



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We hope you all had a healthy, rewarding and relaxing summer, leaving you prepared to participate in upcoming club activities. Our club needs more active participants, fewer spectators, in order to flourish. Don't be bashful- offer an opinion, lend a hand, try something new. Let's all have more fun.

Adrienne & Greg

Huronian groups host Natural Heritage Conference this fall on the Carden Alvar



The Couchiching Conservancy, the Carden Field Naturalists and the Carden Plain Important Bird Area Committee invite all naturalists to attend the "Future of the Carden Alvar Natural Heritage" Conference on Wednesday, September 21 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. It promises to be a full and informative day, featuring a number of dynamic speakers from various organizations.

As naturalists, you recognize the importance of alvar habitats and are concerned about protecting biodiversity on the Carden alvar. Come and learn more about this unique and fascinating habitat, and how you can help to conserve it. Your attendance is important - collectively we can make a difference!

The preliminary agenda includes presentations on alvar habitats and associate flora (Wasył Bakowsky, Natural Heritage Information Centre), the decline of grassland birds (Mike Cadman, Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas), loggerhead shrike recovery (Elaine Williams, Wildlife Preservation Trust) and reconciling aggregate demand with natural heritage protection (Brian Hollingsworth, Ministry of Natural Resources), as well as many other exciting topics. The conference will take place at the Carden Recreation Centre in Lake Dalrymple and is sponsored by the Victoria Land and Water Stewardship Council.

To register, send a \$20 cheque and contact information (address, phone, email) to: The Couchiching Conservancy, PO Box 704, Orillia, ON L3V 6K7 or phone (705) 326-1620.

From the Nature Network Newsletter

Midland-Penetanguishene Field
 Naturalists Club
 Box 393
 Midland, Ontario L4R 2J8
www.csolve.net/~mpfnc

Co-Presidents: Greg Lutick and
 Adrienne Jex
 Treasurer:Carolynn Fishleigh
 Secretary: Shirley Tilson
 Past President: Joanne Scott

Editorial

Well, enclosed is the questionnaire which we promised you in the last issue of the Lilypad.

Please take the time to give us your opinions!

Would you rather talk to us directly? We are always ready to have your comments and suggestions. Talk to any of the newsletter staff—Dorothy, Sid and Dot, Peter Tilson , David Whitehead.

Or you can speak to any member of the Club Executive.

Thanks !

Dorothy Harper, editor



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*To study and appreciate nature.
 To protect and preserve wildlife and
 the environment.
 To stimulate public interest in, and
 promote protection and
 preservation of
 nature.*

CLUB NEWS



On a great day in May Morley & Louise Bath led a tour of 4 or 5 cars to visit three water falls, Hogg's Falls, Feversham Gorge & Eugenia Falls. At Eugenia Falls we visited the Emporium for ice cream and other goodies. We walked up Old Baldy, through wild spring flowers, and peeped over the edge to see the countryside and pockets of snow left from winter. A good time was had by all.

Sid Hadlington

June 16 Meeting: As usual we met at Tiny Marsh and started off with a hike. We were disappointed not to see the Red-Headed Woodpeckers, but the Blue Flag and other flowers were exceptional. The heat and mosquitos were not as bad as usual; the pot-luck supper was excellent as usual. Afterwards Laurie Schutt explained some plans for the future development of the Wye Marsh Centre, including a wind turbine and underwater observation tunnel.

Adrienne Jex



Is the barn swallow disappearing?

Data from a variety of sources suggest the Barn Swallow is becoming much less common. In Canada, Breeding Bird Survey data suggest Barn Swallows have experienced a 2.9% annual decline over the past 30 years. That decline has steepened in the last decade to 7.6% annually. Dick Cannings of Bird Studies Canada is increasingly concerned about the future: "Barn Swallows have shown a very worrisome pattern of decline over the past 30 years, and if something doesn't turn things around in the next few years, they could well be declared a Threatened species in Canada within a decade."

Two winters ago, bird feeding enthusiasts were worried by the decline in Black-capped Chickadees coming to their feeders. Project FeederWatch data from last winter, however, should put people's fears to rest as Black-capped Chickadees once again visited over 90% of feeders across the country.

Condensed from the BSC newsletter

Wye Marsh News

Here are some events which are happening, or have happened, at our favourite wetland:

Purple Loosestrife Control

A successful event was held August 5th at Wye Marsh with the Ontario Nature Volunteer Program, and a dent was made in the presence of purple loosestrife at our Preston Cell. Volunteers received detailed orientation and training about native, non-native and invasive species around the Wye Marsh. Their efforts of controlling purple loosestrife have contributed to the overall management of this invasive species throughout the Wye Valley and surrounding area. If you are interested in learning more about control methods to battle the spread of purple loosestrife, please contact the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre for more information.

Caring For Nature Volunteer Workshops

The Wye Marsh Stewardship Department has developed a series of volunteer workshops entitled "Caring For Nature." Themes relate to land stewardship and are different each month. Land stewardship is a collaborative effort by interested and active members of a community, which fosters action that promotes protection, conservation and wise use of our natural resources. These workshops are held once a month on Saturday afternoon and run two hours in length. A typical workshop will include an informative introduction, power point presentation, and a hands-on component where volunteers will actively work together, through a number of different projects that aim to sustain the natural life support systems of the Wye Valley. Please check our official calendar for more specific dates. A schedule of events with information on workshop themes will be available at the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre in September 2005. Please contact the Wye Marsh Stewardship Department for more information at (705) 526-7809 ext. 220.

Trumpeter Swans at Wye Marsh

Over the spring and summer two trumpeter swan pairs nested and raised their young within the Wye Valley. The Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre's most infamous trumpeter swan pair, Jack and Dianne once again took up residence by constructing a nest within our canoe channels. Another trumpeter named Curly and his untagged, unbanded mate nested along the Wye River close to Ste Marie Among the Huron's. Each pair managed to hatch six tiny cygnets that were spotted at the beginning of June. Unfortunately the life of a swan includes predation by other wild animals. For cygnets in the first few months of life, the snapping turtle proves to be one of the most common predators. Each swan pair lost two cygnets to this fate within the first few weeks of their existence. We are happy to announce however, that at the time of this article each pair is continuing to raise four cygnets each. Towards the end of the summer cygnets are developing quickly and noticeable growth is apparent each week.

Nearing the end of September, cygnets are almost the size of their parents and continue to grow. In October the adult trumpeters begin to teach their cygnets how to fly. For staff and volunteers of the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, early October proves the most appropriate and effective time for tagging and banding swan broods. Broods usually remain within their own territories for the next month. In November cygnets can now fly to areas outside of their territories and will arrive at staging grounds in late November and early December to congregate together and prepare for winter.

Wye Marsh is considered a staging ground for many species of waterfowl in the early spring and late fall months. During this time it is not surprising to view as many as 80 – 100 individual trumpeter swans and a variety of other waterfowl. We would like to encourage you to come out with your family and friends to enjoy the awe-inspiring sight of dozens of these majestic birds. Afternoon trumpeter swan feeding takes place at 3:00 pm daily, when you can meet the swan keeper and learn more about these incredible birds. For more information please call (705) 526-7809.

From Ontario Nature newsletter

Midland-Penetanguishene Field Naturalists
2004-2005 Expense Statement For the Year
Ended July 8/05

INCOME

| | | |
|--------------------------|----|-------------------|
| Memberships | 93 | \$1,116.00 |
| Coffee Fund | | \$220.00 |
| Donations | | \$95.00 |
| Festivals, Crafts, Beans | | \$667.81 |
| Christmas Auction | | \$358.75 |
| Bird Count 2004 & 2005 | | \$434.25 |
| Greenway Strategy | | \$405.00 |
| Bank Int. | | \$0.47 |
| Reptile Program | | \$1,440.00 |
| TOTAL | | \$4,737.28 |

EXPENSES

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Owl Foundation | | \$358.75 |
| Can. Nature Fed. | | \$50.00 |
| M.T.M. membership | | \$100.00 |
| Donation | | |
| F.O.N. Membership | | \$150.00 |
| Insurance | | \$325.00 |
| Office | | \$9.34 |
| Program printing | | \$78.04 |
| Postage | | \$157.29 |
| Rent | | \$363.80 |
| Service Charge | | \$4.20 |
| Gifts, Speakers | | \$485.95 |
| Bean Supplies | | \$357.84 |
| Newsletter | | \$267.85 |
| Bird Studies Can. 2004/05 | | \$378.00 |
| In Memoriam | | \$75.00 |
| Greenway Strategy | | \$550.00 |
| TOTAL | | \$3,711.06 |

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Opening balance 30/6/04 | \$949.61 |
| Income | \$4,737.28 |
| Expenses | \$3,711.06 |
| Bank balance July 8/05 | \$1,975.83 |
| Actual balance July 8/05 | \$2,135.82 |
| less o/s cheque #248 | \$159.99 |
| | \$1,975.83 |

G.I.C held at Toronto-Dominion Bank
\$1,518.75

Diane Marr, Treasurer



Schedule

*Here are the club meetings for the Fall season.
Check the brochure for more information.*

BATS

Thurs. September 15, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

TOUR OF PRIVATE LOCAL NATURAL AREAS

Saturday September 17, 2005

HURONIA JOINT MEETING

Wednesday September 21, 2005

WYE MARSH FESTIVAL

September 24 & 25, 2005

MYSTERY TALK

Thursday October 20, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

JOHN MUIR TOUR

Saturday October 22, 2005

ON HURONIA REGIONAL MEETING

November 2005

SAVING LAND FOR NATURE

Thurs. November 17, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

WYMBOLWOOD TRAILS

Saturday November 19, 2005

**CHRISTMAS POT LUCK AND
106th AUDUBON BIRD COUNT**

Sat. December 17, 2005 6:00 p.m.

WYE MARSH WILDFLOWER GARDENS

Thursday January 19, 2006 7:30 p.m.

WYE MARSH SNOWSHOEING

Saturday January 21, 2006

Club Notices

* Don't forget that dues are collected in September. You won't receive the newsletter unless you are a paid member of the Club.