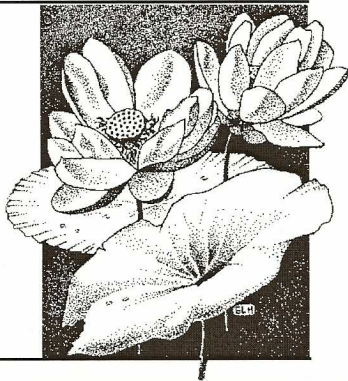


# Lotus

NEWSLETTER

of the

NORFOLK FIELD NATURALISTS



April 2012



## Fisherville Christmas Bird Count 2011-12

Linda Thrower

The Fisherville Christmas Bird Count was held on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Changing weather met the bird counters on this day. The early morning was sunny with low wind, but as the day went on the wind picked up so much so that by late afternoon trees were being blown onto the road. This seemed to keep the small bird numbers down -- not that it was any easier to find the larger species. As a result, some species were reported in record low numbers -- though some new high numbers were also found. Surprisingly, the total species count was only 2 down from last year.

Pied-billed Grebe was found by Hugh McArthur & Julia Wever in square 7 -- a first for this square and only the third report since the start of the Fisherville count in 1989. It would seem that the single Double-crested Cormorant is once again over-wintering at the Ontario Power Generation hot water outflow. George Pond & Alan Aubin found 10 Sandhill Cranes, up one from the nine cranes found last year. Thanks to Rick Ludkin & Nancy Furber for seeing the one and only Turkey Vulture on this year's count, as well as the only Brown Creeper.

One blue-phase Snow Goose was spotted by Tom Thomas and Chris Street while they were driving through square 1, the first time since 2008 that this species has been on this count. The Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Plant in Nanticoke held a few oddities this year. Someone many years ago dropped off a Pilgrim Goose she mated with the Canada Geese that are on property all year round. So what OPG now has are two Canada Goose x Pilgrim Goose crosses, both in this year's count.

In the same square, Jim Heslop & Bob Stamp saw two Cackling Geese, the first time this species has been on the count since 2006 when two were found. The sharp eyes of George Pond & Alan Aubin picked out two Mute Swans, not seen since 2008's 3.

Seventy-four Gadwalls were found, the highest since 2007 when 89 were counted. The 37 American Black Ducks were lowest since 1996's 27. One Blue-winged Teal was spotted at OPG -- the first since 2003. Three Green-winged Teal were the highest since 1989. Redheads had their 2nd best count: 718 were found in 2010 compared to 599 this year.

But not all waterfowl were easy to find. The only Lesser Scaup was found by Hugh McArthur & Julia Wever in square 7, the lowest since 1998.

Also in square 7, Hanna & Rob Maciver found the only Long-tailed Duck on this count -- nice spotting folks. The Common Goldeneye count was the lowest since 1990, when 39 were seen compared to 37 this year. The 99 Red-breasted Mergansers is the highest CBC count. Hooded Mergansers were also found in record numbers with an amazing 13 birds.

The two Sharp-shinned Hawks seen this year were spotted by the fast eyes of Bill Read in square 3, and by Beth Powell at her feeder. Cooper's Hawks were found in low numbers as well with only three on this count -- the lowest number since 2002. Thanks to OPG, the Fisherville CBC now has its first Harris's Hawk. It was an amazing show on January with the three Peregrine Falcons trying to convince the Harris's Hawk that it needs to move. This Harris's Hawk has been used by falconers to help control Rock Pigeon and gull numbers at the OPG and Esso plants. In the spring of 2011, this hawk decided it could do better on its own so once it finished at Esso it moved to OPG, competing with the Peregrines.

Eastern Screech-Owl and Great-horned Owl both were scarce this year. Two Great-horned Owls was the lowest count since 2006 and six Screech-Owls was the lowest since 1989. Adam Timpf found a Snowy Owl -- the first record since 2008. The four Long-eared Owls was the highest since 2006. Two Belted Kingfishers were the highest since 2004. and it was not an easy day to find woodpeckers.

Red-bellied Woodpecker numbers were the lowest since 2007 with 23 birds seen. 40 Downy Woodpeckers was the lowest since 1994. Only two Hairy Woodpeckers were found -- the lowest since the start of the count. Black-capped Chickadees were also at the lowest numbers with only 229 found. As for the Tufted Titmouse, after reaching a record high of 26 last year this year only seven were seen. Both nuthatche counts were low with only two Red-breasted Nuthatches, the lowest since 95, and 37 White-breasted Nuthatches, the lowest since 1989.

Adam Timpf found the only Carolina Wren on this count - nice spotting Adam! Golden-crowned Kinglets were hard to find with - only six, their lowest number since 1989. Thanks to Hugh McArthur and Julia Wever we had a Gray Catbird – the second record for this count. Northern Mockingbirds were found in their lowest numbers since 1990 with three found. Finally, a species that is on the increase: 4292 European Starlings were counted – their highest since 2006.

Winter sparrows were hiding with a record low 205 American Tree Sparrows and only two Swamp Sparrows. Song Sparrows had their second lowest numbers – five were seen in 2007 and six were counted this year. The three White-throated Sparrows seen this year were up 1 from last year’s count. Slate-colored Juncos checked in at 163, their second lowest number since 1989. Only 206 Northern Cardinals were seen, the lowest number since this count started. Just to prove that there were some birds out there to count, Red-winged Blackbirds showed up in their highest numbers since 1989 at 372 and the 10 Common Grackles was the highest count since 1992 when 18 were found. The 80 House Finches were at their lowest number since 1989.

Thanks to Mark Cranford, Pine Siskin is back on the count with four being seen. The 157 American Goldfinches was the lowest count since 1999 when 154 were found. One species that is declining year after year is the House Sparrow -- the 440 found this year was down from 716 a year ago.

**Here is the rest of the data for the count:**

Observers: in the field: 20 at feeders: 15  
 Time: 12 am to 6 PM January 1, 2012  
 Hours on Foot: 39.5 Kms on Foot: 95  
 Hours By car: 84.5 Kms By car: 1478.2  
 Hours Owling: 10 Kms Owling: 102  
 Feeder hours: 48 Total Parties: 12  
 Temperature: +1°C to + 3°C  
 Rain was on & off in morning until the early afternoon.  
 Waves: 2 ft Wind: NW 40 km/h.  
 Snow Cover: None Water: Open

Pied-billed Grebe	1	Great Horned Owl	2
Double-crstd Cormorant	1	Snow y Owl	1
Great Blue Heron	17	Long-eared Owl	4
Sandhill Crane	10	Belted Kingfisher	2
Turkey Vulture	1	Red-bellied Woodpecker	23
Snow Goose	1	Downy Woodpecker	40
Canada Goose	4248	Hairy Woodpecker	2
Cackling Goose	2	Pleated Woodpecker	CW
Mute Swan	2	Northern Shrike	2
Tundra Swan	42	Blue Jay	209
Gadwall	74	American Crow	453
American Black Duck	37	Horned Lark	25
Mallard	929	Black-capped Chickadee	229
Blue-winged Teal	1	Tufted Titmouse	7
Green-winged Teal	3	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
Redhead	599	White-breasted Nuthatch	37
Greater Scaup	2310	Brown Creeper	1
Lesser Scaup	1	Carolina Wren	1
Long-tailed Duck	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	6
Bufflehead	288	Eastern Bluebird	25
Common Goldeneye	37	Gray Catbird	1
Common Merganser	2726	Northern Mockingbird	3
Hooded Merganser	13	European Starling	4292
Red-brstd Merganser	899	American Tree Sparrow	206
Bald Eagle	9	Song Sparrow	6
Northern Harrier	48	Swamp Sparrow	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	White-throated Sparrow	3
Cooper's Hawk	3	Slate-colored Junco	163
Red-tailed Hawk	101	Snow Bunting	404
Rough-legged Hawk	27	Northern Cardinal	84
American Kestrel	24	Red-winged Blackbird	372
Peregrine Falcon	3	Rusty Blackbird	10
Wild Turkey	219	Common Grackle	10
Bonaparte's Gull	842	Northern Flicker	2
Ring-billed Gull	6025	Brown-headed Cowbird	291
Herring Gull	174	House Finch	80
Glaucous Gull	1	Pine Siskin	4
Great Black-backed Gull	52	American Goldfinch	157
Rock Pigeon	1229	House Sparrow	440
Mourning Dove	1209	Harris's Hawk (escape)	1
Eastern Screech-owl	6	Pilgrim Goose x Canada	2
<b>Total Species: 82</b>		<b>Individuals: 29821</b>	

**Many thanks to the observers:**

Mark Cranford, Russ Walker, Rick Ludkin, Nancy Furber, Bill Read, David & Tamara Desoer, Garnet Mathews, Jim Smith, Beth Powell, Betsy Smith, Roger Gifford, Mary & Roy Galli, George Pond, Alan Aubin, Ernie & Tammy King, Wes Raymond, Adam Timpf, Russ Gloyd, Tom Thomas, Chris Street, Hugh McArthur, Julia Wever, Hanna & Rob MacIver, Fred Kopier, Jim Heslop, Bob Stamp, Rob Smuck, Alan & Linda Thrower, Audrey Heagy & David Okines.



Happy 90th Birthday Harry B.  
from all of us at NFN.

## Winter Tree I.D. - TheThree "B's"

Inga Hinnerichsen (Article & photos)

My husband and I moved to Norfolk County from Calgary only 1.5 years ago. The abundance of species here, flora and fauna alike, is very different compared to the sparse selection on the inland high plains east of the Rockies. We are taking advantage of every possible opportunity to learn about the environment in our new home. The trees of the Carolinian forest are of special interest to us.

By 1.00 pm the class room at Backus Conservation Education Centre was packed. At the beginning of the program there were 35 people present, still a few more trickled in later. Obviously, this was a popular event. Dolf laid out an assortment of labelled twigs on the long table passing them around as he described the characteristics of each tree species, starting with the first 2 of the 3 B's: Branches and Buds.

### Branches:

Conifers are easily identified by the differences of their evergreen needles: White Pine needles are 5 to a cluster, tScotch Pine has 2 twisted needles and the 2



Red Pine needles are straight, longer and softer than the Scotch Pine's. The 2 needles of the Jack Pine form a wider V. White Spruces have generally a bluish tinge to their needles and their cones are small. The Norway Spruce is a warmer green with drooping boughs and the cones are much longer. The flat, smooth branches of the White Cedar bear tiny cones while the Juniper (Red Cedar) has berries on the bushier branches. Hemlock needles are soft with a silvery underside and grow flat out from the twig. Tamarack (native species) and Larch (introduced species) are the only conifers that drop their needles in winter.

The much larger group of deciduous trees takes a more detailed examination to pin-point. Observe if the

branching is opposite or alternate, note if branches are coarse (eg. Walnut, Bitternut, Ashes, Poplars) or fine (eg. Maples, Yellow Birch, Black Cherry, Beech). Some grow in a fanlike plane (eg. Beech, Sassafras, Ironwood, Basswood), others look distinctly messy (eg. Oaks, Hickories, Black Cherry).

The colour of the twig is another important clue: Smooth green points to Sassafras, Bitternut Hickory twigs have yellowish tips, most Maples are reddish and the smaller Alternate Leaf Dogwood is dark purple, to mention a few.

### Buds:

Buds come in many shapes, sizes and configurations. They can be opposite, alternate, spiralled or crowded toward the end of the twig. The long, sharp bud of the Beech is unlike any other; Willow buds have only one cover scale; the large, pointed buds of the White and Balsam Poplars are sticky and fragrant, but Tulip Tree buds look like clam shells. Leaf scars are an additional clue to the identity of the tree. This is where the illustrations in a good guide book can point you in the right direction.

After the in-depth examination of the sample twigs, the group proceeded to test their newly acquired knowledge out in the forest. Dolf was leading the way and Nick De Serranno, Backus Heritage Conservation Area Director, took charge of the second part of the group. Their combined expertise left no questions unanswered. During the hike we observed the 3rd B.

### Bark:

The smooth light grey bark of the Beech is unmistakable; at the other end of the scale the Shagbark Hickory with its unkempt looking long peeling slivers of bark is just as unique. The scaly planes of Black Cherry bark are also distinguished by a dark purple-grey colour. A finer, even texture and a light warm greenish-grey colour is typical for Ashes, as is the grey diamond patterned coarser texture of Black Walnut bark. The warm grey bark, with very prominent squiggly ridges, is easy to recognize as Hackberry; papery curls belong to Yellow Birch. The smaller Blue Beech also has a smooth bark, but under its skin are sinewy muscle-like shapes. Unlike any other, Sycamore has patchy bark. As the older dark layers flake off they reveal a smooth pale green-grey new layer.

During our hike we noticed some large clumps of black matter clinging to young beeches. Nick explained that these are the waste of Woolly Aphid colonies. The white aphids appear in the late summer and form frost-like clusters on twigs and branches.





They are the main culprits spreading another introduced **fungus that attacks Beeches**. This disease, recognized by the oozing cankers on the trunks, is sadly now widespread in the Backus Woods and the Beeches are in dire straits.

Some trees can be identified by persisting berries or seed clusters. **Sycamore "buttons"** and Tulip Tree seed clusters are clearly visible from the ground even in the tallest trees. Some leaves of oaks also cling to the twigs long into the winter.



Although the day was blustery, we persisted happily for the two hours of the hike. This was an excellent up-close and hands-on learning opportunity. Several species of trees now seem familiar and names of the rest will follow with more practise over time. We look forward to our next walk in the woods.

There are excellent books, written by experts, with clear instructions and illustrations to help identify trees in the winter - or any other time of the year. Dolf Wynia recommended "**Trees in Canada**" by John Laird Farrar. We also find the pocket size "**Trees of Ontario**" by Linda Kershaw most useful on our excursions.

## More DVD's Donated to Library

Bernie Solymar

In recognition of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012, the Norfolk Field Naturalists purchased and donated a group of educational videos to the Norfolk Public Library last September. The 30 DVD collection, entitled "*The Nature and Environment Series*", includes breath-taking nature films that highlight Earth's natural history and documentaries that cover a broad range of topical environmental issues affecting our world today. (Ed: a list of the names was in the April 2011 Lotus.)

In March of 2012, NFN president, Bernie Solymar, donated another 5 documentaries from his personal collection to the "*The Nature and Environment Series*". Enjoy these educational and entertaining DVDs, and the rest of the collection, by visiting your local library or reserving on-line using the following method:

- 1) During 2012 (our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year):
  - a. Go to [www.ncpl.ca](http://www.ncpl.ca)
  - b. Click on **Search**
  - c. See **Featured Materials** for a link to all the DVDs donated
- 2) Permanently
  - a. Go to [www.ncpl.ca](http://www.ncpl.ca)
  - b. Click on **Our Community** and then **Norfolk County** in the drop down menu
  - c. Click on **Norfolk Field Naturalists** for a link to [www.norfolkfieldnaturalists.org](http://www.norfolkfieldnaturalists.org) and a complete list of the DVDs donated

## NATURE AND NATURAL HISTORY SERIES

### Microcosmos (1996)

Microcosmos captures the fun and adventure of a spectacular hidden universe relieved in a breathtaking close-up view unlike anything you've ever seen! Marvel at a pair of stag beetles dueling like titans amid the thunderous clashing of their horns. Stare bug-eyed as a magnificent army of worker ants race to stock their larder...while trying to avoid becoming some feisty pheasant s dinner. And you'll have a front-row seat to witness an amazing transformation from caterpillar to butterfly, the remarkable birth of a mosquito and several other minute miracles of life. With its tiny cast of thousands Microcosmos leaves no doubt that Mother Nature remains the greatest special effects wizard of all.

**Save the Date**

**Friday May 11th**

**Dr. Bridget Stutchbury, the 2012 BSC Guest Birdathoner and Canadian Research Chair in Ecology and Conservation Biology at York University, will be giving a talk at Bird Studies Canada the afternoon of Friday May 11th. Further details will be available in April.**

### **Grizzly Man (2005)**

In this mesmerizing film, acclaimed director Werner Herzog explores the life and death of amateur grizzly bear expert and wildlife preservationist Timothy Treadwell. Treadwell lived unarmed among the bears for thirteen summers, and filmed his adventures in the wild during his final five seasons. In October 2003, Treadwell's remains, along with those of his girlfriend, Amie Huguenard, were discovered near their campsite in Alaska's Katmai National Park and Reserve. They had been mauled and devoured by a grizzly, the first known victims of a bear attack in the park.

### **Isaac and Blewett in Fundy National Park (2009)**

The incredible environment of Fundy National Park has been captured on film by Isaac since the early 70's. The duo's original songs about living on the edge of the bay combined with Brian's visuals have been part of their regular summer gigs in the park. For almost a decade they've been playing throughout the summer for visitors in the park, and this DVD came out of their wish to take a piece of Fundy home with them. Sit back with a glass of wine or cup of tea and really see the edge of the Bay of Fundy.... with an awesome soundtrack!

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SERIES**

### **Waterlife (2009)**

Waterlife follows the epic cascade of the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. From the icy cliffs of Lake Superior to the ornate fountains of Chicago to the sewers of Windsor, this feature-length documentary tells the story of the last great supply (20 per cent) of fresh water on Earth. The source of drinking water, fish and emotional sustenance for 35 million people, the Great Lakes are under assault by toxins, sewage, invasive species, dropping water levels and profound apathy. Some scientists believe the lakes are on the verge of ecological collapse.

### **Sarah Harmer – Escarpment Blues (2006)**

It started as an idea for a walking tour. It became a celebration of the land. Join Sarah Harmer and her band on their "I Love the Escarpment" tour along the beautiful Niagara Escarpment. Featuring intimate performances with special guests, candid backstage footage, and interviews that address key issues surrounding Harmer's quest to protect a World Biosphere Reserve. Escarpment Blues won the award for Best Music DVD at the 2007 Juno Awards.

### **Three Bat Species Endangered in Canada**

COSEWIC press release

On 3 February 2012, an emergency assessment subcommittee of COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada)

assessed the status of Tri-colored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*), and Northern Myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*) in Canada. All three species were assessed as Endangered. The subcommittee concluded that the unprecedented mortality in Canada's native bat species from *Geomyces destructans*, the pathogen responsible for White-nose Syndrome, poses a serious and imminent threat to the survival of each of these species. Populations of all three species have recently declined precipitously due to the rapid spread of White Nose Syndrome.

Little is known about this syndrome that gets its name from the characteristic white fuzzy fungal growths that can be seen around the nose and on the wings of infected bats. White-nose Syndrome interrupts the hibernation of bats and they quickly use up the fat reserves that get them through the winter. Infected bats often emerge early from hibernation and are seen flying around in midwinter. These bats usually dehydrate or starve to death. The disease has now been linked to deaths of more than 5.7 million North American bats.

Although information on bats and the fungal disease is somewhat limited, the evidence of population collapse and rapid spread of the disease is clear. This is only the fourth emergency assessment carried out by COSEWIC in about ten years. White Nose Syndrome was first identified in a cave in New York State, USA in February 2006. It was discovered in Canada in the winter of 2009/2010 and is now confirmed in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and is spreading rapidly at rates of between 200 and 400km/year. It is believed that the fungus is not native to North America, and further human transport may facilitate more rapid spread to western Canada.

The contact for questions on bats and the White Nose Syndrome is:

Dr. Graham Forbes

Faculty of Forestry & Envir. Management  
University of New Brunswick

Telephone: (506) 453-4929

Fax: (506) 453-3538

forbes@unb.ca



## **Spooky Hollow Report**

Barb Hawke

It is spooky what could happen to the Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) but the Hamilton Field Naturalists, owners of a section of Spooky Hollow in Norfolk, are trying their best to nurse it back to health by re-creating its original home. Since our NFN 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary insignia is our Flowering Dogwood, I found it only appropriate to spend a day trying to ensure its survival.

On a sunny but brisk March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the annual Spring work party arrived. There had already been much action as could be seen by many markers (including the Dogwoods) thanks to ongoing research by Gregor Beck, of Beck Ecological Consulting. If you notice a shortage of trail tape in Norfolk County, this is the reason. There is much to nurture in these woods. At this protected site, various methods are underway to identify, monitor and learn about what works over time for many species including our County Flower, which is under attack from the dreaded Anthracnose.

Rakes in hand, some people busily removed debris surrounding marked, emerging dogwoods in hopes of decreasing the moisture which may make it less vulnerable to disease; it originally thrived in dry, sandy soil and/or edges of forests. Hopefully this will also help keep the prescribed burn from catching near the dogwoods. The chainsaw work party had the big job of clearing the trails to create fire breaks for the upcoming prescribed burn. The scheduled burn, under the direction of Lands and Forests this Spring requires the pre-burn monitoring of temperature and humidity, which will be recorded once a day by local volunteers from our club until the burn takes place. All is under the direction of Jen Baker, Land Trust Coordinator of Spooky for the Hamilton Field Naturalists.

We all welcomed a delicious outdoor lunch of chili and sausage on a bun as we warmed ourselves by the bonfire. Mary and Peter of St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre gave an informative talk on many pertinent topics including the attributes of Fisher Creek, which runs through Spooky, as well as some interesting formations on the property. People generous with their time and knowledge are very inspiring and this added greatly to the day. To bring back the original species of this area requires not only people, but access to land set aside for this purpose, such as Spooky Hollow. Many others are also involved in the recovery and research of the Flowering Dogwood and other native species as well. Kevin Kavanagh has been involved due to his

expertise in all the Carolinian species, as well as McMaster students doing research at this location. A bigger picture includes documentation of many plants, assessing and recording their condition, height, diseases, fruition, possible threats and finally recommendations regarding choices and guidance in stewardship. Not to be forgotten are the many dedicated volunteers who deem this a valuable undertaking and lend their time and sweat to this collective endeavor.

In future, practices and decisions that are being made now will be re-assessed as to their effectiveness. There are always many debates as to what will be successful but as in our own lives, we do the best we can with the time and knowledge that we currently have. Thank you to the Hamilton Field Naturalists for their stewardship and for allowing the Norfolk Field Naturalists to participate.

## **Ontario Builds First Animal Bridge**

CBC News Mar 20, 2012

A multi-million-dollar wildlife overpass has been completed south of Sudbury — one that's aimed at local animals. The overpass is the first of its kind in Ontario. It's to make sure wildlife doesn't cross the new section of Highway 69 near the turn-off to Killarney. A series of underpasses will also be built along a section of Hwy 69 that sees large numbers of wildlife collisions. This is being done to keep animals off a section of the highway that sees an above-average number of collisions between drivers and wildlife. A six-kilometre stretch of fencing will keep wildlife off the road and guide them towards the overpass. A few animals have already used the bridge, even though the fence isn't up yet.

## **Stopping Snapping Turtle Hunting in Ontario**

Snapping turtles are at risk of disappearing from Ontario as a result of the grim threat of hunting, being run over by cars, and toxic contamination and loss of their wetland habitat. That is why snappers are already listed under Canada's federal endangered species law. But right now anyone in Ontario can legally kill up to two snapping turtles a day with a valid recreational hunting or fishing licence. The Ontario government can change this absurd policy – and give the snappers a fighting chance – by banning hunting of snapping turtles across the province.

David Suzuki advocates sending letters to Michael Graevelle, the Minister of Natural Resources, insisting he take action to kill the absurd law that allows hunting of Ontario's threatened snapping turtles.

## Carolinian Tree Collection

Alan W. McKeown



*Tulip tree bloom*

In 1982, Dr Don Elfving and I started a small collection of the native Carolinian tree species found in Norfolk County. The intent was to have examples of the rarer species for preservation in a location where they can be seen and enjoyed.

These trees are planted to the east and south of the office building at the Simcoe Research Station. The initial planting consisted of Black walnut *Juglans nigra*; Blue ash, *Fraxinus quadrangulata*; Cherry birch *Betula lenta*; Hop tree *Ptelea trijoliata*; Kentucky coffee tree *Gymnocladus dioica*; PawPaw *Asimina triloba*; Tulip *Liriodendron tulipifera*; Ohio Buckeye *Aesculus glabra*; Redbud *Cercis canadensis*; and Tupelo (Pepperidge) *Nyssa sylvatica*.

Since then we have added a Cucumber tree *Magnolia acuminata* dedicated to the Centenary of OMAFRA in 1988; Flowering Dogwood *Comus florida*, and Butternut *Juglans cinerea*. There is a native chestnut *Castanea dentata* growing on the site in the area of the collection.



There is a Shagbark Hickory *Carya ovata* in the collection area from the original plantings on the station or from the previous owners. In 1986, a local Horticultural Society, District 6 of the Ontario Horticultural Association, donated a Sweet gum *Uquidambar snyderi/ua*, which is planted on the north of the office building. The east parking lot is surrounded by Redbuds and is now spectacular in the spring.

The Butternuts came from my parents' farm, 4<sup>th</sup> Concession, Lot 17, W. F1amboro, north of Dundas, Ontario. The seeds for the Kentucky coffee trees came from trees around the old Horticulture building on the Michigan State University campus and were collected by Don Elfving in 1978. The seeds for the Tupelo trees were collected by Don Elfving at Backus woods in Norfolk in 1981. The chestnut tree originated from one of 3 seeds collected on Sept. 27, 1986 about 2 km. west of Walsh ON., on the 6<sup>th</sup> Concession.

The Ohio Buckeye originated from a seed collected from a specimen tree on the campus of Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. The original Blue ash, Cherry birch, Hop tree, Pawpaw, Tulip, Redbud came from the now defunct St. Williams Tree Nursery. Cucumber trees also came from the tree nursery and died, and were replaced with one obtained from the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton. Flowering dogwood was donated by Mary Gartshore of Pterophylla Inc., near Walsingham, ON from locally collected seeds. The trees purchased in 2010 were all from seed collected in Norfolk by Mary Gartshore.

This last spring (2010), I purchased from Pterophylla Inc, a few more species and planted them, another Blue ash; Pumpkin ash *Fraxinus profunda*; True Mountain ash, ; additional Paw Paws; Ginkgo, *Ginkgo bi/aba*; American sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*; and a Cherry birch from Niagara peninsula seed. Ginkgo is not Carolinian, but we included it as it is a very ancient tree, more closely related to conifers than broad-leaf trees, and is thought to have medicinal properties. It's my intention to add some more species, including native fruit bearing shrubs.





## Next Meeting

**Tuesday, May 22, 2012**  
From Stardust to Ecosystems:  
The Symphony of Life  
John and Mary Theberge

## SPECIAL EVENT

**Saturday, May 26, 2012**  
**Noon to 7 pm**  
**NFN BIOBLITZ**  
St. Williams Conservation Reserve

### Upcoming NFN Events

**Sat. Apr. 14**  
**6pm - 8pm**

**Amazing**  
**Amphibians**

**Bernie Solymar 519-426-7124**



**Sat. Apr 21**  
**start 9:30am**

**Field Trip to**  
**Beamer**  
**Conservation**

**Area For Hawk Watching**

**Diane Salter 519-586-7775**  
**or bigcreek@kwic.com**



**Sunday May 13**  
**2pm - 4pm**

**Mothers'**  
**Day**  
**Spring**  
**Wildflower**  
**Walk**

**Colleen Dale 519-512-0240**



**Sat. May 26**  
**start 8:30am**

**Field Trip to Elgin County**

**Bernie Solymar 519-426-7124**

**Sat, June 16**  
**10 am to Noon**

**Lynn Valley**  
**Trail Hike**  
**Al McKeown**



### 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](http://www.norfolkfieldnaturalists.org)**

**Next issue of Lotus:**

**June 2012**

**Input cutoff date:**

**Fri. June 1, 2012**

### Club Mailing Address

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

### **2011 - 2012 NFN Directors with Contact and Project Information**

<b>all 519-</b>			
<b>President</b>	Bernie Solymar	426-7124	solymar@nornet.on.ca
<b>Vice-President</b>	Tara Crewe	586-3531x163	crewe@bsc-eoc.org
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<b>Environment</b>	(position currently vacant)		
<b>Director-at-large</b>	Barb Hawke	586-8375	bhawke@kwic.com
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<b>Director-at-large</b>	(position currently vacant)		
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