

Autumn Bulletin 2016



The colours are stunning, trails are dry, head to the woods !

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Craig Hurst – Director, Friends of Laurier Woods

On August 6, 2016 we were saddened by the death of our friend and supporter Craig Hurst. He was a valued member of the Board of Directors since 2007. Among his many contributions Craig was actively involved in a number of committees including the planning committee, and trail/ boardwalk maintenance & building. As an avid birder he assumed the responsibility for the bird observation charts and data collection. We will all miss Craig's friendly banter and eager commitment. We are grateful for the many donations received from family and friends in Craig's memory. These funds will be used to support the Woods he loved so much.

Want to get Involved?
Here's how to contact us:
www.laurierwoods.com

Monthly Themed Walks in the Woods

We only have the following two outings remaining in our themed walks for 2016. We look forward to continuing great fall weather, and hope you will be able to join our knowledgeable specialists in Laurier Woods. Get out and enjoy the trails throughout the winter and we will resume guided walks in May 2017. (check the website for details)

November 5th 10 am- noon	Geology, Guided by: Larry Dyke
December 3rd 10 am- noon	How foresters protect biodiversity : Guide, Jordan MacMillan

Louise de Kiriline Lawrence Nature Festival– August 20, 2016

The second annual Nature Festival took place on August 20/16 and featured a variety of activities compliments of a number of environmental organizations and nature specialists. Participants young and old had an opportunity to view aquatic insects at the dipping platform, paint birdhouses and pencil boxes, learn about Lady Slippers, view the woods through the lens of a nature photographer and learn about the trees and plants in Laurier Woods. Many thanks to all participants and especially the Nipissing Naturalist Club for their organization and planning. All these contributors helped to make this a wonderful day. See you here same time next year.

www.naturefestival.jimdo.com.

What is Happening in Laurier Woods?

- The Fuschia Trail, in the newly acquired acreage has been cleared and marked. We will continue to upgrade and improve this wonderful 2 km trail.
- Take a look at the new boardwalk which runs along the beaver damn on the Purple Trail. You get a clear view of the structure of the beaverhouse and see if you can find the Beaver Baffle.
- Plans are underway to install a three new picnic tables, one in the parking lot and the others along the trails.
- The Board is looking into installing a new, larger directional sign at Franklin and Brule Streets.
- Thanks to all the dog owners who are keeping dogs leashed and cleaning up after them. (Poop bags are compliments of Lisa's Dog House).

Trees in Autumn

Laurier Woods boasts a variety of deciduous and coniferous trees that are highlighted at this time of year. Deciduous trees, such as maple, oak, cherry, and birch, are changing colour and provide a brilliant mosaic against the autumn sky. The change in leaf colour is indicative that the tree is preparing for winter when there is less sunlight and water, and colder temperatures. In the warm seasons, leaves use sunlight, water, and air to make the tree's food, which gets stored in the trunk and roots. When winter comes only the woody parts of these trees can survive the cold and the passage of food from the leaf to the tree becomes sealed. Without that flow of water from the tree the chlorophyll (which allows the leaves to absorb energy from light & causes the leaves to be green) begins to disappear. With the green pigment fading other pigments in the leaf start to appear: the yellows from xanthophyll; the oranges from carotene; and the bright reds and purples from anthocyanin. Brown fall foliage colors come from tannin, a bitter waste product. Different combinations of these pigments give us a wide range of colors each fall. The brightest colors are seen when late summer is dry, and autumn has bright sunny days and cool nights. A fall with cloudy days and warm nights brings drab colors. And an early frost quickly ends the beautiful fall foliage color display.

In stark contrast coniferous trees ("evergreens"), such as pine, spruce and fir keep most of their leaves during the winter. They have thin needles for leaves, resistant to cold and moisture loss. Evergreens may continue to produce food during the winter as long as they get enough water, but the reactions occur more slowly at colder temperatures.

