

EARTHWAYS[®]



Earthways is a publication of LAMBTON WILDLIFE INCORPORATED-P.O. BOX 681 SARNIA, ON N7T 7J7
Gordon Catterson-Editor Modris Zandbergs-Distribution **February 2011**
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

February 28th 2011

Canaries in the Coalmine

Mike Cadman is a songbird biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service and was the Coordinator of The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario (2001-2005). The atlas documents how bird distributions and abundances changed between 1981-1985 and 2001-2005. It illustrates the patterns of increase and decrease, expansion and retraction, providing insight into the challenges faced by our birds and what those indicate about our environment. Join us for an entertaining presentation that will both inform and inspire.

March 28th, 2011

Frontyard Gardens

Karen McKeown, Horticulturist and City of Guelph Healthy Landscape Technician, will talk about Guelph's Healthy Landscape Program. A progressive program, it helps homeowners develop proper planning to produce frontyard gardens that are beautiful and have proper maintenance, plant selection, watering, weeding and eliminating the need for pesticides.

Special Events

LWI Annual General Meeting and Banquet

April 16th, 2011 Mandaumin United Church Hall
Business meeting and general elections at 4:30 pm, bucket draw opens at 5 pm, then the delicious turkey dinner with homemade fruit pies is served at 6:30 pm. The guest speaker will be Dave Pearce, analyst for CPAWS (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society). Ontario has the world's most southern population of polar bears. Our boreal forest has among the richest, natural carbon reserves in the world. Dave will tell the story of how "ice bears", climate change and carbon choices collide dramatically with Ontario's far north.

Dark Skies, Bright Minds

Submitted by Glenda Clarke

The third Sources of Knowledge Forum: Dark Skies, Bright Minds will be held on April 29 & 30, 2011 in Tobermory. The Forum will bring together 120 students, educators, researchers, citizens, business operators, resource managers and policy-makers to explore the significance of the Bruce Peninsula's dark skies. For more information and to register for the 2011 Forum, please visit

<http://www.sourcesofknowledge.ca/> or contact Sylvia Elliot, Administrator at syviaelliott@amtelecom.net.

Outdoor Program

*Winter Outing (Snowshoeing)

Saturday, February 12, 2011

Meet: 9:00 am at the Brights Grove Plaza (near Shoppers) Try snowshoeing and search for nature (tracking & barking) and earn an outdoor lunch on an outdoor fire. Check January Earthways for recipe ingredients to bring.
Leader: Brenda Kulon – 869-2833

Howard Watson Nature Trail Cleanup

Sunday, April 17, 2011

Inquiries: Gord Catterson – 337-1246

*Highway 402 Cleanup

Saturday, April 23, 2011

Inquiries: Joe Haselmayer – 542-2826

*LWI Properties Tour

Saturday, April 30, 2011

Meet: 9:00 am at the Brights Grove Plaza (near Shoppers) Here's your chance to see and learn about the properties that LWI owns and manages. This year's tour will be at the Karner Blue Sanctuary.
Inquiries: Dick Maxfield – 542-7914

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 7, 2011

Organizer: Brenda Kulon – 869-2833

See p. 7 for details.

*Canatara Walks into Spring

Wednesdays, May 4, 11 and 18, 2011

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

Leader: Gerry Clements – 336-3513

Index

Indoor program.....1	Notices
Outdoor program.....1	Deadline.....8
President's message.....2	David Suzuki film 2
Young Nats.....3	Pt. Pelee camping 8
Board of Directors.....8	Expense forms 6
Reports	Articles
January Indoor 4	Trail Outings 5,6
China's rarest Bird 6	Young Naturalists 6
IJC 7	Native Plant Sale 7
Stewardship Councils . . . 8	

Greetings From The President

If you were not able to attend Lambton Wildlife's first indoor meeting of 2011 and missed the showing of the Larry Cornelis and Danny Alexander produced DVD "*The Treasurers of Lambton County*" don't despair. A limited number of copies are available for sale at the nominal cost of \$5.00. Once you have viewed it, I am confident you will consider this a real bargain. Do not hesitate too long though, as sales have been brisk.

Last month in my President's Report, I mentioned that by 2007 the LWI committee structure had become out-dated and to a large degree dysfunctional. The old structure was replaced by a new more efficient and streamlined one consisting of three committees: Public Relations, Environment, and Land Trust.

I covered the functions of the PR Committee in January's report so will move on to a brief outline of the other two.

Gord Catterson, editor of *Earthways*, chairs the Environment Committee. As the name implies the Environment Committee deals with environmental issues. As you might imagine, to deal with all environmental matters is such a broad mandate that it would be a full time job for Gord to cover the field and even then he could not possibly look at everything. Wisely, Gord tries to focus on environmental concerns that have more a direct impact upon Sarnia and Lambton County. Gord's committee was instrumental in the publishing of the booklet "*A Guide to the Natural Areas of Lambton County*" a very informative "where to go" resource book for finding nature hot spots in the county. This compliments the DVD very nicely. The DVD project also fell under the stewardship of this committee.

The Environment Committee kept a close eye on the infamous plan of a few years ago to sell city parkland and was ready to intercede if necessary. Fortunately, wiser heads on council intervened and the idea was quickly dropped, but this is the sort of environmental issues the committee monitors ready to step in when necessary.

As you are probably aware, LWI owns two properties: Mandaumin Woods on County Road 26 south of the village of Mandaumin and Karner Blue in the Port Franks area. There are also two properties that LWI manages under long term agreement with Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC): Port Franks Forested Dunes Nature Reserve and Ipperwash Dunes and Swales. The management of these properties falls under the mandate of The Land Trust Committee chaired by current Past President Malcolm Boyd.

Malcolm is aided in his task by works foreman John Bellar and four property wardens; Wayne Bowen, Brenda Kulon, Robert DiFruscia, and Klaus Keunecke. These properties require upkeep and there is always a constant need to find volunteers willing to donate their time to get these tasks done. Under NCC guidance, management plans have been established that detail objectives to be accomplished to make sure these fragile and sensitive areas are preserved and protected.

LWI has also entered a partnership with the Ontario Land Trust Alliance and the Sarnia Community Foundation to establish and maintain an endowment fund to provide an income toward proper maintenance of these properties. Looking after these properties is no easy task. Malcolm's long experience and expertise in planning and land management stands him in good stead as head of this committee. This brief look at the functions of these three committees gives a glimpse of the important roles they play in the affairs of LWI.

The chairs of these three committees, however, would be the first to say they could not achieve success without the help of many others. LWI is indeed fortunate that along with the committee chairs there are others who give of their time to serve on these committees, and who do such a good job.

Until next time, stay safe.

Richard Maxfield

Special Showing April 1st. The David Suzuki Story

Sarnia is presenting this documentary which guides us through David Suzuki's life and reveals the key events and people that shaped him. The occasion for the film is his return to the University of British Columbia to deliver his legacy lecture. He is, by turns, touching and funny and, above all endlessly engaging. His powerful words and inspiring life epitomize his commitment to making science vital and accessible to every one.

Tickets at The Bookkeeper, Northgate Plaza in advance, at the door on April 1, 2011

Sarnia Public Library Auditorium, Friday, April 1

Two showings, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Sturla Gunnarsson, the director of the documentary, will be present for the first showing

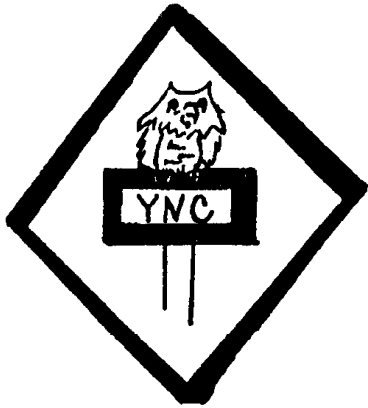
Ticket price, \$8 in advance or at the door

I think that we can safely say that this will be the only opportunity to see this film on the big screen in Sarnia.

cheers, Bob Dell

A Year in Review

As 2010 fades from our recent memories, I'd like to take a look back and share some of the Young Naturalist and Jr. Conservationist happenings and achievements.



Jan 2010 – Members participated in a snowshoeing trek at the Ska Nat Doh Village. Kids learned about traditional native life on the site and enjoyed a beautiful winter hike on snowshoes. We even spotted a bald eagle during the hike; the first sighting for many of the kids!

April 2010 – Our groups participated in the HWNT Annual Clean-up. This year marked our 5th year participating in the clean up.

April 2010 – Schoolyard Naturalization Project 2010 – Our members participated in a Native Tree Planting @ Brigden Public School. Five trees were planted and mulched near the play equipment with the hopes of providing learning opportunities and shade for the children in years to come. Species planted were; Basswood, Witch Hazel, Sycamore, Sassafras & Hop Hornbeam. The school also received species info cards

to assist their understanding and learning.

May 2010 – Our Jr. Conservationists participated in LWI's annual Pt. Pelee camping trip. We spent two days birding; the kids showed an endless enthusiasm and unlimited supply of energy! So much was experienced and learned by us all.

May 2010 – Children received a private tour of Larry Cornelis' family farm & wetland. The children learned about the transformation from farm field back to wetland. We helped prepare a snake nesting site, added stones to a hibernaculum, and most importantly had a chance to get up close and personal with a number of garter snakes! This was a first for many of the children, and I'm sure something they will not forget.

June 2010 – Our Jr. Conservationists participated in the Annual Pinery & North Lambton Butterfly Count. We enjoyed a beautiful day counting and recording many butterfly species.

Oct. 2010 – Our Jr. Conservationists were invited onto a private woodlot to explore a predominately ash woodland. We were able to examine Emerald Ash Borer damage at varying stages of destruction & discuss the future of the woodlot. We helped to relocate saplings into areas with newly opened canopy where mature ash trees had fallen; hopefully repopulating the woods with other tree species. Interesting to most of us, we were also given a lesson on primitive fire building and each took a turn trying to create heat with a bow drill.

Nov. 2010 – Our Young Naturalists learned about different winter survival strategies of our birds; including migration, and overwintering adaptations. The lesson was highlighted by a visit from "Otus" an educational screech owl from the Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation. The kids were amazed by Otus' camouflage; the screech owl virtually disappears when held in front of a tree trunk! We also examined and discussed the owl's winter adaptations.

Dec 2010 – Our Jr. Conservationists participated in the Annual Christmas Bird Count. This was our second year participating. Highlights of this years count included an early morning 'owling' trek in Pinery Park. Thanks to the efforts of Larry Cornelis we were able to have two species call back; Eastern Screech Owl & Great Horned Owl. To our delighted surprise we also had a screech owl sighting! The rest of our day was spent with Alf Rider birding Kettle Point. We thoroughly enjoyed our day and at the end of it, found it hard to believe we had been out birding for 10 hours!

Ongoing Sept 2009-Present – Our Jr. Conservationists have an ongoing project/partnership with the Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation; we participate bi-monthly in a Jr. Rehabber's Course. Some of this group's major achievements for 2010 include; performing daily cleaning and feeding chores unassisted, gaining an understanding of raptor adaptations, physiology & taxonomy, learning proper care and handling techniques, & learning about and participating in the release of rehabilitated raptors.

A special thanks to all LWI members who helped the Young Naturalist & Jr. Conservationist groups have such a great year!

We are still accepting new members for the 2010-2011 season!

Contact Melissa Levi @ insektivi@hotmail.com for info.

Upcoming Events:

Young Naturalists (age 6-11)

Sun. February 20th: Canatara Park from 1:00-3:00PM

Topic: Surprise Topic – developed & taught by the Jr. Conservationist members

Jr. Conservationists (age 12-16)

Feb19th: @ Sarnia Public Library from 10:00AM - 3:00PM

Research & Planning meeting for the teaching of the Young Naturalist group

January Indoor Meeting:

One of Lambton Wildlife's mandates as spelled out in the by-laws is "to print, publish, sell or distribute literature for the purpose of encouraging and promoting the conservation, preservation and protection of the natural environment including plants, natural resources and wildlife in Lambton County". At the time that the bylaws were formulated the notion of a digital video was far in the future.

For many years the publication of printed material was pretty well confined to the regular issuing of Earthways and to my knowledge no effort was ever made to sell literature to the public, other than the sale of material produced by others, and that only recently.

In the past couple of years the club has undertaken to produce such literature on its' own with the publication of a booklet entitled A Guide to the Natural Areas of Lambton County and the production of a DVD called Natural Treasures of Lambton County. LWI is also considering printing a book called The Butterfly Whisperer by Brenda Kulon.

In March 2009 Larry Cornelis approached the LWI board with a proposal to produce a DVD featuring the natural areas of the county. It would be filmed by videographer Danny Alexander and directed by Larry. Larry would be donating his time and expected the DVD to be done at a relatively modest cost. The purpose was to create awareness and appreciation of the natural beauties to be found in Lambton County as well as to be used as an educational and promotional tool, all in keeping with the LWI mandate. As well it would complement the Natural Areas booklet then being completed and promote the image of Lambton Wildlife Incorporated. Copies would be made available to area schools and libraries and presentations of the DVD would be given to local clubs and organizations.

On Monday, January 31st over 60 LWI members and friends were entertained by a showing of the DVD Natural Treasures of Lambton County. Larry and the videographer, Danny Alexander, were introduced by Joan Difruscia who described each of their backgrounds. Larry began the presentation by doing a Power Point presentation featuring stills taken from the various sites which he and Danny visited. These included such places as Carolinian Canada signature sites in Lambton County as well as several others. Places such as Walpole Island, Canatara Park, The Pinery Provincial Park, Lake Huron shoreline, Rock Glen, coastal sand dunes, Karner Blue Sanctuary, Mandaumin Woods, Howard Watson Nature Trail, the Dennis Rupert Nature Reserve, Bickford Oak Woods as well as several others are featured in the video. In total 24 sites were visited. Larry also mentioned that they rented a plane to get some aerial shots of the various major sites such as the Pinery, Walpole Island and Bickford Oak Woods.

Next The DVD was shown. It is about 20 minutes in length and includes many stunning images of these beautiful spots. An amazing image of a field of dense blazing star waving in the wind on Walpole Island was particularly impressive. As Larry later said the best time to film is when the wind is blowing. As well there are views of wildlife including a fox snake, Blandings turtle, turkey vulture, a red-tailed hawk and many others. It includes pictures of many

different flora species including the very rare white prairie gentian. It is believed that the only place in Canada where it grows is Walpole Island.

The video includes interviews with Alistair Mackenzie of Pinery Provincial Park, Muriel Andreae of St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and Clint Jacobs of the Walpole Island Heritage Centre.

Finally Larry and Danny held a question and answer session as well as commenting on their experiences doing the filming. In response to a question Larry said that they only visited two spots more than once. These were the Pinery and the Ausable River which they went to twice. All of the others were done in one visit. They also chuckled about the fact that all three interviewees were very soft spoken and that they had only the microphone on the camera to record. As a result they had to do some serious tweaking to get the sound level up.

Larry also mentioned that while filming on the dam at the back of Lorne Henderson C.A. Danny spotted a large bird and asked Larry what it was. As Larry tried to identify it the bird came closer and Larry realized it was an osprey, the only time he has seen one in Lambton County. He shouted to Danny to start filming as the bird suddenly dropped into the water right in front of them and snagged a fish. However by the time Danny got the camera ready the bird had flown away and they missed the shot, a truly unfortunate opportunity missed.

They then talked about some of the challenges in completing the DVD which included wading in chest deep water to get some shots as well as coping with dense swarms of mosquitoes. Larry also mentioned that getting the aerial shots was difficult in that they had to film through an open window and said that while the ground temperature was about 20 degrees it was only about 8 degrees at 2000 feet and filming was quite cold.

Finally Larry said that there was one place that they missed but wouldn't say where it was. He said it was only later that he realized they had failed to include it and said if you wanted to know you would have to figure it out for yourself.

All in all a great presentation of a very good video. Floyd Elliott, who worked for many years for the National Film Board producing educational films, said it was a very professional work with excellent editing. He said such a product could cost some hundreds of thousands of dollars if done professionally and congratulated everyone involved.

Credits for the DVD included Larry as Producer, Danny as Videographer and Editor, Melissa Levi as Narrator and Larry's daughter Bekki as Graphic Designer. Original music was produced and played by Danny's brother Nick Alexander with Nic Swales and John Looye. A picture of the Karner blue butterfly was provided by Gerry Clements, an LWI founding member, and the pictures of the fox snake and Blandings's turtle were by Rick Fehr.

Our thanks to Larry and Danny not only for the presentation but also for all the work to produce such an excellent result.

Gord Catterson

2011 Trail Outings:

Lambton Wildlife is represented on the Lambton County Regional Trail Committee by myself as chair of the Howard Watson Nature Trail Committee. Last year Larry Cornelis led an outing on the nature trail, and we have had one or two outings previously. Perhaps the club will have future events involving area trails. The following tips for a successful outing comes from Trails Open Ontario, an Ontario Heritage Trust organization which is an agency of The Government of Ontario.

The Ontario Heritage Trust launched Trails Open Ontario in 2007 to promote trail use and education, natural heritage conservation and stewardship, and physical activity and healthy lifestyles. Over the last few years the program has developed into the Trust's premier natural heritage tourism initiative. In 2010, the program featured 74 events encompassing roughly 260 separate hikes/activities in locations across the province. Also included are 2011 trail events across the Province which might be of interest to LWI members. Gord Catterson

Since Trails Open Ontario was launched in 2007, hundreds of events have been held on trails across the province. Using the feedback provided from event organizers, a list of eight very simple tips has been assembled. Be sure to consider these tips while planning your event.

Tip #1: Link your event with an existing Doors Open Ontario event whenever possible.

Coinciding Trails Open Ontario and Doors Open Ontario events builds on the success and momentum of both programs by increasing exposure to potential attendees, providing new cross-promotional marketing opportunities and promoting contact with local networks of like-minded volunteers and organizations. Before setting a date for your event, check to see if there will be a Doors Open Ontario event in your community (a listing of events is included at the end of this document). If there is an event happening locally, consider operating your event on the same day or weekend and contact the organizer of the Doors Open event to discuss strategies. Since Doors Open events tend to operate from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., consider hosting your event outside of these hours or on a date adjacent to the event.

Tip #2: Design your hike or tour with a destination in mind.

The most successful Trails Open Ontario events are those that follow a trail to a specific destination. The destination can be a unique landscape feature, the ruins of an abandoned building, or even a particular location that offers panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. While the journey may be just as enjoyable as the destination, past participants have noted a feeling of accomplishment after arriving at an intended destination. Spend some time considering an interesting site in your area that would function well as a destination for your hike or tour.

Tip #3: Explore an area that is underappreciated or underutilized.

While we don't encourage disrupting pristine natural settings or habitats for the sake of going somewhere new, we do encourage event organizers to host events that utilize

lesser known pathways and trails. Consider touring a trail or route, such as a side trail, that isn't as well known as the main route. In many cases, participants want to be shown areas and pathways that they wouldn't likely find on their own. If a new trail has recently opened, consider using a Trails Open Ontario event as a means for officially announcing its opening.

Tip #4: Know your goals and understand the needs of your target audience.

When planning a Trails Open Ontario event, it is extremely important to consider why you're participating in the program and who you're hoping to reach, as these two factors will greatly influence the design of the event. If greater public awareness of a trail system is your main goal, you will want to develop a strong promotional plan, include a strong educational component and develop a range of activities that can be enjoyed by people with all levels of experience. On the other hand, if your main goal is to engage the existing members of your trail organization, you may wish to develop highly specific programming and tours with a higher degree of difficulty.

Tip #5: Find GPS coordinates for the starting location of your event.

Even if you don't have your own GPS device, you can determine the coordinates of a site by utilizing online mapping tools. To find GPS coordinates for the starting point of your event, first locate the site on Google Maps (<http://maps.google.ca>) using the satellite view (which provides an aerial image of the landscape). Right-click on the map at the exact starting point for your event and then click *Directions from here*. GPS coordinates should appear on the left of the screen in Box A. (Note: Box A may contain a road address if you have right-clicked on a coloured destination marker or too close to a roadway. If this happens, refresh your browser and repeat the process, right-clicking away from any defined map features [e.g. roads, markers, labels]).

Tip #6: Develop a localized promotional plan.

The Ontario Heritage Trust is responsible for the province-wide promotion of Trails Open Ontario and markets the program through its corporate website (www.heritagetrust.on.ca), the Doors Open Ontario guide, and a series of program-based media releases and advisories. The Trust also provides promotional tools, such as customizable event posters and site signage, to event organizers to aid in local marketing. While these initiatives may form the basis for a promotional plan, event organizers should attempt to further engage local residents and media. Spend time in the months leading up to your event developing a detailed promotional plan that incorporates specific local marketing initiatives as well as Trust-provided tools.

Tip #7: Don't count out interesting event locations that normally charge admission fees.

One of the guiding principles of Trails Open Ontario is that all events must be free for the public to attend. For this reason, many event organizers in the past have opted not to host events in paid access locations such as provincial parks and conservation areas. There have, however, been occasions where sites have managed to put fees on hold

for visitors entering a park for specific purposes. If you are interested in hosting a Trails Open Ontario event at a paid-access site, contact park operators to inquire about the possibility of circumventing fees. This can usually be accommodated by having park entrance attendants ask all incoming visitors about the nature of their visit. If a visitor states that he/she is attending a Trails Open Ontario event, he/she can be provided with a free entrance pass designed to expire upon the conclusion of the event.

Tip #8: Remember that success can be measured in many ways.

The number of participants at a Trails Open Ontario event can vary greatly. While some past events have included hundreds of participants, others have only attracted a handful of people. Although tracking attendance is an important means for examining the year-to-year progress of a particular event, other results, such as the quality of the visitor's experience or increases in post-event trail usage, may be better indicators of success. Unlike Doors Open Ontario events which incorporate various locations during full-day or multi-day events, Trails Open Ontario activities are usually geared towards smaller groups. Having too many participants may even pose a problem at some events, as it can be very difficult for a tour leader to effectively communicate with large groups. As stated in Tip #4, by setting clear goals for your event it becomes much easier to evaluate its success.

Ontario Heritage Trust | 10 Adelaide Street East | Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3 Telephone: 416-325-5000 | Fax: 416-325-5071 | E-mail: michael.sawchuck@heritagetrust.on.ca
www.heritagetrust.on.ca Ontario Heritage Trust | 10 Adelaide Street East | Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3 Telephone: 416-325-5000 | Fax: 416-325-5071 | E-mail: michael.sawchuck@heritagetrust.on.ca
www.heritagetrust.on.ca

China's Rarest Bird:

30 December 2010 – For the first time in 70 years, a wintering Chinese crested tern *Sterna bergii* has been sighted and photographed outside of the breeding season in Pulau Lusaolate, North Seram, Indonesia. With an estimated population of only 50 birds, the critically endangered Chinese crested tern is China's most threatened bird and even rarer than the giant panda.

This amazing record has many wondering how many more are wintering in the region. Birders have been encouraged to survey wintering groups of greater crested terns around the numerous islands in Indonesia's Seram Sea and perhaps even further south in the Banda Sea. First discovered in 1861, the Chinese crested tern was presumed extinct until 2000, when four adults and four chicks were found amongst a colony of other tern species on Matsu Island off China's Fujian coast. In 2004, it was discovered breeding on the Jiushan Islands. Currently, China's Jiushan and Wuzhishan Islands in Zhejiang province are its only known breeding sites in the world. The greatest threat to the tern's survival is egg collection by fishermen for food, which continues even though the breeding sites are within

protected areas.

The Chinese crested tern is one of the species benefitting from the BirdLife Preventing Extinctions Programme. The programme is spearheading greater conservation action, awareness, and funding support for all of the world's most threatened birds, starting with the 190 species classified as Critically Endangered.

Young Naturalists:

I couldn't not comment on the YN article Melissa submitted for this issue of Earthways. The work she is doing with these young people is truly remarkable and it is only when one sees what she has accomplished with them over the past year that it really hits home.

A naturalist organization such as Lambton Wildlife has many mandates which generally the club does very well. Elsewhere I write about the publishing of literature and videos which fulfills the objective of producing educational material on natural subjects. There is also of course our indoor and outdoor programs which are open to everyone, not just members. Earthways is another outreach program as it goes not just to the membership but also to local libraries and schools as well as selected politicians.

However I have always felt that the two most important accomplishments of a club such as LWI are firstly, the preservation, through purchase and management, of significant natural areas. Secondly is the teaching of young people about nature and how important it is to our well being in order to ensure there are enthusiastic people to replace us as we age.

As a regular attendee at the Ontario Nature regional meetings I can attest to the fact that LWI is very well respected amongst our peers for our programs and initiatives. I also believe that we are unique in our very successful Young Nats program run by Melissa. Most of the other clubs do not have a YN program although it is frequently mentioned as something they would like to do. The difficulty is finding someone who is willing to commit to the time and effort involved. The club is truly fortunate to have Melissa and her obvious enthusiasm, and the work she does is perhaps not always appreciated. Well done, Melissa!

Gord Catterson

Expenses and Donations

Have you incurred expenses on behalf of LWI ? e.g. travel, conferences, purchases.

Do you wish reimbursement for some of these costs ?

Do you wish to donate part or all of these amounts ?

If the answer to any of these questions is 'Yes', you may download a form from the website

www.lambtonwildlife.com , complete it, and forward it to LWI. The form can be found on the link LWI Expense/ Donation Form.

Bill Scott, Treasurer

IJC Study:

In response to the International Upper Great Lakes Study's report on the St. Clair River, and comments from the public on the report, the International Joint Commission (IJC) has [expanded the scope of study](#) on the Upper Great Lakes.

The IJC concurs with the recommendations in the report and has provided further guidance to the International Upper Great Lakes Study Board pertaining to the recommendation that remedial measures not be undertaken in the St. Clair River at this time. The IJC has directed the Study Board to undertake an exploratory investigation of how raising the water-level regimes on Lakes Michigan and Huron by different amounts would affect interests on the Great Lakes system from Lake Superior to the St. Lawrence River. The IJC has agreed with the Study Board that it also review mitigative options based on potential climate change impacts.

In addition, the IJC provided guidance to the Study Board on three important matters raised in its 7th. Progress Report, directing them to:

- propose one alternative to the existing regulation plan based on its scientific investigations and extensive public input;
- establish a legal rationale for selecting a future regulation plan that allows for the possibility of new physical conditions under a changing climate; and,
- investigate and recommend institutional mechanisms for the management of water resources through one or more management boards in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River System.

The study will continue to examine whether the IJC Order of Approval and plan for regulating Lake Superior outflows should be modified to address the changing climate and the evolving needs of users on lakes Superior, Huron, Michigan and Erie. The final report of the Study Board on the entire study is expected to be completed and submitted to the IJC by early 2012. For more information, please visit the IJC website at www.ijc.org

Native Plant Sale

Attention LWI members:

The annual native plant sale is fast approaching and we still need volunteers to help us in the preparation. Last year we raised a record \$5000 in profit.

We always have a large group of people willing to sell plants and to label them. We still need those individuals; however the plant sale is in need of help in these other areas if it is to continue.

We still need individuals to:

- *collect seeds (find seeds, dry and deliver)
- *grow plants (indoor or outdoor)
- *identify plants in need of rescue (locate places where developers are constructing homes or cottages and would most likely destroy native plants.) Rescue native plants from areas which individuals have identified as threatened. Please call us if you notice developers building homes or roads in native plant areas. We can make a trip out to rescue them.
- *donate plants - native plants only. Please also look at your garden and make note of areas that are over grown. We hope you can dig out a few plants that have spread; give us a call and we will come around and pick them up, or you can put them aside in pots and drop them off. We need people to collect cardinal flower, turtle head, brown-eyed Susan, and sky-blue aster seeds from their garden.
- *pot native plants that have been rescued or donated We need overwintered developed plants such as small redbud, small tulip trees, turtlehead, aster, pussy toes, ironweed, swamp milkweed plants, tall coreopsis, ferns (other than ostrich) blue lobelia, orange milkweed, and many other native plants are needed. If you have such plants give us a call. We need plants that have been sheltered in your gardens through the winter.

Thanks,

Brenda Kulon

519-869-2833

----- 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 Bike 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 you might wish to share with LWI

Need transportation to meetings _____
Special skills or work experience _____

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

Camping at Point Pelee:

Monday, May 16 to Wednesday, May 18.

Point Pelee is one of North America's top birding hotspots for spring migration. For many, 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).

This year reservations were harder to get and we only got camping for 3 nights: in on Monday May 16 and out on Thursday, May 19th. Cost will be \$50.00 for 3 nights, an amazing deal compared to accommodation outside the park.

You will also have the benefit of birding with our LWI experts which is a lot of fun. You will see birds that otherwise you wouldn't see or at least wouldn't be able to identify if you didn't bird with experts such as ours. Please make your reservations as soon as possible as space is limited. Contact: Larry Cornelis: 519-339-8785 or email: [<larrycornelis@gmail.com>](mailto:larrycornelis@gmail.com)

Stewardship Council Partnership

The seven Stewardship Councils in south-western Ontario were fortunate to obtain a considerable grant from Environment Canada Habitat Stewardship Fund and from OMNR's Species at Risk Fund to undertake multiple prairie reconstruction projects and volunteer training for prescribed burns. Tallgrass Ontario entered into the project as a partner to help administer the project and provide additional staffing support. Together, TGO and this consortium of Stewardship Councils pooled their available resources and were able to hire a Prairie Project Coordinator for south-western Ontario. This new staffing position will enable TGO to have greater capacity to work with all groups in south-western Ontario that want to undertake prairie projects on their own.

These Stewardship Councils include Essex Stewardship Council, Stewardship Kent, Rural Lambton Stewardship Network, Middlesex Stewardship Network, Elgin Stewardship Network and the Oxford Stewardship Council.

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Deadline for March issue is
Friday, March 4, 2011
Leave material 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 _____

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)