



TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 588, May 2012



Wild Blue Lupines in High Park, photographed by Wendy Rothwell, June 2011

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Toronto Field Naturalist is published by the Toronto Field Naturalists, a charitable, non-profit organization, the aims of which are to stimulate public interest in natural history and to encourage the preservation of our natural heritage. Issued monthly September to December and February to May. Views expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or Toronto Field Naturalists. The Newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper.

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IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER!

We welcome contributions of original writing, up to 500 words, of observations on nature in and around Toronto, reviews, poems, sketches, paintings, and photographs of TFN outings (digital or print, include date and place). Include your name, address and phone number so submissions can be acknowledged. Send by mail or email. **Deadline for submissions for Sept issue: Aug 3.**

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Jenny Bull (co-editor), Karin Fawthrop, Nancy Fredenburg, Elisabeth Gladstone, Mary Lieberman, Judy Marshall, Ruth Munson, Toshi Oikawa, Wendy Rothwell (co-editor).

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MEMBERSHIP FEES

- \$20 YOUTH (under 26)
- \$30 SENIOR SINGLE (65+)
- \$40 SINGLE, SENIOR FAMILY (2 adults, 65+)
- \$50 FAMILY (2 adults – same address, children included)

No HST. Tax receipts issued for donations. Send membership fees and address changes to the TFN office. *Please note: TFN does not give out its membership list.*

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Canada anemone photographed by Jenny Bull

Another newsletter season finishes with this issue. Many thanks to the members of the Editorial Committee, and to everyone who has contributed articles, reports, photos, drawings and paintings, feedback, and news items.

This is your newsletter! Please continue to send us items for publication. Let us know how you experience nature in our big city this summer. Details on how to contribute are above.

Have a great summer on the trail!

Your Editors

TFN MEETING

Sunday, May 6, 2012

2:30 pm

The Urban Coyote

*Lesley Sampson, Co-Founder, Coyote Watch Canada
A closer look at the conflict surrounding this magnificent
and misrepresented North American canid*

VISITORS WELCOME!

SOCIAL: 2:00 – 2:30 pm

Room 001, Emmanuel College, University of Toronto, 75 Queen's Park Cres E

Emmanuel College is just south of the Museum subway station exit on the east side of Queen's Park. Enter via the second door south on Queen's Park, which is wheelchair accessible. There is an elevator inside to the right. Room 001 is one floor below street level.

For information: call 416-593-2656 up to noon on the Friday preceding the lecture.

2011-12 Lecture Series

- Sept 9 Two Billion Trees and Counting
John Bacher, author of *Two Billion Trees and Counting: The Legacy of Edmund Zavitz*
- Oct 14 James Bay Birds & Natural History
Field ornithologist and digiscoper, Jean Iron
- Nov 4 Ontario Reptiles & Amphibians
James Paterson, Ontario Reptile & Amphibian Atlas Coordinator, Ontario Nature
- Dec 2 Ontario's Wild Bees
Melittologist and York University professor, Laurence Packer
- Feb 3 Bats, A Lifelong Affair
Brock Fenton, bat expert, author and University of Western Ontario professor
- Mar 3 Nature Where Plates Collide, North Pacific and Himalaya
Peter Money, geologist and TFN member
- Apr 7 Insect Life Cycles and How they Cope with Winter
James Kamstra, Senior Terrestrial Ecologist, AECOM
- May 5 Ecology of Breeding Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in Algonquin Park
Doug Tozer, Ornithologist

TFN OUTINGS

- TFN events are conducted by unpaid volunteers.
- The club assumes no responsibility for injuries sustained by anyone participating in our activities.
- Children and visitors are welcome at all TFN events. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- If you plan to bring children in a stroller, be aware that there may be steps or other unsuitable terrain.
- Please do not bring pets.
- To get to outings on time, check TTC routes and schedules (www.ttc.ca or 416-393-4636).
- Outings go rain or shine: check the weather by calling 416-661-0123 so you will know what to wear.
- Wear appropriate footwear for walking on trails which may be muddy, steep or uneven.

- Thurs YORK CEMETERY – Trees
 May 3 Leader: Jack Radecki
 10:00 am Meet at the Visitation Centre in the cemetery between Beecroft Rd and Senlac Rd. Morning only.
- Fri SIXTH ANNUAL JANE JACOBS TRIBUTE WALK – Evening Ramble
 May 4 Leaders: Pleasance Crawford and Helen Juhola
 6:45 pm Meet at the north exit from Glencairn subway station, on the south side of Glencairn Ave. Walk includes neighbourhoods near Allen Rd, Ben Nobleman Park, Everden Rd, and Cedarvale Park and Ravine. Walk ends at St Clair West subway station. Duration: 2 hrs. Bring binoculars.
- Sat **WILKET CREEK AND SUNNYBROOK PARKS – Trilliums, Nature and Nature Arts**
 May 5 Leader: Mary Taylor
 1:30 pm Meet at the northwest corner of Eglinton Ave E and Leslie Street. Nature Arts will join Mary on her annual Trillium Walk. Bring what you wish for sketching, photography or writing. We are joining a regular walk so there will not be a separate time for concentrated work unless you wish to arrive early.
- Sun LECTURE – The Urban Coyote
 May 6 Speaker: Lesley Sampson, Co-Founder, Coyote Watch Canada
 2:30 pm A closer look at the conflict surrounding this magnificent and misrepresented North American canid. Emmanuel College, 75 Queen's Park Cres E. See page 3.
- Tues ROUGE PARK – Nature Walk
 May 8 Leader: Orval White
 2:00 pm Meet at Pearse House, 1749 Meadowvale Rd at Zoo Rd (follow signs for Rouge Valley Conservation Centre) for a 2-3 hour loop walk. If coming from Kennedy subway station, bus #86A. Bring binoculars.
- Sat TAYLOR CREEK PARK – Wildflowers and Ferns
 May 12 Leader: Dianne Dietrich
 10:00 am Meet at the entrance to Victoria Park subway station on Victoria Park Ave. We will walk through Goulding Estate wetlands and plantings, follow the creek to O'Connor bridge, and loop back to Main St via Dianne's garden. Bring binoculars and dress for boggy habitats. Walk ends at Main and Lumsden, 10 minute walk (or bus #64 or #87) to Main subway station. Duration: about 3 hrs.
- Sun ROUGE PARK – Nature Walk
 May 13 Leader: Orval White
 2:30 pm Meet at the east end of the parking lot, Glen Rouge campground, 7540 Kingston Rd, 1 km east of Port Union Rd and Sheppard Ave E, for a 2-3 hr loop walk on hilly dirt trails.
- Tues G. ROSS LORD PARK – Birds and Butterflies
 May 15 Leader: Carol Sellers
 10:00 am Meet at the northeast corner of Finch Ave W and Dufferin St for a circular walk. Bring lunch and binoculars.

- Sat
May 19
10:00 am
LESLIE STREET SPIT – Birds, Insects and Plants
Leader: Bob Kortright
Meet at the park entrance at Leslie St and Unwin Ave. Bring binoculars and lunch. A joint outing with the Toronto Bruce Trail Club.
- Sun
May 20
2:00 pm
WILDSCAPES OF THE WEST DON – Lost Rivers Walk
Leader: Helen Mills and friends
Meet at the southwest corner of Thorncliffe Park Dr E and Overlea Blvd. Hidden jewels tucked away behind high-rise Thorncliffe Park. A joint walk with the Toronto Green Community.
- Wed
May 23
10:00 am
EAST DON PARKLAND AND BETTY SUTHERLAND TRAIL – Birds and Plants
Leader: Miles Hearn
Meet at the southwest corner of Finch Ave E and Leslie St for a 2-3 hr linear walk ending at Don Mills Rd north of York Mills. Bring binoculars.
- Sat
May 26
10:30 am
WEST DON WATERSHED – Nature and Heritage
Leader: Ed Freeman
Meet at the south door of the Ontario Science Centre by the south parking lot. We will walk through Sunnybrook Park, past the CNIB, and along Sherwood Ravine to end at Lawrence subway station on Yonge St. Duration: roughly 3½ hrs including lunch stop. Drop out at Bayview (2½ hrs) for those not wanting to do the whole distance. Bring lunch.
- Sun
May 27
1:30 pm
HUMBER RIVER – Wildflowers
Leader: Leslie Fitzgibbons
Meet at Old Mill subway station for a 2-hr walk ending at James Gardens on Edenbridge Dr.
- +
Sun
May 27
1:30 pm
EAST DON PARKLANDS – Nature Walk
Leader: Phil Goodwin
Meet at the northwest side of the Cummer Ave bridge half-way between Bayview Ave and Leslie St for a 2-hr circular walk.
- Tues
May 29
1:30 pm
CASTLE FRANK BROOK – Topography
Leader: Alexander Cappell
Meet outside the St Clair West subway station on the north side of St Clair Ave W. Walk ends at Eglinton West subway station.
- Wed
May 30
6:45 pm
WATERFRONT GARDENS – Evening Ramble
Leader: Peter Iveson
Meet at the northwest corner of Queen's Quay and Bathurst St beside the war memorial in Little Norway Park. Walk ends in the Music Garden (no concert this date).
- Sat
Jun 2
10:30 am
SUNNYSIDE PARKS – Nature Arts
Leader: Nancy Anderson
Meet on the south side of Lake Shore Blvd W at the foot of Colborne Lodge Dr. Bring what you need for sketching, photography or writing. Bring lunch or buy at nearby kiosk. Afternoon walk is also planned.
- Sun
Jun 3
1:30 pm
HIGH PARK – Trees
Leader: Bohdan Kowalyk
Meet at the park entrance on Bloor St W at High Park Ave for a circular walk. The wild lupins should be blooming.
- Tues
Jun 5
10:00 am
ROUGE BEACH TO PETTICOAT CREEK – Birds and Butterflies
Leader: Carol Sellers
Meet in the Rouge Hill GO station at Lawrence Ave E and East Ave. We will car pool from there to Rouge Beach for a circular walk. Bring lunch and binoculars.

- Wed
Jun 6
7:00 pm MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY – Evening Ramble
Leader: Roger Powley
Meet at the northwest gate of Mt Pleasant Cemetery off Merton St.
- Sat
Jun 9
10:00 am DERRYDOWNS PARK – Birds and Butterflies
Leader: Carol Sellers
Meet in the first parking lot just in from the entrance on the south side of Finch Ave W between Jane St and Keele St. Bring lunch and binoculars.
- +
- Sat
Jun 9
10:30 am JIM BAILLIE NATURE RESERVE (UXBRIDGE) – Nature Walk
Leader: Charles Chaffey
Wildflowers should be blooming and you can see the results of our work in the last two years clearing trails. Car pooling will be arranged for departure around 9 am. Contact Charles at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] if you can offer or need a ride. Dress for mosquitoes and muddy conditions. Bring lunch and water.
- Sun
Jun 10
1:30 pm HUMBER MARSHES – Nature Walk
Leader: James Eckenwalder, Associate Professor, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Toronto
Meet at Old Mill subway station for an exploration of floodplain dynamics and riparian communities. Moderately steep slope down to and back up from the floodplain and no convenient washrooms.
- Tues
Jun 12
6:45 pm LAWRENCE PARK AND BURKE BROOK – Evening Ramble – Heritage
Leader: Janet Langdon
Meet outside George Locke Library, southeast corner of Lawrence Ave W and Yonge St. Not a circular route, but will end near TTC. Some steep hills.
- Thurs
Jun 14
10:00 am PROSPECT CEMETERY – Trees
Leader: Jack Radecki
Meet at the St Clair Gates on St Clair Ave just west of Landsdowne Ave. Morning only.
- Sat
Jun 16
10:00 am **GUILDWOOD PARK – Nature Walk**
Leader: Gisela Bach
Meet at the entrance to the Guild Inn at 191 Guildwood Parkway for a loop walk. Morning only.

FOR ENJOYMENT OF OUTINGS

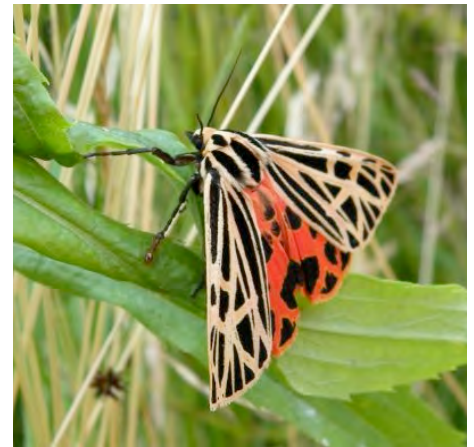
- **Wide brimmed hat** for protection from sun
- **Long sleeves** for protection from mosquitoes, poison ivy, thistles, nettles and ticks
- **Long pants** for protection from mosquitoes, poison ivy, thistles and ticks (tuck your shirt into your pants)
- **Light-coloured clothing** makes it easier to spot ticks
- **Long socks** to help protect you from ticks (tuck your pant legs into the socks)
- **Hiking boots or running shoes**
- **Rainwear**
- **Sun glasses, sun screen and insect repellent**
- **Binoculars and camera**
- **Water** or other beverage and a **snack**
- **TTC Ride Guide (free), map, notebook and pen**

Bring your family and/or friends, but ... NO pets allowed

- Sun
June 17
2:00 pm **MILLIKEN PARK AND HIGHLAND CREEK – Headwaters and Heritage - Lost Rivers**
Leader: John Wilson
We will complete the walk that was interrupted by thunderstorms last August. Start at Milliken Park Community Recreation Centre, 4325 McCowan Rd, just south of Steeles Ave E. We will trace headwaters feature, walk the Finch hydro corridor, and see heritage homes in Agincourt. Ends at Brimley Woods, Brimley and Finch. A joint walk with the Toronto Green Community.
- Tues
Jun 19
6:45pm **MORNINGSIDE PARK – Evening Ramble**
Leader: Orval White
Meet at the park entrance on the west side of Morningside Ave, south of Ellesmere Ave and north of Kingston Rd. Bring binoculars.
- Wed
Jun 20
10:00 am **DUNCANWOODS CREEK AND EAST DON PARKLAND NORTH – Birds and Plants**
Leader: Miles Hearn
Meet at the northwest corner of Don Mills Rd and McNicoll Ave. Walk ends at Leslie St and Finch Ave E. Bring binoculars. Morning only.
- Thurs
Jun 21
10:00 am **ROUGE VALLEY – Nature Walk**
Leader: Blair Campbell
Meet at the south entrance of Glen Rouge Park, 7540 Kingston Rd, 1 km east of Sheppard Ave E for a circular walk. Bring lunch and binoculars. If the terrain is suitable, instead of going north, we will travel south towards Lake Ontario.
- Sat
Jun 23
9:30 am **LESLIE STREET SPIT CELL ONE – Nature Walk**
Leader: Karen McDonald
Meet at the park entrance at Leslie St and Unwin Ave. We will hike to and around the Cell One created wetland to look for wetland wildlife and wetland/upland vegetation, stopping at the new Staff Booth and Environmental Shelter. Bring binoculars and flora field guides. Approximately 2½ hrs, 5.5 km.
- Sun
Jun 24
1:30 pm **TAYLOR MASSEY CREEK – Birds and Plants**
Leader: Miles Hearn
Meet outside the Victoria Park subway station. Ends at Coxwell Blvd. Bring binoculars.
- Tues
Jun 26
6:45 pm **YORKVILLE – Evening Ramble**
Leader: Doug Paton
Meet at Ramsden Park at Yonge St and Crescent Rd just west of Rosedale subway station for a joint walk with the Dickens Fellowship of Toronto.
- Thurs
Jun 28
10:00 am **ETOBICOKE CREEK – Nature and Creek Restoration**
Leaders: Suzanne and Spencer Barrett
Meet in Maurice J Breen Park (formerly 43rd Street Park), 43rd St and Lakeshore Blvd W, just west of Long Branch GO/TTC station. There is street parking on 43rd St. We will walk north on Etobicoke Creek trail to the Tim Hortons at Sherway Drive and The West Mall (buses outside Sherway Gardens Shopping Mall). Duration: about 2 hrs (plus another hour back to your car if you have parked it on 43rd St). Walk will feature natural creekside woodlands, restored areas, fish barrier removal at the Toronto Golf Club and an historic bowstring bridge. A joint walk with the Etobicoke and Mimico Watersheds Coalition (<http://trca.on.ca/protect/watersheds/etobicoke-mimico-creek/>).
- Sat
Jun 30
10:00 am **GLENDON RAVINE – Nature Walk**
Leader: Nancy Dengler
Meet at the entrance to Glendon College at the southeast corner of Bayview Ave and Lawrence Ave E for a circular walk. Morning only.
- Tues
July 3
6:45 pm **EAST DON VALLEY – Evening Ramble**
Leader: Alexander Cappell
Meet at the southeast corner of Cummer Ave and Bayview Ave to walk the Finch Hydro Corridor and the East Don Valley. Walk ends at Steeles Ave E and Laureleaf Rd.

- Wed
July 4
1:30 pm
ROSEDALE VALLEY – Topography
Leader: Alexander Cappell
Meet at the northeast corner of Gerrard St E and Sumach St. Finish at Yonge and Bloor.
- Sat
July 7
10:30 am
ROSETTA McCLAIN GARDENS – Nature Arts
Leader: Jackie Schuknecht
Meet near the washrooms beside the parking lot of the Gardens at Glen Everest Rd (off Kingston Rd). Bring what you wish for sketching, photography or writing. Jackie will begin with a photography macro demonstration. Bring any work you wish to share with the group after lunch nearby.
- Sun
July 8
1:30 pm
SUNNYBROOK PARK – Birds and Plants
Leader: Miles Hearn
Meet at the northwest corner of Laird Dr and Eglinton Ave E for a circular walk. Bring binoculars.
- Tues
July 10
10:00 am
LAMBTON PARK – Nature and Heritage
Leader: Madeleine McDowell
Meet at Lambton House, 4066 Old Dundas St, on the east bank of the Humber River. Bring lunch. May end at Lambton House or continue south along the Humber to Old Mill subway station.
- Fri
July 13
8:30 pm
HIGH PARK – Bat Night
Leader: Dr. Brock Fenton, Dept of Biology, University of Western Ontario
Meet at the benches just south of Grenadier Restaurant. Learn about bats from a bat expert: cultural representations, physical and behavioural adaptations, threats and current research, before hiking towards Grenadier Pond in search of bats. Bring a flashlight and a lawn chair or blanket, as the presentation portion of the evening will be outdoors on the lawn. Duration: 2 hrs. All ages. Event will be cancelled in the event of rain. A joint outing with the High Park Nature Centre. \$2 recommended donation. www.highparknaturecentre.com
- Sat
July 14
10:30 am
MORNINGSIDE PARK – Nature Walk
Leader: D. Andrew White
Meet at the first parking lot at the bottom of the park road from the west side of Morningside Ave, south of Ellesmere Rd and north of Kingston Rd, for a circular walk. Bring lunch.
- Sun
July 15
2:00 pm
WADDLING THE WENDIGO – **Lost Rivers**
Leaders: Richard Anderson and friends
This walk explores the lost Wendigo Creek which drained into Grenadier Pond from north of Bloor. Hear the stories of Mrs. Kennedy's cows and the lost feminist golf course. Meet at the Runnymede Rd exit of Runnymede subway station. Bring drinking water, ideally in a reusable container. A joint walk with the Toronto Green Community.
- Wed
July 18
10:00 am
COLONEL DANFORTH TRAIL – Birds and Plants
Leader: Miles Hearn
Meet at the park entrance, top of the hill just east of the Highland Creek Bridge at Kingston Rd. Bring binoculars, water. If we have a few cars, we will drive to the end of the walk, leave cars there and walk to the starting point. Afterward the drivers will be driven to their cars. Otherwise it will be a circular walk.
- Thurs
July 19
6:45 pm
GLEN STEWART RAVINE – Evening Ramble
Leader: Bob Kortright
Meet at the park entrance just south of Kingston Rd and Beech Ave. Walk ends on Queen St E.
- Sat
July 21
10:00 am
MILNE HOLLOW TRAIL – Nature Walk
Leader: Tom Atkinson
Meet at the TTC bus stop on the south side of Lawrence Ave E at Railside Rd opposite Underhill Dr for a linear walk. We will walk west on Lawrence to the park entrance at Old Lawrence Ave, past the old Milne House, and via path and bridge across the Don River, then via underpass beneath the DVP, and up Moccasin Dr hill. Ends at the Shops At Don Mills about noon.

- Sun
July 22
1:30 pm G. ROSS LORD PARK – Nature walk
Leader: Rachel Gottesman
Meet at the southeast corner of Dufferin St and Supertest Rd for a circular walk. Free parking in two lots in the park. Bring binoculars.
- Tues
July 24
1:00 pm QUEEN’S PARK – Trees and Architecture
Leader: Richard Partington
Meet at the northeast corner of University Ave and College St. The walk will criss-cross the area several times and will end at Wellesley St and Queen’s Park Cres E. Bring binoculars. Duration: 2½-3 hrs.
- Wed
July 25
6:45 pm HIGH PARK – Evening Ramble
Leader: Wendy Rothwell
Meet at the park entrance at Bloor St W and High Park Ave for a circular walk.
- Sat
Jul 28
10:30 am SOUTH HUMBER RIVER – Nature and Heritage
Leader: Jess Fang
Meet at Old Mill subway station for a circular walk south following the path of the Discovery Walk. Bring lunch.
- Sun.
Jul. 29
1:30 pm CROTHERS WOODS – Nature Walk
Leader: Margaret McRae
Meet at the entrance to Loblaws at the top of Redway Rd off Millwood Rd for a circular walk on dirt trails with some steep hills.
- Tues
July 31
10:00 am ROUGE WETLANDS – Birds and Butterflies
Leader: Carol Sellers
Meet at Pearse House, 1749 Meadowvale Rd at Zoo Rd (follow signs for Rouge Valley Conservation Centre). If coming from Kennedy subway station, bus #86A. Bring binoculars.
- Wed
Aug 1
6:45 pm NEWTONBROOK CREEK – Evening Ramble
Leader: Alexander Cappell
Meet at the northwest corner of Finch Ave E and Bayview Ave to walk up Newtonbrook Creek. Walk ends at Cummer Ave and Yonge St.
- Sat
Aug 4
10:30 am HIGH PARK – Nature Arts
Leaders: Yoshie Nagata and Joe Bernaske
Meet at High Park Nature Centre, 440 Parkside Dr (5 min walk south from Keele subway station). Bring what you need for sketching, writing or photography. Bring lunch and any work you wish to share with the group.



Left: American lady caterpillar, *Vanessa virginiensis*; right: virgin tiger moth, *Apantesis virgo*, photographed by Margaret McRae; Centre: white-faced meadowhawk dragonfly (male), *Sympetrum obtrusum*, photographed by Augusta Takeda

- Sun
Aug 5
2:00 pm
ROSEDALE AND ITS CREEKS – Heritage
Leader: Janet Langdon
Meet at Rosedale subway station. Walk will end near Sherbourne subway station. Some steep hills. Bring binoculars.
- Mon
Aug 6
1:30 pm
GARRISON CREEK – Topography and Back Lanes
Leader: Alexander Cappell
Meet at southeast corner of Bloor St W and Dufferin St. Walk ends near corner of Dundas St W and Bathurst St.
- Tues
Aug 7
6:45 pm
NORDHEIMER RAVINE – Evening Ramble
Leader: Rachel Gottesman
Meet in front of St Clair West subway station on south side of St Clair Ave W for a circular walk. Bring binoculars.
- Thurs
Aug 9
10:00 am
VALLEY AND RIDGE – Nature Walk
Leader: Phoebe Cleverley
Meet at the lower parking lot of Earl Bales Park just south of the Sheppard Ave W bridge (Don River Blvd) for a circular walk along the West Don River Valley, up to Burnett Park and the eastern ridge above the valley. Bring lunch, water, binoculars.
- Sat
Aug 11
10:00 am
L'AMOREAUX PARK – Late Summer Wildflowers
Leader: Charles Chaffey
Meet at the northwest corner of Kennedy Rd and McNicoll Ave for a circular walk. Duration: about 3 hrs.
- Sun
Aug 12
1:00 pm
EXHIBITION GROUNDS TO THE MUSIC GARDEN – History and Nature
Leader: Kayoko Smith
Meet at the Dufferin Gate, Exhibition Place. We will ramble through the exhibition grounds and along the lakeshore towards the Music Garden, finishing at a coffee shop. There may be a concert in the Music Garden at 4 pm: check schedule at www.harbourfrontcentre.com/thewaterfront/parks/musicgarden.cfm
- Wed
Aug 15
10:00 am
DOWNTOWN TORONTO – Common Wild Plants (aka Weeds)
Leader: Miles Hearn
Meet at Sherbourne subway station for a linear walk ending at Union subway station. Morning only. Bring water.



Left: ironweed, *Vernonia gigantea*, Right: blue vervain, *Verbena hastata*, both photographed by Margaret McRae



- Thurs
Aug 16
6:45 pm
- EASTERN BEACHES – Evening Ramble**
Leader: Bob Kortright
Meet at the southeast corner of Coxwell Ave and Eastern Ave for a linear walk ending on Queen St E.
- Sat
Aug 18
10:00 am
- TAYLOR MASSEY CREEK – Nature Walk**
Leaders: Margaret McRae and Dianne Dietrich
Meet on Victoria Park Ave outside the Victoria Park subway station for a circular walk in this diverse habitat. Bring lunch. Washrooms available.
- Sun
Aug 19
2:00 pm
- BURKE’S BROOK - Lost Rivers**
Leaders: Maureen Scott-Harris and Helen Mills
Meet at southwest corner of Yonge St and Cranbrooke Ave (north of Lawrence). What’s in a name? Uncovering layers of history, meaning and culture along Burke’s Brook. Maureen Scott Harris is a poet and essayist with a particular interest in the environment, watersheds and nature. A joint walk with Toronto Green Community.
- Tues
Aug 21
10:00 am
- MARITA PAYNE PARK – Birds and Butterflies**
Leader: Carol Sellers
Meet at the northwest corner of Dufferin St and Glen Shields Ave (2 lights north of Steeles). Bring lunch and binoculars.
- Sat
Aug 25
1:30 pm
- FINCH HYDRO CORRIDOR – The New Bike Path**
Leader: Alexander Cappell
Meet on the north side of Finch Ave W where Wilmington Ave ends. Walk ends at Yonge St.
- Sun
Aug 26
1:30 pm
- CHARLES SAURIOL CONSERVATION RESERVE – Birds and Plants**
Leader: Miles Hearn
Meet at the park entrance on Lawrence Ave E, just east of the Don Valley Parkway, for a circular walk.
- Tues
Aug 28
1:30 pm
- LAKE IROQUOIS SHORELINE – Topography**
Leader: Alexander Cappell
Meet at the southwest corner of Bayview Ave and Moore Ave to follow the Lake Iroquois shoreline west to Yonge St, where we will finish at a coffee shop.
- Wed
Aug 29
10:00 am
- ROUGE RIVER – Birds and Plants**
Leader: Miles Hearn
Meet at Pearse House, 1749 Meadowvale Rd at Zoo Rd (follow signs for Rouge Valley Conservation Centre) for a circular walk. If coming from Kennedy subway station, bus #86A. Bring binoculars, proper walking shoes, water. Morning only.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Rouge Park BioBlitz will take place from 3 pm June 15 to 3 pm June 16. Many volunteers are needed, as experts in particular groups of organisms, guides familiar with the park, or assistants. If you would like to participate, see the details on page 17.

There will be other volunteer opportunities to support our outreach program in the spring and summer. We will again have a table at the Tommy Thompson Park Spring Bird Festival (May 12) and at the butterfly festival in August, and hope to staff the bird festival at Sam Smith Park (May 26). We will also participate in the Ecofair at Monarch Park Collegiate (April 23), and there will likely be other events not yet finalized. Please contact Tom Brown, our outreach coordinator, the office, or me if you would like to help (see below). I believe events such as these, that draw Torontonians with an interest in nature and environmental issues, are one of the best ways to attract those who might appreciate TFN membership, while educating others about the issues we care about. Also, volunteers representing TFN at outreach events enjoy forming connections with other volunteers and interacting with the public, for which guidance is provided.

More information was presented to the Stakeholders' Advisory Committee (SAC) for the Port Lands Acceleration Initiative on March 21, and a series of public meetings were held at the end of March to present tentative findings and gather reactions. Only small amounts of the Port Lands are expected to be developed within the next 20 years even if flood control were done. Methods of phasing flood control measures have been developed that would protect much of the land from flood damage at lower cost in the initial stages, leaving some areas undevelopable until further money is spent. It appears that major development over the next 20 years will likely be first north of the Keating channel, and secondly, west of Cherry street, north of the ship channel. There is still uncertainty how plans will unfold, but it appears a green floodway to the ship channel is likely at some point, as the first step to flood protection for most of

the Port Lands. I intend to push for this greenway to be extended south of the ship channel to Lake Ontario Park, and for any development to be as sustainable as possible. Most attendees at the public workshop last Tuesday at St Lawrence Hall seemed determined to obtain as much green space as possible, and a natural river mouth. See www.portlandsconsultation.ca and Waterfrontoronto.ca for details. The Initiative will finish with a report to Toronto Executive Committee in June.

As I write this in early April, black vultures and fish crows have been reported in the GTA. Be on the lookout for these previously rare visitors to Ontario, as they appear to be here to stay. The warm weather of March has also resulted in record early sightings of some butterflies, including a red admiral on our March 31 outing in Tommy Thompson Park. In other exciting butterfly news, www.ebutterfly.ca is now enabling anyone to easily report their butterfly sightings across Canada. (See page 14). www.ebird.ca, on which the new website appears to be modeled, has revolutionized record-keeping of bird observations, first in North America but now worldwide. Ebird provides birders with a way to keep lists of their observations, see what others have found nearby or in planned vacation destinations, and simultaneously provides data for scientific analysis of changing bird populations. I hope "ebutterfly" will do the same, and I encourage all naturalists to use both these websites.

Enjoy the rest of spring and summer – I hope to see you on an outing or an outreach event. There are a lot of outings to choose from – congratulations to your Vice-President Margaret McRae, those assisting her, and the many outing leaders for arranging a record number of outings for the next 4 months.

Please let me know (see contact information on page 2) if you would like to discuss any of the above, have suggestions, or wish to get involved.

Bob Kortright

Outreach Committee

I have agreed to take on the task of organizing an outreach committee to coordinate our community activities and to let people know about us and to encourage them to join the Toronto Field Naturalists. I am new to the board and could use some help in this from our members. If you think you would like to be a member of the outreach committee I would love to hear from you. You can contact me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Tom Brown

MONTHLY MEETING REPORT

Gardening is for the Birds, Sunday April 1

Cynthia Brown, Stewardship Coordinator, Healthy Yard, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

The arrival of spring is a time for new beginnings, and for many of us it means new beginnings in our gardens. Cynthia's enthusiastic crash course in gardening for birds invited us to contemplate an observation by Douglas Tallamy in his book *Bringing Nature Home* (2007): "In too many areas of our country, there is no place left for wildlife but in the landscapes and gardens we ourselves create." Gardens can make good habitat for many kinds of birds. The key: native plants.

Gardening for birds means paying attention to the four essentials: food, water, nesting sites and shelter. Before we start our bird garden, we need to assess our bird garden site for light and soil conditions and what we already have in our site, do some research, and make a plan. We can start small – we don't have to do it all at once. Toronto has many demonstration gardens and natural areas we can visit for ideas including the Toronto Botanical Garden, High Park and Tommy Thompson Park among many others. A wealth of websites and books can help with the research. There's a bird garden for every taste from casual to manicured.

In spring, 90% of birds feed insects and worms to their young, so we need to create an insect and worm friendly habitat in our garden. That's why native plants are the key to bird gardens. Plants that have co-evolved and formed ecosystem relationships with animals, fungi and microbes in our region support insect populations vital for spring nesting feeding far better than non-native species. They are adapted to our water and soil nutrient conditions, and they resist "weed" species. That's good news for gardeners: bird gardens save work and money. Native biodiversity supporting heavy-weights include trees such as oak, willow, birch and poplar. Cherry and plum trees are also good. Among the smaller plants, asters and goldenrods are



good choices. Not to be confused with ragweed, goldenrods do not cause pollen allergies. It's best to avoid the use of all chemicals in our bird garden.

While a bird bath allows us to easily see birds in our garden, it is not essential. Water can usually be found somewhere nearby. A bird bath should be placed well away from places where outdoor domestic cats might hide. They kill large numbers of birds each year.

Nesting sites we can provide in our gardens include dense evergreen and woody shrubs, solid horizontal surfaces, drooping tree limbs, and dead tree cavities. If we put up a birdhouse, we need to do our research about proper dimensions, especially hole size to keep out starlings who will kick out other species and even eat their eggs. Shelter is

often the same habitat as nesting sites, but year round resident birds may especially appreciate white pine and hedgerows with dense branch structure.

Native garden plant sources include the High Park native plant sale and the North American Native Plant Society annual sale in Markham (www.nanps.org), both in May (see Coming Events, page 25). Ongoing sources in the Toronto area include the Brick Works Nursery (www.evergreen.ca) and LEAF for trees (www.leafontario.org).

Cynthia recommended three books for more information: *Bird Gardening Book* by Donald and Lillian Stokes, *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy (both available at the Toronto Public Library) and *The Audubon Backyard Birdwatcher, Birdfeeders and Bird Gardens*. Useful websites in addition to those noted above include Wild About Gardening (www.wildaboutgardening.org) and FLAP (Fatal Light Awareness Program, www.flap.org).

EXTRACTS FROM OUTINGS LEADERS' REPORTS

Humber Bay Park East, Mar 6. Leader: Doug Paton. The highlights of the waterfowl were pintails, widgeons and a large flock of ruddy ducks. We also saw five robins and, on two occasions, mockingbirds, red-winged blackbirds and two golden crowned kinglets.

Claretown: Lost Irish Village, Mar 10. Leader: Joanne Doucette. Highlights: the restored Occidental building at Queen and Bathurst; an 1858 cottage on Richmond where the whole group was invited in to see the inside – spontaneous serendipity; and a man who lives in the area spoke to us about the National Coffin Co. Building, the lead refinery, and the garbage incinerator known as the Destructor.

Colonel Samuel Smith Park, Mar 17. Leader: Wendy Rothwell. The highlights were the many pairs of red-necked grebe and one horned grebe in transition plumage. It was lovely to see and hear song sparrows. I was disappointed not to see the tundra swan which had been there on my pre-walk.



Horned grebe in transition plumage, Col Sam Smith Park, Mar 17 outing. Photo: Margaret McRae.

Humber Bay Park East, Mar 20. Leader: Anne Powell. Thick fog hampered bird sightings especially on the water but did not dampen our enjoyment of the beautiful songs and calls of the red-winged blackbirds and song sparrows. The highlight of the day was seeing an eastern meadowlark. Most of the winter birds were still present but in smaller numbers than previously reported.

Leslie Street Spit, Mar 31. Leader: Bob Kortright. The early start to spring led to low numbers of waterfowl other than long-tailed ducks who know that it is pointless to start toward their high arctic breeding grounds before May. On the other hand, a red admiral butterfly was the second earliest on record in Toronto, and the first reported to onbutterflies@googlegroups.com this year, and a tree swallow was very early too. Hundreds of cormorants and thousands of ring-billed gulls were on their nests/nesting area. Five of 21 participants completed about 12 km to the lighthouse and back.



Tree swallow. Photo: Nora Jancik

NEW WEBSITE FOR RECORDING BUTTERFLY RECORDS

www.eButterfly.ca

A new website for entering and displaying butterfly records, put together by Maxim Larrivee of the University of Ottawa, launched on April 1. The Toronto Entomological Association is one of the sponsoring organizations. All records submitted to eButterfly are plotted as exact points on the publicly-accessible maps so it is important to specifically ask for the data to be recorded as “sensitive” or “confidential” for endangered species or areas for which there is no public access. Pay special note to submitting red admiral observations, as the plan is for eButterfly to track their movement north from Pelee “as it happens” – similar to Journey North for monarch butterflies. There was one report of a red admiral in Toronto on March 31! [See TFN outing report above.]

TORONTO'S TROUT LILIES

Trout lilies belong to the genus *Erythronium*, a member of the Liliaceae (lily family). Members of this genus have a large number of common names, including “trout” or “fawn” lilies, referring to the mottled pattern on leaves of many (but not all) species; “adder’s tongue,” alleged to be related to the appearance of the sharply pointed and then purplish new leaves when they first poke through leaf litter; and “dog tooth violet” where “dog tooth” comes from the shape of the corm. Here is a prime example of the problem with using common names, in this case both because of their multiplicity and in “violet,” a classification error.

Erythronium is from the Greek *erythros*, meaning red. *Erythronium* was the original name for the metal vanadium, because it has bright red compounds. Linnaeus assigned *Erythronium* to the one European species of the genus, *E. dens-canis*, a species of southern montane Europe, presumably on the basis of its red flowers. This is actually a species whose flower colour ranges from deep red to white. It seems likely that Linnaeus selected *dens-canis* (tooth of dog!) as the species name as the equivalent in other languages in areas where it occurred, was already in use. I have found references to the modern common name, with the same meaning, in French (*dent de chien*) and Romanian. *Erythronium* is mainly a North American genus, with six species recorded east of the Cordillera and 18 species in the west. Three species have been recorded in Asia.

The two species found in Toronto are the locally common *Erythronium americanum* (yellow) and locally rare *E. albidum* (white, sometimes slightly tinged with a bluish colour). The former can be found in numerous areas in woodlands across Toronto. The latter appears to be confined to localities along the Humber valley. Where seen nearby, *E. albidum* was blooming earlier, in late April, and *E. americanum* in early May. *E. americanum* has been recorded in eastern Ontario as far north as the Lake Abitibi ecoregion (see *The ROM Field Guide to Wildflowers of Ontario*). It also occurs in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and the northeastern U.S. *E. albidum* is a more southern species, from southern Ontario and Minnesota south to Georgia and across to northeast Texas.

All *Erythroniums* have six tepals, a term used when petals and sepals look alike. These curl backward after going through a more planar stage. *E. americanum* may have reddish brown or yellow anthers. Reddish brown anthers appear to be much more common in Toronto. Those of *E. albidum* are consistently yellow.

Enjoy the bright splashes of colour provided by *E. americanum* this coming spring. If you can find new localities for *E. albidum* please let the TFN know where these are.

Peter Money

From top:
yellow trout-lily, *Erythronium americanum*, with reddish brown anthers;
white trout-lily, *E. albidum*;
yellow trout lily with tepals curling back;
yellow trout-lily with yellow anthers.

Photos: Peter Money



HELP TO REALIZE A 100 KM² ROUGE NATIONAL PARK

by John Bacher, author of *Two Billion Trees Trees and Counting: The Legacy of Edmund Zavitz*, who will speak at the September TFN monthly meeting. Many thanks to Friends of the Rouge Watershed for their assistance in this article. Visit their website at www.frw.ca

In June 2011 the federal government in its throne speech gave a rare light of hope to Canadians. It made a commitment to establish a Rouge National Park.

The current Rouge Park, wrested out of provincial land holdings threatened by a highway, a dumpsite and urban sprawl, was created in 1994 through the mobilization of thousands of people. Despite heroic conservation efforts by inspired people power, the existing 45 sq kms of park land is only partially protected by the provincial government and it is inadequate to perpetuate the area's diverse life forms. The Rouge needs national park status to permanently protect the area's rich natural and cultural heritage and create a continuous natural habitat system between Lake Ontario and the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The Rouge is part of southern Ontario's Carolinian Forest Zone, the eco-zone with the most endangered species in Canada but the fewest parks. A sustainable Rouge National Park can be best achieved through the inclusion of all the 55 sq kms of federal land within the Greenbelt in north Markham and Pickering. Such a decision however, will not flow automatically from the welcome throne speech announcement. There is a sad reality that some favour a much smaller Rouge National Park.

Although the 55 sq kms of federally owned land are temporarily protected from urbanization by the Ontario government's Greenbelt and Oak Ridges



Rouge Park.

Photo: Jim Robb, Friends of the Rouge Watershed.

Moraine plan, these documents are subject to review in 2015. The best way to permanently secure the protection of a critical natural link from Lake Ontario to the Oak Ridges Moraine is to include all the federal greenbelt lands in the Rouge National Park now and forever.

Poorly planned sprawl and groundwater withdrawals continue to reduce Rouge water flow and quality in the critical summer months, imperilling trout streams and wetlands. This can be gradually reversed by conserving water and protecting a 100 sq km Rouge National Park. Such an adequately sized park would eventually create more forests, wetlands and other natural habitats to absorb and purify water and recharge groundwater aquifers. Gradually, despite the threats posed by global warming, this would improve stream flow and water quality in the summer when fish, people and other life forms need it most.

Today there are few national parks in Canada that can be readily accessed by urban dwellers. Many Canadians have no contact with the noble ecological ideals of our national parks and the diverse treasures and landscapes which they protect. Imagine being able to take a bus or a Go Train to visit the Rouge National Park with the ease it now takes to visit the Toronto Zoo.

Although at the Rouge National Park one would not see exotic lions and tigers in cages, there would be an abundance of native species in their natural habitats. In a hiking trip from Lake Ontario along the Rouge Valley system to the Oak Ridges Moraine one would view biological diversity which rivals our great Rocky Mountain national parks.

Today those who access nature in some Toronto ravines sometimes feel relieved to see a downy woodpecker or chickadee pecking away. Imagine traversing the future Rouge National Park and seeing river otters, flying squirrels, scarlet tanagers, hooded warblers, Jefferson salamanders, brook trout, white tailed deer and bobcats, all within a setting of towering Carolinian and Great Lakes forests, wetlands and trout streams. Toronto could be a tourist destination for visitors from around the world to again see – as our ancestors did – Atlantic

continued on next page.

ROUGE BIOBLITZ 2012

3:00 pm Friday June 15 to 3:00 pm Saturday June 16

The Rouge BioBlitz will bring together expert biologists, ecologists and naturalists with the public to list and identify all the plants and animals they can spot within a 24-hr period in Rouge Park. There will be a variety of experts working to identify all types of life in the park.

BioBlitzes have been occurring all over the world for decades, even here in Ontario. The aim is to raise awareness about the diversity of wildlife, and how Rouge Park is an important nature reserve for a wide range of flora and fauna in the GTA, by gathering a snapshot of which plants and animals call Rouge Park home. This will help Rouge Park gain a better understanding of all the forms of life in the park.

The Rouge BioBlitz will be a great opportunity to learn about local animals and plants, network with experts and naturalists from all over southern Ontario and just get out and have fun! We are excited about this event and hope you are too. Please share this information with anyone you know who might be interested.

SPONSORS INCLUDE: Rouge Park, Rouge Valley Conservation Centre, ROM, TRCA, Ontario Nature, Toronto Zoo

Interested in Volunteering?

Rouge Park is currently looking for three types of volunteers for the BioBlitz. [Specialists: see bottom of column.]

Conservation professionals, naturalists or students in environmental/ecology programs or related disciplines, to join the experts for the BioBlitz to assist in such duties as recording, sampling and identification.

Contact: Sheryl Santos, Stewardship Coordinator, Rouge Park, sherry_santos@rougepark.com, 905-713-6007

Volunteers who are familiar with Rouge Park and the surrounding area, who would like to act as a Rouge Park representative to guide experts and groups. Contact: Diana Smyth, Trail Coordinator, Rouge Park, diana_smyth@rougepark.com, (905) 713-3184

Volunteers who would like to help out with logistical duties, ensuring the 24-hr event runs smoothly. This would include inventory control at "re-fill stations", and setting up the BioBlitz headquarters site. Contact: Shawn Blackburn, Programs Coordinator, Toronto Zoo, sblackburn@torontozoo.ca, 416-392-9106

To register as a BioBlitz Specialist, please supply your name, expertise and your contact information to: Antonia Guidotti, Royal Ontario Museum, antoniag@rom.on.ca, 416-586-5765.

Continued from previous page

salmon swimming upstream from Lake Ontario in teeming numbers to spawn in Rouge and Duffins stream headwaters in the Oak Ridges Moraine.

You can help achieve the vision of a worthy Rouge National Park by contacting your federal member of parliament and conveying your support for a 100 sq km Rouge National Park. The website rougenationalparkfriends.com has important information, key contacts and a draft letter of support.



Deer in Rouge Park. Photo: Jim Robb, Friends of the Rouge Watershed

TRCA KORTRIGHT CENTRE SCHOOL PROGRAM REPORT

by Sophia Chum, Supervisor, Themed Education, Toronto and Region Conservation

Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), with the generous support of TFN, launched the TRCA School Field Trip Bus Grant program in 2010. With rapid urbanization and the disappearance of green spaces, we believe it is important, more than ever, to provide opportunities for young people to reconnect with the natural world. Now in its second year, we remain committed to ensuring that environmental and outdoor education remains accessible to students in the Toronto area.

The program is expected to provide a total of 50 bus grants — valued at \$250 each — during the 2011-2012 school year to classes from schools located in the City of Toronto, with the intent of reducing or eliminating the cost of transportation to TRCA's Kortright Centre for Conservation. The response from teachers has been overwhelmingly positive. To date, we are pleased to have awarded 47 grants to 30 different schools, sending nearly 2,500 students to experience our outdoor classroom.

These students are able to explore the Kortright property – complete with forests, meadows, streams and wetlands – and participate in hands-on activities under the guidance of our expert staff. Each teacher also receives a resource package and a class set of our specially designed program bookmarks to help students reflect on their visit and extend their learning beyond the day. Both include information about TFN

As winter gives way to spring, many students are excited to spend time outdoors and discover the new life that this season brings. We look forward to welcoming our remaining bus grant recipients to the Kortright Centre and giving them a field trip experience to remember!



REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of nominees to the Board for the year 2012-2013:

President:	Margaret McRae	Vice-President:	Nancy Dengler
Past President:	Bob Kortright	Secretary-Treasurer:	Walter Weary
Directors:	due to retire in 2013: Alexander Cappell, Corinne McDonald		
	due to retire in 2014: Judy Marshall		
	due to retire in 2015: Lynn Miller, Tom Brown, Lavinia Mohr		

We have two openings on the Board.

TFN by-law No. 1, Section 5(g) provides that “any three members may submit, in writing, to the Secretary-Treasurer by July 15 the name of a candidate accompanied by the written consent of the nominee. Such nominations shall be published in the September issue of the newsletter and the names of such nominees shall be added to the list of candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee.” Nominations should be sent to the TFN office, 2 Carlton Street, Unit 1519, Toronto, ON, M5B 1J3.

According to TFN by-law No.1, Section 5(b), “If an election is required it shall be by ballot mailed to all members. Ballots may be mailed to the auditor or deposited at the Annual General Meeting prior to the commencement of the meeting. The ballots will be tabulated by the auditor who shall announce the results.”

TREE TENDERS COURSE

Would you like to be a citizen arborist who advocates for street or park trees? Or knowledgeably advise your neighbour, landlord or local merchants about tree care? Or at least protect your *own* tree from challenges unique to urban environments? TFN members can join a growing urban forest community by taking LEAF's Tree Tenders course.

LEAF (Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests) is a nonprofit organization that you might know for its backyard tree planting program or urban tree tours. Tree Tenders is a course that they offer in spring and fall. Topics include tree biology, soil and micro-organisms, benefits and characteristics of the urban forest, basic tree identification, correct planting and maintenance practices, types and symptoms of tree stress, tree protection during construction, Toronto bylaws governing private and ravine properties, and the need for citizen stewards. It's a great opportunity to network with fellow tree lovers and brainstorm local initiatives. The goal is to promote grassroots stewardship and community action.

Tree Tenders is facilitated by LEAF and taught by subject-matter experts including City staff and ISA-certified arborists*. It combines classroom and outdoor

formats and typically spans a few evenings plus half a Saturday. The location varies as LEAF propagates skills to different neighbourhoods. The fee is \$50 + HST, less than \$4/hour of instruction time. Students can optionally purchase an excellent *Citizen Arborist* guide at cost.

To date, over 450 tree tenders have been trained across Toronto and Markham. Many apply what they've learned by joining or starting community projects. Tree Tenders graduates are found helping groups like the Leslieville-Riverdale Tree Project, Green 13 (Junction), GreenHere (Davenport), TreesPlease (Annex), High Park Stewards, Friends of Trinity Bellwoods Park, and more. Some assist with local tree inventories. Some are team leaders in the City's volunteer stewardship program. Some exemplify "the power of one" – for example one woman, on her own initiative, submitted an audit of poorly maintained street trees to her councillor and business improvement area (BIA). Her effort brought the community together and inspired a budding adopt-a-tree program.

This winter, around 30 tree tenders attended a special workshop where they learned to identify City-owned ash trees that might be candidates for inoculation against emerald ash borer. Other graduates volunteer for LEAF itself, for example by taking photographs, or explaining the importance of the urban forest at community events, or stewarding demonstration gardens outside several subway stations (a joint project with the TTC).

Finally, most tree tenders do their stewardship while leaning on their neighbour's fence, simply offering tips on proper mulching and the importance of watering, or explaining the evils of staking and soil compaction. Tree Tenders training is a great complement to TFN members' existing skills and a stepping stone to more active advocacy. Spring 2012 classes might still have a few seats. Visit www.yourleaf.org to register, or to subscribe to LEAF's e-newsletter.

Leigh Davidson
Leigh is a TFN member and LEAF volunteer



*International Society of Arboriculture

KEEPING IN TOUCH

I was delighted to see the article on marker trees from the FBO Newsletter in TFN's April issue.

I had read the original article and been so intrigued by it that during our January stay in Wilmington NC we drove to the nearby town of Southport to see their marker tree. It's an oak, located in a small park next to the information centre and claimed to be about 800 years old. The arched part has grown in; pictures taken around 1900 show the arch still in place.

Dee Phillips



I want to congratulate Corinne on such an informative and complete write-up about Joe Duff's presentation of "Operation Migration." There were so many intriguing facts, it must have been a challenge to include everything.

Kittie Fells

Whimbrel Watch at Sam Smith Park is in May. There is a wonderful article about these awesome birds in *ON Nature* magazine this month. Here are shots of two that stopped in the park in 2010. I was thrilled to see them ... the day after the official 'watch' was over, and no one was around but me!

Glorious birds, with a flock of peeps – see bottom left.

Lynn Pady



Update from Toronto Botanical Garden's Living Winter Program, supported by a TFN grant

...Students have identified the outdoor component of the program as the part they enjoy the most and that provides the most memorable experiences.

In their letters, students comment on listening to the sound of the water flowing in the creek, learning about what they can do to help protect animal habitats and, most of all, hand-feeding the chickadees. The thrill of having these small birds come so close to them, and even land on their hand, is priceless!

One teacher wrote: "...this program is invaluable for our kids who live in high rises and whose families rarely experience the Canadian outdoors." Teachers are also amazed at the level of retention of their students.

One student wrote: "...my favourite part was when I saw the blue jay, the male and female cardinal and collecting bones from the owl pellets. My least favourite part was when I had to leave."

Thank you, TFN, for your commitment to environmental education and for your generosity.

Claudia Zuccato Ria, Director of Development,
Toronto Botanical Garden

BATS NEED OUR HELP – CAN YOU HELP?

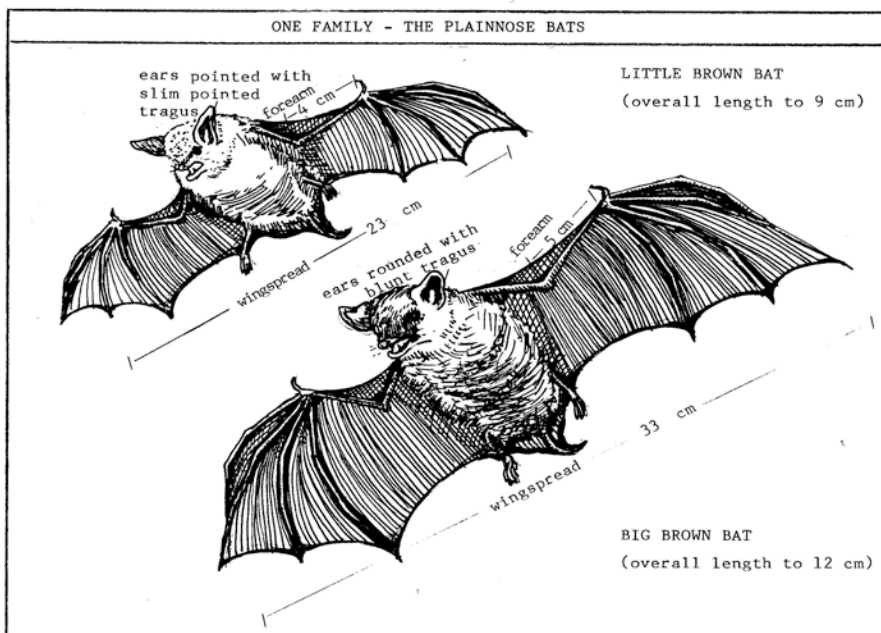
The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) are looking to citizen scientists to help monitor bats. A condition dubbed “White-nose Syndrome” because of a fungus that grows on affected bats, has killed more than five million bats in eastern North America. In March 2010, the syndrome was confirmed in Ontario. The fungus seems to irritate and cause bats to awaken, so they use their winter fat stores more quickly. They may leave hibernation sites and fly around outside, often in the daytime, when it’s still winter and there are no food sources available. MNR and the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre are monitoring the spread of the disease to determine its impact on Ontario’s bats.

Bats are an important part of Ontario’s biodiversity. Eight different species of bats are found in this province; the little brown and big brown bats are the most common and both are colonial roosting bats. Ontario’s colonial-roosting bats provide a valuable ecological service as major predators of night-flying insects. A viable bat population provides economic, environmental, and recreational (viewing) benefits.

For these reasons MNR values the information provided through Summer Bat Roost Surveys in which participants count bats at summer roosts. Roost structures can include bat boxes, occupied houses, barns, churches, utility buildings, unoccupied houses, bridges and other structures. Whether roosts are artificial or natural, monitoring summer bat populations is increasingly important because of the spread of White-nose Syndrome. White-nose Syndrome effects on summer colonies are now evident in the southern regions of Ontario. Continued monitoring by citizen scientists is increasingly important to document declines, survival and reproductive success.

For information and registration form packets, please contact Lesley Hale (MNR) at lesley.hale@ontario.ca, 705-755-3247.

TFN is pleased to host
 a Bat Night outing in High Park on July 13th (see page 8)
 and
 a lecture “Bats, A Lifelong Affair,” on Feb 3, 2013 (see page 3)



The little brown bat has a more furry face and a sheen to its coat. The big brown bat has black skin showing on face; it is more tolerant of cold and is sometimes seen in winter. A large hand could span a little brown’s wingspread but it would take a giant one to span a big brown’s.

Diana Banville

Refs:
A Field Guide to the Mammals, Burt & Grossenheider, Peterson Series
Mammals of the Great Lakes Region, W.H. Burt, University of Michigan Press
The Mammals of Canada, A.W.F. Banfield, University of Toronto Press

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Excerpts from TFN newsletter #412, May 1990

Four species which we have been considering “regularly-occurring” have not been recorded for two years running.

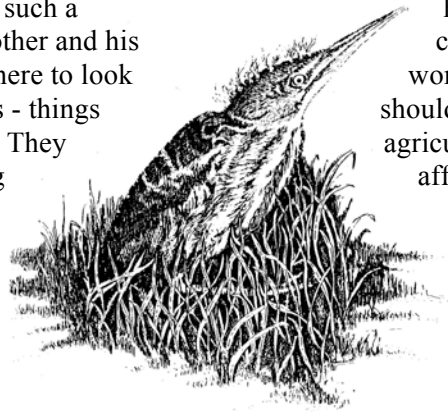
Least bittern: In the 1947 edition of Roger Tory Peterson’s *A Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies*, a would-be-observer read that Cory’s bittern was known to breed at Ashbridge’s Bay, Toronto and was so thrilled that Toronto should have such a distinction that she talked her brother and his new girlfriend into going down there to look for it. By this time - in the 1950’s - things had changed at Ashbridge’s Bay. They walked for hours through nothing but a foul-smelling black muck and found no life of any kind. It turned out that this species was later to be considered a colour-phase of the least bittern. The Toronto Region Bird Chart, 1983, indicates the species still

breeds occasionally in the region, but is decreasing. There are some records for Mugg’s Island and Leslie Street Spit, at least in migration.

Little gull: Essentially an Old World species, there was some excitement about the increase in numbers, in the last few decades, observed along the Humber and breeding in Cranberry Marsh, so much so that it came

“to be expected”. It no longer appears to nest here and is rather scarce or “hard to find”. (See *A Bird Finding Guide to the Toronto Region 1988* by Clive E. Goodwin.)

Loggerhead shrike: It occasionally nests in Toronto Region according to the Toronto Region Bird Chart, 1983, but is decreasing. Originally from the south and west, it has never been a common bird here, but there have been enough records for it to be considered “regularly-occurring”. They are worried about it in Ottawa - and maybe we should be worried too. It moved in with agriculture, but now intensive agriculture may be affecting the species throughout its whole range - among other possible reasons.



Least Bittern (immature)
drawn by Anita Edmond

Grasshopper sparrow: A colony was reported in 1987 in Richmond Hill. We had a number of reports, sometimes as many as eighteen individuals, in every Toronto Ornithological Club “Spring Bird Round-up” every year those were available - 1979-1985 inclusive - except for 1982. We have no record on file for 1986.

These four species have been sufficiently regularly-occurring in the 1980’s to be on our next checklist but the next few years should tell us to what extent their status has changed here.

Diana Banville

Status Updates from *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario (2001-2005)*

Least bittern has been designated Threatened by COSEWIC and OMNR. There was a 44% decrease in probability of observation in the Carolinian region. Marsh Monitoring Program data from 1995 to 2004 indicate that the least bittern has declined at a rate of 11% annually in the southern Great Lakes basin.

Despite low numbers, **little gull** currently has no conservation status in Canada or the US. It is one of the least understood species on the continent. During this atlas, adults were observed at historical breeding sites but no confirmed breeding was documented. Its disappearance as a breeding species on the Great Lakes mirrors a similar northward shift of its breeding range in Europe.

COSEWIC uplisted **loggerhead shrike** to Endangered in 1991 and it was also listed as Endangered in Ontario. A National Recovery Plan was approved in 1993, including annual monitoring efforts in core breeding areas. The population has gone from a high of 55 pairs in 1992 to a low of 18 pairs in 1997, when a captive breeding colony was established. The population rebounded to 40 pairs in 1999, but by 2006 had again declined to 18 pairs.

Between atlases, **grasshopper sparrow** declined significantly in probability of observation in the Carolinian region (48%). The primary reason for this is probably intensification of agriculture, including conversion of pastures and other grassy habitats to row crops

IN THE NEWS

Lyme Disease Surge Predicted For Northeastern US

An upsurge in the risk of Lyme disease is predicted for the Northeastern US by Dr. Richard S. Ostfeld, a disease ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, NY. And we can blame fluctuations in acorns and white-footed mouse populations, not the mild winter. “We had a boom in acorns, followed by a boom in mice. And now on the heels of one of the smallest acorn crops we’ve ever seen, the mouse population is crashing,” Ostfeld explained, adding, “This spring, there will be many infected black-legged ticks in our forests looking for a blood meal. And instead of finding a white-footed mouse, they are going to find other mammals – like us.”

Ticks prefer wooded and bushy areas with tall grass and leaf litter, as well as lawns and gardens, especially at edges to woodlands and near older stone walls. Walk in the middle of trails to avoid contact with overgrown grass, bushes, and leaf litter. Dress appropriately, use tick repellents, and check for ticks after being outdoors (also pets). Carefully inspect all parts of your clothing, skin and body and remove any ticks before they become engorged (swollen) with blood. Not all ticks are infected. Studies have shown that infected ticks normally cannot begin transmitting the spirochete that causes Lyme until it has been attached for 36-48 hours. If you do find a tick attached to your skin you should remove it immediately using fine-tipped tweezers and save it for possible examination. Never use petroleum jelly, mineral oil, matches, nail polish or other products to remove a tick.

From Malcolm Silver

References

Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies (2012, March 16). Lyme disease surge predicted for Northeastern US: Due to acorns and mice, not mild winter. Retrieved March 18, 2012, from *ScienceDaily*. www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/03/120316094452.htm

Protection against Lyme Disease
arthrits.about.com/od/lyme/ht/protectionlyme.htm

Rouge National Park and Lake Simcoe Clean-up Fund in Federal Budget

Both Rouge National Park and Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund were earmarked for funding in the recent federal budget. CTV reported that “...the exact amount of funding the park will receive is still unclear. Park officials hope it will be transferred over to the federal government by 2015. The next two years will be used for planning and public consultation.” *The Globe and Mail* reported that Pauline Browes, who introduced the

private members bill to establish the park, “said the park project would need about \$100-million spread over several years to cover capital costs like an interpretive centre and new nature trails. There would also be operational costs to staff the park.” The *Toronto Star* reported that “Environment Minister Peter Kent is expected to reveal more details on April 11...” *InsideToronto* reported that Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker was ecstatic. His “fight to preserve the park began 25 years ago when he was involved with Save the Rouge Valley System. Citizens and officials alike lobbied to have the 10,000 acres protected and in 1990 the Rouge Park was created.”

www.yorkregion.com reported that “details will be announced in the coming months of the Conservatives’ plan to restart the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund.”

Butterfly Notes

- Filming for the new 3D IMAX Monarch Butterfly documentary “Flight of the Butterflies” was completed in Mexico in March 2012. Canadian actor Gordon Pinsent plays the role of Dr. Fred Urquhart.
- On March 15, 2012, WWF Mexico announced that the wintering population of Monarch Butterflies in Mexico was down by 28% from the previous winter.
- New research from the University of Guelph reveals that 10% of the monarchs analyzed in the northern breeding range arrived there directly from Mexico. The bulk of the remaining 90% that were first generation monarchs emerged as adults in central United States, and not in the southern United States as previously believed.
- The Monarch Teacher Network of Canada has organized a new workshop for July 24 & 25, 2012 at the Purple Woods Conservation Area, located south of Port Perry and north of Oshawa. For details, see: bit.ly/H5Pb5R
- The Toronto Entomologists’ Association requests 2012 butterfly and dragonfly records for the annual summaries “Ontario Lepidoptera 2012” and “Ontario Odonata 2012”. While records can be stored electronically for submission by early January 2013 (details and an Excel template can be found here: bit.ly/IdkWc4), other electronic or manual formats are welcomed, and should include species, observer, date, county, location, and additional details (i.e. number seen). Contact: rosslayberry@yahoo.ca.
- Upcoming events: 27th Monarchs and Migrants Weekend, Presqu’ile Provincial Park, Sep 1-2, 2012.

From Don Davis

WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

May 2011

May brought continued cloudy and wet conditions. Warm, humid air (with continuing severe weather) remained a short distance to the south, with temperatures in Toronto marginally above normal due to higher minimum temperatures. There was not a lot of temperature variation, although it did hit 30° by the last day of the month.

Total rainfall was 116.4 mm downtown, and 142.0 mm at Pearson – almost double the average at Pearson and the highest for May since 2003. The persistent cloud cover – several times it remained overcast for a few days at a time – was even more remarkable and reminiscent of late fall rather than late spring. Sunshine hours for the month totaled 165.5 hours, 64.9 hours below normal and the lowest since May 1984 which had 164.7 hours. It was the eighth cloudiest May on record (with a rather long sunshine hour record period going back to 1882).

June 2011

While an extreme heat wave and drought developed over the southern US plains, June in Toronto was unremarkable. Sunshine and rainfall returned to near normal levels, with a tendency to longer drier spells between rainy periods. Monthly mean temperatures were close to normal or a shade above, 19.8° downtown and 19.1° at Pearson Airport. A brief influx of hot, humid air on June 7 - 8 brought temperatures as high as 34.2° (downtown) and a couple of violent thunderstorms, one over Hamilton early on the morning of the 8th, and another accompanying the cold front that hit northwestern Greater Toronto that evening. Downburst winds knocked down numerous trees, but no tornadoes occurred.

July 2011

Conditions switched to persistently dry, sunny, and mostly hotter than normal this month as the record heat wave over the central United States expanded northeastward. Rains during the last week eased the short-term drought. Because the spring of this year had been so wet, the month-long dry spell did not have severe impacts in the Toronto area.

However, Toronto did have one of its hottest months on record. It was, in fact, the hottest month on record at Pearson Airport with a mean temperature of 24.4° beating the former record of 24.3° set in 2005. But this



Cumulus clouds, High Park, drawn by Joanne Doucette.

figure is affected by the shorter time period (1938-present) for Pearson as opposed to the City, and by the urban heat island which has artificially warmed the Pearson site above and beyond that caused by global climate change. The mean maximum at Pearson was 30.1°, which is below the 31.0° of July 1955.

When one looks at the longer record of downtown, going back to 1840, the heat is still pretty impressive. It was the hottest July (and month) since July 1921, with a mean of 24.9° (July 1921 had a mean of 25.5°) – and

probably the 2nd hottest month on record for the City. These values are about 2.5-3° above the current 30-year

normal, which is actually not a huge deviation; in coming years, we are likely to break this record again by a larger margin, as Moscow did in 2010 and the southern US plains did this year.

The hottest period was July 16 - 23, with the single day July 21 breaking numerous records. Notably, Toronto City's daily high of 38.2° was the highest since August 1948, when there was basically a tie. Pearson, which usually attains slightly higher maxima due to its distance from the lake, was fractionally cooler at 37.9° but still the hottest July record there. Both these readings broke above the old 100° F mark. The humidex reading reached 51° C that day.

Shortly thereafter, the heat eased and there were occasional showers and thunderstorms. The one-month period ending July 23 was almost rainless, but monthly precipitation totals attained 21.9 mm downtown and 32.4 mm at Pearson. This is still very dry but not record-breaking.

The heat wave in the US was one of the worst on record, with the summer of 2011 being the second-hottest on record (after 1936) if one averages the 48 contiguous states. Temperatures in Texas reached as high as 47°. Dallas exceeded 38° C on 30 of the 31 days of July.

These conditions, especially in the US but also in Toronto albeit more briefly, were more reminiscent of the Persian Gulf States at this time of year rather than the Great Lakes. Shallow Lake Erie attained a temperature of 27°, more typical of the Gulf of Mexico or the Sea of Galilee and tied the all-time record (August 1988).

August 2011

Conditions moderated in August with temperatures dropping from July's record levels to just about 1 above normal (22.5° downtown and 21.9° at Pearson). Some of the above-normal temperatures could be attributed to high lake and soil temperatures lingering from July's heat wave. The highest temperature was 32.4° downtown on August 1, while the lowest was 11.4° at Pearson Airport on the 29th.

Rainfall was close to normal with 66.9 mm downtown and 72.2 mm at Pearson Airport. Sunshine was slightly (about 19 hours) above-normal with 274.2 hours recorded. There were frequent thunderstorms, fueled by the frontal zone bordering the lingering US heat

wave and by high Great Lakes temperatures, but no tornadoes or torrential downpours. However, the storm on the evening of August 24 was notable for its extremely high number of lightning strikes, captured on YouTube by several observers.

Overall, the summer (June to August) was a fairly hot one but far from being a record. July was offset by the more moderate June and August conditions. The three-month mean at Pearson (for which these values have been calculated) was 21.8°, which is the sixth hottest summer. The actual record was set in 2005 with a three-month mean of 23.1°, which had more persistent anomalies starting in early June.

Gavin Miller

COMING EVENTS

If you plan to attend any of these events, we recommend that you contact the organizing group beforehand to confirm time and place.

Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walks – Toronto Ornithological Club

Aimed at the intermediate birder, but beginners also welcome. Free to the public; no advance registration required.

- Sat May 5, 7:30 am – noon. High Park. Leader: Bob Yukich. Meet at the parking lot inside the Bloor St entrance to High Park at High Park Ave. Warblers, orioles, sparrows, hummingbirds.
- Sat May 12, 7:30 am – noon. Lambton Woods. Leader: Don Burton. Meet at James Gardens parking lot (access from Edenbridge Dr east of Royal York Rd north of Dundas St W. Spring migrants.
- Sat May 19, 7:30 am – noon. Colonel Sam Smith Park. Leader: Steven Favier. Meet in the southerly parking lot at the foot of Kipling Ave off Lake Shore Blvd W. Possible whimbrel, other migrants.
- Mon May 21, 8:00 am – all day. Toronto Islands. Leader: Luc Fazio. Meet at 8 am at ferry docks at the foot of Bay St off Queen's Quay to catch the 8:15 am ferry to Hanlan's Point. (Ferry: \$6.50 adults, \$4 students/seniors.) Late spring migrants.

High Park Walking Tours

1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, 10:30 am to noon. Meet at the benches across the road south of Grenadier Restaurant. Information: 416-392-0729 ext 4 or walkingtours@highpark.org or www highpark.org

May 6 Grenadier Pond Awakes, Christine Tu

May 20 Returning Migratory Birds, Steven Favier

June 3 Spring Babies at the Zoo, Sonia Pittkrest, Zookeeper

June 17 Native Wildflowers, Ron Luft

July 1 Shakespeare in the Park and O Canada Flash Mob, Julia Bennett

July 15 The Precious Oak Savannah, Stephen Smith

Aug 5 Caterpillars, Moths and Butterflies, Don Scallen

Aug 19 Behind the Scenes at the Greenhouse, City Staff

High Park Native Plant Sale

Sun May 6, 11 am to 2 pm. In front of the Greenhouse in High Park (off Centre Road). Parking at Grenadier Restaurant. Information: www.highparknature.org and www.highparknature.org/wiki/wiki.php?n=Resources.PlantSale

North American Native Plants Society

Sat May 12, 10 am – 3 pm. Annual Native Plant Sale, Markham Civic Centre, 101 Town Centre Blvd, Markham. Wildflowers, ferns, grasses and sedges as well as trees and shrubs. Also a selection of nature books. Plant list and Members' Advance Order information are online at www nanps.org. Information: email nanps@nanps.org or phone 416-631-4438.

Spring Bird Festival at Tommy Thompson Park

Sat May 12, 7 am – 4 pm. Activities for people of all ages and birding abilities. Information: www.springbirdfestival.ca

13th Annual International Migratory Bird Day, Toronto Zoo

Sat May 12, 8 am to 4 pm. "Connecting People to Bird Conservation." Guided bird-watching tours \$10, on the hour from 8 am to 3 pm. Information: Elaine Christens at 416-392-5960 or echristens@torontozoo.ca.

Spring Bird Festival at Colonel Sam Smith Park

Sat May 26, 8 am – 1 pm. An event for families, new birders and nature enthusiasts. Information: greentoronto@toronto.ca or 416-661-6600 Ext 5765.

Tommy Thompson Park Bird Research Station - Bird Walks during migration monitoring seasons

8am every Sat Apr 7-Jun 9, and Aug 11- Nov 10. . Leader: Bob Kortright or Tom Flinn. Length of walk will depend on number of birds encountered, and wishes of participants - generally a couple of hours (3 km) to the bird-banding station. May continue for several more hours (up to 12km) to explore other parts of the park, but participants can drop out at any time. Bring binoculars, field guides, water, snacks. Shorts/sandals not advised due to biting ants that become active in hot weather.

Thickson's Woods Land Trust - Dog-strangling Vine Removal

Sat Jun 23, 8 am. Meet at the gated entrance to the meadow. Bring a sturdy shovel and long-handled pruning shears. Information: www.thicksonswoods.com or email nature@thicksonswoods.com or call 905-725-2116.

Koffler Scientific Reserve at Jokers Hill, University of Toronto - Nature Walks and Workshops.

Information including registration: ksr.utoronto.ca/events

Sun May 6. Spring Wildflowers: Trout Lilies to Trilliums

Sat May 26. Fantastic Forbs: Spring Wildflowers Walks

Sat June 2. Birding for Beginners

Sat June 23. Summer Wildflowers: Exploring Nature's Bounty

Sat July 14. Trees and Shrubs for Beginners

Sat July 21. Bugs, Bees and Butterflies Nature Walks

Guelph Arboretum – Nature Walks and Workshops

Information including registration: www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum

Fri May 4. The Wonderful World of Spring Wildflowers

Sat May 5. The Wonderful World of Spring Wildflowers

Sun May 6. Youth Photography Workshop: Focus on Nature

Sat May 12. Garden and Wildflower Photography

Fri May 25. Sparrow Workshop: Those Little Brown Jobs

Sat May 26. The Secret Life of Lichens

Wed July 11. Dragonflies and Damselflies

Thur July 12. Identification and Biology of Butterflies

Fri July 13. The Wonderful World of Summer Wildflowers

Sat July 14. Nature and Wildlife Photography

Rouge Park Weekly Guided Nature Walks

Explore Rouge Park's trails with a Hike Ontario certified volunteer leader. Information: visit www.rougepark.com/hike, e-mail hike@rougepark.com or phone 905-713-3184 Monday thru Thursday.

The Market Gallery

To Sept 8. South St Lawrence Market, 2nd floor, 95 Front St E. Free. Finding the Fallen: The Battle of York Remembered.

Note: gallery closed Sun, Mon, and holidays. Information: www.toronto.ca/culture/the_market_gallery/index.htm or 416-392-7604.

Lost Rivers Walks

Information: www.lostrivers.ca

- Sat May 12, 1 pm and Sun May 13. "Aggie's Wildflowers" in association with Heritage Toronto. Leader: Madeleine McDowell, Chair of Humber Heritage Committee. A 2-hr tour in Magwood Sanctuary, a talk about Agnes and tea. Meet at Historic Lambton House, 4066 Old Dundas St. These events are slightly different. Come to both if you like.
- Tue May 22, 6:30 pm. Lower Mimico Creek. Leader: Ian Wheal. Meet at northwest corner of Lake Shore Blvd W and Parkside Dr.
- Tue June 26, 6:30 pm. Upper Mimico Creek. Leader: Ian Wheal. Meet at entrance to Islington subway station.

Ian Wheal Walks

- Tue May 1, 6:30 pm. Memorial Walk for Lawrence (Lol) Solomon, Jewish impresario, Maple Leaf baseball club. Meet at southwest corner of Bathurst St and King St W.
- Sun May 20, 2 pm. Padreone Italiano: Italian heritage of St Clair Ave West. Meet at the southwest corner of Keele St and St Clair Ave W.
- Mon May 21, 2 pm. Ballad of Maggie MacRae, Schooner, Scarborough. Meet at main entrance to Rouge Hill GO station.
- Sun May 27, 6:45 pm. Grenadier Heights: Rennie Gardens, ponds and seeds. Meet at entrance to High Park, Bloor St W and High Park Ave.
- Tues May 29, 6:30 pm. Canadian Northern Railway Centennial Walk, East Toronto. Meet at entrance to Main subway station.
- Tues June 12, 6:30 pm. Newspaper Community Gardens (Toronto Globe and Toronto Star). Meet at southwest corner of Queen St. W and Cowan Ave.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your TFN membership expires June 30, 2012. To renew for the year July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013, and ensure a September newsletter, either

- cut out this form, which has your address printed on the back, or
- photocopy both sides of this form, or
- print the Membership application form from the TFN website (www.torontofieldnaturalists.org) and complete it, ensuring that the name appears exactly as printed on your newsletter, or
- submit from TFN website using PayPal.

If your name or address has changed, please indicate this so our records will be updated. Send the form with your payment by June 30 to: Toronto Field Naturalists, 2 Carlton Street, Suite 1519, Toronto, ON, M5B 1J3

Contact Information: (Note: We do not sell or swap our mailing list)

Home phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please check your name and address on reverse of this page and modify if necessary.

Remittance enclosed

- \$40 Single \$50 Family (2 adults at same address, children included)
- \$30 Senior Single (65+) \$40 Senior Family (2 adults 65+)
- \$20 Youth (under 26)

Plus a donation of \$_____ (tax receipts issued for donations)

I/we might be willing to volunteer in the following areas:

- Outings
- Outreach
- Office help
- Conservation
- Newsletter
- Website
- Finance/Accounting
- Youth programs
- Other: _____



NATURE PIX TIPS

The main challenge in photographing perching birds is that they seldom stay in one spot long enough to get the camera focused. A week or so ago I learned a good trick from a group of photographers in High Park. In a location where red-breasted nuthatches were flitting about, they had set up a spare tripod to the top of which they had attached a pine branch as a perch and an offering of seeds or nuts. Thus they were able to attract the birds to a natural-looking setting.

Taking advantage of their set-up, I aimed my camera at the pine and depressed the shutter button half way in order to get the correct focus. Then I waited, and as soon as a bird alit, fully depressed the shutter button to complete the shot.

Wendy Rothwell

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Field mouse in a tree swallow nest box at Colonel Sam Smith Park,
photographed by Lynn Pady, March 21, 2012