



Photo by Kaye Edmonds

LAURIER WOODS CONSERVATION AREA Newsletter

SPRING 2014

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If you have a story or picture that you would like to share in the next newsletter, please e-mail Catharine Hannah at catharine_mayne@hotmail.com

Guided Spring Walks

The friends of Laurier Woods is gearing up for their annual spring interpretive hikes throughout the month of May! The guided walks are being offered at no cost to the public and will take place on each Saturday of the month. Bring your binoculars if you have them!

**Saturday May 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st
starting at 9:00a.m.**

Meet at the Brule Street parking lot/access to the Woods

Just to note that on the last two walks of the month, plants and wildflowers commonly found in Laurier Woods will also be part of the interpretive hike. For further information, contact Dick Tafel: rtafel@sympatico.ca or 705-472-7907

Bird Observations in 2013 - By Craig Hurst

As recorded on our Bird Recording Chart at the Brule St. entrance to Laurier Woods, 108 species were recorded as having been observed from April through November in 2013. We are grateful to all who took the time to record their observations before departing the Woods.

Mallards were recorded on the water each of the 8 months of recordings. Hooded Mergansers were next, being observed during 6 months. Ruffed Grouse, Blue Jays, Black-capped Chickadees, American Robins and perhaps surprisingly, American Goldfinches, were also reported during all 8 months. Ravens and Crows were also ever present. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology believes these two species, Ravens and Crows, are likely the most wrongly identified common bird species. Ravens are more solitary than Crows and utter more of a slow "Gronk" sound compared to the "Caws-Caws" of Crows. Ravens are generally larger with a broad bill and wedge-shaped tail.

Twenty-three species of Warblers and Vireos were reported this year. These colourful little songsters are usually the highlight of the spring migration period. Some were present for most of the May to October period, including Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Chestnut-sided, American Redstarts and the little Marsh resident, the Common Yellowthroat.

Great Blue Herons and Double-crested Cormorants were commonly reported this year, while the Pied-billed Grebe sightings were less frequent. A Virginia Rail was heard again in early spring, but the Sora was not reported this year. Our Woodpeckers were frequently reported, including Pileated Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and our common Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers.

Laurier Woods again, proved to be a wonderful place to enjoy a large number of our feathered friends.



Song Sparrow

Photo by Kaye Edmonds

Salamander Safaris: Coming to a forest near you! By Kelly Major

The Salamander Safari, to be hosted by the Nipissing Naturalists Club and supported by the Friends of Laurier Woods, was born out of a



desire to offer more family friendly outings in the North Bay area. Last fall, members of the Nipissing Naturalists constructed 60 salamander cover-boards that were subsequently dispersed within Laurier Woods and

the Laurentian Escarpment Conservation Areas. Laurier Woods received 40 of these boards, which were set out at four sites along the white and orange trails. These sites represent a variety of upland and lowland habitats and should (hopefully) capture a variety of salamander species.

Why salamanders? They are the most abundant vertebrate species found in our forests. If all the red backed salamanders within one square kilometre were collected they would weigh more than the biomass of any other vertebrate species like moose, deer or grouse per square kilometre. Salamanders play an important role in our forests for example by being important predators of termites.

The three-piece cover boards approximately three feet long and consist of two 1x4' boards sitting atop

a single 1x8' baseboard. The top and bottom boards are separated by spacers causing a small crevice where salamanders may hide and forage for insects. This design replicates that used by biologists throughout the province for the monitoring of salamander populations.

The Salamander Safaris will be planned for later this summer and will allow participants to look inside the boards and observe their inhabitants. Children (and adults alike!) will be taught about salamander identification and ecology. Other salamander related activities may also be planned.

Please stay tuned for further information regarding Salamander Safaris. In the meantime, we ask that the boards remain undisturbed in order to encourage their habitation.

2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Friday May 23rd
6:00 to 9:00p.m.**

To be held at

The Urban Café

101 Worthington Street East, North Bay

Reception: 6:00p.m.

Dinner: 6:30p.m.

Business Meeting: 7:30p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER 8:00p.m.

Dick Tafel

*Founding member & Past-President of FLW,
will share the story of author/naturalist
Louise de Kiriline Lawrence.*

\$25.00/person

(vegetarian menu optional)

***Due to limited seating advance ticket purchase
required***

RSVP: Susan Christian at 705-752-2837/
suekarl87@gmail.com

“Love ‘em and Leash ‘em!

In Conservation Areas, Trails and City streets and parks, you gotta...

“Love ‘em and Leash ‘em!”

Dogs must be on a leash & their poop scooped for the health and safety of pets, people and wildlife. Pet Waste Stations and baggies now available at Laurier Woods Conservation Area!

We gratefully appreciate those who leash their dogs and this season, dogs on a leash in Laurier Woods receive a

free Poop Bag Dispenser and ballot for a “Pet Care Package” draw! For more information, go to www.laurierwoods.com



**Friends of Laurier Woods
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www.laurierwoods.com**



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