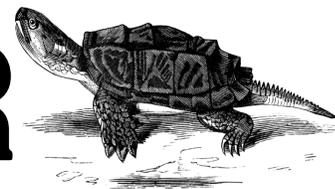




Winter 2011

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The SNAPPER



Our new name: *When Nature Calls*

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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Nature in the Classroom

When Nature Calls has a series of curriculum-based classroom programs available for elementary schools. "Hooray for Herptiles" (Grade 2), "Risky Business" (Grade 4), and "Biodiversity in a Changing World" (Grade 6) are one-hour programs available between May 9 and June 17, 2011.

The cost of the program is \$75 and includes a resource package with pre- and post-curriculum-related classroom activities, background information and relevant curriculum links. For more information contact Colleen Dale, Educational Coordinator for *When Nature Calls* at 519-410-8878 or email: whennaturecalls@lpwbrf.ca.

We have a new name!

Although our organization has not changed in any other way, our name has. "We felt that the Kids for Turtles name was limiting in that the community had the perception we were just about saving turtles", said Bernie Solymár, chair of *When Nature Calls*. "In reality, we are all about reconnecting our youth with nature". The group also wanted to re-focus its efforts in engaging not only young children, but also older youth and families.

When Nature Calls is the new name for the former Kids for Turtles, an organization dedicated to connecting youth and families with nature and the outdoors, raising awareness and appreciation for the natural world, and fostering a strong environmental ethic through education and engagement. The committee, made up of local educators, parents and youth, decided it was time to choose a name more representative of its activities.

The name *When Nature Calls* symbolizes the intent of this enthusiastic group of volunteers to address "nature deficit disorder", a phrase coined by Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*. In this book, Louv directly links the lack of nature in the lives of today's wired generation to some of the most disturbing childhood trends, such as the rises in obesity, attention disorders, and depression. He

brings together a new and growing body of research indicating that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development and for the physical and emotional health of children and adults. More than just raising an alarm, Louv offers practical solutions and simple ways to heal the broken bond—and many are right in our own backyard.

With over 50 current members, *When Nature Calls*, (formerly

offered an Eco-Kids Nature Camp in October. The group has also been involved in the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, a countrywide event that focuses on cleaning up coastlines from the Atlantic to Pacific Ocean. The last 2 years, in September, members scoured Long Point Beach from the provincial park to the end of Hastings Drive, and collected several hundred of kilograms of garbage.

Coordinator Colleen Dale states that the organization has big plans for 2011. "In addition to our regular events, we have developed several Ontario curriculum-based presentations, including biodiversity and species at risk, which we will take into local schools this spring. We are also partnering with Norfolk County to deliver nature-based programming at next summer's day camps at Hay Creek, and are providing interpretive presentations to campers in Long Point and Turkey Point Provincial Parks in July and August".

When Nature Calls will also be providing nature-based activities at the Long Point – Carolinian NatureFest in May and at Forest Fest in mid-August, along with organizing the 2nd annual Butterfly and Dragonfly Festival in July and the Eco-Kids Nature Camp in October.

When Nature Calls operates under the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation, a registered charitable and not-for-profit organization.



Kids for Turtles) was launched at the Wildlife Festival in Simcoe in 2009. The Ontario Trillium Foundation and TD Friends of the Environment grants have allowed for the hiring of a part-time coordinator and educational materials.

Over the last one and half years the organization has organized various hikes, outdoor activities, and educational workshops, hosted the Butterfly and Dragonfly Festival at the Backus Heritage Conservation Area in July, and



Looking for Keen Teen Birders

The Long Point Bird Observatory is looking for keen teen birders to apply for the 2011 Doug Tarry Natural History Fund - Young Ornithologist Workshop to be held from Friday, July 29 to Sunday, August 7. Participants will receive hands-on training in field ornithology including bird banding, census taking, field identification, birding trips, preparing museum specimens, guest lectures, and more! Six of Canada's most promising ornithologists between the ages of 13-17 will be selected to attend, and will receive the Doug Tarry Bird Study Award to cover all on-site expenses.

The Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists' Workshop occurs annually each summer at Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO). The goal of the Doug Tarry Bird Study Award is to foster the interests and development of ornithology in Canadian teenagers. Recipients of the award attend a ten day workshop/natural history camp at LPBO, located along the north shore of Lake Erie, Ontario, in the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve.

The Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists' Workshop is a major component of the observatory's educational program. Many of Canada's talented field biologists got their start here since its inception in the mid 1970s. Thanks to the foresight and generosity of humanitarian and naturalist Doug

Tarry, the Workshop is free for the selected applicants.

The Workshop focuses on "hands-on" learning and training in field ornithology. It provides a unique opportunity for like-minded teenagers to enhance their knowledge and skills in the scientific study and aesthetic enjoyment of birds. Participants learn how to identify, age and sex birds, and how scientists study populations and behaviour. Careful and

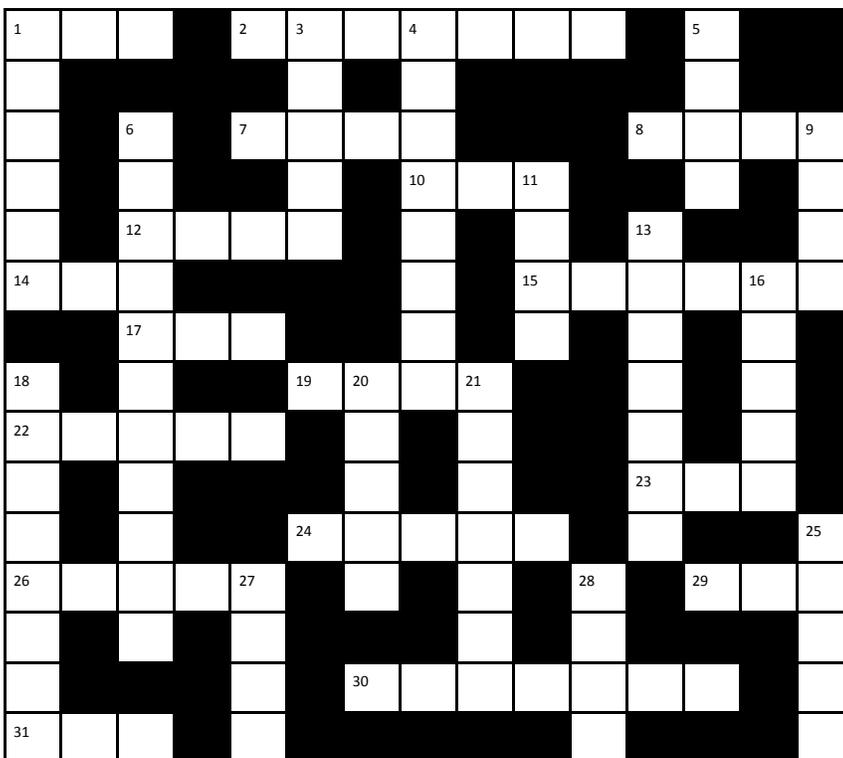


skilled instructors teach bird handling and banding techniques, how to prepare specimens for scientific study, and bird census techniques. Regularly scheduled afternoon field trips to places of biological interest within the Biosphere introduce participants to the flora and fauna of the region. Evening programs include slide presentations and nocturnal fieldwork.

Space is limited to six participants, ranging in age from 13-17 years old. The Award covers all direct costs of the workshop (accommodation, meals, travel while at Long Point, and professional instruction). Recipients are responsible for their own transportation to and from Long Point, though a small travel grant may be available. Prospective participants are invited to download and complete the application form at the BSC website (www.birdscanada.org/longpoint). Completed applications should be sent to the Doug Tarry Bird Study Awards - Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario N0E 1M0 (fax 519-586-3532), E-mail: lpbo@birdscanada.org.

For those traveling long distances, special grants may also be available to help offset air travel costs. **Applications are due April 15, 2011.** For more information and an application form, contact us at lpbo@birdscanada.org, or visit www.birdscanada.org/longpoint.

WILDLIFE CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across:

1. A midnight hooter
2. This masked mammal is called a "wash bear" in German
7. A dollar bird?
8. A common lakeside bird
10. What water turns into when it's cold
12. It shines at night
14. A tall shade tree
15. Lawns can be described this way
17. The holly and the ____ (A Christmas song)
19. Where a bird lays her eggs
22. What the sun provides to us
23. This tree produces acorns
24. A very slow moving mammal
26. They have feathers
29. A conifer with flat needles
30. A mammal similar to a beaver, but with a round tail
31. The coyote is a member of this family

Down:

1. A bright orange songbird
3. The fruit of the oak tree
4. Trees that stay green and produce cones
5. Leaves a slimy trail behind
6. The smallest bird
9. ____ bug: red with black spots
11. What birds lay
13. It shows up after a shower when the sun shines
16. A smelly mammal with a white stripe
18. A blue and rusty bird in the thrush family
20. One type of this bird is called bald
21. These reptiles have hard shells
25. A freshwater fish (brown, rainbow, brook)
27. What many plants produce this
28. A very large rabbit with long ears



Winter Nature Watch Checklist

Photos, unless otherwise noted, by Marg Werden

Who's looking at you in the bush?

Now that the leaves are off our trees, their once-hidden faces are easier to spot. As you walk, look for some faces in the trees.



BALD EAGLE

Although not a common sight in Norfolk County, the Bald Eagle is making a remarkable comeback in the area. Usually seen near lakes and rivers, the adult Bald Eagle is distinctive with its white head and tail. The Bald Eagle feeds mainly on fish, waterfowl, and mammals that have been captured or scavenged.



PILEATED WOODPECKER HOLE

The largest woodpecker to be found in Norfolk, the Pileated Woodpecker creates very distinctive oval or rectangular holes while looking for food. Their favourite foods include carpenter ants, so they often forage low on dead trees or even on fallen logs. This crow-size bird has a long neck, red crest and obvious white wing patches seen in flight.



WHITE PINE CONE

The White Pine is a tall evergreen with relatively few horizontal large limbs. The needles are 6 to 12 cm long and grow in clusters of **five**. The tree's nutritious seeds, which fall out of the cones as they dry, are eaten by birds and small mammals. The cones are slender, tapered, without thorns, and 8 to 25 cm long.



A tree may have only one eye showing as it mischievously winks at you, it may have both eyes open wide, or you may only spot the nose and mouth of a sleeping tree.



You may be able to tell how the tree is feeling – the signs are there!



Or the tree may be in disguise as a bird or an animal!



Send us your photos of trees looking at you and we'll put the best ones in the next newsletter.



BEAVER TEETH MARKS

The Beaver, the second largest rodent in the world, is the engineer of the animal world, using their teeth to fell trees to build dams and lodges. Their teeth are orange and never stop growing. The outside of their teeth is covered with a strong enamel, but the softer inside wears away faster, which helps to keep the teeth sharp.



RAINBOW TROUT

As the ice leaves the creeks and streams in late winter, the Rainbow Trout begin their upstream journey to spawn. Native to North America west of the Rockies, the Rainbow Trout has been introduced to other parts of the world. They average about 51 to 76 cm long and around 3.6 kg. Watch for them jumping up small dams.



BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

Chickadees are curious and friendly birds and can be easily trained to feed from your hand. Using black sunflower seeds held on the flat of your hand will entice these birds to come close. It may take several days for one of them to become brave enough to land on your hand, but your patience will be rewarded when one finally does.

When Nature Calls Coming Events

WHEN NATURE CALLS

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Chris Bowyer
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Terri Groh
Arden Koptik
Rick Levick
Janice Robertson
Jen Smit
Debbie Solymár
Kaela Vanwynberghe
Megan Wilcox

OWL PROWL

Saturday, February 19, 2011: 7:00 p.m.

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 out on this opportunity! Join us for a walk in the woods as we play the calls of some local owl species and wait for their response. It is sure to be a hootin' good time! Don't forget to bring a flashlight and to dress warmly. Meet at Hay Creek Conservation Area at Radical Road and Port Ryerse Road.

SIMCOE WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

Saturday, March 12 and Sunday, March 13, 2011

This weekend is all about wildlife! Drop by the *When Nature Calls* booth and learn about all the events and activities we have planned for 2011. Our theme is "Forests" and we are excited to have hands-on activities, displays and the very popular 'Sciensational Ssssnakes' to keep you entertained!! Takes place at The Aud at the Norfolk County Fairgrounds.

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

Saturday, April 30, 2011: 12 - 4 p.m.

Earth day is a day dedicated to inspiring awareness and appreciation of our earth, by participating in local activities and events. Join us for an afternoon filled with family fun activities including tree planting, guided nature hike, earth friendly crafts and so much more! This event is a joint partnership between *When Nature Calls*, Long Point Region Conservation Authority and Norfolk County Community Services Department. Meet at Backus Heritage Conservation Area.

LONG POINT – CAROLINIAN NATURE FEST

Saturday, May 28 & Sunday, May 29, 2011: 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

NatureFest is a celebration of our local nature and features a weekend of birding, wildflower identification walks, salamander monitoring, frog and amphibian walks, tree identification, kids activities, displays, workshops, crafts and local foods. There is something for the whole family! Join us at Backus Heritage Conservation Area and throughout the Long Point Biosphere Reserve to experience the best of what Norfolk's nature has to offer.

BIO-BLITZ BONANZA

Sunday, June 5, 2011: 10 a.m.

Celebrate the 'International Year of Forests' by exploring the fascinating and diverse world of a forest habitat. Equipped with field guides and a camera, your task will be to find and identify as many species of plants and animals in one of the best examples of a Carolinian forest. Selected photos will be included in the summer edition of our newsletter 'The Snapper'. Meet at the Backus Woods, Sugar Bush Trail parking lot on the 3rd Concession.

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.

