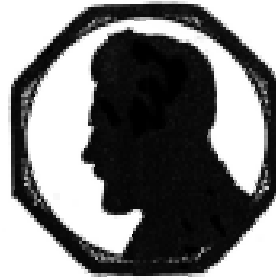


THE BRODIE CLUB



ROYAL ONTARIO
MUSEUM OF ZOOLOGY

THE 2012 FIELD DAY AND PICNIC OF THE BRODIE CLUB

The annual field day and picnic of the Brodie Club took place at Peter's Woods Provincial Nature Reserve located northeast of Cobourg on Sunday, June 10, 2012. Bill Crins and Don Sutherland were the hosts.

Sandra Eadie wrote up the main notes of the day and contributed photos. Ann and Bruce Falls provided a fern list and some photos, Hugh Currie reported on the butterflies observed, and Kevin Seymour compiled the list of birds seen and/or heard. The notes were compiled by Rose Addison.

Fourteen Brodie Club members and eight guests made a total of 22 attendees.



Back Row, L to R: Malcolm Telford (guest of T. Rising), Greg Stuart (guest of Seymour), Kevin Seymour, Ron Pittaway, Don Sutherland, Marty Obbard (guest of the Falls), Bill Crins, Ed Addison, Rick Hanna (guest of Bodsworth).

Front Row, L to R: Hugh Currie, Sandy Telford (guest of Rising), Carol Horner (guest of Seymour), Trudy Rising, Bruce Falls, Sandra Eadie, Jean Iron, Ann Falls, Sharon Hick (guest of McAndrews), Jock McAndrews, Nancy Hanna (guest of Bodsworth), Fred Bodsworth in front of Sharon and R. Addison is behind the camera☺

Regrets were received from Abraham, Bertin, Bryant, Curry, Dunn, D. Hussell, J. Hussell, Larsen, Machin, Riley, J. Rising, Slessor, Strickland and Young.

Members met at the parking lot of Peter's Woods Nature Reserve at 10 AM. Peter's Woods is a very quiet place with not too many visitors, although we did meet a few dog walkers

and bird watchers. The day was hot (Max. 29C) and humid. As we assembled, we were treated to a “gathering” of several species of butterflies which seemed to be feeding on the branches of a willow. *See comment later in the minutes.

“The 33 hectare nature reserve, established in 1976, protects a small remnant of a near virgin maple-beech forest similar to that which once covered many parts of Southern Ontario. It is on the sandy north slope of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The park is named after Peter Schultz, a Port Hope conservationist who died young in 1969. The local Willow Beach Nature Club, which he helped to found, spearheaded the preservation of the area and named it in his honour. He was the father of Albert Schultz, the founder and artistic director of Soulpepper Theatre in Toronto.

Sugar maple, beech, red oak and deciduous evergreen forest containing hemlock and white pine dominate the slopes and well drained areas. Poorly drained wetlands support forests of white cedar, with some concentrations of red ash and white birch. What better way to spend a broiling hot day than in the cool woods? Even better they were almost free of biting bugs.

Peter’s Woods is being left to develop naturally. The path was very well laid out and marked. The numbered posts along the .8 kilometre of trail point out particular features of interest and are keyed to a booklet which was available at the entrance to the trail.

Don and Bill described the flora of the woods as we slowly walked along the very pleasant



path. We admired a large beech tree with old claw marks of a climbing bear. We did not hear or see the breeding Louisiana Waterthrush pair that Don had located earlier in the week. A large variety of birds could be heard and there were many kinds of fungi growing on the rotting fallen tree trunks. Toads provided a demonstration of wonderful camouflage as they hid in plain view on rotting logs or leaf detritus.

Unfortunately, Beech Bark Disease, which has recently arrived in Ontario from the East has attacked the Beech trees. It is caused by non-native sap-sucking scale insects which bore holes in the bark. This allows a certain kind of fungus to get in. The tree has no defence and dies within a few years. We could see how the bark was falling off some of the trees.

After lunch *en plein air* we went to a separate area in the same park management area along Pratt Road. We walked up a dirt trail, past a couple of oak savannah openings. We did not reach the area where Black Oak Savannah and tallgrass prairie that once flourished on the Rice Lake Plain are being restored through the use of prescribed burns. Scots Pine and other non-native species are being removed gradually as well.

There were many butterflies. On the path at one point we avoided stepping on a slimy dung-like mass which turned out to be a form of blue-green algae. Typical savannah

opening species such as Indian Grass, Big Bluestem, Fragrant Sumac, New Jersey Tea, and Snowberry are present here. A highlight for us here was an adult Goshawk screeching near its nest. We spotted two little heads poking out.



There was lots of Poison ivy in the second area. In fact, the entrance way was so covered by poison ivy that Bill laid a tarpaulin over the poison ivy so we could enter more safely. You can be sure we all dumped our clothes in the laundry as soon as we got home.

There is yet a third non-contiguous area of the park, but we did not go to it.

In 2002, NCC acquired an additional 328 hectares for the park. The property consists of two blocks, a north block and a south block, which are separate from Peter's Woods but are within one kilometre of it. This site contains both high quality and degraded areas of tallgrass prairie and oak savannah habitat, and has the potential to support some of the best tallgrass prairie and oak savannahs in all of Ontario.



Don Sutherland and Bill Criss



Old bear claw marks



Sandy Telford, Jock McAndrews, Bruce Falls, Rose Addison resting on a bird watching bench with a sloping back.



Bill, his Sedges license plate and tarp for poison ivy



Fording the poison ivy



Notched poison ivy leaves

For maps and more background about the plans for the park:

http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/pete_planning.html

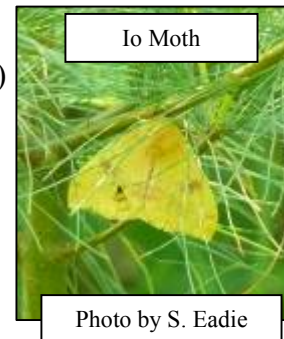
Photo collage and write-up by Sandra Eadie.

Ann and Bruce Falls recorded some of the ferns growing in the first site.

1. Bracken
2. Interrupted Fern
3. Maidenhair Fern
4. Ostrich Fern
5. Sensitive Fern
6. Christmas Fern
7. Evergreen Wood Fern
8. Spinulose Wood Fern
9. Lady Fern
10. Rock Polypody
11. Oak Fern (RA)
12. Cinnamon Fern (RA)

Hugh Currie emailed... “*Very few butterflies and I didn't do most of the 2nd walk. Other participants may have noticed additional ones.*”

1. Dreamy/Juvenal's Duskywing
2. Canadian Tiger Swallowtail (soon to be lumped with Eastern)
3. No Sulphurs or Cabbages
4. Cherry Gall/Summer Azure
5. Northern Crescent
6. Inornate Ringlet
7. Northern Pearly Eye
8. White Admiral Monarch”



Also seen was an Io moth.

Kevin Seymour wrote “*I am attaching the bird list for the Peter's Woods field trip. Since I put the results into eBird, I found a way to get eBird to produce the report for me too! The bird highlight for the day was certainly the Goshawk nest with a least two curious young in it.*” The group tallied up 37 species and 74 individuals for the day.

Species Name	Species Count
Turkey Vulture - <i>Cathartes aura</i>	1
Northern Goshawk - <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	3
Ring-billed Gull - <i>Larus delawarensis</i>	1
Mourning Dove - <i>Zenaida macroura</i>	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird - <i>Archilochus colubris</i>	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - <i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	1
Hairy Woodpecker - <i>Picoides villosus</i>	1
Northern Flicker - <i>Colaptes auratus</i>	1
Pileated Woodpecker - <i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee - <i>Contopus virens</i>	4
Great Crested Flycatcher - <i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	2
Blue-headed Vireo - <i>Vireo solitarius</i>	1
Red-eyed Vireo - <i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	3
Blue Jay - <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	5
American Crow - <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	4
Common Raven - <i>Corvus corax</i>	1

Barn Swallow - <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	1
Black-capped Chickadee - <i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch - <i>Sitta canadensis</i>	1
White-breasted Nuthatch - <i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	1
Winter Wren - <i>Troglodytes hiemalis</i>	1
Veery - <i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	2
Wood Thrush - <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	1
American Robin - <i>Turdus migratorius</i>	4
Gray Catbird - <i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	1
Brown Thrasher - <i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	1
European Starling - <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	2
Cedar Waxwing - <i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	7
Ovenbird - <i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	5
Blackburnian Warbler - <i>Setophaga fusca</i>	1
Pine Warbler - <i>Setophaga pinus</i>	3
Black-throated Green Warbler - <i>Setophaga virens</i>	2
Song Sparrow - <i>Melospiza melodia</i>	1
Scarlet Tanager - <i>Piranga olivacea</i>	3
Rose-breasted Grosbeak - <i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	1
Indigo Bunting - <i>Passerina cyanea</i>	2
Common Grackle - <i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	1

Plants seen included but were not limited to:

Rosy sedge, *Carex rosea*
 Bur-reed sedge, *Carex sparganeoides*
 Graceful sedge, *Carex gracillima*
 Eastern star sedge, *Carex radiata*
 Peduncled sedge, *Carex pedunculata*
 Leatherleaf
 Common scouring rush, *Equisetum hyemale*
 Dwarf scouring rush, *Equisetum scirpoides*
 Recurved buttercup
 Kidney leaved buttercup
 Indian cucumber root in flower
 Showy orchis
 Fowl Manna Grass
 Butternut hickory seedlings... no mature trees because of Butternut canker (Japanese heartnut is intermediate host)
 White oak with a dbh of over 1 m. which Don guesstimated to be minimum of 100 years old
 Poison ivy!!!!

Both Bill and Don are founts of knowledge re Ontario fauna and many of us learned new plants and interesting information about them.

*The following information on possible cause of attraction of large numbers and species of butterflies to the willow was found at http://www.ehow.com/info_8740291_oak-tree-weeping.html. Comments from members most welcome☺> "Slime flux, or wet wood, is a

bacterial infection that causes trees to "weep" or "bleed" sap from the large branches or trunk of a tree. This "weeping" is called "fluxing". Slime flux attacks a wide range of trees including birch, maple, elm, willow and oak, and is common in large landscape trees... Bees, wasps and butterflies are attracted to the fermented sap that weeps from infected oak trees.

The predominant symptom of slime flux is the presence of a foul-smelling ooze that flows down the trunk or the branches of a tree. The ooze is colorless or tan, but turns dark when exposed to air. The bacteria responsible for this disease cause the sap inside the tree to ferment. During fermentation, the carbon dioxide and methane gases that are produced build up pressure that causes the sap to leak through cracks in the trunk. Infected wood appears water-soaked and is usually discoloured. The sap on the bark attracts bacteria, yeast and fungi that produce the smell and slime."



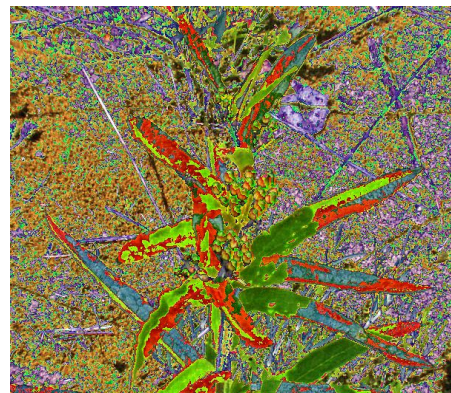
Visiting during lunch break Photo by A. Falls



On the trail in Peter's Woods Photo by A. Falls



On the "bird-watching" bench Photo by A. Falls



Butterfly weed in sandy clearing- A. Falls

OTHER REPORTS

White Lion Exhibit Opening

Members of the BRODIE Club received invitations to the opening of the White Lion Exhibit on May 10 at the Toronto Zoo. The three white lions are a permanent addition to the African Savanna section.

This opportunity for BRODIE Club members was organized by club member Bill Rapley. Members who attended included Rose and Ed Addison, Oliver Bertin, Ricky Dunn, Ann and Bruce Falls, David and Jeremy Hussell, Enid Machin, Ken Reading. Several guests

were also in attendance. Bill took us to the penguin underwater viewing area and the young penguin chick “nursery”. All parts of the Zoo were open and members were welcome to explore areas of interest as well as view the new exhibit and to enjoy refreshments.



Photos by E. Addison.

Following is the description and photo provided by the Zoo.

Unique to the Timbavati region of South Africa, these rare and beautiful cats have not been seen in the wild in over 15 years. They carry the recessive gene known as a colour inhibitor of the Kruger subspecies of lion (Panthera leo krugeri). With lion populations dwindling, they are now classified as a vulnerable species. Come see our new white lions, catch a daily Keeper Talk and help the Zoo bring awareness to the plight of the African lion in the wild!



Membership Committee Report

Trudy Rising has nominated David Dunham and George Bryant has nominated Kristen Martyn as members of the BRODIE Club. The membership committee has forwarded their biographic sketches for inclusion in the minutes.

David Warren Dunham

Born: Syracuse, New York, 1938

Brodie Club membership: (not a member)

Interests:

- Birding, wherever I happen to be
- Ecology – learning about and enjoying the plants and animals I encounter in my travels, and equally those at home
- Nature photography – mostly landscapes, flowers, pollinators, and only the most cooperative wildlife

Education and work history:

- B.S. in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin, Ph.D. in Vertebrate Zoology from Cornell University (Cornell Lab of Ornithology)
- Research fellow in ethology at the University of Leiden (The Netherlands), and in marine biology at the Hawaii Institute for Marine Biology. Research Associate at the Center for Limnology, University of Wisconsin. Research Fellow at the Max-Planck Institute for Behavioural Physiology (Germany)
- Current status - Professor Emeritus of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Toronto, but retired from formal science – pursuing interests in the visual arts

Key influences:

- Two excellent school science teachers, Walter De Neef and Louis Bixby, who so skillfully nurtured my budding interest in natural history
- William C. Dilger, Peter Paul Kellogg, and Arthur A. Allen of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, who very generously gave of their time and knowledge to a curious school boy, and later taught a graduate student much about birds, and about life
- John T. Emlen of the University of Wisconsin, who supervised and encouraged me in my undergraduate years



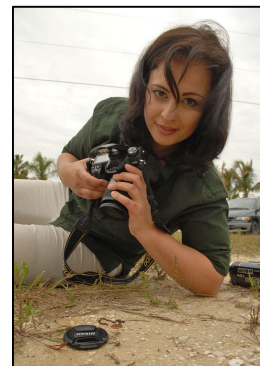
Kristen Martyn

Interests: Birds, reptile and amphibians, photography, SCUBA diving, geocaching and travelling.

Memberships: Richmond Hill Field Naturalists, Bird Studies Canada, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Ontario Geocaching Association and Federation of Ontario Naturalists.

Biography: Kristen Martyn has had a lifelong passion for wildlife. As a small child she admired a variety of wildlife, and was particularly fascinated with reptiles and amphibians. In high school she pursued a co-op placement with the Toronto Zoo, where she had the opportunity to work with a variety of captive animals including large mammals and a variety of birds. Her strong passion for the natural world, led her to pursue a BSc. in

Zoology from the University of Guelph, and complete a Post-Graduate Program in Ecotourism and Adventure Tourism Management. During her university summers Kristen work as a Field Technician for the Ministry of Natural Resources, studying the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, Eastern Hognose and Eastern Foxsnake population ecology. After completing her university degree, she worked at Reptila (Canada's largest reptile zoo) as the Head Zookeeper. This experience enabled her to work with a variety of captive reptiles and amphibians, including large crocodilians and her favourite snake, the viper.



While her first passion is herpetology, Kristen is an avid birder and has spent a significant amount of time birding throughout North America, the Caribbean and Central America. The spring after her studies she was a Long-term Volunteer Field Biologist, for Bird Studies Canada, bird banding at the Long Point Bird Observatory. She has lived and guided extensively in Costa Rica and also enjoys birding in Panama, where her family owns two vacation properties. She is an avid participant in her local Christmas Bird Count and enjoys spending time birding out in the field whenever possible. In recent years, Kristen has also been fortunate to pass her knowledge about birds and the natural world to elementary and high school aged students in her role as Environmental Educator, for the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

In 2010 Kristen launched Natura Tours, a birding and nature tour company with the goal of bringing people closer to nature, while helping to conserve wildlife through ecotourism. In her role at Natura Tours, Kristen has had the opportunity to do something she enjoys, sharing her passion of birding and wildlife with her clients.

Kristen recently wrapped up filming a wildlife documentary entitled Alien Invaders (which premiered on OLN this November, 2011). She is very excited about her latest experience as owner of Ontario's newest Wild Birds Unlimited store in Barrie, Ontario. In her spare time, Kristen enjoys wildlife photography, volunteering with various wildlife research projects and spending time at her cottage on the French River.

CONTACT INFORMATION

There are several changes in membership information. They are indicated by yellow highlighting. Please send any additional changes to roseaddison@gmail.com.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the traditional Members' Night. It will be Tuesday, September 187:30 pm in Room 432 of the Ramsay Wright Laboratories of the University of Toronto.

Hope all members have enjoyable forays... near or far, long or short... and that we'll hear about some of them at Members' Night in September.