



Nature
Guelph

invites you to hear

Dave Taylor

**GREATER
YELLOWSTONE:
AMERICA'S
SERENGETI**

Thursday

7:30 pm

May 12

2016



U. OF G
ARBORETUM CENTRE
EVERYONE WELCOME

Vol 46, #5
May/June 2016

<http://natureguelph.ca/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — Jenn Bock

Tuning in With All 5 Senses

We've all heard the phrase, but how often do you ACTUALLY stop and smell the roses? Next time you head out into your backyard or hit the trails, consider taking the time to engage your other senses.

Sight – Most of us use this sense primarily when taking in information about the world around us. There are plenty of beautiful things to see this time of year – dazzling colours, intricate patterns, etc. But don't forget to also take a look at the little things. Watch those ants crawling up tree bark, or watch a little riffle in a creek. These things are wonderful too, and can be easily overlooked.

Sound – Head out to your favourite nature spot and close your eyes for a moment. Let the sounds wash over you. There are plenty of things that sounds can tell us about the natural world. If you listen carefully, you might be able to tell if a squirrel is burying something in the leaves nearby, or if chickadees are perturbed by an unwanted guest (perhaps a small owl in a nearby hedge...?). And who doesn't love the sound of frogs calling in the spring or cicadas singing on a hot summer day?

Smell – Scientists say that for many, our sense of smell is the one most closely tied to memories. Sniffing fragrant flowers seems kind of obvious, but there are plenty of other great smells! I've always loved that "after it rains" smell (did you know it's called *petrichor*?), which is caused by raindrops kicking up plant oils and bacterial byproducts. There are plenty of other scents to explore, some lovely, some not so lovely, but all interesting!

Touch – From polished stones on the beach, to velvety soft white pine needles, there are tons of nice things to touch out in nature. Next time you're out, see if you can find something very rough, like the bark of a Black Cherry tree, or something cold and squishy, like a good mud puddle! But be careful – while many things in nature are OK to touch, some plants and animals should be avoided. Just be sure you know what you're reaching for before you get handsy!

Taste – This one is a fun sense to explore, but just like touching, it's VERY important to be absolutely sure of what you're getting in to. It might be a good idea to steer clear of using this sense in nature, unless you're in the company of an expert.

Taking the time to experience nature in these new (or maybe just forgotten) ways can really spice up a simple visit to a place you've been a hundred times before – so why not give it a try?

NEWSLETTER — Sandra MacGregor and Susan Atkinson

The newsletter is published five times a year – every two months except July and August. Please send all contributions for the next issue (Sept/Oct2016) to [Susan Atkinson](#). The deadline is **Aug. 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.

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. 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>

Thurs, May 12, 7PM: "Greater Yellowstone: America's Serengeti" with Dave Taylor. The Greater Yellowstone ecosystem is without doubt the best place in North America to see large herds of wildlife and their attendant predators. Knowing when to go and where to look are keys to capturing the magnificent wildlife pageant as it plays out over the course of a year. Equally important is the land, which sets the stage for the drama. Dave Taylor also looks into the science behind the changes occurring in the region.

Thurs, June 16, 6PM: Member Potluck at President Jenn Bock's house. Meet at 137 York Rd. (lots of parking on Neeve St.) at 6pm for a backyard potluck. There will be a BBQ available for use. Members are invited to bring drinks if they want. We'll be outside, rain or shine. Members should also bring their own dishes and a chair if they can. We will go for a nature walk along the river trail after dinner.

Ontario Nature Report – by Mary Ellen Pyear

It was announced that next year's AGM for ON members would take place at the Evergreen Resort at Red Bay on the Bruce Peninsula over the weekend of June 3-5, 2016—so mark those dates in your calendar! On the agenda at the AGM would be hikes to Petrel Point Nature Reserve and other places of interest on the Bruce Peninsula.

SAVE THE DATE: NATURE GUELPH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY!

Be sure to mark Oct. 16th, 2016 in your calendars! Nature Guelph will be celebrating 50 wonderful years as a nature club at the River Run Centre and we would like to see you all there to help us celebrate this auspicious occasion!

Calling All Missing in Action Members!

Do you know the contact information for any previous Nature Guelph/Guelph Field Naturalists members, who have since moved away, and may not know about our 50th anniversary celebrations coming up in October? If so, please pass their information on to Brett Forsyth at info@brettforsyth.com or call Susan at 519-837-9470 and we'll let them know about the upcoming festivities.

Help Nature Guelph Make the Arboretum's Windows "Bird Friendly"

Glass kills between 100 million and a billion birds annually in North America. Nature Guelph has an agreement with the Arboretum, University of Guelph, to donate the cost of covering its 10 large plate glass windows with FeatherFriendly "dots" (<http://www.conveniencegroup.com/featherfriendly/feather-friendly>).

The intention of this project is not just to "bird proof" the Arboretum windows, but it is really to provide a demonstration site in Guelph and publicly inspire others to address this important issue. Costs for professional installation of the dots on the 10 large windows and signage will be \$8,100. **The Gosling Foundation will match private donations by up to \$1500.** Donations can be made on-line to Nature Guelph via [Canada Helps](#) or by cheque to "Nature Guelph". Receipts for income tax purposes will be issued through Canada Helps or by Nature Guelph.

WILDFLOWER SOCIETY MEETINGS

Wed May 18, Spring Wildflower Walk, 7:00 pm: University of Guelph Arboretum Centre Parking Lot
Directions: Go East on College Ave from Gordon St (turn left if heading south from Wellington, turn right if heading north from Stone). Just before Victoria turn right into the Arboretum access road. Park in the lot just outside the Arboretum Centre and meet us for a walk through the Victoria Woods.

Sat, May 28, Annual Native Plant Sale, Waterworks Place, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm: Annual native plant sale. Drop off labelled donated plants between 4 and 6 pm Friday May 27 or bring to the sale on Saturday.

Wed, June 15, Mystery Wildflower Walk, 7:00 pm: Meet at The Enabling Garden in Riverside Park
Drive through the parking lot at the Evergreen Centre, down the hill past the apartment building to The Enabling Garden. We will tour the woodland garden then carpool for a walk.

TRACKING CLUB MEETINGS

Sunday, May 1st, 7:00 am, Bird Language Tracking, Meet at the Guelph Lake Nature Centre
Sunday, June 5th, 7:00 am Bird Language Tracking, Meet at the Guelph Lake Nature Centre

Outings will run for approximately 2.5 hours.

Birds are the "alarm system" of the forest, broadcasting the whereabouts of hawks, owls, foxes and more through their calls and postures. During this tracking club outing, we will spend one hour sitting and listening for bird songs and alarms and observing the landscape for signs of mammal activity. Each person will choose their own location to sit so we can return together at the end of the session to share stories and piece together the patterns of the landscape. We will map out our experiences from a birds-eye view. Beginner birders are welcome! Please bring a small notebook, a waterbottle and your six senses (the 6th sense is your sense of wonder).

The Tracking Club will continue all year. If you would like to be on the contact list, please email Tamara at frog-forest@hotmail.com. Find dates of future Tracking Club activities and follow the discoveries on its blog: <http://natureguelphtracking.wordpress.com/> which can also be found on our website under Programs/Outdoor.

Nature Guelph Outdoor Activities – Marnie Benson

Sunday May 1, 7am, Birding Trip to Ruthven (Cayuga). Hosted by Larry Staniforth. Return time approximately 2 - 3 pm. Meet in the mall parking lot at Gordon/Harvard, at the corner closest to Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant, to carpool.

Sunday May 15, 2pm, Social Hike: Luther Marsh. Meet at the Golden Fish & Chips plaza at the south-east corner of Woodlawn and Woolwich to carpool.

Saturday June 4, 7am, Birding Trip to Forks of the Credit Provincial Park. Hosted by Larry Staniforth. Return time approximately 12-1 pm. Fees at the park should be expected. Meet in the parking lot at the old Legion (now "AirU Guelph") at 919 York Rd to carpool.

Sunday June 12, 8:30am, Nature Inventory at the Agnew Property. Nature Guelph monitors this property east of Guelph for the Nature Conservancy of Canada, with semi-annual visits to monitor its condition and document species present. Join us for a casual exploration of the property to catalogue bird, plant, mammal, and whatever else we can find. We will return to town around noon. Meet in the parking lot at the old Legion (now "AirU Guelph") at 919 York Rd to carpool.

Sunday June 19, 2pm, Social Hike: Forks of the Credit Provincial Park. Meet in the parking lot at the old Legion (now "AirU Guelph") at 919 York Rd to carpool.

On the Lookout for "Slime and Scales"!

Kyle Horner lead a successful frog walk on April 23. Kyle gave a great talk in Nature in the City on "Slime and scales" and attracted 14 people, including newcomers to Guelph and a number of small boys, who are a group fascinated by "herps".





Guelph Lake Nature Centre

Please Visit www.grandriver.ca for information about all GRCA family programs





All about the birds and the bees!

Guelph's coffee roasting company. Three locations:
Downtown at 2 Wyndham St.,
the Grange/Victoria Plaza,
south Guelph at 1467 Gordon St.
www.planetbeancoffee.com

Planet Bean Coffee
FRESHLY ROASTED - FAIR TRADE CERTIFIED & ORGANIC

We are songbird friendly and pals of pollinators.



News from Nature Guelph Wildflower Society–Judy Brisson

Plant of the Month: *Paw Paw Asimina triloba*

Asimina triloba is the only temperate climate member of a large tropical family that includes the soursop, custard apple and cherimoya. I first encountered Paw Paw on a hot August afternoon at a conservation reserve in Ohio where, along with Spice bush, they formed the understory of a riparian woodland. The large spreading leaves, nearby stream, humid heat and buzzing mosquitoes made me think I was hiking in a tropical rainforest far removed from Cleveland.

There are several large specimens in private gardens in Guelph. My own woodland garden contains two and I hope one day to harvest the fruit. They are reported to be unpalatable to deer, but I have had rabbits eat mine to the ground. When ripe, the fruit is very fragrant with a texture like custard and a distinct tropical taste. I was given about a dozen Paw Paw fruits several years ago and shared the fruits with friends and relations (on condition of returning the seeds). Reactions were mixed. I think it would be best used instead of banana in a sweet quick bread recipe.

Paw Paw has a spotty distribution throughout the Carolinian zone in Ontario and is thought to have been spread by the aboriginal nations who grew them for food. It grows on a variety of soils from sand to clay, in sun or shade, requiring more moisture on sandy soils and in sun. It is a small tree under 10m high with large leaves up to 20cm long and yellow fall colour. It spreads slowly by suckers which limits its use as an ornamental. Blooming in May with dark maroon flowers, it is insect pollinated and two individuals are needed for fruit set. Fruits are yellow-green 5-10 cm long kidney shaped bananas, ripening in late September. The fruits are eaten by raccoons, squirrels and opossum while the leaves are a larval food for the rare zebra swallowtail butterfly. Propagation is by seed or cuttings. Seeds need 90 days of cold, moist stratification with low germination rates and very slow germination. Seedlings grow best in light shade. Researchers at Purdue University are investigating a compound found in the fruit and foliage as a medication for fighting cancer. Although not commonly available in nurseries, there is research on improved varieties for commercial fruit production.

Photo Credits: Scott Bauer, USDA - USDA



NEARBY NATURALIST CLUBS' MEETINGS

WATERLOO REGION NATURE See www.kwfn.ca

Monday May 30, 7:30pm

Your Pane is Their Pain: Preventing Birds From Flying Into Windows – Michael Measure
Birds: building-collision fatalities are a leading cause of bird death. Annual General Meeting....
Knox Presbyterian Church Hall, 50 Erb Street West, Waterloo, Ontario

HALTON NORTH PEEL NATURE CLUB See www.hnpnc.com

Tuesday, May 10, 7:30pm,

Dave Beaton: The Credit Valley Trail
Place: 537 Main St, Glen Williams.(Georgetown).

HAMILTON NATURALIST CLUB See www.hamiltonnature.org

Monday May 9, 7:30pm

Speaker: Jack Imhof
Topic: Rebuilding Bronte's Natural Infrastructure
Place: Royal Botanical Gardens.

rare See www.raresites.org

Reptiles, amphibians, and the Ontario Reptile & Amphibian Atlas.

Hear the talk & then go for a 1 hour hike.
Saturday, May 7, 2016 3:00pm to 5:00pm
Meet at rare ECO Centre (Resource House)

Tribunal Upholds Appeal Against Prince Edward County Wind-Turbine Project

On February 26 ,the Environmental Review Tribunal endorsed APPEC's (Alliance to Protect Prince Edward County) arguments that the proposed project for 27 industrial wind turbines along Lake Ontario would cause irreparable damage to Blanding's Turtle and Little Brown Bat populations. The Tribunal also noted that the turbines could pose harm to migratory bird populations. To read more go to Nature Canada (<http://naturecanada.ca/news/blog/a-partial-victory-for-nature-and-the-prince-edward-county-south-shore-iba/>) and the Toronto Star (<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2016/02/29/tribunal-upholds-appeal-against-prince-edward-county-wind-turbine-project.html>).

Visit Wild Birds Unlimited

For the best in
bird food, feeders,
binoculars, spotting scopes,
bird baths,
& nature gifts.

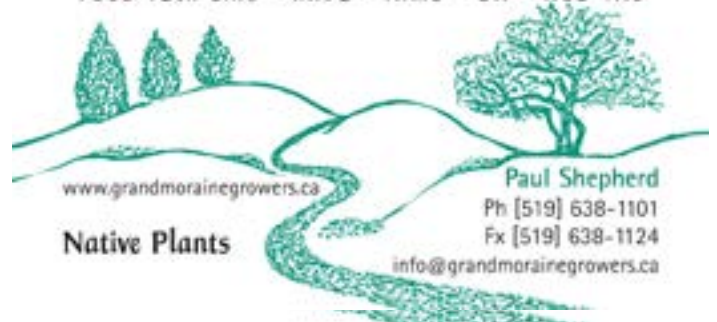
951 Gordon St, Guelph
519 - 821 - 2473
wellbirds@bellnet.ca
www.guelph.wbu.com



Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist

GRAND MORAINÉ GROWERS

7369, 12th Line • RR#2 • Alma • ON • N0B 1A0



NATURE GUELPH — EXECUTIVE

President: Jenn Bock (519-400-2918)

president@natureguelph.ca

Past President: Peter Kelly (519-824-4965)

pastpresident@natureguelph.ca

Vice President: Brett Forsyth

vicepresident@natureguelph.ca

Secretary: Christine Bowen (905-865-3771)

secretary@natureguelph.ca

Treasurer: John Prescott (519-823-5013)

treasurer@natureguelph.ca

Membership: David Churchill (519-763-4432)

membership@natureguelph.ca

Indoor Program: Peter Kelly (519-824-4965)

indoorprogs@natureguelph.ca

Outdoor Program: Marnie Benson (519-830-4412)

outdoorprogs@natureguelph.ca

Newsletter Editor: Sandra MacGregor (519-823-5068)

newsletter@natureguelph.ca

Young Naturalists: Ann Schletz (519-836-7860)

nats@natureguelph.ca

Naturalists in Training: Tamara Anderson

(519-822-1049) nits@natureguelph.ca

Outreach/Publicity & Newsletter Assistant: Susan

Atkinson (519-837-9470) publicity@natureguelph.ca

Conservation Coordinator: Colin Oaks

(519-766-2613) conservation@natureguelph.ca

Ontario Nature Rep: Mary Ellen Pyear (519-763-4347)

onrep@natureguelph.ca

Website & Social Media Kyle Horner (519-835-0944)

webmaster@natureguelph.ca

University Community Liaison: Jessica Tartaglia,

uogliaison@natureguelph.ca

Wildflower Society: Judy Brisson

(519-824-9476) judybrisson@rogers.com

Write to us at:

Nature Guelph

P.O. Box 1401

Guelph, ON N1H 6N8

Our website address

www.natureguelph.ca



Nature Guelph

NG CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Sunday, May 1st, 7:00am, Bird Language Tracking

Thurs, May 12, 7pm: “Greater Yellowstone: America’s Serengeti” with Dave Taylor

Wed May 18, 7:00 pm, Spring Wildflower Walk

BIRD

*“It was passed from one bird to another,
the whole gift of the day.
The day went from flute to flute,
went dressed in vegetation,
in flights which opened a tunnel
through the wind would pass
to where birds were breaking open
the dense blue air -and there, night came in”*

Pablo Neruda
