



# Nature Guelph

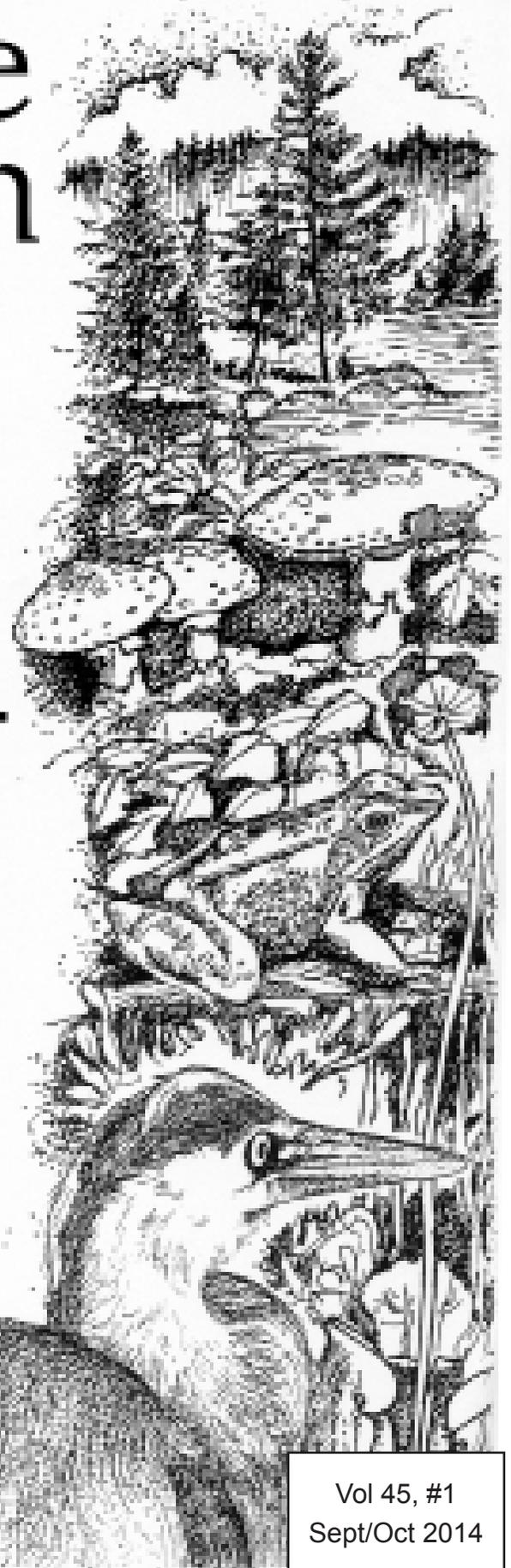
**invites you to their  
monthly meetings**

**An investigation  
and appreciation  
of our natural world.**

**Thursday  
September 11  
7:30 pm**

**and the 2nd Thursday  
of every month from  
September to June**

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<http://natureguelph.ca/>**



Vol 45, #1  
Sept/Oct 2014

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — Jenn Bock**

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Another summer—albeit, in some ways, a rather strange one—has come and gone. And after our regular summer club hiatus, I have to admit—we've missed all of your smiling faces! It seems that many people haven't minded the warmer days, cooler evenings and higher-than-average summer rainfall. The world looks especially green and there are plenty of smiles on the faces of those spending time outdoors! In August, we enjoyed the beach, the Perseid meteor shower and the beginning of shorebird and warbler migration. Now, as we approach the equinox, it's time to pull out our wool sweaters and gear up to appreciate turtle eggs hatching, Monarch Watch and late wildflowers like asters, goldenrod and phlox.

As Pete mentioned in his last President's Message, the changing of the seasons this year also signifies some major changes to your Nature Guelph Executive Committee. We're sad to see a few dedicated members move on to other things and thankful for their countless contributions. We are also excited to welcome a few new executive members. Please take some time to get to know these wonderful people – they work hard to make sure that this great club runs smoothly.

I'm really honoured and excited to be starting my 3-year term as President. I have tons of new ideas, but my primary goal is to do my

best to continue providing this incredible club with the quality of leadership that we've become accustomed to. Our last few presidents, Pete Kelly, Val Fieldwebster and Carol Koenig (plus all of those who came before them) left some VERY big shoes to fill, and while people like them are obviously irreplaceable, I promise to do my best to follow suit.

Finally, fall can also be a great time to try something new. Visit a local natural area that you've never been to, make some new friends at a Nature Guelph outdoor program, pick up an unfamiliar field guide or try volunteering on the Nature Guelph executive!

That's one of the amazing things about our natural world—there is always something fun to learn, something new to see, someplace else to explore or someone new to share it with!



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## **NEWSLETTER — Sandra MacGregor and Susan Atkinson**

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The newsletter is published five times a year – every two months except July and August. Please send all contributions for the next issue (Nov/Dec) to [Susan Atkinson](#). The deadline is September 20th. Thank you to all contributors. Stephen Lewis is our front page artist — thank you Steve. **PERSONAL WANT ADS:** As a service to members we run personal “want” ads or “for sale” ads of a nature theme at no charge. Contact Susan if you have anything to sell or there is something you want to acquire.

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## INDOOR PROGRAM — Peter Kelly

All meetings begin at 7:30 pm (December and June excepted) on the second Thursday of each month, and are held at the University of Guelph's Arboretum Centre. For confirmation and updates, please visit our website at [www.natureguelph.ca](http://www.natureguelph.ca). We begin with a brief business meeting, followed by a 10-minute break then the speaker's presentation. **Non-members are very welcome and goodwill donations are gratefully appreciated - suggested contribution is \$2 per person.** We ask that you do not use perfumes out of respect for people who are allergic to them. The entrance to the Arboretum is on College Avenue just west of Victoria Road. For a map see: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/thingstosee/printmap.shtml>

### **Thursday Sept 11th — A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A HERPER Kyle Horner,**

From Spring in southern Ontario through Summer on Georgian Bay, to Fall in Illinois and Winter in sunny Florida, this presentation takes the form of a year-long journey down the eastern seaboard of North America in search of the region's most fascinating reptiles and amphibians. Accompanied by an array of unique photos, Kyle will share some natural history and some of his favourite stories from the road

### **Thursday October 9th — RARE WOODY PLANTS OF ONTARIO, Sean Fox, Assistant Manager and Head Horticulturist at the University of Guelph Arboretum**

Southern Ontario is home to the richest diversity of woody plant species in all of Canada, and also some of the most threatened. An in-depth look at these rare woody plants reveals the beauty and mystery that is hidden away right under our noses in this part of the province. Detailed photographs, in addition to the latest research, will guide the audience through the natural history, ecological connections and distribution of these species, as well as the recent conservation measures that are being taken to help protect them.

### **Thursday November 13th — BIRDS AND DINOSAURS OF THE ALBERTA BADLANDS, Jody Allair, Biologist and Science Educator, Bird Studies Canada**

Join Bird Studies Canada biologist Jody Allair for a look at the amazing world of the southern Alberta badlands. This talk will highlight some of the unique natural history that exists in this strange and beautiful region of Canada. We will also look at some of the prehistoric life that existed in this region 70 million years ago and discuss the fascinating link between modern birds and their ancestors – the theropod dinosaurs.

### **Thursday December 11th — POTLUCK AND MEMBERS' NIGHT, 6PM**

## NATURE GUELPH EXECUTIVE POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Several executive members have retired so some positions are open. If you are interested in any of them, please let any current members of the executive know. It is a fun group to work with, and of course you know your volunteer time goes towards spreading the word about Nature to our community.

- Vice President
- Outdoor Program Coordinator
- Bird Wing Coordinator

You can find details of what each position entails by asking the current holder, or obtaining a copy of our bylaws and procedures.

## Nature Guelph Membership and Tax Receipts

Nature Guelph does not issue tax receipts for membership that can be treated by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) as charitable donations for income tax purposes, since we consider membership does not qualify as such under the CRA guidelines and rules. Nature Guelph welcomes donations to the General Fund or to the Reinder Westerhoff Education Fund, and will issue receipts for income tax purposes for donations of \$10 or above. Donations can be given or sent to the Treasurer, or can be made on-line through the Canada Helps website. John Prescott, Treasurer

## Ontario Nature Report – by Mary Ellen Pyear

“Loon Calls on the Lake” was the theme for Ontario Nature’s 83rd Annual Gathering which took place at the YMCA Geneva Park facility in Orillia during the weekend of June 20. At least four members of Nature Guelph shared the weekend with like-minded people and all were blessed with beautiful weather. There were two workshops offered on Saturday and lots of choices, such as Gardening with Native Plants; Looking for Salamanders on the Forest Floor; and The Study of Damselflies and Dragonflies, to name just a few. Sunday’s all-day field trip choices featured an equally interesting variety, like an Interpretive Tour of Altberg Wildlife Sanctuary and a Minesing Wetlands Canoe Tour.

Friday night’s welcome dinner was followed by a group activity: The Great Ontario Natural History Quiz. Working in teams, we were asked to identify a variety of skulls, antlers, turtle shells, etc. and answer questions about the animals. The night concluded with an amazing display of fireworks.

On Saturday, Doug Tozer from Bird Studies Canada gave a talk entitled: Lessons from Loons: what our wilderness symbol is telling us. Many of us were surprised to learn loons can be vicious and territorial as they survive and reproduce. We also learned how human activities are affecting and challenging their way of life on our northern lakes. The talk was followed by a morning workshop. I chose one called Children in the Woods with Skid Crease of Econnexus. As an international educator, author, and storyteller, he challenged us to leave our nature guides behind and experience nature mainly through a childish sense of wonder. The afternoon workshop I attended was Nature Photography presented by David Kennedy of the Couchiching Conservancy.

The Annual General Meeting and 2013 Conservation Awards Ceremony took place late Saturday afternoon. Two members from our Great Lakes West Region of ON received awards. Tom Lobb of the Huron Fringe

Field Naturalists received the ON Achievement Award for his many years of monitoring and protecting wood turtles along the Maitland River. Craig Campbell of the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists won the WWH Gunn Award for a long career devoted to the study and documentation of many aspects of Ontario’s natural heritage.

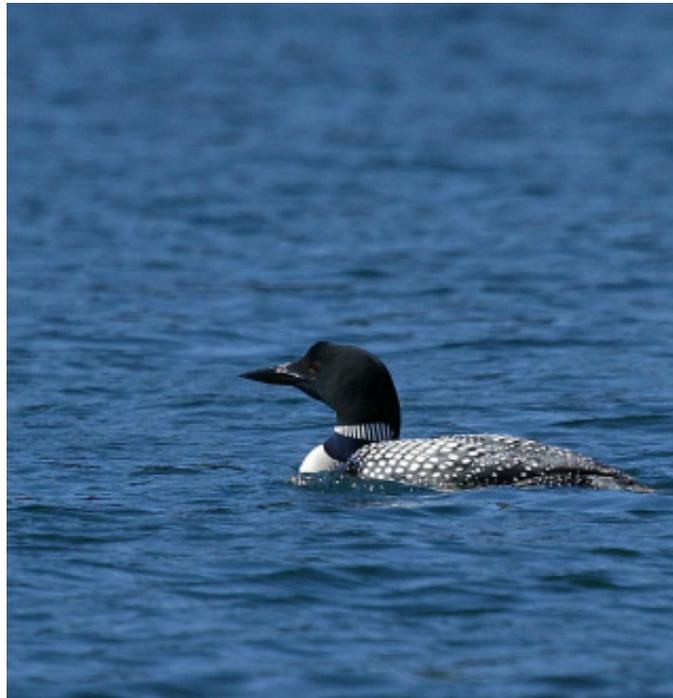
After the banquet, David Phillips, Senior Climatologist for Environment Canada, presented a very up-to-date and interesting talk titled “What’s Happening to the Weather?” Following his talk, six young members of Ontario Nature’s Youth Council spoke about their involvement with ON. The four high school and two university students were so passionate that they brought tears to the eyes of many audience members. What an inspiration it was to hear them speak about what they have done in their respective communities to try to involve others in

protecting the environment for future generations!

Sunday morning I was part of the all-day bus trip to the Carden Alvar and the outing called Birds of Carden’s Windmill Ranch. Our group was headed up by Ron Reid, Carden Program Coordinator for the Couchiching Conservancy and Janet Grand, owner of the Bird House Nature Company in Orillia.

I came away from the entire weekend experience with some great memories and several questions. Why had I not attended more Ontario Nature events like this one? Why did I deliberate about the cost of attending this event? The accommo-

dations and food were excellent and the quality of the speakers, the workshops, and the field trips were top notch and worth every dollar. I look forward to future ON annual gatherings where I can spend quality time with like-minded people who appreciate what nature has to offer. Special thanks to Ontario Nature and its dedicated staff who organized and ran a very successful weekend gathering at Geneva Park. Hopefully, more Nature Guelph members will consider being part of this event next year!



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## NEARBY NATURALIST CLUBS' MEETINGS

**K-W FIELD NATURALISTS** See [www.kwfn.ca](http://www.kwfn.ca)

**Monday, Sept 22**, 7:30pm. Rotary Centre, Waterloo  
The Canadian Peregrine Foundation, Speaker Mark Nash

**Monday, Oct 27**, 7:30pm  
80th anniversary of KWFN, Speaker Mary Ann Vanden Elzen

**HALTON NORTH PEEL NATURE CLUB** See [www.hnpnc.com](http://www.hnpnc.com)

**Tuesday Sept. 9**, 7:30pm, Roadside Ecology, Speaker Prof. Josh Feltham

**HAMILTON NATURALIST CLUB** See [www.hamiltonnature.org](http://www.hamiltonnature.org)

**Monday Sept 8**, 7:00pm RBG, Burlington, Ontario's Endangered Species and Why they Matter, with Kyle McLoughlin.

**Monday, Oct 6**. 7:00pm at RBG, Burlington  
Stewards of Cootes Watershed, speaker is Alan Hansell.

**RARE** See [www.raresites.org](http://www.raresites.org)

**Sunday, September 14**, 2014 1:00pm to 3:00pm, George St. Parking Lot  
Join David d'Entremont as he takes you on a whirlwind hiking tour of the odonata: our amazing damselflies and dragonflies. Learn about these fantastic fliers and voracious predators, and discover how to identify the diversity of species flying around you! Meet at the George Street parking lot (just east of the intersection of George St N and Blair Road). Cost \$8.00, preregister on line.

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## Protect Our Speed River Heritage Valley Lands

This grassroots group believes there is serious threat to the Niska Road/Speed River Valley Lands. According to their website, the City of Guelph has begun an Environmental Assessment for Niska Road, which will be identifying all options including the rehabilitation and replacement options for the Niska Road, the Bailey Bridge and Niska Road from the Speed River to Downey Road. Some potential options under consideration include road widening and re-grading, which according to the group could "...permanently alter the Speed River Valley Lands and could damage or even destroy the viewsapes forever." Visit their website (<http://protectourspeedriverheritagevalleylands.ca>) for more information on this important ongoing issue.

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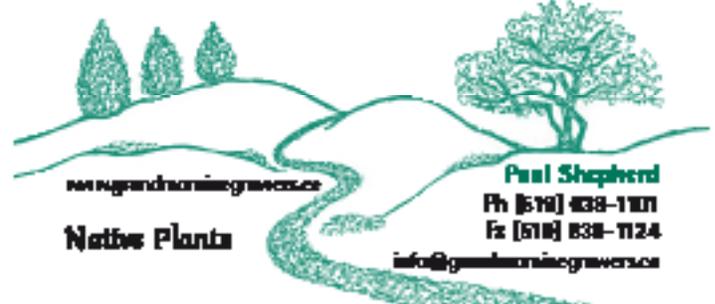


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## Members in the News

### CHARLIE CECILE HONORED WITH MAYOR'S AWARD — John Prescott

On June 26, 2014, Charlie's hard work as a long-time advocate for the environment was recognized when he (along with three other local recipients) were honored with Mayor's Awards at the Guelph Chamber of Commerce's annual Awards of Excellence gala.

Charlie Cecile has been an active volunteer for Nature Guelph (previously Guelph Field Naturalists) for over 20 years. During that time he has held several different Executive functions including Newsletter Editor, Secretary, Treasurer, and Environmental Committee coordinator. An expert ecologist, with an outstanding knowledge of plants, trees, mammals and birds, Charlie has volunteered over many years in leading outdoor programs for Nature Guelph to share his love and knowledge of nature. Charlie's outstanding and unique contribution to the citizens of Guelph has also been in his role as coordinator of the Environmental Committee of Nature Guelph. As a trained ecologist, Charles provides a knowledgeable and respected voice in advocating for the protection of Guelph's natural heritage system. His leadership has undoubtedly led to measurable improvements in the quality of our environment.

On behalf of Nature Guelph, Charlie has devoted countless hours to thoroughly reviewing development applications, visiting and reviewing the sites of proposed developments, and commenting on their environmental implications. He routinely attends and makes submissions at the monthly Environmental Advisory Committee meetings, communicates with staff in the Planning Department, and provides comments to City Council on key environmental concerns. He has made important and well-argued suggestions that have led to the

mitigation of the adverse ecological impact of development proposals.

Charlie's comments reflect a deep knowledge and understanding of the requirements of Environmental Impact Studies, of the City of Guelph's Natural Heritage Strategy, and of relevant provincial policy relating to development, including the protection

of wetlands and water tables and of endangered or threatened species. He has a profound knowledge of the natural history of the Guelph area. His carefully crafted and detailed letters have been influential in assisting the city's Environmental Advisory Committee in their review of proposed developments.

He has remained calm and

un-rattled in the face of public attacks by irate developers. He has been persistent in his willingness to articulate what he recognizes as inappropriate development, including that which contravenes the city's and province's strategies and policies.

Because of his long involvement in the development planning process, Charlie has been able to offer an historical perspective on the cumulative impact of changes to the landscape within the City. Because of both his profound knowledge and of his approach, Charlie manages to maintain a mutually respectful relationship with City of Guelph planners. He and the Club have, where relevant, also provided supportive comments for well planned developments that are respectful of the environment.

Charlie has been consistent in informing and educating the Executive and membership of Nature Guelph about development proposals and about changing city and provincial policies.

We are proud and honored to work with him. Congratulations Charlie on this well-deserved award.



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**NATURE GUELPH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2014-2015**

New Member  or Renewal  Update  Member's Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_

Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Individual \$25, Student (Full time only) \$10 ) Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Tax receipt over \$10.00)

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash  Cheque  Make cheques payable to: Nature Guelph

Address \_\_\_\_\_ I require a mailed copy of the News Letter available on website

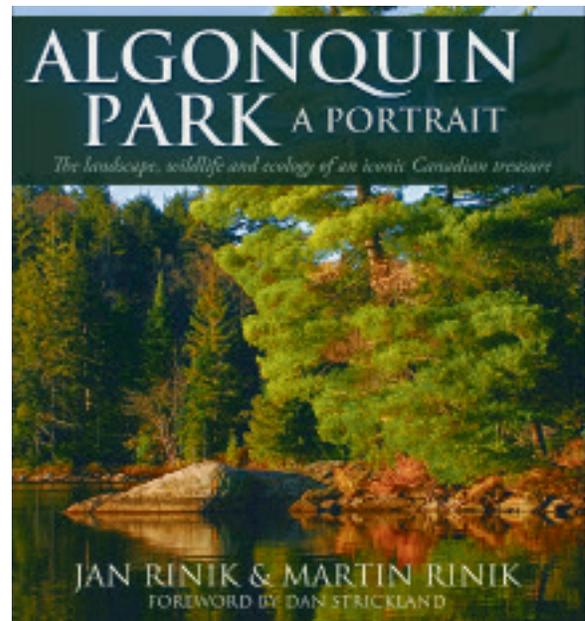
Contact Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

(Required) I authorize Nature Guelph to communicate with me by e-mail YES  NO  signature \_\_\_\_\_

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**New Release**  
**Algonquin Park: A Portrait**

This new book on one of Canada's favorite provincial parks features colour photographs, paintings, and illustrations to show the diverse life of the park--not only in the summer, but in all four seasons. Talented painters, illustrators, and photographers Jan and Martin Rinik have spent years creating the rich range of visuals in this book. More than 200 colour illustrations grace these pages, along with 125 photographs of the park in all four seasons. With his training as a biologist, Martin Rinik contributes authoritative information on the many species found in the park. The result is a stunning and informative portrait one of the most diverse natural habitats in the world. Order it now at [www.formac.ca](http://www.formac.ca) or [Amazon.ca](http://Amazon.ca).



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## NATURE GUELPH — EXECUTIVE

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# Nature Guelph

## NG CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Thur Sept 11.....	Indoor Meeting .....	A Year in the Life of a Herper.....	7:30 pm.....	Arboretum
Thur Oct 9.....	Indoor Meeting .....	Rare Woody Plants.....	7:30 pm.....	Arboretum
Thur Nov 13.....	Indoor Meeting .....	Alberta Badlands Birds and Dinosaurs... ..	7:30 pm.....	Arboretum
Thur Dec 11 .....	Indoor Meeting .....	Potluck and Members' Night .....	6:00 pm.....	Arboretum

*The human spirit needs places where nature has not been rearranged by the hand of man. ~Author unknown.*