

# Norfolk Field Naturalists 2009-2010 Speakers, Outings & Workshops

## DECEMBER

### Meeting: Member's Social and a Movie

Tuesday, December 8/09, 6:30 pm  
Note: this year's movie night will be held at the Simcoe Senior's Centre. Come early (doors open at 6:30 pm) and bring a seasonal treat to share. We will have a social hour before the movie.

### The 11th Hour: Turn Mankind's Darkest Hour into Its Finest

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio produces and narrates this urgent and transformational look at where we've been, where we're going - and most importantly - how we can change our rush towards global ecological collapse. Some of the world's greatest thinkers, including Mikhail Gorbachev, Stephen Hawking, David Suzuki and others, provide insights on solutions to save our unique blue planet for future generations (92 minutes). Free.

### Christmas Bird Counts

Join one of the local Christmas Bird Counts and spend the day in the field identifying and counting all of the birds you see or hear. You can also phone in to report the number of birds at your feeder on count day (no fee). Data collected during these annual counts provide vital information on the distribution of winter bird populations. \$5 per participant fee, waived for Bird Studies Canada members.

#### Woodhouse Count (Simcoe area):

Sunday, December 20/09  
David Okines, 519-586-9464,  
davidokines@aol.com

#### Fisherville Count (Haldimand County):

Saturday, January 2/10 (tentative)  
Linda Thrower, 905-774-1230,  
giantindians@3web.net

## JANUARY

### Meeting: Principles and Practices of Large-Scale Ecological Restoration in Southern Ontario

Tuesday, January 12/10  
*Mary Gartshore, Pterophylla*  
Large-scale ecological restoration can seem expensive and daunting to many people. This illustrated talk will summarize the rationale for ecological restoration on post-industrial and agricultural lands. Mary will provide conceptual steps in carrying out a restoration and demonstrate practical hands-on procedures and equipment. Finally, examples of projects spanning from 1 to 15 years will be used to illustrate the expected (and unexpected) biodiversity results from her projects.

### Outing: Winter Birding in Haldimand County

Saturday, January 16/10, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
The fields of Haldimand attract many wintering raptors, while the open water along the Lake Erie shoreline can be a good spot to see waterfowl. Bring binoculars and warm clothing. Meet at the northeast corner of the Simcoe Mall parking lot on Highway 3 at Donly Dr. at 1:30 pm sharp. Trip leaders: David Okines & Audrey Heagy 519-586-9464.

## FEBRUARY

### Meeting: Short-eared Owls and Chimney Swifts: Highlights of BSC Conservation Projects

Tuesday, February 9/10  
*Elisabeth Van Stam and Hazel Wheeler, Bird Studies Canada*

The Chimney Swift is a Threatened species in Canada. Over the past 40 years this familiar urban bird has experienced a dramatic population decline. Elisabeth will provide an overview of the new Ontario SwiftWatch project, and how it links to Chimney Swift recovery strategies.

The Short-eared Owl is a species of Special Concern in Canada. Bird Studies Canada biologists have been monitoring the winter Short-eared Owl population in southern Ontario, using satellite- and radio-transmitters to track movement patterns and habitat use. Hazel will provide an update on this program.

### Outing: Winter Tree Identification

Saturday, February 20/10, 1:00 pm  
Meet at the Backus Heritage Conservation Area, Port Rowan for a winter tree identification education session, and then head out to the woods to learn how to identify trees in winter. Dolf Wynia and Colleen Dale lead this very popular workshop. Call Backus at 519-586-2201 for details. Admission by donation.

## MARCH

### Meeting: The World of Salamanders, Frogs and Toads

Tuesday, March 9/10  
*John Urquhart, Ontario Nature*  
Southern Ontario is home to numerous species of amphibians, often referred to as environmental "canaries in a coalmine" due to their sensitivity to pollution, pesticides and global warming. Learn about the secretive mating behaviour of the salamander, how to identify frogs and toads by their song, and the environmental importance of this order of animals. Opportunities for individuals to volunteer in Ontario Nature's new Herpetofaunal Atlas being conducted in Norfolk County and other areas in Ontario.

### NFN at the Wildlife Festival

Weekend of March 13-14/10  
Visit the NFN booth at the Wildlife Festival in the Aud, Norfolk County Fairgrounds in Simcoe. Our booth features "hands-on" activities for kids. Entrance fee.

### Workshop: Introduction to Birding in the Long Point Area

Saturday, March 27/10, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm  
The main goal of this workshop, led by Jody Allair of Bird Studies Canada, will be to introduce you to the birding opportunities of the Long Point and Norfolk area, discuss the basic tools needed to start bird watching, and tips on becoming an expert in identifying birds and their song. Indoor session in the morning will be followed by an outing in the afternoon to look for swans, waterfowl and other early spring migrants. Bring warm clothing, binoculars, bird book, and a spotting scope if you have one. Location: Bird Studies Canada, 115 Front Street, Port Rowan. Cost is \$15/ participant (includes light lunch). Pre-registration required, call Shirley Rothery at 519-586-9535.

## APRIL

### Meeting: Southern Norfolk Sand Plain Natural Area Conservation Plan - Opportunities and Achievements

Tuesday, April 13/10  
*Wendy Cridland, Nature Conservancy of Canada*  
Wendy will provide an update on the NCC's progress and partnerships in the Norfolk area. A Natural Area Conservation Plan was prepared in 2008 that identified key biodiversity targets and threats in the southern portion of Norfolk County. Numerous actions were identified to ensure the long-term conservation of Norfolk's incredible diversity of plants and animals, including many Species at Risk. She'll also provide an update on lands conserved and stewardship actions undertaken by NCC and partners.

### Outing: Amazing Amphibians

Wednesday, April 14/10, 6:00 pm  
Learn about the amazing lives of amphibians at the Backus Heritage Conservation Area, Port Rowan. This is a joint presentation with the Long Point Region Conservation Authority led by Colleen Dale. Call Backus at 519-586-2201 for details. \$2/person fee.

### Outing: Wildflowers and Mosses at Rowanwood

Sunday, April 25/10, 1:30 pm  
Join Matt Brock and Allan Aubin for a walk in Rowanwood, the NFN's Nature Sanctuary. Spring wildflowers will be flowering. Bring a hands lens to get a close up look at the many different mosses. To get to the Rowanwood Sanctuary travel west from the intersection of Highways 59 & 24 for about 3 km, turn south (left) onto the West Quarterline, jog left at the first intersection and park along the side of the dead-end sand road. Rowanwood is on the east side. Contact Matt at 519-586-7585 or Audrey at 519-586-9464.

## MAY

### Outing: Ecological Restoration Site Walkabout

Saturday, May 1/10, 1:30 pm  
Come for a spring walkabout at an ecological restoration site adjacent to Backus Woods. The former agricultural fields at this rural property have been planted with a variety of trees and plants and are providing diverse habitat for many wildlife species. Meet at the gate at #338 Highway 24, 2.4 km east of Highway 59 (east of Backus Woods parking lot). Contact Audrey Heagy at 519-586-9464.

### Meeting: Minstrels of the Deep: The Whales of Fundy

Tuesday, May 11/10  
*Erica Andrew, Retired Teacher*  
Erica is a retired educator and environmentalist who has worked with gifted children, as a consultant, and as a trustee for the Halton School Board. Her interest in whales grew from a book called Whale Song, which she used in the classroom. For the last 23 years she has travelled to the Bay of Fundy every summer to participate on research/tourist tours to Brier Island to study and view humpback and other whale species. With her knowledge and experience she has developed presentations which she has delivered to almost 100 audiences

### Baillie Birdathon

Saturday, May 15/10  
The Baillie Birdathon is the major annual fundraiser for the Norfolk Field Naturalists and Bird Studies Canada (BSC). You can help by doing a Birdathon for the NFN. On May 15, BSC staff will lead tours in the Long Point area to help Birdathoners spot 100 or more bird species. To find out more about doing a Birdathon contact BSC at 519-586-3531 or www.bsc-eoc.org.

## JUNE

### Outing: Big Creek Marsh

Tuesday, June 8/10, 7:00 pm  
Join us for an evening walk around the dike at the Big Creek National Wildlife Area to observe turtles and other wildlife. Meet at the parking lot on the west side of the Long Point causeway (former Highway 59), 2.4 km south of intersection of Highway 59 and Front Road near Port Rowan. Contact Audrey Heagy, 519-586-9464.

### Outing: Lower Big Creek Paddle

Saturday, June 19/10, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Celebrate the start of summer with a leisurely paddle down the lower reaches of Big Creek. Meet at the canoe launch by the bridge on Concession 3, west of Highway 59, near Port Rowan. Bring a canoe or kayak, and a bag lunch. Contact Audrey Heagy, 519-586-9464.

## JULY

### Long Point Butterfly Count

Saturday July 3/10  
This all-day Butterfly Count is similar to a Christmas Bird Count and involves identifying and counting butterflies. Contact Doug Timpf, 519-586-9964 for details.

### Outing: Butterflies and Hummingbirds

Sunday, July 11/09, 2:00 pm  
We'll do a walk to see what species of butterflies can be found in the butterfly garden, old field, and forest habitats. David Okines will give a hummingbird banding demonstration. Location: 273 Charlotteville Road 2, 2.2 km east of Forestry Farm Road (Reg. Rd. 16) near St. Williams. Contact Audrey Heagy, 519-586-9464. Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent. Bring an insect net or binoculars if you have them.

## AUGUST

### Outing: Nature Trails at Acorus Restoration

Saturday, August 21/10, 1:00 pm  
Explore the extensive nature trails and gardens at the Acorus Restoration property west of Walsingham. This retail plant nursery specializes in native wildflowers and wetland plants. Many colourful prairie wildflowers are in full bloom in late summer, attracting butterflies and other wildlife. Paul Morris, owner of Acorus Restoration, will be our tour guide. For more information call Acorus Restoration at 519-586-2603 or Audrey at 519-586-9464.

Monarch Butterfly

