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**UPCOMING SPEAKER**

*Join us March 25th for a presentation on Hummingbirds: The Jewels of the Americas.*

*See [waterlooregionnature.ca](http://waterlooregionnature.ca) for details, and pg. 14&15 for information on more upcoming speakers!*

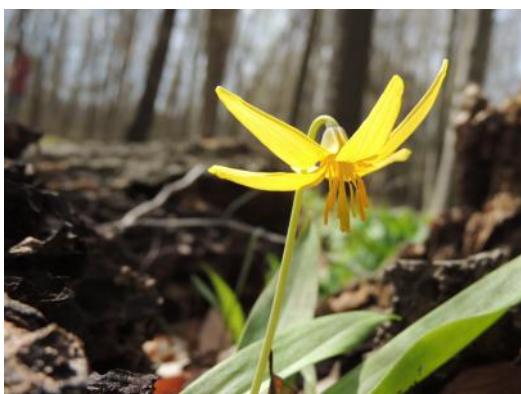
**OUTINGS, OUTINGS, OUTINGS**

*Read inside for more information on upcoming outings, and check your email for further updates, cancellation information, and new outings added.*

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED!**

*A WRN Board position needs to be filled for the upcoming season.*

*No experience is required!*



Trout Lily  
 Photo: J. Quinn

**Thank-you, Margaret Lewis-Macdonald!**

**B**ack in September of 2003 it was decided to establish a committee to look after one of WRN's properties, the Montgomery Property, and to offer its members an opportunity to participate in hands-on projects. Margaret Lewis-Macdonald and her husband, Graham, were involved from the start and took on leadership roles many years ago.

Margaret has chaired the Montgomery Committee for at least 8 years. Her prompt organizing of spring and fall work days has kept the committee on task and kept many connected to and knowledgeable about the property. The tasks include trail clearing, wood duck box cleaning, periwinkle tarp relocation, repainting trail blazes (Marg's favourite) and completing the Annual Property Inspection report.

Even with Giant Hogweed her oversight has kept committee members all focused. Since 2017 Margaret has scheduled teams of volunteers to remove and dispose of Giant Hogweed on the property and several Garlic Mustard pulls have also been conducted.

Margaret is more than a skilled organizer; she and Graham always provide a welcome treat of juice and cookies at the end of each work day, giving us a little time for some valued social interaction. With her warm and welcoming demeanour she continues to recruit new members. Margaret's devotion and efforts are reflected in the enhancement of the F.H. Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary.

The committee and the Waterloo Region Nature's membership thank you, Marg, for your dedication, organization, generosity and all the work you have done over these many years. As you move on to new endeavours, we wish you all the best!

*Collaboratively written by Wayne and Linda Buck with input from Anita Smith and Fraser Gibson.*

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



## **WRN Directors**

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### **Submission Deadlines:**

#### **Fall Issue**

July 15th

#### **Winter Issue**

October 15th

#### **Spring Issue**

February 15th

## **Positions of Responsibility**

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### **WRN Teens Coordinator**

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teens@waterlooregionnature.ca

### **F. H. Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary**

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montgomery@waterlooregionnature.ca

### **Kitchener's Natural Areas Program (KNAP)**

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knap@waterlooregionnature.ca

### **Other Inquiries**

info@waterlooregionnature.ca

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.



## Reflections

This reflection officially marks the end of my term as President. I'm thankful, honoured and inspired by this experience and can pass on the position knowing we are in good hands. Thanks Jenna for the opportunity to be your past president! I am also continually thankful for the feeling of community that Waterloo Region Nature brings to my life. It is comforting to know that I have people to count on, moments to share and friendly, familiar faces to see each month. I am particularly thankful for the members of our club who take on leadership roles and serve on our board. It has been a pleasure to work alongside everyone and an easy role for me to play.

I feel honoured to be mentioned among the long list of names of people who have been President of this club. I am even more honoured to call many of them personal mentors and friends. I have met so many incredible people through Waterloo Region Nature and have taken great pride in helping to lead and support our club. I think everyone should be proud to be a WRN member. Together we act as a voice for nature in our greater community. We bring a trusted source of knowledge, a check and a balance for decision-makers and an outlet for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience and discover nature in their city. Personally, I am more than okay with that!

Despite some of the challenges associated with environmental issues, I am inspired by the role that WRN serves in making sure nature always has a voice and that conservation and protection remain a priority in our region. Most recently, we supported

and helped coordinate a local campaign to lobby against the threat to open our countryside to further development. Our voice was heard and so far, government has listened. I find inspiration in the power of volunteerism and the willingness of people to step up and lead and support the club. There are so many small but important tasks, like setting up for meetings, greeting our guests, creating and sharing online media, and mailing out newsletters, to name only a few, that ensure we have a welcoming place to meet and a functioning club environment. I am also inspired and very excited by our WRN kids and now our newly created WRN teen program. Thanks to volunteers like Marg, we can build and foster nature awareness and appreciation into our younger generations so they too will grow into caring stewards of our environment. I have been so fortunate to be involved in these programs and experience many valued moments with our future leaders.

I encourage you to take a few of your own moments to reflect and look for areas you are thankful for and ways you can contribute both big and small. This club is most certainly our collective effort and we can all play a part. The future is bright and I am looking forward to it.





# OUTINGS

The following outings are confirmed for Spring 2019. In the event of change or cancellation, WRN members will be notified by email. Outings are free unless otherwise noted. **WRN thanks the various property owners for so generously sharing nature on their land.**

## Seed Starting Workshop at *rare*

**When:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 1:00pm for approximately 2 hours.  
**Where:** Meet at *rare* North House and greenhouse, 681 Blair Road, Cambridge.  
**Who:** Taryn Jarvis                      519-650-9336 x115                      taryn.jarvis@raresites.org

Why start seeds indoors? When is the right time to start seeds indoors?  
 What seeds are easiest to start indoors? Join *rare's* Garden Coordinator as she answers these questions and more. We will start some seeds for our Food Bank Garden project and you can start some seeds to take home and later transplanted into your home garden. The event will start indoors at the North House then we will walk up the hill to the greenhouse. Please wear rubber boots as the area can be extremely wet in the spring. There is a washroom available in the North House.



## Voices of the Night

**When:** Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 8:00pm for approximately 90 minutes.  
**Where:** Huron Natural Area parking lot on Trillium Drive.  
**Who:** Fraser Gibson                      519-576-9287                      fn.gib@sympatico.ca

*A Family Friendly Outing!* Experience the Voices of the Night as we focus on American Woodcock, but also listen for and identify amphibian and possibly owl calls. In April and early May the American Woodcock partakes in an interesting flight and sound mating display. The old fields at Huron Natural Area have been favoured by this species in the past so hopefully this late evening ritual will again be observed. The nearby wetlands should provide the habitat necessary for a variety of singing amphibians and the woodlands are known to be home territory for owls.

Walk is mostly maintained trails; some off trail for a better view of Woodcocks.  
 Washrooms may not be open. Bring binoculars, a flashlight, and dress warmly.



## An Evening Walk on the Sandhill Kame

**When:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 6:15pm/6:30pm for approximately 1.5 hours.

**Where:** Meet at the Beer Store, Highland Hills Mall, Kitchener at 6:15pm OR  
2774 Sandhills Road, Baden at 6:30pm.

**Who:** Two Jim's— Jim Burrell/Jim Cappleman 519-634-9711

A hike on trails through the wooded, hilly terrain of the Cappleman property in search of spring flora, fauna, & migrating birds, followed by light refreshments inside.

## Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower Viewing

**When:** Monday, May 6, 2019 from 4:30am to 5:30am.

**Where:** Meet near the playground at Bechtel Park, 185 Bridge St W, Waterloo.

**Who:** Jenna Quinn 519-6362-7921 [vicepresident@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:vicepresident@waterlooregionnature.ca)

**Keep an eye on your email! The date and time of this event may shift based on forecast weather conditions.**

Calling all early risers! The new moon in early May will provide dark skies perfect for viewing the Eta Aquarids, that National Geographic is calling the best meteor shower of 2019. Sand grain-sized meteors falling during this shower are all leftover pieces of Halley's comet, which won't return to our skies until 2062. No special viewing equipment required. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair and a little luck and we can watch the skies together before starting our day.

## Birding Laurel Creek from Bearinger Road to Columbia Lake

**When:** Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 8:30am for approximately 2 .5hours.  
Rain Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

**Where:** Bearinger Road and Pineridge Drive, Waterloo. Park on Pineridge facing Bearinger. Pineridge is just east of the Westmount Rd./Bearinger intersection.

**Who:** Dale Ingrey 519-884-3667 [ingreyda@hotmail.com](mailto:ingreyda@hotmail.com)

Although this outing won't produce as many species as Point Pelee, it is much closer to home and we should still be able to spot a fair number of resident and migratory birds. We will walk Laurel Creek to Columbia Lake and then circle a few storm water ponds in the technology park before heading back to our starting point. If time permits, we will head to the Waterloo Y fields and check for ospreys and grassland birds. Bring water, binoculars, field guide, and scope if you have one. Trail is mostly flat with an occasional slight grade. Washrooms available at Waterloo Y, corner of Laurelwood Drive and Fischer-Hallman.

## HAVE AN OUTING SUGGESTION?

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

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

### CONESTOGO BIRD FEED

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*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**

**\*\*And now at the Stratford Farmers Market\*\***

## Mill Race Trail, St. Jacobs

**When:** Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 9:00am for approximately 2.5 hours.

**Where:** Three Bridges Road end of the Mill Race Trail, near the bridge over the Conestogo River.

**Who:** David Gascoigne 519-725-0866 226-747-7299 (C)  
theospreynest@sympatico.ca

A large group of Waterloo Region naturalists enjoyed a stroll along the Mill Race in January, so what could be better than a return visit in May when neotropical migrants will have returned? This walk should produce flycatchers, warblers, thrushes, woodpeckers and other interesting birds. There is an excellent coffee shop in St. Jacobs (Eco Café) to refresh ourselves before walking back along the trail. The total distance is about 3 kilometres on well-maintained trail.

*One of Canada's Premier  
Birding and Nature Festivals*

## Huron Fringe Birding Festival



Photo by Carol L. Edwards

**May 24 - May 27  
& May 30 - June 2, 2019**

Festival Headquarters

**MacGregor Point Provincial Park**

1593 Bruce Road 33, R.R.1  
Port Elgin, ON Canada N0H 2C5

huronfringebirdfest@gmail.com

www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca



## Salamander Sleuthing

**When:** Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 10:00am  
for approximately 1.5 hours.

**Where:** *rare* ECO Centre, 768 Blair Road,  
Cambridge.

**Who:** Jenna Quinn 519-650-9336 x111  
jenna.quinn@raresites.org

Visit *rare's* educational salamander monitoring plot and get up close and personal with (hopefully) multiple species of salamanders. Learn how to identify different salamander species found in Waterloo Region and how and why these secretive species are monitored. Some hiking over uneven terrain required, please wear appropriate footwear. Washrooms are available at meeting point.

## Nature Ramble at Huron Natural Area

**When:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 6:00pm for  
approximately 2 hours.

**Where:** Entry to the park at 801 Trillium Drive, Kitchener.

**Who:** Janet Ozaruk 226-748-9905 (C)

*A Family Friendly Outing!* This City of Kitchener property brings you nature in the city! It contains:

- Strasburg Creek, one of our only coldwater streams
- Provincially significant wetlands, forest, meadows and significant species
- Scenic hiking trails, boardwalks and lookout areas
- An amazing natural and cultural history

We will do a loop hike through various habitats, identifying birds, plants, etc. If you have insect nets and ID guides, bring them along and we can hunt for dragonflies and butterflies as we go. Washrooms available, open until dusk.



## Waterloo Region Nature Teens

By Marg Paré

WRN Teens is a great group of 11 Teens (with room for more!) who get together once or twice a month to do environmental work projects and learn about nature. They come out because they're keen and the time they spend also counts for their required high school volunteer hours.

Since we started in September, our work projects have been improving turtle nesting areas at Laurel Creek, removing invasive plant species at **rare**, and doing various jobs (including dishes!) at the Christmas Bird Count for Kids.

Our learning opportunities have been hiking at Dickson Wilderness Area, studying tracking with Anita Smith at Bechtel Park, and two trips to Huron Natural Area with Josh Shea, once to practice birdwatching skills in the rain and another time for an owl prowling on a beautiful, moonlit evening! We know you're wondering: we had an Eastern Screech Owl come in close and a Great Horned Owl and a Coyote call from far away.

There are more adventures to come! Chickadee banding, a visit to the UW Ecology Lab, and running the craft booth at the K-W Earth Day Celebration.

If you're a teen or know a teen, please check us out! We have room for more WRN Teens now and will next fall too as some of our members are graduating high school. If you have suggestions for volunteer projects for us, please contact Marg Paré at [teens@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:teens@waterlooregionnature.ca).

And thanks to all the WRN volunteers, **rare** staff, Laurel Creek Nature Centre staff, and other community folks who have helped us get WRN Teens going!



Photos: M. Paré

## Waterloo Region Nature Kids

WRN Kids have been busy since the last Heron even though the weather has been a challenge!

We collected creatures in a very cold Laurel Creek in October. We explored the night sky via computer and played with telescopes inside on a cloudy evening in November. We participated in the Christmas Bird Count for Kids at **rare** on a beautiful day in January! Yay! We solved tracking mysteries when there wasn't enough snow to snowshoe in January. We wandered in Huron Natural Area and investigated uprooted trees on a snowy day in February. Whatever the weather, the Kids and their adults have a great time learning about nature together!

Thanks to the wonderful WRN Kids volunteers, the Laurel Creek Nature Centre staff, **rare** staff, and the K-W branch of the Royal Astronomy Society of Canada for a great year so far!





## Ten Years at the Cambridge Pollinator Preserve

By Jim Dyer

Ten years ago this coming summer, work started on converting a decommissioned off-leash dog run to a permanent pollinator habitat. The site sits on the west bank of the Grand River, north of Parkhill Road and the railway overpass in downtown Cambridge. It also borders the Blair walking trail.

Once started, rapid progress towards implementing the Cambridge Pollinator Preserve was achieved in the first summer in 2009. This early progress was the result of two factors. The first was that the group who undertook this project were the Ancient Mariner Canoe Club (AMCC). The mariners embraced the project from the outset and provided hundreds of volunteer hours. It also helped that the CPP is located immediately behind the AMCC boathouse, providing convenient storage for materials and tools.



The second was that we were fortunate to be doing this project in Cambridge. Having experience in working with the City that predates my membership in the AMCC, including work on pollinators, they have proven to be remarkably eco-friendly. Along with their ties with volunteers, city staff understood from the outset that creating habitat for wild bees would not increase anybody's risk of getting stung because few wild bees actually sting.

So what exactly is the CPP? Because there are different ideas about how to support native pollinators, just the name does not adequately describe it. A few guiding principles define our preserve. First, it is habitat, not a garden. After planting, there is no weeding and, after the first year, no watering. The existing plants are only removed

when space is needed for new plants. Every plant we select is a native and there are no pesticides.



With the main goal being to provide floral forage (nectar and pollen) throughout the growing season, a mix of spring-flowering trees, and summer- and fall-blooming ground plants are planted each spring. But the Goldenrod is left, as long as that space is not needed for new plants, because Goldenrod is a native that provides abundant fall forage for native bees and other pollinators.

The second goal was to pass on the message about the importance of native insect pollinators and how they can be helped by creating pollinator habitat. That is why the centre piece of the CPP is an education centre. This five-panel display has to be seen to be understood. So, as we celebrate 10 years, we invite everyone to tour the site, read the panels and watch wild pollinators at work.



All photos provided by J. Dyer.



## The Montgomery Committee Leadership

The F.H. Montgomery Property is 18.8 acres of largely floodplain forest located along the east bank of the Nith River, southeast of the bridge on Bridge Street in Wilmot Township. WRN owns and manages the property.

Marg Macdonald is resigning as chair of the Montgomery Committee, effective in Spring 2020, after 9 years service and because of current health issues.

### A volunteer is needed to replace her!

The Montgomery Committee presently consists of 13 hard working members, most being knowledgeable about plants and animals in our area and all enthusiastic about nature!

#### Responsibilities of the chairperson:

- Set up 2 work mornings a year:
  - ⇒ Spring activities (April) - Clear the trail, check and renew trail markings, engage in activities to reduce the spread of alien plants on the property.
  - ⇒ Fall activities (October) - carry out the Property Inspection, clean out wood duck boxes and general property clean-up.
- Set up a schedule, with the committee members, for monitoring and removal of Giant Hogweed.
- Complete the Property Inspection Document and send it to the Conservation Director to be submitted for Board Approval.
- Write an annual report, also submitted to the Conservation Director for presentation to the Board for their approval.
- Submit these reports for publication in the Heron so the membership is informed. The reports then enter the WRN and Waterloo Region Archives.
- Update the Property Inspection Form as necessary.
- Ensure that the Property Management document is current. (Committee).

Leading the Montgomery Committee is not an onerous task. It is in fact very rewarding! With the Bigelows, the DeBruins, the Bucks, Fraser Gibson, Jim Cappleman, Wendy Shaw, Chris Wright and Sandy Ponio you have a formidable team with deep resources.

Please let Marg Macdonald know if you are interested.

## **BRUCE PENINSULA– NATURE WEEKEND (MAY 24-26, 2019)**

### *BIRDING FIELD TRIPS \* GENERAL NATURE/BOTANY FIELD TRIPS \* BUCKET RAFFLE & BIRD QUIZ*

Limestone cliffs and sand beaches, hardwood forests and cedar swamps, fens and alvars— this variety of ecosystems on the Bruce Peninsula makes it a species place for naturalists.

South Peel Naturalists' Club extends an invitation to members of your club to join us to explore the Bruce Peninsula. This annual weekend event provides the opportunity to see the best of the Bruce with expert leaders and in the company of fellow naturalists.

#### ***The cost per person for the weekend:***

- \$20 registration fee to cover cost of bucket raffle prizes and lodging for volunteer leaders
- \$244 (+13% taxes) per person for two nights' accommodation at Evergreen Resort, Mar, ON (includes all meals and snacks).

## Remembering Craig Campbell

*By Charles Cecile and Ken Dance*

Craig's energy, enthusiasm and passion for Nature were known to many in Ontario as well as in Waterloo Region. Craig was a true all-around naturalist. He was a self-taught expert in many taxonomic groups including mammals, amphibians & reptiles, birds, butterflies, and plants. Some of his particular interests included birds, salamanders, snakes, ferns and violets.

He was keen to share his knowledge and published many articles in a number of journals and other publications. As a result, he was in contact with and cooperated with experts in each field including university professors and researchers, government scientists and other ecologists, both local and national. Dr. Don Britton, a fern expert from the University of Guelph, was an example. Craig's scientific research was always underpinned by an emotional connection to nature. Despite some chronic health issues, he faithfully carried out his surveys while continuing with his studies and writing reports.

Craig was a friend and mentor to numerous young naturalists, ecologists and environmentalists, many of whom today are experts in various fields of natural history. His friendly manner and willingness to share his knowledge helped many to learn about nature and become active in environmental work.

Craig had an amazing memory for facts and history. He could recall obscure and fascinating information about a species he had seen or studied in the past. His knowledge of human history as well as natural history was impressive.

Waterloo Region was Craig's home and he knew many of its residents and communities. He was familiar with the natural areas throughout the Region including woodlands, swamps, bogs, marshes, prairies, meadows, rivers and lakes. He knew what species occurred there, both current and historic ones. He also knew all the small towns and villages and where to find a good meal when out completing wildlife surveys.

The recent recognition of Craig's efforts on behalf of conservation may be known by Waterloo Region



*Craig Campbell (on left) receiving the Ontario Heritage Trust Lifetime Achievement Award from Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell, with her Aide de Camp looking on.  
Photo by C.P. Cecile*

Nature members, since the club sponsored his nomination that earned a recent Ontario Nature Award. The Region of Waterloo and the Province also recently honored Craig's lifetime contributions to conservation of significant habitats and endangered species.

Some additional insights into Craig's work and accomplishments are prompted by a review of his journals, publications and art work. During the 1970s and onward Craig undertook detailed studies of the distributions and/or populations of such diverse species as Black Duck, Mute Swan, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebird, Pickerel Frog and Butler's Gartersnake. The studies stretched across the Region and extended into Brant, Oxford and Wellington Counties and beyond.

Examples of his foresight and leadership in gathering baseline historical data that would prove valuable for future comparison and trend determination included: the 5 year atlas/survey of reptiles and amphibians in the Region of Waterloo, with Dr. George Francis as the co-organizer, and winter and breeding bird studies in a number of wooded habitats across the Region. Data on winter bird populations at Steckle Woods that Craig and collaborators gathered over several years in the 1970s are being compared with results gathered using the same methods during the 2000s, and late 2010s.



## Remembering Craig Campbell

*continued*

Results will assist with management of forested Natural Areas in Kitchener. Craig had the foresight to gather quantitative data on birds in the 1970s and to publish the results in the journals *American Birds* and the *Ontario Field Biologist* so that future biologists had access to the data.

Craig and his wife Jane played significant leadership roles in ensuring that key natural areas such as Bannister and Wrigley Lakes were purchased and set aside for conservation. The GRCA has subsequently taken over ownership of these important habitats where the public can learn

about nature. Also, Craig's data on snakes and plants and his persuasive efforts led to the purchase of key areas on Pelee Island.

Craig was an accomplished artist who worked in many media and illustrated species in their natural habitats. Recently Craig mentioned that a well-known professional illustrator had commented on Craig's exceptional talent at drawing and painting habitats.

It has been a privilege for both of us to spend time in the field with Craig. He was a true gentleman, from whom we learned so much.

## Membership Director's Report

*By Anne Godlewski*

### *Welcome, New Members!*

John Alexander  
Theo Byrne  
Kitty Corbett  
Kyle Daun  
Craig Janes  
Jim Kendall  
Deborah Kilimnik  
Donald Kilimnik  
Maureen Kinahan  
Kelly McCammon  
Sawyer McCammon  
Mary Sander  
Steph Shaw  
Selwyn Tomkun  
Victoria Tomkun  
Steve Vosburgh  
Stephen West

### *Thank you to our donors:*

Grainne & Gordon Aitken	Randy & Deborah Fowler	Katharina Richter
Anonymous	Fraser & Nancy Gibson	Janet & Donald Roberts
Miriam Bauman & David Gascoigne	Judy & Larry Hamel	Jane Schneider
Emily Bingeman	Dennis & Doris Hilker	Roger Suffling – A number of members made donations to the Sanctuary Fund on behalf of Roger Suffling
Jim Burrell & Carol Gregory	Cindy Kehus	Charlotte & Bryan Teat
Theo Byrne	Marion Kelterborn	David Westfall, and Jamie & Sandy Hill
Jennifer Clayfield & Bob Oswald	Zach Klaver, as a gift on behalf of Clayton Klaver	Walter Zimmerman
Ken & Janet Dance	Elaine LaRonde	Wild Birds Unlimited – Kitchener
Ross Dickson	Faye & Curtiss MacDonald	
Kathleen Forde & the D2L Environmental Action Committee	Karen Priebe	

*It's never too late to renew your membership for the year!  
Support the club by renewing today.  
New memberships are now 1/2 price for the 2018-2019 season.*

## Ontario Nature Report

By Fraser Gibson

### Ontario's Cormorants in the Cross-hairs

Ontario Nature and the David Suzuki Foundation are urging the Government of Ontario to withdraw its ill-advised proposal to establish a hunting season for double-crested cormorants. In a letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, we stressed that this so-called “population management tool” is lacking in any scientific justification or evidence. Visit our blog to read about some common [cormorant myths](#).



Photo By: Hans Stieglitz; Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license.

### Thinking of Donating to a Worthy Cause?

MoneySense magazine ranked [Ontario Nature as one of their top ten environmental charities in 2018](#). MoneySense ranks charities based on financial efficiency, low fundraising costs, and good governance and transparency. Your trust and confidence in Ontario Nature fuels our spirits as we work towards an Ontario where nature inspires and sustains us for generations to come.

### Making a Case for Protecting Pollinators



Photo By: J. Quinn

In November, Ontario Nature and our partner organizations were in court challenging Health Canada's regulatory practices of a widely-used neonicotinoid pesticide, Thiamethoxam. Our Ecojustice lawyers argued that the government has failed to weigh the risk of Thiamethoxam on pollinators and has not conducted required public consultations of those risks. We expect to hear a decision in the spring. Thank you for making this possible and for helping to protect pollinators.

### Ontario Needs an Environmental Watchdog!

The Government of Ontario announced plans on November 15, 2018 to eliminate the office of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO) and transfer much of its responsibility to the jurisdiction of the Auditor General. The ECO provides independent, non-partisan oversight and holds the government accountable when it makes decisions that impact the air we breathe, the water we drink and the natural environment of the people of Ontario. This [misguided decision](#) undercuts the power and independence of Ontario's environmental watchdog. In response, Ontario Nature has rallied our community resulting in more than 4,000 individual emails to Premier Doug Ford.



Environmental  
Commissioner  
of Ontario

Your Environment, Your Rights



## Save the Date for Ontario Nature's 2019 Annual Gathering

Mark your calendars and plan to attend Ontario Nature's [88th Annual Gathering](#)! Scheduled for the weekend of May 31 – June 2, 2019, the gathering will be held at Mohawk College in Hamilton and will feature a suite of engaging workshops and excursions to local nature hotspots. The weekend will also showcase the [Hamilton Naturalists' Club](#) which is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2019. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months.

## New Online Guide to Ontario's Bats

Bats have a bad rap thanks to Dracula and some firmly-entrenched myths about their behaviour. The new online [Guide to Bats in Ontario](#), written by expert naturalists Dan Schneider and Peter Pautler, is here to change that undeserved bad reputation. Full of photos and interesting facts about bats, the guide is an engaging resource for wildlife lovers of all ages and backgrounds.

## Youth Summit

September 20-22, 2019 marks Ontario Nature's tenth annual [Youth Summit for Biodiversity & Environmental Leadership](#). WRN will once again sponsor a young person to attend. This support will help connect like-minded young people and create a lasting positive impact on their lives.

## Who Are Your Nature Heroes?

Join us in recognizing Ontario's nature heroes by submitting nominations for the 2018 Ontario Nature [Conservation Awards](#). These annual awards recognize excellence by honouring individuals, groups, government agencies and corporations who have worked to protect nature in Ontario. All award recipients will be honoured at our Annual General Meeting on June 1, 2019 at Mohawk College in Hamilton. The deadline for nominations is March 28, 2019.

## 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 newsletter they are posted on the Ontario Nature website at: [Nature Network News](#).



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promo code: **WILDLIFE18**

## 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

Read full presenter biographies at [waterlooregionnature.ca/meetings](http://waterlooregionnature.ca/meetings)

### MARCH

March 25, 2019

#### Hummingbirds: The Jewels of the Americas

**The Presentation:** Found nowhere else on earth, hummingbirds are the jewels of the Americas. They are justifiably renowned for their beauty and they have captivated humans forever. This has not always been to their advantage, however, since their feathers were used as status symbols, to adorn religious vestments, and as vanity items when women wore stuffed hummingbirds in their hats. Their morphology, biology and life style are complex and fascinating. Join David for an exploration into his personal experiences with these tiny gems throughout North, Central and South America.

#### David Gascoigne



**The Presenter:** This month, please join WRN's own David Gascoigne as he explores the fascinating world of hummingbirds. Many of you have accompanied him on bird walks, helped out at SpruceHaven, and have attended his presentations elsewhere. Don't miss this exciting presentation!

### APRIL

April 29, 2019

#### Heart of Turtle Island: The Niagara Escarpment

#### Mark Zelinski

**The Presentation:** This month, award-winning photographer and publisher Mark Zelinski will present of images and stories that bring exquisite focus to the environmental treasures of the Niagara Escarpment, celebrating the diverse communities that thrive along its rugged, curving paths. Its aquifers and ecosystems support hundreds of at-risk species that coexist alongside the most densely populated and heavily developed region in Canada.

**The Presenter:** Trained as an artist and a designer, Mark Zelinski's diverse career as a professional photographer has taken him across 80 countries, with clients ranging from The National Film Board of Canada to Panasonic. He is also a publisher, writer, painter, filmmaker and winner of the Canadian Governor General's Medal. Zelinski is best known for his "Books That Heal" initiative - donating 7,000 copies of his photography books to 100 worldwide charities. To find out more about Mark's work, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/MarkZelinskiPhotographicDesign>





# MAY

May 27, 2019

**Annual General Meeting: NOTE EARLY START TIME OF 7PM**

**Annual Native Plant Exchange:** Share your love of gardening this month and bring along plants from your own garden to share with other members. An area will be set up outside to the right of the church entrance where you can set up your pots and browse for a plant or two to bring home. No invasive species please and labels are greatly appreciated!

**Arizona: The Sunshine State****Alan Morgan**

**The Presentation:** Join Alan and Anne as they concentrate on many aspects of this southwestern American State, but also touching on some neighbouring areas. This illustrated talk will take you through a number of the truly spectacular National Parks, such as Anza-Borrego, Joshua Tree, the Petrified Forest and Painted Desert, the Grand Canyon, Bryce and Zion.

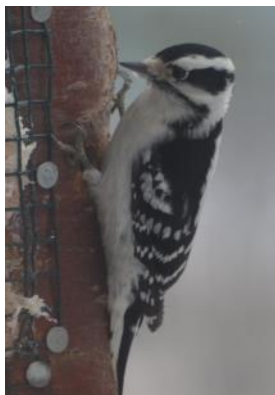


**The Presenter:** Alan Morgan is a retired professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Waterloo. Since retirement Alan, and his wife Anne, have been lucky enough to travel extensively, combining their shared passions for geology, geography, travel, animals, plants, history, and photography. Most recently they have made a number of trans-continental forays in an all-electric car.

## WRN Photo Gallery



Laurentian Wetland Outings Photos: J. Quinn



Great Backyard Bird Count. Photos: P. Bigelow

**Do you have nature or event photos to share? Send them to [editor@waterlooregionnature.ca](mailto:editor@waterlooregionnature.ca)**

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

### Objectives of WRN

TO acquire and disseminate knowledge of natural  
history.  
TO protect and preserve wildlife.  
TO purchase and hold appropriate parcels of land for  
the advancement of conservation.  
TO support public interest in nature and its preservation  
by supporting the enactment of wise legislation and by  
other means as falls within the scope of the  
Corporation.

### General Information

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month,  
September to May with the exception of December.  
Our meetings are free and visitors are always welcome.  
Outings are scheduled almost every month.

### 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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