



# The Egret

*The Newsletter of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club*

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## Upcoming Events at a Glance

- June 13** - ECFNC Meeting: Bob Petit - Holiday Beach and Bird Migration/Monitoring
- June 14** - Detroit River Evening
- June 16** - Communities, Trees and Wildflowers of Fish Point
- June 16** - Dark Sky Night and Point Pelee 100 Vintage Car Show
- June 16** - South Coast Adventure Race
- June 21** – Early Summer Nature Hike at the Grand Canyon of Essex
- June 23** – Tree Monitoring and Citizen Science
- June 28** - Marsh by Moonlight
- June 30** – Annual Pelee Island Parade and Pelee Island 150 Celebration
- July 7** – Detroit River Family Fishing Day
- July 7** – Annual Butterfly Count
- July 7** – Pelee Island Forest Bathing Walk
- July 10 to Aug. 14** – Adventures in the Wild
- July 9 (several)** – Possum Pals
- July 11** – ECFNC Meeting: John Ambrose – Pelee Island
- July 12/Aug. 9** – Peche Island Adventures
- July 20** – Pelee Island Wetland and Meadow Walk
- July 21-22** – Point Pelee Bioblitz
- July 29** – Butterfly walk on Stone Road Alvar
- August 1** – 21<sup>st</sup> Pelee Island Butterfly Count
- August 8** – ECFNC Meeting: Steve Pike's Trip to the Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda.

## 2018 Earth Day Bake Sale

*By Cathy Lapain*



Figure 1. Heritage Committee on Earth Day

The sunny and warm temperatures brought many people out to Malden Park this year to attend 2018's Earth Day Celebrations. Several people stopped by our booth to check out all the wonderful baked goods donated by some of our members.

We had cookies, squares, cake, muffins, cupcakes with colourful sprinkles and decorations on them and other delicious baking.

Many thanks to Pauline Renaud, Aileen Petrozzi, Joan-Murphy Walker, Donna Vassoler, PeggyHurst, Cathy Lapain, Jessica Middleton and Theresa Benoit for baking for this event. Also many thanks to Joanne Gamble for helping me set up bright and early and for sticking around all day to help out and to Carl Maiolani for helping with our banner.

Also thank you to Denise Hartley, Donna Vassoler, Pauline Renaud, and Aileen Petrozzi for helping to sell the baked goods throughout the day and to

Samantha Dundas who was on standby in case we needed her. Also, thanks to everyone who came out to our Earth Day bake sale and bought all our goodies. Thanks to JoAnn Grondin for donating to the cause because she was unable to attend this year.

There were several disappointed customers to see our empty tables when we sold out of baked goods by 1:00 p.m. It was a good day!



Figure 2. Heritage Committee

## 2018 Earth Day Community Planting

By Gina Pannunzio



Figure 3. Earth Day community planting

On Sunday April 22, the Windsor-Essex community celebrated Earth Day 2018 by planting 2200 trees in the Little River Corridor. Planting took place on both sides of the Ganatchio Trail south of Wyandotte Street East.

Over 1,200 community volunteers participated in this event with the help of tree planting experts representing the 'How To Crew'. Volunteers worked from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and the weather was perfect! Sunny with a clear, blue sky and mild temperatures over the morning. In other words, it was a wonderful spring day to plant trees!

The species of trees we planted included: White Oak, Pin Oak, Hackberry, Red Oak, American Elm, Bur Oak, Sycamore, Swamp White Oak, Silver Maple, and Eastern Cottonwood.

The Little River Corridor has now benefitted from the planting of 41735 trees and shrubs since May 1990. The recreation trails throughout the area will permit people to make the much needed connection with nature; they may even be lucky enough to experience the different species of wildlife that call this area home.

Wildlife observed in the area included: Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Cottontail and Mallard Duck.

Planning for the event was done by the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA), Detroit River Canadian Cleanup (DRCC) and the City of Windsor. DRCC funded the trees via the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.



Figure 4. Volunteers planting trees at Earth Day, 2018

## **Spring 2018 Carolinian West Ontario Nature Meeting, March 24, 2018**

*By Steve Marks*

I attended the ON Fall Regional meeting on behalf of the ECFNC. It's an opportunity to exchange information with all the other naturalist clubs in the southwest, and compare notes. This allows us to be conscious of some of the issues in the greater region – issues that some of our members might wish to be kept abreast of, or in some cases, get involved in.

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 Nature London, which is the Field Naturalists' club in that area. The meeting was held at Springbank Park in London. We were honoured that Ontario Nature President Otto Peter attended, and took an active role in the meeting.

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. As always, there's a lot of discussion around

Phragmites control – an issue clearly shared by all the clubs in the region.

Of all the issues discussed, I think the High Speed Rail development proposed from Toronto – Kitchener – London – Windsor tops the list.

It seems that the Provincial Liberal Party has decided in their wisdom that this high speed rail is necessary for the area. However the research shows that the development won't actually be a benefit to many people at all, and will destroy thousands of hectares of natural areas – wetlands, forest, meadows, etc. High Speed isn't even possible! There simply isn't enough space to install a straight run than can get up to speed – so the actual time saved by passengers will be an average of 9 minutes from London to Toronto!

Since the risk greatly outweighs the benefit, Ontario Nature is opposing the Project, and has asked for the support of all member clubs. Every single town or city that the proposed rail line reaches has voiced official opposition, yet the Province is pushing it ahead. We can only hope that it gets quashed by the upcoming Provincial election!

More information at this link:

<http://lfpres.com/news/local-news/kathleen-wynne-london-to-toronto-high-speed-rail-at-risk-if-doug-ford-wins>

The other campaign Ontario Nature is really pushing is the Protect the Places You Love campaign! This movement encourages the Provincial and Federal Governments to meet the “globally agreed” 17% figure of Protected Lands by 2020. So any Federally, or Provincially owned land that **can** be put aside **should** be! The ideal fit in Essex County is the Ojibway Shores property! We should all be jumping on this one!

You can read and submit a letter addressed to Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau; Premier of Ontario, Kathleen Wynne; Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna; and Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Nathalie Des Rosiers at the following link:

<https://protected-places.good.do/OntarioNature/declaration/>

Planet Earth is a shared home for humans and millions of other species, and our fates and well-being are interdependent. Recognizing our responsibility and impact on the whole, we invite you to sign the Protected Places Declaration.

The declaration urges governments, civil society and business leaders across Canada to work together to protect at least 17 percent of our lands and inland waters, and 10 percent of our coastal and marine areas by 2020, in accordance with commitments under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

Moreover, the declaration calls for protected areas identification and management processes that respect the right of Indigenous Peoples to free, prior and informed consent.

Protected areas are the cornerstone of efforts to conserve the diversity of life on Earth. By signing the declaration, you will be part of a movement demanding governments meet their protected areas targets, and respect Indigenous responsibilities and rights.

Sign the declaration to show you care about protected places and ask the governments of Ontario and Canada to meet our commitment to protect at least 17 percent of lands and inland waters by 2020.

We need to work together to make sure the next three years count so that all species and wild spaces are conserved for generations to come.

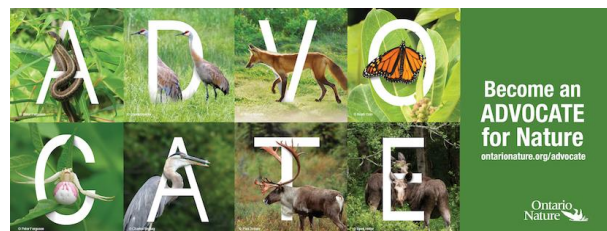


Figure 5. Taken from Ontario Nature Facebook page

## 24<sup>th</sup> Annual ECFNC Weekend Trip to Pelee Island, Ontario Saturday May 5 & Sunday May 6, 2018

*By Ralph Benoit*

On Saturday morning, the fifth of May, a smiling group of 18 gathered at the Leamington Dock Ferry Landing site in anticipation of two days immersed in the natural beauty and wonders awaiting us on Pelee Island. We were not to be disappointed.

The warmer days of spring have been few and far between this year, and so our hardy native plants have been a bit slow to awaken from their winter slumber, as have the nascent insects who swarm about the flowers great and small in the eternal spring frenzy that is so often missed by our human species as we go about our busy days. But this morning the sun was bright and the air was calm and warm and it felt so good to shed our jackets as we waited to board the Jiiman. Our bus driver greeted us with a warm and friendly smile, as did so many others on this waterborne gem where life seems somehow different, but she offered no hint of the many wonderful sights and sounds that awaited.

### **The Anchor and Wheel Inn**

This is a place with some history. The accommodations were clean, roomy, and folksy in a way I found to be a delightful break from the mad rush to modernity one finds so often in ones travels. The food was served in timely fashion and was absolutely delicious and I hope I speak for

all aboard when I say thanks for the hospitality.

### **The Journey**

The itinerary for the sites we were to visit during our two day excursion afield we received on board the Jiiman, and read as follows:

#### Saturday May 5

- Kraus property & Lighthouse Point Provincial Nature Reserve Area.
- Brown's Road Nature Conservancy trail or Middle Point Woods and Beach.
- Red Cedar Savannah ESA area or NCC alvar north of Stone Road (Krestel).
- 7:15 pm: self-guided after dinner bird watch, walk, owl, etc. around grounds and roadways as desired and/or walk or bus to Sheridan Point, Kraus property, Gibson/Attwood property, Scudder dock area

#### Sunday May 6

- Fish Point and PIBO bird banding station.
- Stone Road Alvar and Mill Point properties.
- Sheridan Point area or Red Cedar Savannah NCC property.

It seems a bit of a blur to me now, I think Dave might have snuck in a few extra

stops given the great weather we had. I must admit I am a bit flabbergasted at how many special places our mother nature has managed to retain on this little wind and wave swept island, among the corn and wheat and soybean fields wrought by mechanized man. With a little help from her friends of course....

It seems only three or four years ago those of us who pay attention to such things were fretting about the falling water levels in the great lakes and wondering how long this trend might continue and what effects this might have on our local rivers and streams and shorelines. Enter a new season (cycle, to use a mechanical term) of infrequent but impressive monsoonal type rain events and today I am looking at flood warnings all around our region on the TV and marvelling at how quickly the tides may turn.

On the way from the bus to Lighthouse Point we ambled along the newly diminished shoreline from the storm which had kept the Jiiman dock bound the day before. We observed the newly exposed roots of many sizable mulberry and cottonwood trees glowing an eerie orange in the mid-day sun and dappled shade. In places as much as a metre of soil had been ripped away in this year's spring storms. On many trees the process of transformation from bud to leaves had only just begun, which made sighting all the lovely little tweety birds easy even for this myopic amateur. It was such a lovely day!

On the ride to the Kraus property it occurred to me that I had not been to the island since the days Ben Porchuk was teaching about snake habitats and how to build a hibernaculum, and as I recalled those special moments I began to wonder why. Perhaps someday I could serve up a lesson in how and where not build one, but I shall save that for another time.

I understand the most recent ice age ended about twelve thousand years ago, it lasted about two and a half million years, and that it waxed and waned in significant warming and cooling cycles for the last four hundred thousand years. I am astounded at the way the tenacity of life has produced such majestic diversity in a place that was tundra rent by violent upheaval and ice-melt surges just fifteen thousand years ago, and at how this lesson began to impinge itself once again into my mind as I stood slack jawed upon entry into Dave's amazing little preserve.<sup>(1)</sup>

### **Lifestyles within a Little Shrub**

In the Big Box World we have created it is often the plants with the biggest and showiest flowers and foliage that fly off the shelves the fastest when we catch the bug about this time every spring. Among the humble dogwoods it is the Flowering, the Pagoda, the Red Osier and the Greys that capture our imagination and whom we invite into special places in our yards. To those aware there is such a thing as a rough-leaved dogwood it is considered too unattractive, too intrusive in its thicket forming suckering habit to find space in

our ongoing war against disorder. But oh, what a magnificent welcoming site these acres of woody stubble must be for our weary avian friends on their long journeys north and south! Their search for lodging and a chance to eat and rest safe from the prying eyes of the raptors hovering above alights here. From years past the nests of red-winged blackbirds, yellow warblers, goldfinches, and who knows who else, perhaps a few yellow-breasted chats as well were still visible in great profusion beneath the fuzzy green stubble of swollen buds, among wooden stubble that seemed to stand together as one organism as far as the eye could see. At this intersection of geological succession and human intervention it is believed this is about the northern limit of growth for this regular producer of hale and hearty crops that thrives just about anywhere it gets a chance. But who knows what the future may bring? In the meantime, food and lodging for the multitudes. Well done Mr. Kraus!

We were greeted by a committee of tree swallows that swooped and sang ever so gracefully as they dined at leisure over the pond that shimmered in this special place. I could only try to imagine what manner of life crawls and hops and leaps and flies and burrows within the muck and the drier uplands and at points in between. Precious!

Onward we went to Brown's Road Nature Conservancy, walking among craggy and mis-shaped chinquapin oak and blue ash atop algae and peat and fungi

competing for their own special places on the Alvars. I don't recall exactly where but at some point suddenly Dave was holding up three lively and stout salamanders for our inspection. Only the sounds of so many birds around us and the occasional gasps and cries of excitement were heard. After dinner, a peaceful stroll down to the old cemetery where the massive red oak stood sentinel brought the day to a very sweet end.



Figure 6. Lake Erie Watersnake

Sunday's adventure began in the solitude of the silver maple woodland with a slog through standing water to the Pelee Island Bird Observatory banding station where we soaked in the aura and had an up close and personal encounter with an American Redstart and a Yellow Warbler while others trekked to see the remains of the shoreline at Fish Point.

To say that our soulful guide Mr. Kraus knows this island like the back of his hand might be a bit of an understatement. Example: "We'll stop here (was it Mill Point?) and see if we can find any Water Snakes along the shore," he said. Sure enough, after a forty-five second scramble over some boulders, there we were



gaping and firing photos furiously of a pair of them languishing and posing lazily in the hazy morning sunlight. He probably could have told us their names as well, (Gertrude and Heathcliffe?) but Dave's not one for showing off. Together with our driver, who could park her yellow bus with casual aplomb where many compact cars feared to tread and was quite the little wildlife spotter in her own right as she alerted us to the many delights on and above the road ahead, this pair had our happy little group constantly oohing and ahing at the sights and contemplating fascinating insights served up like hors'douvres at a garden party.

Following another excellent lunch we enjoyed a stroll through the Stone Road Alvar Flora, examined the scars left upon the limestone shoreline by departing glaciers and finished with a delightful amble around the quarry turned stagnant pool at Sheridan Point.

The weather was delightful, new friends curious and insightful, so many vivid sights and sounds passed through this weary old man's consciousness in such a short time that I am still floating along the happy cloud produced by such wonderful stimulations. But have I forgotten something? Oh no, dear reader, just saving the best for last. The binoculars were bobbing up and down like derricks in an oil field as smiling faces turned skyward and we certainly were not alone in our enjoyment of the unique offerings of this very special place. Ian Woodfield was kind enough to record a list of our bird

sightings, which is included in the next section of this newsletter.

*May you soon share your own uplifting visit with a special friend on our local trails as life and hope once again spring eternal...*

(1) <https://msu.edu/~yansa/2009a-Hupy%20&%20Yansa-CH%207-MI%20Book%20Chapter.pdf>

## **Bird Sightings Pelee Island, May 5,6, 2018**

*By Ian Woodfield*

There were 74 species total, compiled during the 24<sup>th</sup> annual trip by Ian Woodfield.

1. Canada Goose
2. Mute Swan
3. Wood Duck
4. Mallard
5. Bufflehead
6. Common Merganser
7. Red-breasted Merganser
8. Wild Turkey
9. Horned Grebe
10. American White Pelican
11. Double-crested Cormorant
12. Great Blue Heron
13. Great Egret
14. Green Heron
15. Turkey Vulture
16. Bald Eagle
17. American Coot
18. Killdeer
19. Solitary Sandpiper
20. Ring-billed Gull
21. Herring Gull
22. Great Black-backed Gull
23. Morning Dove
24. Red-bellied Woodpecker
25. Downy Woodpecker
26. Hairy Woodpecker
27. Northern Flicker
28. Eastern Wood-Pewee
29. Least Flycatcher
30. Eastern Phebe
31. Eastern Kingbird
32. Warbling Vireo
33. Blue Jay
34. Purple Martin
- 35.35 Tree Swallow
36. Barn Swallow
37. Black-capped Chickadee
38. White-breasted Nuthatch
39. Carolina Wren
40. House Wren
41. Winter Wren
42. Ruby-crowned Kinglet
43. Blue-grey Gnatcatcher
44. Eastern Bluebird
45. Veery
46. Swainsons Thrush
47. American Robin
48. Grey Catbird
49. Brown Thrasher
50. European Starling
51. Tennessee Warbler
52. Orange-crowned Warbler
53. Nashville Warbler
54. Yellow Warbler
55. Chestnut-sided Warbler
56. Black-throated Blue Warbler
57. Yellow-rumped Warbler
58. Black-throated Green Warbler
59. Palm Warbler
60. Blackpoll Warbler
61. Black and White Warbler
62. American Redstart
63. Common Yellowthroat
64. Scarlet Tanager
65. Chipping Sparrow
66. Song Sparrow
67. White-throated Sparrow
68. Northern Cardinal
69. Red-winged Blackbird
70. Common Grackle
71. Brown-headed Cowbird

72. Baltimore Oriole

74. House Sparrow

73. American Gold Finch



**Figure 7. Male American Redstart**

## Forests Ontario 2018 Community Tree Plant, Windsor

By Gina Pannunzio, Paul Giroux and Ian Naisbitt

### “Cinco de Mayo!”



Figure 8. Community tree planting at Tranby Park

On Saturday, 5 May, the Windsor-Essex community celebrated the “Community Tree Plant” event with Forests Ontario. Essex County Nature was invited to participate by Paul Giroux, City of Windsor Forester. This also marked the end of Arbor Week, so we concluded that celebration by giving ourselves a nickname, “The Closers!”

Along with Forests Ontario, Essex Region Conservation Authority and the City of Windsor, the partnership included: TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Ontario Wood, Thomson Emergency and Enbridge.

This is the sixth consecutive year our group has supported the Forests Ontario initiative; the Tranby Park location has been planted the past 2 last years and we

returned this year to further expand the “swamp” woodland in the park. The Little River Enhancement Group will include the trees planted today, 134, in our watershed total of 41,869.

Mother Nature provided the perfect planting day: Mr. Golden Sun was shining brilliantly all morning, the UV Index was 6 or high, temps started at 15 C at 9 a.m. and rose to 23 C by noon. There was a brisk breeze of 20 km/ h, gusting to 35 km/ h, enough to keep us cool.



Figure 9. Donut mulching makes all the difference.

Over 30 hardy community volunteers (children, parents and elders) participated by digging holes; planting and mulching the trees, followed by a tree wrap for protection! Volunteers worked from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Two of the young

families filled up the morning by planting trees, enjoying the playground equipment and having lunch at the picnic tables. Another family requested a permanent marker to print the name of a deceased family member on the tree wrap as a memorial. One young lad was very excited to see a Gartersnake. He proceeded to try and catch the slithering creature, but it was much too fast for his hands. The reptile sought refuge in a clump of grass at the base of a tree and vanished.



Figure 10. Start by digging the right size hole.

The species of trees that we planted included: Burr Oak, Swamp White Oak, Pin Oak, Red Oak, Freeman’s Maple and American Sycamore. These species of trees are happy to have wet feet/ roots; that’s a good thing, because the holes we dug filled in with water quickly! Spring time in Windsor – Essex is notorious for soakers in natural areas. Some unfortunately forgot to wear wellies.

The final site inspection was completed by a natural overseer, a Red-tailed Hawk soared with the wind and circled the site;

we believe the supervisor approved of the woodland expansion.

A big “Thank You” to the Boy Scout group that participated today, great volunteers!

Also, today was the Cornell Laboratory’s eBird “**Global Big Day**.” In the future, you can participate by watching for birds on 5 May: You don’t need to be a bird expert, or go out all day long. Even 10 minutes in your backyard will help. Global Big Day runs from midnight to midnight in your local time zone. You can report birds from anywhere in the world. Go to: <http://ebird.org> for more information.

*“We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”*

ALDO LEOPOLD

## Community Garlic Mustard Pulls

By Gina Pannunzio

Garlic Mustard is an invasive species that outcompetes native wildflowers by stealing light, nutrients, moisture, soil and space. This is devastating for native species as wildlife and insects rely on those early flowering plants for food and habitat. Further, garlic mustard can excrete a toxin into the soil that negatively impacts mature trees in a forest. As there are no natural predators for this invasive plant, and it reproduces quickly, it can spread quickly and take over sections of a habitat.

Community pulls help remove the plant from sensitive areas which lets native plants grow again!

### John R. Park Homestead Pull

Volunteers helped remove over 15 large garbage bags of invasive Garlic Mustard from the grounds of the John R. Park Homestead on May 8. Everyone who came out also gathered for some treats outside and noticed many birds such as Red Winged Blackbirds, Chimney Swifts, Barn Swallows, Baltimore Orioles and even a Downy Woodpecker.

### Camp Cedarwin Pull

Members of the Friends of Cedar, Mill and Wigle Creek helped pull over twenty-one bags of Garlic Mustard on May 15, at various sites within the Carolinian woods. There were White Trilliums, Wild Geraniums and Mayapples Blooming and it was a very nice, well spent evening.



Figure 11. JRPH Garlic Mustard pull volunteers

### Heinz Bush Pull

Saturday May 19 10-1pm, Garlic Mustard Pull at, the Carolina Woods (formerly known as the Heinz Bush, located behind Freshco/Winners on Erie St. s. in Leamington. Attended by Peggy Hurst, Ernie Kennette, and Carl Maiolani. This event had been postponed from a week before because of bad weather. Fortunately, Carl's hot line to the weather gods was working this day and the weather was great for this kind of work. The three of us split up and covered most of the woodlot. Some areas close to the multi-use path on the western edge of the woodlot and a stretch along the schoolyard across a ditch had big patches but the remainder of the woodlot is starting to look good. Peggy noted large patches of Mayapple, Violets, Wild Geranium, Woodland Anemone, Skunk Cabbage, Canada Anemone, Jack in the Pulpits everywhere, and also found a patch of Michigan Lily, which is a favourite of deer.

## May 9<sup>th</sup> Big Day Birding with Paul Pratt

By Aileen Petrozzi



Figure 12. Sunrise at the boardwalk Photo: Aileen Petrozzi

To start our day, a beautiful sunrise at the boardwalk. Our count for the day was over 130 species with 100 birds before noon. At the tip, saw reverse migration of Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Buntings, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles. A pair of white Pelicans and pileated woodpecker flying over several times excited the 'MOBS'. It was a fabulous day for warblers too- 18 different kinds.

Lunch at Paula's and then finishing up with our shore birds at Hillman Marsh. It was definitely one of my best birding days.

*Thanks to Paul and everyone in our group.*

*Aileen Petrozzi.*



Figure 13. Pileated Woodpecker. Photo: Aileen Petrozzi.



Figure 14. Pelican flying overhead. Photo: Aileen Petrozzi.



Figure 15. Watching migration through binoculars. Photo: Aileen Petrozzi.

## Sturgeon Creek Community Planting, Leamington

By Gina Pannunzio



Figure 16. Sturgeon Creek restoration participants

On May 26<sup>th</sup> 2018, community volunteers, ECFNC members, Caldwell First Nation members and LDSS Eco Team students, along with the help of Essex Region Conservation staff participated in a restoration planting in Sturgeon Creek.

This 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, in partnership with Caldwell First Nation.

Some of the initial tasks that took place included removing the boat docks, outbuildings, and hydro poles from the site along with a half-submerged barge. Also, removal of the vertical steel wall at water's edge while replacing it with natural



shore protection, gently sloping sides and habitat features for fish, turtles and other types of wildlife.

Major funding for this project has come from Environment Canada's National Wetland Conservation Fund, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Caldwell First Nation. As well, the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club received funding from the Community Fund for Canada's 150th, a collaboration between the WindsorEssex Community Foundation, the Government of Canada and extraordinary leaders from coast to coast to coast, to host a community planting at the site.



Figure 17. Volunteer planting wetland plants.

Overall, 70 native trees and shrubs and 500 small wildflowers and grasses were planted in upland and low lying areas by participants. Species planted include: Bur Oak, Swamp White Oak, Freeman Maple, Hackberry, Sycamore, Red-Osier Dogwood, Black Walnut, Black Cherry, Black Willow, Nannyberry, Highbush Cranberry, Buttonbush, Silky Dogwood, Elderberry, Common Rush, Plains Oval

Sedge, Monkey Flower, Northern, Sweet Flag and Southern Blue Flag Iris, Dark Green Bulrush, Cup Plant, Big Bluestem, Green Headed Coneflower, Prairie Cord Grass and Marsh Marigold.

Over the course of the spring, multiple families of Canada Geese, European Herring Gulls and Kildeer have made their way to the site. Groups of Turkey Vultures come by to feed on Carp. Cormorants have been spotted in the trees and water in large groups. A large Snapping Turtle is often sunning in different spots. Smaller snappers and Map Turtles are also around on the soft shoreline rocks. Long-nosed Gar have also been found spawning in shallow warm waters.

The planting on May 26 represents a significant milestone in the restoration of this site! There is still more work to be done and we all can't wait to see it blooming and providing habitat to our beloved wildlife.



Figure 18. Restoring wetlands in Sturgeon Creek.

## Spring Burns in the Ojibway Complex

*By Jennifer Nantais*



**Figure 19. Ontario Prairie Provincial Reserve – April 1st, 2018. Photo taken by Tom Preney.**

The snow is melting, temperatures are rising, and all is still quiet in the prairie. Hibernating animals continue to slumber, migrating animals have yet to return, and Ojibway naturalists have one thing on their mind...fire!

A small window in early spring provides an opportunity to accomplish prescribed burns, which maintain open space for rare tallgrass prairie habitat to flourish. These burns mimic the periodic clearing that would have historically resulted from lightning strikes in the time before regular fire suppression was instituted to protect nearby settlements.



**Figure 20. Spring Garden Natural Area – March 19th, 2018. Photo taken by Derek Slater.**

Two low-complexity burns were successfully completed in the Ojibway Prairie Complex this spring through the partnership of Wildfire Specialists, the City of Windsor, the Essex Region Conservation Authority, Ontario Parks, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. The first took place in the

Northeast portion of Spring Garden Natural Area, and the second in the Southwest corner of the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve.

The Spring Garden burn was held on March 19th, though clearing began the previous year with the removal of Autumn Olive and other woody species. Not long after the burn was completed, wildlife could already be observed taking advantage of the newly cleared area. A coyote was spotted running across the site, as well as a red-tailed hawk catching a mouse.



Figure 21. Ontario Prairie Provincial Reserve – April 1st, 2018. Photo Taken by Tom Preney.

The Provincial Preserve burn occurred on April 1st, and covered an area of approximately 6 hectares (15 acres) between the Titcombe road lookout and Malden road. In addition to clearing burn breaks, sensitive areas requiring protection were thoroughly soaked with water to prevent any unwanted damage.

Both burns went off without a hitch. Prairie plants have since been vigorously

growing in the nutrient rich soil and abundant access to sunlight, and beautiful flowers already blooming include Yellow Star-grass, Blue-eyed grass, and Hoary Puccoon, to name a few. The migrating birds have returned, hibernating animals have awakened, and these beautiful natural areas await your next visit.



Figure 22. Ontario Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve – April 1st, 2018. Photo taken by Tom Preney.

## Second Annual New Members' Event and Nature Walk at the Property of Dave Kraus on Mersea Rd. 7 in Leamington

*By Carl Maiolani*

### New Members' Event

Our second annual New Members' Event was held on Sunday March 25th with a birding trip at Hillman Marsh at 2pm followed by a dinner gathering at Armando's Pizza in Leamington. Everyone in the club was invited by the Membership Committee to participate although the focus was to be on the new members that had joined the club in the last 1-2 years. The idea was to provide a chance for relatively new members to learn more about the club through an informal Q&A opportunity in the field and in a casual dining venue.

The weather was chilly, sunny, and with wind gusts from the east at over 50 km/h. Fortunately, the shelter provided some protection from the bitter wind. Over 30 people turned out for this event with less than half being new members. No doubt the chance of doing some spring birding appealed to a lot of people. About 15 people did eventually adjourn to Armando's where we had some good conversation, some of which was about the Club. Thanks especially to the existing members who did come to Armando's and got to know some of our new people a little better. The Membership Committee will be discussing plans for future New Members' Events.

### Nature Walk at Dave Kraus' Property



Figure 23. Gang's all here!

As in past years, Dave Kraus welcomed members of the Club to his property on April 29 for a nature walk around his property. The weather cooperated with a chilly start to the day and temperatures maxing out in the afternoon around 14C. There were occasional wind gusts but little in the way of clouds. Twenty one people showed up for the walk hosted by Dave and his children.



Figure 24. What do you see?

We started the walk by skirting around the ponds just beside his house. As with Dave's property on Pelee Island he has done a lot of work incorporating water features onto his landscape. Various ducks, geese and amphibians often call these features home. From the ponds we made our way back to the field at the back of the property, most of which is still rented out to a farmer. Over the years, Dave has widened the perimeter/edge of the field and has there planted a variety of

native trees and plants. Mixed in with the trees and plants are small ponds and cover boards placed to provide shelter and habitat for snakes and other amphibians. It is his intention to convert the remaining tilled land into similar habitat sometime in the future. Maybe some year we will visit the property in the evening when we can be serenaded by chorus and other frogs and/or entertained by a squadron of bats zipping through the open sky above the field.



Figure 25. Check this out!

## Commemorating 100 Years of Conservation and Community at Point Pelee National Park

*By Point Pelee National Park Staff*



Figure 26. Point Pelee National Park Marsh Boardwalk. Photo taken from PPNP Facebook page.

Save the date and mark July 21-22, 2018 on your calendar. You are invited to help us commemorate Point Pelee National Park's Centennial by participating in a 24-hour BioBlitz starting at 12:00 noon on July 21, 2018. Point Pelee National Park is home to many species at risk and is found in one of the most biodiverse regions of Canada. Despite all the previous surveys and species lists created over the last 100 years there is sure to be something new to discover.

Help park staff observe as many flora and fauna species as possible. Participate individually, or grab some fellow naturalists or family members and join park staff by recording what you see using the iNaturalist app on your smart phone. Want to learn something new? Join an expert on a guided walk or attend a presentation on various topics. If you are interested in participating please contact Heidi Brown at [heidi.brown@pc.gc.ca](mailto:heidi.brown@pc.gc.ca).

## The Pelee Buzz – Your Passport to Nature

*By Nature on Pelee Group*

Pelee Island is dear to many as the island is a place of rich diversity for both plants and animals. Pelee and Middle Sister island houses almost one third of the vascular plants in all of Ontario. As it is also situated within the Carolinian Life Zone, rare insects, birds, snails, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles are found in a variety of habitats including wetlands, alvars, sand dunes, forests and shoreline along Lake Erie.

Presented by the Nature on Pelee Group, The Pelee Buzz is YOUR passport to nature on the island! Download your copy of The Pelee Buzz or pick up a hard copy at the Pelee Island Ferry dock in Leamington or Kingsville. There are many great nature events to get involved over the next few months and all are welcome to join in! Scroll to the events section to see upcoming opportunities to explore Pelee Island!

Download The Pelee Buzz: [www.peleeislandmuseum.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/PELEEBUZZ\\_WEBFIN.pdf](http://www.peleeislandmuseum.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/PELEEBUZZ_WEBFIN.pdf)



Figure 27. East Beach in Fall. Photo Credit: Scott Hughes, taken from The Pelee Buzz

## Holiday Beach Hawk Festival and the Blue Kestrel Café

*By JoAnn Grondin*

### Save the Dates!

Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> – Once again our Blue Kestrel Café will be opened at the Hawk Festival at Holiday Beach. This is a fund raiser for the Club through the Heritage Committee. We cannot carry out this fundraising event without your help! If you would like to volunteer for any of the following please contact JoAnn Grondin (734-0056).



Figure 28. Hawk Festival, 2017

### Volunteer Roles

We need many volunteers to take this on:

1. Someone to coordinate the event.
2. A committee to organize the event.
3. On both Saturday and Sunday: someone to BBQ from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm and from 12:30 to 3:00 pm.
4. 4 people to work at the tables – 1 to make coffee, tea, etc. during the day and 3 to sell the food during 2 shifts – 9:00 to noon and noon to 3:00 pm.
5. People to make muffins (all the same size – muffin papers will be provided)
6. People to make cookies and squares

Some kind of head cover must be worn around the food; a cap will do. Set up on both days is at 8:00 am and cleanup is after 3:00 pm. To avoid theft, everything must be taken on Sat. and returned on Sun. at 8:00 am.



## Upcoming Events

*For full details and the latest updates, visit [www.essexcountynature.com/events](http://www.essexcountynature.com/events)*

### **ECFNC Meeting - June 13**

Join ECFNC member, Bob Petit present on bird migration and monitoring at Holiday Beach.

### **Detroit River Evening - June 14**

Join the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup on the evening of June 14th 2018 to celebrate successes within the Detroit River watershed! We are pleased to welcome representatives from the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority to provide an overview of the imminent Gordie Howe International Bridge project. The DRCC annual report will also be released with several project presentation updates from the last year. For more information please contact [postmaster@detroitriver.ca](mailto:postmaster@detroitriver.ca).

### **Communities, Trees and Wildflowers of Fish Point – June 16**

Join Gerry Waldron (author of Trees of the Carolinian Forest) for a walk through Fish Point. See the special plant communities from the shoreline, to the sand spit forest, to the marsh, and the many species of interest that inhabit this peninsula. Meet at the Fish Point parking. Register at: [waldronmsc@cdpwise.net](mailto:waldronmsc@cdpwise.net).

### **Dark Sky Night and Point Pelee 100 Vintage Car Show – June 16**

Celebrate Point Pelee's centennial with this classic car show, remembering the days of parking on the beach at the Tip and cruising through the park from 9am to 1pm. Accepting same day registration for cars (pre 1980s) at Visitor Centre parking lot at 9 am. For more information: [pelee.info@pc.qc.ca](mailto:pelee.info@pc.qc.ca) or 519-322-2365.

Then, join members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) - Windsor Centre for an evening of stargazing starting at 8:30pm. Bring your own binoculars or take a look through one of the special telescopes on site for the evening.

**South Coast Adventure Race – June 16**

The SCAR: South Coast Adventure Race is a multi-sport adventure race that takes place in several municipalities in the Windsor-Essex region. For more information, visit: <https://essexregionconservation.ca/education-and-events/south-coast-adventure-race>.

**Early Summer Nature Hike at the Grand Canyon of Essex – June 21**

Join Dave Martin and Linda Wlardarski for a 1 .5 hour ramble to see the deepest canyon in Essex County. The completion of the Cypher rail trail from the north end of Amherstburg to Essex has opened up a whole new set of nature exploration opportunities for Essex naturalists.

The Grand Canyon section of the trail is the most spectacular and diverse of 10 sections from a birding and habitat perspective.

Meet and park along the EAST side of Thomas Road at the north end of Amherstburg [north of the Amherstburg water tower and just south of Texas Road]. Thomas Road is also labeled as Conc 2 and County Rd 5 on different maps. It's the first north/south road in from [east of] the Detroit River. Parking is somewhat limited so car pool if you can. There is room only for 5 or 6 cars to pull in head first from the road. Otherwise there is a wide shoulder to the north and south of the trail entrance.

**Tree Monitoring and Citizen Science – June 23**

Join the DRCC, Essex Region Conservation and the Association for Canadian Educational Resources (ACER) as they collect tree related field data from a sample of the Earth Day trees planted on April 22 2018. Pre-registration is required as spots are limited.

Volunteers will gain experience collecting field data from native trees while using proper equipment such as calipers and handheld GPS units. High school students who would like to earn volunteer hours should bring their paperwork along. For questions about the event, call Gina at 519-776-5209 ext. 245.

**Marsh by Moonlight – June 28**

Enjoy a warm summer evening and a full moon. Join us moonlight paddle through the marsh. Bring your own canoe or kayak, rent a canoe from us or reserve a spot on the freighter canoe. Pre-registration is required for the paddling event. Please contact the park at [pelee.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:pelee.info@pc.gc.ca) or 519-322-2365 for more information.

### **Annual July 1<sup>st</sup> Parade and Pelee Island 150 Celebration – June 1**

For more information please see The Pelee Buzz.

### **Canada Day Celebrations - July 1**

It's Canada's birthday and Point Pelee's centennial and we're ready to celebrate. Join us for fun activities throughout the park, including a park wide scavenger hunt.

At Northwest Beach join in the Canada Day Beach Bash – we'll have lots of fun activities for the kids, shows by the Windjammers International Kite Performance team, birthday cake at 1 pm and BBQ treats (for a reasonable price).

At the Visitor Centre you can get creative at the Canada Day Craft Centre, take in a creature feature and also enjoy birthday cake at 1 pm.

Ride the shuttle to the Tip, take a hike on a park trail or relax with a picnic at the beach – there is something for everyone on Canada Day at Point Pelee.

### **Detroit River Family Fishing Day – July 7**

In partnership with the Town of LaSalle, the University of Windsor, Essex Region Conservation and Just Fishin' Friends, the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup is hosting the second annual Learn to Fish event! Join us on Saturday July 7 2018, rain or shine at Riverdance Park, 1190 Front Rd, Windsor in LaSalle from 8am to 1pm.

The event takes place during Ontario Family Fishing Event week when residents can fish in Ontario waters without the mandatory license. Fishing equipment will be available for public use for free and there will be displays, giveaways, prizes, and more! Groups of 5 or more are encouraged to register in advance by calling 519-982-3722. Participants are encouraged to bring their own rods (if they have them), folding chairs, a hat, sunscreen/bug spray, reusable water bottle, snacks and plenty of patience while waiting for a bite! More info at [www.detroitriver.ca/fish](http://www.detroitriver.ca/fish).

### **Annual Butterfly Count – July 7**

Join the Ojibway Nature Centre on their 25<sup>th</sup> annual count! Whether you're a beginner or an expert, all butterfly lovers are welcome to help with the annual tally of these beautiful insects. There is a 5\$ participant fee paid for by the Friends of Ojibway Prairie.

**Forest Bathing Walk – July 7**

A sensory-based mindful walk in nature (6:30pm to 9:30pm), with Ben Porchuk, a certified forest therapy guide and recovering scientist. This event features a slow-paced walk with five or six sitting breaks stretched over only 2.5 km., recommended age between 12 and 112. Register at: [info@giftoftheforest.com](mailto:info@giftoftheforest.com), more details at: [www.giftoftheforest.com](http://www.giftoftheforest.com).

**Possum Pals – July 9-30<sup>th</sup>**

Do you know children who are not yet ready to leave the pouch? Join the Ojibway Nature Centre for this exciting and fun parent/tot Ojibway nature adventure every Monday starting July 9 to 30<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 12pm. Fee TBA.

**Adventures in the Wild - July 10 to August 14**

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. Starting Tuesday July 10 to August 14<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 4pm. Ages 4 to 5 and 6 to 9. Fee is \$172 for all six dates.

**ECFNC Meeting – July 11**

Join ECFNC member John Ambrose talk about all things Pelee Island related!

**Peche Island Adventures – July 12 or August 9**

Join in on this opportunity to explore the City of Windsor's island park. Boat trips, field studies and historical hikes are all part of this unique and exciting adventure for ages 7 to 12! Very limited, please register early. Participants will meet at the Lakeview Arena, Fee is \$49. For more information please contact the Ojibway Nature Centre.

**Essex Region Conservation 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Golf Tournament - July 12**

Join the Essex Region Conservation Foundation for our 30th annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser on Thursday, July 12, hosted at the beautiful Pointe West Golf Club in Amherstburg. For more information, contact Peter Baldwin at 519-776-5209 ext 367 or via email at [pbaldwin@erca.org](mailto:pbaldwin@erca.org)

**Dark Sky Night – July 14**

Join members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) - Windsor Centre for an evening of stargazing starting at 8:30pm. Bring your own binoculars or take a look through one of the special telescopes on site for the evening. Meet at the Visitor Centre at Point Pelee National Park.

**Point Pelee Parks' Day BioBlitz - July 21-22**

In celebration of Point Pelee's 100 years of conservation and even more years of ecological study and monitoring, you are invited to join our first all park, all species BioBlitz. Over a 24-hour period, the park's resources conservation staff will be joined by national experts and local naturalists to conduct an all search for all different kinds of species in the park. Join experts for talks and hikes on different groups of species found in the park or volunteer your time and assist with the count. Contact the park for more information or to register: [pelee.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:pelee.info@pc.gc.ca) or 519-322-2365.

**Walking Tour of a Wetland and Meadow Habitat Complex – July 20**

David Kraus, an Essex District Biology and Science teacher, will take you on a tour of his impressive created habitats on what was flat farmland only a few years ago. Hear how and why different features of this site were built, and think what you could do on your own land! Hear about and observe the wildlife the site has attracted. There is a mowed path in but be prepared to go off path, come with suitable footwear. Meet at Victoria Rd. just south of Homeward Rd. at 9:30am sharp. Register at: [david.kraus@publicboard.ca](mailto:david.kraus@publicboard.ca) 519-257-8674.

**Citizens' Environmental Alliance Boat Tour – July 21**

Join the Citizens' Environmental Alliance on July 21 from 12pm to 4pm and tour the Detroit River. Expert narration about the Detroit River's environmental hot spots and unique fish and wildlife habitats. This is an excellent opportunity to see why we must continue to value this special river and do what we can to protect it. This boat tour includes lunch and a cash bar. Registration is \$35 CAN/ \$30 US. Tickets can be purchased through PayPal via the CEA website. Tickets can also be purchased by cash or cheque at the CEA office, 1950 Ottawa St., Windsor, ON. Contact [ceadmin@cogeco.net](mailto:ceadmin@cogeco.net) for more information.

**Butterfly Walk on Stone Road Alvar – July 29**

Walk with James Kamstra from 10am to 1pm, learn about and see the butterflies of this special habitat. Register with Ontario Nature: [seannk@ontarionature.org](mailto:seannk@ontarionature.org).

**21<sup>st</sup> Pelee Island Butterfly Count – August 1**

Participate in this count that has a long history, novices welcome! Meet at the Heritage Centre at 9am. Register with Bob Bowles: [rbowles@rogers.com](mailto:rbowles@rogers.com).

**18<sup>th</sup> Pelee Island Dragonfly Count – August 2**

Participate in this count that has a long history, novices welcome! Meet at the Heritage Centre at 9am. Register with Bob Bowles: [rbowles@rogers.com](mailto:rbowles@rogers.com).

**Sciensational Sssnakes August 4,5**

Point Pelee National Park is pleased to welcome **Sciensational Sssnakes!!** which provides hands-on education about reptiles and amphibians to audiences of all ages. Their presentation will include information about the animals, their ecology and conservation issues as well as a session in which participants are able to interact, touch and hold the animals. The team will be on hand with a variety of reptiles, some of which can be found in Point Pelee National Park.

**ECFNC Meeting – August 8**

Join ECFNC member Steve Pike as he shares photos and details of his trip across the ocean to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda!

**Tree Cycling Tour – August 11**

Come out and see some of the amazing trees of this island, learn about their ways and how to tell them apart; with John Ambrose (meet at 1pm), who first came to Pelee Island in the late 1970's because of the high tree diversity while he was Curator at the University of Guelph Arboretum. Register at: [cercis@sentex.ca](mailto:cercis@sentex.ca) or (mobile) 519-724-2174 • Would you rather see the trees by car? Register and see if there is space, or if not, a separate tour could be scheduled.

**Lost Arts Festival – August 11**

Celebrate summer on the shore of Lake Erie. See demonstrations of lost arts and visit the voyageur encampment. Watch as the Homestead's resident blacksmith turns raw iron into detailed pieces, and learn about native plants and pollinators in the garden. Other demonstrations include beekeeping, butter making, and textile weaving, all of which will give guests the chance to meet the artists and learn how to fit one of these 'old' hobbies into modern life. Admission: \$6 per adult, \$4 per child, \$20 family maximum.

**Astronomy Weeked – Perseid Meteor Shower and Beach Party - August 11 to 13**

We're celebrating the dark skies of Point Pelee National Park all weekend. Join us for astronomy programs throughout the day and night. The park will stay open all night between August 11 to 12 and 12 to 13 for optimal viewing of the peak of the Perseid Meteor Showers.

Join members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Windsor Centre, August 11, 9 pm, to August 12, 2 am, West Beach and view the early night sky before sitting back and enjoying the meteor shower. Bring a chair or blanket and settle in on the beach for the evening.

**Captivating Critters – August 13 to 27**

Take a walk on the wildside at Ojibway Park. Enjoy this fun-filled program that includes woodland walks, animal games and nature themed crafts. Every Monday from August 13 to 17, 10 to 12pm, ages 3 to 4, fee is \$30 for all three dates.

**Project Purple – August 15**

Calling all citizen scientists, Hillman Marsh needs your help! Join ERCA staff for a one day experience learning about this invasive plant, management strategies and proper removal and disposal techniques. This event will run from 9am to 3:30pm at Hillman Marsh Conservation Area. Registration is required as there are limited spots available. More details to come. Please register at <https://projectpurple.eventbrite.ca>. For questions about the event, call Gina at 519-776-5209 ext. 245.

**PIBO Banding Station – August 15 to October 31**

Weather permitting, small groups of visitors are welcome 7:00am-11:00am at the Fish Point station. For more details see: [www.pibo.ca](http://www.pibo.ca).

**Teaching and Learning with Monarch Butterflies – August 22,23**

The Ojibway Nature Centre would like to share an exciting opportunity being offered at our location on August 22nd and 23rd, 2018. This hands-on workshop is aimed at educators and enthusiasts and will provide the necessary tools to teach students about the monarch life cycle, migration and habitat requirements through the lens of conservation and education.

Completion of the one day course will provide participants with the necessary permit to collect monarch eggs, caterpillars and butterflies which are currently listed as a species at risk. The optional second day will offer curriculum activities to enhance and enrich the learning experience.

Fee for the first day of the course is \$100, and \$75 for the second optional day.

See link for further information, applicable fees and registration:

<https://trca.ca/learning/professional-development/monarch-teacher-network-canada/find-a-workshop/>

**Wild Ontario – September 1,2**

Join Wild Ontario at the Point Pelee National Park Visitor Centre from 11am to 4pm and see live birds of prey. Learn about the role they play in the environment.

**Dark Sky Night – September 8**

Join members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) - Windsor Centre for an evening of stargazing starting at 8:30pm. Bring your own binoculars or take a look through one of the special telescopes on site for the evening. Meet at the Visitor Centre at Point Pelee National Park.

**Let's Get Batty – September 8**

Not only are birds and butterflies migrating in September, but it's also a prime time for bats. Join a park interpreter at 7:30pm at the Visitor Centre at Point Pelee National Park for a short theatre presentation about bats, before heading out on a hike. The interpreter will pull out a bat detector and you'll listen for the distinct clicking patterns that each different species makes. Stay after the hike and enjoy a late summer evening and starry night sky.

**ECFNC Meeting – September 12**

Join the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club in welcoming Geoff Coulson, a Warning Preparedness Meteorologist with the Meteorological Service of Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada. His presentation will cover the types of severe weather experienced year round in Essex County, as well as provide ways residents here can watch the weather and stay safe when it happens.

**Fall Flight and Harvest Weekend – September 14 to 16**

A weekend packed with nature events and the *Harvest Dinner*, including a special dinner speaker on insect migration! Register for the dinner at: [www.peleeislandmuseum.ca/events](http://www.peleeislandmuseum.ca/events)\*Check for the detailed program later.

**Some weekend highlights include:**

- **Friday afternoon:** cycling tour, trail walks, films, and dinner at the new *Stone House 1891 Restaurant*.
- **Saturday:** Birding at Fish Point, bee demonstration, trail walks, film showing, crafts at *Pelee Art Works*, boat outings, and the *10th Annual Harvest Dinner*, with speaker Gard Otis; "*Butterflies & Dragonflies: The Other Fall Migrants*"
- **Sunday:** Birding at Fish Point, trail walks, boat outings, crafts at *Pelee Art Works*, wrap-up get-together before the 4:00pm ferry.

**Festival of Hawks – September 15,16 and 23,24**

Join experts from the Holiday Beach Migration Observatory for this natural spectacle. Watch thousands of birds of prey flying overhead. Take in free programs hosted by local experts and see live hawks and owls up close. A great family event for experts and amateurs alike. Programs are free with the festival admission fee of \$15 per vehicle.



### **International Plowing Match and Rural Expo – September 18-25**

Be a part of history! Join the International Plowmen's Association in Pain Court, ON and other partners in the agricultural community September 18 to 25. The IPM features events such as an opening parade, a plough match, antique and modern technology and many exhibitors (including ERCA and the DRCC). For more info:

<https://www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2018>

### **Peche Island Day – September 30**

Celebrate World Rivers Day on Peche Island! Join the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup (DRCC), in partnership with the City of Windsor, the Citizens Environment Alliance, the Windsor-Essex County Canoe Club, the Great Lakes Institute of Environmental Research (GLIER) at the University of Windsor, Essex Region Conservation and the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club on Sunday September 30 2018 from 10am – 3pm for Peche Island Day! More details to come.

### **ECFNC Member Meeting – October 10**

Join us to welcome former ECFNC president Phil Roberts who will discuss Bald Eagles and what efforts are being undertaken to protect their population across Windsor/Essex.

### **Essex County Field Naturalists' Club 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner – November 3**

Save the date! Our speaker will be Tom Hince. More information to follow.

### **ECFNC Member Meeting – December 12**

Come and share photos and stories related to your nature experiences and sightings. This is a relaxed evening of club member participation and pre-holiday mirth. Please join us for some light refreshments and social time. \*If you would like to share photos, please bring them on a USB drive.

## Essex County Field Naturalists' Club – Stay in Touch

### ABOUT US

Essex County Field Naturalists' Club is a non-profit, open-to-the-public volunteer organization that focuses on promoting the conservation and restoration of the diverse natural heritage of Essex County and the surrounding region. We also strive to provide educational opportunities for the people of Essex County to become acquainted with and better understand the natural environment.

### CONTACT US

#### Mail:

Essex County Field Naturalists' Club  
c/o Ojibway Nature Centre  
5200 Matchette Rd.  
Windsor On, N9C 4E8

Except for our annual dinner in November, monthly meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm at Ojibway Nature Center, 5200 Matchette Road, Windsor. All are welcome! We also have monthly outings posted in the 'Events' section of this newsletter as well as on our website.

#### Email:

[essexcountynature@gmail.com](mailto:essexcountynature@gmail.com)

#### Website:

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

#### Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/EssexCountyNature](http://www.facebook.com/EssexCountyNature)

#### Twitter:

[@ECFNC](https://twitter.com/ECFNC)

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President:** Paul Pratt ([pratt.paul@icloud.com](mailto:pratt.paul@icloud.com))

**Vice-President:** Steve Marks

([steve.marks66@gmail.com](mailto:steve.marks66@gmail.com))

**Secretary:** JoAnn Grondin (519-734-0056)

**Treasurer:** Cathy Lapain ([aclapain@gmail.com](mailto:aclapain@gmail.com))

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

#### Directors:

Dave Kraus (519-825-7491)

Kory Renaud ([koryrenaud@gmail.com](mailto:koryrenaud@gmail.com))

Gina Pannunzio ([gpannunzio@erca.org](mailto:gpannunzio@erca.org))

Andy Paul (519-817-0155)

Jeremy Bensetzung ([jeremy\\_bensetzung@hotmail.com](mailto:jeremy_bensetzung@hotmail.com))

Sam Dundas

Jennifer Nantais ([jennifer.nantais@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.nantais@gmail.com))

### CHAIRPERSONS/LIAISONS

**Ontario Nature Liaison:** Steve Marks

**ERCA Liaison:** Gina Pannunzio

**Bluebird Committee:** 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:** Kory Renaud (acting)

**Field Trips:** Alexis Hand (chair), Ian Woodfield, Amy Weinz

**Junior Naturalists:** Kory Renaud, Andy Paul, Jeremy Bensetzung, Sarah 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 & Social Media:** Kory Renaud

**Membership:** Jeremy Hatt (chair), Paula O'Rourke, Carl Maiolani, Jessica Rose

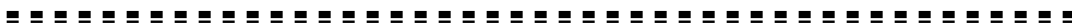
**ECFNC MEMBERSHIP**

Your annual membership fees help to support the local efforts of the club. To learn more about becoming a member, please contact our membership secretary, Carl Maiolani.

- Receive the quarterly newsletter *The Egret* via email
- Enjoy guest speakers at the monthly meetings
- Explore our natural heritage with a guide
- Help restore and protect Essex County’s natural heritage

**Online Payment Option**

Join or renew your membership online at [www.essexcountynature.com/membership](http://www.essexcountynature.com/membership)



**Essex County Field Naturalists’ Club Membership Mail-in Form – Due annually**

**Select One:**

- Individual membership \$20.00 / year \_\_\_\_\_
- Family membership \$25.00 / year \_\_\_\_\_
- Student (full-time) \$10.00 / year \_\_\_\_\_
- Tax Receipt Eligible** Life membership \$500.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- Additional 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

