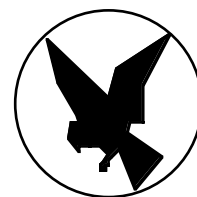


EARTHWAYS[©]



Earthways is a publication of LAMBTON WILDLIFE INCORPORATED - P.O. BOX 681, SARNIA, ON N7T 7J7

Gordon Catterson - Editor

Modris Zandbergs- Distribution

April, 2010

Cheryl Veary-Webmaster

Website: www.lambtonwildlife.com

All indoor programs are open to the public and are held on the last Monday of the month, from September to November and January to March at the YMCA Learning & Career Centre 660 Oakdale Avenue at 7:30 pm. Articles in Earthways represent the views of the author and not necessarily the views of Lambton Wildlife Inc.

Indoor Program

April 17, 2010.

L.W.I. Annual General Meeting and Banquet-Mandaumin United Church Hall.

Business meeting and elections at 4:30, bucket draw opens at 5:00, with the delicious turkey dinner, with homemade fruit pies, to be served at 6:00 pm. Guest speaker will be Winnifred Wake of the Mcllwraith Field Naturalists of London, talking about chimney swifts, mysterious little birds in big trouble...a threatened species. Winnifred was the force behind the amazing project in London to learn more about nesting and roosting habitat of chimney swifts: Swift Watch.

Sale of Tickets for 2010 AGM/Banquet:

The tickets still only \$15.00 each for a fabulous country-cooked turkey dinner with homemade pies. The tickets will be available from:

Contact: Alexia Gladdy 519-337-6483 or
Joan DiFruscia 519-332-0830

We are also looking for donations for the AGM bucket draw, Contact Krista Cowieson at 519-869-6409 or Janet Bremner at 519-542-2797 to arrange for them.

Judges Needed!

Submitted by Paul Elliott, School of Education and Professional Learning, Trent University Otonabee College

As you may already know, the Canada-wide Science Fair is being hosted by Trent University this year: 17-19 May. Part of my role as one of the senior judges is to recruit as many judges as possible. We need about 400! This is far more than we will be able to recruit from the Peterborough area alone.

Any one who is interested in helping should contact the chief judge, Brian Patrick: ChiefJudge2010@gmail.com or call 705-748-1011 ext 7804 (work) or 705-876-6574 (home).

http://www.ontarionature.org/eblast/CWSF_call_for_judges.pdf

**For people that need to travel a long way, locally based judges will provide accommodation.

Outdoor Program

*Howard Watson Nature Trail Cleanup

Sunday, April 18, 2010

Meet: 9:00 am at Modeland and Cathcart trail entrance

Inquiries: Gord Catterson - 337-1246

*Highway 402 Cleanup

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Meet: 8:45 am at Wawanosh Wetlands parking lot.

Coordinator: Joe Haselmayer – 542-2826

*Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Time: 8:00 am – noon Location: 1267 Lakeshore Rd

Attract birds and butterflies to your yard by planting native wild flowers.

Organizer: Brenda Kulon – 869-2833

*Canatara Walks Into Spring

Wednesdays, May 5, 12 and 19, 2010

Meet: 6:00 pm, at the entrance to Tarzanland

Catch the spring migration of warblers and other songbirds

Leader: Gerry Clements – 336-3513

Camping in Point Pelee

Thursday, May 13 to Monday, May 17, 2010

4 nights/5 days for \$64. Site reservations for 13 people.

Wake-up with the warblers and bird with the experts.

Inquiries: Paul Carter – 344-2571 (see p. 8)

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Greetings from the President

Lambton Wildlife's 2010 AGM marks the end of my first term as LWI President. It has been an exciting and successful year for both LWI and me. I have been nominated and am pleased to accept another term as your President.

Our membership base remains strong with 242 Family and Single memberships representing nearly 400 individual members. We are one of the largest, if not the largest, naturalist clubs in Southwestern Ontario.

Our membership strength is due in large part to the diversity and scale of both our Indoor and Outdoor Programs and the reception within the community of our other activities. We offer excellent speakers covering a wide range of topics and interests

as exemplified by the recent Front Yard Gardens presentation at SCITS by noted gardening expert Liz Primeau which drew more than 200 people. It is a good example of the club's ability to outreach to the community.

Likewise, the Outdoor Program offers a wide spectrum of activities of different physical capabilities and interests. We do listen to our members. As a result of suggestions from a membership survey conducted the previous year, we offered a very successful September 2009 Nature Walk and pizza party at the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area, which combined a walk in the woods with a social outing.

It is gratifying to report that overwhelmingly the membership survey showed high membership satisfaction with the programs being offered and with the operation of LWI as a whole.

LWI's electronic Earthways distribution system initiated and under the direction of Gord Catterson had gotten off to a fine start. Of the email addresses LWI has on record, 60% have elected to receive their newsletter copy by eEarthways. This represents an annual savings in supplies, printing, and postage costs of about \$700. This is a good start, but I think with more education of the benefits derived from electronic distribution we can do even better.

Still in a preliminary stage, we are in ongoing discussions with Wendy Cridland, Program Manager Southwestern Ontario, Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) to work together to purchase from a developer about 50 acres of land on either side of the Karner Blue sanctuary in Port Franks. If this initiative comes to fruition, it will fulfill a long standing goal of LWI to acquire this property.

In conjunction with Sydenham Field Naturalists (SFN), Lambton Wildlife has pledged up to \$15,000 to aid the Walpole Island Land Trust, under Chair Clint Jacobs, to purchase about 18 acres of rare tall grass prairie that might otherwise be farmed. This acreage is a very significant ecological hotspot containing a variety of rare and endangered plant species that are rare not only to Ontario, but to Canada as a whole. Its acquisition and preservation will be a noteworthy achievement.

Lambton Wildlife has joined the Land Stewardship Partnership Program with the Ontario Land Trust Alliance and Community Foundations of Canada to raise \$20,000 each to establish an agency endowment fund administered by the Sarnia Community Foundation under Executive Director Jane Anema. Proceeds from the fund will be used to provide monies for maintenance of properties owned or managed by LWI. Maintenance funding is an area of concern often overlooked when acquiring property and the establishment of an endowment fund will help LWI to address this need.

Briefly, other projects of interest to Lambton Wildlife include:

Sponsorship of the Ontario Nature AGM taking place May 2010 in Sarnia.

Publication of a Nature Guide to Lambton County, edited by Gord Catterson.

Production of a Natural Heritage of Sarnia-Lambton DVD directed and produced by Larry Cornelis.

All of these projects will do much to enhance the visibility of LWI within the community and foster our public commitment to promote the love of nature and our natural environment.

I started off my report by stating that much of our success as an organization is due to the diversity and scale of our Indoor and Outdoor programs and other activities. While that is true, it is only part of the story.

Success does not just happen. From a personal standpoint, I can assure you that without the dedicated and diligent efforts of the Board of Directors and officers, committee members, event leaders, special events coordinators, standing committee members, past presidents, and those volunteers who willingly step forward to help when needed success would be difficult if not impossible to achieve.

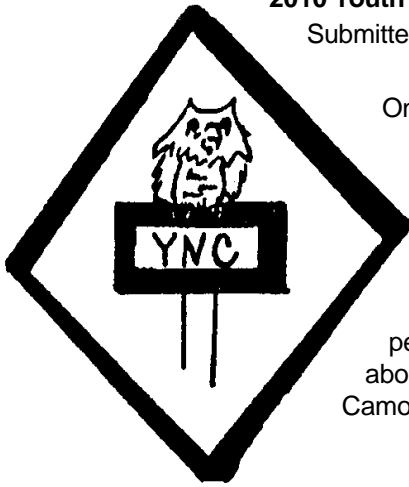
All these volunteers are to be commended for the time and effort they so generously contribute to making Lambton Wildlife the success it is. To all these volunteers, I extend my heartfelt thanks.

And to all the members of Lambton Wildlife, I thank you for your generous past support and for your support in the future.

Richard Maxfield

2010 Youth Summit for Biodiversity

Submitted by Lenore Nadeau, Ontario Nature



Ontario Nature will be hosting a two-day Summit for 100 high school-aged students from June 4th to June 6th. The 2010 Youth Summit for Biodiversity will bring youth together from across the province to learn about biodiversity and taking action to ensure a healthy planet for generations to come. The Summit will also provide a variety of learning opportunities, networking opportunities, hands-on activities, and fun.

We invite our member clubs to share information about the Summit with any young people who are involved in club activities or who may be interested in learning more about the importance of biodiversity. For more details about the Summit contact Gabe Camozzi at gabec@ontarionature.org or by phone at 416-444-8419 ext. 241.

Attention: LWI Native Plant Sale

May 1, 2010 is the date of Lambton Wildlife Annual Native Plant Sale. It runs from 8-12 noon at 1267 Lakeshore Road.

We need people to :

1. Label plants. Call Barb @ 542-5788
2. Check their gardens in spring cleanup and separate your plants, putting aside some for LWI. Call Brenda Kulon.
3. Donate native plants from your gardens or woodlots .Call Brenda @ 869-2833
4. Help pot our plants Call John Teasel @ 542-5788
5. Take down the display at 12 noon on Saturday May 1, 2010. Call Brenda at 869-2833
6. Take pamphlets home and place them in your neighbours mailboxes, post offices, grocery stores, community centre, and churches. Call Gord Catterson @ 337-1246.
7. Speak at your local horticultural meetings, coffee clubs, bowling teams, fitness groups etc about our plant sale. Call Brenda @ 869-2833
8. Buy plants for those who cannot make it to the plant sale.

9. Take plants and store some for the summer for next year call John @ 542-5788 or Brenda @869-2833

10. Keep an eye open for new housing developments that will be uprooting native plants, and report them to Brenda.

11. Look on your property or housing developments for ostrich fern or maiden hair fern. Call John or Brenda.

12. Join a work party that will be saving some plants from destruction or housing developments. Call John.

13. Help sell plants on the day of the sale. Call Brenda @ 869-2833

14. Donate soil or posts. Call John @ 542-5788

15. Make a donation, even if you do not want any plants.

If you can help us in any of the above ways, please call Brenda @ 869-2833.

Money from the plant sale goes to saving and purchasing environmentally sensitive land sites in Lambton County.

Thank you for your help.

Brenda Kulon

As this is the last pre-summer issue these are some outdoor events that will occur before then.

*Birding at Pinery

Saturday, May 22, 2010

Meet: 7:00 am for carpooling at Brights Grove Plaza (near Shoppers) or 8:00 am at Riverside Trail in PPP.

Park entrance fee charged per car. Birding at one of the best sites on the Huron Shore Flyway.

Inquiries: Larry Cornelis – 339-8785

Botany on the Bruce

Friday, June 11 to Sunday, June 13, 2010

Starts with a wine and cheese at Alice and John Bellar's place near Tobermory at 4:00 pm Friday. Saturday and Sunday. Will include tours of the north Bruce peninsula which is rich with ferns, orchids and ancient cedars. Please arrange your own accommodations. Dinner reservations for Saturday at a local restaurant. Numbers limited.

Inquiries & reservations: Alice Wellant-Bellar – 869-4526

*Dragonflies, and Damselflies (and butterflies).

Saturday, June 19, 2010

Meet: 8:30 am at Brights Grove Plaza (near Shoppers)

The Port Franks Forested Dunes area is a great place to find these amazing and beautiful insects. Bring a lunch and drinking water. Numbers limited

Leader: Robert Difruscia – 332-0830

Annual Pinery & North Lambton Butterfly Count

Saturday, June 26, 2010 (heavy rain date June 27th)

Meet: 8:00 am at the Pinery Visitor Centre. Report at the entrance gate that you are participating in the butterfly count. No experience is needed as we will partner you with a knowledgeable guide. We will have extra butterfly nets. Lunch is provided by the Friends of the Pinery. A \$5:00 fee goes to the NABA (North American Butterfly Association), for conservation of butterflies.

Inquiries: Brenda Kulon – 869-2833 Register early

March Indoor Meeting:

It was a good thing we changed the venue. Over 200 people attended the talk by Liz Primeau on Monday, March 27th at the SCITS auditorium, far more than could have been accommodated at the YMCA Adult Learning Centre. Liz was introduced by Past President Malcolm Boyd who has arranged for her to give the talk. She began by mentioning a couple of things which connected her to Sarnia in the past. One was her visits to her grandparents who lived in Paisley. She lived in Manitoba and they would take a lake boat from the lakehead to Sarnia and then a train to Paisley. She must have been awfully young. The other connection was a 40 oz. bottle of Johnny Walker scotch which Canadian customs confiscated. Apparently her husband, in a burst of honesty, told them they had only been in Michigan for 36 hours rather than the requisite 48 hours resulting in the bottle being lost.

Liz said that she started her front yard garden in 1992 when she planted lots of bulbs and the garden gradually evolved from there. At some point she realized that there was a book potential. She approached 5 different publishers, all of whom turned her down. The prevailing attitude seemed to be that no one in their right minds would want a front yard garden. Gardens were intended to be in the back. One even said they thought a front yard garden was against the law. Finally Firefly Books agreed to publish it and it came out in 2003. Even Firefly badly estimated the sales potential and the book became a best seller. There is to be a revised edition this year.

Liz went on to say that she is not prejudiced against grass, she simply thinks there is too much of it. She said that it has been estimated that there is over 24 million acres of grass on residential lawns in North America, and this does not include venues such as parkland, cemeteries and golf courses. She said that lawns attract only a few insects with no predators and as a result is susceptible to disease and damage. Gardens on the other hand attract many different types of insects resulting in a healthier ecosystem. She later went on to become the editor of Canadian Gardening Magazine and began to do a lot of traveling for that job. She reflected on peoples fixation on grass and the historical reasons for it. It can be traced back to 18th cent. England and the reaction to European, and particularly French, formal gardens. They were very elaborate with geometrical patterns and defined boundaries. In England it became fashionable in English country houses to instead have large lawns with a few strategically placed trees. Since only the wealthy could afford such places the format became a status symbol, as less affluent people generally used any garden space to grow vegetables. As a result when people migrated to North America they carried the idea of large lawns with them. The more abundant space here allowed middle class people to have green space and chose to use lawn to sort of demonstrate their new affluence.

Additionally in the late 19th cent. Frank Olmstead laid out new parks, Central Park in New York City, Mount Royal Park in Montreal and Riverside in Chicago. These were large expanses of green lawn and people saw them as the ideal. As a result houses were set back about 30 feet with

no fences between houses, and grass with one tree in front of the house became the norm. Then finally after W.W.II the development of pesticides and herbicides allowed insects to be controlled and gas powered lawn mowers became standard allowing the grass to be cut much more easily. I can remember as a kid trying to mow the lawn at our house and it was a bear of a job, pushing an old cast iron reel mower.

Liz said that she had pretty well run out of space in the back of her house and was wondering how she could expand. On a trip to the east coast she drove by a house with a sea of lupines at the front of a house and took a picture of it, which she showed. That was her inspiration to start a front yard garden. She also traveled to Holland and saw lots of front yard gardens and showed one that was a particular inspiration as the house was somewhat similar to her own. She said she ran into some immediate problems as a neighbour left a note saying the a City Adjustment Committee had visited and said she must remove the plants from the front. She was suspicious as the note was hand written so she ignored it. Fortunately the neighbour later moved. She showed several pictures of the progress from the original front yard and what she ended up with. She started by replacing some rather narrow concrete steps to the front door with a much more attractive wider set of steps using stone. She hired two young men to dig up the front of her property and then planted bulbs there. Subsequently the City needed to replace some drain pipes and had to dig up what she had done. However they carefully removed to bulbs and replanted them. She mentioned that flowers that were not planted also appeared and surmised that the seeds were in the soil and were allowed to grow once the grass was removed. She showed several photos of her front yard at different times of the year.

She said that her husband was resistant to doing completely away with all the grass until a grub infestation killed most of it. After that he agreed to convert the front completely to grass. Later when the asphalt drive needed work he decided to replace it with tumbled cobblestones with a very appealing effect. It also meant that rain did not run down to the sewer but simply drained between the stones, retaining water in the garden.

Liz went on to explain that she does not use native plants exclusively but uses some. She said she wants low maintenance plants and uses a broad range of both native and exotic.

Liz concluded by showing photographs of several gardens across the country, commenting on their various styles and appeal. She showed a couple of houses where the addition of a front yard garden produced an amazing change, with the house scarcely recognizable. Also she showed several places which incorporate a Japanese garden which feature rock, sand and not a lot of colour for a very peaceful, muted effect. They also characteristically employ a dry stream bed. Many of the places she showed are low maintenance gardens.

All in all an excellent presentation. Liz was thanked by President Richard Maxfield.

Gord Catterson

ON Regional Meeting:

The spring regional meeting for the Carolinian West region was held on Saturday, March 27th at Rondeau Provincial Park Visitor Centre. In attendance were Nature London (formerly Mcllwraith Field Naturalists), Friends of Rondeau, St. Thomas Field Naturalists, Carolinian Canada, Otter Valley Naturalists, Essex Field Naturalists, Natural Habitat Network, Sarnia Urban Wildlife, Lambton Wildlife Inc. and Sydenham Field Naturalists. The meeting was chaired by the host club with Anne MacArthur presiding. Representing ON were President Peter Gilchrist, Joe Crowley and Lenore Nadeau, the Carolinian West Coordinator.

The meeting began with introductions and then Joe Crowley made a presentation on the Ontario Reptile & Amphibian Atlas and said he has been with ON for 2 years. He said that the objectives of the program are to produce a database of these animals, to produce an atlas to be put on line, to raise public awareness and finally in the next few years to print the atlas. The last atlas was done in 1984 and many areas have not been surveyed and observations that were done are now "historic", and need updating.

He pointed out some characteristics of reptiles and amphibians and said that Ontario has 15 snakes, 8 turtles, 1 lizard (the five lined skink), 13 frogs and toads and 11 salamanders and newts. He said that 18 of 24 reptile species are now endangered, threatened or of special concern due to habitat loss, road kill, collection and human persecution. For example a study determined that 3% of drivers will deliberately swerve to kill snakes.

The program began in 2009 with a goal of protecting and recovering rare species and to document "common species". A reporting mechanism is available online at the ON website or by e-mailing Joe at <joec@ontarionature.org> and he requested that sighting be reported either on line or to him. The online is better as it has a form that can be completed. He said that the information is kept confidential so that poachers cannot obtain it.

Next the various clubs in attendance reported on recent activities.

Nature London said they were starting a Young Nats club and followed up on the Sifton Bog deer problem. A report commissioned by the City suggested that deer were not that much of a problem and no action was necessary. However Nature London remain somewhat skeptical.

Carolinian Canada talked about a new program called the Lake Erie Coastal Zone Program. It is a way for public and private partners to cooperate in the management of this area, described as "Lake Erie's Carolinian Coast". The idea is to implement a suitable network of trail building, maintenance and stewardship in order to protect and enhance rare species and biodiversity. A fundamental initiative for this is to establish a Lake Erie Coastal Stewardship Trail. The plan is in the next 3 years to complete a trail plan with input from diverse communities.

The Otter Valley Naturalists mentioned their interest in using Facebook as a way of connecting with younger people and to spark interest in the environment. They are also naturalizing the Port Burwell drainage area.

Tania Havelka, LWI's ON rep reported on various LWI incentives including the Butterfly Whisperer, the Lambton County natural area video and booklet, YN activities and the potential expansion of the LWI properties at Port Franks.

Tom Chatterton discussed the Sydenham Field Naturalists recent activities such as the Wallaceburg Pawpaw Woods, the establishing of a demo plot in Chatham with trees, shrubs, grasses and forbes, and doing some spot planting on 77 acres of crown land north of highway 401 which was used as a borrow pit during construction of the highway.

This would be similar to the work done to establish Wawanosh Wetlands. Tom also mentioned that a 100 acre property has come up for sale adjacent to Clear Creek Forest and that they are trying to find interested partners.

Brenda Lorenz reported for Sarnia Urban Wildlife Committee and said they are looking at doing some naturalization and documenting of some natural areas within the City.

Friends of Rondeau said they were in the process of building ponds and wetlands to filter farm runoff, particularly pig manure, and preventing it from entering the bay. They also plan on doing a mapping exercise using infrared cameras from a plane to map flora in the park.

Next Lenore Nadeau did an update on ongoing ON efforts. Endangered Species Act. They are currently waiting for the caribou regulations as well as those for redbreasted dace. She also mentioned developments in Windsor and Ottawa which are a problem in those cities. The Windsor issue is the threat to the prairie areas from the expansion of the highway while in Ottawa an expansion to Terry Fox Drive will impact on a wetland which is home to the Blanding's turtle.

She said they are monitoring the Greenbelt at 5 Years program, which is an assessment of what has happened in the first 5 years.

ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) alliance workshops are being done. The alliance is made up of the Norfolk ALUS project, Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, Local Food Plus and Ontario Nature. Details are on their website.

She also reported on the Greenway project in eastern Ontario which has a new website, and that a 165 acre site has been added to the Nature Reserves Program. Also that they hope to add a spectacular new property of 1000 acres in total which they plan to acquire in increments of one-third over the next while. This will be the 22nd property in the program.

She also talked about the Boreal Program on which work is ongoing. A recent letter from Caroline Schultz about a potential chromite mine being situated within the "Ring of Fire" in the boreal forest was mentioned. The letter was published in the last issue of Earthways. It was pointed out that Dalton McGuinty had promised to protect the boreal forest from this sort of development and that this was a massive undermining of that undertaking.

Lenore mentioned that ON's From the Ground Up program now has a new name and will henceforth be known as Nature Guardians Program. This is a children and youth program and a joint club event was held on February 20th.

They will also participate in some Volunteer for Nature events.

She then talked about the 2010 Youth Summit for Biodiversity program. Detail are on the YN page. Finally she mentioned that ON is pursuing a lawsuit to force large building owners in Toronto to turn off building lights at night in order to reduce bird strikes.

Next resolutions for the upcoming 2010 AGM were reviewed. Firstly Dan Bissonnette of the Natural Habitat Network made a presentation regarding the sale of invasive species in garden centres. This arose as a result of a suggestion by him last fall that ON pursue this issue as a resolution. Unsurprisingly, he was asked to do some research and bring forth a resolution.

Dan made an excellent presentation pointing out that we are currently plagued by many objectionable invasive species, some of which were originally introduced by gardening centres. A good example is purple loosestrife, a terrible plant infesting many wetlands across the country, originally introduced as a garden plant by garden centres.

Dan started by defining exotic plants which basically means a plant which is not native to a particular area or region and that they don't have to originate in another country. He used the example of the Manitoba maple. While a native Canadian tree it really only grew in Manitoba, Alberta and extreme western Ontario and as such is really not native to this area, and should be considered an exotic.

Dan separated plants into various categories of moderately invasive (day lily, horse chestnut, miscanthus, yellow flag iris), very invasive (black locust, English ivy, European highbush cranberry, moneywort, Norway maple), and extremely invasive (autumn olive, Canada thistle, dog strangling vine, garlic mustard, phragmites, purple loosestrife and white sweet clover). He also mentioned ornamentals such as Japanese knotweed, European frogbit, European buckthorn, dames rocket and giant hogweed. He said that many of these were the 'flavour du jour' at one time and were introduced as exciting new introductions. After falling out of favour they spread and became the invasive nuisances we now are faced with. He said this is still ongoing and every year garden centres introduce new plants, some of which will become invasive problems.

Dan then presented a resolution calling for a ban on the sale of these invasives and a law allowing municipalities to impose a ban. The resolution was approved for presentation at the AGM.

The group also expressed support in principle for an Eastern Ontario resolution calling on the government to ban wind turbines from bird migration routes.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 30th and will be hosted by the Otter Valley Naturalists in Port Burwell.

Gord Catterson

Oxford Thames River Trail

The Oxford County Trails Council is seeking funds for a proposed trail along the Thames River in the Beachville area. This is the beginning of what we hope to be a trail connecting Woodstock to Ingersoll. The anticipated cost of the first phase of construction including a foot bridge is \$260,000 with construction starting spring 2010. This section of trail will also be linked west to 2 km of existing trail.

This environmentally sensitive section of the Thames River Valley is home to a variety of plants, birds and other wildlife. In the past this area has witnessed land destruction and noise caused by dirt bikes, ATV's and paintball activity. A walking and cycling trail will create a safer use of this land and discourage inappropriate activity. Trails provide an inexpensive outdoor physical activity opportunity for people of all ages. A recent Heart and Stroke health survey found that 55% of Oxford County residents are inactive. It is well documented that physical activity decreases the risk of obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease, type II diabetes and many other chronic diseases. People who are active generally have an over all sense of well being, sleep better and are energized.

The Thames River, one of ten Canadian Heritage Rivers in Ontario, is home to a variety of wildlife including fish, salamanders and the spiny soft shelled turtle (an endangered species). Parents are encouraged to bring their children to this unique peaceful area where they might see a bald eagle, a loon diving in the river or a new spring flower.

The presence of trails helps to create a community where people want to live. Close proximity to walking trails is a draw for many potential home buyers. Trails are often a destination point for day trippers and vacationers, thus benefiting the local economy by providing for meals and accommodations. Members of the Oxford community have the opportunity to volunteer in many ways such as becoming a member of the Oxford County Trails Council or assist with ongoing maintenance of the trails. You can also help with fund raising and special events such as trails days and more. Thank you for your time and your consideration to help support the building of the Oxford Thames River trail.

I hope you don't mind me sending you a link to our page. It is still under construction so bear with us.

<http://oxfordthamestrails.50webs.com/splash.htm>

Any help or support you can provide us would be be deeply appreciated. Letting your members know about our trail would be terrific. Linking to our page would provide many others to find us.

Thanking you in advance and have a great nature day.

Walter Pfefferle

Fundraising Volunteer

Oxford Thames River Trail.

Ontario Nature AGM: 2010

Through of the initiative of Brenda Lorenz, the area nature organizations have agreed to sponsor the 2010 AGM of Ontario Nature. This conference is hosted by Lambton Wildlife Incorporated, Friends of Pinery Park, Sarnia Urban Wildlife Committee and the Sydenham Field Naturalists, in partnership with Carolinian Canada Coalition and Ontario Nature. It is an event not to be missed!

Exploring our Watersheds Conference Lambton College and Inn, Sarnia, Ontario

We invite you to join us for our 3-day conference, "Exploring Our Watersheds" at Lambton College, Sarnia on May 28th-30th, 2010. This major conservation event will showcase the rich diversity of Carolinian Canada's coasts and Lambton County's watersheds through a variety of presentations, workshops, field trips, and a special evening cruise on the St. Clair River. Registration is now open.

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity and this conference is a great opportunity to highlight this special part of Ontario, while sharing, learning and experiencing all that Lambton's World Class Natural Areas in Carolinian Canada have to offer. Be sure not to miss an exciting discussion on "Coastal Greenways & the Big Picture in Carolinian Canada" on Friday, May 28th, a great overview of some local and provincial initiatives dedicated to maintaining southern Ontario's biodiversity!

Program includes:

Stewarding Carolinian Coasts- Find out what's new in managing rare species, coastal ecosystems and biodiverse hotspots.

Exploring Lambton Waters- Meet experts in birding, wetland restoration, rare mussels and more.

Participating in hands-on workshops- Geocaching, woodcarving, naturalized landscaping, restoring habitat and social marketing.

Cruising the St. Clair River- and guided field trips to Carolinian Canada signature sites including Walpole Island, Pinery Provincial Park, Rock Glen and more.

A Lifetime of Aquatic Adventure — Hear keynote speaker Jack Imhof, a distinguished ecologist with Trout Unlimited Canada, talk of the rich diversity of southern Ontario's rivers while dining on locally-grown food.

For more information

www.carolinian.org 519-433-7077 conference@carolinian.org

www.ontarionature.org 1-800-440-2366 ext.240 barbaraw@ontarionature.org

Take advantage of the Early Bird discount and register by April 15th, 2010. Check out the Conference "Programme at a Glance" at www.ontarionature.org and www.carolinian.org/AGM-2010.htm. Online registration is also available.

We look forward to extending our famous Bluewater Hospitality to you. See you there!

----- CUT AND MAIL -----

**To help us serve you better
please circle or check (optional):**

Age Groups: Under 12 12-20 20-40 40-60
60-80 over 80 or M. Y. O. B.

Interests: Birds Flowers Animals Insects
Fungi Fish Trees
Conservation Environment
Other _____

Activities: Hiking Camping Bicycle Riding
Canoeing Walking Talking
Writing Cross Country Skiing
Other _____

Might be willing to:

Serve on Committee
Chair Committee
Serve on Board
Act as LWI Representative
Come to Indoor Meetings
Go on Outings
Participate in Slide Show
Be an Advisor

Other Information to Share with LWI:

Need transportation to meetings _____
Special skills or work experience _____

Camping at Point Pelee:

Thursday, May 13 to Monday, May 17.

Point Pelee is one of North America's top Birding Hotspots for spring migration. For many years, Lambton Wildlife has arranged for inexpensive camping within Point Pelee National Park. The camping is very close to the interpretative centre and the tram to the Point. It is the only place in the Park where camping is permitted and only a few spots are available. The amenities are just fine: a covered eating area, drinking water and flush toilets (and an outdoor shower for the hearty). In the past we have tried to be there before the usually incredible rush of bird watchers. However in recent years, the weather has been a bit cold and rainy. So this year, we tried for camping spots right at the usual peak of warbler migration and thanks to the efforts of Larry Cornelis and Paul Carter, we succeeded. This will be a joint outing with Sydenham Field Naturalists.

The camping will be from a Thursday, May 13 arrival to Monday, May 17 departure.

Cost will be \$64.00 for 4 days & nights. An amazing deal, compared to accommodation outside the Park. You will also have the benefit of birding with our LWI experts. That is a lot of fun. You will see birds that you won't see, or at least won't be able to identify if you don't bird with experts such as ours. Please make your reservations as soon as possible as space is limited. This has become a joint program with Sydenham Field Naturalists.

Contact: Larry Cornelis: 519-339-8785 or Paul Carter: 519-344-2571



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Volunteer for Nature

Submitted by Gabe Camozzi, Ontario Nature
 Are you looking to spend some quality time with nature this year? The first events of the **Volunteer for Nature** Schedule for 2010 have been posted at www.ontarionature.org/connect/volunteer/events.php. As always, registration is online and easy, so learn about our events, then come out and join us!

Deadline for Summer issue is
Friday, July 2nd, 2010
 Please leave typed material or discs in mailbox
 at 502 Roosevelt Drive
 or email to:
gpcatt@xcelco.on.ca

----- CUT AND MAIL -----

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to : Lambton Wildlife Inc. Box 681 SARNIA, ON N7T 7J7



Name: _____

Address: _____ email _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Date : _____ Earthways via email? Yes _____ No _____

Membership fees: Single \$20 Family \$25 Young Naturalist \$15 (\$5 ea. add'l child) (Circle one)

Donation \$ _____ (Business number 11900 4620 RR0001) Total \$ _____