



Nature Guelph

invites you to hear

Lev Frid

THE OTHER END OF MIGRATION: THE LIVES OF NEOTROPICAL MIGRANTS ON THE WINTERING GROUNDS

Thurs. 7:30 pm

May 14

2015

Vol 45, #5
May/June 2015

U OF G
ARBORETUM CENTRE
EVERYONE WELCOME

<http://natureguelph.ca/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — Jenn Bock

The sun is shining, joggers and dog walkers are out on the trails, and even those youngsters who have been glued to a screen all winter are stepping out into the yard, blinking as their eyes adjust to the natural light. This exciting season – a time filled with new life and renewed enthusiasm - is also the perfect opportunity to help somebody fall in love with nature for the first time.

As seasoned nature lovers, we already appreciate the wonder of a Spring Peeper calling out for a lover, finding the first Trout Lilies of the year or watching a Mourning Cloak dance between the trees. But these incredible, hidden miracles aren't just for us – others will fall in love too, if only somebody would show them the way!

Here are some simple suggestions for sharing your love of nature:

1. **Speak up and be honest about your enthusiasm.** If you're out on a nature walk, and you find something really neat, look around and tell somebody about it! They might be disinterested, or they might call you a nerd (which we totally are...) but then it's just their loss! And you never know, even a group of "too cool for school" teenagers might surprise you. I've often found that people will care more than you think especially if you show them that you honestly care a lot.

2. **Find common ground.** Young people are strange, but connecting with them isn't as hard as some people think. They're curious about poop, explosions and things that look weird... so, really they're no different from us. Even a child who has never thought twice about nature will be impressed when you explain that the Mantis Shrimp can strike with the same force as a .22 calibre bullet. It's true. Look it up!

3. **Build a nature-loving army (and ask them to help!).** As I've mentioned before, aside from doing research and cleaning up trash, one of the best things that we can do for our natural world is to continue being passionate about it! Share your favourite flora and fauna facts with the people in your lives and ask those people to share them too! If you can convert just five people and they each convert five more people, our world will be a much more nature-friendly place in no time!

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/Oct 2015) to [Susan Atkinson](#). The deadline is **August 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>

Thursday May 14 — "THE OTHER END OF MIGRATION: THE LIVES OF NEOTROPICAL MIGRANTS ON THEIR WINTERING GROUNDS" **Lev Frid** Lev is a well-known Ontario birder and naturalist who has followed his passion for birding and bird-watching from the far north to the Falkland Islands and beyond. He will show photographs from his time living in Central America to illustrate the lives and drastic changes Canadian songbirds undergo on their wintering grounds.

Thursday June 12 — ANNUAL PICNIC AND BBQ, 6:30 pm** Location: St. Bridgid's Villa at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre. Bring your supper! St. Bridgid's Villa has a full kitchen with stove and microwave (sorry no bbq). After supper we will go on a group hike around the beautiful Ignatius Centre property. Please note, Ignatius is a bottled water-free zone and waste reduction friendly. Please try to bring your food in reusable containers.

Crieff Hills Community Celebrates World Migratory Bird Day Saturday May 10th 8:30 am - Noon

Certified bird bander Brian Pomfret will be on hand to give a demonstration of banding, and there will be some concurrent hikes to search out birds and see the spring wildflowers. The day has proven to be a great event for birders of all levels and for families. 7098 Concession 1, Puslinch ON, 1-800-884-1525, bobgeddes@rogers.com, www.crieffhills.com.



H is for Hawk, Helen MacDonald. Penguin Canada, 2015.

Helen MacDonald's best-selling masterpiece describes how she decided to train a goshawk as a way of dealing with the grief of the sudden death of her father. A trained falconer and a Cambridge academic, Helen weaves into her story the life of T. H. White, author of "The Goshawk", the training of Mabel the goshawk, and a meditation on grief and loss. It's a brilliantly woven tapestry. But be warned: much is woven into this book! Themes include: English history, literature, wars, grief, love, friendship, repressed homosexuality, the rise of fascism, nature writing, loneliness, family, falconry, the nature of wildness and so much else. It's a descent into insanity; a book full of pain, life in the raw. You want either to shake Helen or to give her a hug. In the end, Helen is helped more by serotonin uptake inhibitors than by training Mabel. Mabel herself remains a mystery, often impassively staring down from a tree at the frantically whistling Helen. For members of Nature Guelph, it's a glimpse into the mind of a goshawk and a meditation on the natural world and on so much wildness that has been lost in Britain—and on how we are so blessed in Canada.—John Prescott.

Ontario Nature Report – by Mary Ellen Pyear

In a recent interview with a member of Nature London, Dr. Anne Bell, Director of Conservation and Education at Ontario Nature talks about the plight of endangered species in Ontario. She notes that the World Wildlife Fund recently stated that we have lost one-half of the planet's species in the past 40 years. In Ontario, at least 200 species are at risk and she states the primary cause of this problem as habitat loss and habitat degradation. One such example of decline is the woodland caribou which graces the back of all Canadian quarters. As industry expands, fifty percent of their territory has disappeared and the species is being constantly pushed further north to survive.

Southern Ontario with its very biologically diverse Carolinian ecosystem has seen the loss of 70% of its wetlands. This has been especially damaging to the turtle population in Ontario with 7 out of 8 species listed as "at risk." Not only are amphibians at risk, but many of the bird populations in the province are in danger. Barn swallows, once a common bird species in Ontario, are in steep decline and are now listed as threatened. While much attention has been focused lately on the decline in the honeybee population, some of our wild bees such as rusty patched bumblebees have been listed as endangered and may have even disappeared from the province. The monarch butterfly, once a common sight in Ontario, and important as a pollinator, is now in a serious state of population decline. Not only should we be worried about animals, but dozens of plants are now listed as endangered in Ontario.

Not all news is bad; according to Dr. Bell, there have been a few good news stories in Ontario. Most notably would be the rebounding of the bald eagle and peregrine falcon populations, which were once decimated by the pesticide DDT. While species like the white rhino get attention worldwide, Bell believes that here at home we need to learn and talk more about what is happening to our natural world. Governments can address the causes of decline throughout the province, but those interested in maintaining the health of the planet need to keep pushing their politicians to act. Bell acknowledges there will continue to be a lot of opposition from land developers in the province in the future, but habitat loss and habitat degradation must be curtailed if we are to save our planet. Dr. Anne Bell's full interview and video can be accessed at the Ontario Nature website (www.ontarionature.org) under the heading "What's New" and the title "We Must Do More."

Nature Guelph Outdoor Activities – Marnie Benson

Sunday May 17, 3pm. Nature Guelph Social Hike at the Arboretum. Meet at the Arb Centre parking lot. Social gathering at The Shakespeare Arms afterwards.

Sunday May 31, 1pm. Exploring the Flora and Fauna of the Eramosa River, with Brett Forsyth and Peter Kelly. Join us for an exploration of one of Guelph's hidden gems. This hike will explore the flora and fauna of the Eramosa river and nearby environments. Meet in the parking area found in front of the Barber Scout Camp off Stone road.

Saturday June 6, 8:30 am. Bird Banding with David Lamble. Meet at the J.C. Taylor Nature Centre, Guelph Arboretum.

Sunday June 21, 3pm. Social Hike at Radial Line Trail. Meet at the roadside parking area along Watson Rd, approximately halfway between Stone Rd and Arkell Rd. We will explore a section of this trail that follows the Eramosa river towards Rockwood, then head to a nearby pub for some refreshments and social time afterwards.

Guelph Lake Nature Centre

Sunday June 22nd 11am-3pm

Party In The Park

A day of fun with critter shows, games, etc.



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



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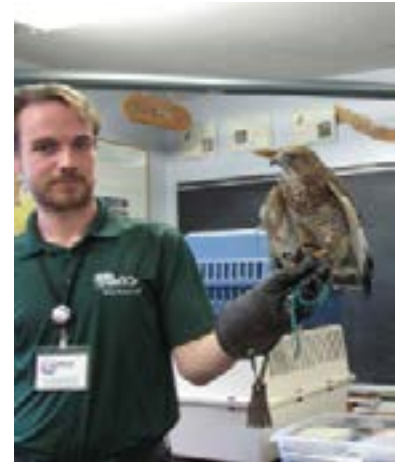
YOUNG NATS ADVENTURES — A PHOTO JOURNAL BY MARILYN SWABY

Wild Birds

April 11th the birds showed up and Jenn and Kyle couldn't even stump the kids with questions.

The evening was perfect - no wind, no clouds and we skulked out to Kiera's field to see the Wood-

cocks display against the fading sunset. Another magical and memorial day at the Lake.

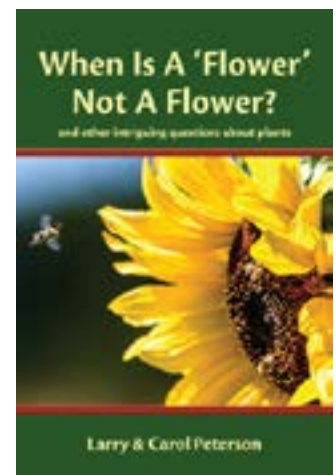


WHEN IS A FLOWER NOT A FLOWER?

This unique full-colour book takes common observations of plants and presents scientific explanations for them that the non-specialist can understand. Using a question-and-answer format, 140 questions are posed, and each is followed by an answer illustrated with striking images. The general public, as well as horticulturalists, naturalists, gardeners, students, and teachers will find the book informative because the questions range from plants as sources of food, textiles, and medicines to questions dealing with trees, flowers, invasive species, and a number of other topics.

The book is published by Volumes. (www.volumesdirect.com)

Locally it can be purchased for \$25 (including taxes) by contacting Larry Peterson (lpeterso@uoguelph.ca)



RED BAY WEEKEND ON THE BRUCE PENINSULA MAY 22-MAY 24, 2015

From sandy beaches on Lake Huron to limestone cliffs above Georgian Bay, from sparsely vegetated rare alvar to rich hardwood forest, join us for the weekend to explore this special area and its unique flora and fauna. Hosted by South Peel Naturalists' Club. For further information mail@spnc.ca or Audrey at 905 820-2571

News from Nature Guelph Wildflower Society

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Round-lobed *Hepatica Anemone americana* and Sharp-lobed *Hepatica Anemone acutiloba*

Formerly know as *Hepatica americana* and *Hepatica acutiloba*, the two were briefly recognized as one species, *Hepatica nobilis*, with two variants and now have been placed in genus *Anemone*. They are among the earliest spring blooms in woodlands. The leathery, dark green leaves overwinter, an adaptation that allows the plant to photosynthesize as soon as the snow melts without a delay to grow leaves. The 1 to 3cm flowers appear on 6 cm high hairy stalks in early April, lasting for two to three weeks. The flowers provide a source of nectar and pollen for over-wintering bees and butterflies when they emerge. Colour is most often blue to lavender with occasional pink or white flowers. After flowering, new leaves appear and remain for the next spring. The plants may go dormant in very dry years. The easiest way to differentiate Sharp-lobed from Round-lobed is the round or pointed tips on leaves. The plants grow in part- to full-shade woodlands with considerable overlap in range and habitat, although Round-lobed is found on drier sites. It can be used in shaded rock gardens or planted informally in sweeping patches in woodland gardens. It spreads slowly as clumps and will self-seed if the conditions are right.

The common and older genus name refers to the liver-shaped leaves and the winter colour of the leaves. Various traditional healers have used it as a treatment for liver, gallbladder, gastro intestinal disease and as a diuretic. Seeds are small and should be sown immediately after collection. Alternating periods of warm moist and cold moist stratification are required for germination. Propagation by clump division is more successful than growing from seed.--Judy Brisson



Photo: Krzysztof Ziarnek



Photo: Archenzo Moggio

HURON FRINGE BIRDING FESTIVAL

May 22 - 25 & May 28 - 31, 2015

at MacGregor Point Provincial Park, Port Elgin

www.friendsofmacgregor.org

Guelph Lake Nature Centre

Sunday June 22nd 11am-3pm

Party In The Park

A day of fun with critter shows, games, etc.



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TRACKING CLUB — Tamara Anderson

STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY MORNING — Luther Marsh (Feb 2015)

“Whose woods these are I think I know. His house is in the village though; he will not see me stopping here to watch his woods fill up with snow.”

There were no tracks at first as the Nature Guelph tracking club headed west along the shore of Mallard Pond. The snow was deep. The temperature was below freezing, around – 10 °C. It was mid-morning and the clouds were like a blanket of white across the sky.

“The only other sound’s the sweep, of easy wind and downy flake.”



Nature Guelph Tracking Club (Luther Marsh, February, 2015)

There were deer tracks at the edge of the forest. We followed them and found three deer beds. One looked like it had been only temporarily used. There were sticks poking up through the snow and it looked like the deer lay down and then got up again to choose a better location. There were signs of browsing along the trail. The deer had been eating dogwood. The droppings appeared fresh. There were deer hairs in the beds as well. The deer trails headed west into the forest. We followed one and the pattern of tracks turned into a bounding pattern. Did we cause that to happen? We did not want to push the deer so we left the trail and followed another set of tracks that led to a porcupine den in an apple tree. The porcupine was inside the hollow tree. Lucky find!

Another nearby trail caught our attention. It was a coyote trail. It split into two trails and we noticed the coyotes were also bounding in the deep snow. The direction of their tracks headed toward the deer beds. The two trails had subtle differences. The deer trail was neat and narrow. The coyote trail was a little wider and less tidy. The trails had been made around the same time, possibly earlier that morning. We realized that the deer had probably bounded away from the two coyotes. Did the coyotes try to ambush the deer while they were resting? I was reminded of a moose carcass I had seen in early February near Highway 60 in Algonquin Park, where I had observed the tracks left by a pair of wolves ambushing a moose while it was bedded near a hillside. The wolves had been successful, unlike the coyotes this time. Marnie spotted an old maple tree in the middle of the forest. There was a hole in the tree and sure enough, from within the hole, a raccoon lifted its sleepy head to look at us. The raccoon was piled on top of a jumble of furry bodies. Two other raccoons were sharing the same den. As we headed back to the parking lot, we found a mink trail skirting the edge of the pond. While driving home, we spotted a Snowy Owl on a hydro pole overlooking the snowy farm fields. It was a good day.

“The woods are lovely, dark and deep, but I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep.” (Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening, 1923 by Robert Frost)



The Tracking Club will continue all year. If you would like to be on the contact list, please email Tamara at frogforest@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.

WILDFLOWER SOCIETY MEETINGS

Saturday May 23 from 9:00am til noon

Annual plant sale. Please divide your plants, pot up and label with latin and common names. Donated plants can be delivered to Waterworks Place after 4 on Friday May 22 or call Judy Brisson at 824-9476 to arrange alternative drop off. Volunteers needed on Friday for set up and on Saturday morning to help with sales. Call 519-824 9476 or e-mail judybrisson@rogers.com for time and location. Free admission for members, \$20 for non-members

Sunday April 26, 2pm. Spring ephemeral walk at Starkey Hill.

Sunday May 10, 10:00am. Biodiversity Garden Clean Up. Meet at the front of the University of Guelph Biodiversity Institute (Grange Lane, off South Ring Rd) to tidy up the wildflower garden. Bring rakes, trowels, shovels.

Wednesday May 20, 7:00pm. Meet at the Evergreen Senior's Centre parking lot for a Mystery botany walk.

Friday May 22, 4:00pm to 7:00pm Annual Plant Sale set up.

Meet at the Waterworks Yard, 29 Waterworks Pl to set up the plant sale. Deliver your plants then if possible.

Wednesday June 17, 7:00pm. Mystery botany walk. Meet at the Covered Bridge parking lot at Wellington and Gordon for carpooling. We will finish at The Fat Duck for a social hour after our walk.

BIRD WING INDOOR MEETINGS & OUTDOOR HIKES

INDOOR:

Meetings are the last Monday of the month from September thru May in the basement common area at the Ellington Residences, 168 Metcalfe St. at 7:30 pm. Entrance is via the covered ramp on the north east end of the building. Anyone willing to give a presentation is asked to contact Bruce Weaver at 519-824-9052/ b.weaver@rogers.com

Monday May 25: Our final meeting of the year. Please come prepared to talk about a local birding site that is a favourite. Tell us why, where, and what we might expect as migrants and as residents. We would like to hear about your interest in continuing next year: we will need speakers, people to run the meetings and liaise with the Ellington.

OUTDOOR:

Wed. May 6, 6am. Cayuga (Ruthven Park) 6am all day. All hikes leave from Wild Birds Unlimited parking lot. For all hikes we will have lunch at local restaurants. Please dress for the weather. Contact: staniforth.larry@rogers.com

Wed. May 20, 6am. Macgregor Point PP. 6 am from WBU, all day, bring a lunch, park fees..

Wed. May 27, 6am. Forks of the Credit PP. 6 am from WBU, till 2 pm. bring a lunch, park fees

TRACKING CLUB MEETINGS

Saturday May 9, 2015

Bird Language Tracking

Meet at the Guelph Lake Nature Centre at 7:30am

Saturday June 13, 2015

Bird Language Tracking

Meet at the Guelph Lake Nature Centre at 7:30am

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).

NEARBY NATURALIST CLUBS' MEETINGS

WATERLOO REGION NATURE See www.kwfn.ca

Monday, May 25, 7:00pm

The Once and Future Great Lakes Country by John L. Riley

HALTON NORTH PEEL NATURE CLUB See www.hnpnc.com

Tuesday May 12, 7:30pm,

Emma Garden speaks on Aquatic Insects

HAMILTON NATURALIST CLUB See www.hamiltonnature.org

Monday May 11, 7pm – 9pm

Speaker: Matt Mills Topic: The Urquhart Butterfly Garden

rare See www.raresites.org

Saturday May 9, 8am to 9am

Bird Banding Demonstration, Meet at rare ECO Centre (Resource House)

Tuesday, May 12, 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm

Landscape Photography with DCphotography , rare ECO Centre

Birdathon

Club members raised \$347.75 for Nature Guelph by participating in the 2014 Bird Studies Canada's Baillie Birdathon. Thanks to birdathoners who named NG as their recipient organization, and to the NG members who sponsored them.

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Nature Guelph

NG CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Saturday May 9, 7:30am, Tracking Club, Bird Language Tracking. Meet at the Guelph Lake Nature Centre at 7:30am

Thursday May 14, 7:30pm Indoor Meeting, Arboretum, Bird Migration with Lev Frid

Saturday May 23 from 9:00am til noon WildFlower Society annual plant sale. Waterworks Place

Monday May 25: Ellington Residences last indoor Bird Wing meeting of the season, tell about a favorite local birding site

Thursday June 12, 6:30pm. Annual Picnic. St. Bridgid's Villa at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre.

*“Summer set lip to earth’s bosom bare,
And left the flushed print in a poppy there”
~Francis Thompson*