



Owen Sound
Field Naturalists

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Hart's-Tongue Herald

The Newsletter of the Owen Sound Field Naturalists

Box 401, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 5P7

Fall 2006

Volume 19, Number 2

Editor: Lorraine Brown



Left to Right - Barbara Martin, Dorothy Kings, Pat Martin all OSFN Field Naturalist members and Tony Edwards, Park Naturalist, examine a butterfly along Hwy #6, near the Bruce Peninsula National Park, during the NABA count, July 29th, 2006. See story on page 3. (Audrey Armstrong)

A Message from the President

Greetings, and surprise to anyone who wasn't at the June pot luck dinner: that night, our new president, Eimie Tekutis, regretfully announced that he and his wife Linda had decided to move to the Kitchener area in the very near future. This meant that OSFN was short a president. We were also short a vice-president, since no one had come forward for that position at the AGM in March.

I'm happy to announce that both positions have now been filled. I had been thinking about offering to run as president at the end of Eimie's term, so I simply decided to offer my services earlier. Eimie also announced this turn of events that night.

Also that night, rumours were circulating that Fred Jazvac, a Southampton resident whom many of you may know as the two-time leader of our November Birding around the Bay outings, might be interested in jumping into the position of vice-president. A call to Fred confirmed the fact. Welcome to the executive Fred!

We'd like to express our appreciation to Eimie for his time as president. Though it was brief, he had already begun to put his management skills toward improving our organization. We'll miss you Eimie! Good luck to you and Linda in your return to city life.

The position that now remains to be filled is that of newsletter editor. A member of the club with considerable experience in desk-top publishing has kindly offered to do the newsletter

layout, but doesn't want to be editor. So we're looking for someone who would be willing to collect stories and photos from members, maybe do a bit of writing themselves too, and then deliver this material via e-mail or disk to our desk-top expert who will take it from there.

The editor will need a computer, a little experience in handling photos and e-mail, and a love of writing. It's not a huge task and it only happens three times a year. Please consider it if you have the time and interest.

Thank you to everyone who has been submitting content for the newsletter over the years, and a reminder to all members: please write your thoughts on anything nature-related and send them in to us. We'll edit, so don't worry about style, grammar, etc. We'd particularly appreciate reports on OSFN outings, but anything relating to nature and nature experiences in Grey and Bruce will be welcome. We need photos too!

Lorraine Brown

State of the Greenway Project

Ontario Nature has decided to hold off until December for the next ON/OSFN Greenway meeting, originally planned for September. This break is to allow Ontario Nature to produce maps that will help us reach the next stage of the

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project. As ON club co-ordinator Jennifer Baker put it: "We've been fortunate to talk with conservation experts who have experience in regional conservation planning and have received some good advice on how to move forward with our project, particularly with expanding our preliminary mapping. We will be drafting a series of maps over the fall."

Mapping is the tool that we really need in order to get an overview of protected areas in Grey and Bruce. Many different agencies manage protected areas in the two counties and have mapped them: the Niagara Escarpment Commission, Parks Canada, Ontario Parks, MNR, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, as well as NGO's like the Bruce Trail Association, Ontario Nature and the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

But these maps are in information "silos". They're in a variety of software programs and at a variety of scales. Incorporating them all into one map is a major undertaking, but Ontario Nature is rising to the task. Once it's done, we will be able to see where it would be desirable to create corridors of wildlife habitat to achieve a higher degree of connectivity among existing protected areas.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 1st at the Sydenham Sportmens' Clubhouse. If you are interested in attending, please let any member of the executive know and we'll save a place for you.



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Bruce Peninsula's First Butterfly Count

Did you notice some Tilly-hatted field naturalists with butterfly nets in the Bruce area Saturday, July 29th? A total of 19 volunteers met at the Bruce Peninsula National Park Visitor Centre to register as counters in the Peninsula's first North American butterfly Association (NABA) count.

After a slide show identifying the main species of butterflies in this area, they teamed up before heading out to specific areas. The idea is to determine what species and exact numbers of butterflies were flying on the Bruce on this particular date. If you are familiar with the format of the Christmas Bird Count, this is very similar. The information will be used by the Bruce National Park to start a database. In the future we will be able to tell if the butterflies are expanding their range, shifting their range, numbers increasing or decreasing. The information is valuable scientific data. The results also go to the NABA database, to become a part of the whole picture of butterfly numbers in North America.

Co-ordinator Mary Rapati of Port Elgin noted: "A total of 23 species were counted. The Monarch topped our

count, with 180 adults, 31 eggs and 3 caterpillars seen. What was surprising was the low numbers of Cabbage Whites, Clouded Sulphurs and Orange Sulphurs." Mary explained that those numbers will increase as summer progresses, since these butterflies have several broods through the season. Mary and her husband, Tony also co-ordinate the McGregor Point Provincial Park NABA count in early July. She added; "Across Ontario the migrants from the States have not shown up here like other years- Painted and American Ladies and Red Admirals. Every year the numbers fluctuate and it looks like this is a year when the numbers are down. Maybe one reason is that they have a good food source in the States and there is no need for them to migrate up here, looking for food."

The Friends of Bruce Peninsula Park provided hospitality at the day's end when the results were tallied. The count was supported by the Parks Canada Species at Risk Recovery Action and Education Fund, a program supported by the National Strategy for the Protection of Species at Risk. If you haven't yet visited the National Park Visitor Centre, be sure to see the Monarch Butterfly Exhibit in the main lobby, on loan from the Museum of Nature, Ottawa, until the end of September, 2006.

For more information on NABA and the monarch butterfly visit these sites:
www.naba.org and
www.monarchcanada.

Audrey Armstrong

MacGregor's NABA Count Report

The 7th Annual NABA Count at MacGregor Point Provincial Park was also successful. The count, which took place on Saturday, July 8, tallied a record-breaking 49 species this year, including three new species: Northern Cloudywing, Tawny Crescent, and Little Glassywing.

We've all been getting better at identification and finding the good spots for butterflies, but those quiet experts from southern Ontario who have been joining us for the past few years haven't hurt the numbers either!

Lorraine Brown

Ontario Nature Annual Conference - June 2006

This year's conference was held at Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo. It was hosted by the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists and focussed on



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Greenways and Waterways. Ontario Nature is promoting the idea of preserving green corridors to link up larger natural areas so that species of all kinds can move freely from one location to another. In fact, Waterways also often create Greenways so it was appropriate to link the two. Most of the sessions were about these topics as they related to Waterloo Region and this may have deterred some people from attending but, in reality, they had wider implications for all parts of the province.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Alan Morgan, is a geologist who explained the fascinating variety of geological features within the Grand River Basin. He also dealt with the implications of urbanization, particularly its effects on water supply, relating to both consumption and pollution, as well as the problems of garbage disposal and global warming. He is an excellent speaker with a truly Welsh gift for storytelling, and kept his audience spellbound.

Larry Lamb, also of the University of Waterloo, gave an interesting talk on the diversity of species in the Waterloo Region due to the interface of a number of microclimate zones. Waterloo Region has been unusually farsighted in understanding the importance of natural areas and has created the designation of ESL or Environmentally Sensitive Landscapes in which development is prohibited. Their criteria are as follows:

1. Linkage - preserving remnant forest segments representing different forest types.
2. Larger areas to provide habitat for larger species and nesting birds, to protect creek headwaters and wetlands that are inaccessible to people and provide wildlife refuge.
3. Smaller areas that provide habitat diversity and incidentally protect aesthetics.
4. Areas that protect hydrological function such as water storage and aquifer recharge, water and nutrient cycling and erosion control.
5. "Rare" habitats: old growth forest;

ungrazed floodplain forest; beaver meadows; moraines, limestone cliffs, waterfalls, unusual rock outcrops; bogs; dunes; kettle lakes; marshes; old shorelines.

Note; Rare species are often a focus for preservation but if you do not protect representative areas "common" can become "rare".

His talk applied to Waterloo Region but most of these habitat types occur here and we do not have ESL protection!

We also attended a session on "exotic" plant species i.e. "invasive" by Stephen Murphy (University of Waterloo). Among other species, he talked a lot about garlic mustard and ways of controlling it such as planting bloodroot! I came away with my opinion unchanged! Species of this kind, including purple loosestrife are "symptoms. We are the "disease"! When we plunge in and try to eliminate species we don't like we recreate the unnatural conditions that brought them there in the first place. We need to learn to leave things alone and let nature deal with it. We are in too much of a hurry!

Another interesting session was given by Moragh Lippert. Once she was a rising star in the banking world, now she is an environmentalist in charge of the huge nature preserve in Cambridge south of the 401. The property, which forms a huge circle round the original manor house, was given to the University of Guelph for agricultural research. When

the university decided to sell it for development and gravel extraction, the protest movement, headed by the owners of the manor house, resulted in it being bought and put under protection, thus preserving a wide variety of habitat. It sounds as though it would be an interesting destination for a field trip and they are working on setting up an education centre.

Alan Morgan's wife, Ann Morgan, a biologist and Master Gardener, gave a lively presentation on her transition from an urban garden, with grass and exotic trees, to one which is naturalized with many native species. Moreover, to a large extent, it takes care of itself! We would recommend her as an excellent speaker and her topic would be of great interest to horticultural societies.

Finally, the banquet speaker was the big attraction of the day. Bill Lishman is the man who pioneered the use of ultra-light aircraft to guide first geese, then sandhill cranes, and finally whooping cranes on migration routes to their wintering grounds. He is an amazing person and a great raconteur, his pictures and film footage are breathtaking. He grew up on a Pickering dairy farm and was introduced to nature by his biologist mother. He is dyslexic and had problems learning to read, so he was deemed a "slow learner". He built his own ultra-light planes, developed from his own ideas. This gradually led him into the whooping crane project. He has an incredible sense of humour and is one of the best speakers we ever heard.

To top it off the dinner served in the WLU dining hall was one of the best we have ever eaten. A satisfying end to a worthwhile day.

Joan Crowe



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Meeting and Field Trip Reports

Birding Luther Marsh with Lionel Gould, June 17

On June 17 sixteen heat resistant birders from OSFN and the Thornbury birding group met for an 8:00 am start in Conn. On the final approach to Luther Marsh proper we stopped for some roadside birding practise at the edge of the property.

At the park entrance Bob Bell, Superintendent of the Marsh for some 20 years and Michael Williams of Ducks Unlimited explained their respective roles in Marsh management. The central mandate of Luther Marsh is to restore and maintain a provincially significant wetland.

Situated at the edge of the Dundalk plain catchment area, the Marsh comprises 5600 ha of lowland swamp, bog, natural forest, plantation, meadow and cropland. Water management consists of the control of spring floodwaters of the Grand River for the protection of downstream populations and sustaining summer water flows to maintain river quality. In addition, the Marsh has been designated an important bird nesting area, with 135 species nesting. Habitat has been diversified for both game and non-game species. Public use of the Marsh is restricted to low levels of development: hiking, birding, photography, cycling and cross-country skiing on the park's inland trails, and game hunting in the autumn.

The day's bird count included large numbers of great egret, great blue heron, cormorant and osprey. Rounding out the list were green heron, coot, moorhen, black tern, caspian tern, pied-billed grebe, ring-necked duck, blue-winged teal, swamp sparrow, snipe, vesper sparrow, trumpeter swan, alder, willow, least and great crested flycatchers, least bittern, loon, and at least eight warblers. (Apologies for the ones I'm sure I've missed!) For a day that reached 30 C the birds put on fine presentation.

June is snapping turtle nesting season and there was evidence of dozens of egg deposits, many of which were dug up by raccoons. Even deer made an appearance in the hot mid-day.

We got welcome relief from the heat at a breezy picnic site and the humidity was not too high; although I think the warm spell may have been responsible for a few last minute cancellations.

Thank you Lionel, for all your preparation to make this trip such a success. Luther Marsh is a low key environmental management success story. It offers enriched habitat for wildlife while quietly protecting 1000's of downstream properties from flood and maintaining substantial, clean water flows in the summer.

Blain Horsley

A Correction...

Re the interesting article on John Macoun by Joan Crowe in the spring 2006 Hart's-Tongue Herald, I'd like to correct one little error, which a few others have also made verbally or in print, in connection with the species described.

Joan points out that *Myriophyllum heterophyllum* (Water Milfoil) is now listed as rare "in Grey County", referring of course to the Bruce-Grey Plant Committee's "Checklist of Vascular Plants". Actually it's listed therein as rare in Southern Grey County. (Grey County, excluding Keppel, Sarawak and part of Derby Townships). It's also listed for the Bruce Peninsula (which is deemed to include the portion of Grey County between Wiarton and the city of Owen Sound) but is not considered to be rare or "very uncommon" there. The peninsula, as treated in the checklist and elsewhere, comes quite close to (but of course doesn't include) the site that Joan mentions at the Sydenham River mouth.

Joe Johnson

Evening Wildflower Walk, May 16

Springtime Delight

Driving down main street
Past Harrison Park,
I went with Orris and Ellen
For a walk before dark.

Up the winding hill
And around the bend,
Turned to the right
On a road "Dead End".

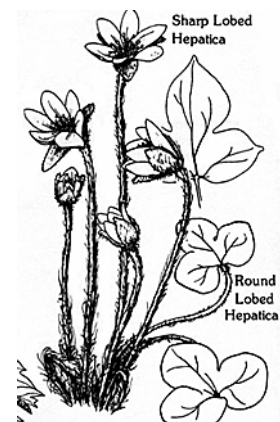
We hiked through the woods
On and trail in and out.
Wildflowers bloomed in profusion
And there were ferns all about.

The forest floor was carpeted
With Trilliums red and white
Violets lined the trail
Purple, yellow and white.

Wild Ginger had bloomed,
Bloodroot and Hepatica too.
False Solomon's Seal, Doll's Eyes
And Herb Robert still in view.
Fresh fern fronds
Had sprung up lush and green
Christmas, Sensitive, Lady and
Marginal all could be seen.

The weather was great,
And before the setting sun
With the Happy Hiking Hulls
I had so very much fun.

Jean Maher



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The Mystery Fungus

When walking through the old orchard in the Pottawatomi Conservation Area in May, we came across an Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana* L.) beside the path. It was festooned with an orange jelly fungus, so that it looked as though it had been decorated for Christmas. We had seen jelly fungi on rotting wood many times, but not on a living tree. As usual, the fungus books were not much help. When we showed the picture at the Field Naturalist meeting in June, a very

knowledgeable young man told us it was Apple-Juniper Rust. Eastern Red Cedar is actually a Juniper! This fungus is an amazing organism with a very complicated life cycle with five stages and four kinds of spores! The jelly fungus that we spotted produces spores which alight on the apple leaves and in turn produce orange circular patches which are the "rust". Eventually these develop a dark centre which, when viewed under the microscope looks like a group of tiny

mushrooms, each one only a millimetre or so wide. Again, under the microscope these can be seen to be filled with globular spores. These are the ones which infect the Juniper. We went back in August and the leaves on the surrounding apple trees were dappled with orange spots.

Like most effective parasites, this organism will not actually kill the trees but it will certainly reduce their efficiency as the fungus is extracting nourishment from them. If this was a functional orchard the simple solution would be to remove the cedar. The life cycle requires two hosts and the spores produced on the apple can only infect the cedar and vice versa. As the orchard is not productive, it is more interesting to leave things alone so that we can observe this example of the extraordinary versatility displayed in the Fungus Kingdom.

Joan Crowe



Jelly stage of Apple-Juniper Rust on Eastern Red Cedar (Joan Crowe)

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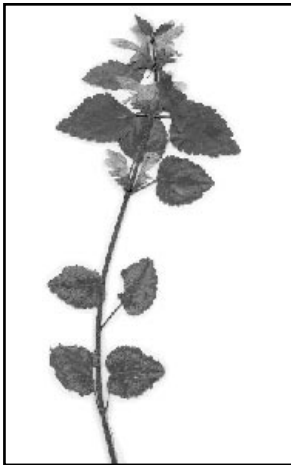
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A New Plant Record for Grey County

In mid-May Ellen and Orris Hull were walking in one of their favourite areas of the West Rocks, on the Bruce Trail just within the city boundary, when they came across a flower they had not seen before. After some research, they came to the conclusion it was Yellow Archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon* L.). It was in second growth forest over rock pavement. There were several spikes of the attractive yellow flowers each about 30 cm tall.

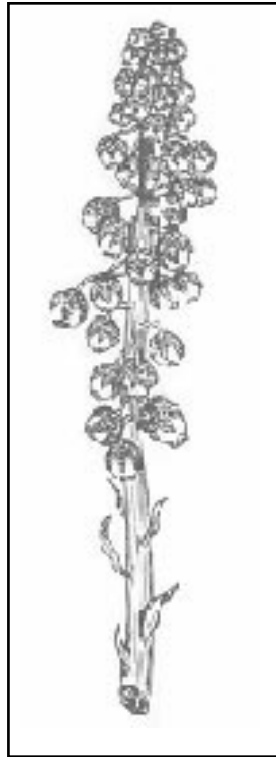
It is in the Mint family with the characteristic square stems and opposite leaves. The leaves are mottled with white in this subspecies. It is undoubtedly a garden escape but it was a long way from the nearest garden and this seems to be a plant which is rather good at escaping. It is a first record for Grey County and a specimen has been sent to the herbarium at the Royal Ontario Museum and another will be housed in the herbarium collection at present in the MNR office in Owen Sound.



Yellow Archangel
(*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*)

Report of a Rare Species

Pine Drops (*Pterospora andromeda*) is a provincially rare species which is also listed as rare on the Bruce Peninsula, so



Pine Drops
(*Pterospora andromeda*)

another report from two Bruce Trail hikers who spotted it on the trail to the Bruce Caves, which would actually be the first report for Grey County, although it was on the Bruce Peninsula, geographically speaking. This one was not in such good shape having survived a rather trying winter, but it had the characteristic bell-shaped fruits and scale leaves.

This is a member of the Montropaceae, a family of plants which have become so dependent on soil fungi for their food that they no longer produce chlorophyll. In other words, they are saprophytes. Another member of this family, which is much more familiar, is Indian Pipe. We have seen quite few clumps of its eerie silver-white stems and flowers recently along the Bruce Trail in the region of the Glen Conservation Area.

It seems that Pine Drops is very sporadic but it is not limited to pine forests. Most of the sightings have been in mixed forest often with cedar. We would be very interested to hear of any more sightings of this elusive plant.

far it has not been reported from southern Grey or Bruce. We had a report two years ago of a sighting on the Johnson Harbour Road. By September, it was fruiting but was still a very striking reddish colour and about 40 cm high so it was very easy to see. In May this year we had

Tamarisk

Participants at the Huron Fringe Birding Festival at the end of May were somewhat mystified by a strange shrub growing beside the lakeshore near the Visitor Centre which looked like a conifer but had tall spikes which appeared to be clad in pinkish-red velvet. It was, in fact, Tamarisk (*Tamarix parviflora* DC.) just about to come into flower. This is a Mediterranean shrub which often escapes. and it had probably not been noticed previously at the Festival because it normally comes into flower later. It is extremely salt tolerant and has practically taken over Utah where it is known as Salt Bush. Perhaps the reason that it has moved into MacGregor Park is that it knows that not far below are the salt deposits of the ancient Silurian sea!

Vascular Plant Records for Grey and Bruce Counties

Twelve years ago when we started work on the vascular plant checklist for Grey and Bruce Counties, which includes the ferns, fern allies and the conifers as well as all the flowering plants, we searched all the relevant documents and the herbariums at the University of Guelph and the University of Waterloo. Some records also came from Lakehead University. A card index was compiled with a separate card for each species and this has been up-dated as new information has come to light, particularly with species listed for ANSI's. We had hoped at one time to convert this to a computer data-base but, unfortunately, there was never funding available to do this.

The original card index has now been deposited in the Grey-Roots archives with a complete set of the six books we have published since 1994. The archives are open to anyone wishing to do research. The only proviso being that you have to pay the small entry fee to the museum. This is perfectly reasonable as these records are being kept in perpetuity in a state-of-the-art facility.

Joan Crowe

The Fall Program

Indoor Program

**Thursday,
September 14
SNAKES ALIVE!**

Snakes - like them or hate them - they always grab your attention. We have a good variety of snakes in our area and appreciating them isn't always easy. Seeing them up close is an opportunity to understand them more and maybe warm up to them a bit. Mark says that snakes can be beautiful- really! Come on out and see what happens with Mark and real, live snakes!

Saturday, October 14 ROCKS BENEATH OUR SOLES!

Torben Hawksbridge, one of the authors of Geology and Landforms of Grey and Bruce Counties, has offered once again to lead a day of touring geological highlights of the area. Meet to car pool at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Arena on 3rd Ave. E. in Owen Sound at 10 a.m. Bring sturdy hiking boots and suitable clothing for the weather. Limit of 15. Register with Torben at 519 376-2275.

Saturday, November 18 WATERFOWL TOUR AROUND THE BAY

Join Fred on this annual survey of waterfowl on "the bay". With winter's onset, lakes are cooling rapidly and waterfowl are on the move. This is an ideal time to experience the autumn passage of loons, grebes, ducks and gulls through local waters. Meet at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Arena main parking lot on the south side at 10:00 am. Warm clothing is a must. Bring a packed lunch. Limit: 15 participants. Registration: Fred Jazvac (797-3332).

Indoor Program

**Thursday, October
12, 2006
SOUTHERN BRAZIL:
NATURAL HISTORY
AND NATIONAL
PARKS**

Donald Kirk has been the District Ecologist at the MNR in Guelph for the past 16 years. He has recently returned from an ecotour to southern Brazil—in particular the Atlantic Coastal Rain Forest - one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. Donald will focus on the plants, wildlife and landscapes of this beautiful part of the world.

Sunday, September 17 MUSHROOM FORAY

Fungophiles Lorraine Brown and Russ Hamilton take the fall mushroom hunt to nearby forests. For collecting, bring a basket, squares of waxed paper to wrap specimens, mushroom guide, a small knife and a lunch. Pray for rain! Register with Lorraine at 519 372-0322 or email: lorraine@apropos.ca.

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Indoor Program

**Thursday, November
9, 2006**

FUNGUS AMONG US: MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI

Dr. John Klironomos, College of Biology, University of Guelph, takes us into the micro world of mycorrhizal fungi, "nature's stress managers" found in and around the roots of most plants. Learn about these unique fungi and why we should support them for the benefit of our more visible plants and crops.

Indoor Program

**Thursday, December
14, 2006**

MEMBERS' NIGHT

A potpourri of OSFN member's slides, displays, art, collections and compositions. 10-15 minutes each. Don't be disappointed - register your entry ahead and early! Register with Joan Crowe (371-8193).

Indoor Program

**Thursday, January
11, 2007**

GREEN ROOFS, GREEN WALLS

Beth Anne Currie – health care practitioner turned environmentalist – has spent the last 3 years studying, designing and project managing the installation of green roofs and green walls in downtown Toronto. She is currently specializing in biodiversity for green roofs in urban areas.

(Note: Look for an article about Beth Anne's work on page 34 of the Summer 2006 issue of ON Nature.)

**Saturday, January 20,
2007**

EAGLES AT THE BNPD

Join Cindy Cartwright, the Huron Shore "Bird Lady" as she takes us eagle-watching at the BNPD.

Time: 8:00 am.

Register with Cindy at 389-2585.

Limit of 9.

OSFN Needs a CONE Representative

Joan Crowe is stepping down as the OSFN representative on the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment. If you are interested in taking over, please call Joan for details. 519-371-8193. CONE's meetings take place at 7 pm on Thursday nights in Toronto, 5 times a year.

Book Review: Looping Through Sydenham

For years I have had a standard complaint about our north Sydenham home. "There's nowhere to walk!" Hitting the asphalt of the County Road for some quick exercise is no excuse for a hiking trail. And then I discovered the Sydenham Bruce Trail Club's new guidebook, *Looping Through Sydenham* (\$16.95).

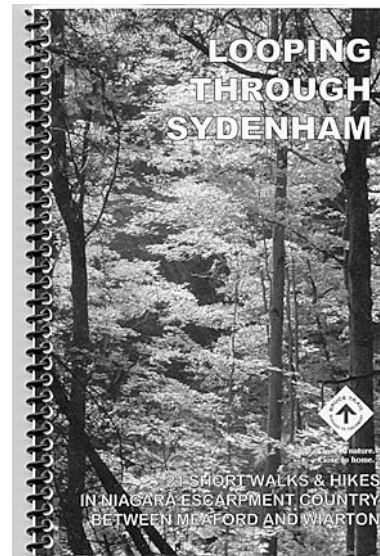
Subtitled "21 Short Walk and Hikes in Niagara Escarpment Country Between Meaford and Owen Sound," this handy, slip-in-your-pocket-size guidebook contains excellent maps and crystal-clear directions to kilometers of walking trails in and around the Scenic City.

The well-known pathways of the Bruce Trail are here including the Slough of Despond and The Glen. The gems, however, are the side trails, the ones marked with blue blazes like the Clearview, Woodford, Schwelling, and Sydenham Forest loops. And never again will I get lost on the many kilometers of the Bayview Escarpment Nature Reserve.

A tip of the hat to the Sydenham Bruce Trail Group – hikers supreme and now – publishers.

Andrew Armitage

Note: This book is available at area bookstores.



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Young Nats Rise Again!

Stephanie Hargrave and Monica Banz have taken over the position of co-ordinator for the Junior Naturalists. Stephanie and her kids (now 6 and 9 years old) had such a good time with the Young Nats last year that she decided to offer her services. Monica Banz has three children of Young Nats age.

Stephanie and Monica will work with Krista McKee of the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority. Krista has worked at GSCA for many years, and recently moved into the position of Community Relations Co-ordinator when Nancy White left the position for a job with the Bruce County Museum.

Our thanks to Bob Fletcher for running an excellent Young Nats program for the past few years.

This coming year's theme is "Birds of a Feather - Flock Together". Activities include birding hikes, planning a bluebird trail, birding with the computer, bird symbols in native culture, a winter feeder building workshop, bird house building workshop and a trip to the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory in May.

The Young Naturalists Club is for boys and girls ages 8 to 12. Younger and older children are welcome; however ages 7 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

Meetings are the last Sunday of each month, 2 to 4 pm, from September to June, except December, at the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority.



The Swans

(Olor columbianus)

March, and the swans

are headed north again,
to renew their species
in the cradle of remote Arctic solitudes,
- touching souls as they pass.

Snow wraiths,

shadowed wind spirits, threading vernal skies,
they carry ageless genetic intricacies
that pass, like heirlooms,
between successive generations.

This day, dove grey ramparts of the skies

let spill the snowy pinions
that have rowed a thousand miles
to gently embrace an awakening sun warmed earth:
refuge, rest, restoration for the passage still ahead.

Internal rhythms,

synchronous with spring's advent,
give haunting voice to the wind.
Renaissance surges, blood red,
through the veins that carry north the pedigree of
their species.

Global travelers,

inheriting ageless patterns from past eons,
bind ancestral wisdom
with new found knowledge - a world in flux,
and lead their lineage into the unknown future.

Planetary hope

ascends with the coursing wingbeats
and sonorous voices of twenty thousand nomads;
a springtime passage, however brief, reassures
humanity,
that life transcends earthbound existence.

Peter Middleton

Theford marshes, near Grand Bend, Ontario

March 18, 2006

Coming Events

An Evening for Conservation - 14th Annual Dinner & Auction

Friday September 8th, 2006 at the Harry Lumley Community Centre, Owen Sound. Doors open: 5:30pm, Dinner at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$50 (includes a \$30 tax receipt)

Justin Trudeau at the CAW Centre

September 30, 7:30 pm
Tickets are \$20. With dinner before, \$40. Contact Mary Rapati, 519-832-2494, or at circleoffriends@bmts.com

BPBO Annual Fund-Raising Dinner

Saturday, November 18, 2006 at St. George's Anglican Church, Owen Sound
For tickets contact Ron Baker, 795-7652, ronbakerbpbo@sympatico.ca

OSFN/ON Greenways Meeting,

December 1st, 9 am to 4 pm
Sydenham Sportmens Club. Lunch will be served.

BPBO Fall 2006 Weekend Workshops

Experiencing Fall Bird Migration on the Bruce.

Dates: Friday Sept 22 (evening) to Sunday Sept 24, 2006
Leader: Ted Cheskey, past BPBO president, Ontario and international bird conservation advocate, author and experienced guide.

Hunting and Cooking Wild Mushrooms

Dates: Friday Sept. 29 to Sunday October 1, 2006
Leader: Lorraine Brown has led mushroom forays for the Mycological Society of Toronto, Elderhostel, and three naturalist clubs in Grey & Bruce Counties.

Light and Composition II – Developing Your Own Photography Style

Dates: Friday Oct 13 (evening) to Sunday Oct 15, 2006
Leader: Rob Cotton is a fine art photographer who has been involved in photography for about 30 years.

Visit bpbo.ca for details about cost and registration.

Book Review: The Omnivore's Dilemma

Michael Pollan, journalism teacher at the University of California at Berkeley and the renowned author of *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's Eye View of the World* (2002) has done it again – he's produced another book that every naturalist and person who cares about the planet should read. *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (Penguin, \$38.00), in fact, should be read by everybody who eats!

In *The Botany of Desire*, Pollan examined how plants (apples, tulips, marijuana, potatoes) use us as much as we use them. The book was one of those seminal bestsellers that was passed from hand to hand, just as *The Omnivore's Dilemma* is destined to be (on our recent Mexican mushroom foray, nearly everyone in our group had either read it or was about to).

To one degree or other, the question of what to have for dinner challenges every omnivore. Since we can eat just about anything that nature has to offer, deciding what we should eat more often than not stirs anxiety, particularly since some of the possible foods, like mushrooms, might well kill you. Or how about that hamburger and the state of your waistline, not to mention your blood vessels? And what about those man-made, industrial food products that seem to gather a bigger share of the nation's food dollars each year?

The book is presented in three parts. The first section examines industrial farming, the second, organic food, and the third takes readers into the forest to

hunt and gather for oneself. Each of Pollan's three approaches end with a meal. They range from a McDonald's lunch eaten in ten minutes at 60 miles per hour to a slow food dinner with friends where not a single item came with a bar code.

That third chapter has Pollan temporarily transforming himself into a hunter to bag a wild pig, an animal that is very common, and often a nuisance, in California. He is both fascinated and reviled by the process. More to his liking is foraging for wild mushrooms, a topic near and dear to our hearts. But he lacks the courage to eat the first chanterelle he finds, until he gets the identification verified by an expert.

The Omnivore's Dilemma is, like Tim Flannery's *The Weather Makers* (2006), an absolute must read for anyone who cares about this planet and what we do on it and with it.

Andrew Armitage

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The Fall 2006 Program at a Glance

Indoor Programs

All indoor meetings will take place in the auditorium of the Owen Sound and North Grey Union Public Library at 7:00 pm. Following a social time and announcements, the speaker of the evening will present at 7:30, followed by club business, sightings and reports.

- Thursday, September 14 SNAKES ALIVE!
- Thursday, October 12 SOUTHERN BRAZIL: NATURAL HISTORY AND NATIONAL PARKS
- Thursday, November 9 FUNGUS AMONG US: MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI
- Thursday, December 14 MEMBERS' NIGHT
- Thursday, January 11, 2007 GREEN ROOFS, GREEN WALLS

Outdoor Programs

The outdoor program of the Owen Sound Field Naturalists is designed to help members discover new areas, add to their knowledge of natural history, or just to enjoy a "stroll in the woods" with like-minded people. Note that each trip has its own specific time and meeting place. Registration is required for most outings. Please call the contact person indicated about a week before the outing.

- Sunday, September 17 MUSHROOM FORAY
- Saturday, October 14 ROCKS BENEATH OUR SOLES!
- Saturday, November 18 WATERFOWL TOUR AROUND THE BAY
- Saturday, January 20, 2007 EAGLES AT THE BNPD

Membership Application & Renewal Form

Name.....

Mailing Address.....

Telephone.....E-mail.....Check here if Renewal.....

Membership Category: Single (\$18).....Family (\$25).....

Return with cheque to: Owen Sound Field Naturalists, Box 401, Owen Sound, Ont. N4K 5P7

Membership cards can be picked up at indoor meetings. Check here if you want your card mailed to you.