



# Nature Niagara News

Newsletter of the Niagara Falls Nature Club



Bulletin # 327

## President's Message

Have you noticed our new format for e-messages with brief club updates? These notes have been going out to our membership, but we now have a button on our website home page for non-members to sign-up for occasional update messages too.

Interested in learning more?

Yes, I'd like to sign up for updates on local nature club events

We're eager to share the great news, events and opportunities with our club.

As a member organization of Ontario Nature we benefit from sharing with other nature clubs in the Carolinian East region through biannual gatherings. NFNC will be hosting the next regional meeting on April 6th. We are grateful for the advocacy and leadership the organization provides on our behalf.

## NFNC Appreciation Award

*The following is Joyce's presentation speech to Rhonda.*

The Nature Club Executive has chosen Rhonda Armstrong to be the first recipient of our new award: the Niagara Falls Nature Club Appreciation Award.

Although we all love Rhonda and enjoy her company, that is not the reason she has been chosen. Rhonda has made an enormous contribution to the club in the hours she has worked, the many projects she has helped with, and the jobs she has taken on.

A list, not exhaustive, would include:

- \* President of the Nature Club
- \* Secretary of the Nature Club for many terms
- \* A member of the Board for 18 years
- \* Awards Committee Chairperson
- \* Membership Assistant

With our February AGM we will install our Board of Directors for the coming year. Our many volunteers make for a vibrant community and we are all grateful for their many contributions. To ensure the continued sustainability and growth of our club we need your talent and energy.

Enjoy the outdoors and the beauty of Niagara!

Kerry Kennedy

Memberships for 2019 are now due as our membership year runs from January to December. Renewals can be made at our monthly meetings or by mailing to our postal address listed on the back of this newsletter. Thanks to everyone who has renewed already. It's a great value with a quarterly newsletter and all the great speakers and outings we offer throughout the year!

*by Joyce Sankey*



Rhonda receiving her award from Joyce at our December 2018 meeting. Michael Deeley Photo.

- \* A member of the Programs and Outings Committee
- \* A Wednesday evening walk leader

## Welcome New Members

- There are no new members to report in this issue. Get out and spread the word what a great club NFNC is. We love seeing new faces!

## Meetings at a Glance

- March 13<sup>th</sup> - Ian Smith - Bringing Back Brook Trout in the Niagara Peninsula
- Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> - Annual Dinner Meeting @ Betty's - Audrey Armstrong - Northwest Passage in Franklin's Wake
- May 8<sup>th</sup> - Owen Bjorgan - Hidden Corners Florida - The Making of

## Outings at a Glance

- Sun Feb 24<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am - Fisherville and Selkirk Provincial Parks
- Sun March 17<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30am - Tundra Swans at Long Point
- Good Friday April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00am - 3:00pm - Beamer Point Hawk Watch
- Sat May 4<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00am - Niagara Glen

## Mark Your Calendar

- May 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting - Our annual plant sale. Do you have garden plants that need to be divided? Perhaps you grew too many seedlings. Donate them to our plant sale, an important fundraiser for our club.



## NFNC Appreciation Award cont'd

She has been a valuable team member on the Baden Powell Planting, NPCA Natural Areas Inventory, Niagara Falls Tree Survey, Fairview Cemetery Tree Inventory, and the City of Niagara Falls Woodland Management Survey and she has also helped with many bird counts.

Rhonda, we are deeply thankful for all you have done for the nature club and it gives me great pleasure to present you with the very first Niagara Falls Nature Club Appreciation Award.

## What is the Niagara Falls Nature Club Appreciation Award?

It is presented to a nature club member who has undertaken a diverse and expansive body of work over the course of a number of years, chosen by the current executive board.

This award differs from the City of Niagara Falls award in that it is awarded by the club, limited to nature club members, and requires a substantial contribution over

many years.

This award differs from the R.W. Sheppard Award in that it is not necessarily given for a contribution to conservation and it is limited to club members.

It is not necessarily given each year and will usually be presented at the December meeting.

## Habitat Protection Update

by Joyce Sankey

Perhaps we can see a little light at the end of the tunnel?

We have some new councillors on municipal councils and on regional council. It is time to reach out to them and let them know that many people in Niagara, not just a small special interest group, care about preserving our natural spaces. I have found our newly elected councillors ready to listen. I hope you have too.

The Province sent section 10 of Bill 66 to the public for comments. This bill promoted allowing developments to proceed without public notices and meetings, and in contravention of official plans. Thankfully, many people said no to this and it was withdrawn. We still need to be alert for the aims of this bill to be put forward in other ways.

Many regional and municipal governments in Ontario came out strongly against the anti-democratic provisions in Bill 66. Our Niagara Regional council, despite excellent presentations by MPP Jeff Burch and by Brody Longmuir, voted to support this bill with a few platitudes about considering the environment.

Those of us, who have been active in the nature club for many years, miss our past relationship with the NPCA. Years ago we inventoried NPCA

properties, took part in NPCA projects and NPCA employees came to some meetings and gave us assistance at times. Lately, politics and problems and corruption seem to have taken over the NPCA. With a new board, and after investigations by the auditor general, and now the Ontario Ombudsman, we are hoping for a new beginning.

The Province is asking for comments on the 10-year review of the Species at Risk (SAR) Legislation. One idea that might be promising is the landscape approach, also called an ecosystem approach. This would preserve habitats where species at risk could or do exist rather than look at species in isolation. At one time, Ontario had a strong body of legislation on SAR, but it has been chipped away at over the last ten years. We need to keep what we have and hope to make the legislation stronger in the future. Everyone can read more about the proposed review and submit comments at this link: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4143> until March 4th.

We have been very disheartened by the damage done in the Thundering Waters wetlands by those working for the developer. A violation notice was filed, but the status of this has not been released to the public. The

appeal of the approval of this development goes before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## Annual Dinner Meeting at Betty's in Chippawa

This year our Annual Dinner meeting will take place on Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>. Social hour is 5:00pm - 6:00pm with dinner to follow. Immediately following dinner our guest Audrey Armstrong will be presenting The Northwest Passage in Franklin's Wake.

The tickets are \$35 each and will be available at our February and March meetings from Rick Young. They can

also be reserved by contacting Rick at [rickyong1934@gmail.com](mailto:rickyong1934@gmail.com) / 905-734-6226 or Carol Horvat at [cirrusbirdy@gmail.com](mailto:cirrusbirdy@gmail.com) / 905-687-8562.

Come out and enjoy an evening of good food, good friendship, share a few laughs and learn about The Northwest Passage.



Eastern Flowering dogwood, a SAR. Joyce Sankey photo.



Red-headed woodpeckers at Waverly, a SAR. Joyce Sankey photo.

# Madagascar - the Lost World of Lemurs

by Kiera Newman

Our meeting on November 14th included a wonderful presentation by Maggie and Dave Sims on the incredible diversity and beauty of the Lemurs of Madagascar, primates found nowhere else in the world. Maggie and Dave took their trip to the fourth largest island in the world about a year ago. Madagascar is about 500 km off the Southeastern coast of Africa and is home to 5% of the world's plants and animals. The Sims landed in the capital city of Antananarivo and travelled around the bottom two-thirds of the country.

Their first stop was Lemur Park, a rehabilitation centre for injured and abandoned lemurs. Here, the lemurs were unrestrained and could come and go as they liked. They were given food and medical attention as needed, but otherwise they were allowed to enjoy their wild habitat. They also frequently saw Myna birds, starling relatives that have adapted well to urban environments. The first lemur they saw was a Ring-tailed Lemur, so named for the concentric black and white rings around their long tails. They use their tails for balance, but can't grip with them as some other primates can. They also spend a lot more time on the ground than many other lemur species.

Over the course of their trip, the Sims' learned a lot about lemurs. From the Coquerel's Sifaka, a startling black and white coloured lemur with brilliant orange-yellow eyes that grows up to 4.2 kg to the tiny Pygmy Mouse Lemur, brownish-white and just over 30 g as an adult. Madagascar has about 60 species of lemurs that live in various habitats across the island. They are all endangered due to loss of habitat from urban sprawl and rice paddies. About 85% of the natural forest in Madagascar has been destroyed over the past 65 years. Some lemurs are now critically endangered, such as the Black and White Ruffed lemur, of which there are only about fifty left in the world.



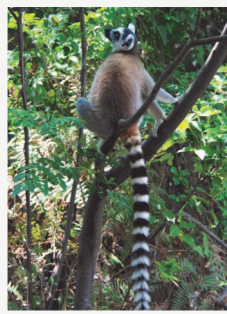
Coquerel's sifaka. Dave Sims photo.

Although their primary focus was the wildlife, Maggie and Dave soon noticed the poverty that surrounded them. Madagascar citizens are poor, most living on less than \$2 per day with 65% of the population below the poverty line. Some are lucky enough to own farms and perhaps some Zebu cattle to help with the work. Although the rich, volcanic soil supports the growth of high-quality rice, most of it is exported for sale while poorer quality rice is imported for domestic consumption. Most homes are made from red clay right from the ground, further destroying habitat needed by native plants and animals. During their visit, Maggie and Dave were not allowed to visit one of the markets due to a plague that was circulating amongst the villagers.

One upside to the rice paddies are the wetlands they create, and the diversity of birds they attract. Species like the Dimorphic, Cattle and Little Egrets and the Malagasy Green sunbird can be found here. As can the Jeweled Chameleon, a lizard with a colourful, complex colour pattern made of red, yellow, black and blue spots that's usually seen in the females.

Their second stop was Ranomafana National Park, created in the late 1980s to protect the Golden Bamboo Lemur. It was at about this time that the Sims' heard the

term, "lemur neck" - the condition visitors get from craning their necks upwards looking for lemurs for hours on end. The Golden Bamboo Lemur does, indeed, eat bamboo. Bamboo has a lot of cyanide, yet these lemurs can consume about twelve times the lethal dose per day - enough to kill 3 men. A specially adapted dung beetle feeds on their excrement and scientists still don't understand their ability to consume that much toxin. Their trip continued with exciting views of Madagascar Ring-tailed Vontsira (mongoose), Common Brown Lemurs, a Milne-Edwards's Sifaka (with a radio-collar), and a Black and White Ruffed Lemur. The latter is so endangered because it can feed on only a few species of trees, which are declining. Some of Madagascar is covered in lush vegetation, with over a thousand species of orchids, many of them endemic. Small geckos and large spiders are also typical on the island, such as the Satanic Leaf-tailed gecko that looks like a dead



Ring-tailed lemur. Dave Sims photo.

leaf. The cat-like Fossa is the largest carnivorous mammal, endemic to Madagascar and weighing less than 25 pounds. Although it will feed on lemurs it is not a major factor in their decline.

Continuing on they visited Anja, a community-managed reserve. This model community is proving successful as it puts the conservation and protection of the lemurs, and management of their habitat in the hands of the local community members. There they saw plenty of Ring-tailed Lemurs, using their tails as "flags" to communicate with one another. Another stop, Zombitse, had some historical significance relating to the sapphires found here in the 1990s, spawning a "gold rush". Foreign mining companies moved in to try to make a profit off the gems. In this area they found nocturnal Sportive lemurs and Verreaux's Sifaka, a teddy bear like lemur with thick white fur. Nearby, the Ifaty Spiny Forest was not home to any lemurs, but they did see slow-growing Baobab trees, some as ancient as 1200 years old!



Verreaux's sifaka. Dave Sims photo.

Travelling with an approved guide they visited Andasibe-Mantadia National Park. Here they saw the small, critically endangered Diademed Sifaka and the Indri. The Indri is the largest lemur species and the only species without a tail. Legend says the name is derived from a French explorer hearing a local say "Indri" and point to the lemur, but "indri" actually means "look" in the local dialect, so perhaps there was another name for the species that is now forgotten.

The island of Madagascar seems like a magical place removed from civilization, filled with special animals so unlike the ones we are used to seeing. But the reality is, the pressures we feel anywhere in the world are also being felt on this secluded island. Lemurs are the most endangered group of vertebrates on Earth. There are many conservation projects underway to protect them, let's hope they work. Thanks Maggie and Dave for opening our eyes to these amazing and fragile creatures!

# Member's Share Night - December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

A variety of topics were presented to us on this evening. This summary was created by the Editor with input from the presenters as noted.

## Birds on the Niagara and an Update on Waverly Woods by Marcie Jacklin

The Niagara Falls Nature Club was asked to take part in the inaugural Birds on the Niagara event on January 26<sup>th</sup>. An update on the event is posted on the back page.



White-winged Scoter male. Marcie Jacklin photo.

Citizen science is the best way for everyone to be engaged in nature and what's happening around us. Some ways to report your sightings electronically are through eBird, Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas, eButterfly and iNaturalist (plants and animals).

As for Waverly Woods, the group Community Voices of Fort Erie was formed to appeal this proposed development that would see a 10-story condo built on the lakefront. The appeal was accepted by the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal (LPAT), the provincial agency that replaced the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). Two pre-hearings have been held to date in Fort Erie. Please visit our website at <https://www.forterievoices.ca/> for updates. Thank you to everyone who purchased a calendar, button or donated. (Editor: If you are able to donate there is a link on this website. They are in for a long fight with this developer and lawyers and expert witnesses are costly.)

## Costa Rica by Skye and Kiera Newman

Skye presented a colourful slide show, with minimal help from her mom, Kiera, of beautiful Costa Rica. The family stayed near Manuel Antonio National park on the West coast. Special memories include seeing two-toed sloths, surfing (not Kiera), hiking Rainmaker National Park, and seeing Spider monkeys. Pura Vida!



A beautiful beach in Costa Rica. Kiera Newman photo.

## Red Bay by Win Laar

Sharing discoveries around Red Bay with those who have and have not joined the club on our several weekend trips there. A presentation in photos of life in and around Evergreen Resort, where we have stayed, as well as some of our favourite destinations on the Bruce Peninsula.

## Correction

My apologies to Carol and Doug for omitting Doug's name from the credits in the article "Crawford

Petrel Point, Oliphant Fen and Bruce Alvar all have habitats not found in the Niagara Peninsula, with rare flora and fauna. Carnivorous plants, beautiful orchids, unusual grasses, goldenrods and fungi delight the naturalist, as do nesting birds out on the islands and in nearby meadows.



Red Bay sunset at Evergreen Resort. Lorraine Brown-Joyce photo.

Nature Club's weekend noted on the back page.

## Nature Sightings 2018 by Rick Young

With a presentation of photos taken from around the local area, sightings from throughout 2018 were shared. Bird observations included Common Loon, Cooper's Hawk and Horned Grebe at Port Colborne, Red-Breasted Nuthatch and Red-Bellied Woodpecker at the backyard feeder. Flowers captured were Wild Columbine and Limestone Calamint at Morgan's Point, Sundrops in Welland and Kalm's St. Johnswort from Windmill Point. Dryad's Saddle and Tippler's Bane fungi were seen at Dufferin Islands and an Oak Polypore at Louth Conservation area. Another interesting sighting was an Eastern Click Beetle at Morgan's Point trying to hitch a ride in a member's lunch bag. To end off, there was a photograph of a Red Squirrel hanging on the backyard peanut feeder.



Wild Columbine at Morgan's Point. Rick Young photo.

## The Czech Republic by Kerry Kennedy

We detoured to the Czech Republic with the Kennedy family to view special hikes they took last summer while cheering for Canada in the World Jr. Rowing Championships. At Bohemian Paradise, a UNESCO Geopark located 100km NE of Prague, they discovered a fascinating 'rock city'. In Bohemian Switzerland, which borders the German border, they hiked to Pravcicka Gate, a large stone arch. They would truly love to return to explore these areas further and recommend the Czech Republic to anyone interested in travelling.

Lake" which appeared in our November 2018 newsletter. The credits should read Carol Horvat and Doug Gillard.

## Here There Be Monsters

by Janice Low

At our January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting Dr. Brian Pihack was our guest speaker, sharing his knowledge of the geology of the Niagara Region, specifically the escarpment and the fossils found in this area. Dr. Pihack is a geologist, an astronomer and a chiropractor. He generously brought samples of his extensive collection of fossils. On display were fossils of ferns, trilobites, worm burrows, fossilized wood, dinosaur bones, brachiopods, horseshoe crabs, seaweed filaments, jawless fish, fossilized early flowering plants and even a zebra tooth.



Eurypterid remipes, 430 million years ago. Win Laar photo.

He illustrated how fossils can be created from these creatures or from their molts, the outer layer cast off as the creatures grow. Molts, he noted, create a less desirable fossil. With the aid of visuals Dr. Pihack described how the Earth was formed

and how the available minerals and the resulting atmosphere eventually contributed to the production of amino acids, then proteins and the beginning of life. He illustrated the Earth's continental drift and the effect of tectonic plate movement that contributed to the formation of the Escarpment, the existence of these lifeforms and subsequently their fossils that exist in our area.

One creature that has successfully existed relatively unchanged for 500 million years are horseshoe crabs. They were described as "living fossils". This is the fourth time that Dr. Pihack has been a presenter for our club. We were most appreciative of his presentation and the fossil display so relevant to his talk.



Cooksonia, earliest flowering plant, 425 million years old. Win Laar photo.

## A Visit to the ROM November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

by Kerry Kennedy

Squeezing between rows of cabinets, our group of eight spent the last Sunday of November marvelling at a variety of avian specimens at the Royal Ontario Museum. Led by Mark Peck we were able to peek into numerous drawers containing birds, eggs and nests in all shapes, sizes and glorious colours from around the globe. Some specimens were collected more than 100 years ago and included extinct species like the Passenger Pigeon and Eskimo Curlew; both birds killed off by overhunting. The discussion naturally led to the topic of the controversial proposed open hunting season for Double-crested Cormorant in Ontario in which hunters could kill up to 50 birds a day.



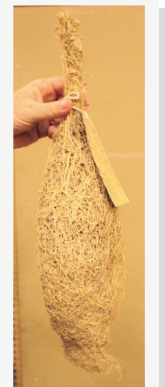
Extinct! Passenger pigeon and Eskimo curlew. Kerry Kennedy photo.

Mark explained that as genetic testing evolves, the

classification system for cataloguing species is also changing. In the past birds were classified by similar characteristics, however, scientists are discovering that these similarities may have emerged through convergent evolution, as genetically different species adapted in similar ways to common environmental conditions.

Examining many varieties of nests, we marvelled at the talent of birds as architects. One large and heavy clay nest was made with dirt, one beak full at a time. Africa's weaver finches intricately create an enclosed nest with a bottom entry and Gnatcatchers from the southern U.S. use spiderwebs and bits of lichen to decorate wee structures.

The ROM's collection is extensive and should you be interested in further research, Mark Peck welcomes public inquiries and visitors.



A weaver finch nest with bottom entry. Kerry Kennedy photo.

## Gulls Galore Outing December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

by Debbie Wright

On a cold December morning, nine adventurous members joined Kayo Roy on his Gulls Galore outing.



Kayo Roy leads the group looking for gulls. Debbie Wright photo.

We started hiking through Dufferin Islands seeing lots of Ring-billed gulls as well as Mallards, Hooded Mergansers, Blue Jays, Cardinals and Nuthatches. When we reached the Niagara River we spotted more Ring-billed Gulls, Herring Gulls and some Goldeneyes. The Whirlpool was disappointing for birds but we did get a great group photo. We had better luck at Sir Adam Beck Generating Station where Kayo pointed out a Glaucous Gull,

Iceland Gull, a few Bonaparte's Gulls and many Ring-billed and Herring Gulls.

We finished at Locust Grove where we searched unsuccessfully for a Black Vulture. Many thanks to Kayo for braving the cold to lead our search for gulls.



The warmly dressed group. Debbie Wright photo.

Where are the birds? I think that was the most common comment by participants in the Niagara Falls Christmas Bird Count this year.

Despite that several record high counts were set. Double-crested Cormorants (158); Northern Saw-whet Owl (tie for 1); Red-bellied Woodpecker (59); and Common Raven (3) were all high counts.

The total number of species seen was 87 plus 2 on count week (Little Gull and Long-eared Owl). The number of

individual birds tallied was 32,532. The accumulative total for the count remains at 164 species and the new accumulative total is 2,241,267 individuals.

Many thanks to the 87 participants including members of the Niagara Falls Nature Club, Peninsula Field Naturalist and Bert Miller Nature Club as well as Buffalo Ornithological Society birders covering the New York State portion of the count. Thanks to Willie D'Anna who organizes the U.S. counters. We couldn't do it without any of you!

Canada Goose	2743	Bald Eagle	2	American Tree Sparrow	81
Tundra Swan	3	Northern Harrier	2	Song Sparrow	8
Northern Shoveler	6	Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	Swamp Sparrow	1
Gadwall	6	Cooper's Hawk	8	White-throated Sparrow	24
Mallard	250	"Accipiter" species	1	White-crowned Sparrow	11
American Black Duck	51	Red-tailed Hawk	84	Dark-eyed Junco	371
Green-winged Teal	1	Eastern Screech Owl	9	Brown-headed Cowbird	14
Canvasback	9	Snowy Owl	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler	2
Redhead	7	Long-eared Owl	1	Northern Cardinal	133
Ring-necked Duck	1	N. Saw-whet Owl	1	bird species	9
Greater Scaup	250	Belted Kingfisher	6		
Lesser Scaup	3	Red-headed Woodpecker	2		
Harlequin Duck	2	Red-bellied Woodpecker	59	Total number of species 87 plus 2 on count week	
Surf Scoter	1	Downy Woodpecker	80	Total number of individuals 32,532	
White-winged Scoter	83	Hairy Woodpecker	5		
Black Scoter	1	Northern Flicker	20		
Long-tailed Duck	410	Pileated Woodpecker	2		
Bufflehead	185	American Kestrel	13		
Common Goldeneye	570	Blue Jay	281		
Hooded Merganser	18	American Crow	45		
Common Merganser	165	Common Raven	3		
Red-breasted Merganser	565	Black-capped Chickadee	178		
"Duck" species	22	Tufted Titmouse	8		
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	30		
Wild Turkey	13	White-breasted Nuthatch	62		
Horned Grebe	3	Brown Creeper	11		
Rock Pigeon	819	Winter Wren	3		
Mourning Dove	306	Carolina Wren	13		
Bonaparte's Gull	243	Golden-crowned Kinglet	12		
Little Gull	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2		
Ring-billed Gull	1228	Eastern Bluebird	29		
Herring Gull	3868	American Robin	238		
Iceland Gull	6	Gray Catbird	2		
Glaucous Gull	3	Northern Mockingbird	15		
Great Black-backed Gull	53	European Starling	17116		
"Gull" species	125	House Sparrow	828		
Red-throated Loon	18	House Finch	194		
Common Loon	2	Purple Finch	1		
Double-crested Cormorant	158	Common Redpoll	20		
Great Blue Heron	14	Pine Siskin	3		
Black Vulture	6	American Goldfinch	252		
Turkey Vulture	12				

NIAGARA FALLS NATURE CLUB  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31 2018

<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Memberships	\$ 1,535.00	\$ 1,990.00
Donation H.S. Martin Memorial Award	\$ 200.00	
Donation Conservation	\$ 2,500.00	
Bank Interest	\$ 620.00	\$ 328.00
Fund Raising (Draws, Coffee, Pens, Crest, Books, Plant Sale)	\$ 106.02	\$ 108.67
Other Income: Annual Dinner Meeting	\$ 455.25	\$ 284.25
	<u>\$ 2,013.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,895.00</u>
	\$ 7,429.27	\$ 4,605.92
 <u>EXPENSES</u>		
Bulletins (printing, envelopes, postage)	\$ 122.80	\$ 49.19
Meetings (incl. "Directions" Meetings, Rent, Speakers)	\$ 905.50	\$ 613.00
Printing (Schedules)	\$ 145.78	\$ 134.48
Liability Insurance (F.O.N.)	\$ 469.80	\$ 469.80
Rental P.O. Box	\$ 187.58	\$ 183.06
Annual Dinner	\$ 1,920.80	\$ 1,740.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 139.46	\$ 12.64
Administration	\$ 15.79	\$ 164.79
NFNC Website	\$ 93.36	\$ 93.36
 Microphone		 \$ 150.00
Donations The Owl Foundation	\$ 400.00	\$ 350.00
Brock University	\$ 200.00	
Bruce Trail	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Adopt-A-Pond (Toronto Zoo)		\$ 50.00
Memorial Donation (HEARTLAND Forest)		\$ 225.00
 Awards	 \$ 45.14	 \$ 39.55
Subscriptions and fees:		
Niagara Land Trust		\$ 150.00
Ontario Nature (F.O.N.)		\$ 83.00
Long Point Bird Observatory	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00
	<u>\$ 4,731.01</u>	<u>\$ 4,592.87</u>
Excess of Revenue over expense	\$ 2,698.26	\$ 13.05
Balance of assets January 1, 2017	<u>\$ 9,730.99</u>	<u>\$ 9,717.94</u>
Balance of Assets December 31, 2018	\$ 12,429.25	\$ 9,730.99
 Bank Account #124851369	 \$ 3,399.25	 \$ 3,000.99
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 6,700.00
Membership Float	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
	<u>\$ 12,429.25</u>	<u>\$ 9,730.99</u>
 Assets consisting of: Current Account	 \$ 9,965.77	 \$ 7,537.51
Designated Conservation	\$ 1,955.00	\$ 1,685.00
Funds for Fieldwork	\$ 508.48	\$ 508.48
	<u>\$ 12,429.25</u>	<u>\$ 9,730.99</u>
 <u>TOTAL</u>		

## Niagara Falls Nature Club

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### 2018-2019 Executive

Honorary President - Kay McKeever

President - Kerry Kennedy

Past President and Secretary - Win Laar

Vice President - Kiera Newman

Treasurer - Gisele Mills

Conservation Director - Joyce Sankey

Directors - Paula Clark - Tara Darling

- Michael Deeley - Doug Gillard

- Carol Horvat - Rick Young

Newsletter Editor - Lorraine Brown-Joyce

Webmaster - Kerry Kennedy

Archivist - Denise Davies

### About Us

The Niagara Falls Nature Club is an affiliate club of Ontario Nature. Non-members are invited to try out club programs to learn about meetings, walks or outings. Should you wish to continue your involvement, please become a member.

Regular meetings with guest speakers are held on the second Wednesday of each month from September - May with the exception of April (dinner meeting). June has a potluck picnic. Doors open at 6:40 pm for refreshments and social time, meetings begin at 7:00 pm and are held at the Niagara Falls Public Library, 4848 Victoria Ave.

Memberships are due January 1st and cover a calendar year, January 1st - December 31st. The cost is \$15 for students, \$25 for a single membership or \$35 for a family and can be purchased at our monthly meetings or by mail. Membership forms are available at meetings or on our web site.

Nature Niagara News, newsletter of the Niagara Falls Nature Club is published four times per year (February, May, August and November). Submissions for the next issue are due by the end of the month prior to publication.

Club members are encouraged to send in articles, photos, stories, observations and outing reviews to [nfncnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:nfncnewsletter@gmail.com). Material accepted may be edited and will be used subject to space allowances.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Niagara Falls Nature Club or the Editor.

Thank you to all the members who make time to contribute to make a great newsletter!

## Birds on the Niagara Event Update

by Marcie Jacklin



Kerry surprised to see a Chickadee land on her hand. Marcie Jacklin photo.

Kerry Kennedy was approached by two US organizations, the Niagara River Greenway and the Buffalo Audubon Society to participate in a two-day event called Birds on the Niagara. This is the first time this event has been held. The idea was to provide a forum for people to learn more about bird watching on both sides of the border. Kerry was joined by myself, Lynda Goodridge, Dawn Pierrynowski and Win Laar

on Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. We watched for participants and lead brief tours through Dufferin Islands and over to the Niagara River. Cold weather had an impact on the number of participants but we were interviewed by the Niagara Falls Review and Niagara This Week and the articles appeared in newspapers around Niagara. Many indoor and outdoor activities were offered on the US side and we are planning to expand this event on the Canadian side next year.



Hooded Merganser male in the Niagara River. Marcie Jacklin photo.

## Bruce Peninsula Nature Weekend May 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

BIRDING FIELD TRIPS  
GENERAL NATURE/BOTANY FIELD TRIPS  
BUCKET RAFFLE AND BIRD QUIZ

Limestone cliffs and sand beaches, hardwood forests and cedar swamps, fens and alvars - this variety of ecosystems on the Bruce Peninsula makes it a special place for naturalists.

South Peel Naturalists' Club extends an invitation to members of the Niagara Falls Nature Club to join us to explore the Bruce Peninsula. This annual weekend event

provides the opportunity to see the best of the Bruce with expert leaders and in the company of fellow naturalists.

The cost per person for the weekend:

- \$20 registration fee to cover the cost of bucket raffle prizes and lodging for volunteer leaders
- \$244 (+ 13% taxes) for two nights accommodation at Evergreen Resort, Mar, ON (includes all meals and snacks)

For further information: [mail@spnc.ca](mailto:mail@spnc.ca) or contact Donna at 905-815-0933 or Audrey at 905-820-2571