

Autumn Newsletter - 2018



There is a quiet beauty in the wood this time of year. Come and experience nature's harmony.

Festival A Hit!!

Over 200 turned out to participate in a variety of outdoor activities featured at the Fifth Annual Louise de Kiriline Lawrence Nature Festival held Saturday, August 18th.

Laurier Woods Conservation Area was a buzz with professional and amateur naturalists sharing their passions, from building pollinator homes, to rock and driftwood art, to birds and birding. Entomica, a Sault Ste. Maria-based insectarium, was on-hand with a variety of exotic insects for visitors to watch and hold. The Festival had visitors, young & old alike, out on the trails searching for native pollinators and seasonal berries, and discovering the difference in trees species.

Louise de Kiriline Lawrence, an internationally renowned naturalist, author and nurse, which included caring for the Dionne Quints. She lived west of Mattawa where she studied wildlife and ornithology. She wrote over 500 reviews, 17 scientific papers, and 5 books on birds and animals, and was a regular contributor to Audubon Magazine.

Lawrence passed away in 1992 at the age of 98. Her written work is stored in the National Archives in Ottawa.

The Nature Festival celebrates her interest and enthusiasm for nature and the outdoors. The Friends of Laurier Woods, in partnership with the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority and the Nipissing Naturalists Club host the event annually on the third Saturday of August.



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

Winter Activities in Laurier Woods

October 6th 8-10 pm Marianne Haist will lead an Astronomy themed walk.
November 3RD (time pending) Geology in the woods with guide Larry Dyke

Turtle Basking Logs Installed !

On September 4th and 5th, 2018, turtle basking logs were installed at the Beaver and Arum ponds in Laurier Woods. This was accomplished through the combined efforts of Paul Smylie of EcoTech Environmental Consultants (<http://ecotechenvironmental.com/>) and Troy Storms, Adam Whyte and Layne Duquette from the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority along with Friends of Laurier Woods Jim Hassler, Riley Cormier, Julie Falsetti, Lori Beckerton and Ron Savage. Local photographer and supporter of the Friends of Laurier Wood Kaye Edmonds was on hand to capture the events at both locations. This combined effort came about after old basking logs, favorite of the turtle population in these ponds, succumbed to age and the environment and sank.

The day after the log was placed in the Beaver Pond, Kaye Edmonds snapped a photo of a turtle taking full advantage of the new, improved lounging spot. Turtles clamber onto logs and rocks to access the sun's rays. The heat speeds up the metabolism of these cold-blooded creatures to their full advantage. They use the sun's energy to make Vitamin D and to speed up food digestion. The sun also helps to kill parasites, like leeches, who have attached themselves to the turtle. Basking spots are crucial to the health of turtles. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/blandings-turtle>

Laurier Woods ponds are home to Blanding's Turtles, Painted Turtles and Snapping Turtles.

Blanding's have a greyish brown to black shell with yellowish flecks, a bright yellow chin and throat and bulging eyes. They grow in the range of 12 – 18 cm. in length. Painted Turtles have red markings along the shell edge and yellow stripes on neck and legs. They grow to 11- 14 cm. in length. Snapping turtles have a light brown to black shell and are the largest turtle growing to 20 – 36 cm in length. The snapping turtles have a long dinosaur-like spiked tail which harkens back to their ancient origins. The Blanding's turtles are threatened in some areas and there is a concern for the Snapping Turtle as well. Many of the Friends of Laurier Woods have become enthusiasts of these endearing creatures and we are proud to promote their safety in the protected environment of the woods.

This project was a successful combined-effort and shows the contribution we all can make to the health of the creatures in the woods. Thanks to all who gave their time and efforts.



