

Owen Sound Field Naturalists  
*Knowing Nature Better!*  
**OUTDOOR PROGRAMME**  
Please refer to the Hart's Tongue Herald or visit [www.osfn.ca](http://www.osfn.ca)

**Sat Sep 13 (alt14) 1-4pm Tom & Dee Ashman Wonderland of Rocks at Rural Rootz, Wiarton, with Tom & Dee Ashman** Highlights include Cliffscape Ecology with amazing formations of limestone, fossils and fungi, a Beaver Pond tour, and "check out our incredible crop of Hart's Tongue Ferns. They are astonishing!" Limit:15 Register: [jwdickso@gmail.com](mailto:jwdickso@gmail.com)

**Sun Sep 21 10am - 3pm Beth Gilhespy: Geology Hikes (Max 25 11am & 1pm) & Book Launch for Walking Through Time** at Lions Head Beach Pavilion. Visit <https://pbtc.ca/hikes> to register for a Walking Through Time Hike (11am or 1pm)

**Wed Sep 24 10am -1pm Claudia Strelocke to guide a Mushroom/Fungi ID** hike near Priceville. Slime Molds and Lichens too. Moderate difficulty. Limit 15 Register with John by email at [jwdickso@gmail.com](mailto:jwdickso@gmail.com) and receive directions.

**Sun Oct 12 (am) – Enjoy An Autumn Nature Ramble with the Sein family (Pat, Rod, Erik) in the Ferndale area. More details TBA soon at osfn.ca**

**Sat Oct 18, 9:15am - 1pm - Bob Knapp: Marshall Woods Magnificent Old Growth Forest Hike** This spectacular, cathedral-like forest near Walters Falls is home to many fungi, Rocklyn Creek, and a lovely, terraced waterway. The 6-km hike is uneven in places. Hike cancelled if heavy rain. Carpool to be organized at meet location. Register by Oct 12: email John at [jwdickso@gmail.com](mailto:jwdickso@gmail.com)

**Sat Oct 25, 9:30 am – Noon - David Turner: Beaver Valley Birding** At various habitats and locations, discover what species have arrived, which will stay, and which ones will be winging southwards. Limit: 20. For start location, etc., Register: David, [fleshertonartgallery@gmail.com](mailto:fleshertonartgallery@gmail.com) or 519-924-3560

**Sun Nov 2, 10am - 2pm – Birding Around the Bay – Waterfowl & More with Erik Van Den Kieboom** Join Erik for this OSFN fall tradition. Ducks, grebes, loons, rarities – you can search for them all and more too. Meet near water at front of Bayshore Community Ctre Limit 30 Register with [erikkieboom@outlook.com](mailto:erikkieboom@outlook.com)

**Annual Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) Dec 14, 2024 – Jan 5, 2025.** OSFN members are invited to participate in CBCs across Grey-Bruce. Counts are held on different dates throughout the CBC period. **OSFN's Winter/December Hart's Tongue Herald and e-Heralds will have dates and contact information, or visit this link to find a CBC near you.** <https://naturecounts.ca/apps/cbc/mapviewer.jsp>

**Jan-Feb Date & Time TBA - Nordic Ski: Beth Anne Currie & John Dickson** Enjoy nature and history enriched by fellowship and gentle classic ski exercise in the great snowy outdoors near Cobble Beach. Snowshoers can come along at your own pace as trails well marked. Registration details will be available when the snow is suitable.

[www.owensoundfieldnaturalists.ca](http://www.owensoundfieldnaturalists.ca)  
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**CALENDAR 2025 - 2026**

**Sat Feb 21, 1 - 4pm – Jeff Kinchen: Who Made Those Tracks & Why?** This enriching tracking tutorial will teach you to observe and recognize nature's clues. Jeff will lead you on this interpretive late winter tracking hike. Snowshoes may be needed. Limit: 12. Directions and Register: Jeff, [bognors.finest@gmail.com](mailto:bognors.finest@gmail.com) or 519-374-4246

**Sat Mar 21, 9:30 –12 Noon - David Turner: Birding Beaver Valley** [weather dependent] Experience some early arrivals during Spring migration. Lake Eugenia for Tundra Swans and the nearby Beaver River. Register: David, [fleshertonartgallery@gmail.com](mailto:fleshertonartgallery@gmail.com) or 519-924-3560

**Tue May 12, 9:30 -11:30/Noon Springtime Nature Ramble in the Beaver Valley 'again' with Jen Worrall** Enjoy meadows, forests and wetland features. The 2025 hike there was a winner with birds, flowers, deer, salamanders. Ramble up to 3KM, at a relaxed pace along good walking trails – mostly flat, except for one steep sloped area. Limit 15 – Register by email with John Dickson at [jwdickso@gmail.com](mailto:jwdickso@gmail.com)

**Thur May 21, 8:30-10:30am Beth Anne Currie: Grassland Birding** Meet at East Linton to experience an Eastern Bluebird/Tree Swallow trail. Roadside nesting boxes require spring monitoring and maintenance so hand pruners and loppers help with the removal of small trees and shrubs that crowd out nesting boxes. Enjoy listening and observing other grassland specialists and spring arrivals near Indian Creek. Limit 10-15 Register by email to [bethannecurrie@sympatico.ca](mailto:bethannecurrie@sympatico.ca) or TEXT: 519.379.8231

**Sat June 13 1- 4pm Rural Rootz in Springtime with Tom and Dee Ashman. A Wonderland of Rocks, Ferns, Flowers and more.** Celebrating 5 decades of respectful conservation and sharing of Rural Rootz here at Wiarton. Limit 15. Register with John at [jwdickso@gmail.com](mailto:jwdickso@gmail.com)

**June date TBA, 10am - 3pm - Saugeen Valley Lookout with Brian and Clare Maher** Visit Nels Maher's and John Weir's Fern Garden. Orchids, birds and more on this 40-acre naturalized property by the Saugeen River near Durham. Bring lunch. Guided tours. Limit: 20. Register: Brian, [brianmaher599@hotmail.com](mailto:brianmaher599@hotmail.com) or 1-705-728-1507

**Mon June 22 9am -12 Jeannine Kralt: Botany & More on the Lake Huron Shore** Starting at the Oliphant Fen and then to Petrel Point, this leisurely paced exploration of two unique coastal wetlands will highlight their sights and sounds. Mostly on boardwalks. Limit:12 Register: email Jeannine at [stewardship@osfn.ca](mailto:stewardship@osfn.ca)

**All events & times subject to change:To confirm visit [www.osfn.ca](http://www.osfn.ca)**



***KNOWING NATURE BETTER!***  
**2025 - 2026**  
**PROGRAMME LISTINGS**

The Owen Sound Field Naturalists (OSFN) was created in 1988-89 to provide Owen Sound and area naturalists with the opportunity to share activities that would allow them to increase their understanding of natural history and conservation.

Soon the Young Naturalists Club was added for ages 7 to 12. <https://owensoundfieldnaturalists.ca/category/young-naturalists/>

OSFN is also a registered charity, welcoming donations to its Local, Educational, and Action Fund (LEAF) and to NeighbourWoods North (NN), enhancing urban forests. Indoor meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre, September to June, at 7PM and often online via Zoom. Guest presenters are chosen to provide a wide range of topics. Their expertise covers natural history subjects that may be local, provincial, national, or international in scope. Indoor meetings are open to the public.

The OSFN also provides a full schedule of outdoor activities throughout the year. On these outings, members learn and share knowledge about the flora, fauna and geography of this region. The Young Naturalists also meet monthly with similar goals, and fun too.

[www.osfn.ca](http://www.osfn.ca)  
**P.O. Box #401, Owen Sound, ON N4K 5P7**

Membership Application / Renewal

Please complete and detach this section of the brochure & submit with cheque to:  
**OWEN SOUND FIELD NATURALISTS**  
P.O. Box #401, Owen Sound, ON, N4K 5P7  
NOTE: \*\*You may also join or renew online at [www.owensoundfieldnaturalists.ca](http://www.owensoundfieldnaturalists.ca)

Name:.....

Address: .....

.....

Telephone: .....

Email:.....  
(For OSFN e-Heralds & programme change notifications)\_

Membership Fees:

Please check or circle appropriate categories

\_\_\_\_\_Single (\$35)\_\_\_\_\_Student (\$15)\_\_\_\_\_Family (\$55) X 1,2,3,4,5 yrs

(Family Members are individuals, their spouses/partners and family members.  
Grandchildren can be family members.  
Families in the OSFN Young Naturalists programme are also in this category.)

+ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ plus charitable donations for tax receipts

\$\_\_\_\_\_Donation to LEAF - Local, Educational, Action Fund

\$\_\_\_\_\_Donation to NeighbourWoods North - Urban Trees

= \$\_\_\_\_\_ Total

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form, I am agreeing to the following:

1. I will abide by the OSFN Code of Conduct as posted on the website. 2. My email can be used for OSFN communication which includes e-Heralds and receipt of the newsletter. (Note: Our mailing list is not shared.) (The OSFN Code of Conduct and Privacy Policies are found on the club's website)

"The planet is, by many accounts, in the midst of the Sixth Great Extinction. What is causing this to happen? Long before humans applied themselves, the Earth had a long track record of environmental assaults and past extinctions. This time, however, the reasons for it point to us."

Allen Smutylo, from Gold of Another Kind:  
The Lost Legacy of Georgian Bay

Owen Sound Field Naturalists

Knowing Nature Better!

INDOOR PROGRAMME

Indoor Meetings are at 7pm, (doors open by 6:30pm) on the 2nd Thursday of the month Sept. to June at the Bayshore Community Centre and often online via Zoom.

Sept. 11 Allen Smutylo: Gold of Another Kind – The Lost Legacy of Georgian Bay

by a Governor General's Literary Award nominee, is a historical, as well as a personal account of the once staggering quality and quantity of fur bearing animals, virgin timber and multitudes of fish that once thrived in Georgian Bay and vicinity. The thrust of European ambition in the New World, plus the pursuit of the Bay's natural resources, rivalled the voracity of any 'gold rush.' Signed copies of Smutylo's book will be available.

October 9 Martyn Obbard: Black Bears of the Saugeen Peninsula

A dedicated Research Scientist, Martyn Obbard will discuss the ecology and behaviour of the small, at risk, genetically isolated and unique population of black bears on the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula and how these bears differ from bears elsewhere in Ontario.

November 13 Adam Shoalts: Vanished Beyond the Map - The Mystery of Lost Explorer Hubert Darrell

Both famed for their long solo journeys ranging from Alaska to Hudson Bay, a century later, archaeologist and naturalist Adam Shoalts traces the lost pathways of an enduring exploration history cold case—the mystery of Hubert Darrell. Sponsored by Dr. Mark Robertson

December 11 Keriann McGoogan and her new book: Sisters of the Jungle - The Trailblazing Women Who Shaped the Study of Wild Primates

Since the 1970s, this field has been dominated by such intrepid scientists as Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, Biruté Galdikas, and Alison Jolly. These Sisters of the Jungle broke boundaries, made astonishing discoveries and ultimately shaped the trajectory of an entire branch of science.

January 8 Jeannine Kralt: Engaged Stewardship

What is Stewardship? Grey-Bruce is home to a wealth of biodiversity and unique features. Learn about OSFN's engagement in Stewardship and the role of Conservancies and Land Trusts in our region with OSFN's Stewardship Coordinator Jeannine Kralt.

www.owensoundfieldnaturalists.ca

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C A L E N D A R 2 0 2 5 - 2 0 2 6

February 12 David Morris: An Introduction to the Soils of Grey and Bruce.

Why do we have so many different types of soil? How were they formed? What makes one soil different from another? How do those factors affect the way they are managed? What makes for a "healthy" soil? In the course of the talk, various terms related to soil will be discussed.

March 12 Members' Night: Brian Robin

Coordinating:

A potpourri of OSFN Members' photos, displays, art, collections and compositions, focusing on the natural world. A limit of 10 minutes for each presentation is preferred. Register with Brian: [robin.brian@gmail.com](mailto:robin.brian@gmail.com)

April 9 Brent Patterson: Understanding Drivers of Moose Population Dynamics in Ontario's Boreal Forests

As a Large Mammal Research Scientist, Brent Patterson's current research focuses on the population dynamics of deer, moose, and caribou - plus their predators.

May 14 Steve Irvine: Exploring Nature Close to Home.

'For several years almost all of my photography has been done within two kilometres of my rural home. By using a variety of different cameras and techniques I've taken a deep look into the natural world around me. I'm looking forward to sharing these explorations.'

June 11 Todd Morris: Is Conservation Translocation a path forward to recover Canada's endangered Freshwater Mussels?

A chief Research Scientist with Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Todd Morris will outline for us the story of Kidneyshell Mussels (Ptychobranchus fasciolaris) in Ontario's Thames River. If successful, this approach will help to ensure the long term survival of the species in Canada.

All events & times are subject to change:

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