



INGERSOLL DISTRICT NATURE CLUB / 2019 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

[W] January 19 – Beachville Trail towards Woodstock – Carpool Lot at 9:00 a.m.

Contact Sheila, 519-485-2645.

This well-maintained trail is used by many in winter and is easy to negotiate. There are two or three side loops which provide access to the Thames River. Some may choose to try the loops and not the full extent of this dead end trail. Carpool from the Ingersoll Municipal Lot to the west of the Town's Arena or access starting point of trail via east extension of Queen Street in Beachville which connects with County Road #11. Hot chocolate provided.

[I] Natural Selections – January 31 – 7:00 p.m. Contact Sheila, 519-485-2645.

Co-hosted by the Ingersoll District Nature Club and the Ingersoll Public Library

A four-part series of illustrated talks on nature and the environment, with emphasis on our local landscape. Join us monthly on Thursday nights on January 31, February 21, March 21 and April 18 in the Ingersoll Library meeting room to learn from our informative speakers.

January 31 - Professor Alan MacEachern, Dept. of History, Western University

“Of First Blossoms and First Lawn Mowers: What a Century of Weather Observations Can Tell Us About Climate Change”

Dr. MacEachern believes that climate change is the most pressing environmental issue of our time and understanding climate change requires access to records of climate history. Under his direction, Environment Canada's massive data collection has been relocated to Western University for study where he and his students have mined Canadian meteorological and climatological history, spanning the 1820s to the 1960s. This talk is sure to be informative and supplemental to changes many of us have already experienced and noted in our own span of life.

[W] Owl Prowl at the Lawson Nature Reserve – Sunday, February 10 - 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Contact Meg, 519-485-4220

Join David Baird, local naturalist, in a prowling through our woods in search of the secretive screech owl. Dress warmly according to weather; bring a flashlight. In order to keep groups to a reasonable size so as not to frighten our feathered friends, we ask that you call Meg to register. Hot chocolate will be provided. This is a great winter activity for children big and small!

[I] – Lecture Series - Natural Selections – February 21 – 7:00 p.m. Contact Sheila, 519-485-2645.

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February 21 - Gavin Houston, Southern Ontario Fisheries Enhancement Initiative

“Of Fish and Quarries – New Efforts for Strategic Rehabilitation”

A discussion about improvements to current rehabilitation practices in the aggregate industry, contributing to sustainability, and giving back to those communities most affected by aggregate extraction.

[W] February 23 – Winter Walk for Warmth – 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Lawson Reserve.

Contact Rob, 519-608-3032.

Join us in a “night walk” on the “Coldest Day of the Year” to simulate what those less fortunate, particularly the homeless, have to contend with on a daily basis in our area and the County as a whole. This is an opportunity to collect donations on behalf of these individuals – either non-perishable food or cash donations – to support local foodbanks or The Inn (a homeless shelter in Woodstock). This event is a partnership between the Club and the Township of South West Oxford Council. See attached poster.

[W] March 9 – Springwater Conservation Area and Maple Syrup Festival /Aylmer Swans – Carpool Lot at 9:00

Contact Meg, 519-485-4220

The Springwater Forest is a national rarity, a 150 hectare Carolinian Forest, which contains more endangered species than any other zone in Canada. The forest contains a diverse variety of interdependent animals and plants. March also features



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the Maple Syrup Festival – great pancakes! Weather and time permitting, a stop at the Aylmer viewing stands to watch migrating swans and geese will follow.

[I] Lecture Series - Natural Selections – March 21 – 7:00 p.m. Contact Sheila, 519-485-2645.

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Larry Cornelis - "Bringing Nature to your Backyard"

Larry Cornelis, an award winning naturalist, will guide us on how to invite nature into our lives and backyards. Larry says "we need our landscapes to do more and be better for our natural environment". Learn how to attract and benefit birds, bees, butterflies and other creatures through creating an ecologically functional and responsible home landscape. His presentation will focus on the success of his own naturalized landscape.

[I] Lecture Series - Natural Selections – April 18 – 7:00 p.m. Contact Sheila, 519-485-2645.

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April 18 - Ian Wilcox, General Manager, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority "Thames River – Past, Present and Future"

The Thames River watershed winds throughout Oxford County and has had its ebbs and flows over the decades. UTRCA's Ian Wilcox will describe the health, care and future opportunities for the Thames.

April 20 – Earth Day Cleanup at Lawson Reserve/ 9:00 a.m. at Reserve. Contact Sheila, 519-485-2645.

Come help with trail, building and signage maintenance at the Reserve. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

[W] April 27 – Calton Marsh /Carpool Lot at 6:00 p.m. Contact Ken, 519-539-5234

Let's explore the Calton Marsh and its many amphibious friends. Spring is the best time to listen to a frog chorus. Led by naturalist Dave Baird, kids big and small will learn how frogs survive the winter and act as beacons for our environment.

[W] May 11 – Rondeau Provincial Park (Note: Early Departure from Carpool Lot at 7:30 a.m.)

Contact Terry, 519-423-4844

Join us on a day's outing to this world renowned bird watching destination that attracts birdwatchers from across Ontario and beyond. Migration will be in full swing – birding at its best. The park features old growth Carolinian forest along with extensive coastal wetland. Nature photographers are welcome to join us.

[W] May 25 – Jackson – Gunn Old Growth Forest / Carpool Lot at 9:00 a.m. Contact Ken, 519-539-5234

This property is owned by the Long Point Basin Land Trust and is one of the most spectacular old growth forests remaining in southern Ontario. Located near the Lake Erie shoreline in Norfolk County and east of Port Burwell, some of the property's trees have stood for almost three centuries.

June 8 – Lawson Nature Reserve Clean-up Day / 9:00 a.m. at Reserve. Contact Sheila, 519-485-2645.

Community members are welcome to join us for clean-up activities at the Reserve, including trail maintenance, garlic mustard extraction and painting. Bring gloves, bug spray and water proof boots.

[W] June 22 – Pinery Provincial Park / Note: Early Departure from Carpool Lot at 7:30 a.m.

Contact Ken, 519-539-5234

Join us as we hike the Pinery to explore its Oak Savanna woodland, some of the only remaining in North America. The park's unique ecosystem can be explored on trails, beaches or quiet reaches of the old Ausable Channel. Be sure to bring your picnic lunch.



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July 20 – Club Summer BBQ / 4:30 p.m. Contact Rob, 519-608-3032 or Sheila, 519-485-2645.

Join us at Rob and Marilyn Alexander's, 288 Thames St. S. to celebrate summer. All are welcome. Please bring a salad or dessert – all other food and drink provided. We also ask that you bring your own plate, cup and cutlery so we can reduce waste.

[W] September 7 – St. Mary's Avon Trail. Carpool Lot at 9:00 a.m. Contact Meg, 519-485-4220

Join us as we hike a portion of this 113 km scenic trail. We will walk a portion of the Grand Trunk Trail which follows the old rail line, including the high bridge over the river which provides magnificent views of the countryside on one side and St. Mary's on the other. Of interest, the entire trail from St. Mary's to Conestoga provides a link between the Thames Valley Trail and the Grand River Trail.

[W+I] September 21 – Annual General Meeting / 4:00 p.m. Contact Sheila, 519-485-2645.

Meet at Don and Ruth Bucknell's property (Mud Lake) at 363284 McBeth Road (west) for an informative walk of their field and trail system followed by a potluck dinner at the Ingersoll Seniors Centre. Our AGM reviews the highlights of the year and is an opportunity to hear new ideas for the next. Guest speaker to be confirmed. Walk starts at 4:00 p.m. / Potluck at 5:30 p.m. with the Club providing beverages.

[W] October 5– Fungus Walk / 1:30 p.m. Meet at Lawson Reserve. Contact Peter, 519-425-0429

An expert on fungi will lead the tour and identify fungus at the Lawson Reserve. Fungi are different from animals and plants. At one time they were considered to be plants but in the late 1960's, they were classified as their own kingdom. A fungus breaks down dead organic matter around it and uses it as food. Come and see what specimens can be found at the Lawson Nature Reserve.

[W] October 19 – Hodges Pond / Carpool at 9:00 a.m. Contact Ken, 519-439-5234

See firsthand the long term project to clean up Cedar Creek and ultimately the Thames River. Hodges Pond and the surrounding 400 acres owned by the County of Oxford are in the process of being re-naturalized. The objective is the re-establishment of the natural Cedar Creek bed channel and creation of multiple wetland areas. Joint project of Cowan Foundation, the County, Stewardship Oxford, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the UTRCA, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

[I] November 24 – Festive Potluck / 1:00 p.m. at Ingersoll Seniors Centre. Contact Sheila, 519-485-2645

A grand opportunity to celebrate all the wonders of nature. Everyone is welcome to join our potluck and meeting at the Ingersoll Seniors Centre and hear our guest speaker. Bring your own plate, cup and cutlery so we can reduce waste.

[W] December 28 – Christmas Bird Count / 9:00 a.m. at Lawson Reserve.

Contact Terry, 519-423-4844 or Peter, 519-425-9429

Started in 1900, the Christmas Bird Count is North America's longest running citizen science project. Counts happen in over 2000 localities throughout the Western Hemisphere. Join the camaraderie – come out to the Reserve and help with the count. We work as a group – no bird identification experience necessary.

Legend:

- * **[W]** Nature Walk - Carpool at the municipal lot behind the arena at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.
- * **[I]** Most indoor events will take place at the Ingersoll Public Library at 7:00 p.m.

Please recheck our website for changes to details and added indoor and outdoor events throughout the year.

We welcome newcomers to participate in any and all of our activities. We are interested in the development and preservation of nature in Oxford County.

For more information on the Club and the Lawson Nature Reserve go to:

www.ingersollnatureclub.com