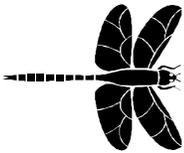


## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I sincerely hope everyone has enjoyed the speaker series and walks this season. I am glad to have been on one of the walks (to the Uhtoff Trail in Orillia). The warm weather that is here has me thinking more about birds and I look forward to discussing this topic and others with all of you.

Dan Whittam

## New Wetlands Centre to be opened on Lake Ontario



Friends of Second Marsh is actively engaged in planning for the construction of the Great Lakes Wetlands Centre to be located on a site located immediately adjacent to Second Marsh on Colonel Sam Drive between General Motors of Canada Ltd. corporate offices and Darlington Provincial Park.

The Great Lakes Wetlands Centre will feature modern, wheelchair accessible indoor facilities, dioramas and interactive displays. Visitors to the Centre will enjoy detailed exhibits, a wildlife gallery, hands-on activities and much more. For local residents and nature enthusiasts, the Centre will offer a full schedule of educational programming and specialty workshops that will attract visitors to the Centre again and again.

The **SECOND MARSH WILDLIFE AREA** is a 123 ha coastal wetland located in the southeast portion of Oshawa, (Regional Municipality of Durham). The combination of Second Marsh with the adjacent areas of McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve and Darlington Provincial Park represents nearly 400 hectares, one of the largest publicly accessible waterfront spaces available in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). It is located on the north shore of Lake Ontario in a major urban centre, and is unique in being the largest remaining wetland in the GTA.

The Second Marsh Wildlife Area is host to marsh, swamp, wet meadows, a barrier beach and woodlot habitats. At the north end of the Marsh, a swamp and wet forest known as the Ghost Road Bush provides additional food and cover for certain wildlife. Together, with wet meadows and the surrounding uplands, this dynamic ecosystem supports a rich and diverse wildlife community. These habitats provide food and cover for over 380 plant species, 305 bird species, numerous species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and hundreds of species of insects.

Second Marsh is not only the largest remaining urban wetland in the GTA but the largest between the Niagara Peninsula and Presqu'ile as well.



Midland-Penetanguishene Field  
Naturalists Club  
Box 393  
Midland, Ontario L4R 2J8  
[www.csolve.net/~mpfnc](http://www.csolve.net/~mpfnc)

President: Dan Whittam  
Vice President: Susan Hirst  
Treasurer: Carolyn Fishleigh  
Secretary: Shirley Tilson  
Past Presidents: Greg Lutick and  
Adrienne Jex

## Schedule



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

DRAGONFLIES  
Thursday May 17, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

**76<sup>th</sup> ON AGM**  
June 8–10, 2007  
The Peterborough Field Naturalists will  
host the conference this year at Trent  
University.

**NIAGARA ESCARPMENT**  
Saturday May 19, 2007

**POT LUCK AND MEMBERS NIGHT**  
Thursday June 21, 2007  
**Tiny Marsh**  
Walk 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner 6:15 p.m.



### 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.*

## Help Wanted

Your newsletter needs a chair of the committee! They are a friendly group, and the work is not heavy. We only meet 2 or 3 times per year. If you are interested, please contact one of the Committee members.

The Lilypad is now in its 7th year! But we need to have a new chair if it is to survive. Please consider giving a bit of your time to help.

### MPFNC Supports Wye Marsh

Our club and Wye Marsh have a long history together. We meet at the Marsh Visitor Centre, we have contributed gifts, time and other resources to the Marsh. Many of our members volunteer there, and are members of the Wildflower Gardeners.

There have been some stories in the media about the Marsh recently. Some of them can be believed, others have obvious errors according to the Wye Marsh Board.

For more information, go to the Marsh's web site, [www.wyemarsh.com](http://www.wyemarsh.com). There is a statement there which confirms that the Marsh is NOT closing. They are currently negotiating with the Federal authorities around new wildlife regulations.

We strongly support the efforts that Wye Marsh has made to give us a beautiful natural space in our own back yard.

## Upcoming events around our region

MacGregor Point once again is the site of the Huron Fringe Birding Festival, featuring guided birding, nature and heritage excursions and workshops. This festival runs from Friday May 25 through to Sunday June 3, 2007. Come for one day, one weekend, or the entire eight days. Festival headquarters are at MacGregor Point Provincial Park. Go to [www.friendsofmacgregor.org](http://www.friendsofmacgregor.org) for more information.

**Bruce Peninsula Orchid Festival** takes place **May 26 Jun 1, 2, 2007**. Every Spring orchids bloom in profusion on Bruce Peninsula. To celebrate, the town of Tobermory and the region hold orchid tours and nature walks in the countryside. There are also photography workshops and presentations on local wildlife. The web site is [www.orchidfest.ca](http://www.orchidfest.ca)

From June 8-10, the action is in Peterborough, where Ontario Nature's 76th Annual General Meeting and Conference is being held. Join ON at Trent University for exciting field trips, informative programs and innovative ideas. Ontario Nature and the Peterborough Field Naturalists are co-hosts. More information is available at [www.peterboroughnature.org](http://www.peterboroughnature.org).

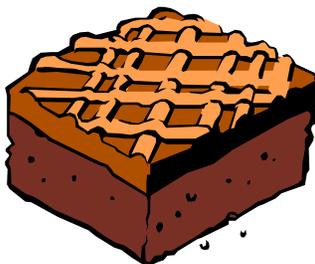
The *Carden Nature Festival* will be held again this year on June 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> 2007. Many, many activities are being offered, some of which are already sold out! All activities start and end at the Carden Recreation Centre 258 Lake Dalrymple Road, Sebright. More information is available on their web site, [www.cardenguide.com/festival](http://www.cardenguide.com/festival)

## Recipes!

*Send us your favourites and we'll print them right here.*

### Diane's Lemon Squares

*Liz Schandlen sent in this recipe, which has been a perennial hit at meetings. Since Diane Marr originally contributed the luscious recipe, Liz has christened it in her name. Freezes well. Enjoy!*



2 cups flour  
1/2 cup icing sugar  
Mix together and cut in 1 cup butter.  
Mix well and pat into lightly buttered 9 x 13 pan.  
Bake for 20 to 25 minutes at 350

Blend together:  
4 eggs  
2 cups white sugar  
1/3 cup lemon juice (fresh or bottled)  
1/4 cup flour  
1/2 tsp baking powder  
Remove base from oven and pour lemon mixture over top. Bake another 25 minutes.  
When done, sprinkle with icing sugar.



## PRIVATE LIVES OF GARDEN BIRDS

by Calvin Simonds Storey Books 2002

The birds in Mr. Simonds' garden don't have much privacy. Not only is he there, constantly poking his nose into their affairs but then he blabs. Gossips. Tells all he's seen, and, particularly, heard, to you the reader. And that's o.k. because he's often amusing, too. And knowledgeable.

He tells us a story about his father's battle to keep house sparrows from nesting in his trees because he doesn't want them eating the seeds he puts out for birds he likes. He destroys their nests, swearing at them. Then he finds a nest with an egg in it. He's been defeated! That's life there in that egg, and no life is ever to be destroyed deliberately. Calvin himself appreciates them; they're still busy in the garden when other birds have fled. Bluebirds, on the other hand, he says, are fairweather friends. "Winters are long and cold and silent where I live and not a little bit cruel... they would be longer, quieter and crueler without the affable chatter of the house sparrows."

He disagrees with Candace Savage in Crows, a delightful book which we have also discussed, citing a study showing that some of last year's not yet breeding young crows help to raise this year's brood. He says they hang around until the new young fledge and then leave. He also reports from folk in Britain and in parts of North America that crows can count up to seven. I'd always heard three and then there's "and they all clapped their wings and cried..."

He's a great admirer of hummingbirds and gives minute details of weight, calories in and calories out, energy output, distance flown, tiny, independent female loners. He says they are very aggressive. He has only good things to say about mockingbirds, too, as in his first years there, they didn't come so far north. (An August 27 article in the Toronto Star reports that you can find them in Toronto if you know where to look and I must remind you that we had one once in Elmvale on our MPFN Christmas bird count 25 or 30 years ago.)

Mr. Simond's favourite bird subject is bird song. Reading him I told myself he must be in charge of the choir in his local country church.

And local elementary school. Encouraging, fussy, critical. We get details. Ruth misses the bobolinks over the field east of her road home—Calvin says they won't breed on unmown ground.. His interest meanders, leaps; there are distractions everywhere.

He finishes with a discussion of field guides; he likes the ones with musical notes. Still he thinks the best birdwatchers are gardeners, but those I've known certainly haven't had the time to garden. They're squatted in thickets by a white-capped lake in a snow storm in March.

Overflowing with the love of birds and birdsong expressed in everyday gossipy language; season follows season and we're there too, unscientific, just hoping to hear a mockingbird and pretty sure it's not a catbird. Loving them all.

*Elizabeth Carter*

## More Happenings

### **Waterfowl viewing day at Tiny Marsh**

We had a nice day for viewing. The ice finally went off Friday night, with open water for Saturday morning. A group led by Dan Webb travelled through the woods and out to Mole Mountain where they had a number of birds and ducks, the specialty a group of Northern Shovelers.

Another group led by Sid Hadlington travelled out on the dyke where they had a number of ducks, Sandhill cranes, & ospreys.

After lunch most people listened to a talk with slides on Fungi by Nancy Ironside, which was well received by all.

*Sid Hadlington*

### **Site 41 Resolution to go to ON meeting**

Carolynn and Wayne Fishleigh have continued their efforts to eliminate Site 41 from becoming a reality. They and their coworkers have managed to get a resolution to "Call on the Ontario government to reverse their decision on the approval of Site 41." This will be voted on at the ON AGM, **June 8-10**, in Peterborough. If you are a member, go and vote! This is very important for our community, as you have probably realized!

### **The Minesing Unplugged Wetland Festival**

This event will take place **June 16 & 17, 2007** at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation, 10 minutes west of Barrie Ontario in Utopia. It's a fun and exciting way to celebrate and raise awareness and appreciation of the Minesing Wetlands. There will be music, beer gardens, an artisan market, etc. etc. Go to [www.minesingunplugged.ca](http://www.minesingunplugged.ca) for more information.

### **Elmvale Water Forum and Festival**

This event is not officially scheduled yet, but it should be very interesting. It may be early August. Watch your local media for details.

