



The Egret

the Newsletter of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

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Mary Celestino's Nature Paintings ***"Where Lands Divide and Waters Flow"***

November 12 – December 10, 2006

Talk by the Artist on Sunday, November 12,
2006

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Art Gallery of Windsor

See flyer in this issue of The Egret

Mark Your Calendar

Twenty-second Annual ***E.C.F.N.C. Dinner***

Saturday, November 11, 2006

Speaker

Dr. Brock Fenton, Chair,
University of Western Ontario
Biological Sciences Department

Topic

Listening In On the Lives of Bats

Location

Udine Hall, Fogolar Furlan Club

Tickets

Available at ECFNC
September and October meetings ,
Ojibway Nature Centre &
Pelee Wings Nature Store
\$30.00 per person

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for cocktails
and Silent Auction
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

See flyer in this issue of The Egret

About the Club . . .

The Essex County Field Naturalists' Club was incorporated December 9, 1984. We are a registered charitable organization which promotes the appreciation and conservation of our natural heritage. ECFNC provides the community opportunities to be acquainted with and understand our natural world through identification, maintenance and preservation of natural areas of 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 :

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

Membership fees:

Individual \$20 per year
Family \$25 per year
Sustaining \$30 per year
Life: \$500

Information

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<http://city.windsor.on.ca/ojibway/ecfn.htm>

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ERCA

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Membership Secretary:	Denise Hartley
Public Information Officer:	Gayle Smith
Ontario Nature Liaison:	JoAnn Grondin
E.R.C.A. Liaison:	Bruno Sfalcin
Carolina Woods Liaison:	Ruth Junge
Point Pelee Liaison:	TBA
Bluebird Committee Chairman:	Don Bissonnette
Special Events Coordinator:	Karen Cedar
E.C.S.N.:	Tom Hurst
Ojibway Liaison:	Karen Cedar
Citizens' Environment Alliance:	Mark Buckner
Planning Advisory Committee:	Mark Buckner
Canada South Land Trust Liaison:	Betty Learmouth

Committees

Egret Editorial Committee: Karen Cedar, Betty Learmouth,
Shirley Grondin. Thank you to Nancy Murray for the
newsletter design.

Speaker: E.C.F.N.C. Directors

Field Trip: JoAnn Grondin, Margaret Jennings,
Betty Learmouth

Annual Dinner: Heritage & Special Events Committees

Heritage Committee: JoAnn Grondin, Margaret Jennings,

Muriel Kassimatis, Dave Kraus, Betty Learmouth,

Jim McAllister, Bruno Sfalcin, Gerry Waldron,

Peg Wilkinson

Ontario Nature Make Nature Fit in Windsor Talk, June 10, 2006

Jennifer Baker, Ontario Nature Nature Network Coordinator

The intent of my talk is to set the stage on the need and the urgency to protect and restore nature in Ontario and more specifically on the need to have a common vision for the future and the will and drive to work at the local level, right across this province, to help make it happen. Our greenway vision is all about the future. The future, of course is all about choices, choices that we collectively make. Let me ask you, what kind of legacy do you wish to leave for your children and your grandchildren? Make no mistake, we will leave a legacy. Will it be a legacy of pride, nurturing and caring for people and nature, or will it be a legacy of despair and debt on a variety of levels – social, economic and ecological, as we borrow the natural capital of future generations to satisfy our apparent wants in the present? The choice is ours to make. Will we make the right choices?

A fundamental principle of conservation is the concept of interconnectedness, that there should be a system of natural or green corridors across the landscape, interspersed with large core natural areas. These core and corridor areas provide an interconnected web of natural habitats. In turn, natural cores and corridor habitats are essential to the long-term survival and sustainability of biological diversity and are critical in helping to maintain the healthy, natural functions of ecosystems.

Core habitat areas include large remnant natural areas, biodiversity “hot-spots” and existing protected spaces. These core habitat areas are intended to capture the entire ecological diversity of southern Ontario’s landscapes, be they forests of varying community types, or be they wetlands, alvars, grasslands, savannas and tall grass community remnants, as well as known “hot-spots” for biological diversity.

Core habitat areas need to be large and blocky, in the order of 200 ha or more for our southern landscapes. Why? Because we know that large blocks of core habitats are vitally important for sustaining populations of many of our species. Bigger is better, both in terms of the number of species likely found within a given habitat and in terms of the population size of those species. But we also know that green islands are simply not enough. We have to provide opportunities for dispersal – immigration and emigration between core habitats on the landscape, hence the added need for habitat corridors and linkages.

Habitat corridors connect critical core habitats on the landscape and allow organisms to disperse through the landscape to other core habitat areas. Individual areas and features have strong ecological ties to other features and areas across the landscape. Linkages can include woodlands, wetlands, and stream corridors and areas that can be restored to increase natural cover and connectivity within system.

Human corridors, on the other hand, often work at cross-purposes (or like a barrier) to natural corridors (e.g. roads, utility corridors). Human corridors, such as a four-lane highway, a city or town, or other infrastructure, fragment or break up the natural landscape. Worse than just leaving less natural area behind, they eliminate the connections between the remaining natural areas. A four-lane highway is a barrier to the movement of plant and animal species, isolating populations and reducing the amount of habitat.

Why do we need Greenways?

We now understand that many of our small isolated woodlands and other habitats are simply just not large enough on their own to sustain wildlife. It is not surprising that area-sensitive and forest-interior species have experienced dramatic declines in all of our more human-dominated landscapes.

In spite of all of our great efforts and accomplishments on the conservation front, the pressures on nature continue to outpace us. Southern Ontario was once the most biologically rich and productive region of Canada. Those of us living in southern Ontario now live in the ecologically most imperiled region of Canada.

We are at a crossroads. The pressures of increased growth, if left unchecked, will transform the very nature of our landscapes by putting a huge load on our ecosystems in terms of increased habitat loss, increased species imperilment, increased waste loads and reduced ecosystem services in terms of life sustaining clean air, water and renewable resources. The impacts on our ecosystems are far greater than just the land displaced to accommodate increased growth. That is just one small, yet very visible effect. Ontario’s ecological footprint, that is the extent to which we are exploiting nature’s services, is dramatically increasing at a time when it should be decreasing.

The need to put “nature first” has never been more apparent.

Current Status of Habitat Supply:

- Total forest cover declined by over 80%, wetlands by 70%.
- Upland forests declined by over 94%.
- Forest, older than 120 years, is less than 0.07% of the landscape.
- Oak savanna and tall grass prairies are mere relicts of former supplies (<4%).

The landscapes of southern Ontario have undergone dramatic changes since the time of European settlement. We have transformed a landscape mosaic that was essentially a sea of forest with scattered small islands of openings, savannahs, prairie and wetlands to becoming a sea of agriculture and developed lands with scattered islands of remnant habitats. It is the opposite of what was. The current settled landscapes of southern Ontario would not be recognizable by our early colonists. This loss and fragmentation of habitat has come at considerable cost to our wildlife. There are more species and communities at risk within southern Ontario, than anywhere else in Canada.

Global Threats to Biodiversity

The global threats to biodiversity are many and can be described by the acronym HIPPO: habitat loss, invasives, pollution, population (human) and over-harvesting, which all arise from unsustainable human activity. Cascade down to the southern Ontario landscape and the threats simply repeat themselves:

- habitat loss and habitat fragmentation, notably from urban sprawl and relentless development activity;
- exotic invasive species –Emerald Ash Borer, or Garlic Mustard, European Buckthorn, Dog Strangling Vine, or Zebra Mussels;
- a vast array of pollutants, many of which are persistent and accumulating, largely caused by unsustainable industrial activity;
- Population - the expectation of another 4 million people within the next 25 years; and
- climate change, the future effects of which are huge. These threats are real and they are increasing.

The Conservation Imperative

Why should we be concerned about the conservation of biodiversity? Why should we invest in its protection and its recovery? I think it boils down to two reasons: first a moral imperative to simply co-exist, or as Paul McCartney would say: “Let it be,” or as Professor Edward Wilson would say, “surely the rest of life matters,” and secondly, enlightened self-interest for the ecosystem services that nature provides including life sustaining clean air and water, productive soils and renewable resources to both feed and shelter us and to provide the raw materials to sustain our economy. For those questioning these services, just see how long you can last without a breath of fresh air, or a drink of clean water.

I think Jared Diamond says it well in the following passage: “Human needs and a healthy environment are not opposing claims that must be balanced; instead they are linked by chains of cause and effect. We need a healthy environment because we need clean water, clean air, wood and food, plus soil and sunlight to grow crops. We need functioning natural ecosystems, with their native species of earthworms, bees, plants and microbes to generate and aerate our soils, pollinate our crops, decompose our wastes, and produce our oxygen. We need to prevent toxic substances from accumulating in our water and air and soil. We need to prevent weeds, germs, and other pest species from becoming established in places where they aren’t native and where they cause economic damage. Our strongest arguments for a healthy environment are selfish: we want it for ourselves, not for threatened species like snail darters, spotted owls and Furbish Louseworts.”

Whether your motive is enlightened self-interest, or altruism, the imperative to protect and restore nature’s functions and diversity should be apparent. The bottom line is this: healthy ecosystems sustain healthy people and a healthy economy.

Ontario Nature’s Greenway

Ontario Nature’s Greenway vision, sets a natural heritage vision for the future. It seeks to create an interconnected system of habitat cores and corridors, embedded within more ecologically friendly working landscapes, for all of southern and eastern Ontario, with clear connections to the Canadian Shield to the north, the Gatineaus to the east and the Adirondacks to the south. It reconnects the southern part of the province into a revitalized Great Lakes Basin. It represents a vision to help guide us in our conservation and planning efforts. It speaks to what could be, indeed what should be, if we wish to conserve the biodiversity of our landscapes and watersheds and enhance the free ecosystem services that nature provides.

This vision also considers the background matrix of working landscapes, where we live and work, which contain the greenway, our countrysides and urbanscapes. We are promoting sustainable land use practices, which are hospitable enough to enable many species to move through the landscape, while maintaining vital ecosystem processes including natural waterways that are essential to keep the landscape functional and self-sustaining. We are talking about working with nature sustainably, and learning to simply co-exist.

Why must we do this? Why is Ontario Nature championing this vision?

Now is the time to get ahead of the wave in the rest of Ontario where the population is expected to grow by another 4 to 6 million people within the next 25 years. Now is the time to plan for a sustainable future. It will help to provide certainty for all groups – urban development, nature and critical agriculture land. This planning effort represents a science-based effort to plan for a healthier future for nature, for the people that it supports, and for the enterprises that economically sustains us. It represents a multiple win for society. That is why we should push for it.

What is a Greenway?

A greenway is a network of natural areas, made up of core lands connected by corridors that allow passage of wildlife between them. The core lands attempt to capture the full diversity of habitat that is associated with a given region, while the interconnecting corridors attempt to follow the natural linear patterns of the landscape, such as waterways, moraines and valley lands. A variety of land uses can occur within and around greenways, including agriculture and other sustainable resource uses, provided that they maintain their quality as wildlife habitat.

The purpose of greenways is to create the conditions that ensure the long-term survival of viable populations of all native species and the habitats upon which they depend. Greenways also provide important ecosystem services such as clean air, clean water, renewable resources and healthy, productive soils to help sustain healthy people.

Greenways are implemented both within and between urban settlements and serve as a natural network of habitat enabling the dispersal of plant and animal populations across regional landscapes. We see greenways as networks of natural habitats within a matrix of working sustainable farmscapes, countrysides and urban communities. Greenways will become more and more important for the survival of native wildlife as they face the inevitable impacts of climate change. Dispersal to more favourable habitats will be critical for many species as habitats respond to changing moisture and temperature regimes. Efforts to both protect and restore functional greenways will not only benefit wildlife and people, but it will also help to sequester carbon and offset some of the effects of climate change.

Greenway Applications

We need to think of this Greenway Vision as being a giant jig-saw puzzle, with our local plans and actions being the “parts of the puzzle”. If we all do our part, we can do much to protect and restore the landscapes of southern Ontario. That is the benefit of having a big picture vision for the future. That is the benefit of conceiving local scale plans within the context of big-picture conservation needs. That is the benefit of coordinating actions, and cooperating in partnerships with like-minded organizations. “Think greenway, but act locally”.

Existing greenway puzzle pieces

- Waterloo Region’s Environmentally Sensitive Landscape designation to protect almost 10,000 acres of Waterloo Moraine and areas along Grand River unanimously endorsed by regional council
- One Million Trees is a coalition of community partners whose goal is to plant one million trees over ten years. The trees will be a variety of native Carolinian species. Currently Essex County has less than eight percent forest coverage, the lowest in all of Ontario. It is estimated that within 10 years, the region will lose up to 20 percent of its tree coverage or approximately one million trees to the emerald ash borer.
- ECFNC helped purchase Stone Road Alvar on Pelee Island and do countless other restoration and education projects
- Little River Enhancement Group and community volunteers have carried out 30 Cleanup Crusades and, through 62 Planting Campaigns planted more than 17,500 trees throughout the river basin.
- Nature reserves – all lands owned by CA, municipalities, land trusts (the Canada South Land Trust is working to acquire properties for protection), Nature Conservancy of Canada, etc.
- Progressive private land stewardship initiatives happening across province.

We all need to play a role in putting the pieces of the puzzle together.

What can you do?

Connect with Nature

Create wildlife habitat

- Buy local produce
- Plant a native tree
- Participate in local tree planting projects
- Landscape with native species
- Comment on Municipal Official Plans
- Ask MPP to support Smart Growth

There are a number of ways that you could participate, depending on your interest. Everything from planting a tree to getting involved with your municipality's land use plan to writing to your MPP and asking them to put nature first, all of it works towards creating a healthier natural world that benefits all of us.

How will Ontario Nature help build the Greenway?

We will work with and support:

- Communities
- Conservation groups
- Farm groups and landowners
- Municipalities and planners
- Provincial government
- Land managers (trusts and conservancies)

We're working on tying all of the pieces of the puzzle together, across province.

Ontario Nature will provide leadership for this vision. Ontario Nature will be working at two levels – community/grassroots and by commenting on provincial land use policy reforms.

Nature Deficit Disorder?

The Greenway can be a storehouse for what has been called “natural capital”[1] – natural and ecosystem resources and lands that are assets yielding “environmental goods and services” essential to the sustained health and survival of our population and economy. Converting natural landscapes to other uses can be economically inefficient. When we destroy natural capital (wetlands, woodlands, or waterways), we must find substitutes – which are often more expensive – for the ecological services that natural capital provides. These services include water purification, waste assimilation, cleansing of the atmosphere, carbon storage, mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, flood prevention and prevention of soil erosion. Many studies have shown the significant economic value of these ecological services. The **Greenway for Ontario** provides a mechanism for ensuring continued protection and production of ecological goods services so that expensive substitutes are not necessary.

example Grand River watershed:

A 2004 report on natural capital written for the Nature Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited Canada included a case study on the Grand River watershed. The study found that the net benefits of conserving natural capital in the watershed are significant, ranging from a low estimate of \$80 per hectare per year to a high estimate of \$343/ha/year. At the high end, estimates include \$29/ha for greenhouse gas emissions reduction, \$27/ha for carbon sequestration, \$69/ha for increased wildlife viewing and \$45/ha for reduced water treatment costs for phosphorus. These net benefits of conserving natural areas can be compared to the market value of the land in the watershed. Average rental rates for agricultural land in the Grand River watershed range from about \$74 to \$247/ha/year. We can see that the estimates of the net benefits of conserving natural capital fall into the same range, with the high estimate actually exceeding the high market value.

[1] Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ducks Unlimited Canada, *The Value of Natural Capital in Settled Areas of Canada, 2004*.

Now, let's "Imagine the Possibilities":

Now let's be bold and imaginative. Great accomplishments do not arise from diminished goals. Let's fast forward to the year 2106, a century from now, looking back over the accomplishments of the past century. The trajectory from the last century has changed, the southern part of our province has stabilized, and the notion of a living city has taken hold at all of our major urban centres. Ecological Footprints have been systematically reduced, ratcheted down from its alarming high at the turn of the 21st century. Agriculture is thriving sustainably, urban areas are being "contained", greenspace is growing, species are being delisted, and nature's free services are recognized and valued over more expensive technological solutions. Air and water quality have significantly improved. The historically fragmented ecosystems of southern and eastern Ontario have been reconnected into a healthy Great Lakes basin. The dream of an interconnected natural heritage system has been realized. Industry sees its mission as serving the needs of society and sees its own future as contributing to the health of ecosystems – doing well financially by doing good ecologically and socially. Economy is in synch with ecology – natural capitalism and full-cost accounting are now the norm, "externalities" have now been internalized into costing and pricing structures. Market rules have been adjusted to align with sustainability principles and business is competing on the basis of the sustainability of their products and services. The private sector has become a huge engine of progressive change. Health care costs are declining and our economy has stabilized. People finally get it: "healthy ecosystems, sustain healthy people and healthy economies". Healthy ecosystems are the base of the sustainability pyramid. And in spite of all the accomplishments there are still issues, and a voice is heard saying we must "imagine the possibilities"!

Grandiose? Perhaps. Inclusive? Yes. Worth working towards? Absolutely!

The point is this: Great things can be accomplished if we set an inspired vision and collectively work to help make it happen. Remember the words of Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of dedicated, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has".

We need to act now, on a local level, to make sure that Ontario's air and water sources stay clean and that as much as possible, the landscape stays green. A connection to the Greenway is the most effective, most sensible way to accomplish this goal. Ontario Nature is committed to providing as many of the necessary tools and resources as we can, and encouraging government to provide other resources. But what happens "on-the-ground" is up to each and every community.

Ontario Nature is working to engage communities in conservation efforts, as well as to work with the provincial government to stop urban sprawl and foster smart, vibrant urban and rural communities. Community conservation groups, such as the Essex County Field Naturalists' and Little River Enhancement Group are supporting Ontario Nature by working to conserve and restore essential ecosystems as well as to educate the community.

Together we can make our community and Ontario a healthy, and sustainable place to live.

Become an Egret Contributor

Contributions to *The Egret* are invited. Our members would enjoy reading your article in the next issue of *The Egret*.

Ideas for an article might be a summary of an informative monthly meeting, a field excursion report, a description of a recent trip to an exciting natural area or a good sighting you would like to share.

Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy Betty Learnouth

ECFNC members and friends were welcomed on June 11, 2006 by Bruce Jones and Margarete Hasseroth of the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy. We had made arrangements through Bruce, a member of the Land Conservancy's Nature Area Committee, to tour the site. Margarete, Chairperson of the Nature Area Committee, joined us for the on-site visit.

Grosse Ile is a Detroit River island municipality with a population of 11,000 persons within the State of Michigan, located directly across from the Town of Amherstburg in Essex County. Grosse Ile is nine to ten miles in length, by one and a half miles across and is connected to the mainland by two bridges, one of which is a toll bridge. There are twelve islands within the municipality out of a total of thirty-two Detroit River islands within Michigan boundaries. Grosse Ile may be reached by driving south on I-75, exiting at the West Road exit, then driving through Trenton, Michigan, to the Grosse Isle Parkway which takes one over the Trenton Channel and onto Grosse Ile.

Bruce had brought maps of Grosse Ile and surrounding areas to share with us. We settled in around a picnic table at the Land Conservancy reception area as Bruce provided us with information on Grosse Ile. Topics of discussion ranged from Native Americans, early exploration, landforms in the area and recent history.

Bruce told us that there is a Native American legend that East Coast indigenous peoples were urged by the Great Spirit to go west to a place where ample food would be found in a river including sturgeon, wild rice and water fowl. During the early 1800's, six Native American communities were found in the area and in Amherstburg. Eventually the Wyandot Nation was relocated to Oklahoma and Kansas.

Records exist that reveal La Salle and his vessel, the Griffin, lay off Grosse Ile in 1679 to replenish the vessel's bear meat supply.

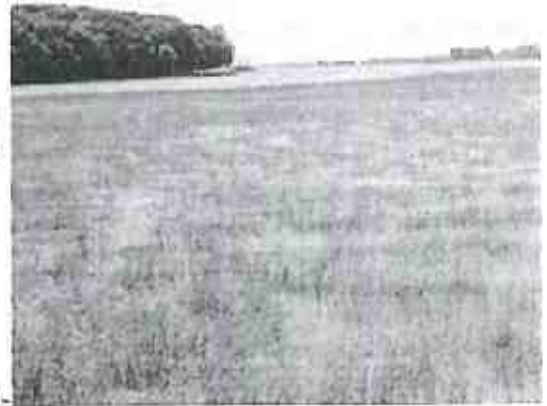
The Detroit River has two distinct faces. The upper portion of the river from Ecorse north is deep and narrow (an average depth of thirty-five feet), with the current flushing out bottom sediments. On the other hand, the southern portion of the river is a shallow estuary averaging about ten feet in depth. Underlying this portion of the river is limestone which reaches the surface in several locations across the mouth of the river.

In 1903, construction of a coffer dam in the Detroit River near Amherstburg allowed limestone to be excavated and a navigational channel to be created. This work has allowed downward bound vessels in the river to pass through the Livingston Channel while upward bound vessels pass close to Amherstburg. Beyond the designated channels, the Detroit River is shallow. Limestone from the channel construction was used for the channel dykes. Limestone from the Grosse Isle quarry was used in home and building construction. Stately homes constructed of local limestone may be viewed on the East River Road scenic shoreline drive south to the Grosse Ile Nature Area.

Lake plain prairie has been identified as the natural heritage type on Grosse Ile and nearby surrounding lands with hardwoods such as the Swamp White Oak. The first steel mill along the Detroit River was located in Wyandotte as lake plain prairie oaks were readily available for fuel. Iron ore had been discovered in the Upper Peninsula and this resource was transported to the mill site.

Bruce told us the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy was formed in 1993. At that time founders of the Land

Photo: Shallow Gibraltar Bay with rushes



Conservancy knew little about the Detroit River and the surrounding area. The first lower river conference was held in 1994 which has become the State of the Strait Conference, now held at the University of Windsor.

The Land Conservancy has been active with a variety of initiatives including promoting bike path development on Grosse Ile and in other downriver communities. In the late 1990s a paddling group was formed that will be going public in the next few months with its Heritage Water Trail which will announce launch areas and trails of various levels of proficiency. Another initiative has been Landscape for Learning which is a program that provides outdoor hands-on experience for Grosse Ile students at their own schools. Students from inner city schools visit the Land Conservancy site where they may encounter natural heritage for the first time.

In 2001, the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge was formed from the Rouge River mouth to the Michigan/Ohio border with the assistance of Congressman Dingel. The Refuge includes Hennepin Marsh and Gilbratar Bay on the shores of Grosse Ile, several Detroit River islands and the recently secured Humbug Marsh complex opposite Grosse Ile.

The Grosse Ile Nature Area site has had a varied history. In 1925 the area was part of the U.S. Navy and became part of the Grosse Ile Naval Air Station. A causeway was built to nearby Hickory Island in the 1800s with a second causeway constructed by the Navy in 1925 which trapped the river shorelines. In the late 1950s, the river bottom was filled and three missile silos were constructed on the site, each thirty feet deep with a berm above each silo, as part of the Cold War defense of Detroit. The area suffered from contamination and was given to the Environmental Protection Agency which still owns the site. In 1993, the Land Conservancy took over stewardship of the lands.

The Land Conservancy immediately put in a main trail on the site with side trails with gradual replanting undertaken. During Fall 2003, plantings of native plants were undertaken at the main entrance gate. Rock gardens of native plants were created in Spring 2004 near the reception area where we sat.

Shoreline restoration began in 2002 with students planting almost 5,000 plants along the shoreline. Native vegetation along the shoreline now attracts wildlife including Eastern Fox Snake, mink, schools of fish and tadpoles. South of the Land Conservancy site is Gilbratar Bay which has benefited from the shoreline restoration. Bulrush species now fill the bay. Wildlife is returning such as the Common Tern population which nests on gravel at the southern Grosse Ile bridge.

We then joined Bruce and Margarete for a tour of the Land Conservancy Nature Area. An attractive kiosk displayed posters of Michigan reptiles and amphibians including photographs of Eastern Fox Snake and Mudpuppies, both known from the site. Along the main trail were nesting boxes, all occupied by Tree Swallows. We walked along the Quarry Creek Trail, an Eagle Scout project, which meanders through a dogwood thicket close to the shore restored shoreline. We heard a Moor Hen call several times from East (Gilbratar) Bay. Bruce remarked that this species was not heard until recently.

The Land Conservancy has constructed and installed several platforms along its southern shoreline which allow viewing of Gilbratar Bay without trampling of the restored shoreline. The view is of the shallow bay and the nearby tree lined shoreline which had been a dump site in the past but is now part of the Land Conservancy Nature Area.

We walked along a second side trail which led us into airport property, past an attractive sedge wetland and the Quarry Pond, then back to the reception area. Along the way we saw native plants such as Jack-in-the-pulpit, and a site on the airport property that is being considered for a future prairie restoration.

The Voyageur, the newsletter of the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy, in its Spring 2006 issue, provides readers with a schedule the Nature Area is open for viewing. These times include Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. into October. During September and October, the Nature Area is open from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings but closed during inclement weather.

At the Land Conservancy's annual board meeting held on November 5, 2005, Land Conservancy membership learned that the "GINLC now owns or has established easements on over 290 acres of property on Grosse Ile and in the "Downriver" area with an estimated value of over \$2.3 million."

Thank you to Bruce and Margarete for a memorable visit to the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy site.

In an interview with CBC broadcaster Tony Doucette of the "Morning Shift" program on July 14, 2005, Essex Member of Parliament Jeff Watson, commented that the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge has been a Michigan based initiative up to this time. Jeff Watson intends to enter into "robust" talks with Congressman Dingel this summer and fall with regard to the possible expansion of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge to include Canadian lands.

Bird Studies Canada: *Latest News*, September 8, 2006.

Bird Studies Canada's *Latest News* as of September 8, 2006 mentions that world bat expert Dr. Brock Fenton will be guest speaker at the BSC Annual Members Meeting planned for 24 September 2006, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Bird Studies Headquarters, Port Rowan, Ontario.

The on-line newsletter continues: Dr. Fenton is one of the world's foremost experts on bats. He has studied their ecology and biology all over the world, including Costa Rica, Australia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

His books on bats include *Communications in the Chiroptera* (1985); *The Bat: Wings in the Night Sky* (1998) and *The Bat* (with Merlin D. Tuttle, 2001).

Dr. Fenton and his students have recently developed a project with BSC to study bat migration at Long Point, Ontario. His talk will cover what they have discovered this year as well as plans for the future.

Naturalized Backyard Tour

Betty Learmouth

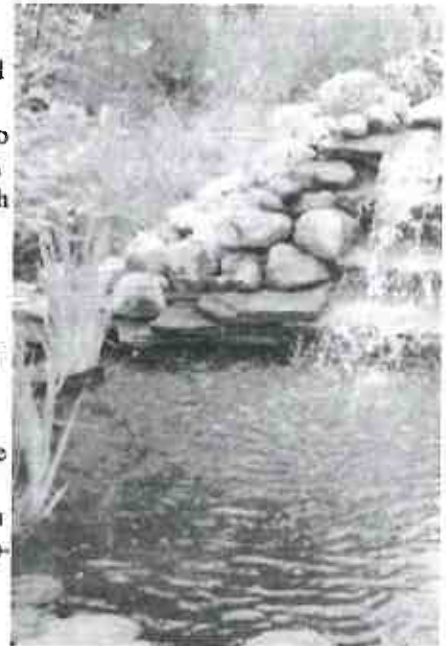
Photograph: View of Shirley Grondin's backyard pond

Over the past few years ECFNC members have enjoyed backyard tours to Bruno and Eleanor Sfalcin's naturalized garden and to Gerry Kaiser's garden. This year on June 18, 2006, two ECFNC members, Shirley Grondin and Marg Calder, volunteered to show ECFNC members around their naturalized gardens.

The tour began in Shirley's backyard following a short wait for a rain shower to pass. Shirley showed us a flat of newly germinated Wild Lupines, the seeds having been gathered on June 12, 2006 from plants at Ojibway Park. These plants will be tended with the intention to make them available at the native plant sale during May 2007.

Shirley has been working in her large garden for seventeen years with all the work done by Shirley including pond construction. Grass has been replaced by hundreds of plants which are attractively planted with mulched pathways allowing easy viewing. A portion of the garden contains horticultural plants with over half the garden devoted to local native plants.

At the back of the garden, Shirley has planted Redbud, Witchhazel and an Elderberry which became so large that a part of this shrub collapsed recently. Starry False Solomon Seal grows in the shade of the Redbud and Witchhazel, while Solomon's Seal is in the shade near the garden gate. Trillium are found under the shrubs along with Twin Leaf, an uncommon native plant species from the Kitchener-Waterloo area. Several Hop-trees are growing well near the fence. Bittersweet has grown over the garden arbour, its fruit a favourite with the autumn bird population.



In the open and sunny central part of the garden, a number of prairie species are present including Gray-headed Coneflower, Tall Coreopsis, Big Blue Stem, Golden Alexander, Iron Weed and Hairy Beard-tongue which is a favourite of the local cottontail population. Shirley had placed a bucket around Blue-eyed Grass hoping to deter the pesky cottontails so she might collect a little seed for propagation.

Our circular walk brought us to the pond with three lovely pond lilies in bloom. Water trickled over a series of rocks into a pond that has American Toad tadpoles swimming in the shallow parts. Shirley reported her resident toad had trilled regularly until about a week ago.

For our information, Shirley had posted a list of species seen during the previous week which included both Black and Tiger Swallowtails. Recently, Shirley's garden has been certified by the Naturalized Habitat Network. As we talked, a Summer Azure moved about, a new species for this spring. One of the local Mourning Doves flew in as we were admiring Shirley's blooming Eastern Prickly Pear cacti. Shirley told us that this species grows well and would cover a larger patch of ground if allowed.

At 3:00 p.m. we departed Shirley's garden to drive to Marg and Clary Calder's home to view their newly established naturalized garden which was designed and planted by Don Bissonette. The garden wraps around three sides of Calder's backyard beyond their pool and lawn with a wooden fence as a background. A large tree on the north side provides shade for a woodland garden. The garden is completely accessible by an attractive flagstone walk way that meanders through the garden.

Don has mixed horticultural plants with native plants, providing a pleasing range of colours in the garden. For instance, attractively arranged hostas in groups of three are green and white and red while hollies provide a dash of dark green beside the garage. Native Bloodroot and Wild Ginger provide interest with their attractive leaves. Trout Lilies bloomed throughout the garden in late April but those plants with their mottled leaves have disappeared.

The Calders wanted their weathered backyard composter to remain. Don has planted a grouping of ferns which will grow to conceal the composter in another year. Even some low growing fern species provide another shade of green to the garden. Trellises support clematis which were blooming in profusion. Four Swamp Rose Mallow in full sunlight will provide spectacular blooms in a few weeks time.

To view Marg's blooming Prickly Pear Cacti we had to go around to the south side of the house where the cacti are contained between the house and the drive next door. The cacti enjoy this dry hot habitat as they are filling the space allotted to them.

After our tour we relaxed with a cool drink by the pool, enjoying our pleasant surroundings.

Thank you to both Shirley and Marg who so kindly opened their lovely naturalized gardens to us.

Photograph:

Marg Calder (left) in her natural backyard habitat with Don Bissonette (centre) and Mary Jane Winterton (right)



Ojibway Dragonfly Class

Janet Tuite

It was Saturday, June 24, 2006, sunny, a nice breeze and in the mid 70s. A group of enthusiastic people were gathered around the desk of the Ojibway Nature Centre signing up for the Dragonfly Class. We all received *Stokes Beginner's Guide to Dragonflies* with our fees.

Paul Pratt then directed us to a picnic table by the Ojibway Creek to show us an assortment of books, articles and field guides, all pertaining to dragonflies, or should I say Odonata. We also received a list of commonly found damselflies and dragonflies familiar to the Ojibway Prairie. Wow – over fifty-eight species. Paul has his work cut out for him.

Paul then described the difference between damsels and dragonflies, the former having forewings and hindwings of similar shape closed or partially closed at rest, a thin body and are known as weak fliers. The dragonflies have hindwings wider than forewings, their wings are open at rest, they possess a thicker body and are strong fliers. All this information could be found with further descriptions in our newly acquired book.

As we all gazed toward the creek, mesmerized by the many types of dragonflies around us, Paul realized he was losing our attention. With a few swoops, Paul netted our first and most commonly seen dragonfly for the day, a male Blue Dasher (see page 136 of the Stokes guide).

Paul explained that female Blue Dashers only come to the pond to lay their eggs or mate. We all marveled at the many males patrolling the waters either looking for a potential mate or guarding their female as she lays eggs by tapping the surface of the water.

As we looked across the creek, several pairs of Dot-tailed Whiteface (see page 152) were demonstrating “the wheel position,” a mating ritual. Boy, who ever said a bug’s life was boring? Other types either spotted or netted along the creek were Widow Skimmer (page 128), Twelve-spotted Skimmers (page 124), Common Green Darners (page 80) and Wandering Gliders (page 115). Not only does one have to distinguish the difference between a damsel and dragon, but whether male or female and what family it belongs to.

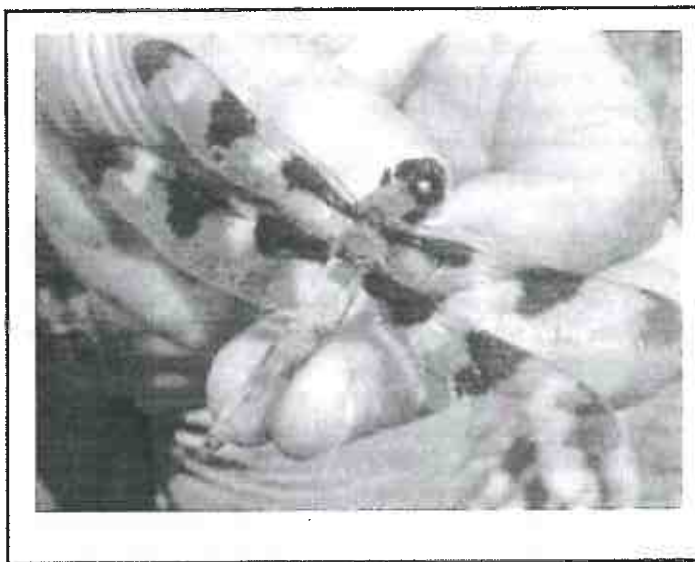
We then headed towards the high grasses and shrubs along the path and found two different types of Forktail Damselflies, a Fragile (page 74) and an Eastern (page 70); our first damsels of the day. Both were enjoying shaded vegetation and avoiding open waters.

Margaret Calder kept remarking how much everyone was learning and for Paul to show us more. Onward to the pond where most of the action was in progress.

We were surrounded by Eastern Pondhawks (page 138) perched on the lily pads, while Black Saddlebags (page 112) and Marsh Bluets (page 57) hovered above us, close enough to touch. Now everyone was getting into the action of finding new species: Dan with the short net swinging while Pauline and Paul Desjardins were looking at the bulrushes for another Slender Spreadwing (page 51).

Also shown to us were exuviae, which are shed skins of larvae from both skimmers and damsels found on stems of

Photograph: Twelve-spotted Skimmer



pond emergent plants. Plus newly emerged species which are very shiny when they first transform to this adult form. These included a Blue Dasher (page 136), Eastern Pondhawk which was a bright apple green colour (page 138), and Ruby Meadowhawk (page 144) which is brownish at first, but then turns red as it matures.

As we moved to the other side of the pond, two male Common Whitetails (page 126) taunted Dan and the Pauls to just try and catch them. Plus the performance of many Green Darners in tandem, laying their eggs, continued. As we headed back along the path to the creek, a male Orange Bluet (page 62), was added to our list, along with two Prince Baskettails (page 110) motoring over the parking lot.

It was after four and noted by Marg, "Where did the time go? Let's do it again." A great time and learning experience was enjoyed by all. Standing in the parking lot doing a final tally of seventeen different species and saying our goodbyes, we were greeted by a young groundhog sitting on the bank. Need I say any more to those who missed out on this program, except that maybe Paul will offer it again next year.

A short footnote is added to this story; well, maybe not so short.

Stokes Beginner's Guide to Dragonflies is a great buy and can be purchased at Ojibway Nature Centre.

Many thanks to Penny for taking some nice pictures of the outing and to Dan for making us laugh because he had the short net. Paul DesJardins, you should heed the advice of your peers and submit your dragonfly findings to the many Odonata organizations.

Plus thanks to Paul Pratt and the staff at Ojibway for a fine day.

Holiday Beach Conservation Area Walk

Betty Learmouth

Photograph: Ruby-throated Hummingbird held by Carl Pascoe

Ten ECFNC friends and members gathered on Sunday evening, June 10, 2006 for a summer walk in the Holiday Beach Conservation Area. Luckily we met Rachel Powless and Carl Pascoe as they were arriving in the seasonal campground for a few hours of Ruby-throated Hummingbird banding. Rachel and Carl told us it would take about twenty minutes to set up for their work so we drove on to the campground south of the marsh boardwalk.

As we were getting organized for our walk, a flash of wings overhead caught Shirley Grondin's attention. Shirley told us a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak had disappeared into the treetops.

As our group walked along the boardwalk at Carp Crossing, we enjoyed the warm summer evening as we looked over the marsh. Pond weed covered the surface of the water along with Frog Bit which has been a resident at Big Creek for several

years. Herbaceous emergent vegetation included cattails, sedges, Flowering Rush with its rose-coloured flowers and Jewelweed. Marg Calder identified a female Widow Skimmer dragonfly perched on marsh vegetation. A male Indigo Bunting flew over the marsh toward the wooded edge of the campground to our north.



We walked into the campground, unsure of where to find Rachel and Carl, but Rachel found us and beckoned to us across several campsites. We eventually located Rachel and Carl who were comfortably seated at their work table with their new G-trap set up on the edge of a campsite. Trailer owners, who were not present, had kindly given Rachel and Carl permission to set up their equipment any time. The trailer owners' cat dozed on the deck swing, ignoring all the activity on the lawn.

By the time our group arrived, Rachel and Carl had already captured an adult male Ruby-throated Hummingbird which they had banded here on June 9, 2006, a sixteen day interval. Everyone admired the lovely male before its release.

Not many minutes passed until a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird was spotted hovering at the trap. Was this the same bird or another bird? The bird entered the trap and Rachel closed the G-trap door with the remote control, which was certainly high tech compared to the sprints that Rachel used to make to catch our little jewels.

A previous method used in capturing Ruby-throated Hummingbirds had been the Russell trap. This is a 6 x 8 foot boxed netting with the front left open. Here, the feeders have enough room to be placed on an iron hook stuck in the ground. This also means there is enough room and time for the hummer to escape. Rachel must sprint then coax the hummingbird into a corner of the netting where she is then able to extract the bird safely.

The second Ruby-throated Hummingbird was wearing a band so after carefully checking the band number in the data bank on the lap top computer, Carl announced that the second hummer had been banded on August 11, 2005 at the Holiday Beach passerine banding station by Bob Hall-Brooks. He was banded as an after hatch year male last year so he is now at least three years old. Carl calculated the interval as 358 days since its banding during the previous year. This male, as far as Carl knows, would be the first male Ruby-throated Hummingbird returning migrant for Ontario. The locations of the two sites are about one-half kilometer apart. That this bird has been found once again indicates that Ruby-throated Hummingbirds use the entire park area.

Rachel and Carl had spent the entire day in Essex County banding Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. At the Ojibway Nature Centre, three after hatch year males and two after hatch year females with brood patches were banded. Later in the day, a single hatch year male Ruby-throated Hummingbird was banded at Tom and Peggy Hurst's home in Cottam. "It was a great day," summed up Carl's thoughts on the day's activities.

It should be noted that on May 22, 2006 the hummingbird banders were at Holiday Beach. This is the e-mail report from Carl Pascoe regarding that day's activities:

"I met with Phil Roberts and Bob Hall-Brooks today at Holiday Beach to discuss some banding stuff and took along my new hummingbird trap. We saw two hummingbirds at the passerine station and at about 2:00 p.m. Bob and I set up the trap at the seasonal campgrounds. We had done some hummingbird banding there last year starting in July as several of the campers have feeders.

We caught our first hummingbird at about 2:30 p.m. and it was an After Hatch Year Female with a fat score of 5 on a 0-7 scale and weighted in at a hefty 4 grams. This is the earliest hummingbird banded at Holiday Beach.

At about 3:00 p.m. we caught the second female. Bob told me to check to see if it had a band and there was a tiny leg bracelet on her leg. We thought it may have been the same bird from a little while ago. The band number was not the same! It turns out that she was banded last year at the same location on July 7, 2005, an interval of 319 days. As far as I know this is the first Ruby-Throated Hummingbird ever recaptured at the same site in Ontario from one season to the next.

We know that she is over 2 years old as she was an adult when banded last year. She has made the amazing round trip from Ontario to Mexico or Costa Rica at least twice. Just wanted to share this remarkable event with all of you."

Leaving Rachel and Carl, our group headed south along the roadway. We noted Summer Azure, Viceroy and Eight-spotted Forester (a moth species) nectaring on dogwood blossoms at Carp Crossing. A Great Blue Heron passed overhead along with distant flocks of Mallards. Two Mute Swans and a single Great Egret were noted in the wetland to the east of Carp Crossing.

Arriving back at the vehicles, our single group then broke into two groups. One group explored the northern Prothonotary Warbler habitat and the other group checked for Prothonotaries around the Education Building. When we reunited later, both groups reported no Prothonotaries were observed, with House Wrens claiming all northern boxes.

Unfortunately Garlic Mustard has made its way into the Conservation Area from the East Beach section where it has existed for a number of years. Now this invasive species is common in the wooded sections in the southern campground. The hackberry woodland to the west is still free of this species with two plants removed by the group that explored the southern Prothonotary Warbler habitat.

Thank you to Rachel and Carl for inviting us to the Holiday Beach Ruby-throated Hummingbird banding which was a special treat for everyone. Thank you to everyone in the group for contributing to species identification.

Couple Shares Passion for Tiny Hummingbirds

By Amanda Ferguson
Star Staff Reporter

In *The Windsor Star*, July 10, 2006, page A3

A tiny, unsuspecting ruby-throated hummingbird is now a marked bird.

It may flutter around its home at the Ojibway Park for years, but carrying a numbered band about 2.6 mm long, Bird Studies Canada can now track its migration patterns.

Hummingbird and songbird bander Carl Pascoe and his wife Rachel Powless were banding the birds at Ojibway Nature Centre Saturday in an attempt to learn more about the species.

"We band them to try and find more information about their migration, the health of the population and some basic information. There's very little known about hummingbirds," Pascoe said.

As one of three licensed hummingbirds banders in Ontario, Pascoe says they don't even know how many times the little birds breed a year.

"They just haven't been studied," he said.

Powless, a West Bloomfield resident, is training to become a hummingbird bander with the help of her husband, who is currently training her.

Powless has to band 100 before becoming certified – a difficult task considering the bird's size and fragility.

"I have made one band and it took me 20 minutes to make – and it didn't pass," said Powless, turning to look at her husband who failed her.

Anherstburg resident, Carter Beggs, was the lucky nature enthusiast who got to release the hummingbird, which sat stunned on his outstretched hand before quickly flying away.

"You're getting to do what few people ever get to do," Pascoe said as he placed the bird in Carter's hand.

Carter came with his father, Paul Beggs, who came out to learn more about nature and participate in the butterfly counting event later in the afternoon.

"It was cool," Carter said. "It was really light, you hardly felt anything."

Thanks to all the writers who generously submitted articles and photos for this edition of *The Egret*:

- Marg Calder, Janet Tuite and Penny Rivait

Bats in Their Belfry

Betty Learmouth

On July 12, 2006, ECFNC Treasurer Teresa Austrin and ECFNC Vice President Joe Parent kindly invited ECFNC friends and members to visit with the bats living in the walls of their Town of Leamington home. Thirty-five persons turned out on a fine summer evening. Teresa and Joe made everyone feel welcome with comfortable chairs arranged on the lawn of their attractive 1880 farmhouse. A buffet table of snacks was arranged nearby.

ECFNC President Phil Roberts welcomed everyone to this meeting, mentioning that this was the second time that Teresa and Joe had extended an invitation to ECFNC friends and members to enjoy an evening with their resident bats. On the first occasion, Phil reminded us that two bats had been captured in a mist nest as well as two caught in the house. During this current visit we hoped to take a census of the bats as they emerged from their roost in the home plus capture several for closer looks.

Phil provided some background on bats which are true flying mammals. There are no other true flying mammals which include the so-called "flying" squirrels. As dusk approached, Phil called our attention to the increased chirping of the Big Brown Bats within the walls of the house above our heads. The bats rest during daylight in roosts such as attics which are hot, then emerge at dusk to drink at a nearby water source before beginning their night time foraging. Bats spend the whole night on the wing, first drinking on the wing, before beginning their hunt for insects such as beetles.

Phil gave us some information on bat anatomy. The hand of a Big Brown Bat has five webbed fingers and a thumb which terminates in a claw that acts as a hook. In the roost, bats hang upside down with females cradling their young. Bats are able to climb up and down.

One of the participants asked if this bat population has any predators. Joe Parent provided the incident of a resident Eastern Screech Owl which caught bats from this roost on a regular basis. Another limiting factor for bats is suitable habitat.

Teresa and Joe's home is a restored brick 120 year old farmhouse which provides roosting space in the walls on the south side of the house. Big Brown Bats prefer to roost colonially, and do not require a great deal of space. Joe mentioned that a nearby bat box in a large maple has never been occupied by bats as the box location is too cool and shady.

Big Brown Bats are difficult to monitor. As colonial nesters, do they fly north or south for winter hibernation? Do they head to Niagara region to the caves in that area? Teresa felt that the population in their home probably remains with them for the winter.

ECFNC director Karen Cedar, and staff naturalist at Ojibway, had been standing slightly behind Phil Roberts during his talk, holding a bat detector which amplified the bats chirping in their roost. Karen told us that the ideal height at which to place a bat box is fifteen feet. Bats fly at this height, not tending to drop down, although they will fly higher. Bat boxes placed on brick are well situated but installation on vinyl is not a good choice as bats cannot climb or cling to this building material.

Phil told us that the numerous mayflies and midges found at this time of year provide food for our bat population. Females leave their young for the night while they forage. Other species of bats known from our area include Little Brown, Red and Hoary Bats.

At 9:15 p.m., the first bat emerged from the opening leading to the home's interior walls. Karen remarked that the bat's call was a crisp, sharp note on the bat detector. Another bat poked its head out, then withdrew into the roost. After several bats emerged to fly above us, Jacques Nicoletti and Phil Roberts supported a mist net's long poles as the net was held up in front of the bats' exit passage.

One bat bounced out of the net, but two others were captured in quick succession. Everyone gathered around for good looks and a photo opportunity as Karen Cedar and Phil Roberts cradled bats in soft fabric. The bat that Karen held showed its tiny teeth, which, according to the Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Mammals*, number thirty-two. The ears appear large as the tragus, which is a leaflike projection arising from the base of the inside of the external ear, is long and pointed.

Radio broadcaster Barbara Peacock of CBC's *Across Town* afternoon show was on hand with her tape recorder, recording the conversations for broadcast on July 13, 2006 in a time segment that Phil Roberts and Barbara regularly occupy to discuss nature related items.

As the evening's activities wrapped up, bat counters reported ninety-two Big Brown Bats had emerged from their roost.

A second roost houses about thirty bats at Joe and Teresa's home. This roost is a bat box located on a hydro pole in an open area at the back of the lot near the barns. The box is built to suit the bats' liking, with several chambers and painted black. It is in the ideal location as it is facing west and in full sunlight. Phil believes that the males occupy it, while the females are enjoying the indoor roost with the young.

Barbara began the regular Thursday nature segment on *Across Town* by asking her audience to identify the activity she had recorded. The sounds were of a group of people exclaiming and talking excitedly. No, it was not a baseball game! Karen Cedar's voice was the first to be heard as Karen spoke about the characteristics of the Big Brown Bat she was cradling, including its incredibly fine silky hair.

Barbara's second interview was with Joe and Teresa. Joe said they had purchased their home five years ago, then had completely gutted it. As work progressed, the bats became evident, providing some memorable moments including bats in the bedroom and a bat that landed on Teresa's leg when she was in the bathtub. Bats sometimes need to be rescued from the household's cats with emergency rescue times now honed to a matter of seconds.

Thank you to Teresa Austrin, Joe Parent, Phil Roberts, Karen Cedar and Jacques Nicoletti who all contributed to an informative and enjoyable evening.



Photograph: On Joe and Teresa's lawn before dusk with Phil Roberts discussing bat biology

Photograph: Big Brown Bat cradled by Karen Cedar



The Missed Flight

Margaret Calder

Photograph: Black Swallowtail chrysalid on Black-eyed Susan vine in Marg's garden

This spring I looked forward to seeing my new butterfly garden spring forth. I decided to help a bit, so I added two barrels near our back door. Some nice flowers and herbs might help.

In June I noticed Eastern Tiger and Black Swallowtails flying about. Would I be so lucky! On June 22, 2006 I found a caterpillar on our parsley in the barrel. He was black with green lines and yellow dots. Off to get my books and yes, the Black Swallowtail did visit.

Over the next three weeks, I watched as the caterpillar would hang out on the parsley, disappear for a few days but always returned. At this point I went off to Price Choppers for my parsley. Let the little guy have his fun.

On the evening of July 14, 2006 I noticed our friend back and about two-thirds of the parsley gone. Later that night I was checking the barrel, and low and behold the little guy was hanging upside down on my Black-eyed Susan vine. Could this be the J-position?

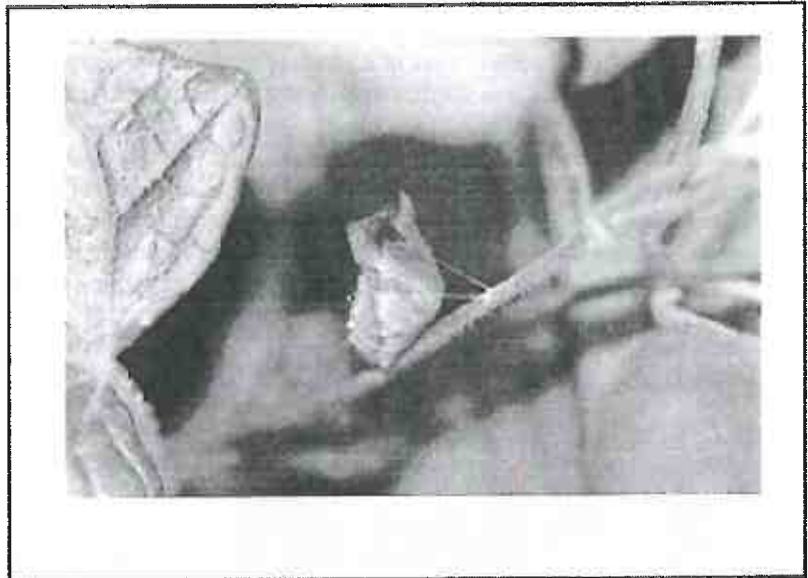
Next morning I got my answer – a perfect green chrysalid. I called Paul Pratt to get a time frame for the emergence of the adult. Paul suggested about ten days or so and early morning for the flight. Then a second call to Betty Lcarmouth who came with her new digital camera to capture my chrysalid.

So now we watch and wait with a check each morning, mid morning (if home), afternoon and evening. On July 28, 2006 I noticed some change in the chrysalid. It seemed to be drying up.

After a few days of 90 degree weather I thought this must be it. Time is running out. So double checking was done.

On August 1, 2006 and seventeen days later at 7:00 a.m., I missed the flight. Paul, you didn't say day break!

It had been a great journey for my neighbors and myself. A new life. Oh well! Better luck next year with my butterflies, but, hey, I did have a chrysalid. Not bad for my first year.



Massasauga Rattlesnakes Repatriated to the Ojibway Prairie

Betty Learmouth

On August 9, 2006, ECFNC friends and members were provided with an update by Ojibway staff member Tom Preney on the recent reintroduction of the Massasauga Rattlesnake to the Ojibway Provincial Prairie Nature Reserve. Our second summer meeting was held in Ojibway Nature Centre's activity room and was attended by over twenty persons.

Massasauga Rattlesnake monitor Tom Preney chose Power Point format for his presentation. First, Tom provided us with some Massasauga Rattlesnake facts.

Massasauga Rattlesnakes have these characteristics:

- Ontario's only rattlesnake and only venomous snake
- Grey to brownish grey with darker blotches edged in white
- 50 to 70 cm long
- Distinct segmented rattle
- Two heat sensing pits on each side of the head between the eye and nostril
- Vertical pupil
- Often found coiled
- Gives birth to live young

Tom told us that Massasauga Rattlesnakes were very common in the area during the 1960s and before that time, but rattlesnakes didn't have a good reputation, thus many were killed. An article with an accompanying photograph dated July 15, 1932 from a local newspaper was indeed confirmation of this unfortunate activity. In 1991, the Massasauga Rattlesnake was declared a threatened species and listed by COSEWIC.

Threats to the Ojibway Massasauga Rattlesnake population include the following:

- Urban development
- Habitat loss
- Human persecution
- Prairie degradation

Sadly, Massasauga Rattlesnakes continue to be persecuted. Earlier on the day of Tom's presentation, a dead rattlesnake had been brought into the centre after it had ventured into someone's back yard where a barking dog had alerted residents to its presence. This male snake was known to Ojibway Nature Centre as in 2004 it was captured and recorded as a juvenile.

In Ontario, the Massasauga Rattlesnake is found on the Bruce Peninsula, Georgian Bay, the Wainfleet Bog and the Ojibway area.

In 1999, Ojibway Nature Centre became a member of the Massasauga Recovery Team.

Current research activity related to Ojibway's snake population includes standardized searches for all snake species. This census gives an idea of the snake population and how well the population is doing. Massasauga Rattlesnakes under study are weighed, measured, and implanted with a microchip. Blood samples are also taken as part of the study. Radiotelemetry has provided a great deal of information to researchers including where Massasauga Rattlesnakes hibernate and the location of gestation sites.

Public education with respect to the future survival of the Massasauga Rattlesnake is very important. Every year the Ojibway Nature Centre staff talk to thousands of persons, including school children, educating them about the snakes in our area.

An immediate threat to the Massasauga Rattlesnakes is development on their territories. Tom showed a slide of houses under construction which had virtually destroyed the habitat of Massasauga Rattlesnakes in the area. Staff from Ojibway Nature Centre entered the area to find as many snakes as possible. After many hours of searching, two females and two males were located.

These rescued snakes were transported to the Toronto Zoo where the females gave birth to twenty-seven young. During their two and a half years at the Toronto Zoo, the young snakes grew rapidly and now look like adults.

A decision was made by the Massasauga Recovery Team to reintroduce the young snakes into the Ojibway Provincial Prairie Nature Reserve. All the snakes were implanted with transmitters which were placed in the snakes' body cavities. During this time a young man working on his PhD was able to undertake a study of transmitters and their affect on the snakes.

Permission was needed to repatriate the young snakes to the Nature Reserve. Permission was initially denied but the young caretaker of the snakes appealed to the Deputy Minister of Nature Resources who intervened, with permission finally received this spring to repatriate the young snakes.

A door to door community contact was organized resulting in just two calls from neighbors who were concerned regarding the repatriation.

A suitable release site needed to be located on the Nature Reserve. Massasauga Rattlesnakes did exist on the Nature Reserve in the late 1970s so the location was appropriate. Research has shown that the last Massasauga Snake was destroyed in 1978 near the Nature Reserve.

On June 7, 2006, twenty-seven young snakes were released to be monitored over two years with plans to remove the transmitters at that time. To ensure the young did not flee the good habitat on the Nature Reserve, two corrals were constructed of fabric, the lower fabric edge embedded in soil.

Tom told us that a lot of behaviour was observed over two days while the young snakes were held in the corrals. Behaviour observed included males in combat position, courting behaviour and two pairs mating. Video footage captured the "head twitch," which is courting behaviour, and also behaviour seen during combat between males.

When the fabric was removed, the young snakes stayed near the release site. A few took journeys but returned to the release site.

Two snakes, a male and female, did leave the release site, moving about 400 yards away. Tom noted that there was no signal from the pair but Tom did eventually picked up a faint signal from a kilometre away. When the transmitter was eventually located it was found in coyote scat. Likely the second snake was lost in the same manner.

Two researchers from the Toronto Zoo and York University were able to locate the transmitter of a third snake that disappeared. In this case the transmitter was found near the ribs and vertebrae of the snake. Researchers do not think that this was a coyote kill as the coyote would have consumed the entire snake.

Twenty-four snakes are now living on the Nature Reserve with three pairs observed in courtship behaviour. Researchers think that the snakes like their release site.

The short term goals for the Massasauga Rattlesnakes are:

- Avoid predators
- Find food including mice, shrews and voles
- Find suitable hibernation sites which have been identified as crayfish burrows
- Reproduction

The long term goal for the Massasauga Rattlesnakes is:

- To ensure a sustainable population of Massasauga Rattlesnakes in the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve

Ojibway Nature Centre has a program for the adoption of a Massasauga Rattlesnake by the public. Adopters will receive a folder with information on the snake adopted as well as a certificate. The ECFNC has already adopted a Massasauga Rattlesnake.

Thank you to Tom Preney for his excellent presentation and to Paul Pratt for stepping in for Karen Cedar to look after refreshments.

Visit the Ojibway Nature Centre's website for more information.

And the Winners Are Phoenix and Gwayah *In Bird Studies Canada's Latest News, August 18, 2006*

Bird Studies Canada (BSC) in conjunction with Essex County Field Naturalists' Club and Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, is pleased to announce that two winners have been selected in our Name-the-Bald-Eagles Contest. The contest was held recently as part of Peche Island Day, an environmental awareness day that took place on the Detroit River island.

Participants were asked to name two young eaglets hatched from nests in the Detroit River watershed. The eaglets were fitted with satellite transmitters, allowing their movements to be tracked over the next few years. After reviewing a large number of excellent entries, the judges selected the names Phoenix and Gwayah, which were submitted by E. Coventry and S. Edney.

Judges felt Phoenix – the name of a beautiful, immortal mythological bird that rose from its ashes every 500 years – symbolized the comeback of the Bald Eagle population in this area after significant population declines in the last 50 years. The second name, Gwayah, is short for Gwayahkooshkawin, which means “balance” in the Ojibway language. Unfortunately, Gwayah died recently despite extensive efforts made by experienced wildlife rehabilitators to save his life. Cause of death is unknown. The judges felt the name symbolizes the fragile balance between life and death faced by all wild animals, and is a fitting tribute to the memory of this young bird.

Essex County Field Naturalists' Club's Events, Meetings and Other Activities September 2006 through January 2007

For further information concerning the ECFNC excursions, contact JoAnn Grondin (519-734-0056), Margaret Jennings (519-250-0705), or Betty Learmouth (519-944-0825). Thank you to those who have volunteered to lead an excursion. Let us know about your ideas for upcoming excursions. Consider volunteering as an excursion leader.

September 1 – September 30 – Holiday Beach Conservation Area – Daily hawk watching from the hawk tower. All are welcome.

September 2 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Fall Bird Migration – A series of field trips to observe the incredible variety of bird life that migrate through Essex County. Register for the entire course and get a discount. Call Ojibway for locations. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. \$13/week

September 6 to October 1 – Point Pelee National Park – Monarchs and More hikes, Friday to Sunday. Time: 8:00 a.m.

September 9 – Point Pelee National Park – W.E. Saunders Birding Odyssey - The Friends of Point Pelee welcome you to a great experience for every level of birder. Call to register.

September 9 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Native Plant and Tree Sale – Attract wildlife to your yard with flowers, trees and shrubs. Join us at 9:00 a.m. for a one hour workshop “Gardening for the Birds.” Cost is \$5. Call Ojibway to register. The plant sale is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

September 9/10 – Festival of Hawks at Holiday Beach Conservation Area - Sharp-shinned Hawk Weekend, Monarchs & Hummingbirds – Enjoy a weekend of activities including guided hawk watching from the hawk tower, banding demonstrations and talks about raptors, passerines and Monarchs as well as live raptor displays. There will be hands-on children's nature crafts and a scavenger hunt.

On Saturday, September 9, 2006, Rachel Powless will give a Monarch tagging talk at 1:00 p.m. followed by Monarch Crafts at 1:30 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 9, 2006, Bob Pettit will present a raptor identification workshop in the Education Building.

Rachel Powless will present a Monarch natural heritage talk at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 10, 2006, followed by Monarch tagging at 2:00 p.m. and Monarch Crafts at 2:30 p.m.

Pelee Wings Nature Store's display will feature sales of binoculars, guide books, clothing, and nature photography. Light refreshments will be served at the Blue Kestrel Café.

ECFNC members are invited to volunteer to assist with the hands-on children's display, and at the Blue Kestrel Café.

September 11 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Preschool program - Captivating Critters (Ages 3-5) – Wildlife exploration and nature fun for the younger set. The first day of the class for September (September 11) is a one-hour introductory class for parents and children. There will be no class Thanksgiving Monday, October 9. Mondays 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. September 11 start. \$53/7 weeks

September 13 – ECFNC Monthly Members Meeting – Dan Dufour, staff person at Point Pelee National Park will present a talk entitled "Restoration at Point Pelee National Park." Meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room C of the Essex Civic Centre.

September 16 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Fall Bird Migration – A series of field trips to observe the incredible variety of bird life that migrate through Essex County. Call Ojibway for locations. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. \$13/week

September 16/17 – Festival of Hawks at Holiday Beach Conservation Area - Broad-winged Hawk Weekend, Dragonflies & Butterflies – Enjoy a weekend of activities including guided hawk watching from the hawk tower, banding demonstrations and talks about raptors, passerines and Monarchs as well as live raptor displays. There will be hands-on children's nature crafts and a scavenger hunt.

On Saturday, September 16, 2006, Rachel Powless will give a Monarch tagging talk at 1:00 p.m. followed by Monarch Crafts at 1:30 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 16, 2006, Bob Pettit will present a raptor identification workshop in the Education Building.

At 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 17, 2006, Paul Pratt of Ojibway Nature Centre will lead a **Fall Dragonfly Migration Walk.**

Rachel Powless will present a Monarch natural heritage talk at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 17, 2006, followed by Monarch tagging at 2:00 p.m. and Monarch Crafts at 2:30 p.m.

Pelee Wings Nature Store's display will feature sales of binoculars, guide books, clothing, and nature photography. Light refreshments will be served at the Blue Kestrel Café.

ECFNC members are invited to volunteer to assist with the hands-on children's display, and at the Blue Kestrel Café.

September 20 - Naturalized Habitat Network - For the first time, the Naturalized Habitat Network will be offering its Naturalized Landscape Course as a fall session. This unique six week course combines the best of traditional landscape concepts and techniques with practical information on native plants, attracting wildlife and other environmentally sustainable practices. This course includes planning and design concepts, as well construction and maintenance techniques, along with everything you will need to transform your landscape into a natural oasis! This course is open to all levels of gardening experience, whether you are a first time gardener or an expert.

This six week, adult evening course will be taught in Woodslee, at the Millen Center, which is found at 118 Malden Road. Classes begin on Wednesday, September 20, 2006 and continue on a weekly basis each Wednesday, over a six week period. All sessions begin at 7:00 p.m. and typically last about two hours. The cost for the combined six sessions are only \$48 per person. Seating is limited to the first 30 people, so advanced registration is required. To reserve your space, call us anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. at 519-259-2407.

September 23 – Festival of Hawks at Holiday Beach Conservation Area - Peregrine Falcon Day, Fall Warblers & Songbirds – Enjoy a weekend of activities including guided hawk watching from the hawk tower, banding demonstrations and talks about raptors, passerines and Monarchs as well as live raptor displays. There will be hands-on children's nature crafts and a scavenger hunt.

On Saturday, September 23, 2006, Rachel Powless will give a talk on Monarch tagging at 1:00 p.m. followed by Monarch Crafts at 1:30 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 23, 2006, Bob Pettit will present a raptor identification workshop in the Education Building.

Pelee Wings Nature Store's display will feature sales of binoculars, guide books, clothing, and nature photography. Light refreshments will be served at the Blue Kestrel Café. ECFNC members are invited to volunteer to assist with the hands-on children's display, and at the Blue Kestrel Café.

Sunday, September 24 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Reach Out to Wildlife – Discover fascinating facts about our local wildlife. Topic: Endangered Spaces. Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Fee: \$3/person or \$10/family

September 24 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Fall Colour Hikes – All ages will enjoy our spectacular fall colours on these guided hikes at Ojibway. Meet at 2:00 p.m. for an hour long hike. Fee: \$3/person or \$10/family

September 27 – ECFNC Executive Meeting

September 30 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Fall Bird Migration – A series of field trips to observe the incredible variety of bird life that migrate through Essex County. Call Ojibway for locations. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. \$13/week

October 1 – ECFNC Fall Excursion – Bruce Jones of the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy has kindly offered to guide ECFNC friends and members through the Humbug Marsh Complex (includes upland forest and wetlands), which is a portion of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and the only section of the Detroit River in Michigan with original shoreline. We will meet at 8:15 a.m. in the Ojibway Nature Centre's parking lot for car pooling.

We will cross the Detroit Bridge, then take I-75 south towards Toledo. At the West Road exit, we will exit and turn right onto West Road. At the next major intersection which is Allen Road we will turn right and go south for about one mile. At the intersection with Van Horne Road, turn left on to Van Horne and proceed to Jefferson. At Jefferson turn right (south) and proceed south past Detroit Edison, Solutia Chemical Plant, across the railroad track and immediately turn left through the gates into a large open field. Bruce will have a sign out at the road. Meeting time is 10:00 a.m. at Humbug Marsh. At noon, we will enjoy lunch (reasonably priced sandwiches and salads) at the Grosse Ile Golf Club restaurant which is open to the public.

October 1 – October 31 – Holiday Beach Conservation Area – Daily hawk watching from the hawk tower. All are welcome.

October 1 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Fall Colour Hikes – All ages will enjoy our spectacular fall colours on these guided hikes at Ojibway. Meet at 2:00 p.m. for an hour long hike. Fee: \$3/person or \$10/family

Tuesday, October 3 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Friends of Ojibway Fall Cleanup – Join the Friends of Ojibway Prairie as we help beautify our local natural areas between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Lunch is provided.

Saturday, October 7 – Canada South Land Trust Activity – Enjoy a morning behind the scenes at the Holiday Beach Migration Observatory with passerine banders Carl Pascoe and Rachel Powless. Activities begin at 8:00 a.m. Migrating songbirds and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds will be the focus. When you arrive relax with an early morning cup of coffee and a homemade muffin. Lunch will be served at noon. The fee for this event is \$30.00 which includes a \$20.00 charitable donation to the Land Trust. Please call Betty at 519-944-0825 for more information and to reserve your spot. The fee to enter Holiday Beach Conservation Area is \$7.00 if you do not have a yearly pass.

Sunday, October 8 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Reach Out to Wildlife – Discover fascinating facts about our local wildlife. Topic: Endangered Species. Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Fee: \$3/person or \$10/family

Sunday, October 8.- Ojibway Nature Centre – Fall Colour Hikes – All ages will enjoy our spectacular fall colours on these guided hikes at Ojibway. Meet at 2:00 p.m. for an hour long hike. Fee: \$3/person or \$10/family

Monday, October 9 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Fall Colour Festival features walks, crafts, displays, food sales and more. Event from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. See flyer in this issue of *The Egret*.

October 11 – ECFNC Monthly Members Meeting – Holiday Beach Migration Observatory Hummingbird Bander Carl Pascoe will provide an update on the information gathered on our Essex County Ruby-throated Hummingbirds over the past season. Meet in Room C of the Essex Civic Centre at 7:30 p.m..

October 14 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Fall Bird Migration – A series of field trips to observe the incredible variety of bird life that migrate through Essex County. Call Ojibway for locations. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. \$13/week

October 15 – ECFNC and CSLT Excursion – Enjoy a colourful fall walk through Bill Balkwill's and Jack Balkwill's woodland located in the Town of Kingsville. Meet at 2:00 p.m. To reach Bill's home, if you are in Essex proceed south along County Road 23 (the Arner Townline) watching for Road 2 W (West) which will be on your left. Turn left (heading east) and proceed a short distance to house number 1880 on your left. Proceed down the lane.

October 15 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Fall Colour Hikes – All ages will enjoy our spectacular fall colours on these guided hikes at Ojibway. Meet at 2:00 p.m. for an hour long hike. Fee: \$3/person or \$10/family

October 22 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Fall Colour Hikes – All ages will enjoy our spectacular fall colours on these guided hikes at Ojibway. Meet at 2:00 p.m. for an hour long hike. Fee: \$3 /person or \$10/family

October 22 – ECFNC Excursion – Join naturalist Larry Cornelis for a guided tour to Wallaceburg's Sycamore Woods with its old growth oaks and sycamores as well as a recently created wetland restoration site located on the Cornelis family farm. We will carpool from Silvercity on Walker Road at 12 noon with a meeting time of 2:00 p.m. at the Tim Horton's next to the Canadian Tire Store in the Wallaceburg Mall.

Directions to Wallaceburg via Prairie Siding are as follows: Proceed East on Highway 401 to the second Tilbury exit with is just past the service centre. Turn right onto Highway 2 still heading east. Turn left onto Kent Road 7. Pass over two sets of railway tracks, passing through Prairie Siding and turn right at the Yield sign. You are now following the Thames River. Turn left onto the Prairie Siding Bridge. Proceed to the first major intersection which is the Paincourt Line or County Road 35. Turn right or east at the intersection. Proceed to the stop sign at Paincourt. Turn left on the Winter Line Road or County Road 34. Follow to County Road 42 which is near Mitchells Bay. Turn right onto County Road 42 at the next stop sign, road jogs to the left, then go right at the next intersection which connects to Highway 40. Follow Highway 40 into Wallaceburg and watch for the Wallaceburg Mall on your left.

October 25 – ECFNC Executive Meeting

October 28 – Ojibway Nature Centre - Ontario Nature's fall meeting for Carolinian West (representatives of 13 member nature organizations in Elgin, Essex, Lambton, and Middlesex) will take place at the Ojibway Nature Centre from 10:00 a.m. until mid afternoon. Host clubs are the ECFNC and Little River Enhancement Group.

October 29 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Fall Bird Migration – A series of field trips to observe the incredible variety of bird life that migrate through Essex County. Call Ojibway for locations. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. \$13/week

October 29 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Fall Colour Hikes – All ages will enjoy our spectacular fall colours on these guided hikes at Ojibway. Meet at 2:00 p.m. for an hour long hike. Fee: \$3 /person or \$10/family

November 1 - 30 – Holiday Beach Conservation Area – Daily hawk watching from the hawk tower. All are welcome

Sunday, November 5 – ECFNC Activity – Meet ECFNC member Gerry Waldron at the active landfill restoration site in the Town of Essex for tree maintenance including pruning and placement of tree guards on young trees. Please bring your own shears. Meet at 1:00 p.m. for full instructions from Gerry and/or Peggy Hurst. Directions: Proceed south from the Essex by-pass on County Road 23 (Arner Town Line) watching for County Road 18 on your right with the sign for the landfill. Turn right at this intersection and meet at the entrance to the landfill. We will then drive to the restoration site.

Sunday, November 5 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Reach Out to Wildlife – Discover fascinating facts about our local wildlife. Topic: Backyard visitors. Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Fee: \$3/person or \$10/family

Sunday, November 5 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Fall Colour Hikes – All ages will enjoy our spectacular fall colours on these guided hikes at Ojibway. Meet at 2:00 p.m. for an hour long hike. Fee: \$3 /person or \$10/family

November 6 – Ojibway Nature Centre – Preschool program Captivating Critters (Ages 3-5) – Wildlife exploration and nature fun for the younger set. The first day of the class for November (November 6) is a one-hour introductory class for parents and children. Mondays 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. November 6 start. \$53/7 weeks

November 11 – ECFNC Annual Dinner and Silent Auction – Guest speaker at our 22d annual dinner will be Dr. Brock Fenton, Chair of the University of Western Ontario's Biology Department. Dr. Fenton has entitled his talk "Listening In On the Lives of Bats" Dr. Fenton writes: I will reflect on some of the basics about bat biology, from how they are built to how they operate. I will also speak about what they say and what it might mean. The issues around bats and people, from public health to myths about vampires also will be discussed." This year's dinner will be held in the Udine Hall, Fogolar Furlan Club. See the flyer in this issue of *The Egret* for more information regarding menu and tickets.

Donations of nature oriented items are welcome for the silent auction. Please call Betty regarding your donation pickup or delivery.

Donations of sweets to the pastry and sweets table would be appreciated.

November 12 – December 10 – Art Gallery of Windsor – An exhibition of nature paintings by Mary Celestino will be held at the Art Gallery of Windsor. Join Mary on November 12, 2006 for a reception and talk by the artist of an exhibit entitled "Where Lands Divide and Waters Flow." Please see the flyer in this issue of *The Egret* for more details including Gallery hours.

December 2 - Ojibway Nature Centre – Fall Bird Migration – A series of field trips to observe the incredible variety of bird life that migrated through Essex County. Call Ojibway for locations. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. \$13/week

December 7 – Canada South Land Trust – Enjoy a supper and talk by Allen Woodliffe entitled "History of Prairies in Southwestern Ontario." This is a fund raising event by the CSLT to be held at the Essex Civic Centre. For more details call Betty Learmouth.

December 14 – ECFNC Members Night – Share favourite slides or a plate of goodies or an album of pictures of a special event. Meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room C of the Essex Civic Centre.

December 16 – Cedar Creek Christmas Bird Count – Call Ojibway Nature Centre for details and to be assigned to a group in one of the areas within the count which is conducted in a radius of 15 miles from Cedar Creek. Everyone is welcome.

December 17 – Rondeau Park Christmas Bird Count

December 18 – Point Pelee National Park Christmas Bird Count

December 23 – Rockwood Christmas Bird Count

December 28 – 2d Annual Holiday Beach Christmas Bird Count

December 29 – Lakeshore Christmas Bird Count

January 1, 2007 – Detroit River Christmas Bird Count. Call Ojibway Nature Centre for more details.

January 10, 2007 – ECFNC Monthly Members Meeting – Enjoy a 50 minute presentation with Tom Hince and Paul Pratt entitled *Venezuela Revisited*. The program retraces a birding itinerary Paul and Tom did several times in the late eighties and early nineties then repeated in Winter 2006. Meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room C.

Welcome to ECFNC New and Returning Members

Paul and Joy Beggs and son Carter
Ferdinanda Van Gennip and Bruce Burton
Les Dickirson
Stephen Kapusta
Dawn Warkentin
Betty and Joe Williams

Introducing....

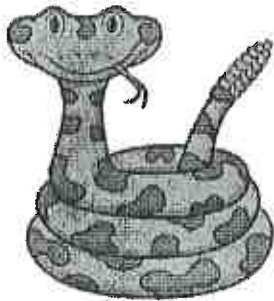
Ojibway's ADOPT-A-SNAKE PROGRAM!!

“Why adopt a snake?”

Adopting a snake makes a great gift for:

- **The snake-lover**
- **The environmentalist**
- **It is great for classes!**
- **Environmental clubs or groups**

The snakes in our area are becoming more and more threatened by development and lack of education. Adopting a snake means that you **CARE!!**



“And what’s in it for me?”

For a \$50 adoption fee, you will receive...

- ❖ A birth registration certificate of your snake
- ❖ YOU get to name your snake!
- ❖ Updates and information on your snake and its “friends”
- ❖ Invitations to Endangered Species workshops at Ojibway Nature Centre
- ❖ Updates and unique interactive activities on the web

Best of all, you will learn about the habits and life of the Massasauga rattlesnake, and spread the word about these fascinating animals!

If you, your class or group is interested in Adopting-a-Snake, please call:

Ojibway Nature Centre 519-966-5852



For more information on the Massasauga rattlesnake, and other snakes in our area, check out our website at: www.ojibway.ca



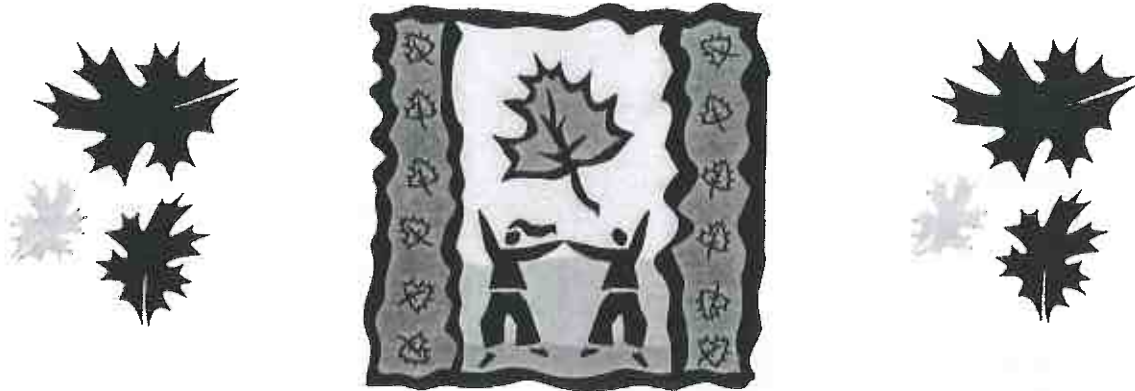
This program is supported by the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species At Risk.



Enjoy Ojibway's spectacular fall colours
Sunday afternoons October 1 to November 12.

Guided nature hike at 2:00 pm with leaf
identification books & crazy tree trivia

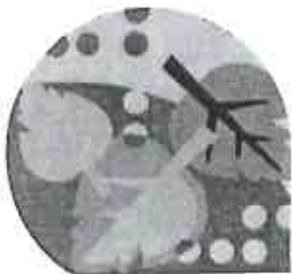
Fee: \$4/person or \$10/family



Don't forget to join us for our Fall
Colour Festival on Monday October 9

from noon to 4:00 pm. Free

Fall crafts, scavenger hunts, snake
tracking demonstration and more!



Ojibway Nature Centre
5200 Matchette Road, Windsor
966-5852 www.ojibway.ca





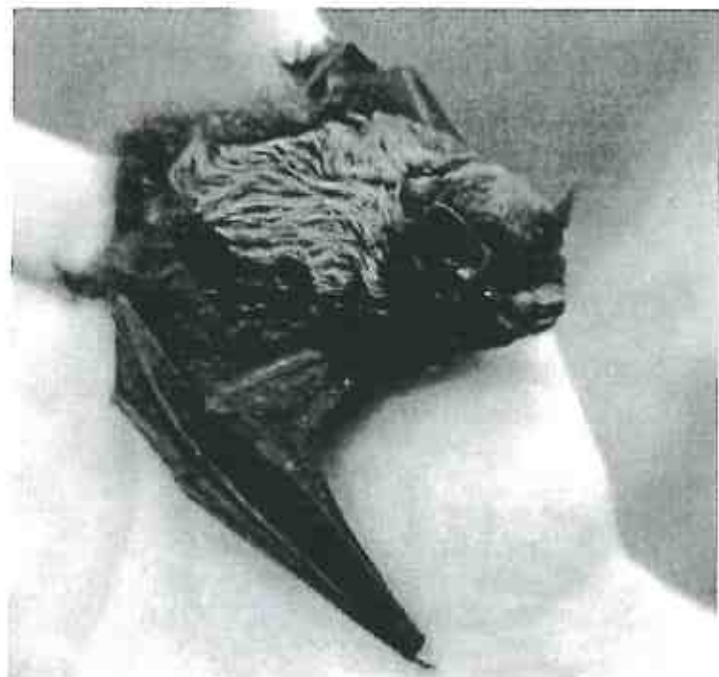
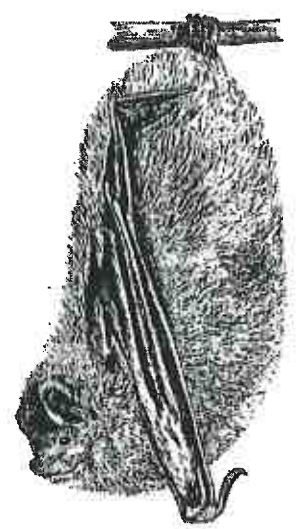
Essex County Field Naturalists' Club Annual Dinner

Fogolar Furlan Club - Udine Hall
1800 E.C. Row (N. Service Rd.) Windsor

Saturday, November 11, 2006
6:00 pm cocktails 7:00 pm dinner

Guest Speaker: Dr. Brock Fenton
Listening in on the lives of Bats:
From bat biology to public health issues

Door Prizes
Giant Silent Auction



Menu

- Antipasto Verde
- Crusty Italian Dinner Rolls
- Pasta with Tomato & Basil Sauce
- Tossed Salad
- Roast Chicken and Roast Beef
- Roasted Potatoes
- Seasonal Vegetable
- Fruit & Sweets
- Coffee & tea
- Cash bar

Vegetarians:
Please ask for Eggplant Parmigiana when
you purchase your ticket

Tickets: \$30

Available at Ojibway Nature Centre
5200 Matchette Road, Windsor 966-5852



The
ART GALLERY of WINDSOR

is proud to present
the latest series of nature paintings

by
MARY CELESTINO

**"WHERE LANDS DIVIDE
AND WATERS FLOW"**

depicting some of the most
remote areas of Essex County

**NOVEMBER 12-DECEMBER 10
2006**

**RECEPTION & TALK by ARTIST
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12
2-4 PM**

Everyone is welcome

**AGW-401 Riverside Drive, West
Windsor, Ont. N9A 7J1**

Gallery hours,
Wed 11-8 PM
Th & Fri 11-9 PM
Sat & Sun 11-5 PM

for further info call
SARAH PETERS
(519) 977-0013
Ext 147

MARY CELESTINO
is the author of
WILDFLOWERS of the CANADIAN ERIE ISLANDS