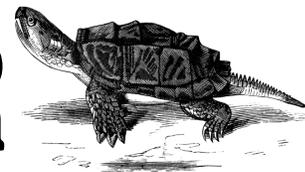




Summer 2010

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# The SNAPPER



## KFT member wins Ontario Nature award

**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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**BUTTERFLY & DRAGONFLY FESTIVAL**  
 July 11, 2010  
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Backus Heritage Conservation Area  
 Port Rowan  
 Fun for the whole family!

A member of Kids for Turtles Norfolk - Long Point chapter was recently recognized for her work with the organization by Ontario Nature. Thirteen-year-old Megan Wilcox, a grade 7 student at Port Rowan Public School loves all things to do with nature and the outdoors and her enthusiasm for the environment was noticed by Bernie Solymár and Colleen Dale, members of the KFT committee, who nominated her for the Margaret and Carl Nunn Memorial Camp Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to youth who are 10 - 14 years of age, who display promise and interest in natural history interpretation or education and have the potential to take an increased leadership role in club programs. Carl Nunn was a dedicated early naturalist who was among the leaders who created the Federation of Ontario Naturalists in 1931 with seven clubs and 28 members. The Federation has since been renamed Ontario Nature.

Megan's love of nature has been fostered by her parents, both of whom are outdoor enthu-

siasts. "We have a family cottage near Parry Sound," Megan said, "And whenever we're up there we like to explore the woods." Her mother, Kerrie is the Feeder Watch Co-ordinator for Bird Studies Canada.

Living in the heart of Long Point country since her birth, Megan and her brother, Jarred, spend much time exploring the bush, ponds, creek and wetlands that

activities and also attends the majority of scheduled events providing leadership to the younger participants. In addition, Megan volunteers at the Backus Heritage Conservation Area nature and heritage camps for five weeks every summer. "I go to the camps three or four days a week to help with the crafts," she stated.

In their nomination of Megan for the award Bernie and Colleen stated that Megan has demonstrated the principle of "youth teaching youth" both with Kids for Turtles and other environmental organizations. She has shown a selfless volunteerism, positive attitude and willingness to help which has made her so deserving of the award. She has proven herself to be a capable young leader and has already demonstrated a keen interest in teaching other kids about the environment.

In addition to a certificate commemorating her award, Megan will be attending a four-day nature camp at Camp Kawartha at the end of the summer. "I'm not sure about everything I'll be doing there," Megan said, "but I'm looking forward to kayaking and rock climbing."

Congratulations, Megan!



*Megan Wilcox is an enthusiastic member of the Norfolk - Long Point Chapter of Kids for Turtles and is seen above sharing her love of nature with Jaden Barney during a Bio-Blitz walk at Big Creek Marsh.*

surround her family's home. "We like to catch the snakes and salamanders that get stuck in our window wells," she explained. "There are always lots of them every year."

Megan also likes to share her enthusiasm with her peers. As the youth representative on the Kids for Turtles committee, she attends monthly meetings to provide a youth perspective on the club's



## Campfire cooking ideas

There's nothing better than sitting around the campfire with family and friends cooking over an open fire. Camping can be a fantastic family activity and something everyone will remember fondly.

Here are some outdoor cooking ideas for kids to make your next camping trip extra yummy!

### BREAKFAST

12-cup muffin tin  
6 eggs  
Chopped Ham  
Shredded cheese  
Diced cooked potatoes  
Salt and Pepper  
Grease muffin cups. Place 6 eggs in half the muffin cups. Sprinkle with shredded cheese and chopped ham. In other 6 cups of muffin tin, add diced potatoes and season with salt and pepper. Bake on a flat rock over the campfire or on a cooking grate.

### DESSERT - Muffins

Oranges  
Cake batter  
Chopped pecans or walnuts  
Tin foil

Cut the orange in half and hollow out leaving the peel in a cup shape. Pour cake batter into each orange peel, top with nuts and wrap up in tin foil. Place in coals and bake.



### CAMPFIRE SAFETY

- \* Always be cautious around a campfire. Keep hands and feet away from fire.
- \* To prevent falls around a fire, never run or play around a campfire.
- \* When cooking on a campfire, use potholders and always have an adult there to help.
- \* If roasting marshmallows and they set on fire, always blow out.
- \* When you are finished with your campfire, be sure the fire is completely out. You can sprinkle water or sand on hot coals.

## KFT banner in drive-thru gallery



Many thanks to Norfolk artist and Kids for Turtles committee member Sally Gable for her wonderfully creative work on the KFT banner for Downtown Simcoe's annual drive-thru art gallery.

The theme for this year's banners is "Birds of a Feather Flock Together (1960 - 2010)", to celebrate the Long Point Bird Observatory's 50th anniversary.

Sponsored by businesses of downtown Simcoe, the Drive-thru Art Gallery has been part of Simcoe's summer scenery for the past decade and has become a much-anticipated event in the town beautifying the streetscape, raising awareness of the remarkable artistic talent in the community, and displaying pride in what makes Norfolk County unique.

Look for our banner hanging somewhere in the streets of Simcoe.

Job well done, Sally!

## Bio-Blitz a biodiversity success

The Kids for Turtles Bio-Blitz on Sunday, June 6 at Big Creek National Wildlife Area at Long Point resulted in a long list of plants and animals being spotted by the participants. Among the species seen were:

### ANIMALS

#### Mammals:

- 1) Mouse
- 2) Muskrat

#### Amphibian:

- 1) Bullfrog
- 2) Leopard frog
- 3) Green frog

#### Fish:

- 1) Minnows
- 2) Sunfish

#### Reptile:

- 1) Snapping turtle
- 2) Painted turtle
- 3) Blanding's turtle
- 4) Garter snake

#### Bird:

- 1) Purple Martin

- 2) Cardinal
- 3) Willow Flycatcher
- 4) Red-winged Blackbird
- 5) Mourning Dove
- 6) Killdeer
- 7) Yellow Warbler
- 8) Song Sparrow
- 9) Swamp Sparrow
- 10) Canada Goose
- 11) Marsh Wren
- 12) American Robin
- 13) Black Tern
- 14) Baltimore Oriole
- 15) Turkey Vulture
- 16) Bald Eagle
- 17) Belted Kingfisher
- 18) Eastern Kingbird
- 19) Pied-billed Grebe
- 20) Common Yellowthroat
- 21) Great Blue Heron
- 22) Sandhill Crane
- 23) Mute Swan
- 24) Barn Swallow

#### Invertebrates:

- 1) Snail
- 2) Earthworm

- 3) Ants
  - 4) Mosquito
  - 5) Bumblebee
  - 6) Whirligig Beetle
  - 7) Sawfly
  - 8) Red Admiral butterfly
  - 9) Leech
  - 10) Bluets
- ### PLANTS
- 1) Wild Grape
  - 2) Duckweed
  - 3) Cattail
  - 4) White Water Lily
  - 5) Curly Dock
  - 6) Stinging Nettle
  - 7) Thistle
  - 8) Fragmites
  - 9) Bittersweet Nightshade
  - 10) Catnip
  - 11) Hedge Bindweed
  - 12) Philadelphia Fleabane
  - 13) Common Milkweed
  - 14) Blue Flag
  - 15) Bullhead Waterlily
  - 16) Jewelweed
  - 17) Swamp Milkweed

## Butterfly & Dragonfly Photo Contest

Submission deadline: July 8, 2010

All photos to be displayed at the Butterfly and Dragonfly Festival

Backus Heritage Conservation Area

July 11, 2010

Two categories:

Butterflies

Dragonflies

Three age divisions:

Child: 6 to 12

Youth: 13 to 18

Adult: 19 +



For full contest rules and regulations, please visit:

[www.longpointbiosphere.com/kids-for-turtles](http://www.longpointbiosphere.com/kids-for-turtles)



# Summer Nature Watch Checklist

*Photos, unless otherwise noted, by Marg Werden*



**DUTCHMAN'S BREECHES**

Dutchman's Breeches grow in the woods and have a delicate spray of waxy, yellow-tipped flowers drooping in a row from an arched stem. Each flower has two inflated spurs that look like the legs of tiny pantaloons (or breeches), ankles up, giving the flower its common name. The leaves are divided into leaflets, greyish green and hairless.



**MUSKRAT**

The Muskrat is an amphibious rodent with a scaly tail and long sharp teeth. They live in marshes, streams and lakes throughout Canada, either in riverbank burrows or in houses made of twigs, roots. Leaves and mud. Muskrats prefer water plants, but in hard times they will eat whatever they can. Few Muskrats live more than three years.



**DRAGONFLIES**

Dragonflies have 2 pairs of wings, which are held out flat when they rest. Eggs are laid in clumps on the surface of the water or in plant tissue. Dragonfly nymphs are among the most active predators of the aquatic world. Adults feed largely on flying insects, including large numbers of mosquitos. Dragonflies do not sting.



**EASTERN TAILED BLUE**

A small (about an inch or 2.5 cm) butterfly that is common in most of Eastern North America. The upperside of the wings in the male is iridescent blue and in the female is brown with blue at the wing base. The underside is play gray with black spots and a black bar and two large orange spots near the tail.



**GRAY CATBIRD**

The Gray Catbird is named for its colour and call, which sounds like a mewling cat. A gray bird with a black cap and bright rusty feathers under the tail, the Gray Catbirds is a relative of mockingbirds and thrashers. Catbirds live amid dense shrubs, vine tangles, and thickets of young trees.



**MIDLAND PAINTED TURTLE**

The only turtle found in Norfolk County that is NOT threatened or at risk, the Midland Painted Turtle loves the sun and will bask for hours on logs, stones or banks. It sometimes eats vegetable matter, but prefers earthworms, crayfish and frogs. Its upper shell is dark green to black with yellow, orange or red lines and a striped head and neck.

## A Bug's Life:

### Blood-sucking Scourges of Summer



By *Bernie Solymár*

Mosquitoes are truly the scourge of campers, boaters, hikers, birders, and even backyard barbeques. They buzz around your ears, cause frantic itching and scratching, and may even transmit disease. (In Canada, this is limited to West Nile Virus).

Mosquitoes don't need a blood meal to live. They can survive on nectar, but females of the species do need blood to mature their eggs. Mosquitoes need the stimulus of carbon dioxide, given off by all warm-blooded animals, to start a search for their prey. Mosquitoes are also attracted to warmth and humidity, exuded in body heat and sweat. Once sensitive antennae are used to locate you, it takes just 30 seconds to tank up, an anticoagulant injected prior to the meal allowing the blood to flow freely. Depending on the species of mosquito (74 are known in Canada, although not all attack humans – it just seems that way), eggs are laid in temporary or permanent water bodies. Eggs, laid on the surface of the water, soon hatch into "wigglers," which hang upside down on the water surface, breathing air through siphons poking up through the water. At this immature stage they feed on algae and floating pollen, while they, in turn, are ravenously fed on by dragonfly, damselfly and mayfly larvae, waterboatmen, small frogs and toads, fish and salamanders.

Experts recommend wearing light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing when in mosquito country. Other advice from various sources is to avoid bananas, beer, perfumed shampoos and soaps, take lots of Vitamins C and B12, eat oranges, burn citronella candles, and wave cedar boughs around your head while hiking in the woods. Or you can always cover yourself in bear grease like the native woodland tribes did to ward of the blood-sucking little varmints. But by far the most effective protection against the annoying blood suckers, is an application of a DEET-based material like Off! Parents need to be careful using these products on children and choose only very-low-DEET formulations. Now if I could only figure out what to do for those horrendous deer flies!

# KFT Coming Events

## KIDS FOR TURTLES LONG POINT- NORFOLK CHAPTER

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

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

### Committee:

Bernie Solymár (Chair)  
Marg Werden (Secretary)  
Wanda Backus-Kelly  
Sally Gable  
Terri Groh  
Talitha Hostetter  
Arden Koptik  
Rick Levick  
Janice Robertson  
Megan Wilcox

Co-ordinator:  
Colleen Dale

### BUTTERFLY AND DRAGONFLY FESTIVAL

Sunday, July 11, 2010: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

This festival is a family-friendly event, providing opportunities to learn more about these beautiful and amazing creatures! There will be numerous scheduled activities and exhibits throughout the day including cookie decorating, crafts, and guided walks around the pond to search for dragonflies and in the meadow to identify butterflies. Come on out to Backus Heritage Conservation Area for all the fun! Admission: \$13/carload.

### ECO-KIDS ADVENTURE DAY CAMP

Weekend of August 14 & 15, 2010: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Are you looking for some outdoor adventure this summer? If so, then look no further! Children ages 8-12 are invited to register for a two-day camp from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily at Backus Heritage Conservation Area. Participants will be engaged in environmental hands-on activities, presentations, outdoor games plus so much more! **Pre-registration is required.** Fee: KFT members = \$40 and non-members = \$60. More information in box below.

### GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEANUP

Sunday, September 19, 2010: 10 a.m.

Roll up your sleeves and lend a hand cleaning up the beaches of Long Point. The TD Great Canadian Shore-

line Clean-up is a national conservation initiative that allows all Canadians to have a positive impact on their local environment. More than just a program to pick up trash, valuable data is collected from each clean-up to determine the major (and minor) causes of shoreline litter in each area. We will meet at the parking lot beside the Causeway restaurant on Long Point.

## ECO-KIDS ADVENTURE DAY CAMP

**\*\*LIMITED TO 25 PARTICIPANTS\*\***

**August 14 & 15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**at Backus Heritage Conservation Area**

**Cost:** (Includes lunch, bus fare and all materials)

\$60 for non-KFT-members (includes 1 year membership)

\$40 for KFT members

Payable to: "LPWBREF, Box 338, Pt. Rowan, ON NOE 1M0"

**Eligibility:** Youth born in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002 and an interest in nature and conservation

**For more information contact:**

Bernie at 519-426-7124 or brcoordinator@lpwbrf.ca

[www.longpointbiosphere.com](http://www.longpointbiosphere.com)

*This hands-on camp will engage youth in various nature and conservation activities to build a better appreciation and understanding of Norfolk's amazing biodiversity of living things, ecology and habitats.*

- ✓ Exploring the world of insects
- ✓ Discover Carolinian forests
- ✓ Learn about turtles and snakes
- ✓ "Inspired by Art" craft workshop
- ✓ Visit the dunes of Long Point
- ✓ Learn about bird banding at the LPBO
- ✓ Geo-caching in Backus Woods
- ✓ Play the Biodiversity Game
- ✓ Have fun and meet new friends

### ART IN NATURE

Saturday, October 23, 2010: 1 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Let your creative side shine as you use the natural world to inspire your works of art. Local artist, Sally Gable, will lead this program and help each participant find their inner nature spirit and express themselves in their own unique way! Time will be spent outdoors searching for the perfect items to create your masterpiece. Location: Backus Heritage Conservation Area

### BIRDY DELIGHT

Sunday, November 28, 2010: 1- 3p.m.

Want to become a birdwatcher right from your own home? Attracting birds to your yard is easy with these simple steps: come out and make your very own bird feeder, bring it home and find a good spot in your yard, and add some seed. You'll be sure to have lots of visitors at your feeder in no time! Learn about the "Project FeederWatch" program managed by Bird Studies Canada and how you can get involved by becoming a citizen scientist! Location: Bird Studies Canada Headquarters - 115 Front St, Port Rowan.

