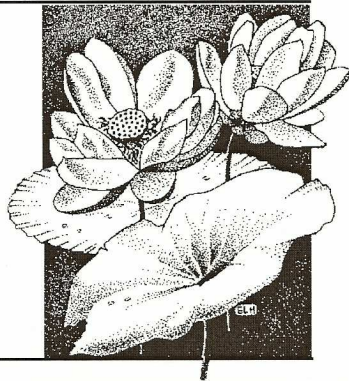


Lotus

NEWSLETTER
of the
NORFOLK FIELD NATURALISTS



April 2011

ensuring that each landowner is happy with any proposed changes and that the changes are consistent with the landowner's objectives for that particular property.

Meeting Notes

February 2011 Speaker

Paul Gagnon, a biologist with the Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA), spoke to us about how the LPRCA works with local partners to effect environmental improvements.



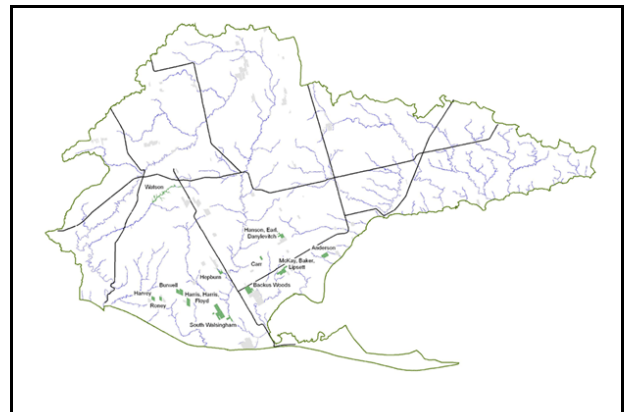
Since it began in 2000, the Ontario Power Generation's (OBG) Carbon Sequestration and Biodiversity Management program has addressed the need to sequester carbon to offset the greenhouse gas emissions from their fossil fuel plants, combining this with the need to restore wildlife habitat for species endangered by the highly fragmented landscapes in Southern Ontario. In conjunction with its local partners, the Long Point Biosphere Reserve Foundation (LPBRF) and the LPRCA, OBG has planted more than a million native trees on over 800 acres on 120 private and public properties in Norfolk County.

Planting locations are selected to improve waterway protection, correct erosion problems, increase the amount of available wetlands and create corridors interconnecting fragmented woodlots within the LPRCA watershed. The watershed area, 2782 square kilometres in size, encompasses both Norfolk and Haldimand Counties and includes the Long Point Biosphere, 170 kilometres of Lake Erie shoreline, cold water streams, rich wetlands and Carolinian forests.

Many of the individual projects are done with private landowners and the OBG project focusses on

Much of the planting is now done by seeding rather than transplanting seedlings. Seeded trees immediately send down deep tap roots, a quick benefit not obtained with seedlings; therefore, they begin to provide water retention and carbon sequestration earlier than transplanted trees do. All the projects are monitored to ensure they are providing the desired results over time.

Long Point Regional Conservation Authority Watershed Area



The LPRCA's objectives in any joint undertaking such as the OBG undertaking include: a) ensuring that the watershed lands and waters are properly safeguarded, managed and restored; b) developing and maintaining programs that will protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion; and c) providing opportunities for the public to enjoy, learn from and respect the watershed's environments.

Spring is Arriving!

Diane Salter has been keeping me updated on new sightings in her back yard. Two recent good ones were Wood Ducks and a beaver!



Your Water, Your Decision

Dr. Bruce Bowyer, Free the Lynn Committee

The Great Lakes are the world's single largest source of fresh surface water. This represents about one-fifth of the world's total supply. Nearly forty million people in the United States and Canada get their water from the Great Lakes basin. This is not only drinking water for millions but also a key resource for industry, agriculture, navigation, power generation, recreation and tourism and important for fish and wildlife habitats. While the Great Lakes seem large enough to support all of these uses, in reality less than 1% of the water is renewed each year. This leaves the Great Lakes vulnerable to pollution.

In 1856 a dam was built on the Lynn River in Port Dover to supply power for the Andrew Thompson's 'Norfolk Woolen Mill' (Port Dover Maple Leaf, November 12, 2003). The dam is no longer a source of power.

About a mile upstream is another dam- Ivey's Dam. Water falling over Ivey's Dam stagnates in Silver Lake. The water warms, becomes deoxygenated, is compromised by ducks and geese and then drops into Lake Erie.

Misner Dam plays no role in flood control as the amount of water flowing over Ivey Dam is equal to the amount of water dropping into Lake Erie. Dams that control flood plain reservoirs are maintained at their lowest level. When a flooding situation arises the excess water is captured by raising the dam. As the emergency subsides the water is gradually released in preparation of a subsequent flood. This is not the case with the Misner Dam.

The Lynn River is one of the few cold water streams on the north shore of Lake Erie. It has untold potential. Misner Dam impedes the migration of salmonoides from Lake Erie to fertile spawning beds upstream. An enhanced fishery will be established with the decommissioning of Misner Dam.

We need to make the decision that will be best for our future generations.

I urge you to view "Misner Dam Debate" on YouTube and "Taking a Second Look" on American Rivers website.

Email: freethelynn@hotmail.ca

*** Reminder Notice ***

Saturday April 16, 2011

9:30 am - 3:30 pm

WORKSHOP

Birding the Long Point Area

**Morning session and driving tour
With Jody Allair**

Lunch included in \$25 cost

Pre-registration required

**Registration form on NFN website
or call**

Shirley Rothery 519-586-9535

BAILLIE BIRDATHON



Dear NFN Member:

It is the time of year to start fund raising for the upcoming Baillie Birdathon. Again this year I have the honour of being the designated birder for the Norfolk Field Naturalists.



Last year, with the help of many club members, I managed to raise \$4200.00 and identified 101 species. My hope is to exceed both of these numbers this year.

To sponsor me is easy. You can choose to pledge a flat rate or on a per species identified basis. Pledges can be sent to me by mail using the form below (cheques made payable to Bird Studies Canada); in person at the April or May NFN meeting (pledge sheets will be available); or on a secure online donation page. The link to the Birdathon participant sponsor page (where you type in Michael McMillan) is:

<http://www.birdscanada.org/support/birdathon/index.jsp?targetpg=donate&number=13002>

Pledges \$10.00 or greater will automatically receive a tax receipt and donations of \$35.00 or greater entitle sponsors to receive Bird Studies Canada's quarterly publication *Birdwatch Canada* for 1 year! For those who are interested in pledging on a per species basis, I will send you my species tally later in May.

What is the Baillie Birdathon?

Baillie Birdathon is the oldest sponsored bird count in North America. It involves fund raising for bird research and conservation. Over a 24-hour period in May, birders try to identify as many species as possible. The money raised benefits Bird Studies Canada: the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund; and participating migration monitoring stations and conservation organizations - **like the NFN, which will receive a portion of the money raised through this Birdathon.**

If you would like any further information regarding my Birdathon plans, you can email me at m.m.mcmillan@sympatico.ca Your support would be very much appreciated.

Mike McMillan

Yes, I'll sponsor Mike McMillan in the Baillie Birdathon for 2011

___\$.25/species ___\$0.50/species ___\$1.00/species or ___\$___/ species or ___flat rate

Make cheques payable to "Bird Studies Canada" **You may postdate cheques until May15.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Mail to: Mike McMillan, 91 Elmhurst Ave., Simcoe, ON N3Y 3G1



Long Point-Carolinian
NatureFest

A celebration of our unique Nature
Hiking  Biking  Canoeing  Zipping  Touring
Saturday, May 28th and Sunday, May 29th
www.naturefest.ca info@naturefest.ca



BUTTERFLY & DRAGONFLY
F E S T I V A L

Educational Events and Great Fun for the Whole Family!
Backus Heritage Education Centre
Sunday, July 10th, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.
www.longpointbiosphere.com/whennaturecalls

Celebrating all things wood, featuring wooden boats



2011 Forest Fest
August 13 and 14



St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre

885 Highway # 24 at Forestry Farm Road
www.forestryfarm.ca 519 875 3350

Please note that our speaker for May has changed. Join us for a very special presentation!



Tuesday, May 10th, 2011
Grass, Sky, Song
Trevor Herriot

Join Saskatchewan writer-naturalist, Trevor Herriot, for a slide-talk and reading based on his latest book, *Grass, Sky, Song: Promise and Peril in the World of Grassland Birds*. Trevor will show slides of the endangered landscapes and birds he focuses on in the book, providing insight into the forces driving the decline and offering suggestions of what we might do to help.

Book sales and signing to follow

**NFN plans gift of Nature
And Environmental DVDs**

Shirley Rothery

At the December NFN get-together, Marvin Grove organized a fun silent auction to go along with the Christmas goodies and the members' picture shows. A total of \$500 was raised and it was suggested that buying environmental/nature movies in DVD format that could be made available to the membership, would be a good use of the money. After thinking about how to keep track of the movies, your Board decided that a gift of the movies to the Public Library system would be the best idea; That way the movies would be available to a much wider audience all of the time and the library would keep track of them. When we approached the library we found that they were delighted with this idea. Heidi Goodale, in the acquisitions area of the library, has suggested a sticker design to place on each DVD that acknowledges NFN as the donor. The Board may suggest changes to Heidi's design based on a possible alteration to our logo in honour of our 50th anniversary that comes up in 2012. The NFN has purchased 18 titles and Bernie Solymar is making additional donations that will bring the total up to 30. Bernie will write a one paragraph description of the contents of each DVD and we will post the series with these descriptions on our web site with a link to the Public Library site. Look for the "environmental/nature" series to be available by about the end of

April. Following are the NFN titles purchased:

- Guns, Germs and Steel (Natn'l Geog)
- Galapagos
- The Future of Food
- Sharkwater
- Wild China
- Flow
- Blue Gold World Water Wars
- Addicted to Plastic
- The Human Family Tree (Natn'l Geog)
- Wild Pacific
- Yellowstone: Battle for Life
- End of the Line
- The Cove
- Dirt! the Movie
- Last Chance to See
- Great Rift
- Great Migrations (Natn'l Geog)
- Climate of Change

Bernie Solymar's donations include:

- Darwin's Nightmare
- Taking Root
- Up the Yangtze
- Food, Inc.
- The Age of Stupid
- Fahrenheit 9/11
- Bowling for Columbine
- Capitalism: A love Story
- Black Gold
- Darwin's Secret Notebook.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Grass, Sky Song: Promise and Peril in the World of Grassland Birds
Trevor Herriot, Writer - Naturalist

Book sales and signing to follow

Upcoming NFN Events

2011

**!! NOTE DATE CHANGED
FROM MARCH 26 !!**

**Sat. April 16 9:30am - 3:30pm
Workshop**

**Birding the Long Point Area
Morning session and driving
tour with Jody Allair.** Lunch
included in \$25 cost. Pre-regis-
tration required. Form on website
or: Shirley Rothery 519-586-9535

**!! NOTE DATE CHANGED
FROM MAY 7 !!**

**Sat. May 14 8:30am - Noon
Outing**

**LPBO Old Cut Field Station
Visit to banding station and
tour of woodlot to seek migrant
birds with Audrey Heagy**
519-586-9464

**Sat. June 4 7:30 pm
Big Creek Marsh Dike Walk
Audrey Heagy 519-586-9464**

**Sat. July 2 All Day
Long Point Butterfly Count
Doug Timpf 519-586-9964**

**Sat. July 23 10:00 am
Hummingbirds and Butterflies
Audrey Heagy 519-586-9464**

**Sun. August 21 9:30 am
Lynn Valley Trail Outing
Audrey Heagy 519-586-9464**

NFN Meetings

Norfolk Field Naturalist meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month from September to May. The election of Directors takes place at the September meeting.

Meetings take place at the Simcoe Seniors Centre on Pond Street. They are free and visitors are always welcome. Doors open at 7:15pm; program begins at 7:30pm.

About the NFN

Norfolk Field Naturalist members participate in meetings and frequent field outings, many of which are family-friendly. Membership fees, due in September, are \$20- Individual and \$30- Family; donations are eligible for income tax credits; Charitable Registration #119058691.

Guest speakers present programs on interesting and relevant natural history and conservation topics.

Club members receive the Lotus newsletter with articles on local natural history and club activities. It is published bi-monthly from October to June by volunteer club members. Copies of the Lotus are available at meetings but will be mailed (free of charge) to members if not picked up. Articles published in the Lotus reflect the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the NFN. Visit the NFN website at:

www.norfolkfieldnaturalists.org

Next issue of Lotus:

June 2011

Input cutoff date:

Wed. June 1, 2011

Club Mailing Address

Norfolk Field Naturalists
PO Box 995, Simcoe, ON
N3Y 5B3

2010 - 2011 NFN Directors with Contact and Project Information

		all 519-	
President	Bernie Solymar	426-7124	solymar@nornet.on.ca
Vice-President	Tara Crewe	586-3531x163	crewe@bsc-eoc.org
Treasurer/Past President	Audrey Heagy	586-9464	aheagy@bsc-eoc.org
Secretary	Colleen Dale	428-0944	cdale22@yahoo.ca
Membership	Diane Salter	586-7775	bigcreek@kwic.com
Field Events	(Acting) Audrey Heagy	586-9464	aheagy@bsc-eoc.org
Speaker Program	(Acting) Bernie Solymar	426-7124	solymar@nornet.on.ca
Publicity	Nina Cameron	586-8785	ninac@execulink.com
Sanctuary/Natural Areas	Peter Carson	586-3985	gartcar@kwic.com
Workshops	Shirley Rothery	586-9535	shirleyrothery@hotmail.com
Environment	(position currently vacant)		
Director-at-large	Elisabeth van Stam	586-7719	evanstam@bsc-eoc.org
Director-at-large	Barb Hawke	586-8375	bhawke@kwic.com
Director-at-large	(position currently vacant)		
Director-at-large	(position currently vacant)		
Honorary President:	Al Robinson		
Honorary Directors:	Harry Barrett, Jim Harlow		
Lotus Editor	Anne Davidson	582-4382	birdyanne@gmail.com
Butterfly Counts	Doug Timpf	586-9964	timpf@nornet.on.ca