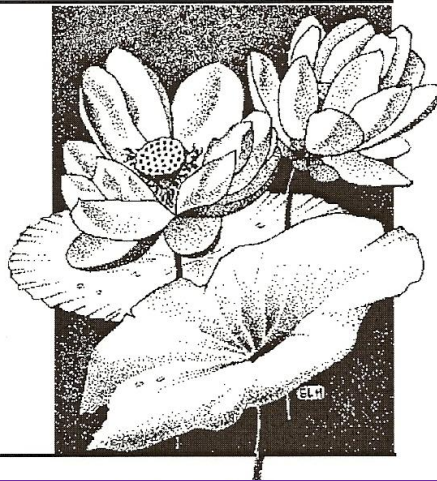


Lotus

NEWSLETTER
of the
NORFOLK FIELD NATURALISTS



DECEMBER 2012



NFN 50th Anniversary Gala

October 20, 2012 - An Evening to Remember

Photos by: Inga Hinnerichsen and as noted

The Port Rowan Community Hall was decked out in its best. The tables were set out adorned with pumpkin and fall flower centre pieces and scattered colourful foliage on the bright table cloths. More branches with autumn leaves were set on the stage against the dark curtain. Beautiful Quilts by Cathy Thompson were displayed on the walls and tables with memorabilia from NFN's past attracted a lot of interest from the attending members and guests. A slide show of nature images was projected on a large screen during the event.

A large collection of silent auction items, ranging from books to art work, a dinner for 4 and a canoe trip brought in \$1,648.00 all of which was donated to the Monroe Landon Scholarship at the University of Guelph. A big Thank You to all generous donors! Available was also the special commemorative 50th Anniversary issue of Lotus edited by Anne Davidson and a support committee. The NFN 50th Anniversary lapel pin was for sale at \$5.00. A small number is still available, contact Audrey Heagy, or purchase yours at the next meeting.



NFN Past presidents: Dolf Wynia, Al McKeown, Audrey Heagy, Harry Barrett, Don Walker, Peter Carson, Mary Gartshore, Betty Chanyi, Jim Harlow, Ross Bateman and current President Bernie Solymár

50th Anniversary Gala - from page 1

Attending members, friends and guests began arriving by 6.00 pm. Some notables had made the trip to Port Rowan from afar: Jim Harlow drove all the way from Sudbury and some of the Landon family members came from London.

The evening got to a great start during the Social Hour. At 7.00 pm NFN President Bernie Solymár welcomed everyone to the Anniversary Gala. The program began with Madaline Wilson reading a short piece by Chief Dan George followed by a Toast to Norfolk and Canada by Norfolk County Councillor Betty Chanyi.



Bernie Solymár, Betty Chanyi,
Toby Barrett and Guest Speaker John Riley

During the dinner several notable NFN officials were recognized for their lasting marks on the organization and the environment: Anne Wynia gave a tribute to Honorary Director Harry B. Barrett, Audrey Heagy presented special celebratory NFN 50th Anniversary pins to Honorary President Al Robinson and Honorary Director Jim Harlow. Lotus Editor Anne Davidson was recognized for her hard work over several years with a tapestry depicting Eastern Bluebirds presented by Shirley Rothery. The presentations were followed by congratulatory speeches by our local politicians Toby Barrett MPP and Peter Black of Norfolk County.

Shirley Rothery
presenting a gift to
Anne Davidson for
her work as Editor
of the Lotus



Harry B. Barrett
receiving a
commemorative pin from
Anne Wynia

After a short intermission NFN President Bernie Solymár introduced the current Board of Directors and all the attending Past Presidents, who then posed for a historic photograph - see page 1. The guest speaker, John Riley, Senior Science Advisor for Nature Conservancy of Canada, was introduced by Mary Gartshore. - Look for John Riley's speech in the February Lotus. Diane Salter thanked the speaker and presented John with the 50th Anniversary pin. The evening was ended with closing remarks by Bernie Solymár.



Jim Harlow, Audrey Heagy and Al Robinson (Photo: George Finney)

Lastly, on behalf of NFN and all those who attended the 50th Anniversary Gala, a BIG Thank You for pulling together a truly memorable evening goes to Shirley Rothery and her organizing committee: Barb Hawke, Alan Ladd, Anne Wynia, Diane Salter, Madaline Wilson, Ruth Ann Logan, Peggy McArthur, Inga Hinnerichsen, Bernie Solymár and all those who chipped in helping with set-up, take-down and clean-up.

Honorary Director
Jim Harlow's speech
at the 50th Anniversary Gala

"In 1987 the NFN celebrated its 25th anniversary and at the same time hosted the Federation of Ontario Naturalists that was celebrating its 50th anniversary. The following is a brief summary of the address I gave at the combined dinner:



the evolution of these various aims and objectives. The professionalism and integrity of the club is going to be required more than ever. The exponential growth of knowledge is going to be challenging, let us hope that we can cope with it. A recent article that I read on the prospect of increased longevity made the statement that the first person to live to 150 years was born 25 years ago!

It is critical for the NFN to continue to publicize its role in the conservation and preservation of the flora and fauna in the Haldimand Norfolk area. The NFN was gaining the respect of governments and non-government organizations due to the high degree of professionalism and integrity of its Executive and Club Members and these qualities will be required even more so in the future. Ours is not an adversarial position, it is one of convincing individuals, business and government organizations of the need to develop our relationship with Nature. We need to continue to educate ourselves and others as to the global aspect of the environment. We can no longer live in isolation. We are required to take a quantum leap in our approach with nature and recognize that Humanity is part of Nature and Nature is part of Humanity.

Has Nature ever exploited Humanity for Profit? Practical but not earth shattering steps need to be taken immediately by our club with increasing involvement from our younger members. You must:

- 1.) Further develop the "Committee System"
- 2.) Develop an effective system to ensure a steady supply of younger members
- 3.) Continuously develop the interest of members to become executive. This has already taken place through a mentoring strategy.
- 4.) Develop a sound funding approach to enable the club to fulfil its aims and objectives

This is a summary of what I stated in 1987 and it seems to me that the bulk of these aims and objectives were achieved by our executive over the last 25 years and I think the club must be commended and congratulated for its achievements. I believe that the next 25 years should be geared to

On the 10th of July, 1896, The Simcoe Reformer wrote: "Work has commenced on the bicycle trail to Port Dover". That was 91 years ago. I do not know when it was finished or how long it lasted but it took the dedicated and sustained effort of club members to rebuild and complete the Lynn Valley Trail in 1992. This dedicated and sustained effort of our club members has been critical to the success and evolution of our club.

I'm going to digress a little bit and tell you how I became President of the NFN. In 1985, the NFN was having a Board meeting at our house in Port Ryerse because Joan at that time was a director. I had recently retired from Stelco and was minding my own business in the basement when a couple of the directors (Don Walker and Ross Bateman) appeared by my side and one of them said: "How would you like to be president of the NFN?" We discussed it for a while and I said that it would be a challenge for me but they might not like the way I would run the organization. That did not appear to faze them (which indicated to me that they were short of applications), so I accepted. So began the democratisation of the club, including a new constitution drafted by Arthur Langford and yours truly.

In conclusion, I believe that the next 25 years are going to be even more critical than ever. That criticality may and will probably happen long before the end of the next quarter century. The club will be challenged like never before and will require the sustained effort of its executive and members, particularly our younger members - i.e. anyone below the age of 75. I wish you success in your evolution as well as in achieving your aims and objectives. Thank you and here's to the future!"

FIELD OUTING MUSHROOM IDENTIFICATION HIKE

Article and mushroom photos by: Inga Hinnerichsen

A large number of mushroom enthusiasts, 38 in all, gathered at the Backus Woods parking lot off 3rd Concession Road in the early afternoon on Sunday, October 21. Because of the late date, I had prepared in advance a few "Show & Tell" items just in case. A lady carrying a small box approached me asking if she could display some mushroom specimens that she had brought. Fantastic! We would definitely have something to look at. I directed her to the picnic shelter down the access road, where I had already set up my small display.

The first species we encountered under the dense conifers along the access road were groups of *Tricholomas* (*Tricholoma portentosum*) and the broken remnants of a Giant Puffball, probably used as a football by some other hikers. Sometimes animals and birds will also break mushrooms searching for tasty bugs and grubs in them. Squirrels will actually store mushrooms on trees and shrubs where they dry and keep for later consumption. Closer to the picnic shelter we found a few tiny puffballs and the odd Slippery Jack, a *Suillus* species.



Show & Tell (Photo by: Marina Lloyd)

To my utter amazement the table in the shelter was laden with all kinds of mushrooms that the lady had brought. It turned out that she is a real-life Mycologist. Unfortunately I didn't catch her name and she had to leave right after the demonstration. She helped with a lot of the identifications and pointed out scientific names of the species we were looking at.

Here, I would like to explain that I'm a far cry from a mushroom expert. My main interest are mushrooms that you can eat and, on the other hand, poisonous mushrooms to be aware of. I've had no formal training in Mycology. My knowledge comes from growing up in Finland, where mushroom picking in the autumn is a national pastime. My father was an avid hobby botanist who taught me about mushrooms at an early age. Later, I have educated myself with the help of mushroom guide books constantly expanding my knowledge of the weird and wonderful world of fungi.



Clustered Collybia and Late Fall Polypore

We spent close to an hour at the shelter looking at the collection of mushrooms. Some of the species were: Bitter Bolete (*Tylopilus felleus*), Fried Chicken Mushroom (*Lyophyllum decastes*), various Russulas, a lovely, but lethal False Death Cap (*Amanita citrina*) and two interesting Earth Stars. I had also prepared spore prints of a few species that I had collected before: Painted Bolete (*Suillus spraguei*), Slippery Jill (*Suillus salmonicolor*), Indigo Milky (*Lactarius indigo*) and Clustered Clitocybe (*Clitocybe subconnexa*)

The walk in the woods yielded less variety. The ground was already covered with a fresh carpet of leaves obscuring any fungi that might still be there. Bracket fungi and other species that grow on tree trunks, fallen logs and stumps were still on display: hoof-like Tinder Polypores (*Fomes fomentarius*), Late Fall Polypores (*Ischnoderma resinosum*) on

Mushroom Identification Hike - Continued

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the underside of hardwood logs. Turkey Tail-like small zonate *Bjerkandera adusta* and a large colony of Clustered Collybia (*Gymnopus acervatus*) were identified. A lone *Pholiota* was still clinging to a Yellow Birch trunk.

A few helpful hints for mushroom identification:

1. Guide Books. Refer to more than one book - descriptions can vary. "Mushrooms of Ontario and Eastern Canada" published by Lone Pine is a good start. The books contain lots of useful information, including usually a "how-to" section and some have a "thumb nail" picture section that can steer you in the right direction.

2. Appearance of the mushroom. Start with the illustrations in your books. There are thousands of different fungi, books only show some of the most common and easily recognizable species. The description often lists look-alikes. Look at the cap, the underside of the cap and the entire stem, including parts that are hidden underground. Observe any discolouration when the mushroom is bruised or cut. Remember that the appearance of many mushrooms changes with age.

3. Environment. Make notes of where you found the mushroom: Under or on what kind of trees, what kind of soil, out in a field or park, etc.

4. Smell. The fragrance of a mushroom may also give you a helpful clue of its identity.

5. Spore print. There are many species that are very difficult to identify in the field. A spore print is often the only way. Cut the cap off a mature, spore producing specimen. Place it, underside of the cap down, on a piece of paper, white or dark depending on the colour of the spore print you expect. Cover it with a bowl to keep it away from drafts or wind. Leave for 3 - 4 hours. Lift the cap off the paper and observe the spore print it has produced.

Lastly, if you are interested in collecting edible mushrooms, go with an experienced mushroom collector a few times before venturing out on your own. Only pick ones that are 100% identified safe. Mushrooms should never be eaten raw. Test-eat a small amount of the cooked mushrooms first to make sure they do not cause stomach upset. People can react differently even to the safe edible species.



A group of mushroom enthusiasts (Photo: Marina Lloyd)

NFN needs your help - no experience required!
(only a healthy dose of enthusiasm)

**Attend 1 Directors' meeting a month, spend 3 - 4 hours a month helping with various tasks:
Report on Environment issues, organize Field Events, Speaker engagements, etc.
assisted by other Board Members**

Get involved with your club, it is a greatly rewarding experience!
For more information contact any Director - See the back page

Ontario Nature

Carolinian East Regional Meeting

Fall 2012

The NFN was hosting the Ontario Nature - Carolinian East Fall Meeting this year at the **Long Point Waterfowl Research and Education Centre** on September 29. Lisa Richardson, Nature Network Co-ordinator for Ontario Nature (ON) was chairing the meeting assisted by Josh Wire. 9 representatives from 6 clubs in South West Ontario were in attendance:

Alf Senior and Gord McNulty of Hamilton Naturalists Club (HNC), Roger Boyd of Woodstock Field Naturalists (WFN), Mark Cranford of South Peel Naturalists Club (SPNC), Rhonda Armstrong of Niagara Falls Naturalists Club (NFNC), Donna Murphy of Peninsula Field Naturalists (PFN), Carol Horvat representing both NFNC and PFN and Bernie Solymár and Inga Hinnerichsen of Norfolk Field Naturalists (NFN)

During the morning session the club representatives gave updates of their group plans and activities followed by an Ontario Nature update by Lisa and Josh.

Among other activities, ON is active in conservation and education, including trying for Nature Reserve or Park status for Wolf Lake near Temagami. The Nature Guardian program targets city youths 15 - 18 years of age taking them on weekend camping trips. The Greenway Program is promoting policies for provincial land use in cooperation with municipal departments and ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) The work on the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas is in progress, including a web site with maps and identification guides.



Picnic lunch under the trees: Bernie, Roger, Josh, Inga, Mark, Lisa, Carol and Donna (Photo by: Inga Hinnerichsen)

The lunch break outside at the picnic tables was followed by an open discussion on recruiting younger members and new directors. These points could be fodder for future discussions and direction:

1. The name "Field Naturalists" might be outdated and does not relate well with younger public that doesn't understand what that means. For example, *McIlwraith Field Naturalists* recently changed its name to *London Nature*.
2. Traditional talks and walks just don't appeal to younger folks. Coming up with new ideas/events should be considered.
3. Social media plays a huge role in communication and networking with younger generation. Facebook is much more effective these days than brochures, mail-outs, or even e-mail.
4. Younger folks are just too busy with jobs and families to attend evening talks and weekend walks. Family-oriented events might attract this demographic (Bernie's note: This is certainly working with Nature's Calling Environmental Education events).
5. Some clubs have a "club schmoozer", who's role it is to greet newcomers and guests that attend talks and walks and chat them up – making them more comfortable and increasing chances of them joining.
6. Affiliations with other organizations can be very effective in attracting new members. This could mean hosting a joint lecture or hike, or conducting a project together.
7. Some clubs have in their by-laws that no executive member (President, V.P. Treasurer, Secretary) can serve more than 2-year terms. This has been successful within some clubs – although there is plenty of "recycling" where individuals may have had, for example, several terms as President but each separated by a couple of years.

The conclusion was that to keep clubs viable in today's busy and wired world it is time to start thinking outside the box and coming up with innovative alternatives to attract younger members and recruiting new directors. Food for thought.....

WANTED:
Members' nature photos
for the next Lotus issues.

Email your best shot to: daveinga@live.ca

BOOK REVIEW:

A LONG POINT PORTFOLIO

Publisher: Larry Monczka / Blurb Inc.
Websites: www.RaraAvisPhotos.com
www.blurb.com
Photographer: Larry Monczka
Editor's Rating: Two thumbs up!

I picked up a copy of this book during the Studio Tour this fall. There are many books on the history of this area and the Great Lakes, but although Long Point and Norfolk County are blessed with great natural beauty, this is the first publication of fine art photography featuring the nature of Long Point that I have seen.

The Preface is written by **Michael Bradstreet**, Vice President Conservation, Nature Conservancy of Canada.

All the images have been photographed from publicly accessible areas along the Causeway, Big Creek, Long Point Beach and Long Point Provincial Park.

Larry Monczka lives in Port Ryerse with his wife, muse and fellow photographer **Kathleen Pickard**. Although all of the photographs made for this project are Larry's, the project is a true partnership with his wife Kathy, who collaborated on the final selection of images, as well as sequencing and designing the layout of this self-published book. Larry has taken many week-long photographic workshops over the years with Freeman Patterson, the New Brunswick based photographer and educator, whom he considers to be his mentor in the "art of seeing."

Copies of "A Long Point Portfolio" will be available in limited quantities from the website, or can be ordered directly from the publisher (Blurb). All the photographs in this book are also available as Fine Art Prints.

Larry is working on a second book: "Long Point - 52 weeks", available in January 2013.

Contact Larry at:

RaraAvis.pix@gmail.com

519-426-5805



HOAR FROST - LONG POINT MARSH Photo by: Larry Monczka

Welcome New NFN Members!

**Mary Dempsy, James Hunter, Jim Runnings, Dave Walker,
Jennifer White and Karen & Robert Wood**

We are looking forward to meeting you all
and hope you will participate in and enjoy
all the NFN indoor presentations and field outings!

Look for more

**50th Anniversary
Gala photos**

in the February Lotus!

Upcoming NFN Winter Events

Christmas Bird Counts

Sunday, December 16, 2012

Woodhouse Count

(Norfolk County)

Contact: David Okines

519-586-9464

davidokines@aol.com

Saturday, January 5, 2013

Fisherville Count

(Haldimand County)

Contact: Linda Thrower

905-774-1230

giantindians@3web.net

Meeting & Presentation

Tuesday, January 8, 2013

7.30 pm

Caring for Nature in Norfolk

Don & Marg Werden and

Kathryn Boothby

Simcoe Seniors Centre

89 Pond Street, Simcoe

Winter Birding in Haldimand County

Sunday, January 20, 2013

Contact: David Okines

or Audrey Heagy

519-586-9464

Normandale Fish Culture

Station Tour

Saturday, February 2, 2013

1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

Contact: Shirley Rothery

519-586-9535

Meeting & Presentation

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

7.30 pm

On Safari in East Africa

Speaker: Tony Davey

Simcoe Seniors Centre

89 Pond Street, Simcoe

NFN meetings

Norfolk Field Naturalist meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month from September to May. Meetings take place at the Simcoe Seniors Centre at 89 Pond Street.

The meetings are free and visitors are always welcome.

Doors open at 7:15 pm, programs begin at 7:30 pm.

NFN Mailing Address

Norfolk Field Naturalists

PO Box 995, Simcoe, ON

N3Y 5B3

Next Lotus issue:

February 2013

Input dead line:

Friday, February 1

About the NFN

Norfolk Field Naturalists members participate in meetings and field outings, many of which are family-friendly. Membership fees, are \$20 Individual and \$30 Family. Donations are eligible for income tax credits. Non-profit 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. Copies of the Lotus are available at meetings, by mail or by email and posted on the NFN web site. Articles published in the Lotus reflect the views and opinions of the authors, but not necessarily those of the NFN.
www.norfolkfieldnaturalists.org

2012-2013 NFN Executive with contact & project information

President	Bernie Solymar	<u>All 519-</u> 426-7124	solymar@nornet.on.ca
Vice-President, Sanctuary/Natural Areas	Peter Carson	586-3985	gartcar@kwic.com
Treasurer/Past President	Audrey Heagy	586-9464	aheagy@bsc-eoc.org
Secretary	Colleen Dale	512-0240	cdale22@yahoo.ca
Membership/Publicity	Diane Salter	586-7775	bigcreek@kwic.com
Field Events (vacant)			
Speaker Program (vacant)			
Environment (vacant)			
Director-at-large	Shirley Rothery	586-9535	shirleyrothery@hotmail.com
Director-at-large	Barb Hawke	586-8375	bhawke@kwic.com
Director-at-large	Alan Ladd	426-8504	
Director-at-large	Rick Dowson	426-9774	mrrick@bellnet.ca
Director-at-large, Lotus Editor (appointed)	Inga Hinnerichsen	875-5601	daveinga@live.ca

Butterfly Counts: (appointed) Doug Timpf (deceased) Adam & Matt Timpf 586-9964

Christmas Bird Counts: (appointed) David Okines - Woodhouse Count 519-586-9464

Linda Thrower - Fisherville Count 905-774-1230

Honorary President: Al Robinson

Honorary Directors: Harry Barrett, Jim Harlow