



Annual Bucket Raffle

November 25, Meeting

Bring your donations of gently used nature books and other nature items, wine, chocolate, preserves, fair-trade coffee etc. to the meeting.

Raffle Tickets will be sold prior to the meeting: 10 tickets for \$5:00.

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Newsletter Submissions

Please submit your pictures and articles for the January newsletter no later than January 15, 2020. Email all submissions to Nancy Muzik at john_nancy_m@rogers.com

THE NATURALIST

DURHAM REGION FIELD NATURALISTS
 CONSERVATION THROUGH EDUCATION
www.drfn.ca drfn1955@hotmail.com

President's Message

Climate Change/Global Warming is in the news! I read about it every day now. In the newspapers, on social media! It's hard to avoid and equally difficult not to lapse into feelings of depression and hopelessness. But, as I mentioned in my last Pres. Mess, we must remain hopeful and strive to do something, anything.



Looking out my window today it is difficult to believe in Global Warming. It's November! It should be raining! Instead we are breaking low temperature and snowfall records. But tell that to Australia or the over 11,000 world scientists who tell us that our planet "clearly and unequivocally faces a climate emergency" – *BioScience*, Nov. 5, 2019, American Institute of Biological Science

<https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/advance-article/doi/10.1093/biosci/bizo88/5610806?searchresult=1>

But then it is necessary to understand that Climate Change and Global Warming are inextricably linked. We are experiencing weather at the moment which can locally be affected by worldwide climactic changes.

In the Bioscience article they also address the subject of population growth, which always seems to be the elephant in the room. They write that "The climate crisis is closely linked to excessive consumption of the wealthy lifestyle. The most affluent countries are mainly responsible for the historical GHG emissions and generally have the greatest per capita emissions" and "To secure a sustainable future, we must change how we live" They go on to include changes that have to be made in areas of Energy, Short-lived Pollutants, Nature, Food, Economy and Population. Read it!

Oh! And Climate Transparency recently issued its annual report grading all the countries in the group of 20 on their climate performance. In 2018 G20 countries produced 80% of all greenhouse emissions. Canada's per capita emissions are second highest of the G20. Not something to be proud of!

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/canada-climate-action-1.5355517>

There is also an interesting article in the May 22, 2019 edition of *BioScience* called *The Ecological Paw Print of Companion Dogs and Cats* <https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/69/6/467/5486563> Something to think about! Sorry, I lapsed into depressing news. But I remain hopeful and it is nice that there are people out there who are

Upcoming Meetings

Meetings: last Monday of each month except June-August and December

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Civic Rec Complex, Bobby Orr Room, 99 Thornton S., Oshawa.

Come a little early to enjoy conversation and refreshments ('lug-a-mug')

November 25, 2019

Dr. Janice Gilbert

“Invasive Phragmites, What Is it and Can be done to control it”

January 27, 2020

Otto Peter

“Birds of the World I Have Seen and Their Stories”

February 24, 2020

Tyler Weeldon

“Prince Edward County coyote study and its findings and the natural history and taxonomy of coyotes”

March 30, 2020

Peter Thoem

“The Owl Foundation - A fly-by-night organization?”

April 27, 2020

Martyn Obbard

“How Black and Polar Bears Prepare for the Winter”

May 25, 2020,

Members Night and Annual General Meeting

willing to lead us through this mess.

And another bittersweet thing! I have before me a book that my 5-year-old granddaughter left us. She had 2 copies and thought that we should have our own. It is a book designed for early readers such as Evelyn and it is titled *The Earth Book* written in 2010 by Todd Parr and published by Scholastic. In it are things that we can do to help take care of our Earth. Even 5-year olds can understand that looking after our Earth is important.

Lois Gillette

Membership

Welcome to our new members:

Stephen Tufford and family, David Bradley, Garney Gunn, Izabela and Doug Ballentine, and Connie Wilson.

And welcome back Bob Russell.

Diane Peter

Reminder: Please renew your Membership.

See Diane at the November Meeting or call her at 905-725-0982. Complete Form on page 10.

Future Outings

Saturday, November 30 at 8 AM

Niagara Gulls

Leader: Rayfield Pye

Difficulty: Casual walking on sidewalks will be required.

Niagara Falls is a common destination for gulls in late fall and winter. A variety of interesting birds have been seen in the past including Lesser Black-backed, Slaty-backed, and California Gulls; Black-legged Kittiwake; and other ducks and shore birds. Niagara is also home to Tufted Titmice so a handful of seed may get you a lifer.

Meet to car pool at the southwest corner of the Pickering GO station. The drive to Niagara Falls should take approximately 2 hours.

It can be very cold, wet and/or snowy beside the Niagara River. (It can also be warm and dry) Dress to stay warm and dry. Wear layers of clothing for flexibility.

Bring water and a lunch or prepare to dine at Tim's in Chippawa.

Saturday, December 21

Durham Christmas Bird Count

Leader: Contact Rayfield Pye to participate @ 905-436-7998 or raypye@interlinks.net.
A sign-up sheet will be available at the November meeting.
Check for weather forecast and dress accordingly.

Saturday, January 11 at 8:45 AM

Annual Winter Bird Feeder Tour and Potluck Lunch

Organized with the help of Judy Bryson.
Leader: Don Docherty

This is our annual opportunity to check our favourite feeders in north Pickering and Whitby in search of local birds, northern visitors and those who normally would have headed south by now. After 2-3 hours we'll return to the church basement to warm-up and have a delicious potluck.

Meet at Mount Zion United Church to drop off food. (Drive north on Westney Road past highway 7 to Concession 8 and turn right (east). Address is 3000 Concession 8 just east of Salem Road.)
9:00 departure for a driving tour of feeders.

Lunch around noon at Mount Zion United Church.
Dress warmly!

Don Docherty

Past Outings



Submitted by: Maria Prisciak

Cranberry Marsh, October 26, 2019

Our late October outing was gifted with wonderful weather and no wind to start the day. This was not good for hawk watching but we did manage to see single Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk and Sharp-shinned Hawk. Conditions were great for ducks and other marsh birds and we managed to get great looks at many of them.

We started at the hawk watch platform where Rayfield Pye provided some insights on when hawks fly and explained why we were not seeing them. We could see enough ducks to know that the marsh was alive with waterfowl. Next, we walked south to the edge of Lake Ontario and walked east along the edge of the marsh. This area is normally inaccessible but low water levels provide great opportunities to

scan the water without obstructions like cattails. Our last stop was an observation platform at the northeast corner of the marsh. This location was excellent in the late summer for watching Caspian and Common Terns feeding. It also offers a view of a bar where birds sometimes rest. Walking the road and path on the east side of Cranberry Marsh we did see Yellow-rumped Warblers and a late Field Sparrow.

Highlights:

Pied-billed Grebe: Young birds that hatched in the summer had lost their black and white heads.

Great Egret: There seemed to be as many Great Egret as Great Blue Heron in the marsh. After covering all corners, I estimate we saw 3 birds.



American Wigeon by: Maria Prisciak

Trumpeter and Mute Swan: Both swans were present.
 American Avocet: While scanning for Snow Geese (not present) another bird with black and white wings was spotted. The bill and posture confirmed identification. It flew to the south east and we followed in an attempt to see it again but we were unsuccessful.
 Rayfield Pye reported seeing an American Avocet flying from the Hawk Watch platform.

This was a very rewarding outing. There is always something good to see at Cranberry Marsh.

Don Docherty

American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, and Northern Shoveler: There were lots of these birds present.
 American Coot: Some of us managed to see one in the northwest corner of the marsh.
 Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser: Small number were present. Black Duck were present in large numbers. The other three are quite striking but a scope was required to see them well.



Avocet by: Rayfield Pye

Ontario Nature Report

Give the gift of Nature this Holiday Season!

When you give the Gift of Nature to your friends and family this holiday season, you are sharing the joy of protecting wild species and wild spaces in Ontario. Our members are the heart and soul of Ontario Nature. When we stand together, we have the strongest possible voice, and the greatest possible impact. You can join us today and help protect the wild species and wild spaces you love. Your gift includes a 2020 Ontario Nature membership, five issues of our award-winning ON Nature magazine and a bag of Ontario Nature blend organic, fair trade, bird-friendly regular or decaf coffee from Birds & Beans! Memberships begin January 1st 2020 through to February 28th 2021. To ensure delivery in time for the holidays, please place your order by Dec.18th. Thank you.

<https://ontarionature.thankyou4caring.org/gift-of-membership>

Order your Ontario Nature holiday cards now!

Your favourite holiday cards have a fresh new look this year! We're happy to offer cards featuring an image of the beloved common loon by Ojibway artist Rick Beaver. Wish your family and friends happy holidays with either a seasonal greetings or a blank space inside to write your own personal message. Proceeds from the sale of these cards help protect the wild species and wild spaces of Ontario

<https://ontarionature.org/give/other-ways-to-give/greeting-cards/>

Protect a Piece of Nature Acre by Acre!

Mark your calendars! December 3rd is Giving Tuesday, a day for Canadians to give to the causes that mean the most to you. If you give to Ontario Nature this Giving Tuesday, you will be helping us to permanently protect 360 acres of treasured habitat in eastern Ontario. This property is in the Frontenac Arch – a geological wonder that is home to many rare species. But you don't have to wait until December 3rd! If you donate today, your gift will be matched with a donation from Quest Nature Tours, Ontario Nature's Board of Directors and an anonymous donor (up to \$20,000). Together we hope to raise \$40,000 towards securing this property which will become our 26th nature reserve.

<https://ontarionature.thankyou4caring.org/GT2019>

Maria Prisciak

Butterfly Garden Update



This past spring, we held our annual maintenance day on Thursday, May 23, as most of us were also scheduled to volunteer at the Feathered Friends Festival at Second Marsh on Saturday, May 25. The weather was a perfect temperature for gardening, and the few short showers did not deter us.

Because of the cool and cloudy conditions, no butterflies greeted us, but a Baltimore oriole serenaded us from time to time and a Great Blue heron flew over on a well-traveled path from the lake to the heronry further northwest.



Many thanks to Antonia Dizhevski, Josh DuBroy, Lois and Derek Gillette, Dianne McFeeters, John and Nancy Muzik, Randy Parisien, Diane and Otto Peter, and Bob Russell for their hard work getting the gardens spruced up for the summer. We planted new perennials from Native Plants in Claremont in the central garden, to replace others that didn't do well over the years. Lois cleaned up the 'gardenette' under the sign, where the beautiful Butterfly milkweed was just peeking above the soil.

Submitted by: Maria Prisciak



Just when we were wishing a strong young person would appear, along came Josh, who had seen us working as he was passing by, and wanted to help. He was happy to load up wood chips and wheelbarrow them from east to west to be laid down around the circle and up the paths of the west garden. We were all grateful.

During the summer and into the fall, staff and clients from North Durham Community Living did lots of work weeding and mulching. Many thanks to them for their labour and for keeping me company. My sister also came from Ennismore a few times to help out. Thanks, Lorna!

Dianne Pazaratz

Submitted by: Lois Gillette

Bidens aristosa

Today, October 18, 2019, I identified a wildflower I've known all my life. When I was a kid, and walked home from school through a lovely field, I saw many wildflowers I thought were native, but found out later (thanks to DRFN) they weren't - 'butter and eggs', chicory, Queen Anne's lace, and more. I can still picture that field where the Peterborough water tower was (is), and smell the scents that filled the air as I walked through. Happy memories.

Sometimes in the Fall, I would come home with those little brown 'ticks' with the two little 'legs' at the bottom stuck all over my clothes, and I never figured out until today - 60 or so years later! - what they were.

Today, as I was tidying up my yard in preparation for winter, I was pulling some thistles, wild cucumber, etc. near the hedge, and noticed I had those same little burrs on my clothes. This time I could see the plant, but since the stems and leaves had died, I couldn't even remember what I'd seen there in summer, so I Googled 'wildflower seeds that stick to you' and it came up right away. How exciting - I finally found out what it was!

Wikipedia says "*Bidens aristosa* is a North American species of plants in the sunflower family...It is native to eastern and central United States and south-central Canada, from Maine south to Florida and west as far as Ontario, Texas, and Nebraska.



Bidens aristosa is an annual herb occasionally reaching 150 cm (5 feet) in height. It has numerous yellow flower heads with both ray florets and disc florets. Fruits are dry achenes bearing barbs that get caught in fur or clothing, thus aiding in the plant's dispersal. It is also known as tickseed sunflower and beggartick."

davesgarden.com says "Flowers are popular among a large variety of insects and the caterpillars of several moth species feed on this plant as well' and 'tickseed sunflowers would make a great addition to a wildlife garden and would do well along the edge of a pasture pond or butterfly habitat. They are a tough little flower that makes itself at home just about everywhere."

I immediately recognized the plant, as it comes up as a 'weed' in my gardens. I sometimes pull it, but the flower is pretty, if small. I guess I will give it more respect in future if insects love it. And in the fall, if I get those little brown burrs sticking to my clothing, I will finally know where they came from. As the saying goes - you're never too old to learn!

Dianne Pazaratz

We All Need to Do Our Small Part

Lately I have been talking to people of all stripes and asking them what they are doing in an effort to reduce waste and reduce their carbon footprint and I have to say I am becoming very disappointed in my fellow Canadians. I will give a simple example. I accidentally discovered a few years ago that if I drove 10 kph slower on a long trip on 401 that I could increase my fuel economy by 15%. All of us complain that gasoline prices are too high and here was a way I could thumb my nose at big oil by slowing down. When I asked a number of friends if they have ever considered doing that to cut green house gases, without considering the cost savings I was met with derision. Their time was very much more valuable than a the few pounds of CO2 and the money that could be saved. Because of the inconvenience there was no way they would consider slowing down, how disappointing. If everyone driving on an open highway slowed down by 10 kph imagine how much fuel would be saved across North America. Anyone remember the 55 mph speed limits in the US used during the oil crisis

in the 70's? Well, it worked, but we have forgotten that lesson and in fact Ontario is planning on raising the speed limit on much of our 400 series highways. What a wrong-headed move. Just this week I learned that the Netherlands has reduced their speed limits from 130 to 100 kph on their highways. Maybe there is some hope after all.

I love it when a tree-hugging speedster in a gasoline powered hybrid, usually a Prius, roars past me on the 401 doing 130 kph with that smug look which says I am better than you in that big SUV.

There are so many little things that we can all do to reduce greenhouse gas generation. Plan your trips so you do more than one errand at a time. Instead of both of you going out in separate vehicles plan ahead and go together. Why not get rid of that second car like my wife and I did when I retired. Sure, it takes some planning but it can work. An all electric vehicle or hybrid might work for some but leave others like me wanting. Installing a setback thermostat that automatically lowers the overnight temperature in your house can save large sums of money and greenhouse gases. We are not trying to be holier than thou but we have been making a genuine effort to reduce our carbon footprint.

My pet peeve is bottled water use. I see red when I see a glass bottle of Perrier water. Just think of the cost to the environment to ship water in a heavy bottle all the way from France especially when you realize that Perrier is not really true natural spring water (look up and see how it is bottled). I have to admit that I do drink canned flavoured sparkling water occasionally because I like it but I do buy a locally canned product which is recycled in our house. We refuse to drink bottled water anywhere except in third-world countries where it is unsafe to drink tap water.

I know a lot of Canadians insist that little Canada should delay acting on its own against climate change because larger less-developed countries are not reducing their pollution enough or at all. They need a lesson in ethics. Morality is about doing the right thing for the right reason. It is not meant to be co-dependent on the misbehaviour of others. We should lead independently and not follow later. My business cards say "Think Globally and Act Locally". It is the least that we can do. Each one of us Canadians can plant a single tree every year. Imagine in a year over 36 million trees would be planted, what a forest that would make. I challenge all of you to resolve to make the small changes that can help even a little bit.

Otto Peter

Give Your Christmas Tree a Second Chance

I read an interesting article on reusing your Christmas Tree in the December edition of Birds & Blooms. Rather than place your tree out on the curb for pick up try one of these ideas.

1. Insulate your perennial garden bed. Lay the branches from your tree over your garden bed. Note that this should only be done using local Christmas trees to prevent pests.
2. Make Bean Poles. Cut off the branches and use the trunk cut into equal lengths for climbing plants such as beans. Form a tepee using multiple trunks to use for climbing plants such as cucumbers or morning glories.
3. Create a fence. Cut the trunk into equal lengths and use as fence posts. This works well for rabbit or deer fencing.
4. Nourish your soil by keeping the needles. Or if you have a chipper, chip the entire tree for compost. This adds to the acidity of you soil.
5. Replant your live tree for the future. Purchase a live native tree from the nursery and plant it outside after Christmas. Note: you need to dig a hole before the ground freezes.



Bird Approved Christmas Ornaments

Mix 1/2 cup cool water, 2 packages unflavoured gelatin in a bowl to dissolve. Pour in 1/2 cup boiling water. Add in 3 tablespoons corn syrup and 2 1/2 cups bird seed. Place the mixture in your refrigerator for 30 minutes. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Lay pre-greased cookie cutters on the tray. Spoon the seed mixture into the cutters and press firmly. To make a hole for hanging, place a paper straw near the top of the ornament. Put the tray in the refrigerator overnight. Hang your ornaments using jute string.

Nancy Muzik

“Knock, Knock, Who’s There?”

A Story by John McFeeters

While high up in a great old pine tree, Woodpecker could hear groans. The groaning sounds were coming from the other side of the trunk. Woodpecker flew around the trunk and saw Squirrel looking very sad.

“What’s the matter Squirrel?”

“I don’t feel very well,” moaned Squirrel. “I’m sick and I feel too dizzy to climb up to my house. I’m afraid I would fall.”

Woodpecker hurried to Squirrel’s side and hung on to him so he wouldn’t slip off the branch.


Squirrel and Woodpecker didn’t know it but they were being watched by Ant and Caterpillar.

“Woodpecker can’t go for help,” said Caterpillar to Ant. “If he does Squirrel will fall.”

“Raccoon can help us,” said Ant.

“He could,” said Caterpillar, “but he sleeps during the day and besides it would take too long for us to crawl down to his house. Squirrel needs help now!”

Far below, Raccoon was snoring in a hollow part of the old pine’s trunk. Caterpillar and Ant knew they had to come up with a plan and that Raccoon would have to be part of it.



"Hey Woodpecker!" yelled Caterpillar. "Tap a message down to Raccoon. He's asleep so you will have to tap hard."


"What a great idea," thought Woodpecker. Woodpecker turned his long bill toward the trunk and began tapping.

TAP-TAP-TAP ... tap-tap-tap ... TAP-TAP-TAP... tap-tap-tap. Over and over again Woodpecker repeated the same pattern:

three long taps followed by three short taps.

Finally, Raccoon heard the tapping and came to the rescue. Squirrel climbed onto Raccoon's back and was carried to his nest of leaves.

After a few days, Squirrel felt much better. □



Events Around Durham



\$10 PER PERSON 3 AND UNDER FREE **100% OF YOUR SUPPORT WILL GO DIRECTLY TO WILDLIFE REHABILITATION**

HEROES Wildlife

Environmental Awareness Festival

NOVEMBER 23-24, 2019 — PROUDLY PRESENTED BY SOPER CREEK WILDLIFE RESCUE

FUN WHILE LEARNING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Saturday November 23rd 9:00am - 6:00pm
Live Animal Demonstrations:
 Soper Creek Wildlife Rescue 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 5pm
 Birds of Prey Demonstration 11am & 3pm
 Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre 1pm

Sunday November 24th 9:00am - 5:00pm
Presentations:
 OVERT: Search and Rescue, Winter Safety for Kids 9am
 Soper Creek Wildlife Rescue: 10am, 12pm, 3pm, 5pm
 FLAP Canada: Assisting Migratory Birds 1pm

Local Vendors
 Carter, HUNNABEES, acor, etc.

GARNETT B RICKARD COMPLEX, 2440 DURHAM REGIONAL HWY 2, BOWMANVILLE, ON L1C 3K2

Chickadee Feeding Event

Sunday, December 1, 2019
 1:00—3:00 pm
 Second Marsh & McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Areas, Oshawa



Meet at the wooden information kiosk located after the woods, on the south side of Colonel Sam Drive. Parking is permitted on the road. Bring the family and join us to...

Feed some feathered friends, taste some Cedar Tea, enjoy some activities. Enjoy some hot chocolate—don't forget to lug-a-mug.

Guided Hike @ 1:30 pm

For more information, please contact Wioletta at Friends of Second Marsh at 905.723.5047 or wwalancik@secondmarsh.ca.

*The event will be postponed due to inclement weather (rain, significant temperature drop)

No dogs please, service dogs permitted. No washrooms on site.

Membership Application Form

Please check the appropriate area to indicate membership type.
For Family membership please indicate the number of family members.

Individual (\$25) _____

Family (\$35) _____ # of People _____

Life Member (\$300) _____

Family Life Member (\$450) ___ # of people

Kindly complete all sections of this information form in order that we can update our address & telephone records.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

The membership year is September to June. Memberships not renewed by November 30th are considered lapsed.
Membership fees may be paid by cash or cheque at the DRFN General Meeting, or a cheque may be mailed, payable to:
Durham Region Field Naturalists, Box 54031, 8 King St. E., Oshawa ON, L1H 1A9

Do not send cash by mail.

Revenue Canada Charitable: No. 891631574RR0001