

November 22nd, 2018

Twenty four guests enjoyed James Kamstra's description of the Natural history of Cuba along with geography , architecture and a touch of historical culture. He explained how despite Cuba's close proximity to Florida, Yucatan and other Caribbean Islands it has evolved its own unique diversity of species. In particular the lizards (anoles) , and amphibians (frogs) have many more species than we might expect possibly as result of few mammalian predators . Jay Thibert's incredible close photos of the birds was a major contribution to the slides, his sequence of the Cuban heron catching a fish was a bonus feature. The Cuban Eco tour was taken last February by six members of North Durham Nature .

Thursday, April 26th, 2018 - Polar Bears of Ontario's North Shore - Dr. Martyn Obbard

Dr. Martyn Obbard presented his findings of many years of polar bear research in northern Ontario on Thursday night to a record crowd of almost 70 people at the Port Perry library. He believes our impact on carbon dioxide levels has resulted in the decline of sea ice and the ultimate decline in polar bear populations in the areas he studied. He used a BBC video clip to show the importance of sea ice for polar bear hunting seals, and still maps and graphs to indicate the ice decline over time with increases in carbon dioxide levels. He strongly believes that we must make wise choices to provide long term protection for the polar bears. Recently retired Dr. Obbard continues his quest to save the polar bear.

Thursday, March 22nd, 2018 - Spiders of Ontario - Tom Mason - Uxbridge

Tom kept the audience of thirty people enthralled till 9 pm with his stories of his close encounters with scorpions, Black widows and spiders of every size around the world and here in Ontario. Their adaptations to fly with a balloon of silk many kilometres off shore, to spit and catch their prey, their traps, their lures, their incredible eyes , their sharp spikes, their jaws , their dances and jumps, ...gosh so much behavioural and physical variety in eight legged creatures. Tom has been bitten handling spiders but generally they tend not to bite at all just run away. He claims many of the bites we get which we blame on spiders are not spiders at all. In any case I am happy to just look and photo that big dock spider at the cottage!

January 25th, 2018 - AGM and Nature Quiz Night

A fun night of nature interpretation! Approximately 30 participants circled around in teams to several tables with different nature objects (skulls, furs, nests, feathers, foot prints) and tested their ID skills. The answers were revealed through a Power Point presentation delivered by North Durham Nature's Vice President, Cara Gregory. Participants found some items challenging, but did very well, and enjoyed getting to know other members. Thanks to members that contributed to the table items.

Annual Report

Minutes