



The Egret

the Newsletter of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

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ECFNC Monthly Meetings

Except for our outdoor meetings in July and August and our annual dinner in November, monthly members' meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm at Ojibway Nature Center, 5200 Matchette Road, Windsor, 519-966-5852.

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

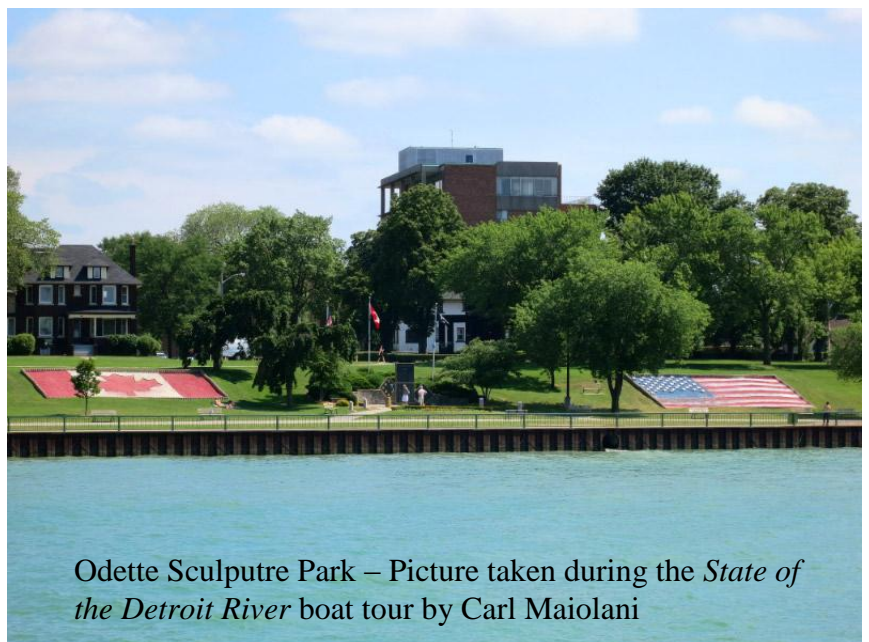
September 12 – Dan Loncke and the War of 1812

September 15-16 – Hawk Festival at Holiday Beach

October 10 – Members Meeting – Claire Sanders PIBO

November 10 – Annual Dinner

December 12 – Members Meeting



Odette Sculpture Park – Picture taken during the *State of the Detroit River* boat tour by Carl Maiolani

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

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Windsor, Ontario N8X 5B5

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Ontario Nature Liaison: JoAnn Grondin
ERCA Liaison: Phil Roberts
Bluebird Committee Chairman: Don Bissonnette
Essex County Stewardship Network Liaison: Linda Menard-Watt
Ojibway Liaison: Karen Cedar
Citizens Environment Alliance Liaison: Phil Roberts
Windsor Essex County Environmental Committy: Phil Roberts/ Jesse Gardner Costa
Canada South Land Trust Liaison: Tom Hurst
Detroit River Canadian Cleanup Liaison: Phil Roberts/Ian Naisbitt

Committees:

Egret Editorial: Sheeva Nakhaie (chair), Betty Learmouth, Karen Cedar, Jesse Gardner Costa
Field Trip: Sarah Baldo and Sarah Renaud (co chairs)
Heritage: JoAnn Grondin (coordinator), Dave Kraus, Betty Learmouth, Jim McAllister, Bruno Sfalcin, Gerry Waldron, Peg Wilkinson, Shirley Grondin, Cathy Lapain
Little River Enhancement Group: Ian Naisbitt (chair), Tom Henderson
Fish Book: Teresa Austrin (chair), Joe Parent, Dave Kraus, Phil Roberts, Jesse Gardner Costa, Sheeva Nakhaie
Website: Sarah Baldo, Sarah Renaud, Sheeva Nakhaie (co chairs)

Exciting News! New Website!

The Essex County Field Naturalists Club is excited to announce that we have a new website at

www.essexcountynature.com.

This website will have up to date listings of all of our upcoming events and activities. We will also be posting the Egret on the website so please check it frequently and tell your friends to visit the webpage too!



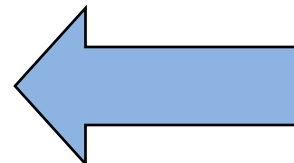
Member Meetings in Review



August Meeting at Point Pelee, Tour of Restored Savannah Sites. Photo: Cathy Lapain



In June: Dave Kraus gave a great talk about restoration! Unfortunately we don't have a picture of his talk but we do have a picture of him with his kids at Hilman Marsh for the July meeting he led!



Everything Just Ducky Along the Canard

By Peggy Hurst

The annual Waldron field trip, where would he take us this year? Somewhere off the beaten path, in a woodlot far, far away, where no man has gone before or woman dares to tread. We have hiked frozen marshes, enjoyed poison sumac in the winter (when it's safe), and traversed forests and conservation areas not yet open to the public and unknown to most of us. Trails? Who needs trails when we have the great Waldron with his excellent sense of direction to follow?

So, on a sunny Sunday afternoon at the end of April, 15 hardy explorers set out to locate and admire a very rare plant in a new Nature Conservancy acquisition, the Harbinger of Spring. Unfortunately, spring for this plant happened in mid-February this year, and not a bloom was to be found. Fortunately though, there was foliage, and indications that the plant was thriving and spreading. We looked at cracked soil where Green Dragons would rear up, should the flood plain flood. We saw the early Lizard Tail at the creek edge. We looked at Kentucky Coffee trees, both old and newly planted. We admired a lonely Red Mulberry. A rare Cream Violet was relocated after 30 years, documented by Mike Oldham in 1981

As we followed the great Waldron up and down and over and under, this excellent group of naturalists pulled Garlic Mustard and picked up garbage. Why take a bag into the woods when there are discarded pails and pots to fill and haul out? A raccoon was spotted snoozing in a tree, and a pair of Great Horned Owlets stared down at us from a crag.

Interestingly, the neighbour and her son noticed we were exploring the woodlot and decided to do the same. The approximately 40 acre site composed of floodplain and riverbank was acquired in 2011 by the Nature Conservancy of Canada with contributions from the Essex Region Conservation Authority, the Ivey Foundation and our own Canada South Land Trust for the astonishing fee of nearly \$300,000.

Formerly the site was used for many decades by the Mitchell family to pasture cattle and only a few trees from the original forest vegetation were retained as summer shade for the livestock. Some of these impressive relicts are still standing. Old timers remember that in past times, the church steeple in McGregor was visible when looking across the site from Howard Avenue – not now. With the cattle gone, the natural vegetation has returned lushly. The former Honour Roll Pumpkin Ash, currently reduced to a gaunt skeleton by the Emerald Ash Borer, grew here.

All the acquired lands are within the area designated in 1983 by the Essex Region Conservation Authority as the Canard River Kentucky Coffeetree Woods Environmentally Significant Area. As befitting such a valuable property, there are a number of significant species to be found. These include:

Species	Location (GPS where appropriate)
Green Dragon, <i>Arisaema dracontium</i>	Common on floodplain
Trumpet Creeper, <i>Campsis radicans</i>	335620 4666179

Davis' Sedge, <i>Carex davisii</i>	Widespread on floodplain & on tableland
Muskingum Sedge, <i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	335348 4666121
Squarrose Sedge, <i>Carex squarrosa</i>	Widespread in floodplain & on tableland
Shellbark Hickory, <i>Carya laciniata</i>	Widely scattered over entire site
Harbinger-of-spring, <i>Erigenia bulbosa</i>	Along bank above floodplain in east of site
Burning Bush, <i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i>	Upland area near Eighth Concession Road
Kentucky Coffeetree, <i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	335635 4666178 & 335571 4666163
Purple Twayblade, <i>Liparis liliifolia</i>	335628 666185
Red Mulberry, <i>Morus rubra</i>	335391 4666122
Frog Fruit, <i>Phyla lanceolata</i>	Moist riverbanks
Prairie Rose, <i>Rosa setigera</i>	Widespread over entire site
Lizard's Tail, <i>Saururus cernuus</i>	Riverbank and embayments
Ironweed, <i>Vernonia missurica</i>	Widespread in upland
Cream Violet, <i>Viola striata</i>	Along bank above floodplain in east of site

Although not yet recorded for this property, Fox Snake can certainly be expected as they have been observed nearby. Because the property is maturing and becoming more diverse, the above list can be expected to grow. Naturalists should keep their eyes open for additions to the list. Oh, and on our trip not a single species of duck was recorded!

How to Get There

From the north of the County, proceed south on either Walker Road or Howard Avenue to County Road 10. If on Howard, this will be at the flashing light just past Fox Glen Golf Course. Turn left at the flashing light (and take note of one of the counties only four way bridges) and go east to the 7th Concession. Now turn right and proceed south. If on Walker, County Road 10 is at the south end of town. Turn right and go west to the 7th Concession. Turn left on the 7th and proceed south. In about one kilometre, the road dips into the Canard River valley. Just before the dip turn right into a gravel lane with a small parking area. This is not marked. It is immediately south of the last house on the right side of the road before the valley. From the south of the County proceed north on either Walker Road or Howard Avenue and turn left off Walker onto County Road 10 or right off Howard and drive to the 7th Concession as described above.

Nature Sightings Report Cherise Charron

Hilman Marsh

Spring was warm and we had all the usual shorebirds passing through the shorebird cell. On May 25, 2012, Dean Ware spotted a beautiful breeding plumage Curlew Sandpiper. This rare sandpiper stayed in the shorebird cell for two days and was seen by many, including birders from Michigan and Ohio. Photos can be seen in Al

Wormington's Annual Point Pelee Birding Report. On June 3, 2012, Al Wormington had two (yes, two) White-faced

Ibis in the shorebird cell. One was clearly marked with white around the face; the other was not. This was a one evening wonder. Al's photos are on ontbirds.ca in the photo gallery.

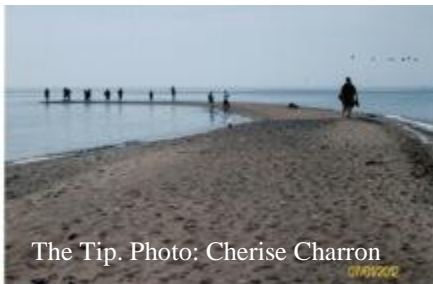


Black-capped night heron and great blue heron. Photo: Cherise Charron.

This year is turning out to be an invasion year for Dickcissels in Michigan, Ohio and Ontario. Dean Ware reported three Dickcissels in Hillman in the west side of the shorebird cell. Also reported were six male Bobolinks on June 13, 2012. As mentioned in the previous Egret newsletter, this is a banner year for the butterfly invasions from the south coming to the north. I had a Dainty Sulfur at the shorebird cell. Later Blake Mann reported seeing many more. Work was started on the new boardwalk in the marsh. The pilings were installed on April 15, 2012 with no planks in place for walking as of August 12, 2012.

Holiday Beach

Went to Holiday Beach in June to renew my ERCA seasonal pass. There is a new electronic entry in place that accepts a key fob that is waved in front of a sensor. Went in and checked out the park. There was a huge Purple Martin nesting platform by the Trout Pond that looked full. I was also able to observe three Black-crowned Night-Herons and Great Blue Herons foraging in the marsh. The Black-crowned Night-Herons all had their breeding plumes present. Remember ERCA passes and entry fees help to improve our local parks and provide improvements to habitat for wildlife.

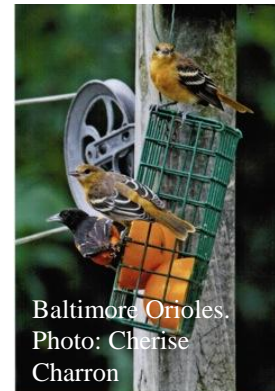


The Tip. Photo: Cherise Charron

Point Pelee

On July 1, 2012, I headed out to Point Pelee. To my surprise the Tip had grown quite a bit indeed! I was able to walk a distance out onto the curling sandspit. As you can see from the photograph it was impressive!

There were a few people enjoying the walk out to the Tip. To the southwest was a sandbar that held numerous gulls.



Baltimore Orioles.
Photo: Cherise Charron

Home

This year a pair of Baltimore Orioles set up a nest and produced a pair of babies. We kept our double suet feeder filled with oranges until July. The photograph shows the male oriole with two of his kids.

Jack Miners

This year Jack Miners is undergoing renovations, including the installation of a ten acre pond. Hopefully we will see some rarities amongst the ducks.

Pelee Drive North of Pelee Wings

There's a new restaurant in the Pelee area. It's a bustrant (a British double-decker bus converted to cooking). The name is Birdie's Perch. They serve delicious home cut fries and perch wraps. Beside the bus is a Purple Martin house with the Purple Martins flying around and landing on wires near the bus. The bus opens at 11:30 a.m. and it will be staying open for business until October 31, 2012. It's worth a look when you are in the Pelee area.

Backyard.

On August 12, 2012, I was able to count twelve Checkered Skippers in my backyard as well as a similar number of Common Sooty Wing.

Black Locust Update from the Ojibway Prairie**Betty Learmouth**

Visitors to the Ojibway Provincial Prairie Nature Reserve who enter at the Titcombe Road entrance often choose the trail to the left. This trail passes through a fine array of prairie plants including grasses and flowering species.

In past years, after a few minutes walk along the prairie trail, visitors were surrounded by a dense stand of young trees on both sides of the trail. These young trees were Black Locust which are well known for being an invasive species and having spiny limbs.



Cut Black Locust with Joe-Pye Weed. Photo: Betty Learmouth

A year ago, a work crew from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources went into this area and with care each Black Locust was cut a few inches from the base of each stem and a herbicide was immediately applied to the fresh cut. The Black Locust pulled the herbicide into its root system with the result that the trees died.

A visit to the Ojibway Prairie on the evening of August 27, 2012 revealed that the Black Locust which had been cut and treated during 2011 had not survived the herbicide treatment. Instead, hundreds of Flat-topped White Aster were blooming in profusion where a thicket of Black Locust once stood.



Flat-topped Aster. Photo: Betty Learmouth

Upon entering the Ojibway Prairie, a sign indicating a herbicide was being applied was a concern, but upon walking along the trail, the cutting of Black Locust on the right side of the trail was evident.

The crew had an organized work area with the cut stems of the Black Locust arranged so that the exposed surface of the each cut could be treated immediately with herbicide. Cutting revealed views that could not be seen earlier, include colourful pink Joe-Pye Weed. Several acres of Black Locust will need careful treatment to ensure this invasive species is controlled.

As we lingered a few moments in the gathering dusk, three Blue Jays flew overhead, their raucous calls reminding us that fall is not so far away. Eleven Common Nighthawk glided into view over the Black Locust as the birds slowly moved from the power line corridor to the oak savannah. The sightings were an enjoyable conclusion to the evening's walk.

An Evening Walk on the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve, July 19, 2012

Betty Learmouth

Eight friends and members of the Canada South Land Trust gathered on a cloudy evening, July 19, 2012, hoping that no thunder storms would disrupt the walk. Two persons from Chatham-Kent were visiting the Ojibway Prairie for the very first time.

The Ojibway Prairie supports a variety of tall grass species including Big Blue Stem, Cord Grass, Indian Grass and Switchgrass. On July 19, 2012, Big Blue Stem was taller than the walk participants with the other grass species not so tall. Tall grass prairie is not just restricted to grasses, it is also known for the numerous flowering plant species which contribute an exciting array of colour to the prairie.

Historians estimate that in the past Ontario supported 40,000 acres of tallgrass prairie. Due to loss through development, tallgrass prairie is found in only a few scattered localities such as our Ojibway Prairie and nearby Walpole Island.



Gray-headed Coneflowers, Photo: Betty Learmouth

Before stepping into the Ojibway Prairie, we paused to admire a group of Gray-headed Coneflower and Wild Bergamot. The blossom colours of yellow and pink were a delight. At the prairie entrance we noted White Vervain and Prairie Thistle. The entrance way vicinity in mid July is a good introduction to the tallgrass prairie as Big Blue Stem and Cord Grass are grow here along with the such colourful flowering plants as Black-eyed Susan, Virginia Mounain-mint, Culver's Root, Ironweed, Tall Coreopsis, Dense Blazing Star and Showy Tick Trefoil.

We noted that several Bracken (a fern) had turned a burnt yellow orange. A borer which drills into the fern root causes this reaction in the fern's foliage colour. A few other affected Bracken were seen. Beside the left hand trail edge, we noted the poisonous plants Water Hemlock and Cowbane.

We arrived at a point on the left hand trail which was open on the left but a closed thicket on the right. Here a stand of unwelcome Black Locust has expanded over the past few years. This past fall (2011), the Black Locust was cut, tree by tree, with each cut treated with herbicide. The treatment has had very good results, with a substantial area now free of this invasive species. Hopefully treatment of the Black Locust will continue.

Proceeding along the trail, we found ourselves in a Black Oak savannah, with numerous large trees surrounding us. Of interest is the Black Oak/Pignut Hickory savannah which supports the delightful Smooth False Foxglove which we were able to observe in bloom on the nearby dry ridge.

The dry ridge was only a few minutes walk away through a lovely section of prairie where we admired Butterfly Milkweed and the bright pink blooms of Dense Blazing Star in the background. Early Goldenrod was in bloom.

Along the dry ridge, we found Woodland Sunflower and a few plants of Smooth False Foxglove in bloom.

Our walk took us to the back trail of the prairie where we found the dried blooms of Colic Root. We noted the Colic Root's rosette of evergreen leaves which persist throughout the winter months. We found another group of the colourful Gray-headed Coneflower. A light drizzle did not put a damper on the enthusiasm of the prairie explorers who made their way back through the prairie. Everyone enjoyed some chilled fruit before heading home.

Field Naturalists' Losses**KASSIMATIS, Muriel****June 3, 1923 - July 30, 2012**

89 years. Passed away at Richmond Terrace in Amherstburg after a brief illness. Predeceased by her beloved husband Dr. Konstantine Kassimatis (1967). Dear friend to Norman and Ella Walker of LaSalle, Sallie Churchill of Ann Arbor, Michigan and Dale Swaisgood of Marshall, Michigan. Muriel was a member of Essex County Field Naturalists and Friends of Ojibway Prairie (F.O.O.P.). Memorial tributes for Land Preservation can be made to the Essex County Field Naturalists or Friends of Ojibway Prairies (F.O.O.P.). Please join us in remembering Muriel by visiting her memorial at www.andersonfuneralhomewindsor.com



NERP Volunteers – Summer 2001

WINTERTON, Mary Jane**Aug 13, 1932- Aug 19, 2012**

(nee Heighway) Peacefully passed away on August 19, 2012 with her loving family by her side; beloved wife of Donald for 54 years, loving mother of Janice Chung (Danny) and Mark (Federica Nazzani); much loved Grandma to Jennifer and Geoffrey. Dear sister of Bob (Midge), Bruce (Jeanne) and predeceased by her mother, Jennie, father, Reginald and brother, Donald. Mary Jane will also be sadly missed by many nieces and nephews and close friends. Mary Jane was a faithful and active member of her church. She enjoyed travelling, bowling, golfing, bridge, cross-country skiing, bird-watching, aqua-fitness, badminton and walking. She was also very involved in her community including Girl Guides, Field Naturalist Club, charity work, May Court Club and many other groups. She always stayed true to her original calling of school teacher. Many thanks to the staff at CCAC and Malden Park Continuing Care Centre. If you so desire, donations may be made to the [Canadian Cancer Society](http://www.ccsociety.ca) and Windsor-Essex Cardiac Wellness Centre.

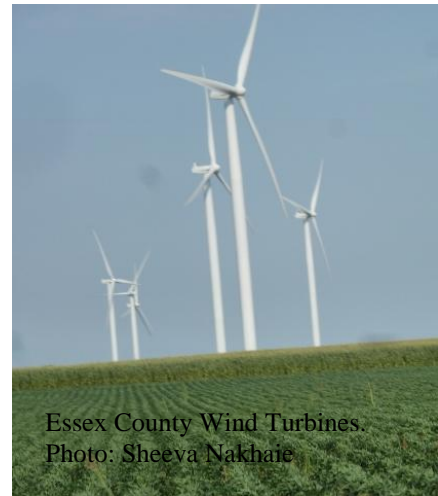
Windsor Star Reprints!**Bird Research to Help Avoid Wind Turbine Accidents**

In *The Windsor Star*, August 24, 2012

Star Reporter: Monica Wolfson

Wildlife researchers want to better understand the migration of birds and bats partly to help them avoid collisions with wind turbines.

There are four radar and 16 acoustic recording devices set up throughout the Two Creeks Conservation Area in Wheatley, including on top of the toboggan hill. The devices will tell researchers the height, speed and direction birds and bats fly. Biologists will use acoustic data to separate the insects from the birds and differentiate between birds and bats.



Essex County Wind Turbines.
Photo: Sheeva Nakhaie

“We are trying to get a better understanding of movement and migration in southern Ontario birds and bats,” said Ryan Zimmerling, a wildlife habitat biologist with Environment Canada. Researchers will also combine the data with information on the weather to find out how birds and bats react to a weather front. Do they fly higher or lower when the barometric pressure drops? Will birds avoid flying over the Great Lakes and follow the shoreline during particular weather events? Researchers hope to answer those questions with the data they collect within a two kilometre radius of the equipment until early November. The equipment was set up Aug. 13. Some birds are known to start migrating south in late July. Most bird and bat species depart Canada in September to late October. Some birds and bats migrate as far south as South America.

While the amount of light left in the day will impact when a bird or bat decides to migrate, they also have internal clocks that alert them to the migration season.

“We are trying to get an idea of flight behaviour and seasonality,” Zimmerling said.

Eventually researchers will design a model of behavior to use as a reference for wind turbine operators who can decide when to shut off the machines during certain migration events to prevent accidents with birds.

There are hundreds of wind turbines in the Wheatley area, said Rick Taves, president of the Two Creeks Conservation Area, which is owned by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. The park is 85 acres with 20 km of tree-shaded recreation trails.

“I’m surprised they didn’t do this before,” Taves said.

The wind energy industry often helps fund research and bird studies to develop a database of information.

“The wind energy industry is committed to continuously researching and improving our understanding of avian and bat interactions with wind turbines even though the relative contribution to overall avian and bat mortality from wind turbines is very small,” said Ulrike Kucera media relations officer with the Canadian Wind Energy Association. “The overwhelming evidence consistently shows that wind farms are relatively minor sources of bird mortality relative to other human impacts. Currently there are mechanisms in place to reduce potential risk and actual mortality of avian and bat species such as: appropriate siting, pre-construction risk surveys, post-construction mortality studies, adaptive management protocols, etc.”

The Wheatley-Point Pelee area is widely known as a migration mecca. Bird watchers come from all over the world for spring migration. Parks Canada has recorded 372 species of birds in the area in the spring. While the Environment Canada equipment will be removed in November, researchers plan to return in the spring to record the return of the bird and bat population.

Endangered Species

In *The Windsor Star*, August 31, 2012

Derek Coronado

Champagne corks were popping at Queen's Park when it was announced that Michigan had agreed to the building of a new bridge joining Detroit to Windsor. This multibilliondollar project is seen as a key tool for expediting the movement of goods to our largest trading partner, so the Canadian government has delivered a low-risk, high-reward deal for our American neighbours.

But what about the endangered and threatened species that the new Windsor-Essex Parkway feeding the bridge will impact?

Rarely is news of a new mega-project celebratory for endangered species, but in this case there is an interesting twist: Thanks to Ontario's new Endangered Species Act, these species are benefiting from some long overdue attention, triggered by the construction of the parkway. Essentially, the ESA requires the parkway's developer - the Ontario Ministry of Transportation - to ensure that its work takes into account the needs of species struggling for survival. In this case, these species are mostly members of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem that once covered a good deal of southwestern Ontario, but which has now been reduced to a few tiny fragments found mostly in the Windsor area. To protect species that live in the way of the bridge and its roads, MTO has been busy restoring tallgrass prairie habitat, relocating plants and animals, and designing systems to ensure that species are not harmed during or after construction. For example, a large "ecopass" over the highway will ensure that populations of Eastern Foxsnake and Butler's Gartersnake are not cut off from others in their clan, something that would reduce genetic diversity and species survival chances. Another proactive measure has been to buy swaths of habitat in the area and catch and transplant animals that would otherwise be harmed once construction began.

Construction crews, meanwhile, have been trained to be on the lookout for rare species and there have been more than 200 calls to the project's Species at Risk hotline to date. In fact,

species at risk populations throughout the area have benefited from intensive monitoring efforts over several years of the project.

This is exactly how Ontario's new Endangered Species legislation - passed in 2007 - is designed to work. Instead of the old approach of identifying and then largely ignoring endangered species, the new act combines clear requirements to identify and "list" endangered species in a sciencedriven manner with a flexible approach to dealing with the impacts of development, in this case a new highway.

Sure, it costs money to recreate endangered habitats, monitor and move species and educate workers. But there are multiple benefits: Negative impacts on important ecosystem functions like water filtration or - in the case of snakes, rodent control - are minimized. Jobs also result from ecological restoration efforts. In this case, the Walpole Island First Nation brought its expertise in local plant communities to the project and led the planting of new habitat areas. And significant new scientific knowledge about endangered species has been generated, including about the ability of species to adjust to relocated homes. This will be invaluable for hundreds of other projects across North America.

But the bottom line is that species protection efforts are a minor cost compared to the \$1.4-billion price tag for the parkway alone. With the Canadian government agreeing to assume the full cost of construction, to waive tolls for northbound drivers, and to purchase land in Michigan for highway connections, taking steps to protect species at risk of extinction is the least of the financial challenges facing this project.

And because the ESA makes expectations clear, it is also straightforward to "design in" species protection efforts from square one, which can dramatically reduce costs. Shifting the location of a culvert may not add a cent to the bill for the project, but may have a major benefit for endangered species, for example.

The bigger story is why we need to spend time and money protecting endangered species in the first place. Endangered species are often indicators of endangered ecosystems and endangered ecosystems spell danger for us who, like it or not, are also a part of them. Think of it as starting a house renovation and discovering that your foundation wall is cracked.

Fixing that crack isn't going to be nearly as satisfying as choosing the tile for your new kitchen, but most people understand that it is absolutely critical to the long-term sustainability of their home. And in the face of a threat like climate change, understanding and restoring an ecosystem - tallgrass prairie - built by nature to withstand heat and drought is also in our own best interest. So instead of seeing endangered species as a burden or a barrier, we should see them as an important opportunity to think differently about how we design and integrate our built environment with the natural one.

Derek Coronado is co-ordinator of the Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario. <http://citizensenvironmentalliance.org/>

Putting the “Park” in Parkway

In *The Windsor Star*, September 1, 2012

Star Reporter: Chris Vander Doelen

After dozens of consultation sessions held with arborists, commercial tree suppliers and local residents, a team of landscape architects designing the 300 acre park enveloping the Windsor - Essex Parkway has settled on the plant species they will plant to refurbish the site once construction ends in 2014.

They've picked 27 species of native Carolinian trees. They include Hickory, Sycamore, Black Walnut, Red Oak, Pin Oak, Silver Maple, Sugar Maple, Chestnut, Hackberry, Redbud, Serviceberry, Hawthorne, Wild Plum, Black Cherry, Sumac, Willow and Sassafras.

Five species of conifers will also be planted. Not all of them are common to the area but all are conducive to bird life and excellent for sight and sound screening: Red Cedar, White Spruce, White Pine, Canada Yew and Eastern White Cedar.

Unions, Weather Co-operate as \$1.4 B Project on Schedule

In *The Windsor Star*, September 1, 2012

Star Reporter: Chris Vander Doelen

In between the daily ballet of moving equipment, biologists have encountered - and rescued - about 500 more protected Eastern Fox Snakes and Butler's Garters than they thought they would, after collecting 1,200 specimens last year.

Over the past year the same biologists have also worked with fence companies to develop what could be the world's first snake-proof fence system for highways. The six foot tall chain link fence would have an extra layer of fine mesh affixed to its lower half and buried 20 centimetres deep: it's been lab-tested with live Fox Snakes to make sure these acrobatic local reptiles can't climb over it or burrow under.

It turns out that the supposedly rare and endangered snake species found in this region aren't so hard to find after all. Biologists have removed an average of six snakes per acre over the entire site, which means the number found on the unpopulated westerly third of the project was probably at two dozen or more snakes per acre.

The rescued snakes were all moved to the other side of the temporary black fabric snake fence that lines the 11-kilometre site on both sides. The temporary fences will be replaced by permanent snake fences once the project is nearly complete – but only along E.C. Row Expressway because that's the only place they are needed, biologists have concluded.

.... But back to the snakes: far from being a hindrance to the project, their presence has actually helped to focus the minds of landscape architects on how out of the ordinary their job has been as they plan the restoration of the lands after the parkway is finished.

“This place is special ecologically – it's a rich landscape,” says Aha Naylor, the Toronto based lead landscape architect on the project. “Since it's Carolinian, it's one of the most unique landscapes in Canada and in fact is very special.”

**Essex County Field Naturalists' Club
Membership Form – Due January 1, 2011**

Individual membership \$20.00 / year _____ Family membership \$25.00 / year _____

Student (full-time) \$10.00 / year _____ Sustaining membership \$30.00 / year _____

Tax Receipt Eligible: Life membership \$500.00 / year _____ 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.fishesofessexcounty.com

Name _____

Street _____ City _____

Province _____ Postal Code _____ Phone Number _____

E-mail _____ I wish to receive the Egret by email.

Please contact me to volunteer at ECFNC events!

Thank you!

Make cheques payable to: Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

Devonshire Mall P.O., P. O. Box 23011, Windsor, Ontario N8X 5B5

Activities and Excursions!

For further information concerning the ECFNC excursions, visit www.essexcountynature.com, or contact Sarah Renaud (sarah.renaud@gmail.com) or Sarah Baldo (519-300-0039). Let us know your ideas for upcoming excursions. Consider volunteering as an excursion leader.

September 8 - Creative Nature (ages 10-13)

Find your inspiration naturally! Combine your love of art with your love of nature in this unique outdoor art program at Ojibway Nature Centre. All materials provided. Times: 10:00 am – noon. Fee: \$15

Multiple Dates - Fall Bird Migration Field Course (adult)

Discover the tremendous variety of migrating birds as they make their leisurely way south. Dates are tentative. Check www.ojibway.ca for changes. Times: 8:30am-noon. Fee: \$15/day
Dates: Saturday, September 8 meet at Point Pelee Visitor Centre
Saturday, October 13 meet at Point Pelee Visitor Centre
Saturday, October 27 meet at tip parking lot, Point Pelee
Saturday, November 17 meet at Hawk Tower, Holiday Beach C.A.
Saturday, December 1 meet at tip parking lot, Point Pelee

September 10 - October 29 – ‘Possum Pals at Ojibway Nature Centre. For parents and tots ages 2-4. Children not yet ready to leave the pouch? Join us for this educational and fun parent/tot adventure in nature. Mondays from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Fee: \$57/7 weeks. Preregister at Ojibway Nature Centre, 5200 Matchette Rd. Windsor. Call 519-966-5852 or visit www.ojibway.ca for more information.

September 10 - October 29 – Captivating Critters at Ojibway Nature Centre. For children ages 3-5. Wildlife exploration and nature fun for the younger set. The first class is introductory for parents and children. Mondays, from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Fee: \$57/ weeks. Preregister at Ojibway Nature Centre, 5200 Matchette Rd. Windsor. Call 519-966-5852 or visit www.ojibway.ca for more information.

September 11 - November 27 – Fall Hiking at Ojibway. Exercise your body and your brain. These brisk morning walks with one of Ojibway’s naturalists will introduce you to many native plants and animals. Senior discount available. Tuesdays, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Fee: \$53/12 weeks. Preregister at Ojibway Nature Centre, 5200 Matchette Rd. Windsor. Call 519-966-5852 or visit www.ojibway.ca for more information.

September 12, 7:30 p.m. – ECFNC Member’s Meeting – Dan Loncke and the War of 1812
– Local historian, Dan Loncke will be at the Ojibway Nature Center on September 12th to speak about the war of 1812 for the bicentennial year. Dan has a lifelong interest in Canadian history with special emphasis on the War of 1812, and outdoor activities including natural history, birding and canoeing. As part of Mackenzie Hall’s Heritage Series, Dan presents seminars on the War of 1812: Detroit River Frontier and conducts tours of 1812 sites on the Canadian side of the Detroit River. Dan has co-written several songs with Peter Boyer of Same Latitude As Rome (samelatitudeasrome.com) about events during the War of 1812 primarily in the Detroit River Region!

September 15-16 – Hawk Festival, Holiday Beach Conservation Area – ECFNC's Blue Kestrel Café will be open for the Hawk Festival. The festival runs from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. each day and offers lots of interesting activities – hawk watching, workshops, crafts, guided tours, banding, vendors, etc. Our Café sells coffee, pop, muffins, cookies, hot dogs, etc. For more information, visit www.hbmo.ca.

Claire needs help for this event, including setting up and taking down the food tent on both days, plus driving to the teaching building to make the coffee, selling our products, etc. It is very hard work to organize this event and many volunteers are needed to help make it run smoothly. Please call Claire McAllister if you would like to volunteer (519-254-1854). If needed, Claire can arrange for free entrance to the park when you are volunteering.

September 22 – Peche Island Day – Activities will run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Peche Island Day is a free event and everyone is welcome to attend! Cancellation subject to adverse weather conditions. Picnic lunches are allowed, however no garbage should be left behind. Light snacks and beverages will be available for purchase. Bike or bus to the event. Limited parking available offsite. Boat Boarding at Lakeview Park Marina, 9200 Riverside Drive E. Boat transportation will be provided to and from the island beginning at 10:00 am. If you have a life jacket, please bring it. The last boat bringing people to the island will leave at 1:00 pm. Marked trails for self-guided tours. Guided tours of the island are also available. Volunteers are needed for this event which is a joint effort of ECFNC, City of Windsor, CEA, DRCC, BASF, MNR, University of Windsor and Windsor-Essex County Canoe Club. Call Karen at 519-966-5852 or email at kcedar@city.windsor.on.ca if you are able to volunteer.

October 10, 7:30 p.m. – ECFNC Member's Meeting – Claire Sanders, PIBO – Claire Sanders is the Executive Director at the Pelee Island Bird Observatory (PIBO) and will be giving a talk on migration monitoring and the usefulness of night flight calls as a census technique. Come out to Ojibway Nature Centre to learn more about bird migration and Canada's most southern bird observatory!

November 5- December 17 – Captivating Critters (ages 3-5)

Wildlife exploration and nature fun for the younger set. The first class is introductory for parents and children. Times: 1:00 – 3:00pm. Fee: \$57/7 weeks

November 10 – ECFNC Annual Dinner – COME CELEBRATE OUR 28th ANNUAL DINNER! See separate full page flyer for further details.

Thursday, December 6, 2012 – Canada South Land Trust – Join Todd Pepper for a presentation entitled “Bird Banding and Community Development in Loma Alto, Ecuador.” Todd will speak at 7:30 p.m. in Room C of the Essex Civic Centre. Your donation of \$20.00 would be welcome towards the Land Trust's Legacy Fund. Please call Betty at [519-944-0825](tel:519-944-0825) for further details. Healthy refreshments will be served.

December 12, 7:30 p.m. – ECFNC Member's Meeting – The meeting will be held at Ojibway Nature Centre. Please visit the website (www.essexcountynature.com) closer to December for more information.

ESSEX COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB/
ESSEX COUNTY NATURE CLUB
28TH ANNUAL DINNER
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2012

SPEAKER: GRAEME GIBSON
TITLE: ECHOES OF A WORKING EDEN

Fogolar Furlan Club – Udine Hall
1800 North Service Road, Windsor, Ontario
Doors Open – 6:00 p.m. * Cash Bar * Dinner – 7:00 p.m.

Silent Auction and Door Prizes

Ticket Price: \$35.00

Tickets available at: Ojibway Nature Centre, 5200 Matchette Rd, Windsor (519-966-5852),
or

Pelee Wings Nature Store, 636 Point Pelee Drive, Leamington (519-326-5193), or
JoAnn Grondin (519-734-0056).