

**THIS ISSUE**

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**THE HERON****FALL 2016**

RECEPTION HALL  
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**WRN Kids Excursion to Point Pelee***By Karen Buschert***UPCOMING SPEAKER**

*Join us September 26th for a presentation  
 by Dr. Brock Fenton on the science &  
 mystery of bats!*

*See pg.12 for more details.*

**REMINDER**

*Don't forget to renew your WRN  
 Membership this fall!*

*See pg. 10 for ore details.*

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

*WRN is still looking for a Publicity  
 Director! If you are interested, email  
 vicepresident@waterlooregionnature.ca  
 for more information.*



*WRN members Josh Pickering and David Gascoigne spotted a Prothonotary Warbler on May 4 in a woodlot on the University of Waterloo campus. This discovery is only the second record ever for Waterloo Region, the last being in 1997. Photo: J. Pickering.*

On May 21, several families from WRN Kids headed down to Canada's Deep South (that'd be Pelee!) for our first overnight event. We stayed within the park at Camp Henry for a ridiculously inexpensive 2 nights thanks to a youth subsidy that the federal government offers to get young people in its parks. It worked. Our group was about 30 people, half children, half adults. Most of us arrived on Saturday afternoon, got settled and then headed to the visitor centre for a quick look around before hopping on the shuttle to go to the tip for a self-guided tour.

Almost immediately we were greeted by lots of Red-winged Blackbirds (this became a bit of a joke after a while...) but there was also a Rose-breasted Grosbeak and an Orchard Oriole high up in a tree. We saw lots of Baltimore Orioles too, plus a Kingbird or two, and lots of Yellow Warblers to name just a few. In the evening, we had a spectacular viewing of the American Woodcock, which did several 'courtship' flights high in the sky and hordes of people tried to trace it by pointing as it flew. We also saw swarms of gnats, which from a distance looked like smoke clouds. I don't know where all those insect-eating birds were but there was a bonanza for sure!

The following day, we went for a guided hike through the Woodland Trail and, for once, I got to take a back seat role and just let the park staff do the talking! The highlight of this event was the Prothonotary Warbler (repeat after me kids- 'Pro-tho-no-tary'). My 14 year old STILL can't pronounce it. Anyway, it made up for the fact that we didn't see the Great Horned Owlets or the red-morph Screech Owl that were also lurking nearby. We did see a female American Redstart on its nest very close to the path.

*Continued on page 14*

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**Submission  
Deadlines****Winter Issue:**

October 15th

**Spring Issue:**

February 15th

**Fall Issue:**

July 15th

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All WRN Club meetings are 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.



**Opportunities abound, join us in making them happen**

As I'm writing this article, summer is in full swing, school's out, and my daughter Cordelia and I are enjoying what we consider fun holiday adventures in our own backyard and all over the city. You don't always have to go far to enjoy nature, there is so much to discover right here in Waterloo Region. Cordelia kicked off vacation time with a visit to the Laurel Creek Nature Centre in the last weeks of school, and we've also been poking around the pond at *rare* many times to find tadpoles, frogs and dragonflies. We planted a garden with an abundance of plants that attract pollinators and birds, and bees and wasps are always welcome guests in the little "hotel" we set up on our front porch.

I'm glad to hear that our Waterloo Region Nature Kids program remains in popular demand, showing our youngest "members-to-be" the little wonders we can find around us. Cordelia can't wait to participate, and hopes we still offer an afternoon session when she's old enough so that it doesn't clash with her German school commitments. Giving kids the opportunity to participate and getting hands-on is what really matters if we want to preserve nature in our Region and ensure that our important work is carried into the future.

Much has been done in the past year alone that makes this possible, and of course WRN or individual club members do their best to leave a legacy that is inclusive for everyone, and that engages the community, young and old alike, in various activities around nature and the

environment. Just a few days ago, Cordelia went for a ride on a giant wooden Belted Kingfisher at Westmount Sports Park in Waterloo, and had a blast listening to David Gascoigne's interpretive bird panel that not only speaks in David's *real* voice, but plays the songs and sounds of 32 birds. As a special highlight, we were treated to a real-life display of a Red-tailed Hawk circling the sky above the sports fields. We are also lucky to live close to the Huron Natural Area which has a great new playscape and programs we enjoy, and no shortage of butterflies and birds to admire, including Indigo Buntings which are particularly popular with the youngsters in my family due to their beautiful color, which makes them look like "flying gemstones".

We are thankful to have these opportunities, and to be part of a great community that supports these projects and works together to create a sustainable future for the people who live here, and a great sense of place and belonging for everyone. I'm sure decades from now my daughter will look back at her days spent in nature as fond childhood memories, and I'm sure Waterloo Region Nature will be a big part of this.

Looking ahead, I'm excited about all the positive change we have seen in the past year already, most recently with the reveal of our new logo which I can't wait to see appear on our publications and signage. Thank you, John Baljkas, for listening so closely to what our club members envisioned and for creating a logo that highlights our traditional elements in a contemporary fashion. I'm sure that in the years to come, we will continue to carry on our valued traditions and rich history with a fresh spin, and will find many new ways to engage long-term and new members alike. What unites us all is the strong desire to make Waterloo Region, and our environment, the best place possible, with ecosystems protected and knowledge disseminated that enables people to think differently and do their part.

Continue to spread the word!

-Stephanie





We have some exciting outings for the fall! Check our website [waterlooregionnature.ca/activities](http://waterlooregionnature.ca/activities) and watch your e-mail for information about other future outings.

Send offers to lead an outing to Marg Paré at [outings@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:outings@waterlooregionnature.ca) anytime! For more information on a specific outing, please contact the outing leader.

### Outing FAQ

***Are outings for members only?***

It is okay 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. Check the outing description to see if an RSVP is preferred.

***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 is 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.

### Nature at RiverSong

**Date/Time:** Almost any Thursday, Friday or Saturday year-round during our café hours, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If the OPEN sign is up, stop in at the café then wander the property on your own. Accompanied walks can also be pre-arranged.

**Location:** RiverSong Banquet Hall, 632 Hawkesville Road, St. Jacobs

**Leader:** John Pries, 519-574-8550, [john.h.pries@gmail.com](mailto:john.h.pries@gmail.com)

***Description:***

Our property is located on the Conestogo River about 3km west of St. Jacobs. It hosts a range of flora and fauna that you can enjoy from seating areas or by walking the trails through various parts of the property. It's a great place for nature observation, photography, painting or relaxing in any season. The property has easily accessible areas as well as steeper trails so visitors may choose. Appropriate footwear is encouraged.

John will continue fall "turtle tours" to see the Snapping Turtles that nest on the property.

## Bird Banding Demonstration

**Date:** Saturday, August 27, 2016 (rain date August 28)

**Time:** Drop in anytime from 8 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**Meeting Place:** *rare* ECO Centre, 768 Blair Road, picnic table at end of parking lot

**Host:** Jenna Quinn 519-650-9336 ext.111 [jenna.quinn@raresites.org](mailto:jenna.quinn@raresites.org)

**Leader:** Kevin Grundy

### *Description:*

Banding birds has provided valuable information to researchers about bird ecology, migration routes and population dynamics. A group of volunteers led by Bird Bander Kevin Grundy has been banding birds during the spring and fall migrations at *rare* since 2008. Join us for a close-up look at what is involved in bird banding. Observe how the birds are captured and banded and what information is collected from each bird. You will have a unique opportunity to observe close-up some of the bird species that breed at *rare* or migrate through the property. Children are most welcome!

Accessibility: Some easy walking is optional; highly accessible for all ages. Washrooms available.

## Ferns in Stamm Woodlot

**Date:** Saturday, September 10, 2016

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. **Duration:** Approximately 2 hours

**Meeting Place:** Near the crosswalk into Stamm Woodlot at 550 Sandbanks Crescent, Waterloo

**Leader:** Fraser Gibson 519-576-9287 [fn.gib@sympatico.ca](mailto:fn.gib@sympatico.ca)

### *Description:*

Join Fraser on a walk through Stamm Woodlot, a beautiful hardwood bush on Waterloo's northern border. The focus of the outing will be learning to identify some of Waterloo Region's fern species. We should be able to find between 10 and 12 species on the property, some uncommon in the area. We'll be on the lookout for any other things of interest so bring your sharp eyes and curiosity. No RSVP required. No washrooms available. Footpaths are part of an established trail system.

## Pinery Provincial Park

**Date:** Sunday, September 11, 2016

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Meeting Place:** Parking lot of the Park Store

**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. The park also has a very informative Visitor Centre.

Most trails here are not too challenging but good hiking boots or shoes are recommended. As in much of southern Ontario, we also need to be aware of Black-legged (Deer) Ticks.

We plan to be camping in the park, so you will need to find your own way there. Park entrance fees will apply. Should you need to contact us on the previous day, try my cell 226-229-6978.

There is no planned rain date for this outing.



## The Big Sit

**Date:** Saturday, September 17, 2016

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. until sundown

**Meeting Place:** The culvert on Beaver Creek Road, Waterloo

**Leader:** Jim Burrell      519-699-4695      [burrellsc@golden.net](mailto:burrellsc@golden.net)

*Description:*

Meet at the culvert on Beaver Creek Road at the end of Laurel Creek Reservoir. Bring binoculars, lawn chair and something cool to drink (optional). We will sit until sundown and keep track of who/what flies in for the evening. No washrooms available.



## SpruceHaven

**Date:** Saturday, September 17, 2016

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Duration:** Approximately 3 hours

**Meeting Place:** 2005 Notre Dame Drive, St. Agatha, ON

**Leader:** David Gascoigne      519-725-0866      [theospreynest@sympatico.ca](mailto:theospreynest@sympatico.ca)

*Description:*

This will be an opportunity for participants to see the important work that is being done at the above farm as the owners of the property undertake significant environmental stewardship. For those who follow my blog ([www.travelswithbirds.blogspot.com](http://www.travelswithbirds.blogspot.com)) you will be aware of the work that has already been done, and we have exciting plans to further enhance the landscape for wildlife.

We have monitored, catalogued and banded an entire colony of Barn Swallows and the data will all be submitted to the appropriate interested parties. As you all know, aerial insectivores are in serious jeopardy and anything we can do to help them is good.

By mid-August we hope to have mist netting in operation on the weekends as we further attempt to catalogue the species diversity on the property. There is about twenty acres of mixed maple/beechness forest where we have installed nest boxes for various species and plan to erect more.

Dave Westfall and his sister, Sandy, welcome our involvement and all of the various skill sets we can jointly provide to this incipient nature preserve.

Please let me know if you plan to attend so that I can let Dave and Sandy know how many of us will be visiting.

## Cappleman Property– Managed Forest

**Date:** Wednesday, September 28, 2016

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.      **Duration:** 1.5 hours

**Location:** 2774 Sandhills Road, Baden

**Leader:** Jim Cappleman      519-634-9711

*Description:*

After learning what a managed forest is, we will take a walk through the woods and hills to observe how the forest is being managed to become a healthy forest with old growth characteristics. Hilly trails. Washrooms available.



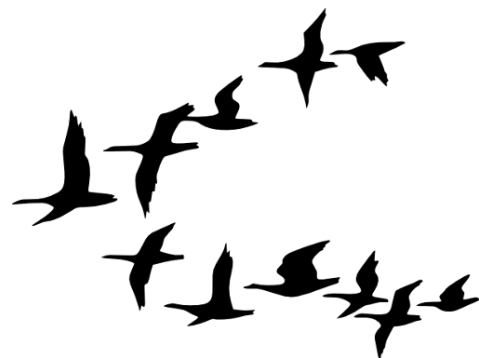
## Hawk Cliff and Environs

**Date:** Saturday, October 15, 2016

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. until mid afternoon

**Meeting Place:** Carpool lot at Fountain Street and 401, Cambridge

Leader: Jim Burrell 519-699-4695  
[burrellsc@golden.net](mailto:burrellsc@golden.net)



*Description:*

Meet at the carpool lot (Homer Watson Boulevard in Kitchener becomes Fountain Street in Cambridge at the 401). We will travel to the Port Stanley area on Lake Erie and look for fall migrants. Afterwards we will go to nearby Hawk Cliff and watch for migrating raptors. Bring binoculars, scopes, lawn chairs and lunch. We will return in the mid afternoon.

## Solar Home Tour at *rare's* North House

**Date:** Friday, November 18th

**Time:** 10:00-11:00 a.m.

**Location:** *rare's* North House, 681 Blair Road

Leader: Jenna Quinn 519-650-9336 x111  
[jenna.quinn@reresites.org](mailto:jenna.quinn@reresites.org)



*Description:*

North House is a solar-powered, green housing prototype that is used as a living lab by researchers and provides a science and technology site for *rare's* school programs. On this tour, explore many of the emerging technological advances and concepts of modern sustainable living showcased at North House, and learn the history of the house and how it found its way to *rare*. Washrooms available. Indoor event. RSVP welcome but not necessary.



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## HAVE AN OUTING SUGGESTION?

Contact Marg Paré

519-585-2377 h

519-500-3450 c

[outings@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:outings@waterlooregionnature.ca)

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



## Garlic Pull at Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary

By Wayne Buck



*Volunteers at the Garlic Mustard Pull.  
Photo by G. MacDonald*

On Friday, June 10, 2016, 16 brave volunteers wearing long sleeves and long pants despite being a warm day, slathered on insect repellent gathered up their plastic garbage bags, the same ones that had been used at the 2015 garlic pull, and headed into the interior of the WRN property known as the Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary. There were 5 volunteers from **rare**, the charitable foundation, and 11 WRN members which included 8 Montgomery committee members.

The Garlic Mustard plants were taller and more robust with more developed seed pods than in either of the 2 previous years. Whether this was due to a milder winter or a growing season that started earlier is anyone's guess. As plastic bags were filled, they were carried to a central location and emptied into larger yard waste bags which were compacted as tightly as possible. The 10 yard waste bags seemed to fill up more quickly than in either of the 2 previous pulls, whether due

to the increased size of the plants or the zeal of the volunteers. In any case we removed 244 lb. of garlic mustard which is close to the amounts pulled in the previous two years.

By 10:45 all of the yard waste bags had been filled so after each volunteer filled the plastic bag they had brought in initially, we went to see if we could find the location of the Green Dragon to check on how it was faring. After some searching, our **rare** director, Stephanie, spotted it. It looked to be very happy and growing well. In fact it was in full bloom with its yellow spathe looking very serpent-like. This was the first time several people had ever seen this rare relative of Jack in the Pulpit.

Then, we headed back to where the bags were waiting for us, and shouldering them, made the long trek back to the road. And it was long. Those bags were really heavy and awkward. But, once at the road, we were rewarded with cookies and a drink, standing and talking amicably about the day's adventures. After the prerequisite photo in front of the old truss bridge on Bridge St., the bags were loaded into the back of a waiting pickup to be trucked to the landfill on Erb St. where they would be composted far away from the interior of Montgomery.



*The elusive Green Dragon!  
Photo by M. MacDonald*

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## WRN Honours Local Environmentalists with Conservation Awards

*Reprinted from waterlooregionnature.ca*

In a brief ceremony on Monday, April 25th, Waterloo Region Nature announced the 2016 recipients of the regional Conservation Award, an award that acknowledges the contribution made by an individual, group, organization or corporation toward the conservation and preservation of the natural environment of Waterloo Region.

As part of the monthly gathering of the nature club, which counts over 200 members, two individual awards and one shared award were presented. The recipients each received a plaque and generous ovations for their accomplishments as ambassadors for environmental stewardship and advocacy in Waterloo Region.



Past president Josh Shea and Thelma Beaubien. Photo: P. Bigelow

One of the recipients, **Thelma Beaubien**, has created and organized several “Wonders of Nature” events across the Region, which encouraged families and approximately 500 individuals to get in touch with nature, most recently in partnership with the City of Kitchener. In addition, Beaubien has volunteered for butterfly monitoring in the Huron Natural Area, and also converted her yard into a haven for pollinators, creating learning opportunities in the community that feature the importance of butterflies and pollination.

**Deb Swidrovich** was honored for her leadership in various initiatives dealing with issues such as: invasive species, road development, and urban sprawl. In particular she was recognized for her involvement in the concerted effort to protect the Laurel Creek Watershed as an Environmentally Sensitive Landscape (ESL), during which she engaged local residents through open houses, presented at local

Fraser Gibson, Deb Swidrovich, and Marg MacDonald. Photo P. Bigelow



councils, and liaised with local politicians to ensure informed decision making.

**Michael Barnstijn** and **Louise MacCallum** received the award for their engagement as founding members of **rare Charitable Research Reserve**. Their vision to establish **rare** as a land trust and environmental institute was paramount to ensure that over 900 acres of land could be set aside for conservation, which so far is the largest contribution that has ever been made to land preservation in Waterloo Region by private individuals, for the community to enjoy.



Louise MacCallum, Michael Barnstijn, Josh Shea, and Shayne Sangster. Photo: P. Bigelow

Josh Shea, president of the club, remarked: “We are extremely fortunate to have such strong support for conservation efforts in this Region, and on behalf of all club and community members I am most thankful for your relentless energy and championship.”

The awards are celebrated annually, with nominations being accepted from October to December each year. Previous recipients include community leaders such as Kevin Thomason, who also was instrumental in the achievement of the Laurel Creek Headwaters ESL designation in 2006.

## Membership Director's Report

By Anne Godlewski

Hi everyone! As the new membership director at Waterloo Region Nature, I want to introduce myself and express how excited I am about taking on a bigger role in such a supportive organization. I get a sense of community when I attend club events, and I'm impressed at how actively engaged members are. I was a member in the past, and after a lapse of a few years, I became a member again in 2015. I'm a plant nerd myself and I've really been enjoying learning from those of you who are experts in other areas. I look forward to being your membership director over the next three years!

### Membership renewal notice

It's time to renew your Waterloo Region Nature membership for the 2016–2017 year.

You can now renew and pay for your membership on our new website! You do not need to sign up for any special accounts, and you can even choose to renew online and pay in person. Just go to [waterlooregionnature.ca](http://waterlooregionnature.ca), click the **Membership** tab, and then follow the prompts. Alternatively, you can fill out a printed membership form (which you can also obtain online) and bring it along with your payment to our September meeting. Please bring cash or a cheque written to Waterloo Region Nature.

If you have already renewed your 2016–2017 membership, please let us know by sending an email to [membership@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:membership@waterlooregionnature.ca) and we'll update our records.

**Thank you for supporting Waterloo Region Nature with your membership!**

### *Welcome, New Members!*

Judy Bender  
Linda Dutka  
Matt Dyson  
Jennifer McPhee  
Sandra Moores  
Jennifer Okum  
Sarah Piett  
Laura Robson  
Julie Scott  
Steffanie Scott  
Linda Southall

### *Thank You, Donors!*

Betty Cooper  
Margaret Dickson  
Linda Dutka  
Laura Robson

# **WANTED!**

## **KIDS FROM 7 TO 12 YEARS OLD WHO LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT NATURE!**

Registration is open now for Waterloo Region Nature Kids (formerly Young Naturalists) for 2016-2017. Have a look at our website

[wrnatureclub.wordpress.com](http://wrnatureclub.wordpress.com)

to find out all the details and to sign up and then join us in September at Laurel Creek Nature Centre for a monthly outdoor learning adventure!

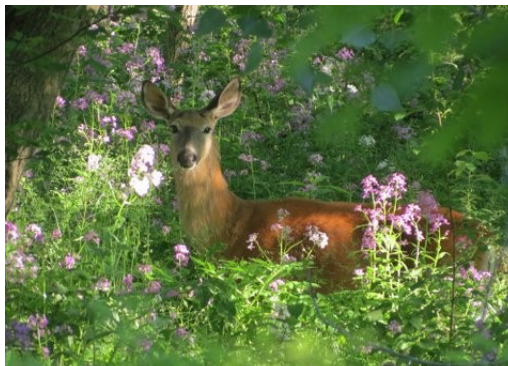
Send questions through the website or to [kids@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:kids@waterlooregionnature.ca)



## WRN: Photo Gallery



WRN members enjoying a spring hike.  
Photo by H. Russell.



White-tailed Deer in the grass.  
Photo by D. Thomas.



Fraser Gibson leads a Wildflower hike for WRN members.  
Photo by H. Russell.



WRN members and *rare* volunteers pulling Garlic Mustard at Montgomery Sanctuary.  
Photo by M. MacDonald.



Can you name this wildflower spotted on the wildflower hike with Fraser Gibson?  
Photo by H. Russell.



Fraser Gibson wildflower hike.  
Photo by H. Russell.



A couple of great nature shots from the confluence of the Speed and Grand Rivers. Photos by D. Thomas



**Do you have nature or event photos to share? Send them to [editor@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:editor@waterlooregionnature.ca) for use in the next Heron!**

[www.waterlooregionnature.ca](http://www.waterlooregionnature.ca)



## Upcoming Speakers and Meeting Programs

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30pm. Meetings are free and visitors are always welcome.  
Meeting Location: Reception Hall, Waterloo Knox Presbyterian Church, 50 Erb Street West, Waterloo

### SEPTEMBER

September 26, 2016

#### Bats: A World of Science and Mystery– Brock Fenton

**The Presentation:** There are more than 1,300 species of bats—or almost a quarter of the world's mammal species. But before you shrink in fear from these furry creatures, consider the bat's fundamental role in our ecosystem. A single brown bat can eat several thousand insects in a night. Bats also pollinate and disperse the seeds for many of the plants we love, from bananas to mangoes and figs.



**The Presenter:** Currently an Emeritus Professor of Biology at Western University, Brock Fenton is an acclaimed expert on bats. He has studied their ecology and biology all over the world, including Costa Rica, Australia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. He continues his research on the ecology and behaviour of bats, with special emphasis on echolocation and evolution. For more information on Dr. Fenton, read his full biography at [waterlooregionnature.ca](http://waterlooregionnature.ca).

### OCTOBER

October 24, 2016

#### Reed it and Weep– Sarah Yuckin, Graham Howell, Courtney Robichaud

**The Presentation:** European Common Reed, known to scientists as exotic *Phragmites australis*, is an invasive wetland grass currently spreading throughout North America. Common Reed is capable of replacing diverse wetland plant communities with expansive monocultures in just a few years, creating dense stands that can reach over 6 meters in height. Common Reed has been expanding at the internationally important coastal marshes of Long Point, ON since the late 1990s. These marshes are a designated UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve and are home to unique plant communities, such as coastal marsh meadow. They provide critical habitat for marsh nesting birds, which are in decline around the Laurentian Great Lakes.



Common Reed has been replacing important emergent marsh and marsh meadow habitat in Long Point, prompting our work to quantify the effects of the invasion and the outcomes of Common Reed control efforts.

In large infestations like the one at Long Point, the recommended treatment methods include herbicide application and removal through rolling or burning. This component of our work examines how these treatments affect the regrowth of desirable resident species, and aims to follow the long term responses of wetland plants to these control methods. For more information on this presentation, please visit [waterlooregionnature.ca](http://waterlooregionnature.ca).

Continued next page

## OCTOBER *continued*

October 24, 2016

**The Presenters:** We're fortunate to have three presenters, all graduate students of Dr. Rebecca C. Rooney, Dept. of Biology, University of Waterloo.

Sarah Yuckin completed her undergraduate degree in Environmental Sciences at the University of Alberta in 2011. Since graduation she had worked on a variety of wetland oriented projects, and is currently working on her master's thesis focused on *Phragmites australis* in Long Point on Lake Erie.

Graham Howell completed his undergraduate degree in Environment and Resource Studies at UW, earning a diploma in Ecological Restoration and Rehabilitation. With his graduate degree, he will be exploring the impact of the invasive reed *Phragmites australis* within the Long Point region, with a focus on restoration projects studying control techniques.

Courtney Robichaud received her undergraduate degree from UW in 2013. Shortly after, she joined the Rooney lab as a research technician, with a focus on examining the effects of invasive *Phragmites australis* on bird communities in Long Point, ON. In 2015, she continued this work as a master's student, further examining changes in bird traits and the role competition plays in *Phragmites* invasion.

## NOVEMBER

November 28, 2016

### **The Motus Wildlife Tracking System - Stuart Mackenzie**

**The Presentation:** Automated radio-telemetry systems allow researchers to track the movements of radio-tagged birds, bats and insects throughout the land and seascape with unprecedented temporal precision. The Motus Wildlife Tracking System ([motus-wts.org](http://motus-wts.org)) is a coordinated hemispheric collaboration of researchers maintaining a network of automated receiving stations throughout the Americas. Motus is a program of Bird Studies Canada (BSC) in partnership with collaborating researchers and organizations. The purpose of Motus is to facilitate landscape-scale research and education on the ecology and conservation of migratory animals. The current Motus array comprises over 300 stations across the Western Hemisphere operated by more than 50 collaborators. Join Stu Mackenzie to learn about the program and discuss some preliminary results. Interested in learning more? Visit [waterlooregionnature.ca](http://waterlooregionnature.ca) for full presentation information.



**The Presenter:** Stuart Mackenzie has been exploring the natural world and birding since the age of 2. He is currently the program manager of the Motus Wildlife Tracking System and the Long Point Bird Observatory at Bird Studies Canada (BSC). He has a MSc. in biology and over a decade of experience conducting, coordinating, and managing monitoring and research projects on a wide variety of taxa. He is the current president of the Ontario Bird Banding Association and Chair of the North American Banding Council.

**DECEMBER***WRN Annual Holiday Party**December 5, 2016***WRN Annual Holiday Party****7:00p.m. to 9:30 p.m.****Please bring either appetizers or dessert to share.**

Come join fellow members for an informal evening of good food, good folks and good fun. Last year, member Michel Allard shared his talent as a professional pianist, playing background music as well as accompanying an enthusiastic group of singers. Many volunteers work to decorate the hall, and help make the night an annual success.

Remember to 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 hot apple cider.



*2015 WRN Annual Holiday Party. Photos by P. Bigelow*

**WRN Kids Excursion to Point Pelee, continued***By Karen Buschert*

Other sightings included Tree Swallows, a Dekay's Brown Snake, an Indigo Bunting and more Red-winged Blackbirds. In the afternoon, we headed out for a freighter canoe ride through the marsh and saw Black Terns, a Map Turtle, several Painted Turtles and (you guessed it) Red-winged Blackbirds. After that, some of us headed home while the rest stayed on an extra day to soak in the sun a bit longer and maybe catch a glimpse of some of the other birds we kept hearing about. The families had a really good time on this special outing!



*From left: Karen Buschert with her daughter Emily Vanderkooy and other Young Naturalists and their parents checking out the Red-winged Blackbirds.*



# Wonders of Nature Festival

Saturday August 27

11-2 p.m.

Huron Natural Area



**A FREE  
Family & Friends  
Event**

**Presented by:  
City of Kitchener &  
Waterloo Region Nature**

**Featuring:  
Kids Crafts & Activities  
Guided Hikes  
Guest Speaker  
Live Animals  
Free Milkweed Plants**



Illustrations by Emily S. Damstra

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**317 Highland Road East**  
**Kitchener, ON N2M 3W6**

### **Membership Annual Fees**

Family/Couple \$40  
Senior Couple \$35  
Adult Individual \$35  
Senior (60+) \$30  
Student (19+) \$25  
Free Membership  
for youth (<18)  
Club year runs from  
Sept. to August; Memberships  
1/2 price after January 31st  
Cheques made payable to:  
Waterloo Region Nature  
Bring payment to  
the next meeting or mail to:  
Waterloo Region Nature  
317 Highland Rd E.  
Kitchener, N2M 3W6  
Membership details at:  
[https://  
waterlooregionnature.ca/  
index.php/membership/](https://waterlooregionnature.ca/index.php/membership/)

**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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