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Nature Network News



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Conservation updates for member groups.



Hike 4 Birds Inspires Youth to Connect with Nature

Join Dr. Sonya Richmond, ornithologist and GIS analyst with Birds Canada, and her partner Sean Morton as they [hike The Great Trail](#) (formerly the Trans Canada Trail). The couple is hiking across Canada to inspire youth and families to connect with nature through birding and citizen science. Their quest will take them through Ontario this summer and everyone is invited to "[come walk with us](#)" in person or follow their progress online. Dr. Richmond is also available to talk to interested

naturalist groups about her and Sean's amazing trek.



Nominate your Nature Hero for a Conservation Award

There is still time for you to submit your nominations for the [2019/2020 Conservation Awards](#). These annual awards recognize the excellence of individuals, groups, government agencies and corporations who have worked to protect nature in Ontario. All award recipients will be honoured at our Annual Gathering on June 6 at Evergreen Resort on the South Bruce Peninsula. **The deadline for nominations is March 27, 2020.** Visit the Ontario Nature [website](#) for more information about the award categories and submission guidelines.



New Thunder Bay Nature Reserve in the Works

Congratulations to the [Thunder Bay Field Naturalists](#) who have had their offer to purchase [a new nature reserve](#) near Thunder Bay accepted! The group is now busy raising funds to complete the purchase by June 4. The 229-hectare property, located near Granite Point on Black Bay, is a haven for numerous species at risk, including American white pelicans, Caspian terns and bald eagles. Visit the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists [website](#) to learn more about how you can help the group secure this important parcel of shoreline habitat.



New TD Park People Grant Program Accepting Applications

TD and Park People are pleased to announce the launch of their [TD Park People grant](#). The new grant will give groups in the Greater Toronto Area and Ottawa-Gatineau up to \$2,000 to host community stewardship events in their local parks and green spaces. Eligible activities include park cleanups, native tree plantings and movie nights. **The deadline for applications is March 2, 2020.** Visit the TD Park People Grant Program [website](#) for more information or to download the application form.



Ontario Master Naturalists Winter Workshops Now Available

The [Ontario Master Naturalists Program \(OMNP\)](#) has launched our new winter 2020 workshops. In addition to old favourites such as winter dendrology, we've introduced new topics of interest for naturalists of any age: climate change, mammal tracking and gardening with moss. The dates for the spring OMNP workshops are also available. Join us from May 23 to June 21 at Lakehead University to broaden your knowledge and expertise of the natural world through formal training and guidance. The [OMNP](#) is a partnership between Lakehead University and Ontario Nature.



Join Ontario Nature for the Trip of a Lifetime to Costa Rica

Worldwide Quest is thrilled to present a special [trip to Costa Rica](#) on October 4-11, 2020. Led by Ontario Nature's Executive Director Caroline Schultz, the trip will showcase the Olive Ridley Turtles of Guanacasta province as thousands of female turtles come ashore to dig nests and lay their eggs. Designed exclusively for Ontario Nature members and friends, the tour is limited to 14 participants so [reserve your spot now](#). Visit the Worldwide Quest [website](#) to learn more about this great opportunity.

Events

North Durham Nature

- *Winter Wetland Snowshoe Adventure*, Saturday February 22 @ 9:00am at Nonquon Provincial Wildlife Area; all ages welcome; meet at the Nonquon Environmental Education Centre (10745 Old Simcoe Road, Pheasant Pen classroom) in Greenbank; for more information or to register contact friendsofnonquon@gmail.com.

- *Madagascar: Not the Disney Version with Otto Peter*, Tuesday February 25 @ 7:00pm at Scugog Memorial Library (231 Water Street) in Port Perry; for more information visit the North Durham Nature [website](#).

Nature Barrie

- *Bats: Creatures of the Night with Alexa Pompilio and David d'Entremont*, Friday February 21 @ 7:30pm at North West Barrie United Church Hall (464 Ferndale Drive North) in Barrie; for more information visit the Nature Barrie [website](#).
- *Horned Larks with Brian Gibbon and Brian Backland*, Saturday March 7 @ 8:30am; meet at the Little Lake parking lot, east of Little Lake Drive; for more information contact Brian Gibbon at 705-721-4599.
- *Before and Beyond: The Bird Island with Paul and Susan Forde*, Friday March 20 @ 7:30pm at North West Barrie United Church Hall (464 Ferndale Drive North) in Barrie; for more information visit the Nature Barrie [website](#).
- *Spring Birds in Minesing*, Sunday April 5 @ 7:45am; meet at the Little Lake parking lot, east of Little Lake Drive; for more information contact Chris Evans at 705-722-1136.
- *American Woodcocks Outing*, Wednesday April 15 @ 7:30pm meet at the Little Lake parking lot, east of Little Lake Drive; for more information contact Ian Cook at 705-727-4004.
- *Spring Outing to Algonquin Provincial Park*, Saturday April 25 @ 6:30am; meet at the Little Lake parking lot, east of Little Lake Drive; for more information contact Jim Coey at 705-543-1866.

Bert Miller Nature Club of Fort Erie

- *Weeds: Good and Bad and How to Tell the Difference with Carla Carlson (Niagara Nature Tours)*, Monday February 17 @ 7:00pm at the Fort Erie Conservation Club (2555 Ott Road) in Stevensville; visit the Bert Miller Nature Club [website](#) for more information.
- *Winter Tree Identification Walk with Paul Philp*, Saturday February 22 @ 10:30am at Shagbark Nature Park (Burleigh Road) in Ridgeway; for more information contact Paul Philp at 905-894-2723.
- *Presentation on Fungi with Inga Hinnerichsen (Norfolk Field Naturalists)*, Monday March 16 @ 7:00pm at the Fort Erie Conservation Club (2555 Ott Road) in Stevensville; visit the Bert Miller Nature Club [website](#) for more information.

Midland-Penetanguishene Field Naturalists

- *Snowflakes and Exploring the Universe at our Feet with Don Komorechka*, Thursday February 20 @ 7:30pm at the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre in Midland.

Norfolk Field Naturalists

- *Winter Backus Woods Tree Ecology Hike*, Sunday March 1 @ 1:00pm in the north tract of Backus Woods; meet at the Backus Woods parking lot on the south side of Highway 24: for more information contact Len at 519-428-6796.
- *Presentation on the History of Birding with Richard Skevington*, Tuesday March 10 @ 7:30pm at Simcoe Seniors Centre (89 Pond Street) in Simcoe; for more information visit the Norfolk Field Naturalists [website](#).
- *Presentation on the Geology of Ontario with John Johnston (University of Waterloo)*, Tuesday April 14 @ 7:30pm at Simcoe Seniors Centre (89 Pond Street) in Simcoe; for more information visit the Norfolk Field Naturalists [website](#).
- *Timberdoodle Night Hike*, Friday April 17 @ 7:30pm; meet at 273 Charlotteville Road 2 in St. Williams (2.2 km east of Forestry Farm Road); for more information contact Audrey at 519-586-9464.

Orillia Naturalists' Club

- *Nature Quiz Night*, Monday March 4 @ 7:30pm at the Orillia Museum of Art and History (Peter Street South) in Orillia.
- *E-birding in British Columbia with Jean Iron*, Wednesday April 1 @ 7:30pm at the Orillia Museum of Art and History (Peter Street South) in Orillia; for more information contact Heather Ewing at 705-259-0797.

Niagara Falls Nature Club

- *Wings along a Cliff with Bruce Mackenzie*, Wednesday March 11 @ 7:00pm at the Niagara Falls Public Library (4848 Victoria Avenue) in Niagara Falls; for more information visit the Niagara Falls Nature Club [website](#).

York Simcoe Nature Club

- *The Electric Car with Tim Burrows (Etobicoke Electric Vehicle Society)*, Tuesday March 10 @ 7:30pm at the Queensville Holland Landing United Church (20453 Leslie Street) in Queensville. For more information visit the York Simcoe Nature Club [website](#).

Upcoming Deadlines

The next issue of the Nature Network News will be sent on March 15, 2020. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2020. Submissions can be sent to naturenetwork@ontarionature.org. Please note that events can be listed up to two months in advance – allowing others to put it on their calendar well in advance.

Ontario Nature publishes the Ontario Nature Network News every month with contributions from its member groups and staff. Ontario Nature grants permission for use of the information above in member group newsletters. Please credit either Ontario Nature or the member group.

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