



## INGERSOLL DISTRICT NATURE CLUB / 2022-23 ACTIVITIES

**Please note:** *For all travel locations we meet at the municipal parking lot to the west of the Ingersoll Arena at 9:00 a.m., unless otherwise stated.* Families will be encouraged to drive themselves to hiking locations. For any activities at the Lawson Nature Reserve, please go directly there. Should we experience another wave of COVID-19, restrictions may apply.

*All activities are subject to change. We will do our best to notify in advance.*

### **NEW!!!**

**Library Lecture Series – NATURE NOTES** – Back by popular demand! IDNC will feature monthly talks between January and April at the Ingersoll Public Library – 7:00 p.m., mid-month Wednesday. See details below.

## 2022-23 ACTIVITIES GUIDE

### **Saturday, September 17 / BUTTERNUT SEED ORCHARD**

**Depart Carpool Area at 9:30 a.m. – Tour starts at 10:00 a.m.**

Join club members and **Brenda Gallagher**, UTRCA, for a guided tour of the *Southern Ontario Butternut Seed Orchard* (SOBSO), along with their Assisted Migration Trial site, near Innerkip. The UTRCA, working with the Forest Gene Conservation Association, is seeking to preserve endangered native butternut trees. This small grafted tree plot was established in 2015 to help save and maintain butternut trees against “butternut canker” with the ultimate goal of reintroducing butternut to our landscape. Come learn more about this interesting project. For more information, contact Sheila at 519-485-2645.

*Visit to be followed by a brief **Annual General Meeting** to set the terms of our Executive and provide a briefing on work required at the Lawson Nature Reserve with respect to phragmites eradication. We plan to meet (and eat) at the Innerkip Golf Course Club House.*

### **Saturday, October 22 / SPRINGWATER CONSERVATION AREA**

The Springwater Forest is one of the more popular trails in our area with three main trails covering eight kilometres in length. Interpretive signage helps hikers understand and appreciate the unique beauties of the forest. The Springwater Forest is a national rarity, a 150-hectare Carolinian Forest containing more endangered species than any other zone in Canada. Pileated woodpeckers are often heard and seen while walking the trails. Come enjoy the beauties of our fall deciduous woodlands. For more information, call Meg at 519-485-4220.

### **Saturday, November 12 / CARMEUSE LIMESTONE VALLY TRAIL**

In 2020, Carmeuse, in conjunction with the Beachville Museum and UTRCA, opened an interesting trail system for the public’s enjoyment. Built on old reclaimed mine property, on Domtar Line (41 Line) just north of the Thames River, this trail provides access to both nature and limestone kiln artifacts showcasing local mining history dating back to the 1800s. Installation of bird and bat boxes along the trail provide an inviting habitat for species in decline, along with a new pollinator-friendly garden sanctuary to support bee and Monarch butterfly populations. Contact Meg, 519-485-4220.



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### **Sunday, November 27 –1:00 p.m. / FESTIVE POTLUCK CELEBRATION and THE BUZZ ON BUMBLE BEES: What are They, and How can we Help Them?**

A grand opportunity to celebrate all the wonders of nature. Everyone is welcome to join our potluck and short administrative update at the **Ingersoll Seniors Centre, 250 Ingersoll St. South.**

Lunch first, then enjoy our guest speaker, **Dana Church**, author of *“The Beekeepers”*, an expression of concern for the plight of our pollinators. *“Beautifully interweaves storytelling, scientist biopics, bumble bee science, and understanding human impacts on the environment.” – Dr. Amy Toth, Associate Professor, Iowa State University*

Ever mindful of landfills and waste, please bring your own plate, cup and cutlery so we can continue to reduce waste. Contact: Sheila, 519-485-2645

### **Tuesday, December 27 - 9:00 a.m. at Lawson Nature Reserve / CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

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. Binoculars a definite asset... Contact: Peter, 519 425 0429

### **Wednesday, January 18 – 7:00 p.m. / LIBRARY NATURE NOTES with Jim Rule – *Our Arboretum: Local Stewardship in Action***

Join local naturalist Jim Rule to hear how he and his wife, Margaret, turned their 10 acres into a thriving example of what the Carolinian Zone can still strive to be – rich in biodiversity. An inspiration as to what vision and hard work can achieve. Jim is a past Board Member of the Thames Talbot Land Trust and a recently retired educator/lecturer in Special Education at Western University. Contact Sheila, 519-485-2645

### **Saturday, January 21 / OXFORD THAMES RIVER TRAIL (Beachville, East of village trail)**

This maintained trail is well travelled in winter and the trails are well marked. The committee’s goal to develop, construct and maintain their trails to the highest possible standards to allow everyone the opportunity to explore the historically significant heritage river - The Thames River – has certainly been met. The trail project has been instrumental in restoring ecological function to the Thames River Corridor after years of neglect and misuse. Contact Sheila, 519-485-2645.

### **Wednesday, February 15 – 7:00 p.m. / LIBRARY NATURE NOTES with Brenda Gallagher – *Exploring Wetlands***

Join Upper Thames River Conservation Authority’s Brenda Gallagher (Forestry Technician (Vegetation)) to learn more about the importance of wetlands. Southern Ontario is home to four types of wetlands: bogs, fens, swamps and marshes. This talk explores the unique features of each and how they function. Discover some of the mysterious plants and animals that inhabit these fascinating ecosystems. Contact Sheila, 519-485-2645



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### **Saturday, February 18 / VANSITTART WOODS**

The Vansittart Woods offers several loop options to make this trail shorter or longer as desired. Although it's quite close to the highway, there are certainly some beautiful spots such as a pond, a cedar forest and very tall trees which make the trail feel secluded. A lovely way to spend a winter morning. Contact Ken, 519-539-5234.

### **Wednesday, March 15 – 7:00 p.m. / LIBRARY NATURE NOTES with Brandon Williamson – *Managing Invasive Plant and Forest Pest Species***

Join Upper Thames River Conservation Authority's Brandon Williamson (Land Management Coordinator) as he discusses managing the negative effects of invasive plant and forest pest species. Of special interest to the Lawson Nature Reserve, where phragmites is a significant cause of concern. Contact Sheila, 519-485-2645.

### **Saturday, March 18 / TRILLIUM WOODS AND MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL**

Trillium Woods Provincial Nature Reserve is situated on a flat-to-gently rolling ground moraine created by glaciers. The soils here are predominantly silty and well drained. The nature reserve is near the northern limit of the Carolinian forest region and supports a mature forest of sugar maple, white ash, black cherry, bitternut hickory, beech and butternut. The one km trail is accessible to the physically challenged. Unfortunately, no trilliums to be seen in March! But March does bring Jakeman's Maple Syrup Festival – come sample their great syrup and pancakes! Producing since 1876! Contact Meg, 519-485-4220

### **Saturday, April 15 / HODGES' POND**

In 2015 a re-naturalization project was started to return the roughly 400-acres of land to its original status. The pond was originally built as a mill pond, but the subsequent re-opening of the dam and reconnection of the stream to Cedar Creek has provided environmental benefits such as improved flood reduction and water quality for the Thames river. It also sustains new vegetation and wildlife habitat. This project ties into Future Oxford's Community Sustainability plan to protect and restore the ecosystem. An interesting walk! Contact Ken, 519-539-5234.

### **Wednesday, April 19 – 7:00 p.m. / LIBRARY NATURE NOTES with Phil Holst, *Hodges Pond Restoration 2.0***

Coinciding with Saturday's walk, join us to hear how Phil Holst's leadership and continued reclamation of Hodges' Pond has worked its magic, specifically the opening of the new section of trail on the east side of Cedar Creek. This work leaves a lasting legacy for generations to come. Contact Sheila, 519-485-2645.

### **Saturday, May 13 / THAMES TALBOT LAND TRUST – ROSS'S WOODS**

Join us for a guided tour of the 23-hectare (56-acre) Ross's Woods, part of the Five Points Woods Wetland Complex and an important wildlife refuge. The mixed deciduous/coniferous forest contains unusual habitats such as stands of hemlock and many large mature trees of various species. Streams support cold-water fish species, and spring-fed provincially significant wetlands furnish essential habitat for amphibians and turtles. Rare species of dragonflies, butterflies, birds, and plants make their homes here. Ross's Woods



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and adjacent lands are regularly visited and inhabited by 150 bird species, at least 35 of which are priority species in Bird Conservation Region 13, and at least 2 which are Species at Risk. Newly opened to the public. Contact Sheila, 519-485-2645.

### **Saturday, June 3 – 9:00 a.m. meet at the Reserve / LAWSON NATURE RESERVE CLEAN-UP DAY**

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.

Contact: Peter, 519-425-0429

### **Saturday, June 24 / KOMOKA PROVINCIAL PARK**

Join us for a hike through this fascinating landscape near London. Along the Thames river, the ravine is deep with steep edges. It forms a beautiful valley, heavily forested and punctuated with exposed cliff banks. By walking to the very end of the eastern blue trail we will be greeted with a sensational view of the Thames River and surrounding countryside. More than 100 rare species live here due the park's ideal location, landscape, and unique ecology of the ravine. Komoka Park provides vital protection for these rare species, several of which are endangered or threatened. Species that include the American Badger, Eastern Hog-nosed Snake, Least Bittern, the Spiny Softshell turtle, and the Black Tern. This park is a must-see for its beauty and environmental importance. Contact: Ken, 519-539-5234

***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 about the Club and the Lawson Nature Reserve go to:

<http://www.ingersollnatureclub.com>

### **Magnolia Warbler – Lawson Nature Reserve**



*Photo Credit: Terry Parker*