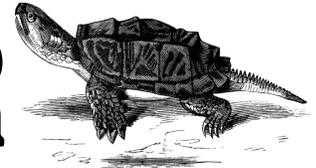




Spring 2009

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The SNAPPER



A brief history of KFT: Who we are

Mission Statement:
The Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation is dedicated to conserving biodiversity, promoting sustainable communities, and partnering in research, monitoring, outreach and education.



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In May 2006, Sydney Tanzola, a 12-year-old girl from Washago, Ontario, wrote a letter to Orillia naturalist Bob Bowles. Sydney and her friends were concerned about the number of turtles that were hit by cars on her road.

Bob formed *Kids for Turtles* to help protect the turtles. The program has since expanded into focusing on species at risk, invasive species and healthy water systems. The Orillia Chapter now has 250 members, including children, parents and grandparents, and hosts the annual Mariposa Butterfly Festival amongst other events.

In February 2009, the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation was granted a Long Point – Norfolk Chapter. Our area has special significance for educating and engaging

youth in nature and conservation as we have the highest biodiversity of plants and animals in Canada, have more species-at-risk than anywhere else in the country, and an amazing diversity of habitats including Carolinian forests, Lake Erie dune systems, tall-grass prairies and oak savannahs, cold water creeks and streams and agricultural lands.

Kids for Turtles is a symbolic name – it combines children, who are our future, and turtles from our past – to form a promising outlook for our environment. Turtles have lived on earth for over 250 million years without becoming extinct, unlike many species.

Within the past few decades,



KFT founder Bob Bowles at the Wildlife Festival in Simcoe.

Photo courtesy of the Simcoe Reformer

human activity has had a devastating impact on turtles. Turtles are a “canary in the coal mine.” Today’s children will live in the world left to them and they will be responsible for it. This is why it is essential that young people learn about, appreciate, respect and protect our natural environment!

KFT plans first event: Earth Day at Backus

Kids for Turtles Long Point—Norfolk chapter is gearing up for their first event to coincide with Earth Day. *KFT* Members are invited to come to Backus Heritage Conservation Area on Saturday, April 18, from noon to 4 p.m.

Planned events include planting a pollinator park, salamander monitoring, a bird banding demonstration, tree planting, and other activities, crafts and displays.

Wear clothing appropriate for the weather and sturdy footwear and don’t forget a

water bottle, a snack, insect repellent and sunscreen.

Free admission when wearing your *KFT* pin.

Some other *KFT*-sponsored events tentatively planned for 2009 include:

Turtle observation on the Long Point Dike (June).

Biodiversity camp to include a butterfly and dragonfly survey at Backus (August).

Shore clean-up as part of the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up (September).

In addition, *KFT* members are invited to take part in a Nature

Conservancy of Canada tree planting event on Saturday, May 2 (see page 2 for details).

Watch our website (<http://longpointbiosphere.com/kids-for-turtles>) for updates on these events.

KFT Committee members preparing the pollinator park at Backus CA for planting.



The Marsh Marigold, sometimes incorrectly called Cowslip, is a member of the buttercup family and is native to wetlands of Europe and North America.



Bald Eagle rescued with help from public

Thanks to the timely intervention of Port Dover residents Beth and Al Mason, a Bald Eagle that was on the brink of death was saved and is now once again soaring over the Great Lakes.

In July 2007, the Masons found the Bald Eagle sitting in

A Bald Eagle, near death, when it was found in Port Dover.



their garden swing. After sitting there for a couple of hours, it tried to fly away, but fell to the ground. That's when the Masons went into action and called Bird Studies Canada (BSC) for help.

The bird was taken to the Canadian Raptor Conservancy where it was cleaned up and fed. However, it had a badly infected wing from an unknown injury, and needed medical care. Jody Allair, a biologist with BSC working on the organization's Eagle Project, took it to the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph.

After treatment there, it was returned to the Raptor Conservancy. Then a waiting game started to see if there had been any permanent damage to the bird's wing. "When we first got the bird, it was covered in maggots and its head was drooping," Mr. Allair said the week after the eagle was found. "We didn't

think it would make it. But it looks like it will recover, but we don't yet know if it will be able to be released to the wild."

Thanks to the help of many people and organizations, the Bald Eagle did recover and in November 2007, it was once again released to the wild.

Seconds after the eagle's cage was opened, it stepped out, spread its wings, and soared up into the sky. After catching the wind, it once again swooped over the people watching it and took off over the lake.

While in captivity, the eagle was banded to help with future identification. It has a black band with the white letters "S5" on its left leg. The eagle is also



Four months later, the eagle was released and has since been spotted several times in the Norfolk area.

made more recognizable because it is missing some feathers in its right wing. These feathers haven't grown back more than a year later and Mr. Allair has spotted it around the area.

For more information about Bald Eagles, and to track eagles that have been fitted with radio transmitters, check out the eagle tracker at:

www.birdscanada.org/research/speciesatrisk/baea.

Earth Day													Solution: 19 letters													Awareness													Long Point												
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Solution: Take care of our planet. (It's the only one we have!)													Lakes	Weather																																					

Greening Norfolk County

Saturday May 02, 2009, 9:30am - 3pm
Walsingham, Ontario

Help the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) green Norfolk County! Spend the day planting trees to help restore this 23-acre (9-hectare) property to its natural habitat. Located in the Southern Norfolk Sand Plain, this area has the highest level of intact forest cover in southwestern Ontario and provides a critical stopover site for migratory landbirds and waterbirds. By planting trees, you'll assist in building ecological connections to other nearby NCC properties. Species at risk that will benefit from this restoration project include Hooded Warbler and Eastern Hognosed Snake.

Interested individuals can visit www.conservativolunteers.ca to register for this event and learn more about other events going on across Ontario. Conservation Volunteer events will occur between April and October and include tree planting, invasive species removal, seed collection and biological inventories. Space is limited for all events, so sign up today!



Spring Nature Watch Checklist



GREY RATSNAKE

Where to look: forests, swamps, fields, meadows

What to look for: black back, whitish chin and throat, white belly

Date spotted:

Location:



BALTIMORE ORIOLE

Where to look: Orchards, flowering trees

What to look for: Bright orange and black bird; females are duller

Date spotted:

Location:



MOURNING CLOAK BUTTERFLY

Where to look: Warm, sunny spots; backyard, woods, fields

What to look for: Purplish black butterfly with yellow borders on wings

Date spotted:

Location:



How many of these species can you spot? Use the internet or wildlife identification books from the library to get more information about these species.

OPEN YOUR EARS!

How many of these species can you hear?

- American Woodcock:** listen for a nasal “beeeeeeep, beeeeeeep” late in the evening or very early in the morning
- Spring Peeper:** listen for a single, loud, high-pitched peep repeated up to 4000 times per hour; males may also trill to warn off rivals
- Boreal Chorus Frog:** a call that is similar to the sound of drawing your finger up the teeth of a comb
- Wood Frog:** the courtship call consists of short, grunty, quacking sounds that are almost duck like
- Eastern Screech Owl:** a mournful whinny or wail that descends in pitch
- Ruffed Grouse:** the sound of a drumming male sounds like a motor starting up; a low muffled thumping starts slowly and gets faster
- Black-billed Cuckoo:** a fast rhythmic *cu-cu-cu*, *cu-cu-cu*, *cu-cu-cu*
- Ovenbird:** an emphatic *teacher, teacher, teacher* repeated rapidly and rising in pitch



TURKEY TAIL FUNGI

Where to look: Dead or fallen trees in the bush

What to look for: Brackets of fungi with concentric rings of varying colour

Date spotted:

Location:



YELLOW BIRCH TREE

Where to look: In moist forests

What to look for: A tree that looks like it’s standing on its toes

Date spotted:

Location:



SKUNK CABBAGE

Where to look: Marshy areas

What to look for: Large, bright green leaves

Date spotted:

Location:



**KIDS FOR TURTLES
LONG POINT-
NORFOLK
CHAPTER**

P.O. Box 338
Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0

Phone: 519-410-8878
E-mail: kidsforturtles@
lpwbrf.ca

Committee:

Colleen Dale (Co-Chair)
Bernie Solymár (Co-Chair)
Marg Werden (Secretary)
Wanda Backus-Kelly
Wendy Cridland
Terri Groh
Arden Koptik
Rick Levick
Gregg McLachlan
Janice Robertson
Elizabeth Van Stam

Turtles of Norfolk



Blanding's Turtle

- Found in marshes and shallow lakes and bays
- It is the only pond turtle that doesn't need to submerge its head in order to swallow food.
- THREATENED (COSEWIC*), THREATENED (COSSARO**)

Common Snapping Turtle

- Found in shallow, muddy ponds, lakes, marshes and slow moving rivers
- Spend most of their time underwater and are mainly active at night
- SPECIAL CONCERN (COSEWIC)



Northern Map Turtle

- Found in deeper water of large, slow rivers and lakes
- Fine yellow lines on top shell resemble a map
- SPECIAL CONCERN (COSEWIC); SPECIAL CONCERN (COSSARO)

Spiny Softshell Turtle

- Found in rivers and lakes with sand and mud bars
- Shell is flat and covered with leathery skin rather than hard scutes
- THREATENED (COSEWIC); THREATENED (COSSARO)



Spotted Turtle

- Found in small, shallow ponds and marshes
- Most active in spring; often seen basking on tufts of vegetation in shallow water
- ENDANGERED (COSEWIC); ENDANGERED (COSSARO)

Stinkpot

- Found in still, shallow lakes, ponds and rivers
- Named for musky odour produced when handled
- THREATENED (COSEWIC); THREATENED (COSSARO)



Midland Painted Turtle

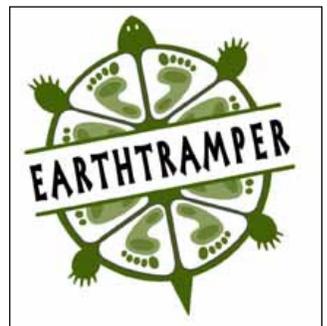
- Found in small ponds, marshes and slow rivers
- Males have very long nails on front feet
- Often seen basking on logs

Wood Turtle

- Found on land (the most terrestrial turtle in ON) and in or near streams and wet meadows
- Were the first turtles to travel to the moon
- THREATENED (COSEWIC); ENDANGERED (COSSARO)



CORPORATE SUPPORTERS



*COSEWIC: Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada

**COSSARO: Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario