



# 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' meeting 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](http://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**

**June 29<sup>th</sup> – Paul Desjardins butterfly walk.**

**July 10<sup>th</sup> – General Membership Meeting. Steve Marks gives a talk on endangered species of Essex County with amphibians and reptiles.**

**August 14<sup>th</sup> – General Membership Meeting. Russ Jones gives a talk to the membership**

**August 25<sup>th</sup> – Join Club member Tom Preney for an Ojibway Prairie walk.**

**September 11<sup>th</sup> – General Membership Meeting. Phil Roberts gives an update on Ojibway Shores.**

**September 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> – Join us at the Blue Kestrel Café at the Holiday Beach Hawk Festival. Volunteers are needed.**

**November 2<sup>nd</sup> – SAVE THE DATE for our 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner.**

## 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

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

### Information

ECFNC website  
[www.essexcountynature.com](http://www.essexcountynature.com)  
Egret email  
[sheeva.nakhaie@gmail.com](mailto:sheeva.nakhaie@gmail.com)  
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: Jesse Gardner Costa (519-564-3007)  
Vice-President: Dave Kraus (519-825-7491)  
Secretary: JoAnn Grondin (519-734-0056)  
Treasurer: Cathy Lapain (519-776-6097)  
Membership Secretary: Carl Maiolani (519-972-1399)

### Directors:

Linda Menard-Watt (519-734-1879)  
Sheeva Nakhaie ([sheeva.nakhaie@gmail.com](mailto:sheeva.nakhaie@gmail.com))  
Sarah Renaud ([sarah.renaud@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.renaud@gmail.com))  
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Tom Preney ([tompreny@hotmail.com](mailto:tompreny@hotmail.com))

### Chairpersons/Liaisons:

Ontario Nature Liaison: JoAnn Grondin  
ERCA Liaison: Phil Roberts  
ERCA Conservation Areas Advisory Committee for park management: Sarah Baldo and Tom Preney  
Bluebird Committee Chairman: Don Bissonnette  
Essex County Land Stewardship Liaison: Linda Menard-Watt  
Ojibway Liaison: Tom Preney  
Citizens Environment Alliance Liaison: Phil Roberts/Jesse Gardner Costa  
Windsor Essex County Environmental Committee: Phil Roberts/ Jesse Gardner Costa  
Canada South Land Trust Liaison: Dave Kraus  
Detroit River Canadian Cleanup Liaison: Steve Marks/Phil Roberts

### Committees:

Egret Editorial: Sheeva Nakhaie (chair), Betty Learmouth,  
Field Trips: The Executive  
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), Jesse Gardner Costa  
Fish Book: Dave Kraus  
Website: Sarah Baldo, Sarah Renaud, Sheeva Nakhaie (co chairs)  
Social Media: Sarah Renaud, Russ Jones and Steve Marks  
Arising Issues in the County: Phil Roberts

**Nineteenth Annual ECFNC Weekend Trip to Pelee Island May 4-5 2013****Carl Maiolani**

Dave Kraus and daughter Megan. Photo: Carl Maiolani

The trip began with a little extra excitement even before we got on to the MC Jiimaan which would be our ferry back and forth to the Island. The school bus which would serve as our trusty transportation while on the island had been closed prior to our arrival at the dock in Leamington and we couldn't get in to deposit our baggage.

Fortunately, one of our guides for the weekend, Miss Megan Kraus, was boosted through the driver's window and helped to open the door.

With our first and arguably our last problem of the weekend solved, we boarded the ferry and

enjoyed the one and a half hour trip over to the Island. This year the 17 members of the group were Sharon Medeiros, Cathy Lapain, Carl Maiolani, JoAnn Grondin, Shirley Grondin, Dan Brouwer, Denise Hartley, Maxine Hartley, Bonnie Ross, Pat Wollocombe, Marg Calder, Dave Kraus, Megan Kraus, Ian Woodfield, Ruth Hart, Paul Desjardins, and Linda Froese who served as our driver for the weekend. Of the group 10 were returning from last year and a couple were on the trip for their first time.

For those of you who could not come on this trip I will mention a few words about the weather. The temperature was in the 15 to 20 degree range with a beautiful blue sky, a steady breeze, the odd high cloud, and virtually no bugs.... In other words, the weather was perfect for our trip.

During our trip over to the Island Megan Kraus was good enough to provide some entertainment by doing magic tricks for some of us.



Painted Turtle. Photo: Cathy Lapain



Rose breasted Grosbeak. Photo: Cathy Lapain

This helped to set a very relaxed tone for the whole trip. She also led the Back of the Bus Chorus in singing many children's favourites during the weekend.

Upon arriving on the island we all piled into the bus with plenty of room to spare and proceeded to our first destination which was a Nature Conservancy property named after Richard and Beryl Ivey. As we casually walked along the trail we started to count bird species for the weekend, eventually ending up with over 70 species. Over the course of the weekend we also visited Lighthouse Point, Sheridan Point, and Fish Point.

Of special interest during our walks, we came across a spotted salamander and 4 species of snakes including the endangered Lake Erie Water Snake which we encountered on the limestone beach off of South Shore Rd. We also had 2 sightings of the Eastern Fox Squirrel. One view was of an individual scampering through some brush while a second sighting was of another individual having a nap in a hollowed out tree.

One of the highlights of the trip had to be the stunning views of Trillium that carpeted substantial expanses along the trail down to Fish Point. Not only were the plants thick over much of the trailside, some plants were also extraordinarily tall. As we walked



Spotted Salamander. Photo: Carl Maiolani

down that trail, I could hear Paul Desjardin making a mental note about how the Trillium were better than in Appalachia and how we were able to appreciate it to the fullest because of a lack of understory blocking our view.



Lake Erie Water Snake. Photo: Carl Maiolani

Out ferry ride back to the mainland late Sunday afternoon went without a hitch.

It had been over fifteen years since I had been on this spring excursion that is always organized by Dave Kraus. I thank him and his daughter for making it so memorable. Thanks also to Linda Froese for making the bus trips

enjoyable. I strongly recommend this trip for all who wish to enjoy the good company of good people in such a peaceful setting so far from the everyday pressures of our lives.

## **Heritage Committee Earth Day Bake Sale, April 28, 2013**

**Article and Photos by Cathy Lapain**



In spite of a cool rainy day, a lot of people came to check out all the booths at this year's Earth Day Celebration held on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at Malden Park. Many people stopped by to purchase some delicious homemade muffins, cupcakes, pies, cookies, squares and a whole lot more at our Field Naturalist's booth. Bake goods were brought in by Peggy Hurst, Claire & Jim McAllister, JoAnn Grondin, Shirley Grondin, Pauline Renaud, Kathy Lesperance & Cathy Lapain. Many thanks to all of these good bakers. Also thanks to Jo Ann Grondin, Pauline Renaud, Kathy

Lesperance and Denise Hartley for helping to sell bake goods throughout the day.

## **Mother Earth Award**

**By: Betty Learmouth**

On April 25, 2013, at the launching of the “Canvas Campus” in Tecumseh (next to the Town of Tecumseh’s log cabin museum on Tecumseh Road East), the Mother Earth Award was presented to the Essex County Field Naturalists, by Dr. David Suzuki. The award recognized the Field Naturalists’ activism in support of people’s rights, our communities and our Earth.



From left to right: Teresa Austrin, Linda Menard Watt, Jesse Gardner Costa, Dr. David Suzuki, Claire McAllister, Sheeva Nakhaie, Phil Roberts. Photographer: Larry Onysko

## **Blue Grosbeak Recorded at Ojibway Nature Centre**

**Article and Photos: Betty Learmouth**



A Blue Grosbeak caused considerable interest at the Ojibway Nature Centre when a male appeared on April 19, 2013. This colourful bird was last observed on April 25, 2013. Karen Hass provided an excellent image of this individual for *The Egret* which Karen obtained on April 22, 2013 at the Ojibway pond next to the Nature Centre.

For more information on this bird species, the writer turned to the Internet for

assistance. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology web site had the following comments. The Blue Grosbeak is a beautiful blue bird with a silvery bill and chestnut wing bars. The Blue Grosbeak is an uncommon bird of shrubby habitats across the southern United States. The adult description indicates the Blue Grosbeak is a medium-sized song bird with a large silvery-gray bill. The male is a deep blue with two brown wing bars. The female is mostly brown with two brown wing bars.

Wikipedia provided the following comments about the Blue Grosbeak. This is a migratory bird with nesting grounds across most of the southern half of the United States and much of northern Mexico, migrating south to Central America and in small numbers to northern South America; the southern most record comes from eastern Ecuador. It eats mostly insects, but it will also eat snails, spiders, seeds, grain and wild fruit. The Blue Grosbeak forages on the ground and in shrubs and trees.

Wikipedia stated this species is found in partly open habitat with scattered trees, riparian woodland, scrub, thickets, cultivated lands, woodland edges, overgrown fields or hedgerows. It nests in a low tree or bush or tangle of vegetation, usually about 1-3 metres above ground, often at the edge of an open area.

### **Ontario Nature's Carolinian West Regional Meeting, March 23, 2013**

**Articles and Photos: Betty Learmouth**

The Essex County Field Naturalists' Club was the host nature club for members of the Carolinian West group on March 23, 2013. Members of each club provided an update on activities and issues. Unfortunately, several clubs have concerns such as a landfill in a limestone quarry proposed for Oxford County, clear cutting of woodlands within Chatham/ Kent, and the threat of big box development adjacent to Ojibway Park and Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve in Windsor.



Mantid egg case

Following the morning meeting and an afternoon presentation by Phil Roberts concerning Ojibway Shores, a walk with fifteen naturalists was held on the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve.

Quite possibly the highlight of the walk was the discovery of several rigid Chinese Mandid egg cases on stalks of vegetation. Stan Caveney was familiar with this insect and was able to provide more information. The following is Stan's email:

In a nutshell, what happens at egg-laying (oviposition) is that muscular action forces a batch of mature eggs out of the female's paired ovaries into the "upstream" paired lateral oviducts. The ovaries pretty much fill the female's abdomen, which is why you can tell the thin-abdomened male mantids from the chubby female mantids.

The time of egg laying is of course under the female mantid's control.



On release from the ovaries, the eggs pass into the single (“common”) oviduct.

As they pass into the common oviduct, a special gland (the spermatheca) that stores the sperm from her last mating releases the sperm to fertilize the eggs.

As the eggs continue to pass “downstream” along the common oviduct, an accessory gland connected to the oviduct releases a stiff, clear and viscous fluid of pure protein into the common oviduct. This protein solution mixes

with a calcium salt solution released at the same time by a second accessory gland into the oviduct.

The mixing of the two fluid secretions causes a strong chemical reaction that slowly causes the protein to harden on exposure to air. The female now squirts the hardening fluid (technically called gloop – only kidding) out of her rear end, at the same time frothing it up (think cappuccino) by pumping air with her abdomen.

While applying this frothy and sticky gloop on to a stick or grass stalk layer by layer, the female carefully positions the eggs in two rows along the top of the forming egg case, using the flaps of her ovipositor.

The hardened “styrofoam” eggcase is waterproof and prevents the eggs from over winter desiccation and egg parasitism.

The Chinese Mantid lays about one hundred eggs at a time, I think; maybe three rounds of egg laying. My experience is that the eggs have high viability. Nature can be so wonderful and complicated too.



Chinese mantid

**Upcoming Events and Activities!**

**June 19 (6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) – 3rd Annual Detroit River Evening** – Join us to celebrate and learn about recent Detroit River projects! Keynote speaker: Dr. John Howard, Healthy People Need Healthy Water: A Physician's Perspective on Ecosystem Health. \*Registration required before June 14 at <http://www.2013detroitriverevening.eventbrite.ca>. For more information, please visit: <http://www.detroitriver.ca>.

**June 20 (6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.) – Friends of Canard River Meeting** – Come out & help organize stewardship activities in the Canard River watershed. New members welcome! For more information, please contact Caroline, Outreach Coordinator, at [cbiribauer@erca.org](mailto:cbiribauer@erca.org) or 519-776-5209, ext. 245.

**June 22 – Dinner and Auction at Lakeside Park Pavilion** – Come on out to this event hosted by the Kingsville Chapter of Delta Waterfowl! This price includes dinner and a membership in Delta Waterfowl (a quarterly magazine). Interested persons can contact John at: [519-733-9691](tel:519-733-9691). Cost: \$50/person; \$70/couple

**June 25 (9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.) – Hiking with Ojibway Further Afield** – Explore somewhere new! An Ojibway Park naturalist will guide you through the Carolinian forest, stream, and pond habitats of Rowson's and Big O Conservation Areas near Comber.  
Cost: \$11

**June 27<sup>th</sup> – Canada South Land Trust Event-** Three walks at Ojibway Nature Center Prairie. Meet on Titcombe Road, directly across from the Ojibway Nature Center's parking lot at the entrance to Ojibway Prairie. Donation of \$10.00 towards the Canada South Land Trust's Legacy Fund are welcome. Call Betty at 519-944-0825 to let us know you will be attending. Healthy refreshments will be served following the walks.

Thursday, June 27, 2103 at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 24, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 29, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

**June 29<sup>th</sup>** – Join Club member Paul Desjardins for a butterfly walk. No experience necessary. Meet at

July 4 (9:00 a.m. – noon) – Hiking on Peche Island – Join us for this rare opportunity to explore the City of Windsor's island park. Boat trips, an extensive hike and historical tour are all part of this unique adventure. Very limited enrollment! Raindate July 18.

Cost: \$28

**July 6 (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) – Windsor's Annual Butterfly Count (all ages)** – Attention butterfly watchers! Join us for Windsor's 20th annual butterfly tally and help with this exciting and valuable field inventory of Windsor's butterflies. Lunch provided by the Friends of Ojibway Prarie. Cost: \$5 participant fee to North American Butterfly Association (no fee to youth)



**July 8-29 (10:00 a.m. – noon OR 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.) – Possum Pals (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. Cost: \$33/4 weeks.

**July 9 (9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.) – Geocaching with Ojibway** – Discover geocaching and learn how to use GPS while hiking at Ojibway Park. Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity in which participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver and other navigational techniques to find “hide and seek” containers. At Ojibway we use Earth Caches which can be a unique feature in the landscape, a scenic view, a type of habitat, a specific tree, or even an animal bone. Cost: \$11

**July 10<sup>th</sup> – General Membership Meeting.** Join Club member Steve Marks for a talk on endangered species of Essex County with amphibians and reptiles. Meet at 7:30 pm at Ojibway Nature Centre.

**July 16 – August 13 (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) – Adventures in the Wild (ages 4-6)** – Look for wildlife in Ojibway Park and discover an amazing variety of creatures with this hands-on program. Orienteering, guided hikes, creature features, art, science, and craft activities are all part of this fun and educational camp. Cost: \$155/5 weeks

**July 16 – August 13 (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) – Outdoor Explorers (ages 7-12)** – Come explore Ojibway Park and discover our pond, forest, and prairie wildlife. GPS orienteering, guided hikes, art activities, and creature features are all part of this unique program. Cost: \$159/5 weeks

**July 17 – Canoeing Safari with Ojibway (9:00 a.m. – noon)** – Experience wildlife up close and personal. A canoeing lesson, War of 1812 history, frog and turtle surveys are all part of this guided adventure. Cameras are encouraged. Canoes provided by River Canard Canoe Co. Cost: \$28

**July 20 AND/OR August 17 (10:00 a.m. – noon) – 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. Cost: \$15/day

**July 25 (12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.) – ERCA Golf Tournament**

An open-house event along County Road 50 involving 25 participating businesses, including two conservation areas, wineries, farms, restaurants, and gift shops. For more information, please visit: <http://www.exploretheshore.ca>.

**July 28 (11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) – Explore the Shore** – An open-house event along County Road 50 involving 25 participating businesses, including two conservation areas, wineries, farms, restaurants, and gift shops. For more information, please visit: <http://www.exploretheshore.ca>.

**August 1, 8, 15, OR 29 (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) – Peche Island Adventures (ages 7-12)** – Join us for this rare opportunity to explore the City of Windsor’s island park. Boat trips, field

students, historical hikes are all part of this unique adventure. Very limited enrollment!  
Cost: \$49 for one day

**August 10 (10:30 a.m. – noon) – Reenact the Past – John R. Park Homestead** – Join the Lac Ste. Claire Voyageurs in a morning on the lakeshore learning about and living the past. Dress the part, participate in hands-on activities, and create a hand-made souvenir to take home. A unique opportunity that is guaranteed to make lasting memories! Pre-registration is required. Register online at: [www.onlineregistrations.ca/jrph](http://www.onlineregistrations.ca/jrph). Tickets: \$15 per person. For more information, contact the Homestead: 519-738-2029 or: [jrph@erca.org](mailto:jrph@erca.org).

**August 11 (noon – 4:00 p.m.) – Blueberry Social and Lost Arts Festival** – John R. Park Homestead – Celebrate summer with a visit to the lakeshore. See demonstrations of lost arts and learn tips from the experts on becoming more self-sustaining. Visit the reenactors camp and learn about life in an earlier time. Stay for the day and enjoy blueberry desserts, live music and games for children. Pick your own at Klassen's Blueberries just east of the Homestead. Admission: \$6 adults, \$4 children (3-16), Family Maximum: \$20 For more information, contact the Homestead: 519-738-2029, or: [jrph@erca.org](mailto:jrph@erca.org)

**August 14<sup>th</sup> – General Membership Meeting.** Join Club member Russ Jones for a talk

**August 25 (all day) – Hawk Run** – Participate in a 5 km walk or run at the beautiful Holiday Beach Conservation Area. Held in partnership with WRACE. Preregisters at <http://www.onlineregistrations.ca/hawkrun>.

**August 25<sup>th</sup>** – Join Club member Tom Preney for an Ojibway Prairie walk. Meet at 2:00 pm at the Ojibway Nature Centre. After the walk, 4:00 pm, join members and friends for a Barbeque. Hamburgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs, plates, utensils and condiments will be provided. **Please bring your own beverages (no alcohol allowed), chairs, and a salad or a dessert.**

**September 11<sup>th</sup> – General Membership Meeting.** Join Club member Phil Roberts for an update on Ojibway Shores. Meet at the Ojibway Nature Centre at 7:30 pm.

**September 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>** – Join us at the **Blue Kestrel Café** at the **Holiday Beach Hawk Festival**. Volunteers are needed.

**September ?** – Peche Island Day.

*November 2<sup>nd</sup> – PLEASE SAVE THE DATE for our 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner. Our speaker will be Maurice Bottos, a local high school teacher and expert bug guy. His topic will be on Nocturnal Insects of the World and will include much much more, maybe some pictures of really weird looking insects.*

**Essex County Field Naturalists' Club  
Membership Form – Due January 1, 2013**

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](http://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