



Since 1923

TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 644 May 2019



Monarch butterfly on obedient plant. Photo: Jenny Bull

REGULARS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TFN's first walk was held on April 26, 1924. Organized by Stuart Thompson (nephew of E.T. Seton), folks disembarked from the College streetcar out by High Park, wandered down to the lakeshore, and then up along the Humber until they reached the Old Mill. One can't help but wonder whether these folks had any idea what they were about to set in motion: a near century-long tradition that today sees TFN walk leaders guide thousands of Torontonians on over 140 walks each year.

Perhaps you feel, as I do, that over the decades a second tradition was also born on that day in April: anticipation for the May issue of *Toronto Field Naturalist*. Poring over months of outings, titillated by locations yet unexplored and by the unique twists our walk leaders add to more familiar locales, it's a moment I truly look forward to each and every year. My calendar right now is a testament to this ritual, dates filled in months in advance for fear that scheduling conflicts could cause me to miss an unmissable stroll out in Toronto's wilds.

This year, however, I did something a little different. I took some time to fully appreciate the scope of what's on offer. From now until September we have walks that touch every watershed in the GTA and more than a few that visit destinations even further afield. There are walks that focus exclusively on nature, while others also call attention to history, heritage, architecture, art or literature. Some walks aim to improve our ID skills and others our photographic

expertise. Some will be led by volunteers who have done so for decades and some by folks leading their first walk ever this summer. Short and long, hard and easy, beaches and marshes, ravines and forests, creeks and rivers, parks and meadows, street trees, endangered species, surrendered golf courses, ecological restoration – the depth and breadth is simply amazing.



TFN outing at Tommy Thompson Park
Photo: Jason Ramsay-Brown

With all the excitement the May issue brings, there's also a small administrative matter it routinely delivers – membership renewal. When you renew this year I would ask you to please consider two things. First, be sure to provide TFN with your email address. All members are entitled to receive the digital copy of the newsletter, which is delivered a week or two before the paper copy will arrive at your home. That's a lot of extra time to plan for upcoming walks! Second, please note that renewing online instead of by mail has many advantages. It greatly expedites the process. (You wouldn't want to miss the September issue, would you?) It reduces the demands on our membership volunteers who give their time so generously in processing

paperwork, updating databases, making phone calls and all the other steps involved in refreshing the roster each year. It also reduces the possibility of mistakes that stem from decoding your beautiful (but sometimes difficult to interpret) handwriting! Complete renewal details are provided on page 15 of this issue.

Enjoy the spring and summer, and I hope to see you out on the trails very soon!

Jason Ramsay-Brown
president@torontofieldnaturalists.org

WHAT'S NEW ON TFN'S WEBSITE

While the newsletter may be on hiatus until September, our website never rests! Updates will continue to be made regularly over the spring and summer with lots of interesting things already scheduled:

- new articles
- notes and photos from outings and events
- expanding our newsletter archives
- stewardship updates
- opportunities to Take Action... and much more!

Keep in touch with TFN at <https://torontofieldnaturalists.org/for-members/>

LECTURE REPORT

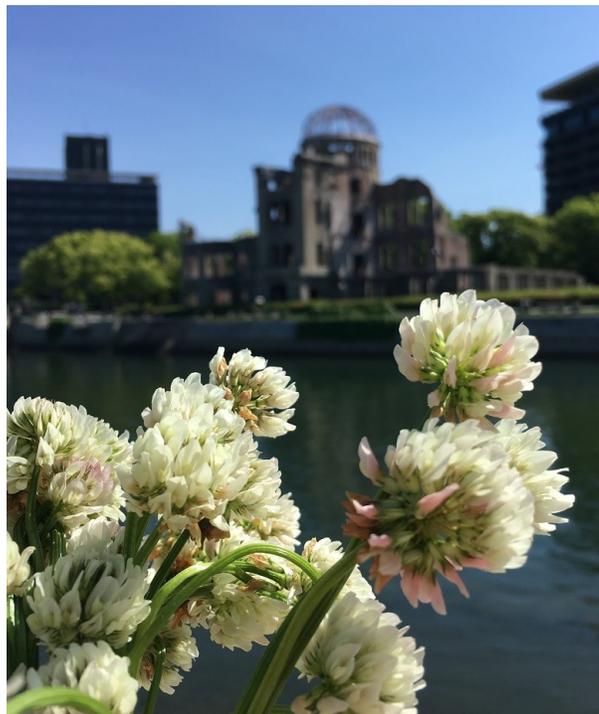
Evolution of Life in the Urban Jungle

April 7, 2019

Marc Johnson, Associate Professor, Dept. of Biology, U of T, Mississauga.

Marc Johnson delivered a thought-provoking seminar on how urbanization is affecting evolution. As Director of the Centre for Urban Environments (CUE), Professor Johnson's EvoEco Lab at U of T is discovering how to make cities healthier for the environment and humans.

Marc described major changes occurring and how humans have a decisive influence on the state, dynamics and future of the earth. 82% of Canadians live in cities and our planet is becoming increasingly urbanized. Urban areas cover up to 3% of the earth's land surface and this amount continues to rise rapidly. Cities have higher temperatures and pollution. Reduced tree cover and vegetation within cities lead to cities being 6% hotter than rural areas. The hottest areas are the new GTA suburbs including Brampton, Richmond Hill, and Markham where homes are larger including bigger shingled rooftops and trees are small.



Urbanization can affect evolution in the following 4 ways:

- Mutation. All evolution works on mutations. Studies on lab mice exposed to Hamilton air pollution caused by the steel plant found a much greater mutation rate than lab mice placed in rural areas.
- A loss of genetic diversity. Urbanization is causing fragmentation whereby species are becoming isolated by impervious structures on all sides. Examples are Central Park in Manhattan and Mount Royal in Montreal.
- Increased genetic differentiation between populations caused by decreased dispersal and gene flow.

Researchers noted genetic differences on wood frogs north and south of highway 401. Differences were also found between populations of moose that were isolated north and south of a protective fence along a highway in Alaska.

- Adaption. Puerto Rican lizards in urban areas have more scales, stickier toe pads and longer limbs allowing them to run faster on bark, concrete and metal than their rural counterparts. White clovers are adapting to city environments by reducing the amount of the defense chemical hydrogen cyanide in their leaves. They also supply two-thirds of all the nectar for bees.

EvoEco Lab's study of the effects of urbanization on evolution is important for several reasons:

- This is the best and largest-scale experimental evolution study of all time.
- Urban evolution has applied implications for conservation, community and eco system stability. Changes resulting from urbanization could lead to population declines, loss of genetic diversity, lower capacity for adaptation, and also negatively affect conservation efforts. For example, blackbirds stay in an urban location instead of migrating. Peregrine falcons have also adapted to cities. Burrowing owls are invading cities in Argentina and can dig their own holes instead of using existing burrows.

- Urban evolution can impact human health. Rats, mosquitoes and bed bugs that are mostly found in urban environments, plague cities. Chemicals previously used to control these populations no longer work.
- It provides an amazing opportunity to educate the public about evolution.

To contribute and/or be a part of the effort to improve the environment, see www.urbanenvironment.ca.

Laura Thompson

Correction to last month's lecture report: The name of Mark Raycroft's book is *Moose, Crowned Giant of the Northern Wilderness*. The Algonquian word meaning "twig-eater" from which the name moose is derived is *mooswa*.

TREE OF THE MONTH: REDBUD (*CERCIS CANADENSIS*)

While driving through the towns north of Lake Erie on the way to Long Point, Rondeau and Point Pelee, one tree really grabs one's attention this month. Redbud is in glorious flower in May, a deep pink show against the smooth, naked branches of each small bushy tree. In good years, flowers are borne in profusion, not only on twigs of the previous year, but also on older wood, an arrangement technically termed cauliflory ("stem-flowering").

While the wood inside the stems is also reasonably handsome, the trees are generally so small, and large individuals so infrequent in the woods, that the wood has no commercial value. Nor, despite minor traditional consumption of the flowers, does redbud have any significant human economic importance other than as an ornamental. Here, then, is a tree that we can celebrate for its intrinsic interest without asking what it has done for us lately.

If you stop to examine the trees more closely, you may find some remnant fruits from last year still hanging on the branches or scattered on the ground beneath. These are fairly typical flattened pea pods, like smaller versions of black locust ones, confirming that redbud belongs to the legume family.

Its other two most obvious features, its leaves and flowers, however, are not like those of most familiar legumes (such as black locust, sweet peas, lupines or clovers). The clearest contrast is shown by the leaves, not yet evident at flowering but soon to emerge, expand and harden. These heart-shaped (cordate) leaves are the only simple leaves among the compound (usually pinnate) ones of all our other legumes, both woody and herbaceous.

The differences in the pretty flowers are not as obvious unless you know exactly what to look for. Look straight into the face of a sweet pea, lupine or black locust flower and you will see that the big upper banner (or standard) petal stands conspicuously at the back of the flower, behind (and outside of) the lateral wing petals and the two closely touching lower petals that together make up the keel. This arrangement is called papilionoid meaning "like a butterfly."

In redbud flowers, which seem superficially so like typical papilionoid pea flowers, the banner stands in front of (inside) the wing petals. In addition, the filaments of the 10 stamens are all free from one another, instead of having nine fused side to side to form a sleeve around the ovary, with a slit along the top where the tenth stamen lies free. This unusual stamen arrangement led Linnaeus to assign typical legumes to a special class within his "Sexual System," the Diadelphia ("two brotherhoods"), away from the more generalized 10-stamen class Decandria ("10 men"), in which he placed redbud and many non-papilionoid tropical legumes, among many unrelated plants.

Recent DNA studies have

continued on page 6

Left: Black locust showing banner petal behind wings. Photo Ken Sproule
Right: Redbud in bloom at Glendon Park. Photo Ron Dengler



From top: Eastern redbud in bloom at Colonel Samuel Smith Park; snow-pea like seed pods of redbud; immature heart-shaped leaves.
Photos Ken Sproule

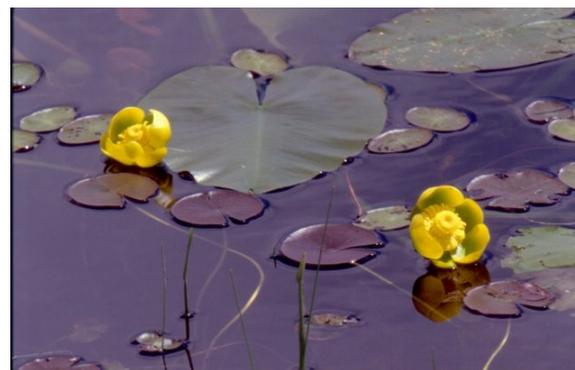


TORONTO WILDFLOWERS: AQUATIC “LILIES”

None of Toronto’s three aquatic “lilies” actually are lilies or closely related to true lilies. One, *Calla palustris* (calla lily), is a member of the Araceae (arum family). The other two, *Nuphar variegata* (bullhead lily or northern yellow pond lily) and *Nymphaea odorata* (fragrant waterlily), are members of the Nymphaeaceae (waterlily family). All are reported as being rare in Toronto¹, reflecting the few instances of suitable habitat. However, in such habitat, they can be locally abundant. All three have been recorded in High Park ponds and in the lower Rouge area; both *Nuphar variegata* and *Nymphaea odorata* also in the lower Humber.



Calla comes from the Greek *kallos* (beauty). *Palustris* means marshy or swampy, referring to the species’ preferred habitat. In *C. palustris* the inflorescence includes a white spathe (up to 4 cm long) and a bract that only minimally encloses a cylindrical spadix (about 20 mm long). The spadix bears numerous small flowers lacking both petals and sepals. This species blooms from May to July. It has been recorded in almost all of Ontario². Its range in North America is from Newfoundland to Alaska and to the south from New Jersey to northern California³.



Members of the Nymphaeaceae are known as paleoherbs, plants shown by DNA studies to be “one of the first groups of flowering plants to have evolved”². They have changed very little since. Ancestral species appeared more than 65 million years ago – the “Age of Dinosaurs”! The paleoherbs are examples of plants that have found a habitat where there is little competition and hence have little biological pressure to change. For more reading on this fascinating family (and others) see, *The Plant Messiah* by Carlos Magdalena, which was reviewed by Helen Juhola in the TFN newsletter 2018 March.



Nuphar variegata is one of about 13 North American species belonging to this genus. The genus, except for one neotropical species, is confined to temperate regions of North America and Eurasia. *N. variegata*’s large (4 to 5 cm) flowers consist of 4 or 5 sepals with inconspicuous petals. It occurs across Ontario², across all of Canada, and south from Ohio to Delaware.³

Nymphaea odorata is one of five North American species in this genus, there being about 60 species worldwide in both temperate and tropical regions. *N. odorata* has large flowers, averaging about 10 cm across, that consist of numerous white petals and only four green sepals. It occurs across most of Ontario². Its full range is all Canadian provinces except Alberta and every US state except North Dakota and Wyoming³.

Both *N. variegata* and *N. odorata* can bloom locally at any time from June to September. Good views of these species may require binoculars and/or watercraft. For *Calla palustris* you may need a willingness to go wading. I think this is worth it but realize that not all might sufficiently share my enthusiasm.

From top: Calla lily (*Calla palustris*),
bullhead lily (*Nuphar variegata*),
fragrant waterlily (*Nymphaea odorata*).

Article and photos by Peter Money

References:

- 1 *Vascular Plants of Metropolitan Toronto*, 2nd ed., Toronto Field Naturalists, 1994
- 2 *The ROM Field Guide to Wild Flowers of Ontario*, T.A. Dickinson et al, 2004
- 3 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture PLANTS database (<https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/java/>)

ONTARIO TURTLE CONSERVATION

TFN's nature reserves were purchased in an effort to tangibly protect vital habitat from sprawl and other encroachments. An admirable goal, certainly, but since acquiring these properties we have continued to ponder ways that these lands could be put to best use, particularly in service to Ontario's at-risk species.

In the April issue of the newsletter we announced a new stewardship program at our Jim Baillie Nature Reserve aimed at helping to protect Ontario's endangered butternut trees (see TFN 643-9). In this issue we're pleased to announce another development.

Several weeks ago I reached out to Dr. Sue Carstairs, Executive and Medical Director of the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre (OTCC), with a simple invitation: access to TFN nature reserves in pursuit of OTCC's mandate. As you may already know, OTCC operates what is likely the most important turtle hospital in all of Ontario, specializing in the rehabilitation and release of native species. Rescued turtles must be returned to the area they came from and, according to Dr. Carstairs, "... we do get quite a lot from that region. It would be wonderful to know that the turtles were able to be returned to a protected location." TFN has provided OTCC with all relevant maps and guides to our reserves to help with future planning. Should the need arise OTCC will contact us to discuss logistics on a release-by-release basis.



Measuring a Blanding's plastron in the field.

Photo: Jason Ramsay-Brown.

TFN's enthusiasm for and support of OTCC (also known as the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre) is long-standing. I was looking through the April 2005 issue of our newsletter recently and came across some glowing praise penned by member Lisa Sealock: "Formed by a committee of area environmentalists, veterinarians and zoo staff, the

Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre provides medical, surgical and rehabilitative care to injured native turtles for eventual release back into their natural habitat. The very dedicated group of staff and volunteers at the centre works tirelessly to help wounded turtles ..." If you're interested in learning more about this remarkable organization, please check out their website at <https://ontarioturtle.ca/>

On a more personal note, back in early 2018 my daughter and I had the distinct and thrilling pleasure of

joining OTCC biologists for a day out in the field. Paddling around, scooping up Blanding's and spotted turtles (some radio tagged, others randomly discovered) was one of the best days we've had in recent memory. The level of knowledge, passion, and care exhibited by the OTCC biologists was absolutely inspiring. The opportunity for our reserves to offer even occasional benefit to OTCC and the turtles in their care warms my heart. I hope it does the same for you.

Jason Ramsay-Brown

TREE OF THE MONTH *continued*

significantly revised legume subfamily classification and have shown that redbud must have evolved its pea-like flowers completely independently of the typical papilionoid legumes. The newly recognized, largely tropical, small legume subfamily of 11 genera and a little over 300 species to which redbud belongs (Cercidoideae) lies very near the base of the legume evolutionary tree, with four subfamilies, none of which have pea-like flowers, lying between it and the typical legume subfamily (Papilionoideae).

This basal phylogenetic position for redbud and its relatives (including the very widely cultivated tropical

orchid tree and other species of *Bauhinia* that make up most of the subfamily) might also imply that the simple leaves found in almost all members of the subfamily were not derived by reduction of a compound leaf to a single terminal leaflet, as many people had speculated, but were inherited from ancestors that had not yet evolved the compound leaves found in all other subfamilies.

Who would have thought that our splendid little redbud, though of little economic import, has important things to say about the evolution of one of the three largest, most ecologically and economically important families of plants?

James Eckenwalder

TFN OUTINGS

TFN events, conducted by unpaid volunteers, go rain or shine. Visitors and children accompanied by an adult are welcome. No pets please. TFN assumes no responsibility for injuries sustained by anyone participating in our activities. **Please thoroughly clean your footwear before each outing to avoid spreading invasive seeds.**

The Toronto Field Naturalists wish to acknowledge this land through which we walk. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississauga of the Credit River. Today it is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to be on this land.

- Sat
May 4
1:30 pm **WILKET CREEK & SUNNYBROOK PARKS – Trilliums and Nature**
Leader: Mary Taylor. Meet at the northwest corner of Leslie St and Eglinton Ave E. Walk may or may not be circular. This area features an impressive population of white trilliums along with other spring wildflowers and is also an interesting area for migrating birds.
- Thurs
May 9
10:00 am **ETOBICOKE MURALS – A Lost River and Heritage**
Leader: Linda McCaffrey. Meet at the northeast corner of Bloor St W and Islington Ave for a stroll along Mimico Creek to Dundas St where we will admire the historic Montgomery Inn before proceeding west along Dundas St to view a series of murals depicting the history of Etobicoke, ending at Islington subway station. Surfaces are mainly flat and paved, with one staircase.
- Sat
May 11
10:00 am **CROTHERS WOODS AND SUN VALLEY – Nature Walk**
Leader: Margaret McRae. Meet at the northeast corner of Beechwood Dr and O'Connor Dr for a circular walk to view spring wildflowers. Narrow and steep dirt trails in the woods. No washrooms.
- Sun
May 12
1:30 pm **AGGIE'S WILDFLOWERS – Humber Heritage Committee Nature Walk**
Leader: Madeleine McDowell. Meet at Lambton House, 4066 Old Dundas St (#55 Warren Park bus from Jane subway station stops at the door). Rediscover the world of Agnes Dunbar Moodie Fitzgibbon, daughter of Susanna Moodie and illustrator of *Canadian Wildflowers* (published in 1867). All of Aggie's specimens were from the Baby Point and Humber Valley area. Many of these flowers survive in the Magwood Sanctuary. Approx. 2 hrs ending at Lambton House for tea and a talk about Agnes.
- Tues
May 14
10:00 am **PINE HILLS CEMETERY AND WARDEN WOODS – Nature Walk**
Leader: Charles Chaffey. Meet at the Eglinton Ave exit of Kennedy subway station for a linear walk south in the Taylor Massey Creek valley ending at Victoria Park subway station. Morning only.
- Sat
May 18
10:00 am **LESLIE STREET SPIT – Joint Nature Walk with Toronto Bruce Trail Club**
Leaders: Charles Bruce-Thompson and Ray Berzins. Meet at the entrance to the spit at the foot of Leslie St for a circular walk. Bring lunch and water. Participants can leave anytime by walking back to the starting point.
- Sun
May 19
2 pm **THE MAGIC OF SPRING ON SPRING CREEK IN HIGH PARK – Lost Rivers**
Leaders: Helen Mills and Friends. Meet at the southwest corner of Bloor St W and Keele St. Explore the oak savannah and forests of Spring Creek. See spring flowers and more. Some woodland trails and steep slopes.
- Wed
May 22
6:45 pm **TREES AND ARCHITECTURE PART 1 – Evening Ramble**
Leader: Richard Partington. Meet at the southeast corner of Charles St W and Queen's Park Cres opposite the planetarium. We will consider things architectural and arboreal.
- Thurs
May 23
10:00 am **HIGH PARK – Spring Wildflowers**
Leader: Wendy Rothwell. Meet at the entrance to High Park at Bloor St W and High Park Ave for a circular walk including some hilly rough trails. Morning only.
- Sat
May 25
1:00 pm **TODMORDEN MILLS WILDFLOWER PRESERVE – Nature Walk**
Leader: Paula Davies. Meet at the entrance to the wildflower preserve at 67 Pottery Rd for a circular walk to see the preserve and the work done by the stewards. Come early and visit the historic buildings. Admission is free today.
- Sun
May 26
12:15 pm **JIM BAILLIE NATURE RESERVE – Nature Walk**
Leader: Miles Hearn. Meet at the reserve entrance at 12:15 pm. Please contact Margaret McRae at 416-429-7821 or marg.mcrae@gmail.com by May 22 to arrange car-pooling. We welcome drivers who can take some passengers.
- Tues
May 28
6:45 pm **RIVERDALE PARK EAST – Evening Ramble**
Leader: Vivienne Denton. Meet at Broadview subway station for a circular walk on mostly paved and uneven surfaces with some slopes. We will look at the naturalized areas, particularly the experimental phragmites eradication project. We will also look for birds and other wildlife. Heading back up Broadview we can view the city at sunset.

Thurs
May 30
10:00 am **CANADA'S FIRST 18-HOLE GOLF COURSE – Nature and Heritage**
Leader: Joanne Doucette. Meet at the Gerrard Ashdale Library (Ashdale Ave and Gerrard St E) for a linear walk, ending at or near Main St. Williamson's Ravine, Small's Creek, buried bridges, lost tributaries, the Gerrard Prairie on the former grounds of Canada's first 18-hole golf course (1894-1912). A moderately-paced 5-km walk on mostly paved surfaces with some steep hills. Newcomers and those with service animals welcome. No pets please.

If you are viewing online, consider printing this page for your convenience.

Sat
June 1
10:00 am **CENTENNIAL PARK – Nature Walk**
Leader: Claire Bergeron. Meet outside the LCBO at Burnhamthorpe Mall for a 2-hr circular walk. From Islington subway station take #50 Burnhamthorpe bus to Old Burnhamthorpe Rd just past Renforth Rd bus stop. Cross the street to the mall. Washrooms available at the Conservatory (approximately 20 min from beginning of walk).

Sun
June 2
1:30 pm **HIGH PARK - Trees**
Leader: Bohdan Kowalyk. Meet at the entrance to High Park at Bloor St W and High Park Ave for a circular walk to identify trees and other plants. Wild blue lupines should be blooming.

Wed
June 5
6:45 pm **CHERRY BEACH AND BEYOND – Evening Ramble**
Leader: Richard Partington. Meet at the bus stop at Cherry St and Commissioners St (bus from Pape subway station or Union station). Mostly flat paved and sandy surfaces. Walk will end at the foot of Cherry St where there are washrooms and a bus stop.

Thurs
June 6
10:00 am **LIBERTY VILLAGE – Heritage Walk**
Leader: Richard Longley, former president of Architectural Conservancy Ontario. Meet at Dufferin subway station for a linear walk ending at St Andrews subway station. Walk will include Gladstone to King W, Carpet Factory, Brunswick-Balke-Collender and TIFF Bell Lightbox.

Sat
June 8
8:00 am **WATERFRONT TRAIL – Photography Walk**
Leader: Zunaid Khan. Meet on the boardwalk behind Queens Quay Terminal for a 2- to 3-hr walk along the waterfront to Ontario Place, ending at Coronation Park. Mostly flat, paved surfaces with some stairs. We will focus mostly on birds and the lake. Great views from Trillium Park and Ontario Place. Photographers of all skill levels are welcome. I would like this to be a collaborative experience. Bring camera, binoculars, water and snacks.

Sat
June 8
1:00 pm **EAST DON PARKLANDS – Nature Walk**
Leader: Barbara Jackson. Meet at the northwest corner of Sheppard Ave E and Leslie St for a linear walk on paved and natural surfaces with some steep slopes. We will walk north on the main Parkland trail, west through the peaceful Newtonbrook Park and end in the Bayview and Finch area. Bring water and binoculars. We will look for birds, butterflies and flowers. Washrooms at beginning of walk. If the weather is inclement and the Newtonbrook Trail unsuitable, we can opt for a linear walk north on the main East Don Parkland Trail, ending at Steeles.

Sun
June 9
1:30 pm **ROWNTREE MILLS PARK – Nature Walk**
Leader: Jim Graham. Starting at the south parking lot in Rowntree Mills Park (Finch Ave West and Islington Ave), we will walk southeast and look at parts of the Humber valley that have been extensively replanted with native trees and shrubs over the past 25 years. There will be some history to talk about and a wide variety of plants and animals. This linear walk will end at the new pollution settling pond network at Emery Creek (Weston Rd just south of Finch).

Wed
June 12
6:30 pm **BLYTHWOOD RAVINE – Evening Ramble**
Leader: Nancy Dengler. Meet at the southeast corner of Yonge St and Lawrence Ave E in front of Locke Library for a hairpin-shaped walk along the middle reaches of Burke Brook and through Alexander Muir Gardens. Mostly unpaved surfaces with gentle slopes and stairs. No washrooms.

FOR ENJOYMENT OF OUTINGS

Wide brimmed hat for protection from sun

Long sleeves and long pants for protection from mosquitoes, poison ivy, thistles, nettles and ticks (tuck in your shirt)

Long socks for protection from ticks (tuck pant legs into your socks)

Light-coloured clothing – easier to spot ticks

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**

LYME DISEASE - TAKE MEASURES TO PROTECT YOURSELF

For an excellent article on this subject, see the Spring issue of Ontario Nature's magazine:

<https://view.publitas.com/on-nature/spring-2019/page/8-9>

Also check out Toronto Public Health's Lyme Disease Fact Sheet: <https://goo.gl/rSVGcv> or call 416-338-7600.

- Thurs
June 13
10:00 am **A LOST CREEK AND THE LOST OLD RYE FIELD GOLF COURSE – Nature and Heritage**
Leader: Joanne Doucette. Meet in front of the Main Street Library, 137 Main St (just south of Gerrard). Explore a lost creek and ravine, more of the Gerrard Prairie and a long-forgotten golf course. A circular 5-km walk ending near Main St and Gerrard. Some steep slopes. Mostly paved surfaces. Washrooms at beginning of walk. Newcomers and those with service animals welcome. No pets please. Bring binoculars, field guide, water and lunch (optional).
- Sat
June 15
10:00 am **GOLDIE FELDMAN RESERVE, KING CITY – Nature Walk**
Leader: Charles Chaffey. Car-pooling will be arranged. If you need a ride or can offer a ride, please inform the leader at charles.chaffey@sympatico.ca or 416-752-2897 by June 13. We shall gather by the south exit of York Mills subway station on Old York Mills Rd at 9:45 am to leave at 10 am, with a stop at the service centre on Highway 400. The walk will start about 11 am in the reserve (located at 4093 17th Sideroad, King City) which TFN helped the Nature Conservancy of Canada to purchase. Bring water and lunch. We should be back in Toronto around 4 pm.
- Sun
June 16
2:00 pm **EAST END RAIN GARDEN TOUR – Lost Rivers**
Leaders: Helen Mills with RAINscapeTO and Rain Gardens United. Meet at the southeast corner of Mortimer Ave and Coxwell Ave. Discover the magic of rain garden landscaping. An easy 2-hr walk on city streets. For more information visit <http://www.lostrivers.ca/content/WalkSchd.html>.
- Wed
June 19
10:00 am **WEED WALK – Part 1**
Leader: Miles Hearn. Meet at the southwest corner of King St W and Bathurst St for a 2-hr walk looking for plants that get around on their own, struggle for light, nutrients and water and survive without our direct intervention (sometimes called weeds).
- Thurs
June 20
6:45 pm **GLEN STEWART RAVINE – Evening Ramble**
Leader: Bob Kortright. Meet at Beech Ave 50 metres south of Kingston Rd for a linear walk on mostly unpaved surfaces with gentle slopes and stairs. Join with Friends of Glen Stewart following the ravine through forest, park and streets to the beach looking for as many kinds of organisms as we can. Bring binoculars. Washrooms at end of walk.
- Sat
June 22
1:00 pm **LAMBTON PARK AND THE HUMBER – Nature and Heritage**
Leaders: Madeleine McDowell and Lance Gleich. Meet at Lambton House, 4066 Old Dundas St. (#55 Warren Park bus from Jane subway station stops at the door). We will take a 2-hr+ circular route on mostly unpaved and uneven surfaces with some stairs and steep slopes. We will climb the steps to Dundas St W and cross into the park. We will compare changes over the past century and a half with photos and accounts of previous adventures. The habitat is Carolinian oak savannah. We will follow the Humber back to Lambton House, where we will have a cup of tea. Binoculars and cameras might be useful. Washrooms at beginning of walk.
- Sun
June 23
1:30 pm **HUMBER RIVER WEST SIDE – Trees**
Leader: James Eckenwalder. Meet at Old Mill subway station for a circular walk south along the west bank to identify trees. We recommend long sleeves and long pants. No washrooms.
- Wed
June 26
1:30 pm **DANFORTH AREA – Historical Tour**
Leaders: Linda Klevnick and Mary Taylor. The opening of the Bloor Street Viaduct in 1918 ended the isolation of the Danforth area and allowed the rapid development of the area from agricultural uses to a prosperous residential and commercial community. Meet at Castle Frank subway station for a linear walk over the viaduct and along city streets as laid out in Barbara Myrvold's Historical Walking Tour of the Danforth. We will see heritage properties on Broadview, Hogarth, Bowden and Danforth Avenues. Walk ends at the library at Pape and Danforth.
- Thurs
June 27
6:30 pm **DOWNTOWN MEANDER – Evening Ramble**
Leader: Richard Longley. Meet at the southwest corner of Dundas St W and Spadina Ave. We'll explore some of Toronto's oldest streets, passing Grange Park and Bell Lightbox, ending at St Andrews subway station.
- Sat
June 29
10:00 am **GLENDON RAVINE AND BURKE BROOK – Nature Walk**
Leader: Nancy Dengler. Meet at the southeast corner of Bayview Ave and Lawrence Ave E for a walk along the West Don River through Glendon Forest and along the lower reaches of Burke Brook. Both forested areas are designated Environmentally Significant Areas. The wetlands in Glendon Forest may yield the Baltimore checkerspot butterfly. Mostly flat TRCA trails with a climb into and out of the ravine. Washrooms at start and end of walk.

Sun
June 30
1:30 pm

ENDANGERED AND AT-RISK TREES – Nature Walk
Leader: Jason Ramsay-Brown. Meet outside the Yonge St entrance to the St Clair Centre (east side of Yonge just north of St Clair Ave E). From endangered butternut and cherry birch to threatened species like Kentucky coffee-tree, examples of many of Ontario's at-risk species are found in Toronto. A 5-km linear walk through Rosedale Ravine, Mount Pleasant Cemetery and Moore Park Ravine to see what we can find! Paved and dirt trails, stairs, city streets, hills, etc. Walk will end at Evergreen Brick Works (with shuttle/TTC service) but there are several opportunities to drop out near transit. Washrooms at Mount Pleasant Visitation Centre and Brick Works. Bring water.

Share your favourite walk photos on social media, hashtag #TFNWalk.

Wed
July 3
10:00 am

WEEDS – Part 2
Leader: Miles Hearn. Meet at the northwest corner of Spadina Rd and Dupont St near Dupont subway station for a 2-hr circular walk looking for plants that get around on their own, struggle for light, nutrients and water, and survive without our direct intervention (sometimes called weeds).

Thurs
July 4
6:00 pm

PROSPECT CEMETERY – Evening ramble
Leader: Alex Wellington. Meet at the northeast corner of St Clair Ave W and Caledonia Rd. Walk will end at Eglinton Ave W and Caledonia Rd. Coldense Bakery is nearby at 2406 Eglinton Ave W.

Sat
July 6
10:00 am

HIGHLAND CREEK SOUTH – Nature Walk
Leader: Linda McCaffrey. Meet at the bus stop for Colonel Danforth Park on Kingston Rd at Lawson Rd for a circular walk on mostly paved surfaces with one steep hill. Washrooms midway. Highland Creek is a fresh, delightful creek running through a narrow forested valley with many bird species. Ravages of erosion are evident along its course. At the lakeshore, we can cross the creek on an attractive bridge and explore a remnant of the natural shoreline of Lake Ontario.

Sun
July 7
1:30 pm

HIGH PARK – A Literary Walk
Leader: Jason Ramsay-Brown. Meet on Quebec Ave immediately outside High Park subway station for a 4-km circular walk with several steep inclines and uneven trails. Come for a wander through High Park and into the pages of books and poems by Kathryn Kuitenbrouwer, Andre Alexis, Bianca Lakosejac and others who have used this wonderful place as a literary setting. Bring water. Washrooms available.

Wed
July 10
6:45 pm

TREES AND ARCHITECTURE PART 2 – Evening Ramble
Leader: Richard Partington. Meet at the northwest corner of College St and Queen's Park Cres. We will take a 2-hr circular walk considering things architectural and arboreal.

Thurs
July 11
10:00 am

GETTING TO KNOW STREET TREES IN BENLAMOND – Nature and Heritage
Leader: Joanne Doucette. Meet in front of the Main Street Library, 137 Main St (just south of Gerrard). Explore the leafy byways of a quiet neighbourhood with ravines and buried creeks. Washrooms at start of walk. Newcomers and those with service animals welcome. No pets please. Bring binoculars, field guide, water and lunch (optional).

Sat
July 13
10:00 am

THE BOARDWALK – Nature Walk
Leader: Ellen Schwartzel. Meet at the southeast corner of Queen St E and Woodbine Ave for a circular walk. Bring binoculars. Morning only.

Sun
July 14
1:30 pm

CEDARVALE, FOREST HILL, BELT LINE – Nature and Heritage
Leader: Ed Freeman. Meet at St Clair West subway station north entrance (Tichester Rd) for a linear walk to Davisville subway station. History and landscape formation.

Tues
July 16
10:30 am

SMYTHE PARK – Nature Walk
Leaders: Madeleine McDowell and Susan Horvath. Meet on the west side of Jane St and Alliance Ave at the entrance to Smythe Park (#15 Jane bus). There is a parking lot accessed from Scarlett Rd located by the swimming pool near Jane St, a short walk from meeting point. A 2-hr+ circular walk on unpaved uneven surfaces with some steep slopes. See what has become of a former gravel pit, the site where John Graves Simcoe had lunch in September 1793, the route of the Toronto Carrying Place, a swimming pool inspired by the Queen Elizabeth Bldg at the CNE, a golf course built by the only Canadian golf Olympic gold medalist, and maybe a mockingbird, a great blue heron or a large turtle. Walk ends across from Tim Hortons. Bring snack, binoculars, camera. Washrooms at beginning of walk.

Thurs
July 18
6:30 pm

THE WATERFRONT PAST AND PRESENT – Evening ramble
Leader: Janet Langdon. Meet by the 100 Workers Monument, Simcoe Park, on Front St W, across from Toronto Convention Centre. We will end on the present day lakefront. Not a circular route.

- Sat
July 20
10:00 am **HIGH PARK – Nature Walk**
Leader: Laura Irvine. Meet at park entrance, Bloor St W and High Park Ave, for a linear walk ending at the Grenadier restaurant. We will visit the pond and wetland, pine forest and savannah habitats to see birds and flora.
- Sun
July 21
2:00 pm **ETOBICOKE CREEK: Walk the treaty boundary of Toronto Purchase – Lost Rivers**
Leader: John Wilson. Meet in front of the Creative Centre, 56 Neilson Dr. (TTC West Mall #112 bus from Kipling subway station to Dundas-and-West Mall Cres bus stop; cross Dundas at the lights and walk north, then west 500 meters on Neilson Dr.) Explore where there once stood a “maple tree blazed on four sides” that marked the west boundary of the 1805 treaty #13 (Toronto Purchase) between the Crown and the Credit River Mississaugas. Here Elmcrest Creek flows into Etobicoke Creek in a wooded setting. A circular walk on park paths and uneven ground.
- Tues
July 23
10:00 am **BACKWAYS TO TODMORDEN AND THE BRICK WORKS – Nature Walk**
Leader: Vivienne Denton. Meet at Broadview subway station for a 2½-hr circular walk on mostly unpaved and uneven surfaces with some slopes. We will walk north through back streets to Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve and tour the preserve observing wildlife, then follow a disused section of Pottery Road to end at the Brick Works where we can take the shuttle bus back to Broadview station. Bring water, snacks and binoculars.
- Wed
July 24
6:45 pm **TREES AND ARCHITECTURE Part 3 – Evening Ramble**
Leader: Richard Partington. Meet at the northwest corner of St George St and College St. Our walk will wind around the south and west side of St George St ending at Wilcox as we consider things architectural and arboreal.
- Sat
July 27
10:00 am **GARRISON CREEK – Heritage Walk**
Leader: Richard Longley, former president of Architectural Conservancy Ontario. Meet at Christie subway station for a linear walk. We will follow the course of Garrison Creek to Fort York, the Bentway, City Place, Victoria Square and Wellington Pub, ending at Queen St W and Bathurst St.
- Sun
July 28
1:00 pm **MARITA PAYNE PARK, BARTLEY SMITH GREENWAY, KEFFLER MARSH, LANGSTAFF ECO PARK**
Leader: Alex Wellington. Meet at the junction of Dufferin St and the south end of Glen Shields Ave. Take #105 Dufferin bus from Sheppard West subway station to Steeles Ave W, then walk 10 minutes north. Walk will end at Langstaff Rd and Planchet Rd east of Keele. (Nearby Café Louise Bake House closes at 4 pm.) Buses on Keele St go to Keele subway station. Bus #107B St Regis, on Langstaff Rd, goes to Pioneer Village subway station. Or people can walk back on their own to the original starting point, as some did last year.
- Wed
July 31
6:30 pm **SPADINA, QUEEN, BATHURST – Evening Ramble**
Leader: Richard Longley. Meet at the southeast corner of Spadina Ave and Queen St W for a linear walk south through Clarence Square and along Draper St to Wellington St at Victoria Memorial Square, ending at streetcar stops on Queen St W or Bathurst St.
- Make sure we have your email address
so you can view the outings list online before receipt of your paper copy.**
- Thurs
Aug 1
10:00 am **SPRINGMOUNT CREEK – A Lost River**
Leader: Linda McCaffrey. Meet at the northeast corner of St Clair Ave W and Earls court Rd for a linear walk on mostly paved surfaces with some steep slopes. Springmount Creek is the northwesterly branch of Garrison Creek, rising in Earls court and merging with the easterly branch north of Christie Pits. Although sewered, it still evades capture along Shaw St where it has noticeably undermined buildings. Walk will end at Christie subway station.
- Sat
Aug 3
10:00 am **DORIS MCCARTHY TRAIL TO GUILDWOOD PARK – Nature Walk**
Leader: Charles Bruce-Thompson. Meet at the trailhead off Ravine Dr at Bellhaven Cres just south of Kingston Rd for a circular walk. TTC stop ID 4258 (Kingston Rd at Ravine Dr) or ID 4204 (Kingston Rd at Bellamy Rd S). We will walk along the parks and streets at the top of the Bluffs to Guildwood Park, then return along the lakeshore to finish with a (steep) ascent of Gates Gully. Bring water and lunch. About 7 km/3½ hrs. Some rough trails and steep slopes. Washrooms at the Guild.
- Sun
Aug 4
1:30 pm **WARDEN WOODS – Nature Walk**
Leader: Vivienne Denton. Meet outside the Warden Ave entrance to Warden subway station for a stroll through the shade of Warden Woods to Victoria Park subway station. Washrooms at Warden subway station.
- Mon
Aug 5
2:00 pm **THE DEEP STORY OF CASTLE FRANK – Nature and Heritage**
Leader: Paul Overy. Meet near the front gates at Castle Frank subway station for a linear walk with stairs, mostly paved surfaces, flat with some steep slopes. To mark Simcoe Day, we will explore both the physical setting of Castle Frank, John Graves Simcoe’s summer home, and the story of its establishment as well as its implications for how Ontario was settled by Europeans. If walking conditions are good, we will go down into the Don Valley by stairs and some soil trails, so please come prepared for a vigorous walk wearing suitable footwear and long pants. The walk will end near 2 bus routes at Parliament and Wellesley Sts. Bring water. No washrooms.

- Wed
Aug 7
6:45 pm
- WOODBINE PARK AND BEACH – Evening ramble**
Leader: Bob Kortright. Meet at the southeast corner of Coxwell Ave and Eastern Ave for a linear walk, mostly paved and flat. We will follow the beach to Beaches Library at Queen St E and Lee Cres. Washrooms along the way.
- Thurs
Aug 8
10:00 am
- GRASSES ON THE LOST GLEN STEWART GOLF COURSE – Nature/Heritage**
Leader: Joanne Doucette. Meet in front of the Beaches Library, 2161 Queen St E, for a linear walk through a quiet neighbourhood. A moderately-paced 6-km walk ending on Kingston Rd near Main St. Paved surfaces and some steep hills. Bring binoculars, field guide, water and lunch (optional). Washrooms at beginning of walk. Newcomers and those with service animals welcome. No pets please.
- Sat
Aug 10
10:00 am
- LOWER DON TO E. T. SETON PARK – Nature Walk**
Leader: Margaret McRae. Meet at the northeast corner of O'Connor Dr and Beechwood Dr for a linear walk ending at Thorncliffe Park Dr and Overlea Blvd. Some narrow dirt trails. Bring lunch if you wish.
- Sun
Aug 11
1:30 pm
- WEST DEANE PARK – Nature Walk**
Leader: James Eckenwalder. Meet near the pedestrian bridge over Mimico Creek by the West Deane parking lot off Martin Grove Rd north of Rathburn Rd (#48 Rathburn bus from Royal York subway station). A circular walk with gentle grades in a typical Toronto ravine that is wider than you might expect for the size of the stream. The ambience is a mix of play and picnic grounds, manicured parkland, regeneration plots, ravine slope and valley bottom woodland. No washrooms.
- Wed
Aug 14
10:00 am
- BURKE BROOK PROJECT AT HAVERGAL COLLEGE – Nature Walk**
Leaders: Lisa Massie and Nancy Dengler. Meet at the southeast corner of Avenue Rd and Lawrence Ave W for a circular walk on Havergal's Lisa Hardie Woodland Trail where plantings of Carolinian trees and wildflowers enhance biodiversity, prevent soil erosion and provide habitat for birds and butterflies. We will continue through the Chatsworth section of Burke Brook ravine and end at Alexander Muir Gardens on Yonge St just south of Lawrence.
- Thurs
Aug 15
6:30 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 to look at the wildflowers. Some hilly terrain.
- Sat
Aug. 17
10 am
- U OF T CAMPUS AND QUEEN'S PARK – Trees and Heritage**
Leader: Ellen Schwartzel. Meet at the northwest corner of St George St and College St. Mostly flat and paved. About 2 hrs. Washrooms on campus.
- Sun
Aug 18
2:00 pm
- WATER AND INDUSTRY ON THE DON – Lost Rivers**
Leaders: Rivers Rising Ambassador Floyd Ruskin and Friends. Meet at the southwest corner of Broadview Ave and Pottery Rd. A 1.5 to 2-hr walk along Pottery Rd and through Crothers Woods ending at Evergreen Brick Works. For further information visit <http://www.lostrivers.ca/content/WalkSchd.html>.
- Thurs
Aug 22
1:30 pm
- FLEMINGDON/WOODGREEN PARK – Nature Walk**
Leader: Mary Taylor. Meet at the southeast corner of Eglinton Ave E and Bermondsey Rd near Tim Hortons. The park is a mix of meadow, woods and manicured areas. May be a linear walk.
- Sat
Aug 24
10:00 am
- RUSSELL CREEK – A Lost River and Heritage**
Leader: Linda McCaffrey. Meet outside Bathurst subway station (Bathurst St entrance) for a linear walk along mostly flat paved surfaces to Union Station. Russell Creek was buried around 1876 and only vestiges remain. Still, it is possible to roughly trace its route from its origin north of Bloor St around Palmerston Square to Station St where it entered the lake. There are welcome green spots and great trees en route with good chances of spotting a hawk. Washrooms in Bellevue Square.
- Sun
Aug 25
1:30 pm
- ALONG THE HUMBER TO WESTON – Nature and Heritage**
Leader: Ed Freeman. Meet at the northeast corner of Scarlett Rd and Eglinton Ave W for a riverside walk. No washrooms.
- Wed
Aug 28
10:00 am
- WEEDS – Part 3**
Leader: Miles Hearn. Meet at the corner of Bathurst St and Markdale Ave. (Markdale is a 10-minute walk south from Eglinton Ave W or 16 minutes north from St Clair Ave W.) A 2-hr circular walk looking for plants that get around on their own, struggle for light, nutrients and water and survive without our direct intervention (sometimes called weeds).
- Sat
Aug 31
10:00 am
- THE GUILD INN – Birds, Insects and Plants**
Leader: Bob Kortright. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Guild Inn, 201 Guildwood Pkwy, Scarborough, for a circular walk on mostly unpaved but even surfaces, flat with some steep slopes. Joint outing with Friends of Guild Park and Gardens. We will walk through the woods along the crest of the bluffs, through the gardens and down to the lakeshore and back. Bring lunch and binoculars.

WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

May 2018

A striking contrast occurred this year as one of the warmest Mays on record followed one of the coldest Aprils on record. The jump from 3.4° in April at Pearson Airport to 17.0° in May amounted to 13.6°. A similar situation last occurred in 1975.

May 2018 was tied with 1975 and 1991 for third-warmest on record downtown since 1840 (1998 and 2012 were slightly warmer). The mean temperature was 17.0°. The average maximum of 22.1° was the second-warmest on record after 1998. At Pearson, the monthly mean was also 17.0° and this tied with 1998 as the warmest on record.

There were no record heat waves. Rather, persistent warmth lasted throughout the month with only two brief cool spells on the 10th-11th and 17th-22nd (the Victoria Day weekend). This was courtesy of a diffuse Bermuda High which extended west across most of the continent. We attained 28° as early as the 2nd, and the warmest day was the 28th with 30.8° at Pearson and 30.1° downtown. The hot spell at month-end became particularly muggy as an early-season tropical depression (Alberto) moved north from the Gulf of Mexico into Michigan, then northern Ontario and pulled all the humidity up with it.

The high pressure also resulted in a quiet month with one notable exception. An otherwise lacklustre cold front on May 4th produced violent winds for a couple of hours in the early evening. Roof and tree damage were noted. This wind storm was more local than the one in April but exceeded it in places. Pearson experienced a 119 km/h gust. Rainfall was just slightly below normal with 53.0 mm downtown (normal is 77.3 mm) and 65.4 mm at Pearson (normal is 77.6 mm).

The spring of 2018 ended up being fractionally cooler than normal, as the very warm May was offset by the very cold April and somewhat chilly March. Spring precipitation was slightly above normal, largely due to April's contribution.

June 2018

June returned to closer-to-normal conditions after the wild gyrations of the first five months of the year. That is not to say the month was uneventful; rather, the cool spells and hot spells balanced each other out, and rainfall was just slightly below normal. The monthly mean temperature of 19.7° downtown was exactly the average of the past 30 years and at Pearson, the monthly mean of 19.5° was 0.3° above the 30-year average. Rainfall of 60.1 mm downtown and 50.0 mm at Pearson was about 20 mm below normal.

Early June brought a dramatic cooling from May's conditions. There was a lengthy cool spell from the 2nd to the 11th. The lowest reading was on the 6th, with a minimum of 10.2° at Pearson. This was followed by more unsettled conditions, including yet another brief fierce

wind burst on the 13th. A short but serious hot spell set in on the 17th-18th, with the high of 33.0° on the 18th being the month's maximum downtown. The heat returned on the 29th-30th, with Pearson reaching 35.4° on the 30th, a new record for June. (The previous record was in 1964 when it hit 35.0°; however, downtown attained 36.7° at that time so no downtown record was set in 2018.)

July 2018

The heatwave that started on the last couple of days of June continued in early July. It extended into eastern Canada and was record-breaking in Montreal. Toronto was oppressively hot, but within normal bounds. Pearson peaked at 34.3° on the 1st while downtown reached 33.0° on the 5th.

Several cold fronts during the month prevented it from being a record-hot month. A tendency toward persistent humidity set in later on. The monthly mean temperature was 23.7° downtown (1.3° above normal) and 23.4° at Pearson (1.6° above normal). Rainfall was typically rather spotty with higher amounts east of Toronto. Pearson had 64.0 mm of rain (about 10 mm below normal) and downtown, with an incomplete record, had about 54 mm. Dryness was evident in places, but most especially in northern and central Ontario where there were numerous forest fires. (Dry, mostly hot conditions had prevailed there since early May.) Forest fire smoke from northern Ontario was visible in Toronto from time to time.

August 2018

August was persistently muggy with occasional tropical downpours. Air masses mostly originated in the tropical Atlantic with an ongoing southerly flow. High moisture content brought heavy rains, especially downtown, but there was little truly severe weather.

There were only two cold fronts, on the 22nd and 29th. On the other hand, record heat wasn't part of the picture, except that minimum temperatures were rather high. Downtown had its second warmest average minimum temperature for August: 19.6°. The coolest reading all month was 14.6° at Pearson on the 24th, while the highest was 34.9° (also at Pearson) on the 6th. The monthly mean temperature was 23.5° downtown and 23.2° at Pearson, about 2° above normal, tying for third place with 2001.

Rainfall was the highest since 2009 at Pearson, with 118.2 mm. Downtown was the wettest since 1986 and the fourth-wettest since records began there in 1840. The August total was 169.5 mm. The heaviest rains fell in a zone from roughly High Park east across downtown Toronto. From August 6th-8th, 91 mm fell downtown, followed by 26.5 mm on the 17th and 38.8 mm on the 21st.

Gavin Miller

COMING EVENTS

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

Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walks – Toronto Ornithological Club (<http://www.torontobirding.ca/site/outings>)

Aimed at the intermediate birder, but beginners also welcome. Free to the public. See website for details.

- Sat May 11, 7:30 am to noon. **High Park**. Leaders: Tim McCarthy and Ian Maione.
- Wed May 15, 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm. **Ashbridge's Bay**. Leader: Bob Kortright.
- Sat May 18, 7:30 am to 11 am. **Bird Photography at Col Samuel Smith Park**. Leader: Nancy Barrett.
- Sat May 18, 8 am to late afternoon. **Toronto Islands**. Leaders: Bob Cumming and David Purcell.
- Sun May 19, 7:30 am to 11 am. **Earl Bales Park**. Leader: Leslie Kinrys.

NANPS Annual Native Plant Sale (<http://nanps.org/events/nanps-2019-native-plant-sale/>)

Sat May 4, 9:30 am to 2 pm. Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave E.

Tommy Thompson Park Bird Festival (www.springbirdfestival.ca)

Sat May 11. Learn about the amazing phenomenon of migration and the importance of bird conservation. Activities for all ages and birding abilities! See website for details and activity registration.

Spring Bird Festival at Colonel Sam Smith Park (<https://bit.ly/2uFnQXu>)

Sat May 25, 9 am. Numerous bird-related activities throughout the day. Free.

Lost Rivers (<http://www.lostrivers.ca/content/WalkSchd.html>)

Sun June 2, 10 AM, Quiet Walk along the Lower Don Valley. Leader: Floyd Ruskin. Meet at Hubbard Park (south side of Bridgepoint Health). This is the only opportunity during the year to enjoy a walk in the Don Valley without traffic noise from the DVP. Visit website for details.

Ian Wheal Walks

- Sun May 5, 11 am. Bikes, Police Horses of Liberty Village-Parkdale Rescue Service. Meet at the southwest corner of King St W and Strachan Ave. A 5-km walk
- Sat May 15, 1:30 pm. Little Norway Norway-Sweden Camp (CPR construction 1883). Meet outside Tim Hortons (553 Lake Shore Blvd W) at Bathurst St. A 10-km bike/walk.
- Mon May 20, 1:30 pm. Farmerette Horse Trail, Yonge to Sunnybrook. Meet at the entrance to Summerhill subway station. Bike/walk.
- Fri June 14, 6:30 pm. High Park-Wendigo Creek Ravine bridged by railway excavators. Meet at the entrance to High Park, Bloor St W and High Park Ave.
- Sun June 16, 4 pm. Black Creek peat deposits. Meet at the northwest corner of Alliance Ave and Weston Rd.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

City of Toronto Tree Planting and Stewardship Events (For details visit: <https://bit.ly/2FxPX02>)

Wed May 1	Earl Bales Park Planting	Sun May 26	Earl Bales Park Planting
Sat May 4	Warden Woods Planting and The Ridge Trail Maintenance Day	Wed May 29	Wanita Park Planting
Sun May 5	Beltline Trail Stewardship & Planting	Sat Jun 1	Morningside Creek Community Planting
Sat May 11	Masseygrove Park Planting and ET Seton Park Trail Clean Up	Wed Jun 5	Sunnybrook Park Planting
Tues May 14	Riverdale Park East Planting	Thu Jun 6	Toronto Island Park Planting
Thu May 23	South Humber Park Planting	Sat Jun 8	Crothers Woods Trail Maintenance & Planting and G. Ross Lord Park Planting
		Sun Jun 16	Botany Hill Park Planting

High Park Stewardship Program (<https://bit.ly/2UfmeLJ>)

Stewards meet on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month. Activities include invasive plant removal, seed cleaning and planting.

Volunteers Needed for Phoning

TFN needs people to phone members who haven't renewed their memberships. This is done in the first week of August, after renewals have been recorded and in time for mailing the September newsletter.

If you could help with this, please advise Margaret McRae at 416-429-7821 or marg.mcrae@gmail.com.

SURCHARGE FOR MAILED NEWSLETTER

In 2017, printing costs for our mailed newsletter increased significantly, so much so that membership fees no longer covered the expense. To protect TFN's financial stability and ensure continued production of the mailed newsletter, the Board of Directors proposed to standardize membership fees and introduce a surcharge to cover the cost of the mailed newsletter for those members who wished to receive it. This proposal was adopted by the membership at a Special Meeting held at Emmanuel College on May 6, 2018.

The approximate cost, per membership, of the mailed newsletter is \$35 per year, covering eight printed issues. In light of this, the Board originally set the surcharge at \$30 per year. However, thanks to the incredible generosity of a TFN member who wished to help ease the transition for the membership, we were able to amend the surcharge to only \$15. This donation also established the Mailed Newsletter Fund, to which many members have made

donations over the past year, further helping to secure TFN's financial health while we ran this surcharge deficit.

We are grateful to report that the original donor has again gifted a sum of \$5000 to the Mailed Newsletter Fund this year to continue to offset expenses. As a result, we are again able to set a surcharge that is less than the actual costs involved.

For the 2019/2020 membership period, the surcharge to receive the mailed newsletter is \$25. All members will continue to receive the digital version of the newsletter simply by paying standard membership fees and providing TFN with your email address.

Should you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jason Ramsay-Brown
president@torontofieldnaturalists.org

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership fees for 2019-20 are due by June 30.

Go to TFN's website, select FOR MEMBERS and click on "Renew Your Membership" in the brown box at the right-hand side. Or use this quick link: <https://torontofieldnaturalists.org/for-members/renew-your-membership/> You may renew online, paying by credit card or PayPal, or print the form and send it to the TFN office along with your cheque.

If you have an email address, please be sure you have advised us so we can give you online access to the Newsletter – a benefit even to those who choose to receive a paper copy. Online version is available a week or more before mail delivery.

If we don't have your email address, we will send you a membership renewal form by mail.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Youth (under 26)	Free (Digital only)
Senior Single (65+)	\$30
Single	\$40
Senior Family (2 adults 65+)	\$40
Family	\$50

No HST. All members with email address receive digital newsletters. There is a surcharge of \$25 for those who prefer a printed mailed newsletter.

TFN LECTURES. FALL, 2019

- Sept. 8: *Meadow Restoration in the Meadoway*
Katie Turnbull, Project Manager, Restoration Projects, TRCA
- Oct. 6: *Southern Ontario Butterflies and their Natural History*. Jay Cossey, Nature Photojournalist and Author
- Nov. 3: *Canada Jay: Implications of climate change in a food-caching species*. Ryan Norris, Associate Professor, Dept of Integrative Biology, University of Guelph
- Dec. 1: *Blood, Bait and Bacteria: Evolution of Feeding in Leeches*. Sebastien Kvist, Associate Curator of Invertebrates, Dept. of Natural History, ROM

PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS – BIRDS

To photograph birds, it is key that you have an understanding of their behaviour and habitat, enabling you to determine where to go and what to look for based on the type of bird you are interested in. As to the best time of day, my preference is early morning or late afternoon, due the level of activity and quality of light.

Recommended settings for DSLR cameras:

- Use the viewfinder
- Shutter Priority Mode, Shutter speed 1/1250
- ISO set to 100, Auto ISO Sensitivity Control ON
- Focus Mode: Auto Focus Continuous
- Auto Focus Area Mode: Dynamic-area
- Release Mode: Continuous
- White Balance: Auto (Direct Sun) or Cloudy (Shade/Cloudy)
- Metering Mode: Matrix



Lesser scaup. Photo: Zunaid Khan

Tips for taking the shot:

- To enhance contrast and colour, keep the sun out of the frame, ideally behind you so that the bird is well lit.
- To freeze fast moving birds, gradually increase the shutter speed in small steps: 1/1600, 1/2000 etc.
- If you have difficulty focusing the bird, switch the Auto Focus Area Mode to Auto-area.

Future articles in this series will provide more tips on birds and other types of nature photography.

Zunaid Khan

Ed. You may like to try out these techniques by joining Zunaid's photography outing on June 8. See page 8.

Ontario Nature's Youth Summit September 20-22, 2019

Join 100 other young people at Ontario Nature's Youth Summit for Biodiversity and Environmental Leadership at YMCA Geneva Park, Orillia.

The TFN is offering full scholarships for five participants from the GTA (worth \$350). For an application and more information, please email office@torontofieldnaturalists.org putting "SCHOLARSHIP" on the subject line.

JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS' EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| May 11 | Toronto Birding Festival at Tommy Thompson Park. |
| June 8 | Monica Radovski will guide us on a tree care event with the City of Toronto. |
| July 13 | Meadoway with Emily Rondel and Beewatch to check out pollinators. |
| August 10 | Todmorden Mills with Paula Davies. Explore the Wildflower Preserve. Help with planting and removal of invasive plants. |

For full details, see the schedule at <https://torontofieldnaturalists.org/for-members/junior-naturalists/>

Attention Junior Naturalists! Visit TFN online (<http://www.torontofieldnaturalists.org/kids/>) to view fascinating nature videos, download brain teasers, print nature scavenger hunt sheets, and get inspired to explore nature in our city.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Spring Migration

Spring is an exciting time! Some birds that have spent the winter in Toronto begin to fly north for the summer. Many other birds that wintered in the warmer south begin to arrive here. Some will stay for the summer, building their nests, laying their eggs and raising their young. Which of these birds are here in winter, and which come for the summer?



1. American Robin



2. Dark-eyed Junco



3. Snowy owl



4. Baltimore oriole



5. Bufflehead



6. Turkey vulture



7. Red-winged blackbird



8. Common goldeneye



9. Wood duck

Write each number on the correct line.

Winter: _____

Summer: _____

Answers on page 19.

Project by Anne Purvis

Photos by Ken Sproule

EXTRACTS FROM OUTINGS LEADERS' REPORTS

Urban Forests and Wildlife, Feb 21. Leader: Joanne Doucette. The weather was beautiful, but the sidewalks slippery with deep puddles thanks to a brief thaw. We talked about the urban forest, identifying trees en route. The running water everywhere gave us an opportunity to talk about the geology of the area and groundwater. Perched on the banks of Small's Creek on sand infill, the local No Frills had to be closed three years ago because it was apparently collapsing into the "punchbowl" of the long-vanished Toronto Golf Club's original course. We compared the urban forest canopy of two 1920's subdivisions, Kelvin Park and Glenmount. Kelvin Park was on the golf links and had few trees when the contractors began work in 1912. Glenmount, started at the same time, was the site of Fitzgerald's Bush, a favourite of naturalists of the day. The developer chose to retain as many of the old growth oaks as possible and designed the roadways and house locations to retain the canopy of what had been oak savannah. We saw the very tangible difference a conscious attention to nature made in planning our urban streetscape.

Birds, High Park, Mar 2. Leader: Glenn Berry. Snow fell and the paths were icy. The largest concentration of birds was in the small patch of open water north of Grenadier Pond where there were over 150 mallards, three wood ducks and three American black ducks. We walked down Deer Pen Road through the zoo where a few animals were braving the elements. Up Spring Road we encountered black-capped chickadees, a northern cardinal,

a red-bellied woodpecker and a hairy woodpecker. Also reported on the walk were two white-breasted nuthatches, two American crows and a downy woodpecker. We missed seeing many regular winter birds which would have been around on a sunnier day.

Morningside Park, Mar 9. Leader: Jonathan Harris. The walk focused on woody vegetation identification and local history. Evidence of beaver activity along Highland Creek was observed, as well as their lodge.

Nature in the City, Mar 16. Leader: Edward Freeman. We walked on streets and within buildings along the PATH system noting nature symbols within Toronto's built architecture. We started by observing the many floral carvings on the old U of T Botany Building, then proceeded south on University Avenue to see crinoids, lions, an eagle, floral carvings, animals on the HBC coat of arms, waterfalls and a colourful print of the three climatic zones of Earth at the Royal York Hotel.

Wychwood Park, Mar 24. Leader: Paul Overy. Beginning at the Tollkeeper's Cottage, we discussed the natural and human history of that part of the City from the last glacial period to the late 1800s, focusing on the presence and influence of First Nations peoples and early developments by European settlers. Making our way to Wychwood Park, we shared information about the vision and actions of Marmaduke Matthews in creating one of

Continued on next page

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee recommends this slate of nominees to the Board for the year 2019-2020:

President: Jason Ramsay-Brown

Vice President: Anne Purvis

Past President: Charles Bruce-Thompson

Secretary-Treasurer: Bob Kortright

Directors: Due to retire in 2020: Alex Wellington

Due to retire in 2021: Liz Menard, Bob Kortright, Lynn Miller

Due to retire in 2022: Kayoko Smith, James Eckenwalder, Ellen Schwartzel

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 – 2449 Yonge St., Toronto, ON, M4P 2E7.

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."

Canada's first planned communities. We spoke about the influences of Eden Smith on the Arts and Crafts architecture in the neighbourhood, which gives it much of its on-going beauty. The walk ended at Wychwood Barns, where many stories were shared both about their origin as a streetcar garage and their redevelopment as a vibrant mixed-use community centre.

Humber and Mimico Creek Valleys, Mar 26. Leader: Linda McCaffrey. Along the Humber, we saw three buffleheads, Canada geese and a red-tailed hawk. There were mallards on Mimico Creek. We examined the remains of Fisher's Mill and the memorial to the

firefighters who lost their lives attempting a rescue during Hurricane Hazel. Then we visited Montgomery Inn, a fully restored Georgian building which remained in the Montgomery family until 1946 and was acquired by the Etobicoke Historical Society in 1962.

Leslie Street Spit, Mar 30. Leader: Charles Bruce-Thompson. During a rather truncated walk on a miserable rainy day we saw 20 species of birds including many common mergansers and redheads, trumpeter swans and a Cooper's hawk. We also saw what looked like an indigo bunting, but lacked the ornithological confidence to make a definite identification.

TFN is a charitable, non-profit organization.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Jason Ramsay-Brown,
 Past-President, Stewardship: Charles Bruce-Thompson
 Vice-President, Junior Naturalists: Anne Purvis
 Secretary-Treasurer: Bob Kortright
 Walks & Outings: Jane Cluver
 Lectures: Alex Wellington
 Action Committee: Ellen Schwartzel
 Volunteers: Lynn Miller
 At large: Elizabeth Block, Liz Menard, Agneta Szabo

NEWSLETTER

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Submissions deadline for Sept issue: Aug 1

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Email: office@torontofieldnaturalists.org
 See email addresses for specific queries at: <https://torontofieldnaturalists.org/about-tfn/contact-us/>

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

I wish to thank the many TFN members who contribute to our newsletter – those who write articles, share nature photos or artwork, and keep us informed of TFN activities and important environmental issues. I am grateful for the dedicated support of the Newsletter Committee in editing, formatting and proofreading.

We would appreciate receiving your feedback and suggestions of subjects that would interest you.

The “Keeping in Touch” feature is intended to build community within the TFN as we share our nature experiences through stories and photos. Please keep this in mind as you enjoy nature during the spring and summer. We like to hear from you! Email your submissions to newsletter@torontofieldnaturalists.org.

Answers from page 17.

Winter: 2 Dark-eyed junco, 3 Snowy owl, 5 Bufflehead, 8 Common goldeneye

Summer: 1 American Robin (a few stay for the winter), 4 Baltimore Oriole, 6 Turkey Vulture, 7 Red-winged blackbird, 9 Wood duck

Toronto Field Naturalists
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TFN LECTUREVISITORS WELCOME

Sunday, May 5, 2:30 pm (Social, 2 pm)



The Owl Foundation – A Fly-by-night Organization?

Speaker: Peter Thoen, expert birder, photographer and ambassador for owl rehabilitation, will show us the mishaps (mostly man-made) that befall Ontario's owls and the treatment and care they receive at Vineland's Owl Foundation Rehabilitation Centre.

Emmanuel College, Room 001, 75 Queen's Park Cres E. Just south of Museum subway station exit, east side of Queen's Park. Accessible entrance second door south on Queen's Park. 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.

Share your thoughts about this lecture on social media, hashtag #TFNTalk

For upcoming fall lectures, see page 15.