

# EARTHWAYS<sup>®</sup>



Earthways is a publication of LAMBTON WILDLIFE INCORPORATED-P.O. BOX 681 SARNIA, ON N7T 7J7  
Gordon Catterson-Editor                      Modris Zandbergs-Distribution                      **January 2012**  
Steve Cicchini-Webmaster                      Website: [www.lambtonwildlife.com](http://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

### Return The Landscape

January 30, 2012

Shawn McKnight and Larry Cornelis, LWI Board Members, will tell us all about the Return the Landscape (RTL) program for Sarnia-Lambton. RTL is a native plant rescue and restoration program that has strong support in our community. Learn how you can be involved.

### Native Wildflowers Of Sarnia-Lambton

February 27, 2012

Dorothy Tiedje and Larry Cornelis, two of LWI's plant experts, will team up to share their knowledge of local wildflowers and the importance of native plants in our landscapes.

### How Goes Lake Huron?

March 26, 2012

Dr. David Jude, Research Scientist with the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, will talk about the threats to the health of Lake Huron (for example, Asian Carp and Zebra Mussels). As well, he will discuss species at risk and what is being done to protect Lake Huron.

### LWI Annual General Meeting And Banquet

When: April 14, 2012

Where: Mandaumin United Church Hall

The business meeting and general elections are at 4:30 pm. The bucket draw opens at 5:00 pm. Then the delicious turkey dinner with homemade fruit pies is served at 6:30 pm. The guest speaker will be Malcolm Boyd, past president of LWI. He will describe some of the wonders of the Galapagos Islands, as experienced on a trip in November 2010. A year after the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth, the focus is on preserving his legacy. Penguins on the equator, flightless cormorants, islands that are moving away from their point of origin and evolving over time, all these wonders now need protection from growth of population and tourism.

### Camping at Point Pelee:

The dates for the annual birding expedition to Point Pelee are Monday, May 14th for set-up, to Friday May 18th. This is one day more than last year. Please contact Paul Carter for individual cost details.

## Outdoor Program

### \*Down River Ducks

**Sunday, February 5, 2012**

Meet: 9:00 am at the Centennial Park parking lot  
Tour from Sarnia to Sombra to view wintering waterfowl, gulls and eagles. Lunch will be at a restaurant in Sombra.

Leader: Paul Carter (344-2571)

### \*Highway 402 Clean-up

**Saturday, April 14, 2012**

Coordinator: Joe Haselmayer (542-2826)

### \*Howard Watson Nature Trail Clean-up

**Sunday, April 22, 2012**

Coordinator: Gord Catterson (337-1246)

### \*LWI Properties Tour

**Saturday, April 28, 2012**

Inquiries: Dick Maxfield (542-7914)

### \*Native Plant Sale

**Saturday, May 5, 2012**

Organizer: Brenda Kulon (869-2833)

[www.lambtonwildlife.com](http://www.lambtonwildlife.com)

<b>Index</b>	<b>Notices</b>
Indoor program.....1	Deadline.....8
Outdoor program.....1	Youth Conference . . . . .3
President's message.....2	Native Plant Guide . . . . .3
Board of Directors.....8	SAR Workshops . . . . .7
	Owl Video . . . . .8
<b>Reports</b>	<b>Articles</b>
Xmas Birding . . . . .3	Native Plant Course . . . . .2,3
September Indoor . . . . .4	Owl Prowl . . . . .5
November Indoor . . . . .6	Green Energy Audit . . . . .8

## Greetings From The President

December was a busy time for LWI members involved in the annual Christmas Bird Count. Peter Chapman reported it was quite a good day with 70 species counted and 11,700 birds. Interesting finds were: 21 red bellied woodpeckers, 5 red headed woodpeckers, a golden eagle, an unusual number (46) of robins, a rufous sided towhee and 1 sandhill crane.

Board member Kerry Gardiner volunteered to look after an LWI booth at Winter Artwalk. The booth was in the storefront of the Urban Exchange. She reported heavy traffic Friday night and steady but fewer visitors on Saturday. She gave out a stack of LWI programs and made some sales of our books and DVDs. Great effort Kerry!

Board members Larry Cornelis, Marilyn Shaw and Shawn McKnight have been working on a spring workshop, open to the public, on gardening with native plants. This will include four classroom sessions and a field trip. With these three experts participating, we can expect a special program.

Two Sarnia Observer articles caught my eye recently. First, in John De Groot's Garden Clippings column where he suggested that Sarnia adopt Toronto's private tree bylaw. Many LWI members have grieved the loss of local trees. The losses were for various reasons, some quite frivolous, e.g. people didn't want to rake leaves. Mr. De Groot says that although we do have a good tree preservation plan, it needs to be strengthened. He describes Toronto's bylaw which protects trees over 12 inches in diameter. This article was on December 24th edition of Sarnia Observer for anyone wanting to search the archives for it.

The second article on January 2nd, was a very nice profile of Lambton County Warden and LWI member, Steve Arnold. In a following article he comments on the virtues of solar energy projects as opposed to wind farms with their massive, huge turbines sitting there. This reminded me of recently seeing massive turbines covering a large section of Kent County between Chatham and Tilbury. They are particularly noticeable at night with constantly flashing red lights.

I had the good fortune to visit the Atlanta Botanical Garden in December. It was a magical place even in December with beautiful vistas at every turn. The only indoor exhibits were the orchid garden and a tropical forest exhibit. It is well worth visiting for a three hour walk. The staff is attentive and friendly and there are some wonderful sculptures.

Wishing all of our members a Happy New Year.

Janet Bremner, President

### Gardening with Native Plants

Are you considering a naturalized garden? A home landscape that is inspired by nature. The key is using native plants. Native plants are adapted to local climate, soils and growing conditions. They don't need watering or fertilizing, provide wildlife with habitat and connect us to our natural world. Looking for an opportunity to learn more? Well here it is for you.

Lambton Wildlife Inc, in partnership with Return The Landscape, is pleased to once again offer a course on Gardening with Native Plants for the spring of 2012. The course will be taught by local experts.

The course will consist of four indoor sessions and an outdoor field trip to a natural area and a naturalized garden. Indoor sessions will include- the Big Picture and Introduction- Native Trees and Shrubs for the home landscape- Wildlife Habitat- Woodland gardens- Prairie gardens- Bogs and Ponds- Native Landscape Design- Composting- Naturalized Garden Maintenance- etc.

So, if you have been thinking of gardening in a new way, an environmentally friendly way, this course will provide you with the knowledge and resources to create your own natural garden paradise. A garden for the future.

Limited enrolment so register early.

Course fee: \$60 (course fee also includes: Lambton County Plant List, course literature, "Natural Treasures of Lambton County" DVD, refreshments)

Held at: YMCA Learning Centre  
660 Oakdale Ave  
When: March, 20, 22, 27, 29, 2012  
6:30 to 8:30pm

For more info go to [www.lambtonwildlife.com](http://www.lambtonwildlife.com) or email: [info@lambtonwildlife.com](mailto:info@lambtonwildlife.com)

Gardening with Native Plants 2012  
Registration form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email:

Phone #:

Payment: \$60, enclosed with registration

Make payment to Lambton Wildlife Inc

Mail Payment to: Lambton Wildlife Inc  
PO Box 681  
Sarnia On N7T 7J7

## **BIRDING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

**By Blake A. Mann**

The month of December this year has been interesting with the strangely mild and wet weather. Birds were in low numbers, but an excellent variety was found throughout Ontario. Some rather rare or out of season! At the time of this writing, at least 207 species of birds have been recorded in Ontario since December 1.

During the period of December 14 through January 5, the Christmas Bird Counts are held. Our nearest count is Kettle Point which was held on December 17 this year. Things were certainly different than last year with very little snow! Total species count was at 69. Songbirds were low in numbers, as was the case in all counts this year. Some notable birds included golden eagle (Arkona), white-winged crossbills (Pinery), snowy owl (Kettle Point), eastern towhee (Sylvan Bridge) and a large group of 15 yellow-rumped warblers (Sylvan Bridge).

The following day, many of the counters from Kettle Point moved down to the Rondeau area to see what was around. Once again, songbirds were few and far between, but birders managed to tally a decent 108 species for that count. Notables included sandhill crane, golden eagle (2), northern goshawk, several snowy owls, a flock of 17 eastern meadowlarks, and a couple of white-winged crossbills. Over 8000 red-breasted mergansers created a new record high for that species.

The same day, Port Huron held their count which actually includes Sarnia and down to the north end of Courtright.

Wallaceburg held their count on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Weather was very poor and had a bearing on numbers of birds seen. Total species found was 73. Several species seen a couple days before were absent, likely due to weather conditions. Notable birds included common loon, ruddy duck, peregrine falcon, sandhill crane (4), pileated woodpecker,

ruby-crowned kinglet, Brewer's blackbird (2), and purple finch.

Worthy of mention was the discovery of a great gray owl west of Kingsville down in Essex County on December 23. It caused quite a stir as this resident of the boreal forest rarely ventures south. In fact this record is the southern-most record for Canada, not to mention Ontario! The previous southern-most great gray was found by our very own Alfred Rider at the Camp Ipperwash about ten years ago. Curious birders from far and wide came to view this spectacle. A couple from New Hampshire even travelled the distance to see the Great Gray.

## **Ontario Nature at the EcoMentors Youth Conference**

*Submitted by Sarah Hedges, Ontario Nature*

On November 5, 80 young Canadians learned about Nature Guardians and other Ontario Nature programs and campaigns at the EcoMentors Youth Conference in Ottawa. The conference was co-hosted by the Sierra Youth Coalition and was focused on telling young people how they can get involved in the protection of species at risk while developing their conservation leadership skills.

## **Announcing The 6th edition Native Plant Resource Guide Ontario**

This is the ultimate resource for anyone interested in naturalization projects. Available in electronic or print formats, it contains an updated listing of native plant growers in Ontario. Additional articles from experienced practitioners cover a range of topics. Visit <http://www.serontario.org/> for more information on how you can purchase a copy.

*Bill Hopkins very kindly agreed to do a write-up on the September indoor meeting as I was still recovering from my surgery. Somehow I failed to include it in the October issue which I had every intention of doing, particularly as I was looking for material. My apologies to Bill. I can only blame the rather heavy meds I was on at the time. Ed.*

### **Mammals of Southern Ontario (S.O.)**

Dr Jack Millar of the University of Western Ontario gave a very informative description of the mammals which are known to exist in southern Ontario. Jack was born and educated in B.C. and has spent a lot of time in Alberta. He was able to compare the number of species found in Alberta with what we are likely to see here. There is a much larger number in the Rockies such as voles (6 species in Alberta versus 1 in S.O.) and many more species of deer. This, to a large extent, is due to the impact of the glacial age which wiped out many species, but repopulation only occurred from the south in S.O., whereas species came from all points of the compass to Alberta.

He started his presentation with the smallest mammal in S.O., which is a shrew, weighing less than a hummingbird. It has a very high metabolic rate, such that it doesn't live very long, and is difficult to find. The larger short tailed shrew is 4 times larger than the smaller shrew but is still smaller than a mouse. It can however kill a mouse as it secretes a narcotic in its saliva, which puts the mouse to sleep providing food for several days.

There are two moles, hairy tailed and star nosed which are insectivores. The animal most likely to form the tunnels under the snow is a rodent, the meadow vole. It builds the tunnels for foraging and eats new grass shoots. A characteristic of the meadow vole is that its population can vary tremendously from year to year for as yet no identified reason.

There are several mice. Perhaps the most unusual is the meadow jumping mouse which can jump several feet, and is found in areas of dense grass – I may have seen one in Wawanosh Wetlands this summer. It is also the smallest mammal that hibernates in S.O.

The house mouse arrived from Europe with the settlers, and nowadays is not usually found in houses or agricultural buildings. The deer mouse (smaller ears) and the white footed mouse look very similar and are related. These mice are used to investigate the limits of metabolic rate. If a 130lb woman had a similar metabolism to a 22g mouse she would have quintuplets weighing 12 lb each, her children would be weaned at 60lbs, she would breed post partum, and she could give birth within several days of her previous brood. These mice love to live in bird houses in the warmer months.

The eastern chipmunk is diurnal, and is the second smallest hibernator.

The short and long tailed weasels eat the smaller mammals described above, and are easily differentiated based on tail length.

There are not many Norway rats as they damage crops and are rigorously controlled in S.O.. Squirrels can appear as grey or black, in Florida they are always grey, and always black in the far north. The color is connected to metabolic pathways, the black has a lower core temperature than the grey and can thus better deal with the colder climates. There is also a white squirrel, which seems to be able to out compete the grey & black. There is a group in the Exeter area. The southern flying squirrel is new to me. It requires mature deciduous forests and studies have been done in the Leamington area.

Woodchucks are very common and they have an annual cycle. The males come out of hibernation first, once the females come out breeding takes place. In the fall the males hibernate first followed by the mature females and the new offspring last. They accumulate their fat 10 days prior to starting hibernation. Any woodchucks seen in October are probably young who will probably not make it through the winter.

Eastern cottontail rabbits give birth to underdeveloped young in a nest on top of the ground. They can be difficult to see, although I have seen nests in my garden. The European hare on the other hand has young which are fully developed, being covered with fur.

The opossum was first recorded along the railway tracks in the 1930s. They have subsequently adapted well and are all over S.O.

Dr Millar stated that there are more raccoons in cities than people due to the garbage cans! They have been connected to rabies emanating from Florida, and there is an ongoing control program to prevent it entering Ontario. The striped skunk is harmless apart from its pungent odor.

Mink are semi aquatic, and eat the muskrat, which is a vegetation eater. The mink act as a control to the muskrat population. Without the mink the muskrat is likely to destroy its habitat resulting in a catastrophic decline.

Beaver was reintroduced to S.O. in 1972 in the Ausable river. It has now made its way throughout the Ausable river system and is on the Thames river. It is a nuisance as it will dam up small streams, which are often runoffs from tiled systems.

The red fox is always here but difficult to find. The coyotes are different from their Western brethren as they don't howl in a chorus.

White tailed deer are nice to look at but can create problems in backyards. The most humane way of controlling their population is culling by hunters. Transportation to other areas results in a 80% death rate compared to 20% if they live naturally in their home area. There is no evidence of moose, black bears, wolves, porcupines or cougars living in S.O. Note the Bruce Peninsula is not regarded as being in S.O.

All in all a very interesting presentation.

Bill Hopkins

## Owl Prowl

Larry Cornelis led a group on an 'owl prowl' on Saturday, November 12th. Judie Scott kindly submitted this account by Larry along with a fact sheet on owls which readers should find instructive. Actually Pat was walking in the park on Saturday afternoon when someone said "Would you like to see an owl?" It turned out to be Larry out clocking the owls. Ed.

About 100 people, including many children, attended this outing in the barn at the animal farm in Canatara Park. About 50 went on the 'prowl' afterwards, where we played the screech owl tape and were rewarded with 4 sightings and 2 verbal responses.

Erica, a 3 year volunteer volunteer with the Raptor Rehabilitation Centre, brought along feathers, owl pellets and books. William (Gardiner) held Otus, a little eastern screech owl with a wing injury, possible from a car collision. Both were very patient for 1 hour.

Thanks to Erica and William.

Larry Cornelis

## All About Owls

- small to large predatory birds 5 3/4" to 28" tall
- wingspans from 12" to 52"
- dark brown, grey, black and reddish colours
- large round heads with flat faces and ear or hornlike feathers-
- large forward facing eyes
- hooked bills and needle sharp talons
- related to nighthawks and nightjars-not hawks

Owls of Ontario

(in order of size - largest to smallest)

Snowy owl

Great horned owl

Great grey owl

Barred owl

Northern hawk owl

Barn owl

Long-eared owl

Short-eared owl

Boreal owl

Burrowing owl

Eastern screech owl

Northern saw-whet owl

Breeding Owls of Lambton County:

Great horned owl, long-eared owl, eastern screech owl (historic records include short-eared owl, barn owl & burrowing owl)

Food & Foraging:

- carnivorous
- eat a wide variety of invertebrates and vertebrates
- most feed at night
- catch prey with feet from flight
- have acute hearing (barn owl has the best hearing of any animal tested)
- ears are asymmetrical, one ear higher than the other

- in some cases each ear is tuned to different frequencies and owls remember the sounds made by different prey
- flight feathers have modified edges that allow for silent flight so the prey can't hear their approach but also so they can continue to hear well as they fly
- outer toes pivot/rotate to better seize prey

Diet:

- larger owls can take larger prey
- Great horned owls will prey on mammals as large as skunks, squirrels and rabbits but also take small frogs, moths and crayfish
- some small owls feed mainly on insects
- owls will prey on birds, even other owls
- rodents are a main prey for many species of owls
- owls gulp most prey whole (sometimes first removing prey's head) but dissect larger prey such as rabbits and skunks
- owls cannot digest fur, bones or exoskeletons so these are formed into a pellet which is regurgitated (ejected through the mouth)
- usually one or two pellets per day depending on the diet
- examining an owl pellet provides good information about what that owl ate

Breeding:

- owls are typically monogamous - some annually, some for life
- courtship includes vocalizations, rubbing bills, allopreening, males offering food to females
- small owls are cavity nesters and will use birdhouses with large enough holes (3")
- large owls will use stick nests built by hawks and crows or on a snag
- barn owls will use old buildings
- burrowing owls will use burrows of mammals
- owls lay eggs at one to two day intervals
- typically 2 to 4 eggs
- female incubates after the first or second egg is laid
- male brings food to female during incubation which ranges from 21 days (northern saw-whet) to 35 days (great horned)
- hatching is asynchronous - last egg laid hatches last - depending on food supply, this chick may perish
- fledgling period ranges from 4 weeks to 3 months (great homed)
- young may leave the nest before they can fly (branchers) sitting on branches
- young are downy white/grey
- northern owls have one brood per year
- Lambton County breeders are permanent residents, non-migratory
- winter visitors such as the snowy owl or northern saw-whet owls are migratory or nomadic

Conservation:

- habitat loss has affected owl populations
- logging and cleanup of dead trees affects cavity nesters
- some species, such as barn owls, are species-at-risk ranked as in danger of extinction

## November Indoor Meeting:

I can vividly recall the first field trip I went on at Queen's in September 1957. It was a Geology 101 trip on a Saturday morning which started at 8am. The first stop was at a rock cut at highway 401, then not yet in service, and Division St. Most of you have probably driven by it many times. I still recall the field notes we were handed as we got on the bus. The notes for this stop said: "Note the Ordovician limestone resting with angular unconformity on pre-Cambrian intrusives". What that meant I hadn't the faintest idea, but by the end of the year was fully briefed. It is one of the few things I recall about that geology course, but I remain glad that I had to take it. Incidentally the limestone at Rock Glen is Devonian, a later period only about 415 million years ago, while Ordovician is more like 450 million years ago. Thus I was pleased when LWI invited Bob O'Donnell to speak to the club on fossils.

Bob was introduced by Dick Maxfield who explained that Bob was an amateur collector of fossils and had been collecting for many years. He is known locally as 'the fossil guy' and works with young people at libraries and schools. He brought with him a portion of his collection which Dick said was only about one third of the total. Judging by what he had at the meeting the total collection would indeed be impressive. The samples included crinoids, gastropods, trilobites, brachiopods, cephalopods, blastoids, ammonites, fossil fishes, leaves, plants and coprolites (a.k.a. as droppings or 'poop'). This last one is known as a trace fossil, as it is evidence of animal behavior as opposed to the animal itself. Bob lives in London.

Bob started by defining what a fossil is. He said that the word fossil is derived from the Latin *fossus*, which means 'having been dug up'. Further he explained that they are the preserved remains or traces of animals (a.k.a. zoolithes), plants and other organisms from the remote past. I don't know if this is right but it seems intuitive that plant fossils would thus be known as phytolithes.

Bob said that most fossils are created when a plant or animal dies and is covered over by sediment which then builds up in layers until it is completely covered, often very deeply. Many are created when prehistoric oceans, which covered areas which are now dry, contained many creatures which rained down on the ocean floor as they died. This is true of the area where we live and the salt beds underlying Sarnia is evidence of that. They are often uncovered when a stream cuts through the layers, exposing the fossils, e.g. The Grand Canyon.

Bob specifically mentioned the Devonian limestone at Arkona as an excellent spot for finding fossils. Rock Glen is well known to many as a pleasant spot for finding fossils as well as the nearby Ausable River. He mentioned that Arkona is comparatively generous in terms of allowing fossil collection in that each visitor is allowed to keep one specimen. He said many places do not allow collecting at all without a permit. He said Canadian rules vary from province to province with each having different protocols.

He said collecting generally involved two methods, either surface collecting or digging. He also mentioned that

crude oil, natural gas and coal are all examples of fuels that originated with fossils. There seems to be a belief by some people that fossil fuels are somehow unnatural, when in fact they are completely natural.

He also spent a little time discussing pseudo fossils, and said there was a large market in fake fossils, manufactured to look like the real thing. He showed pictures of these and said unless you are an expert they can be quite deceiving. He said Morocco is a big source of these. He also mentioned 'Living Fossils', which are things that occur both as fossils and are alive today. Examples he mentioned include the giant sequoia trees in California and creatures that are pulled from the ocean depths and are the same as fossils of creatures that have thought to be long extinct.

He showed pictures of tables made from petrified trees, some of them 4 or 5 feet in diameter. The petrified wood is sawn across the trunk revealing beautiful and colourful patterns. The petrified forest in Arizona is a source of some of these. He also said that some animal droppings are also quite colourful when they are cut open. Who knew?

Bob also talked about potentially re-creating extinct species by using DNA from creatures that are now extinct. For example woolly mammoths that were buried in ice might be sources of DNA that could potentially allow scientists to reproduce this animal. He also talked about insects in amber which bit dinosaurs and which, by extracting DNA from the insect, might allow reproduction of a dinosaur.

Bob spent a bit of time discussing amber and its importance in preserving insects. The amber is prehistoric tree sap which insects are trapped in and from which they are unable to escape. He had a sample with him which people could look at through his microscope, showing an insect in the amber. In talking about amber he said that there are many fake fossils which use plastic rather than the real thing and it is relatively easy to distinguish between them. He said that real amber floats in salt water and if you burn it it will smell like tree sap. However, as a former plastic plant manager I know there are plastics that float, so be aware.

Finally Bob reviewed safety equipment that should be employed when searching for fossils. He said eye protection is a must along with a hammer and chisel, dental picks which can often be obtained from your dentist, brushes and a Dremel tool for extracting fossils. He also mentioned that there are many shows for fossils and specifically mentioned one in Detroit as a big one nearby. There is a fossil club in Sarnia, the Sarnia Rock and Fossil Club which can be found on the Sarnia website and you can search for places to look for clubs at [www.ccfms.ca](http://www.ccfms.ca)

Bob was thanked by Malcolm Boyd.

Gord Catterson

## Caring for Species at Risk Stewardship Workshops for Southern Ontario Rural Landowners

For the past 2 years the Carolinian Canada Coalition and partners have hosted a series of "Caring for Species at Risk Workshops" including ones in the counties of Norfolk, Lambton, Middlesex, and Elgin, as well as the Regional Municipalities of Hamilton-Wentworth and Niagara. These unique workshops, geared to the rural landowner, provide participants with an opportunity to learn about species at risk found in their area, learn about local habitat stewardship projects that are underway, learn how they, as landowners, can initiate projects on their own land to create natural habitat, conserve biodiversity, and receive information on sourcing financial incentives and expert advice.

Carolinian Canada is the southernmost region of Canada and contains more rare and endangered species of plants and animals than any other part of Canada. Over 125 species have been identified at risk and over 400 others are considered rare. Forest cover has been reduced from 80% to 11% and in some places is less than 3%. Wetlands once covered 28% of the land but now are reduced to 5%. Fragmentation of remaining habitats into very small remnants is a further threat. The Carolinian zone occupies only 1% of Canada's land area, but is home to 25% of its people. It's not surprising that the Carolinian zone is Ontario's most threatened ecological region.

"Private landowners who practice sound land stewardship on their own land support biodiversity and are protecting air, water and soil quality for everyone," stated Michelle Kanter, Executive Director of the Carolinian Canada Coalition. "This workshop is a tool to helping private individuals in proactively leading the way in helping provide habitat for species at risk and other wildlife."

Workshop participants will be introduced to The Rural Landowner Stewardship Guide, developed by the University of Guelph's School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, along with a newly developed module on species at risk. The guide is fashioned after the successful Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) for agricultural landowners, but it is aimed at engaging rural non-farm residents in the protection of their natural environment through individual actions. "These small, individual actions can bring

about positive changes and improvements in our Carolinian zone and the Stewardship Guide is an excellent starting point to begin that change," said Bernie Solymár, Workshop Coordinator with Carolinian Canada.

Workshop participants will also receive a colourful and informative resource package, providing information on a wide variety of stewardship topics, as well as contact information for local agencies and resources to help them implement some of the recommendations outlined in the guide. In addition, local representatives from the Carolinian Canada Coalition, the local Stewardship Council and Conservation Authority, local naturalist groups and other organizations have been invited to be on hand to answer any questions participants may have and for individual consultations and follow-up plans. Funding for this project is provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Parks Canada, and local conservation partners.

Dates and Locations are:

Saturday, January 14th, 2012 – Burford Community Centre (Brant)

Saturday, January 21st, 2012 – Quality Motel, Woodstock (Oxford)

Saturday, January 28th, 2012 – Ruthven Park, Cayuga (Haldimand)

Saturday, February 11th, 2012 – Ridgeway College (Chatham-Kent)

All workshops run 9 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

There will be a nominal registration fee of \$10 per person. Lunch is included. Participants that pledge to conduct an SAR Habitat Plan for their property receive a \$25 gift certificate for a local native plant nursery.

For More Information please contact:  
Bernie Solymar, Workshop Coordinator, Carolinian Canada Coalition  
519-426-7124, [wildlife@carolinian.org](mailto:wildlife@carolinian.org)

Visit [www.carolinian.org](http://www.carolinian.org) for more information!

----- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Green Energy Audit:**

It was interesting to see the recent Ontario Auditor General's report on the renewable energy situation in Ontario. In Jim McCarter's view the Province of Ontario has been fiscally reckless in its' pursuit of renewable energy, saddling Ontario taxpayers with a huge bill for their single minded intent to make Ontario the most 'green' jurisdiction in the world.

Electricity costs in Ontario have risen 65% since 1999 and are projected to rise another 46% in the coming four years, or 111% in 16 years or about 5% per year at a time when inflation has been below 3%. In fact the situation is really worse as the government has not passed on all the costs associated with the increase in energy cost by limiting the additional cost to people's power bills. The most bizarre of these initiatives has been the recent 10% reduction, trying to make people think that somehow green energy saves money, when exactly the opposite is true.

The report further points out extreme fiscal arrogance, abuse of their own processes and contempt for taxpayers and consumers of electricity. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the Green Energy Act which simply bulldozed over local authorities, removing any local decision making on the location of these sites. People who raised legitimate concerns regarding the impact on human health or bird and bat populations were brushed aside as trouble-makers and NIMBY types. Meanwhile speculators are getting rich by building wind farms and solar farms with a guaranteed return with little to no risk. A \$7 billion deal was signed with the Korean company Samsung that not even the cabinet was aware of until after the deal had been signed. Shameful.

Gord Catterson

**Owl Video:**

Both Alice Wallent-Bellar and Bill Hoad have shared an interesting video taken of an owl flying directly into a camera's field. The image can be found at [www.dogwork.com/owfo8/](http://www.dogwork.com/owfo8/)

The footage was taken at 1000 images/second and so is quite slow revealing fascinating details of the movement of individual feathers on the owl's wings, and how the bird uses them as "spoilers" to slow itself down. It is well worth viewing. Ed.

**Board of Directors**

Janet Bremner	President
Ken Bulgin	President Elect
Richard Maxfield	Past President
David Jeniskens	Secretary
Bill Scott	Treasurer
Larry Cornelis	Board member
Kerry Gardiner	Board member
Avalon Hamlin	Board member
Tania Havelka	Board member
Bill Hopkins	Board member
Melissa Levi	Board member
Shawn McKnight	Board member
Marilyn Shaw	Board member
Dick Wilson	Board member
Doug Winch	Board member

Deadline for February issue is

Friday, February 3rd 2012

Leave material in mailbox at

502 Roosevelt Drive or

email to

[gpcatt@xcelco.on.ca](mailto: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)