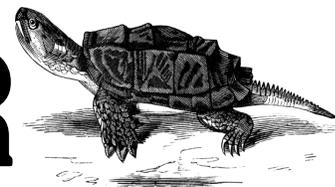




Summer 2011

Volume 3, Issue 3

# The SNAPPER



## 2nd annual Butterfly and Dragonfly Festival

### 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.

### Inside this issue:

WNC Spring Activities	2
Rainbow Bouquet	2
Nature Watch	3
Who said that?	3
WNC Coming Events	4

### Don't feed the ducks!

For many people, their first introduction to birds comes when their parents take them to "feed the ducks." Unfortunately, this can actually kill the ducks. In the wild, ducks eat a nutrient-rich diet of insects and other aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, fish, seeds and aquatic plants. Bread, donuts, and popcorn, are like "junk food" to the ducks and do not provide them with the nutrition they require.

Ducks that eat junk food become fat but malnourished, and aggressive towards one another. They lose the instinct to find their own food, ducklings don't learn how to forage and they become dependent on the hand-outs.

Although it is better to let ducks find their own food, some healthy alternatives to bread include: grapes, cut in half; cracked corn, barley, oats, birdseed or other grains; frozen peas that have been defrosted; or duck feed pellets.



Presents the 2nd Annual



## BUTTERFLY & DRAGONFLY FESTIVAL

Sunday, July 10, 2011

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Backus Heritage Conservation Area  
Port Rowan**

- Workshops
- Butterfly & Dragonfly Hikes
- Displays
- Kids' activities and crafts
- Food and Music
- Water bottle refill station
- And much more

More information:  
519-410-8878

[whennaturecalls@lpwbrf.ca](mailto:whennaturecalls@lpwbrf.ca)  
[www.whennaturecalls.ca](http://www.whennaturecalls.ca)



SPONSORED BY:





# When Nature Calls Spring Activities



## NATUREFEST

The Long-Point Carolinian NatureFest was held on May 28th and 29th to celebrate southern Ontario's unique and wondrous natural world, and offered many opportunities to take in our local nature through birding trips, nature walks, night hikes, mountain-biking, kayak and canoe trips, youth and family-oriented activities, displays and workshops throughout Norfolk County.

*WNC* led a family activity on the Sunday morning of the festival at the pond catching and observing all kinds of critters including a bullfrog and hundreds of toad tadpoles! After an awesome presentation by Scienstational Sssnakes, we set off on the nature trail to find all the items on the scavenger hunt. It was a great morning and we look forward to this event again next year!

## BIO-BLITZ

The United Nations has declared 2011 the "International Year of Forests." This year-long celebration presents the opportunity for organizations across the country to host events and raise awareness of Canada's forests...so that's just what we did! On Sunday, June 5th, *WNC* hosted a Bio-Blitz in Backus Woods. Our task was to find and identify as many species of plants and animals in this extraordinary example of a Carolinian forest.

Before the mosquitoes eventually took their toll, we managed to find:

## FLORA

- (not including trees)
- Jack-in-the-pulpit
- Mayapple
- Smooth Solomon's Seal
- Skunk Cabbage
- Foamflower
- Poison Ivy
- Horsetail
- Bloodroot
- Hog peanut
- White Baneberry
- False Solomon's Seal
- Wild Geranium
- Virginia Waterleaf
- Maidenhair Fern
- Sensitive Fern
- Christmas Fern
- Canada Mayflower
- Yellow Hawkweed
- Wild Lupine
- Wild Strawberry
- Red Clover
- Spicebush

## MAMMALS

- Eastern Chipmunk
- Grey Squirrel
- Coyote

## Raccoon

## HERPTILE

- Garter Snake
- Red-backed Salamander

## BIRDS

- American Robin
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Wood Thrush
- Field Sparrow
- Woodcock
- Eastern Peewee
- Scarlet Tanager
- Eastern Towhee
- Baltimore Oriole
- Yellow Warbler
- Turkey Vulture
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat
- Blue Jay

## INVERTEBRATES

- Millipede
- Eastern tailed Blue
- Tiger Swallowtail
- Mosquito
- Carrion Beetle
- Bumblebee
- Flower Beetle
- Ebony Jewelwing
- Spittlebug
- Spring Azure
- Geometrid Moth
- Black fly

## A Rainbow Bouquet

Although most wildflowers are beautiful just the way Mother Nature made them, you can have some fun making white blooms burst into a rainbow bouquet.

White flowers such as daisies or Queen Anne's lace work well for this activity since they are white. Begin by cutting the blooms and immediately placing them in water to keep the cut end from drying out. Next, find a vase or jar for each colour you want to use and place a small amount of water in each container. Add several drops of food colouring to the water until the colour in the water is quite intense. Remember you can make a variety of colours by mixing the basic colours.

Once you have mixed the food colouring and water, place the stems of several flowers in each container and let them stand for a few hours. Like magic, the white petals will change into coloured ones.

Why this works: Plants are always losing water that evaporates into the air from their leaves and flowers, so more water is continuously being pulled up through their stems. In this activity, the food colouring moves into

the flower petals with the water as the water gets pulled up the stems. You will notice that some colours go along with the water better than others and therefore seem to climb up to the flowers faster than others. (Blue and yellow

move faster than red and green.) Experiment to see how many different colours of flowers you can make. Surprise your family by matching a flower to the clothes each member is wearing at dinner!





## Summer Nature Watch

Photos, unless otherwise noted, by Marg Werden



**MILLIPEDE**

Millipedes are arthropods that have two pairs of legs per segment - centipedes have just one pair per segment. The name "millipede" is derived from the Latin "mille" (thousand) and "pes" (foot.) Approximately 10,000 species are known and common species have between 36 and 400 legs. Most millipedes have very elongated cylindrical bodies.



**AMERICAN CARRION BEETLE**

This beetle (*Necrophila Americana*), a member of the insect family *Silphidae*, feeds on the bodies of dead and decaying animals, thus playing a major role as decomposers. Many have orange, yellow or red markings on a dark background. The flat, flexible body and wings allow these insects to crawl under dead animals.



**EASTERN FOXSNAKE**

The Eastern Foxsnake (*Pantherophis gloydi*) is a large, relatively slender and mottled snake with dark blotches on a yellow or brown background colour, a reddish head, and a checker pattern on its belly. The Foxsnake will vibrate its tail against the ground making a "rattle" sound, but this species is **non-venomous**.

## Who said that?

Now that the leaves are on the trees, providing cover for the many songbirds that live in them, it has become more difficult to find those birds or to see them long enough to identify them by sight. However, birds can also be identified by the songs they sing, many of which are very distinctive.



**Gray Catbird**

Many bird songs and calls have been given "words" to help birders more easily identify which bird is hiding in the trees. Included in these are:

- "Teacher, **TEACHER, TEACHER**": Ovenbird
- "Miaow": Gray Catbird
- "Wichety, wichety wichety": Common Yellowthroat
- "Here I am. Where are you?": Red-eyed Vireo
- "Drink your tea": Eastern Towhee
- "Sweet, sweet, sweet, I'm so sweet": Yellow Warbler
- "Zoo zee zozoo zee" or "trees, trees, murmuring trees": Black-throated Green Warbler



**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD**

Despite its small size, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird aggressively defends its food supply and its surroundings against intruders. This bird makes an amazing annual migration flight that includes crossing the 800-km expanse of the Gulf of Mexico.



**WILD LUPINE**

Wild lupine is a perennial native prairie wildflower with bluish purple flowers that grow on long stems. The grey-green palmated leaves are easily recognized. The endangered Karner Blue butterfly depends on the plant for its larval-stage food and honeybees are attracted to the plant's nectar.



**BLACK SWALLOWTAIL**

The Black Swallowtail has distinct orange eye-spots with black-centred pupils on the hind wing close to the tails. In Canada, there are two broods annually. The over-wintering pupae emerge as adults in the spring and fly until late June. The next brood emerges in mid-July and flies throughout August.



**Common Yellowthroat**

- "Cheerily, cheer-up, cheerily": American Robin
- "Quick, three bears": Olive-sided Flycatcher
- "Con-ker-ree": Red-winged Blackbird
- "Kill-deer, kill-deer": Killdeer
- "Maids, maids, maids, put on your tea, kettle, kettle, kettle": Song Sparrow
- "Who's awake? Me too. Who's awake? Me too.": Great Horned Owl
- "Oh sweet Canada, Canada, Canada": White-throated Sparrow

# When Nature Calls Coming Events

## WHEN NATURE CALLS

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

Colleen Dale  
**WNC** Co-ordinator  
Phone: 519-410-8878  
E-mail: [whennaturecalls@lpwbrf.ca](mailto:whennaturecalls@lpwbrf.ca)  
[www.whennaturecalls.ca](http://www.whennaturecalls.ca)

### Committee:

Bernie Solymár (Chair)  
Marg Werden (Secretary)  
Wanda Backus-Kelly  
Chris Bowyer  
Sally Gable  
Terri Groh  
Arden Koptik  
Rick Levick  
Janice Robertson  
Jen Smit  
Debbie Solymár  
Megan Wilcox

### BUTTERFLY AND DRAGONFLY FESTIVAL

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

Come to the Backus Heritage Conservation Area to enjoy this 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 in search of dragonflies and in the meadow to identify butterflies.

### FOREST-FEST

Saturday, August 13 and Sunday, August 14, 2011

What better way to celebrate the 'International Year of Forests' than by attending Forest Fest – a festival dedicated to the education and awareness of our local forests. *When Nature Calls* will be there with all kinds of children's crafts and activities, so be sure to come by and get involved.

### EARTH CACHING

Saturday August 27, 2011: 2 p.m.

If you like treasure hunts and orienteering, you will not want to miss out on this high-tech scavenger hunt! Armed with a GPS unit, your task will be to find hidden earth caches using the coordinates and clues provided to you. If you manage to find them all, a surprise awaits you at the end! Meet at Hay Creek Conservation Area at the corner of Radical Road and Port Ryerse Road.

### STARS AND STORIES

Saturday September 10, 2011: 7 p.m.

Join us for a night of star gazing and story telling...not only does this area have a fascinating and rich history, but also some of the best spots to set your sights on the night sky. Come out and join the North Shore Erie Amateur Astronomers to have a look through a telescope and to sit around the campfire, enjoy some hot chocolate and listen to tales of days gone by. Don't forget to bring a mug and lawnchair! Fee: \$5/person or \$15/family. Meet at Wagon Wheel Produce and Corn Maze, #1371 Charlotteville Rd, 1 km. west of Charlotteville East Quarter Line.

### GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEANUP

Sunday September 18, 2011: 10 a.m.

Roll up your sleeves and lend a hand cleaning up the beaches of Long Point. The TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup 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 cleanup to determine the major (and minor) causes of shoreline litter in each area. We will meet at the parking lot across from the Causeway restaurant in Long Point.

### ECO-KIDS NATURE DAY CAMP

Saturday, October 22 & Sunday, October 23: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Are you looking for some outdoor adventure? 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: WNC members = \$40/child and non-members = \$60/child.

### ART IN NATURE

Saturday, November 12: 1 - 3 p.m.

Let your creative side shine as you use the natural world to inspire your works of art. This program will 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 own one-of-a-kind masterpiece. Meet at Hay Creek Conservation Area, Radical Road at Port Ryerse Road.

