



## 2014 TAKE A HIKE! Program for Families

Our Family Hikes are a great way to explore local nature. Accompanied by experienced and enthusiastic naturalists everyone in your family will enjoy these leisurely and informative hikes.

To learn more about the trails visit our website at

[www.naturescalling.com/take-a-hike](http://www.naturescalling.com/take-a-hike).

Always dress appropriately for the weather.

**Parents must accompany their children.**

Our hikes are FREE except where noted.

Donations to enhance our programming are always appreciated!

Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2:00 P.M.

### **First Signs of Spring Hike, Forest Capital Trail**

The days are getting longer, warmer and at times sunnier than they have been in months. It's time to go hiking! Join Terri on a leisurely hike along the Forest Capital Trail in the St. Williams Conservation Reserve and learn about animals that hibernate, animals that migrate, and those that stick it out here in Norfolk County all year long! Meet in the parking lot at the St. Williams Forestry Interpretive Building on Highway #24, just west of Forestry Farm Road.

Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 6 P.M.

### **Amazing Amphibians Hike, Backus Heritage Conservation Area/Backus Woods.**

Peep, croak, quack and slither! Backus Woods in the spring is a wonderful place to be! Join Bernie and Backus Heritage C.A. Outdoor Educator, Fiona, for a short presentation to learn how to identify local salamander, frog and toad species, and then join us in the woods to explore vernal pools and peek under logs for the harbingers of spring! Meet at the Education Centre at Backus Heritage Conservation Area (1267 2nd Concession Road, just north of Port Rowan). Cost of \$2 per person.

Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10 A.M.

### **Spring Birds and Their Songs Hike, Lynn Valley Trail**

Join our birding expert, Terri, for a spring walk in on the Lynn Valley Trail. Learn about forest birds and practice identifying different species by their song. Meet at the trail entrance on Blue Line Road just north of the St. Johns Rd. (Regional Road #3) intersection. Bring your bird identification guide and binoculars (limited numbers of binoculars will also be available).

Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2 P.M.

### **Summer Solstice Hike on Lynn Valley Trail**

The Lynn Valley Trail crosses several trestle bridges on the Lynn River, passes through woods, wetlands and farm fields, and follows historic and early pioneer travel routes. Join Pilar in a 1.5 hour hike to identify wild flowers, birds, amphibians, and maybe even spy a Snapping Turtle laying eggs along the side of the trail. Meet at the trail entrance on Blue Line Road just north of the St. Johns Rd. (Regional Road #3) intersection.

Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 P.M.

**Nocturnal Safari: Backus Woods at Night**

Enjoy the sights and sounds of animals that become active at night during this cool hike in Backus Woods. Bernie will call for owls, identify the songs of crickets and katydids, and attract late summer moths using light traps and baits. Pilar will have some awesome night games for everyone. Meet at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Concession entrance to the Backus Woods property at 7:30 P.M. Bring a flashlight!

Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 1 P.M.

**Paddling on Deer Creek**

Outdoor enthusiast, Pilar, will lead us on a 2 hour paddle in beautiful Deer Creek, an 80 acre reservoir in the Deer Creek Conservation Area. We'll explore the reservoir and its many inlets, and look out for the plentiful wildlife including blue herons, ducks, geese and hawks and maybe even spot a deer. Please bring your own canoe or kayak, paddles and life vests.

*Parents must accompany their children.*

Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2 P.M.

**Autumn Leaves Hike, Backus Woods**

October is peak fall colour season in southern Ontario! Terri will lead us on a hike through this beautiful trail in the north tract of Backus Woods as we identify trees by their leaves. Kids can collect different types of leaves and we'll provide some instructions on how to make an awesome autumn craft when you get back home. Meet in the parking lot into Backus Woods on Highway #24.

Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1 P.M.

**Winters Coming! Hike, Nature Conservancy's DeMaere #2 Property**

Join Colleen in exploring the meadow and woods of this NCC property at the south east corner of Hwy 24 and East Quarter Line Road to look for Mother Nature's hints that winter is approaching! Identify dried plants, nuts and mushrooms and look for signs of animals getting ready for the cold winter ahead. Meet at the parking lot located off East Quarter Line Road just south of Hwy 24.

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1 P.M.

**Christmas Nature Crafts and Hike, St. Williams Forestry Station**

Let your creative side shine with our Nature Educator, Pilar, as we let the natural world inspire your child's imagination and creativity. Kids will re-kindle their inner nature spirit and express themselves in making nature-inspired Christmas crafts. Dress warmly as time will be spent outdoors searching for the perfect items to create a holiday decoration to be treasured forever! Registration fee of \$10/child (includes craft materials and hot chocolate).

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 6 P.M.

**What a Hoot! Owl Prowl and Night Hike, Turkey Point Provincial Park**

Have you ever been in the woods at night and heard the deep hooting of a Great Horned Owl or the horse-like call of the Eastern Screech Owl? If not, you don't want to miss this opportunity! Join Bernie for a walk in the woods as we play the calls of some local owl species and wait for them to answer. It's sure to be a hootin' good time! Park at the entrance into the park on Turkey Point Road. Don't forget to bring a flashlight and dress warmly.

Visit [www.naturescalling.ca](http://www.naturescalling.ca) to download our Take a Hike! Activity Guide and trail maps