site to plant plugs of prairie species known to be growing at the site. Seven of the volunteers were members of the organizing group, Waterloo Stewardship Council. Four of these are also members of WRN, namely, Pat Deacon, Josh Shea, Larry Lamb and Wayne Buck.

Two people from WRN who assisted in this planting were Genie Berger and Ian Laing. Four others were partners or family members of WSC members, namely Victoria and Alyssa. All the help from the aforementioned was greatly appreciated.

We also appreciated the cooperation of the manager of the aggregate site, Dean Neuman, for allowing us access to private land that includes the prairie E.S.A. on a Sunday when there are no operations and the gates are closed. The event was coordinated by WSC member, Pat Deacon who is a self-confessed prairie nut.

About 1400 plugs were planted in about 2 hours. The thick overlay of alien grass made the task somewhat challenging. Planters used a variety of implements to open the soil, including, dibbers of varying sizes, trowels, spades and shovels. The plugs are tapered from wider at the top to narrow at the bottom so they slide nicely into the opened

sod making contact with the surrounding soil which encourages root growth.

The plugs were grown at Nith River Native Plant nursery from seed whose parents had originally come from this site. This is an important measure to ensure continuation of the genotype of the plants that have been growing at this site for thousands of years rather than introducing genes from seeds of plant that may have grown thousands of kilometres away. Only plants that have been actually found to be growing at the site are being planted. No new or different species have been introduced to keep the restoration authentic. The field was used for agricultural purposes for the past 150 yr. up until about 30 yr. ago when it became an E.S.A. Only a thin ribbon of prairie species remained along the long abandoned rail line that ran along the bottom of the slope. It was from this seed bank that plants continued to grow, and, helped by knowledgeable volunteers such as Larry Lamb, spread slowly eastward into the formerly agricultural area. Planting plugs and broadcasting seed collected at the site has speeded up the reintroduction of prairie species back into the field. In addition 4 prescribed burns have also been conducted at the site to speed up the reintroduction of fire-loving prairie species over the past 10 years.

Beebalm: *Monarda didyma*

By Wayne Buck

I was walking in a nearby forest at the beginning and was not sure of just where in the forest I was. I knew I had travelled east and north but had never been in this part of the forest before. There were a few logging trails and a couple of horse trails but they crisscrossed and went who knew where. Through the undergrowth I could see something reddish; probably some species of flowers I thought. I secretly hoped that they would turn out to be Michigan Lilies; sometimes referred to incorrectly as Turk's Cap Lilies which are a completely different species that are not even found in this area. It's getting harder to find Michigan Lilies since the Introduction of the Asian Lily Beetles that eat them voraciously. I was looking for the lilies just the previous week along our creek that joins the Nith River a couple of kilometres east of our place. Lilies used to grow in several places along the creek; all gone. We had a few patches on our property grown from the seeds of these individuals. They, too, are mostly gone; the leaves and petals eaten year after year by these pests until the bulbs just ran out of energy. But I digress.



Monarda didyma.
Photo by W. Buck

As I got closer I was able to see that the flowers were not in fact, Michigan Lilies, but were instead, Beebalm, the native species, the red one, *Monarda didyma*.

There were hundreds of them. I have been hoping to find this species for years and had seen it only once before while looking for ferns in Stamm's Woods with Fraser Gibson. I went back looking for it several times but was never able to locate it again. This population of several hundred plants was growing in a sunny opening in a low damp spot that was surrounded by the mature, tall Maple-beech forest.



Close up of Monarda didyma, Beebalm.
Photo by W. Buck

To say I was thrilled would not begin to describe my excitement.

This is the type of habitat in which the native species of Beebalm prefers to grow; moist open woods, meadows, stream banks. The leaves have a minty smell when crushed and is sometimes used to make teas, giving rise to another name for this plant; Oswego Tea.

You can purchase many different horticultural varieties from nurseries in almost every colour of the rainbow; red, mauve, etc. that have been bred to grow in almost any garden setting, but they are not the native species. You can also find a close relative of *Monarda didyma*, *Monarda fistulosa*, also called Beebalm or Wild Bergamot growing in drier, sunny meadows and fields. This species has a very distinct odour that you will easily detect when you walk through it or rub the leaves between your fingers. Pollinators love both species! I constantly see bees harvesting the nectar and pollen in the many patches that we have on our property. Hummingbirds are strongly attracted to the red colour of *M. didyma* making it a favourite of many gardeners. The name Beebalm comes from its use by early settlers to soothe bee stings. Native Americans used the plant for many different medical conditions.

Membership Directors' Report

By Carol Foxall

The email addresses requested 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, meeting reminders, membership renewal notices, etc. If your email address changes please notify the membership director.

At the bottom of every email you receive from us are links that allow you to opt out of receiving any emails or just specific categories of emails – for example those related to outings. To opt out of receiving anything, click on the 'unsubscribe from this list' link. To opt out of specific types of emails click on the 'update subscription preferences' link. An 'Update your preferences' page will then appear. Uncheck the email types you do not wish to receive.

Welcome New Members!

Michael & Lynda Allard
 Anne Crowe & Ian Davis
 Kate Dalgleish & Mark Prociw
 Tara Innes & Michael Waite
 Josh Pickering
 Susan & Mike Youngson
 Teresa Zvonar

Thank You Donors!

Lynn Conway and Alex White
 Janet and Ken Dance
 Marco and Donna DeBruin
 Margaret Dickson
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 Mark Dorfman
 Bob Fraser
 Dale and Nina Ingrey
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 Josh Shea and Jill Marshall
 Margaret "Meg" Slater
 Stephanie Sobek-Swant
 Diana and John Spearn
 Lori and James Strothard
 Roger and Petra Suffling
 Michelle and John Tomins
 David Westfall and Sandy & Jamie Hill
 Susan & Mike Youngson

Recommended for you...

Have you watched or read something nature related that you think fellow WRN club members might enjoy? Send to editor@waterlooregionnature.ca and it may be included in the next newsletter!

"This a great little movie clip proving how connected everything is in Nature. Not long and well worth watching."

https://www.youtube.com/embed/ysa5OBhXz-Q?feature=player_embedded

...by Anne Morgan

WRN and Community Awards

Janet Ozaruk was presented with the very prestigious Honorary Life Membership Award at the April 2015 meeting. The award is presented for outstanding personal service to WRN over a long period of time. Janet's contributions are extensive and varied and include serving two terms for a total of 7 years on the Board, one year as president, being one of three members who revived the long dormant Young Naturalists Club, assembling a flora and fauna species list for the Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary and acting as the chair of the organizing committee for the 2006 Ontario Nature's Annual Conference and AGM hosted by KWFN. Her numerous other contributions were also highlighted at the presentation ceremony.



Honorary Life Membership recipient Janet Ozaruk with from left to right: Mary Ann Vanden Elzen, Fraser Gibson and Marg Macdonald. Photo by: M. Bauman

Congratulations Janet!



Josh Shea (centre), president of Waterloo Region Nature receives a 2015 Watershed Award from GRCA CAO Joe Farwell (left) and Chair Jane Mitchell (right).

Photo: Grand River Conservation Authority

Waterloo Region Nature has received a Watershed Conservation Award from the Grand River Conservation Authority. On October 15th, WRN president Josh Shea attended the GRCA award ceremony and accepted the honour on behalf of the club.

The Watershed Conservation Award recognizes our longstanding effort in protecting and enhancing the natural heritage of the Grand River Watershed.

Congratulations to WRN on receiving a 2015 GRCA Conservation Award!

A slideshow of the club's highlights can be viewed on the grandriverca YouTube channel, found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8eCw6_LNMHc

Ontario Nature Report

By Fraser Gibson

Endangered Species Lawsuit Update

by Caroline Schultz, Executive Director of Ontario Nature



In mid September the Ontario Court of Appeal granted Ontario Nature and Wildlands League, represented by Ecojustice lawyers, leave to appeal a lower court ruling that put endangered and threatened species at further risk of disappearing from the province. The original decision upheld exemptions of many major industries such as forestry from the protection of the Endangered Species Act.

We are delighted with this decision as it marks the first time environmental groups have won the right to appeal a case about endangered species and indicates that the court has deemed this case to be of importance to the people of Ontario.

Our grounds for appeal were: (1) by exempting most major industries, the Ontario's exemption regulation is inconsistent with the act's central purpose of protecting at-risk species and their habitat; and (2) the Minister of Natural Resources failed to assess the adverse effects on each of the Individual species for which the regulation would deny legal protection.

We will not stand down and watch exemptions undermine what was once a gold standard act. It's a matter of survival for more than 150 of our most vulnerable species.

Feds Urged to Protect Wild Bees

Five environmental groups are pressing the federal Minister of the Environment to list four wild bee species under the Species at Risk Act(SARA). Listing these bees is the crucial — and overdue — first step in protecting them from threats to their survival and recovery, including the use of harmful neonicotinoid pesticides.

"The Minister has a legal obligation to list these essential wild pollinators under SARA," said Lara Tessaro, Ecojustice lawyer. "We need to ensure that wild bees are protected from threats to their survival, including neonicotinoid pesticides, habitat loss, diseases, and climate change."

On behalf of the Wilderness Committee, David Suzuki Foundation, Equiterre, Friends of the Earth and Ontario Nature, Ecojustice lawyers are urging immediate action.

"These wild bees desperately need help now," said Gwen Barlee, Policy Director for the Wilderness Committee. "Even though the writ has dropped, the federal government's responsibility for species doesn't grind to a halt. Just as the criminal code applies during the writ period so does the Species at Risk Act."



Nature Network News

Ontario Nature publishes a monthly Nature Network Newsletter from which I draw material for the Heron. If you wish to see each entire Ontario Nature newsletter they are posted in the Notices section of the WRN website.

WRN Outings: Photo Gallery



Tree Hike with Fraser Gibson; photos by P. Bigelow



Montgomery Work Day; photos by P. Bigelow



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Outing to Schneider's Woods; photo by H. Russell

Upcoming Speakers and Meeting Programs

NOVEMBER

November 23, 2015

Mini-presentation: Evergreen Foundation – Susie Turner

The Presentation: Evergreen is a national non-profit founded in 1991 with a vision of inspiring action to green cities and reconnect people in urban areas with nature. Both a source of funding as well as an initiator of projects across the country, efforts cover four project areas: Food, Greenspace, Children and City Works. In Waterloo Region, the organization has been at work for a number of years through school ground greening projects and grants for community greening projects. Now connecting with past grant recipients like **rare Charitable Research Reserve** and REEP Green Solutions to further support their work on the ground.

The Presenter: Susie Turner is a recent graduate of the Wilfrid Laurier Global Studies program. Evergreen local project coordinator. Naturalist at Awenda Provincial Park for two years, interested in outdoor education, spending time outdoors, and working to support environmental and social justice initiatives in the community. Volunteered with Young Naturalists last season, and have attended a few Waterloo Nature outings.

Silent Auction (bids from members only please): Everything but the kitchen sink – almost – found in the storage cupboards at our previous facility, is offered in this silent auction. From trash to treasures, take your pick. Cash and carry only.



DECEMBER

December 7, 2015

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Monday, December 7, 2014 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Come and take part in this annual informal get together, for an enjoyable time with old friends and new.

Please bring either appetizers or desserts to share.

Remember, you'll need too bring your own mug, plate, utensils and cloth or paper napkin for environmentally friendly munching.

Fair trade bird-friendly, shade grown coffee will be provided, as well as tea and punch.



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 **before December 1**, at 519-740-2797 or email at gberger@rogers.com

Everyone is welcome!

JANUARY

January 25, 2016

Exploring Australia - Anne & Alan Morgan



The Presentation: Anne and Allen will share their recent discoveries while travelling Down Under. Enjoy their summertime recent explorations, in contrast with our winter weather.

The Presenters: Anne Morgan - Retired Assistant Professor, Biology, University of Waterloo, and horticulture judge and master gardener, retired. Active passionate gardener and environmentalist, member of WRN. Anne carried out collaborative research with her husband, Alan.

Alan V. Morgan - Professor Emeritus, Quaternary Geology and Paleontology, University of Waterloo. In addition to his many professional achievements and awards, Alan is known to our members as an interesting and informative speaker.

FEBRUARY

February 22, 2016

Ontario's True North - Mike Burrell

The Presentation: Many Ontario naturalists are familiar with the vast taiga of northern Ontario, but most forget that our province extends beyond the boreal forest to the salt marshes and tundra of the Hudson Bay Lowlands. Over the past several years Mike has had the opportunity to work (and play) in some of Ontario's real north. Come hear about his experiences and see the amazing landscapes, plants and wildlife that call it home.

The Presenter: Mike grew up in the KW area and inherited a love of nature from his parents. He has helped lead many trips for the club and has coordinated the Kitchener CBC since 2007. Mike is very involved with the Ontario birding community and currently works for Bird Studies Canada on several projects including the Important Bird Areas Program, Christmas Bird Counts, and eBird Canada. Mike now lives outside of Kingston with his wife Erica.

MARCH

March 28, 2016

The Year with No Summer - Roger Suffling

The Presentation: April 5th 1815, was a momentous time. Yes, Napoleon was defeated outside of Moscow and the War of 1812 was winding to a close, but the explosion of Krakatoa volcano in what is now Indonesia was much bigger! - The largest explosive eruption in 10,000 years, two human cultures completely obliterated, 4 cu Km of dust liberated to the atmosphere. The dust circled the globe up to the arctic, causing ecological disruption and human famines, especially in 1816, "The Year with No Summer". Roger will outline how the tragedy unfolded, with particular reference to the forests of Northern Ontario.

The Presenter: Roger Suffling is a WRN club member and an adjunct professor at the University of Waterloo. He has spent much of the last 45 years conducting field work and resource planning activities in Northern Ontario, including examination of the Hudson's Bay Company Records dating from the early 19th Century.

APRIL

April 25, 2016

All About Butterflies - Thelma Beaubien

The Presentation: Attracting butterflies to your garden, providing the plants to continue their life cycle and of course raising butterflies.

The Presenter: WRN member Thelma Beaubien is well known not only for her passion for butterflies, but also for her fabulous photography. Inspired by a presentation made by Anne Morgan, Thelma began creating her butterfly garden in 2008, transforming it into a butterfly magnet.



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Student (19+) \$25
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for youth (<18)
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Sept. to August; Memberships
1/2 price after January 31st
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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.

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

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