

# 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                      **September 2011**  
Cheryl Veary-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

### Mammals Of Southern Ontario

September 26, 2011

Dr. Jack Millar, of the University of Western Ontario, will cover mammals from shrews to coyotes, cougars and bears. His research studies the effect of cold climates on reproduction, longevity and dispersal of small mammals in northern environments as compared with "critters" in warmer climes.

### Hummingbirds

October 31, 2011

Cindy Cartwright, project coordinator of the Ontario Hummingbird Project, will teach us all about these tiny jewels of the avian world. She will also present information about the project and how we can contribute as volunteers.

### Fossils

November 28, 2011

Bob O'Donnell has studied fossils for 18 years. His talk will include photos of fossils in conservation areas and how they are protected, extinct fossil fish, plants, petrified woods, ammonites and faeces. Also included are the many different ways of fossilization and much more. Examples of fossils will be displayed.

### 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.

## Outdoor Program

### Nature Walk At Lorne C Henderson Conservation Area

Saturday, September 24, 2011

Meet: 10.00 am at the Conservation Area

A guided walk at this beautiful natural area near Petrolia.

A pizza lunch will be provided. A great family outing.

Inquiries: Dick Maxfield (542-7914)

Leader: Kim Gledhill (862-1804)

### \*Fungi Foray

Saturday, October 1, 2011

Meet: 8:30 am at the Bright's Grove Shoppers plaza

Enjoy a pleasant fall walk to learn about beautiful and interesting fungi.

Leader: Peter Banks (869-4243)

### Birding The Lake Huron Flyway

Saturday, October 29, 2011

Meet: 9:00 am at the Kettle Point shopping plaza

Excellent birding opportunities are explored in the Kettle Point to Grand Bend area.

Leader: Alf Rider (1-519-786-4213)

### \*All About Owls

Saturday, November 12, 2011

Meet: 7:00 pm at the Canatara Park animal farm

Learn all about owls and participate in an owl prowl. This

is a joint effort offered by LWI and the Bluewater Raptor

Rehabilitation Centre (BRRC). Volunteers with the

BRRC will have live owls on hand for the presentation

followed by an owl prowl in the park to hear and see

resident Eastern Screech-Owls.

Organizer: Larry Cornelis (339-8785)

## Index

Indoor program.....	1
Outdoor program.....	1
President's message.....	2
Young Nats.....	3
Board of Directors.....	8

## Reports

BPAC AOC .....	2
Earth Day.....	7
Summer Butterflies . . .	4,5
American Lotus .....	6
Lake Erie Workshop . . .	6
Nature Festival .....	7

## Notices

In Memorium .....	3
Youth Summit .....	3
CCC Friends .....	6
New Coordinator .....	7
Resource Guide .....	7

## Articles

Green Energy.....	4
Leslie Spit.....	4
Black Creek Heronry . . .	3
Walking prescription . . .	5
Social Marketing .....	5
IJC Scientist .....	8

## Greetings From The President

Sarah Hampson wrote in an article on trees and forests in a recent issue in the *Globe and Mail*, "Canada has 397.3 million hectares of wooded land, 58.3% of Canada's land surface that makes up 10% of the world's forests." Ms. Hampson suggests that we take them for granted.

This is the United Nation's International Year of the Forests. "Trees play key roles in our physical and physic landscapes". Ms. Hampson reports that a comprehensive assessment of the global forest was recently published in the journal *Science*. Scientists concluded that forests suck up a third of the carbon pumped into the atmosphere each year. Roots of trees such as willow and poplar act as hydraulic pumps to eliminate pesticides and solvents in contaminated soil. The list of the benefits of trees goes on and on.

While walking on the Blackwell section of the Howard Watson Nature Trail, one thinks how lucky we were to have had people, many of whom were Lambton Wildlife members, who in 1987 recognized a 100 year opportunity to use the rail bed for a walking trail. As well as sucking up pesticides and carbon dioxide, HWNT can suck up grief and anxiety. Many of us have experienced the healing, spiritual and anxiety reducing effects of the trail.

One also meets elegant creatures like Sophie and Gelatto, Italian greyhounds, wary cats, a red fox scooting across the path, Ronoldo, singing and waving his hands conducting an imaginary orchestra, friends, neighbours, bikers, saunterers and runners. In the fall one sees the eastern garter snake sunning itself on the route. Coyote scat with fur and seeds may be seen. August brings out screaming cicadas and crickets. A flicker was heard one day recently. All this and getting healthful exercise as well!

Lambton Wildlife has been working with the Nature Conservancy of Canada to purchase property adjacent to the Karner Blue Sanctuary. We are waiting for the go ahead from the Minister of Natural Resources to acquire this significant piece of habitat in the land of the dunes.

In order to maintain our properties and our obligation with Nature Conservancy land, we have an urgent need for volunteers (both women and men) to help clear brush and unwanted species. We also need someone licensed to use pesticides. If this appeals to you, please contact Malcolm Boyd, Land Trust Committee, 519-344-4414.

Help us to refresh and add to our membership by inviting someone to an indoor meeting and see that they get a program at the door. Dr. Millar's presentation on mammals of southern Ontario promises to be an interesting one. Our meeting place at the YMCA/Esso Centre has been renovated and with our new sound system, we feel all is in place for a pleasant evening. Hoping to see you then.

Janet Bremner, President

### From BPAC E-Newsletter

The St. Clair River Area of Concern (AOC) now has one less beneficial use impairment (BUI) to restore as the "Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavour" BUI has been assessed and found to be "not impaired". The St. Clair River is one of 43 Areas of Concern found throughout the Great Lakes basin.

The St. Clair River was designated an Area of Concern in 1987 under the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Areas of Concern are sites on the Great Lakes system where environmental quality is significantly degraded and beneficial uses are impaired. Currently, there are nine such designated areas on the Canadian side of the Great Lakes, 25 in the United States, and five (including the St. Clair River) that are shared by both countries.

"This is a significant step towards improvement and recovery in the St. Clair River AOC. There is much work still to be done in order to restore other beneficial uses of the St. Clair River but through continued commitment and cooperation of all our partners, more successes can be expected in the coming years," says Patty Troy, US Chair, St. Clair River Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC).

In each Area of Concern, government, community and industry partners are working together to restore environmental quality and beneficial uses through a remedial action plan. The St. Clair River re-designation of the "Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavour" BUI to "not impaired" status represents the first such achievement from a bi-national AOC.

In 1995 the St. Clair River AOC identified this beneficial use impairment as requiring further assessment due to reports from the early 1990s of fish and wildlife from the St. Clair River having an odd smell or taste. Pollution reduction regulations, source control programs, and remedial actions have addressed significant sources of pollutants known to cause or contribute to tainting, and recent surveys of over 300 anglers and hunters present a weight of evidence that any concern around this issue no longer exists.

"The many years of work are paying off. We are starting to see the benefits of the efforts and investments of our dedicated partners. It is gratifying to see the river respond positively to the rehabilitation efforts that we have implemented over the past decades. I look forward to more announcements like this one in the coming years," says Kris Lee, Canadian Chair, St. Clair River BPAC

The decision to re-designate this Beneficial Use Impairment to "not impaired" status was reached through consensus with the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) partners, and was endorsed by the St. Clair River Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC), and the Aamjiwnaang and Walpole Island First Nations.



*Sean is the son of LWI board member and Secretary David Jenniskens.*

### YOW 2011

This summer I attended the Young Ornithologists Workshop (YOW) at Long Point. For 10 days, myself and 5 other teens from across Canada studied about birds and natural history. Nearly every day we set up nets at about 5:40 am so that we could catch and band birds. The first morning of banding we caught 113 individual birds. By the end of the week, all of us were able to band birds ourselves. My favourite bird I got to band had to be either the ruby-throated hummingbird or the American woodcock. We boated out to the Tip and stayed there for 3 days. During these days, we learned a lot about birds and dragonflies as well. One of the days after we got back from the Tip we went to an Acadian flycatcher and hooded warbler nesting site, both of which are endangered and fairly rare in Ontario. We even got to band one of the hooded warblers!

I thought the whole trip was great, one of the best days was the "Big Day". We basically just birded all day, trying to find as many species of birds as possible. By the end of the day, I had seen 107 species of birds, which is a very large number for the middle of summer. Over all it was a wonderful experience and I hope to go back to volunteer sometime.

Sean Jenniskens

*From the TaTTLer July 2011  
A newsletter of the  
Thames Talbot Land Trust*

### Our Black Creek Heronry

The Black Creek Heronry located in East Perth near Stratford, is the TTLT's 10th conservation property. The property purchase closed March 31st, 2011. The fund-raising campaign was relatively short six months, with a goal of \$15,000.

Thanks to an outpouring of support from the Perth County area, the goal was reached. The property is only 4.5 acres in size but it is highly significant because it has been the breeding grounds for a large colony of Great Blue Herons for at least 30 years. It is one of only two heronries in Perth County and therefore is a major source for these well-loved and majestic birds throughout much of the county.

The property is a silver maple swamp on clay soil that remains wet most of the year. In 2010 there were over 20 heron nests. The Thames Talbot Land Trust was eager to purchase this site when Eric Eberhardt offered it in the spring of 2010. The Eberhardts have a conservation easement with the TTLT to protect the natural and agricultural features of their 100 acre organic farm which is adjacent to the heronry. Sadly, Eric passed away in 2010 before the land transaction could be completed, but his reputation as a local organic farmer and community activist helped raise the funds to secure this property. Along with the Perth Stewardship Network and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the campaign got support from a number of individual donors and clubs.

The property was named Black Creek Heronry because it is located within the Black Creek watershed, a tributary of the North Thames River. The property has an interesting history. One of the first owners was Howard Roesner who

took firewood from the land and requested his ashes be spread on the property. He left the land to his son William who was killed in a car accident. Eric Eberhardt bought it from William's estate around 2000. The TTLT land stewards will visit the site outside of the breeding season, which is rather long and includes the period from courtship to fledged young (April to June), to ensure the site remains as undisturbed as possible. A vegetation inventory will also be undertaken later this summer.

### 2011 Youth Summit Registration Open

Submitted by Sarah Hedges, Ontario Nature  
Registration for the 2011 Youth Summit for Biodiversity & Sustainable Living is now open. The event will be hosted by the Ontario Nature Youth Council, and will feature a variety of workshops, activities and speakers dedicated to the conservation of Ontario's biodiversity and the promotion of sustainable living. Being held September 23-25 at the YMCA Cedar Glen in Schomberg, young people in grades 9-12 are welcome to join us for this one of a kind weekend. For more information, please visit [http://www.ontarionature.org/connect/nature\\_guardians/biodiversity\\_summit.php](http://www.ontarionature.org/connect/nature_guardians/biodiversity_summit.php).

### In Memorium:

Long time LWI member Dr. Art Smithen died recently. Our condolences to his family.

## Green Energy?

The Government of Ontario continues to push its' strategy of investing in so-called green energy in the form of wind turbines and solar panels. Unfortunately the difference between the price paid for this energy, called the feed-in tariff, and the price the Province of Ontario receives for it, is substantial. The difference, of course, is paid for by the Ontario taxpayer to the tune of some \$400 million per year. The feed-in tariff is currently \$135 per megawatt hour (MWh) for wind energy while the average selling price for electricity is in the \$25 range. One of the problems is that electricity must be used as it is generated as storing it is difficult. Ontario has a surplus of electricity caused by the collapse of its' manufacturing base. While we had one of the warmer summers this year we didn't hear anything about brown outs due to air conditioning demand. Thus when the sun is shining and the wind is blowing the electricity generated must be shed. This is done by selling it to neighbouring jurisdictions including Quebec, New York state, Michigan and Minnesota.

In spite of this the government continues to encourage new wind and solar generation with the very high feed in tariff, encouraging speculators to cash in. At the same time some small installations, which can be seen everywhere in Lambton County and elsewhere, are being denied access to the grid on the basis that there is not enough room. These people have laid out considerable sums of money only to be told "Sorry, no room!" At the same time larger entities are signing contracts with the government.

The government has been trumpeting electricity sales to other jurisdictions as generating savings for the Ontario taxpayer. What they don't mention is the cost of producing this electricity and the fact it is being sold at a loss. Additionally the Province is determined to shut down low cost producers using fossil fuels which will, by about 2018, result in demand again outstripping supply with the attendant jump in power generating costs from wind, solar and nuclear.

Many environmentalists are untroubled by this, viewing the soaring cost of electricity as enforcing conservation. They point to Europe as an example. However Europe doesn't have the U.S.A. on the border ready and willing to offer inexpensive power to manufacturers that Ontario is competing for. As well it is difficult to see Ontario taxpayers subsidizing U.S. consumers of electricity to the tune of many millions of dollars a year as a good thing.

Finally, to add insult to injury, the Government of Ontario has initiated a "Green Energy Benefit", largely offsetting any conservation pressure and essentially lying to people that green energy saves money when obviously it does not. It would be more honest and realistic to add 10% as a "Green Energy Premium", but of course that would not be a very political thing to do. One has to wonder if there is an election coming. As someone recently said, "you can always tell when a politician is lying, their lips are moving!"

Gord Catterson

## Leslie Spit:

A recent article in The National Post highlighted a somewhat unlikely birding site. Written by Peter Kuitenbrouwer it detailed the abundance of birds at the Leslie Spit in downtown Toronto. It is a manmade extension jutting into Lake Ontario as a result of many years of construction material being dumped into the lake. Trees and bushes have since moved in and made the place attractive to migrating birds as they fly over Lake Ontario on their way north. There have been some 322 species of birds documented on The Spit, more apparently than Algonquin Park. The 322 species are made up of 312 native birds and 10 exotics. At the time of writing, mid-May, there were about 100 species located there.

Bird species included red-wing blackbirds, yellow warblers, Baltimore orioles, brown-headed cowbirds, cormorants, mallard, gadwall, grackles and canvasback ducks. Each year the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority hosts a free Spring Bird Festival around the middle of May.

Gord Catterson

## BUTTERFLIES SUMMER 2011

By Blake A. Mann

It was a mediocre year for butterflies in 2011. The cool and damp spring had an effect on numbers, and there was a general lack of immigrants. There was still a good variety, but overall numbers were quite low. The butterfly counts did fairly well with species diversity, but again, overall numbers were not very high.

The Pinery/Port Franks count June 25 started out on a disappointing note. The weather forecast was completely wrong and the morning started out with clouds and rain. Some groups did not see a butterfly until noon! Dusted skipper was once again recorded by Blake Mann and Paul Carter. This is usually the only count in Canada in which that species is recorded.

The following weekend fared well from a weather standpoint. It was hot and sunny just the way butterflies like it. On Saturday the Ojibway count down at Windsor recorded 48 species. Wild indigo duskywings were few and far between, all due to timing of broods. A Dukes' skipper was found at Brunet Park.

On July 3, Skunk's Misery near Wardsville tallied a very respectable 53 species. Noteworthy species included 3 tawny crescent, 78 Baltimore checkerspot -a new high, silver-spotted skipper (195) and tawny-edged skipper (31). Decent sedge skippers found were mulberry wing, black dash and Dion skipper. Eyed brown was sorely missed!

The Rondeau count July 10 did rather well with 45 species. It was a very hot day but a good variety was located. Silvery checkerspot, a non-migratory species, was new for the count. Three Edwards' hairstreaks were found which beat the previous high of one.

On July 16 the Clear Creek count in eastern Chatham-Kent recorded 44 species. A variety of good habitats always brings in a good number for this count. Silver-spotted skipper was found in record high numbers. A snout butterfly was a good find in the migrant category.

Later in July, things began to pick up with the sightings of more migrant-type butterflies. Fiery skippers were found in Essex County and elsewhere. I found one at Brander Park, Port Lambton 31 July. Common buckeye increased in numbers and other immigrants started showing up. I found a little yellow at Point Pelee 30 July—a first for the year.

The southern (northern oak) hairstreak was still at Reid CA in south Lambton. At least five individuals were found and photographed. This is the only known location in Canada in which they breed! Hairstreaks in general, were low in numbers.

### **Doctors prescribe the great outdoors to get patients moving**

June 3, 2011

**ANDREA GORDON**

FAMILY ISSUES REPORTER

Dr. Conrad Sichler prescribed something the other day that his patient couldn't get at the local pharmacy. He told the middle-aged man, stressed and long overdue for a vacation, to go for a walk in the woods.

"To me, it was a nature prescription," says Sichler, a family physician and psychotherapist with Sweet Medicine Integrative Health Centre in Burlington. Sichler has recommended doses of Mother Nature to at least a dozen patients to help alleviate stress and depression and boost physical activity.

The outdoors "can give people a space to simply be apart from the hectic demands of their daily lives," he says. "It can also put people in touch with a sense of beauty and reverence that can enhance their mental and emotional health." Sichler grabs the same pad he uses to prescribe antibiotics and blood pressure medication to jot directions to the walking trails at nearby Mount Nemo or Dundas Valley conservation areas. "Sometimes I'll write, 'Repeat as often as you can.'"

In an era when adults and children spend hours sequestered indoors, "park prescriptions" are becoming a more common remedy. In the United States, health centres have joined forces with parks and conservation areas to get more kids and adults hiking fields and trails, paddling rivers and inhaling the scent of pine. "The other day, I actually did see someone arriving with a prescription in their hand," says Lynda Lancaster, spokesperson for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, a national park on Lake Michigan about an hour from downtown Chicago. It doesn't have to be exotic or far away. Proponents say urban green space, including playgrounds and backyards, can help soothe the soul and get muscles moving.

Rising obesity rates, inactivity and stress are top health concerns in the digital age. These doctors' orders encourage families to use their community and outdoor resources to improve health. "I think it's a fabulous idea," says Dr. Anthony Ford-Jones, a Burlington pediatrician who heard about park prescriptions this week during a talk by Richard Louv, author of the 2005 book *Last Child in the Woods*. Louv, who coined the phrase "nature-deficit disorder," sparked a movement to reconnect kids with nature. The

California writer was at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington to promote his latest book, *The Nature Principle*.

Ford-Jones plans to promote the idea with his colleagues on the Canadian Paediatric Society board. He wants to create kid-friendly prescription pads so physicians can write down recommended frequency, duration and type of outdoor activity. The pediatrician has already started. This week he prescribed more time outdoors to a physically fit 12-year-old dancer. He recommended children's programs at the botanical gardens to the mother of a frustrated 8-year-old boy with a learning disability. Going outside is "nature's Prozac," says Ford-Jones, who has been caring for children for 30 years. It's also key to what's known as "experience-based brain development."

"All the sensory stimulation of feeling and seeing and smelling the outdoors causes brain activity. That's how the brain tunes in and develops. Louv says there hasn't been enough research to measure the benefits on mental and physical health, although it makes sense.

A few studies have shown a link between time spent outdoors and an improved sense of well-being. Active Healthy Kids Canada, which publishes an annual report on exercise levels of Canadian children, says kids who spend more time outside tend to be more active.

The correlation doesn't surprise Ford-Jones, who says the best kind of exercise is unstructured time when kids are jumping, climbing and exploring without whistles. "Kids can burn up 90 minutes flat if they're running around and happy." Royal Botanical Gardens would be "thrilled" to partner with physicians, says Barb McKean, head of education. The facility has 27 kilometres of trails open to the public. It would fit the goals of the new Back to Nature Network in Ontario ([back2nature.ca](http://back2nature.ca)), aimed at getting more kids outside. McKean is one of the organizers. Eighteen months ago, the gardens launched a family walk program on Sunday afternoons, with guides to introduce newcomers to the park and trails. "A lot of families have Friday night game nights or movie nights, so why not Sunday afternoon nature walks?"

### **Social Marketing for the Conservation Crowd : Pledges Prompts and Pilot Projects Workshop Save the Date: October 20, 2011**

*Q: Should I plant periwinkle or goutweed in my shade garden? Do you want to scream, "Neither!" because they are both alien invasives? Are you interested in stewarding a smarter public to make better choices? If so, this workshop is for you. We'll explore social marketing pilot projects to foster good stewardship behavior covering horticulture, reptile persecution, local food and CCC's own Biodiversity Awareness Trail. Discussion will focus on how we can build cohesive and effective communications across the zone for biodiversity and Species at Risk conservation. Contact Bronwen at [woodland@carolinian.org](mailto:woodland@carolinian.org) for information.*



American Lotus

Photo credit: Amanda Norris

### **American Lotus**

In contemplating an outing to the St. Clair National Wildlife Area I thought of the introduction to Alice in Wonderland- "All in the golden afternoon, Full leisurely we glide". The reality, not so much. It was hard work!

However the afternoon was golden and the reward for the work was magnificent. The trip was an LWI outing organized by Larry Cornelis and led by John Haggeman, the Canadian Wildlife Service site manager. There were 13 of us in 5 canoes on Saturday, August 6th when we visited the area close to the eastern shore of Lake St. Clair. Larry had wondered when the previous trip he had organized took place and I thought about 3 or 4 years ago while he thought it was more like 7 or 8 years. Actually it was exactly 6 years previously, August 6th, 2005, reflecting our respective ages. Being older I tend to think of events several years back as not all that old. Larry being younger does the opposite.

It was hard work because the lagoons are pretty well completely covered with water plants and you have to paddle through a thick carpet of them. John used a long pole and stood up so that he propelled his boat by pushing with his pole, which was perhaps a little easier. However he had four people in his boat so maybe it was a trade off. In fact the water is not very deep and as John said, "if you fall in, just stand up".

As with the previous trip we were being allowed to enter an area of the site normally off limits to the public. The visit was timed to coincide with the blooming of the American Lotus *nelumbo lutea* which grows in abundance there. We launched our canoes from the dock where the wildlife service buildings are located. On the previous trip the canoes were launched closer to the lotus area.

The area between the launch site and where the lotus plants are was covered in a carpet of water lilies. The wildlife at the site includes wood duck, least bittern, great blue herons, mallards, black tern, barn swallows (they were nesting in the buildings at the site) and green-backed herons. The check list of birds for the area lists over 200 species while 53 species are known to have nested there. Fish included large mouth bass, yellow perch, pumpkin seed, pike and crappie. In addition to the American lotus there is also swamp rose mallow, a member of the hibiscus family, as well as pickerel weed with its arrow shaped leaves, duck weed and frog bit, an invasive species. At one point John pointed out a nest used by a least bittern family, but if he hadn't located it we would never have

found it, as even with him pointing it out it was almost impossible to see. Rare Canadian species such as eastern fox snake and Blandings turtle occur there. Also noted were many damselflies and dragonflies.

The American lotus plants are located a ways out from the dock and have large pale yellow flowers with bowl shaped leaves. The flowers grow well above the water level and so are able to be seen very close up. The blossoms are 6 to 8 inches in diameter and are very beautiful. The leaves are also quite large and have a waxy surface which sheds water in droplets, rather like mercury spilled on a table or water droplets on a freshly waxed car.

After examining the lotus plants we then went to the far end of the section to view a stand of swamp rose mallow, which is also a large beautiful flower in pink and red shades. We then returned to the launch site for a welcome respite. The day was warm and very humid so we were all grateful for the air conditioned conference area and cool water with lunch.

The St. Clair National Wildlife Area is located west of Chatham on the shore of Lake St. Clair. The lake is a critical place for migrating waterfowl both on their way north and in the fall on the return journey. At one time it was owned by a member of the Stroh's brewing family from Detroit and used for duck hunting. It was purchased by the Canadian Wildlife Service from the member of the Stroh family and has been developed as a wildlife area since. There is a 5 km viewing trail open to the public which passes through the middle of the marsh which can be used for seeing and photographing birds, snakes, and turtles. The water levels in the two sections, which are divided by a dike, is regulated using a pump.

All in all a great experience and thanks to Larry for organizing it and to John for leading it.

Gord Catterson

### **Cooperating for Conservation! Lake Erie Coastal Leaders' Workshop**

As CCC staff continues to incorporate public workshop comments into the Lake Erie Coastal Stewardship Trail plan, a meeting with municipal decision-makers was a great success. A Lake Erie Coastal Leaders' Workshop took place on Wednesday, June 22 in Ridgetown, Ontario. Municipal planners, conservation authority staff and stewardship council representatives attended to work together to set big picture coastal conservation goals that will benefit the trail, as well as the citizens, economies and the ecosystems that the coast supports. A second is planned for the fall. For more information please contact [coast@carolinian.org](mailto:coast@carolinian.org)

### **CCC Friends Program Successfully Launched**

Many of the founders of the new Carolinian Canada Friends program were on hand for the launch at this year's AGM. The 2011 goal is to have 100 donations, by individuals or organizations, of \$100 or more. In the first 2 weeks of the program, 28 founders have become Friends - a great show of support!

## Celebrating Earth Day:

Each year LWI organizes two clean-ups around Earth Day. The first (usually) is the Howard Watson Nature Trail cleaning organized by myself, while the second is the highway 402 clean-up arranged by Joe Haselmayer. We have been doing this for many years now while the nature trail cleaning is approaching 25 years.

Unfortunately this year the highway cleanup, originally set for the easter week-end, and subsequently moved to the day before the Nature trail date, had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. A cleanup of part of the Howard Watson Trail scheduled for the same day had to be cancelled as well.

The next day, Sunday April 17th, started out not very promising but the large number of people who turned out persevered and managed to get it done. A contingent from the engineering group Worley Parsons as well as volunteers from Tim Horton's and our Young Naturalists plus many of our normal group managed to again clean all the way from Mandaumin Side Road to the trail's end south of Confederation, the first time that section had been cleaned in the past few years. In total we had close to 80 people.

Also a cub group organized by Doug Winch did from Mandaumin to Waterworks. while Janet Bremner organized cleaning from Brigden to Blackwell Side Road as she has done the past couple of years. We did not clean the section from Mandaumin to the east end of the trail as I now feel doing it every couple of years is OK. I have always felt that the vulnerability of the trail was it becoming so badly littered that people who oppose it would have grounds to complain, and that it was vital that the trail be kept clean. Hopefully when the people currently organizing the clean-up are unable to continue there will be others to carry on.

My thanks to everyone who participated but especially Peter, Bill, and Fern for assisting with the organization. Trying to organize a group of that size, hand out gloves, issue T-shirts and explain what we are trying to do and give directions to the various sections is rather challenging and having people who are familiar with it all really helps.

Gord Catterson

*In previous issues we have mentioned the new Ontario Reptile & Amphibian Atlas being assembled by Ontario Nature. Ed.*

## Ontario Nature Welcomes a New Ontario Reptile & Amphibian Atlas Coordinator

Submitted by Mark Carabetta, Ontario Nature  
We are very pleased to announce that James Patterson will be joining Ontario Nature to oversee the Ontario Reptile & Amphibian Atlas project. James has an M.Sc. in Conservation Biology & Herpetology from Laurentian University and a B.Sc. in Biology from the University of Guelph. He has considerable expertise with reptiles-at-risk, and will continue the great work that Joe Crowley and John Urquhart have done. Welcome aboard, James!

## Announcing the Ontario Society for Ecological Restoration Native Plant Resource Guide

Submitted by Megan Ihrig, Society for Ecological Restoration-Ontario

The 6th edition Native Plant Resource Guide Ontario 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.

## Birds, Beavers & Butterflies Nature Festival

Submitted by Dianne Pazaratz, Thickson's Woods Land Trust

Come out to Thickson's Woods Nature Reserve on Saturday September 17 to learn about nature and take part in a host of fun family activities. Join the experts for bird banding, guided nature walks and beekeeping demonstrations. It'll be great fun for all ages! For more information, visit <http://www.thicksonswoods.com/> or contact 905-433-7875, [nature@thicksonswoods.com](mailto:nature@thicksonswoods.com). All proceeds from the day will help support Thickson's Woods Nature Reserve.

----- 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 -----

### Former IJC Scientist Honored by Great Lakes Research Organization

Dr. John E. Gannon, former senior scientist in the International Joint Commission's Great Lakes Regional Office in Windsor, was recognized recently by the International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) for his distinguished service on behalf of the Lakes.

During its annual conference in Duluth, IAGLR honored Gannon with the Jack Vallentyne Award, named after the long-time IAGLR member and environmental scientist and educator. The award is given for important and sustained efforts to inform and educate the public and policymakers on Great Lakes issues, thereby raising awareness and support for Great Lakes protection and restoration.

Nominators of Gannon for the award said they were "inspired by John's dedication to the Great Lakes and commitment to involving others in recognition of their natural history, beauty, sensitivity to degradation and need for protection and sound governance."

A resident of Dexter, Michigan, Gannon served with IJC from 1983-1987 and from 2002-2010 and retired as senior scientist in the IJC's Windsor office last December. He has also held Great Lakes-related posts with the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A native of Detroit, he earned a Ph.D. in limnology from the University of Wisconsin. He has served as visiting professor for Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory Research Station on Lake Erie and is an adjunct associate professor for the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan.

"John's recognition is well-deserved," said IJC U.S. Section Co-Chair Lana Pollack. "He has fostered awareness of, and actions to protect the Great Lakes. His scientific expertise and commitment to protecting the Lakes is highly regarded throughout the Great Lakes community."

"The IJC family is proud of John and his work," said IJC Canadian Section Co-Chair Joe Commuzzi. "He has helped inform Great Lakes policy and science for many years."

The International Joint Commission was created by the U.S.-Canada Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 and executes oversight and assessment responsibilities for Great Lakes progress and programs under the 1972 U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Agreement, as last updated in 1987.

#### Board of Directors

Janet Bremner	President
Ken Bulgin	President Elect
Richard Maxfield	Past President
David Jenniskens	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 October issue is  
Friday, October 7th 2011  
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)