

The Egret

the Newsletter of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

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ECFNC Monthly Meetings

Except for our annual dinner in November, monthly members' meeting are held the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm at Ojibway Nature Center, 5200 Matchette Road, Windsor, 519-966-5852. We also have monthly outings, posted in the 'Activities and Excursions' section of this newsletter as well as on our website. Visit our Website at essexcountynature.com

A great big *Thank-You* to everyone who submitted articles and photos to the Egret this month. We always appreciate your submissions and couldn't run this newsletter without them!

Upcoming ECFNC Activities

January 10th – How much habitat is enough?

February 14th – Members Meeting – Topic to be announced via email

March 14th – Annual General Meeting

The Egret is in need of a new editor!

If you are interested in volunteering to put together the club's quarterly newsletter, please contact a member of the executive committee for more information.

Also! We are always looking for content submissions as well.

About the Club ...

The Essex County Field Naturalists' Club was incorporated in March 1985. We are a registered charitable organization which promotes the appreciation and conservation of our natural heritage. ECFNC provides the community opportunities to become acquainted with and understand our natural world through identification, maintenance and preservation of the natural areas within Essex County and surrounding regions. ECFNC is affiliated with Ontario Nature/Federation of Ontario Naturalists. The Egret is published quarterly. To receive information on the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club or to submit articles, letters, reports, etc., please write to:

Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

c/o Ojibway Nature Centre 5200 Matchette Rd. Windsor On, N9C 4E8

Information

ECFNC website
www.essexcountynature.com
Egret email:
roset@uwindsor.ca
ECFNC fax # 519-839-4795

Ojibway Nature Centre
519-966-5852
Point Pelee National Park
519-322-5700
Essex Region Conservation Auth.
519-776-5209

ECFNC Contacts

President: Paul Pratt (naturalist@primus.ca)

Vice-President: Steve Marks (steve.marks66@gmail.com)

Secretary: JoAnn Grondin (519-734-0056) Treasurer: Cathy Lapain (aclapain@gmail.com)

Membership Secretary: Carl Maiolani (carlmaiolani@cogeco.ca, 519-972-1399)

Directors:

Linda Menard-Watt (519-734-1879)

Dave Kraus (519-825-7491)

Kory Renaud (koryrenaud@gmail.com)
Sheeva Nakhaie (sheeva.nakhaie@gmail.com)

Gina Pannunzio (pannunzio @detroitriver.ca)

Andy Paul

Jeremy Bensette (jeremy_bensette@hotmail.com)

Chairpersons/Liaisons:

Ontario Nature Liaison: JoAnn Grondin

ERCA Liaison: Gina Pannunzio

Bluebird Committee Chairman: Don Bissonnette

Ojibway Liaison: Carl Maiolani

Citizens Environment Alliance Liaison: Andy Paul

Windsor Essex County Environmental Committee: Jesse

Gardner Costa

Canada South Land Trust Liaison: Dave Kraus

Detroit River Canadian Cleanup Liaison: Gina Pannunzio

and Steve Marks

Committees:

Egret Editorial: Jessica Rose

Field Trips: Alexis Hand (chair), Paul Pratt, Ian Woodfield,

Amy Weinz

Junior Naturalists: Andy Paul, Kory Renaud

Heritage: JoAnn Grondin (coordinator), Dave Kraus, Betty

Learmouth, Jim McAllister, Gerry Waldron, Shirley

Grondin, Cathy Lapain, Rachel Hasson

Little River Enhancement Group: Ian Naisbitt (chair)

Fish Book: Dave Kraus Website: Kory Renaud Social Media: Kory Renaud

Membership: Jeremy Hatt (chair), Paula O'Rourke, Carl

Maiolani, Jessica Rose

TD Tree Day

Gina Pannunzio, Kelly Laforest and Ian Naisbitt



On Sunday, 22 October, TD Bank sponsored their TD Tree Day program by inviting our Windsor-Essex community to help TD employees plant trees. Groups that participated included: Essex County Nature, Code Green — Caesars Windsor, Rotary Club of LaSalle Centennial, Essex County Geocachers, University of Windsor students, Unifor Local 200 Retirees and the Little River Enhancement Group.

The planting site is located in the Detroit River Watershed in East Windsor's **Little River Corridor Park.** This is the same site that our community planted to celebrate Earth Day 2017.

We enjoyed a typical Autumn day: a mostly sunny sky with occasional Cirrus clouds, temperatures in the morning of 12 Celsius increasing to 21 C by noon. There was a slight breeze (23 km/h), which made the planting pleasurable.

Over 60 eager volunteers participated by digging holes; planting and mulching 300 trees! Volunteers started planting at 9:30 a.m. and the job was completed at 11:15 a.m., before the scheduled end time, Well Done! The species of trees that we planted included: Burr Oak, Swamp White Oak, American Elm, Red Oak, Basswood, Pin Oak, Cottonwood, Hackberry and American Sycamore.

The Little River Enhancement Group would like to thank TD Bank and the Essex Region Conservation Authority/ Detroit River Canadian Cleanup for planning this

community event. Our goal to improve the ecosystem health of the Detroit River Watershed has benefitted from the TD Tree Day volunteer efforts.



Today's contribution brings the total number of trees planted in the Little River Watershed to 39535!

Nature offers solutions to water woes and flood risks

From: David Suzuki Foundation (Submitted by Dave Kraus) When the Aztecs founded Tenochtitlán in 1325, they built it on a large island on Lake Texcoco. Its eventual 200,000-plus inhabitants relied on canals, levees, dikes, floating gardens, aqueducts and bridges for defence, transportation, flood control, drinking water and food. After the Spaniards conquered the city in 1521, they drained the lake and built Mexico City over it.

The now-sprawling metropolis, with 100 times the number of inhabitants as Tenochtitlán at its peak, is fascinating, with lively culture, complex history and diverse architecture. It's also a mess. Water shortages, water contamination and wastewater issues add to the complications of crime, poverty and pollution. Drained and drying aquifers are causing the city to sink — almost 10 metres over the past century!

"Conquering" nature has long been the western way. Our hubris, and often our religious ideologies, have led us to believe we are above nature and have a right to subdue and control it. We let our technical abilities get ahead of our wisdom. We're learning now that working with nature — understanding that we are part of it — is more cost-effective and efficient in the long run.

Had we designed cities with nature in mind, we'd see fewer issues around flooding, pollution and excessive heat, and we wouldn't have to resort to expensive fixes. Flooding, especially, can hit people hard in urban areas. According to the Global Resilience Partnership, "Floods cause more damage worldwide than any other type of natural disaster and cause some of the largest economic, social and humanitarian losses" — accounting for 47 per cent of

weather-related disasters and affecting 2.3 billion people over the past 20 years, 95 per cent of them in Asia.

As the world warms, it's getting worse. Recent floods in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nepal have affected more than 40 million people, killing more than 1,000. One-third of Bangladesh is under water. In Houston, Texas, Hurricane Harvey has killed dozens and displaced thousands, shut down oil refineries and caused explosions at chemical plants. Some say it's one of the costliest "natural" disasters in U.S. history.

Although hurricanes and rain are natural, there's little doubt that human-caused climate change <a href="https://has.no.com/has.no.c

As climate disruption accelerates in concert with still-increasing greenhouse gas emissions, people are looking for ways to protect cities from events like flooding. In China, authorities are aiming to make them more sponge-like. A *Guardian* article explains: "Designers will concede to the wisdom of nature to ensure water is absorbed when there's an excess: instead of water-resistant concrete, permeable materials and green spaces will be used to soak up rainfall, and rivers and streams will be interconnected so that water can flow away from flooded areas." As well as offering flood protection, the measures will also help prevent water shortages.

Cities worldwide have employed many of these flood-protection measures, including in the U.S. If China goes beyond its 16-city pilot project, it will be the largest-scale deployment of such combined measures ever.

Restoring natural areas costs much more than protecting them in the first place, more intense and frequent storms and floods can still overwhelm natural defences, and growing human populations will further stress resources, but restoring natural assets is a start. Ultimately, we must work with nature to prevent and adapt to problems such as flooding, water scarcity, wildfires and climate disruption. When we work against nature, we work against ourselves.

By David Suzuki with contributions from David Suzuki Foundation Senior Editor Ian Hanington. David Suzuki's latest book is <u>Just Cool It!: The Climate Crisis and What We Can</u> Do (Greystone Books), co-written with Ian Hanington

Carolinian West Ontario Nature Meeting, October 28, 2017 by Steve Marks

JoAnn Grondin and myself went to the ON Fall Regional meeting together. I'm really glad we did! Not only did we attend a great information exchange with all the other naturalist clubs in the southwest, we also got to go on a field trip to the newly acquired Sydenham River Nature Reserve!

Ontario Nature has a wonderful network of folks working towards all sorts of environmental benefits. Our club is affiliated, along with all the naturalists' clubs in Ontario. These biannual meetings bring all the different clubs in a region together to

exchange news, progress, and developments, be they negative or positive. This meeting was hosted by Lambton Wildlife Inc, which is the Field Naturalists' club in that area. The meeting was productive, and hearing about all the developments across the region, you sure get a sense of scale, and the different issues each club is facing, how they're dealing with them, and whether that's working for them. For example, a large portion of this particular meeting's discussions seemed to center around Phragmites control – an issue clearly shared by all the clubs in the region.

After the meeting, we drove a short distance to the new Nature Reserve. What an exciting place! The river is one of the healthiest rivers around, as is evidenced by the presence of more than 30 species of freshwater mussels! Species at Risk on this property include rare plants, trees and animals. It was a magnificent effort to raise the funds to acquire this natural wonder. Just some of the big old trees are impressive enough to drive a while to see, without even mentioning all the rare plants and animals found here! I even climbed inside the trunk of a massive Sycamore tree! We hiked a very short distance to see quite a bit of diversity in habitats and species. Larry Cornelis showed us several rare plants and trees, while Mike Kent led to a couple of sweet features of the site. It was an absolutely wonderful way to spend a Saturday!

I'd like to thank JoAnn for all her efforts over the years as the liaison to Ontario Nature. She's asked me to replace her in this role, and I'm very glad to have accepted.



The Sydenham River, one of the healthiest rivers in southern Ontario



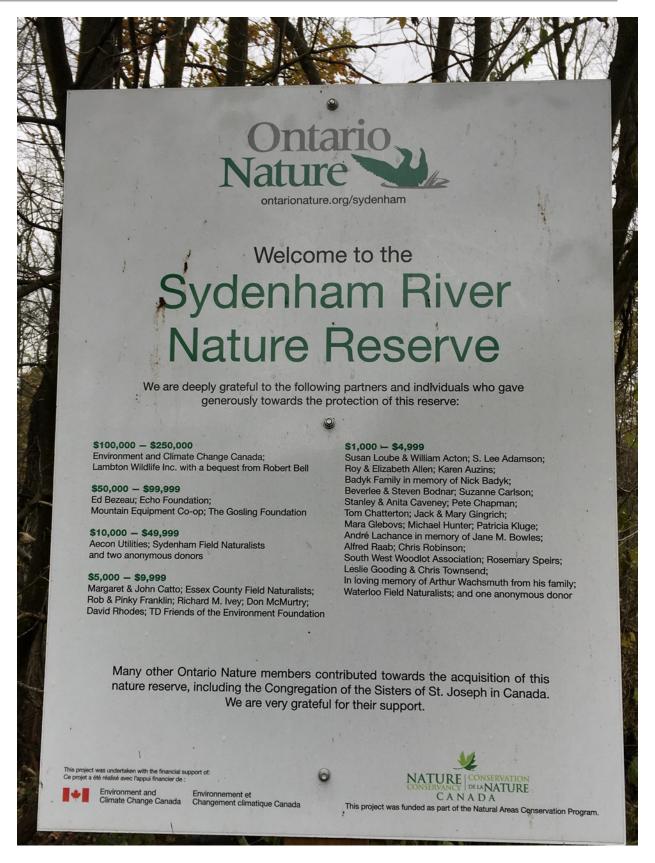
The biggest Sycamore I've ever seen! There's enough space inside the trunk to camp out!



A sign that indicates where the boundaries are



"The biggest Common Hackberry I've ever seen - by FAR! "



A sign on the property indicates who donated funds to save this wonderful place

Kennette Property Tour

By Linda Kennette

We were honoured to welcome 15 ECFNC members and friends to our property on October 1. The weather was perfect to enjoy a walk through our numerous ecosystems. We were able to plant over 70 species of trees and shrubs, as well as prairie plants, since we have a variety of soil types.

Ernie guided the group through our yard, which is a sandy area, to observe the variety of Carolinian species that prefer sand such as: the Tuliptree, Umbrella Magnolia, Pignut Hickory, Flowering Dogwood, Chinquapin Oak and Sassafras.

We moved east of the front yard into our most mature wooded area, planted in 1994 with seedlings purchased from the Ministry of Natural Resources. There are 30 Burr Oaks growing in this woodlot that were some of the first seedlings of NHRP (Natural Habitat Restoration Project).

Our next stop was in the 2006 woodlot planting. Acorns and Hickory nuts were directly planted in the areas where the Pumpkin Ash trees died from the Emerald Ash Borer. We continued on to the berm site to view the Tall Grass Prairie area, which was quite colourful at this time. Several types of Asters were in full bloom and the Tall Grasses were showing off their beaufiul seed heads. Butterflies were observed visiting the flowers and grasses.

We headed toward the wetland area and the effects of the summer drought were discussed. This is a large area of water, covering over one acre of land and the level of water was quite low for most of the summer. A Great Blue Heron flew above us, hoping to stop by for a meal of fish in the pond, as we were leaving to tour the woodland areas.

Ernie directed us toward the 2003 and 2004 woodlot plantings. He pointed out the difference in height of the trees planted in 2003 as compared to those planted in 2004, due to the effects of that year's drought on the seedlings. He went on to describe his experiments with several different methods of direct seed planting of Acorns and Hickory nuts, to replace the trees lost due to the drought and Emerald Ash Borer. The tour continued toward the western part of the property, where coniferous trees had been planted as a possible future Christmas tree business. We decided to let the trees grow in order to supply the local wildlife with one more diverse habitat.

We chose to walk back to the yard through the White Cedar-Red Oak West Trail, which provided us with cool shade after spending so much time in the very bright sun. The tour ended with an enjoyable social gathering, where stories were shared, birds such as Tree Swallows and Cedar Waxwings were observed and the whole group appeared to be enchanted by a beautiful October day.

Renewable energy isn't perfect, but it's far better than fossil fuels

From: David Suzuki Foundation (Submitted by Dave Kraus)

In their efforts to discredit renewable energy and support continued fossil fuel burning, many anti-environmentalists have <u>circulated a dual image</u> purporting to compare a lithium mine with an oilsands operation. It illustrates the level of dishonesty to which some will stoop to keep us on our current polluting, climate-disrupting path (although in some cases it could be ignorance).

The image is a poor attempt to prove that lithium batteries and renewable energy are worse for the environment than energy from oilsands bitumen. The first problem is that the "lithium mine" is actually BHP Billiton's Escondida copper mine in Chile (the world's largest). The bottom image is of an Alberta oilsands operation, but it's an *in situ* underground facility and doesn't represent the enormous open-pit mining operations used to extract most bitumen.

Lithium is used in batteries for electric cars, cellphones, computers and other electric devices, as well as power-grid storage systems, because it's light and highly conductive. Most lithium isn't mined. More than 95 per cent comes from pumping underground brine into pans, allowing the liquid to evaporate and separating out the lithium using electrolysis.

Any real comparison between oilsands and lithium batteries shows that oilsands products, from extracting and processing to transporting and burning, are by far the most destructive. Extraction and production destroy habitat, pollute air, land and water and produce greenhouse gas emissions. Burning the fuels causes toxic pollution and wreaks havoc with Earth's climate.

Does that mean batteries are environmentally benign? No. All energy sources and technologies have some environmental impact — one reason energy conservation is crucial. A 2010 study comparing the environmental impacts of electric cars to internal combustion vehicles found the latter are far more damaging, taking into account global warming potential, cumulative energy demand and resource depletion. Battery components, including lithium, can also be recycled, and used electric car batteries can be repurposed to store energy for homes, buildings and power grids.

Lithium wasn't found to be a major environmental factor for electric car batteries, but <u>copper</u>, <u>aluminum</u>, <u>cobalt</u> and nickel used in the batteries have high impacts. Materials used to make other car components, for electric and internal combustion vehicles, also come with environmental impacts.

The energy sources used to charge car batteries also determine the degree of environmental impact. If coal is the main source, negative effects are much higher than if the power comes from hydroelectric or renewables such as wind and solar. But the impacts are still lower than fuelling cars with gas.

One study found using lithium for a rapidly expanding electric vehicle market, as well as numerous other products and devices, could <u>cause supplies to become scarce</u>. As with fossil fuels, this means more destructive methods, such as mining, would be required. But these arguments are more against private automobiles than batteries. Electric vehicles are part of the short-term solution, but reducing environmental damage from transportation, including climate disruption, will require shifting as much as possible to better alternatives such as public transit, cycling and walking.

We still need batteries, though. Storage systems are essential to making the best of renewable energy. They make power available when the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing. Finding ways to make them — and other renewable energy components such as solar panels and wind turbines — with minimal environmental impact is a challenge. Some components in electric vehicles and solar panels use "rare metals", which are often mined in ways that damage the environment and endanger miners. But these materials are frequently used in newer internal combustion vehicles, too.

Part of the solution is to improve labour and environmental standards in mining operations — a challenge considering many materials are mined in Africa by Chinese companies that put profit above human health and the environment.

The good news is that renewable energy and storage technologies are advancing rapidly, with attention paid to the environmental impacts of materials used to make them. The <u>ability to recycle batteries</u> and their components is also improving but needs to get better.

Renewable energy is already far better environmentally than fossil fuel energy. It's time to shift from current massive fossil fuel support and subsidies to making renewable energy as clean and available as possible.

By David Suzuki with contributions from David Suzuki Foundation Senior Editor Ian Hanington.

ECFNC 33rd Annual Dinner Saturday, November 4, 2017 by JoAnn Grondin, Heritage Committee Coordinator

What a great event! WOW! Thank you everyone for a really great evening. Our Annual Dinner is a cooperative event and I have lots of people to thank. Without their help, this dinner could not take place. So, thank you to our many volunteers.

Ticket Sales: Carl Maiolani, Ojibway Nature Centre staff, Pelee Wings staff, and me.

Set up: Pauline Renaud, Steve Marks and me.

Reception Desk: Pauline Renaud and Kathy Lesperance.

Cashiers: Bonnie Ross and Cathy Lapain.

The following members brought desserts: Cathy Lapain, Aileen Petrozzi, Annie Wiltshire, Peggy Hurst, Nuong Benoit and me. I apologize if I have missed anyone.

Our MC: Steve Marks did a remarkable job.

A special thank you to Therese McCloskey and Bob White for taking charge of the "Share the Wealth Draw". They were awesome! They collected \$330.00 from the ticket sales; this gave the Club \$166.00 and left \$164.00 to be used in the draw - 60% first prize of \$100.00 and 40% second prize of \$64.00. Karen Padbury won first prize and very generously donated her prize back to the Club. Second prize was won by me. I was not so generous; I kept it!!

Congratulations to Ian Naisbitt, our Outstanding Achievement Award recipient. Ian and the Little River Enhancement Group has planted many trees and cleaned areas over their 25 years of hard work.

Our Guest Speaker, Jody Allair, gave and interesting presentation on our at-risk forest birds.

A thank you to Steve Marks for introducing our guest speaker and Paul Pratt for thanking him.

A thank you to Pauline Renaud for drawing the names for the door prize winners. To the people who donated door prizes: I know that I don't have all the names of the people who donated door prizes, so rather than miss someone, I will thank everyone collectively.

For donating silent auction items: Bonnie Ross, Erica Froome, The Windsor Spitfires, Ralph Benoit, Laurie Harris, Linda Menard Watt, Dave Kraus, Regal Gift Shop, Carl Maiolani, Cathy Lapain, Theresa Nuong/Theresa Beauty Shop, Shirley Grondin, Therese McCloskey, Claire McAllister, Bob Wickett, Kathy Lesperance, Bob Hall-Brooks and me.

Thank you to the Fogolar Furlan staff. The meal was very good, the service was great and the desserts were yummy.

Thank you to all who attended. It was a great crowd and an exceptionally smooth running great evening!!

No.	Article/Name	Donated by
1	Service Kit, BBQ Apron and Stainless Steel Spatula (3 items)	Bonnie Ross
2	Luck of the Irish 8 covered hangers	Erica Froome
3	Cuisinart BBQ Utensils	JoAnn Grondin
4	Two Windsor Spitfire Tickets – Promo Code 0007	Windsor Spitfires
5	Two Windsor Spitfire Tickets – Promo Code 0008	Windsor Spitfires
6	Blue Titmouse – Numbered Plate by German artist Ursula Band – No. 7951U	Ralph Benoit
7	Firecrest - Numbered Plate by German artist Ursula Band – No. 9547H	Ralph Benoit
8	Corsican Nuthatch - Numbered Plate by German artist Ursula Band – No. 4450H	Ralph Benoit
9	Golden Oriole - Numbered Plate by German artist Ursula Band – No. 6873E	Ralph Benoit
10	Great Titmouse - Numbered Plate by German artist Ursula Band – No. 5063F	Ralph Benoit
11	Red Robin - Numbered Plate by German artist Ursula Band – No. 8263A	Ralph Benoit
12	Chaffinch - Numbered Plate by German artist Ursula Band – No. 2596B	Ralph Benoit
13	Redstart - Numbered Plate by German artist Ursula Band – No. 5780S	Ralph Benoit
14	Framed picture of gold trees on black background - 4 ½ ft. by 2 ½ ft.	Laurie Harris
15	The Ultimate Spin Mop	JoAnn Grondin
16	New Book - Gluten-Free Family Favorites	JoAnn Grondin
17	New Book – Gluten-Free Sweet Treats	JoAnn Grondin
18	Advantage Travel Bag	Linda Menard Watt
19	Black and White Canadian Goose numbered print (26/275)	Bonnie Ross
20	Flowers and butterfly print by G. Webb, 1993	Bonnie Ross
21	Held Within A Circle of Grace print	Bonnie Ross
22	Magnetic Dry Erase Board 17" by 23"	JoAnn Grondin
23	Sweet Kyla stuffed Santa	JoAnn Grondin
24	Sweet Kyla stuffed reindeer	JoAnn Grondin
25	Hanging Christmas Wreath	JoAnn Grondin
26	Misc. Supplies for Office or Student	JoAnn Grondin
27	Framed Trisha Romance Print – "Winter Fantasy"	Anonymous
28	Georgian Bay Goldeneyes – Signed and Numbered print 195/500 – 6 ½ " X 9"	Dave Kraus
29	Bufflehead Refuge – Signed and Numbered print 345/500 C.E. – 6 ½ X 9"	Dave Kraus
30	Morning Light – Ross' Geese – Signed and Numbered print 195/500 CE – 6 ½" X 9"	Dave Kraus

31	Bing & Grondahl Porcelain Plate – Woodpecker & Young – Mother's Day 1980 – 6 inches	Regal Gift Shop
32	Bing & Grondahl Porcelain Plate – Hare & Young – Mother's Day 1981 – 6 inches	Regal Gift Shop
33	Royal Copenhagen Denmark – Winter Twilight - Owl Plate – 1974 – 7 inches	Regal Gift Shop
34	Royal Copenhagen Denmark – Winter Twilight - Owl Plate – 1974 – 7 inches	Regal Gift Shop
35	"Oak Creek Canyon" plate by Greg Taylor, 9" limited edition numbered plate 701/5000	Regal Gift Shop
36	Chinquapin Oak Seedling in a one gallon pot	Ralph Benoit
37	Chinquapin Oak Seedling in a one gallon pot	Ralph Benoit
38	Chinquapin Oak Seedling in a one gallon pot	Ralph Benoit
39	Backpack Picnic Basket (slightly used)	Ralph Benoit
40	Insects – Their Natural History and Diversit	Ralph Benoit
41	Trapped in a Dilbert World – Book of Days	Ralph Benoit
42	Photo Field Guide to Some Caterpillars of Southern Ontario	Carl Maiolani
43	Photo Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of	Carl Maiolani
	Southwestern Ontario	
44	Photo Field Guide to the Butterflies of Southern Ontario	Carl Maiolani
45	The Handy Bug Answer Book	Carl Maiolani
46	Insects and Spiders - Time Life Understanding Science &	Carl Maiolani
	Nature	
47	Canadian Gardeners Guide	Carl Maiolani
48	Backyard Birds by Robert Bateman	Carl Maiolani
49	Suet Feeder and 4 packages of suet	Cathy Lapain
50	Humming Bird/Ant Trap	Cathy Lapain
51	I-tune Card for Purchasing Apps	Cathy Lapain
52	Gel Nails and Pedicure	Theresa Nuong/Theresa
		Beauty Salon
53	Gel Nails and Pedicure	Theresa Nuong/Theresa
		Beauty Salon
54	Gel Nails and Pedicure	Theresa Nuong/Theresa
		Beauty Salon
55	Two bottles of Sanson Wine	Shirley Grondin
56	Two Dragon Flies	Shirley Grondin
57	Claude Monet's Garden picture	Shirley Grondin
58	Two Solar Stick Lights	Shirley Grondin
59	Owl Door Stop	Cathy Lapain
60	Three Candle Holders	Linda Menard Watt
61	Body Shop Basket	Cathy Lapain
62	Original Watercolour	Therese McCloskey
63	Plastic Bowl with Smores Kit and Starter Lighter	Claire McAllister
64	A Brief History of Seven Killings by Marlon James	Claire McAllister

65	Plastic Purse from Mexico	Claire McAllister
66	Down in the Garden – book of days	Claire McAllister
67	Hatha Yoga Book	Claire McAllister
68	Purse from Mexico	Claire McAllister
69	Purse from Mexico	Claire McAllister
70	Wool Hat, Scarf and Mittens	Claire McAllister
71	22.7 kg Bird Seed	Bob Wickett
72	Tea Pot and Cup	Kathy Lesperance
73	Bottle of Kahlua	Bob Hall-Brooks

A Selected History of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club (2001-2017)

By: Jeremy Hatt

The next 16 years

The venue for the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club meetings changed twice during this period. In 2004, meetings were moved to the Essex Civic Centre and this location was used by the Club for 5 years until 2009 when the meeting place was moved to the Windsor Airport's community room. This location was used until 2012 when the newly constructed Ojibway Nature Centre became the home of ECFNC's monthly meetings and continues to be where they are held up to 2017.

In 2002, ECFNC published its first book, *Wildflowers of the Canadian Erie Islands* by Mary Celestino. The book launch took place at the Windsor Family Credit Union's meeting room. Celestino, an artist and writer, lived on Pelee Island for 30 years and during this time made many sketches of the wildflowers she encountered. ECFNC's next publication was released in 2010 with the *Fishes of Essex County and Surrounding Waters* by Dr. Lynda D. Corkum. All proceeds benefit the Club and this popular guide is still sold today and given as a gift to select speakers at monthly meetings.

Citizen science projects continued to be a staple of the Club's activities and involvement in the community and one such project was the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, which took place from 2001 to 2005. This massive province-wide undertaking was the second Breeding Bird Atlas Ontario undertook and the result was a stunning volume of thousands of sightings made by hundreds of volunteers and innumerable volunteer hours. Paul Pratt and Karen Cedar organized atlasers in Essex County to ensure widespread coverage of all habitats and that point counts were performed across the county. The next atlas takes place from 2020-2015 and no doubt the Club will be actively involved once again.

While ECFNC continued to get involved in more projects, the chapter was closing on other activities run by the Club including the Bird Hotline, which was started in 1985. In the computer age and with listservs like Ontbirds and WEPBirds as well as eBird now the standard in bird reporting, the Bird Hotline became a relic of yesteryear; relinquished to new technology.

A major project of the Club would also come to a close during this period. The Natural Habitat Restoration Program ended in 2003. Founded in 1992, NHRP came under ECFNC's control after 1995. It was a huge undertaking of the Club and in Vol. 19. No. 4 of The Egret, Gerry Waldron fondly wrote, "Club members have been active in all aspects of NHRP and several members have served as NHRP chair or coordinator during the

past decade. These ten years saw the distribution of hundreds of thousands of native tree seeds to Ontario nurseries, hundreds of acres of restoration projects in Essex County, and the establishment of hobby native plant nurseries and Woodland Farm nursery by our member Patricia Rhoads. As NHRP winds its activities down this is its continuing legacy."

The Club has always been made up of caretakers, stewards, and donors to properties across Essex; a neverending battle to protect the remaining natural areas in the county. In 2003, for example, ECFNC adopted a section of the Chrysler Canada Greenway between Ferris and McCormick side roads. At this time, members of the Club had multiple outings where they cleaned up litter along the adopted section.

In more recent years, the Club has taken on projects like the very successful Ojibway Bioblitz (see former President Jesse Costa Gardener's section under "The Presidents" below), becoming a Caretaker for the Lower Detroit River Important Bird Area (IBA), coordinating the collection of data for Chimney Swifts for Bird Studies Canada's Ontario SwiftWatch program, as well as a host of other citizen science projects.

Other ongoing advocacy includes major contributions made from ECFNC members along with groups like Friends of Ojibway Prairie and Save Ojibway toward attempting to protect land adjacent to Ojibway Park against a scheduled big box development and now possibly closing Matchette Road.

The Parkway Project also came onto the books in 2010 and many efforts have gone into protecting Ojibway Shores. A 71 page report titled "Ojibway Shores Natural Heritage Inventory/Evaluation was published by ECFNC, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup (DRCC), Citizen Environmental Alliance (CEA), and the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA). The report is available on the Club's website at http://www.essexcountynature.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/OjibwayShores_NaturalHeritage_ECFN_WPAreport_Jan20_2017.pdf.

There are so many dedicated volunteers that have committed years of service to ECFNC projects that one article does not contain the desirable space to recognize everyone who has worked so hard for the Club. The next phase of documenting the Club's history is to digitize all the issues of The Egret since the first issue in 1985 and make them available on the ECFNC website. Past issues of the Egrets provide an important history of the people responsible for making the Club what it is today. These digitized Egrets will serve as an archive for the many volunteers who have donated items to the Club, wrote articles for the newsletter, organized events, served on the Executive, gave talks to members, led hikes, marched with signs in front of potential developments, baked treats for bake sales, contributed to citizen science projects, and countless other volunteer initiatives.

Marshfield

Conservation is always an uphill battle and in 1999, another golf course development threatened to alter the landscape and destroy a piece of valuable habitat.

In Vol. 15, No. 1 of The Egret, Tom Hurst outlined the significance of the Marshfield Property and introduced the ecological importance of this natural area to members of the Club. In the article, Hurst highlights the fact that Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources recognized the 330 acre area known as the Marshfield Clayplain as a regionally significant natural area in the 1970's and later declared an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) by ERCA in 1994.

The golf course was not going to take up all 330 acres but rather a 194 acre plot owned by the Hearn Group.

To designate an area as an ESA, two criteria that must be filled are biological diversity and size of the habitat. The land under consideration for development happened to be a large area of interior forest, habitat that takes many years to regenerate, and therefore especially important to preserve. The Club eventually took the stance that any alteration of the 330 acre Marshfield area would have significant impacts of the rest of that area and decided they would fight for the protection of all the land.

Tom put out the rallying cry to members in his President's Report in Vol. 15, No. 3 of The Egret, "If only the golf course proposal for Marshfield had been submitted a year later or if only the ratepayers had convinced local politicians to provide legal protection for this and other natural sites years earlier, that we would not be faced with our current dilemma. Like all mishaps it did not occur at a more convenient time. Considering that it is one of the last remnants of interior forest in the region, neither the ECFNC, nor the Friends of Marshfield Coalition, nor any responsible individual can stand idly by while its destruction is imminent. We owe it to each other and to our children to ensure its preservation. This will take an expenditure of voice, time and money from each of us to preserve Marshfield. Ready or not, the time is now to show your support."

A page in The Egret was also dedicated to steps members could take to immediately begin helping to save Marshfield. Fundraising for the project began and numbers for the Essex Town Council were provided to write, fax, or call on The Town of Essex to preserve this forest.

In 1999, The Friends of Marshfield met with the Hearn Group twice. The first meeting saw the developers asking the Friends to help design the golf course, with plans to destroy the interior forest, the very thing the Friends were trying to save! The second meeting offered the possibility of purchasing the property: \$4,500 an acre with a 2 month deadline for raising the funds.

Even with all of these issues built up against it, the Club continued to fight for whatever they could preserve. The front page of Vol. 16, Number 1 of The Egret dropped some bad news. The developer was adamant at getting the golf course on that land and while pressure from ECFNC and the public increased against the development, other natural areas were suggested.

Tom was nearing a decade of Presidency with the Club and recalls his reluctance at the time to take on the project head on. "Physically, I was in pretty bad shape and I wasn't anxious to take this on as President of the Field Nats Club but fortunately Dave Kraus in particular got involved from day one and went to the initial public meetings for this and came back to the executive and it was pretty obvious the Club had to be involved."

Perhaps energized by the success of keeping Ruscom Shores alive, the Club arranged a protest at the Marshfield property with hopes of getting the media involved. Tom says of the protest, "We were out there and it was cold; it must have been winter and we were out there protesting. To get the media involved, we had a day where we had 60-80 people show up at the Marshfield Property. Cars were lined up and down the road."

Certain members, like Dr. John Spellman, put hours of effort into protecting the property. So many hours, in fact, that other members put their time into helping Spellman mow his lawn or bring him food while he was preoccupied. Dave Kraus recalled Spellman's dedication while he was President: "It was overwhelming. Dr. Spellman is very thorough. I'd get calls from him at 2 or 3 in the morning...we never would have saved Marshfield without him."

A road was in place and fairways were taking shape, but in the end, the development was dropped. ECFNC had once again been instrumental in protecting a valuable piece of land in the county from development by

getting the attention of the local government, the media, and the public. Tom summed up the overall experience, "Just proves that when people are determined enough, they can get a result that they can live with. It blows my mind to this day every time I go by Marshfield and think, 'Oh my god, it's wonderful that it's still there.' And if it wasn't for the Field Nats and the people that supported us, there would be a golf course where it is."

The Egret/Website/Social Media (2001 – 2017)

David D'hondt continued editing the The Egret along with the Newsletter Committee until 2007. In the latter half of the 90's, email had entered the scene. This made many of the processes involving submitting pieces to the Egret easier as typed articles and photos could be emailed directly to the Newsletter Editor and photos now accompanied many pieces. The days of typewritten and handwritten articles were over and now copies of the Egret could be emailed to members instead of printed and mailed (though this continues for members without computer access and to have available at the Ojibway Nature Centre for people to pick up).

From 2007 until 2010, Karen Cedar took the role as Editor with Betty Learmouth and Shirley Grondin also making up the Newsletter Committee. The Egrets during Karen's time as Editor were some of the longest issues in the Club's history, a few as many as 50 pages in length! This was before social media served as an upto-the-minute source of information so The Egret was chock full of news and stories from around Essex County.

In 2012, Sheeva Nakhaie became Editor of the Egret. Sheeva would continue on as Editor until 2016 when she passed the torch to Jessica Rose, who continues as the Egret Editor in 2017. The Egret continues to be a showcase for the Club's involvement in the community as well as the natural history of Essex County.

The Club's first online presence was in 2000. On the City of Windsor's Ojibway Park site, the Club's Activities Calendar was published giving members their first chance to find more information on ECFNC on the web. It wasn't until 2012 that ECFNC made its own official website at www.ecfnc.com. The website was created by Kory Renaud with content provided by Sarah Renaud, Sheeva Nakhaie, and Sarah Baldo. Recently, Kory did a complete overhaul of the website, which now includes options to purchase the Club's publications online, become a member or make donations through PayPal, look through past issues of the Egret, contact the Executive, and search for upcoming events and meeting information. Information on events and meetings is also regularly emailed out to members by Carl Maiolani, the Membership Secretary.

ECFNC's first social media presence was on Facebook. The Club created a 'group' and a 'page' for Club members and the public to get information on ECFNC and interact with people in the community. The two served slightly different purposes but eventually in 2017, the group was deleted and the Club's Facebook presence is now the Essex County Nature Page (@EssexCountyNature). As of December 2017, Essex County Nature has about 800 "likes", which means information posted to the page reaches nonmembers within the county and many well outside of Essex. A Twitter account was also created for the Club with the handle @ECFNC and has about 400 followers as of December 2017.

Phil Roberts believes social media has broken new ground for the Club. "Social media has really expanded the overall membership but also the number of people who are tuning in to what the Field Naturalists' Club is doing."

The Presidents

Dave Kraus (2000-2002)

After 10 years as President, Tom Hurst stepped down from the position in 2000. At this time, Dave Kraus was serving on the Executive as Vice President and as if often the case, this meant a promotion to the Presidency. "I had been VP for 8 years so I was kind of expected to fill the shoes," Dave remembers.

Dave's time as President was a difficult balance of life, work, and volunteerism. He felt his goal as President was to, "Just to keep the Club going. I was really really busy then. I was working two jobs and building a house. I just wanted to keep the Club going." One of those jobs was in teaching and he was also concurrently restoring two properties in Essex County (all this while the Club was dealing with Marshfield).

In addition to leading the Club during a demanding time, one of Dave's great contributions to ECFNC has been organizing and leading the annual Pelee Island trip. The idea came to him when he worked on the island.

"Gerry Waldron hired me at ERCA for a summer job. It was an MNR special grant. I got sent to Pelee Island and I'd camp there in a tent for a week at a time. They wanted me to see if Cricket Frogs were there and how the Blue Racers were doing, Fox Snakes, all the endangered herps, and just do a survey because no one had done one for a long time and they wanted to see what was there...Gerry suggested I get some Field Nats members over to learn more about the island. We rented a cottage at the west shore and about 20 of us went over and people brought pillows and sleeping bags and people slept on the floor; wherever. It was really dirt cheap. Everyone threw in \$10 for the cottage."

Since then, and with some advancement in sleeping quarters, the Pelee Island trips have been a highlight for many members and Dave reminisces memorable moments with great fondness. "One year the Westview Tavern had a bus that I rented. It was funny because one of the people noticed the license sticker had expired 10 years earlier and someone noticed that one of the wheels was about to fall off. All the lug nuts had come off but one. We've went up a long ways since Then. We have a certified school bus now."

The success of the trip is not only the enjoyment of members attending but also a benefit to the island. "The Pelee trip is awesome; that I've been able to do it every year for 21 years and get people to the island and enjoy the nature over there and it's been good for the island, too. I've talked to a lot of islanders, I've talked to the mayor, and it helps raise nature's status over there."

During his time as President, Dave kept the protection of Marshfield at the forefront of the Club's activities. It proved to be a difficult undertaking. "I literally got burned out in 2 years because of Marshfield. Phil Roberts knew that I couldn't do it anymore and no one else was coming forward so he got involved in Marshfield and carried the ball the final yards."

Midway through 2002, Dave stepped down and Phil Roberts became the President of ECFNC. Dave continues to volunteer on the Executive in 2017.

Phil Roberts (2002-2012)

In his first year of university, Phil was encouraged by Jim McAllister, a friend of his father's, to attend meetings of the newly formed Essex County Field Naturalists' Club. During the Club's third public meeting in 1984, Phil was nominated to the Executive and served the Club in various roles until his Presidency in 2002.

Although Phil stayed on as President for 10 years of the Club, his original plan was to only serve through the completion of the Marshfield Project. He always preferred the adversarial, advocacy side of the Club and this encouraged him to hold the position for many years beyond Marshfield. "One of the reasons where I was able

to be President as long as I was because we really looked at what the Club was doing in the sense of advocacy and promotion and getting involved in the Ontario Municipal Board cases versus the actual running of the Club."

"When I got onto the President's role, Marshfield Woods was full steam and there was a huge amount of resource and time to prepare documents and prepare a case. At that point, I think there was a real turning point in the Club where the Club now had an adversarial branch. We had a branch that dealt with government municipalities, with the Ministry of Natural Resources, with Ontario Nature. So but the Club still needed somebody to run it, somebody to coordinate the field trips and get guest speakers. The Board was very supportive of that and it quickly outstripped my ability to do both as a Club President."

In the latter half of his Presidency, Phil was pleased to see the Executive run the operations and take things in new directions.

"One of the huge geneses was when Teresa Austrin recruited the current President, Jesse Costa Gardner and his now-wife Sheeva Nakhaie, and Sarah Baldo. They were this young group of university grads that had presented to the Club and came out of Lynda Corkum's lab. They took on the day to day running of the Club: the Newsletter and the organization and then it left me with a huge opportunity to deal with the adversarial stuff."

Like Tom Hurst, another one of Phil's goals was to increase the interaction among other environmental groups with similar interests and goals.

"A lot of the Clubs didn't interact. The Club didn't specifically interact that well with Citizens Environmental Alliance or Friends of Ojibway Prairie. When the Parkway Project was going in, and there were a number of things to be very concerned about, what happened (and it happened really rapidly) was an alliance of clubs. And I take some credit for that but you certainly can't take all the credit because an alliance is only as good as the other person sitting across the table. But we all came together and we said, 'we need to keep our own autonomy because any agency or municipality that we're dealing with, they need to deal with all of us.' But what we had become is the environmental community. So a lot of times at meetings now I talk about the 'environmental community.'"

Phil eventually had to step down as President because of his work with the City of Windsor. It was difficult for him to leave the position but he continues to be an active member of the Club and is ever hopeful for its future. "The executive never suffered from a lack of talent. When I was leaving the Club, you're thinking, 'well, when I go, what happens?' And you just realize that it got better when I left. So you worry about your baby but the fact is you're not missed for 10 seconds in the terrific sense that the Executive stays strong and the programs stay strong."

Phil's role as President of the Club would later have an effect on how he deals with challenges in his professional life. "My involvement with the Field Naturalists Club has done a number of things for me. It certainly has helped my profile. The role of Presidency has served me well in that it's often not black and white. It's not clear cut. There are compromises to be made. You have to be practical; you have to be pragmatic in your approach. So even though you don't like a particular development, you don't like what's going on, you will have all kinds of other interests and how that fits into provincial planning policy or how it fits into a municipality's official plan; how do you maneuver through that? And there are compromises. I've never been a Club President who is a table pounder. There is cajoling, there are gains to be made, and I think it's where you get invited back to the table."

Jesse Costa Gardener (2013-2017)

Jesse's road to being President was quite different than Presidents of the past and began with a talk to the Club. He was a student of Linda Corkum's at the time and was invited to give a presentation on his Masters work on the oil sands. "Someone brought a squirrel to the event," he recalls, "It was at the airport. A live squirrel was running around." After that initial unique experience, Jesse and his partner Sheeva Nakhaie were invited to an Executive meeting. "We visited the executive more than we did actual Field Naturalists' events, which is a bit of a weird way to start. We were thrown into the fire pretty quick."

Jesse, sensing that Phil had an overabundance of projects he was working on, suggested that he round up some help. Not long after these conversations, Jesse became Vice President of the Club. "So I took over a lot of the day to day [business]. I started running meetings and I found I had a knack for it. They used to be pretty long so I would kind of get them under control and organize them and try to get people to bring things up before the meetings so they weren't a free-for-all."

One of the benefits of volunteering on the ECFNC Executive is the number of people you start to meet in other networks. Jesse was introduced to other local groups like Windsor Essex County Environment Committee (WECEC) and Citizens Environmental Alliance. He enjoyed networking with these groups and knew there was further potential for joining forces for advocacy in Essex County.

When Phil stepped down as President to start his job with the City of Windsor, Jesse took over as President of the Club. Jesse quickly learned how much responsibility there was as President but had no regrets in his decision to take on a larger role. "I was stepping into water that was deeper than I thought but I'm a good swimmer."

One of Jesse's accomplishments as President was spearheading Ojibway's first ever Bioblitz, an effort to identify all living species within a designated area. "We are the best group to do the Bioblitz. I can't think of another group that's more diverse and talented and willing to take up these types of projects in the county. There are the hardcore field naturalists and then there are young scientists that bring the science aspect into it and then there are other members who are talented on committees and bringing events together and advertising so it's a multifaceted event requiring a diverse amount of talent."

Jesse continued ECFNC's long tradition of squarely placing the Club on the front lines of advocacy and conservation in Essex County.

"We're one of the most active environmental NGO's in the county so I think we're the kind of the de facto group to go to if there's an issue. We're very versatile. We do the appreciation of nature; we have a lot of walks, a lot of events. The bioblitz has become a signature event that brings in all sorts of people and really highlights the biodiversity of the area and really involves people in citizen science, which is great. I think we play a role in engaging the community but then our secondary role that isn't known to everyone is our work with governing groups like the Port Authority, ERCA, and the [City of Windsor]. The Field Naturalists is a name to be consulted with, not reckoned with."

In 2017, Jesse stepped down as President. He sent the following letter to Membership:

"Dear Members,

I've had the great pleasure of serving as your President for the last 5 years. Unfortunately I must resign as I've taken a job with the Ministry of Natural Resources, outside of Windsor. I leave you in the hands of one of the

best executive boards I've worked with. Our very own field naturalist celebrity, Paul Pratt will become the acting president. Paul is a living legend and will do an amazing job, supported by an excellent executive - I will miss our meetings (and meeting after the meeting) together.

As a club we've had a number of accomplishments and I'm proud of the work we've done and I hope that the club continues to grow in our capacity and influence. Our executive is full and we've been able to start subcommittees to tackle issues and provide better experiences for our membership. There are a number of issues we must continue to pursue, such as Ojibway Shores and I expect to see our signature event, the Bioblitz continue into the future.

I've learned so much since I started, it's hard not to learn when you're surrounded by such talented and knowledgeable people. I've likely benefited more from my tenure as president than I've provided benefit to the club and I have you to thank for such a wonderful experience. Keep up the great work and enjoy what the club has to offer."

Paul Pratt (2017 - present)

Many members know Paul Pratt for his vast knowledge of flora and fauna, his gentle, personable attitude, his willingness to teach others, and his years of contributions to the study of nature in Essex County and beyond. He was the City Of Windsor's Naturalist from 1975 until his retirement in 2014 and now serves as the current President of Holiday Beach Migration Observatory as well as being President of ECFNC.

Paul is also the recipient of ERCA's Conservation Champion title, an honour bestowed to "those who have made the most lasting and outstanding contributions in the field of environmental and historical conservation over the last four decades."

An excerpt from ERCA's website only begins to describe Paul's contributions to Essex County:

"Paul has taught many field naturalists courses over the past four decades, and has authored many papers on wildlife management. He is an expert birder who for 10 years held the record for the World Series of Birding out-of-region 'Big Day'. Paul has been key in helping to bringing birding to the forefront of the tourist industry in Windsor and Essex County. He is a founding member of the Essex County Field Naturalists Club and the Friends of Point Pelee. For many years, Paul served as the regional coordinator for Ontario Atlas publications for breeding birds, mammals and trees. His is a founding member of the Ontario Rare Bird Records Committee, and a Charter and Life Member of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. He is also Past President of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Paul's nature photographs have appeared in dozens of publications, and in fact, his photos and expertise contributed to the first field guides ever written for dragonflies and damselflies. He is also an expert in reptiles, amphibians, bats, mammals and prairie systems. He is a patient and willing teacher, mentor and presenter. Paul's expertise runs the gamut of nature and wildlife. He has embraced the lifestyle of a true ecologist, and shares his love and knowledge of all living things with those he teaches and inspires. For these reasons, we are pleased to honour him as a Conservation Champion."

Paul now joins the ranks of the passionate and dedicated leaders of the Club, poised to take ECFNC into the next chapter of being a significant voice for nature in Essex County.

Author's note: My thanks once again to everyone who helped with providing insight on ECFNC's history. Jim

McAllister, Tom Hurst, Bev Wannick, Betty Learmouth, Dave Kraus, Phil Roberts, Peter Bondy, and Jesse Costa Gardener all graciously agreed to being interviewed and it was such a pleasure to listen to the stories of people so passionate about ECFNC and what the Club has accomplished. I would not be able to write the history of the Club without access to past issues of The Egret and I extend my thanks to Tom and Peggy Hurst, Dave Kraus, and Jim McAllister for lending me their old copies, and to Carl Maiolani for providing the minutes from the early years of the Club.

Sturgeon Creek Restoration and Community Event

A significant restoration project has begun to transform and restore an abandoned marina in Sturgeon Creek, owned by the Caldwell First Nation, to enhance terrestrial and aquatic habitat, increase wetland habitat, and soften the shoreline. The project is being undertaken by Essex Region Conservation and the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club in partnership with Caldwell First Nation.

Funding for planting and habitat materials was received from the Canada's 150th Community Fund and awarded to the ECFNC. This initiative is made possible by the Community Fund for Canada's 150th, a collaboration between Windsor-Essex Community Foundation, the Government of Canada, and extraordinary leaders from coast to coast to coast. Major funding for the engineering and reconstruction portion of this project has come from Environment Canada's National Wetland Conservation Fund, the Ministry of Natural Resources, and Caldwell First Nation.

Save the Date!

The community-planting event will take place on either Saturday May 26 2018 or Sunday May 27 2018 (TBD). The following weekend (June 2 and 3 2018) are also marked for rain dates.

Volunteers Needed!

The Essex County Field Naturalists' Club is looking for members interested in helping create habitat boxes leading up to the spring planting. This would involve helping plan/host and/or attend a workshop in the New Year to build the boxes in advance of next spring. For those who would like to contribute and assist in this activity, please contact Gina Pannunzio at q.pannunzio27@gmail.com.

Leading up to the spring event, volunteer opportunities will also open for those who are interested in participating in the community-planting event. Keep an eye for updates on this project in the next Egret!

Activities and Events

For further information concerning the ECFNC excursions, visit www.essexcountynature.com, or contact the executive (please see contact page). Let us know your ideas for upcoming excursions. Consider volunteering as an excursion leader!

January 10th, 2018 – How Much Habitat is Enough?

Dan Lebedyk is Essex Region Conservation's Biologist and will be speaking on ERCA's efforts in identifying a natural heritage system for the Essex region. His presentation will explain the application of "How Much Habitat is Enough" guidelines to the local landscapes while making connections to the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BSC) and the Essex Region Natural Heritage System Strategy (ERNHSS). Held at 7:30pm at the Ojibway Nature Centre

February 14th, 2018 – Member's Meeting – Topic to be announced

Stay tuned via email for details of the upcoming member's meeting. Held at 7:30pm at the Ojibway Nature Centre

March 14th, 2018 – Annual General Meeting

Elections, a review of the previous year's budget and minutes, with a fun quiz throughout. Held at 7:30pm at the Ojibway Nature Centre

Essex County Field Naturalists' Club Membership Form – Due annually Individual membership \$20.00 / year _____ Family membership \$25.00 / year ____ Student (full-time) \$10.00 / year ____ Tax Receipt Eligible: Life membership \$500.00 ____ Donation ____ Publications: Wildflowers of the Canadian Erie Islands by Mary Celestino \$15 ____ Fishes of Essex County and Surrounding Waters by Lynda D. Corkum \$25 ____ www.fishesofessex.county.com Name _____ Street _____ Postal Code ____ Phone Number _____ E-mail _____ Please contact me to volunteer at ECFNC events!

Make cheques payable to: Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

c/o Ojibway Nature Centre 5200 Matchette Rd. Windsor On, N9C 4E8