



2025-2026

Speakers and Outings



Turkey Vulture

Photo by Charles Mitchell

Membership

Membership form is located at:
<https://norfolkfieldnaturalists.org/membership-form/>
You may submit your payment by e-transfer to Treasurer.NFN@gmail.com OR by cheque.

If you have any questions or wish to learn more details about joining, send an email to: info@norfolkfieldnaturalists.org

Fees are:

Individual Adult: \$30

Family: \$50

Life Individual Adult: \$500

Life Family: \$750

Donations to NFN are appreciated.
Charitable Registration #119058691

www.norfolkfieldnaturalists.org

Mailing Address:
Box 995, Simcoe, ON
N3Y 5B3

About the Norfolk Field Naturalists

NFN members participate in monthly meetings from September to May. Guest speakers present programs on interesting and relevant natural history and conservation issues. Field outings to local areas of interest to naturalists are held throughout the year.

Club members receive *The Lotus*, a newsletter with articles on our natural history and club activities. The NFN has taken an active role in protecting local areas of natural significance by participating in planning exercises and helping other groups raise funds for land acquisition and protection. The NFN is the steward of Rowanwood, a natural sanctuary on Big Creek near Walsingham.

Meetings: Meetings are held at the Simcoe Recreation Centre, 182 South Drive, Simcoe.

Field Outings: Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. Please wear clothing and footwear appropriate for the weather and hiking conditions. Pre-registration is required. It is always a good idea to call for directions, information on trail conditions, what to bring, and any last-minute changes. No pets please.

Come join us!

Meetings

September 2025 to May 2026 — Second Tuesday (except for October), 7:00 p.m.

September 9 at 7:00 p.m.

“Nature Photography and Videography”

Anca Gaston is a fine art photographer from Brantford. She loves to photograph wildlife and the night sky. In 2016, she was the grand prize winner of the Grand River Waterways Photo Contest and the Canadian Wildlife Federation photo contest.

Annual Meeting

October 21 at 7:00 p.m.

“The Niagara Escarpment”

Beth Gilhespy is the CEO of the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy and will talk about conservation work along the escarpment.

November 11 at 7:00 p.m.

“Snakes of Ontario”

Don Scallen of the Halton North Peel Naturalist Club will be telling us about the many different snakes that live in our province.

December 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Members’ Night

Members are invited to email up to 20 electronic photos or a short video no more than 10 minutes long of nature events or trips to info@norfolkfieldnaturalists.org. (Please only send 5 at a time as email systems may not handle a larger volume per each piece of email.) Members may also bring a USB stick to the meeting.

January 13 at 7:00 p.m.

“Trumpeter Swans of Ontario”

Susan Best is the President of Trumpeter Swan Conservation Ontario. She will talk about these magnificent birds and the work her organization does to protect them.

February 10 at 7:00 p.m.

“Yukon and Northern British Columbia”

Willy Waterton and Audrey Armstrong, previous speakers, will be exploring the nature and history of this area.

March 10 at 7:00 p.m.

“Silver-haired Bats”

Amanda Armstrong has conducted research at LPBO studying one of the long-distance migrating species. Learn all about what she has discovered.

April 14 at 7:00 p.m.

“State of Canadian Birds”

Kyle Horner of Birds Canada will be letting us know about the state of Canadian birds. Kyle is the Nature Counts Engagement Coordinator. He loves nature and blabbering about it to other people.

May 12 at 7:00 p.m.

“What’s the Buzz about Pollinator Plants”

Kevin Kavanaugh of South Coast Gardens will tell us about designing beautiful and biodiverse gardens. Using native plants can play an important role in helping us sustain resident pollinator populations that are vital to our environmental health. We’ll learn about selecting plants to both beautify and benefit nature.

Events

SPECIAL EVENTS

Christmas Bird Counts

Join one of the local Christmas Bird Counts and spend the day in the field identifying and counting all the birds you see or hear. Data collected during these annual events provides vital information on the distribution of winter bird populations.

Saturday, December 20, 2025

Long Point Count (Norfolk County)

Contact Stu Mackenzie,

stu.a.mackenzie@gmail.com

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Woodhouse Count (Norfolk County)

Contact Adam Timpf, adam.timpf@gmail.com

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Fisherville Count (Haldimand County)

Contact: Nancy Furber, oriskany.nf@gmail.com

Faye Socholotiuk-Duym,

fsocholotiuk@hotmail.com

Long Point Butterfly Count

Saturday, July 4, 2026

This all-day event is like a Christmas Bird Count and involves identifying and counting local butterflies. Join one of our “winged jewels” experts and help tabulate the species and numbers of butterflies in Long Point and surrounding area — part of the North America-wide annual count. Our record number of species is 55 — let’s beat that this year! Contact Adam Timpf, adam.timpf@gmail.com for details.



OUTINGS

January 2026 to August 2026

Norfolk Nature is pleased to offer the nature outings listed below.

Please consider the following:

- Hikes are free to the public. Limit is 20 participants.
 - **Pre-registration is required by emailing info@norfolkfieldnaturalists.org**
 - Carry water, bug spray and sunscreen.
 - Don't forget your cellphone, camera, binocs and/or field guide.
 - Please wear clothing and footwear appropriate for the weather and hiking conditions.
 - No pets please.
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Saturday, February 14, 10:00 a.m. to Noon
I.D.ing Trees in Winter with Nicholas Armstrong and Emma Dryden

Join Nicholas and Emma from the Nature Conservancy of Canada as they take us for a wintery hike in Backus Woods to identify species of trees based on bark and buds and discuss their ecology. Dress warm and wear appropriate footwear (i.e. non-skid lined boots).
Where to Meet: Backus Woods (north tract), 218 Highway #24, Walsingham

Sunday, February 22, 1:30 to 5:00 p.m.
Haldimand Raptors in Winter with Audrey Heagy

Join Audrey for a driving tour to look for raptors and other winter birds on the backroads of Haldimand County. Hoping for Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, and other birds...and maybe even a Snowy Owl. Depending on the weather and interest we might stay out until after sunset (5:06 pm) for Short-eared Owls (though folks are welcome to leave the caravan at any time). Bring your binocs and a full tank!
Where to meet: Parking lot by Silver Lake Farmers Market in Port Dover.

Friday, April 10, 7:15 to 8:30 p.m.
Listening and Watching Timberdoodles with Audrey Heagy

Join Audrey to witness the spectacular courtship display of the American Woodcock (aka Timberdoodle). We'll take a short walk along mowed trails through an old field. Bring a headlamp or flashlight as the display starts about dusk. **Weather dependent.**
Where to meet: 273 Charlotteville Road 2, St. Williams

Saturday, April 25, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Exploring the Night Sky with the North Shore Erie Amateur Astronomers

Experience the wonders of the night sky as we gaze at the Moon, stars, and planet up close! Try out the club's telescopes, enjoy a guided tour of the night sky, learn fascinating facts about the Milky Way, and take part in an evening of celestial discovery!
Where to meet: the Silver Lake Farmers Market parking lot.

Sunday, May 10, 10:00 a.m. to Noon
Mother's Day Spring Wildflower Hike with Bernie Solymar

Bring Mom and Grandma and join us on a leisurely stroll through the south tract of Backus Woods to identify and learn about the diversity of spring ephemeral flowers along a section of the Sugarbush Trail. We'll see Blue Cohosh, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Foamflower, Canada Anemone and many other species, and learn about their importance to forest ecology.
Where to meet: Parking lot at 1329 Concession Road 3.

Saturday, May 16, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
Spring Birding with Samreen Munim and Brenden Boyd

Join Samreen and Brenden, biologists with Birds Canada, for a leisurely walk through the South Tract of Backus Woods to look and listen for spring migrants. This property boasts some of the highest biodiversity in Ontario with over 100 breeding bird species including Prothonotary Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Acadian Flycatcher. Bring your binoculars!
Where to meet: Parking lot at 1329 Concession Road 3

Saturday, June 6, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Forest Bathing with Amber Zuber

Join Amber on a gentle, guided walk in nature that invites you to slow down, breathe deeply, and connect with the natural world through all your senses. Rooted in the Japanese practice of Shinrin-yoku, it is not a hike or exercise but a way to experience the forest with presence and curiosity. The walk unfolds slowly, with frequent pauses, simple invitations, and opportunities to notice, reflect, and just be. The full experience should take about 2.5 hours and is suitable for all fitness levels.

Where to meet: Parking lot at the Fish hatchery just north of Turkey Point Provincial Park on Turkey Point Road.

Saturday, June 20, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Spring Arbour Farm Nature Reserve with Mary Gartshore

This Long Point Basin Land Trust reserve is part of a much larger network of conservation lands that extend along Venison Creek. It is linked to surrounding natural areas and features oak savanna, early successional woodland and mature Carolinian forest. Mary Gartshore will lead an informative tour to learn about native Carolinian tree species and their importance as hosts to insect species and other wildlife. There are also interpretive signs to showcase each species' ecological importance and role in local biodiversity.

Where to meet: 305 Concession Road 7, Walsingham

Saturday, July 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Norfolk Sand Plain Restoration Tour with Peter Carson

Peter will take participants to a number of restoration sites that represent various habitats and stages of maturity. We'll start with his and Mary's property and then visit 2 or 3 restored NCC sites that they have worked on. Planning, execution and results will be discussed and illustrated.

Where to meet: Peter and Mary's at 316 Norfolk County Rd 60, Walsingham.

Saturday, July 25. 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Discovering Wild Edibles with Laurel Winger

Let's get to know some wonderful wild plants that are suitable to eat. We will sustainably harvest some trail nibbles and taste a prepared wild food item. We will focus on nature connection, reciprocity and safety. Laurel will also be bringing a tea for us to try, please bring a mug or paper cup if you wish to try.

NOTE: Please note that even though the plants we'll see are safe to eat/drink, it is up to you to know what works for you and your body. Please be aware if you have any allergies and if you have any concerns, ask your health care provider before eating or drinking anything that is unfamiliar to you.

Where to meet: Reeves property, 1353 Charlotteville Road 8

Sunday, July 26 at 8:45 p.m.

Listening for Whip Poor Wills with Audrey Heagy

Join Audrey as we search for the elusive Eastern Whip-poor-will near Turkey Point. These birds are easy to hear at dawn and dusk and on moonlit nights. They are hard to see as their brindled plumage blends perfectly with the gray-brown leaf litter of the open forest where they

breed and roost. We might catch a glimpse of one by the light of the moon as they come out to the road edge to feed on moths and other flying insects.

Where to meet: Sand parking area on northeast corner of Turkey Point Road and Charlotteville Road 1 by Normandale Fish Hatchery sign. 911# is 394 Turkey Point Road.

Saturday, August 15, 8:00 p.m. to ???

Nothing in Backus Woods with Alan Macnaughton

Join Alan for a fun evening of nothing on the 4th Concession "dirt road" that intersects Backus Woods. We will set up mercury vapor lights and white sheets to attract moths into the open so we can enjoy their beauty. We'll discuss the biology and ecology of these insects, as well as their important role in the ecosystem. Bring a lawn chair, and headlamp or flashlight.

Where to meet: Access Concession 4 from the west, off Highway #59. The road will turn from pavement to sand as you enter the woods. Continue until you see our parked cars (near the entrance of the Weston Family Trail heading south).

Friday, August 22, 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Backus Woods at Night with Bernie Soluymar

Enjoy the sights and sounds of our nocturnal wildlife during a night hike in Backus Woods. We'll look for flying squirrels, call for owls, identify the songs of various species of crickets and katydids, and attract late summer moths using light traps and baits. Maybe we'll even howl for coyotes!

Where to meet: Parking lot for 3rd Concession entrance into Backus Woods. Bring a flashlight!