

The Giant's Rib

Dedicated to increasing awareness and protection of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve

Stan Nowak, Editor
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Giant's Rib Discovery Centre Board of Directors - 2009

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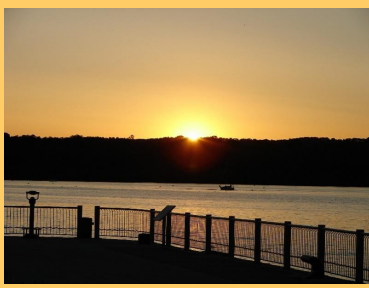
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The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre presents the Third Annual

Giant's Rib Summer Solstice



Sunset on the escarpment as seen at Summer Solstice 2008

Thursday, June 18, 2009
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Parks Canada Discovery Centre
57 Guise Street East, Hamilton

Tickets \$50.00 each (tax receipt available)

A social evening of fun and enjoyment with friends and associates celebrating the 'Giant's Rib' while experiencing a magnificent sunset over the Hamilton Bay and the Niagara Escarpment to welcome the summer!

You are cordially invited to a very special occasion featuring a wine and cheese reception, silent auction, musical entertainment and the grand unveiling of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Wall at 7:30 that evening.

Wine for this event will be provided through the Vineland Estates Winery. This winery has won many international awards for its wine. Of particular note are its Dry Riesling, Cabernet Merlot, Vidal Icewine and Sauvignon Blanc. The picturesque Vineland Estates Winery is located in Vineland on the Bench of the Niagara Escarpment. The landmark Stone Tower stands proudly over a former Mennonite Homestead that dates back to the 1840's. Included in the cluster of carefully restored buildings is a Century Barn and a stone Carriage House.

Cheese connoisseur, Mickey McGuire, of the Mickey McGuire Cheese Shop in Dundas will be offering samples of his cheeses at the Summer Solstice. His shop presently offers over 400 varieties of cheese, including Italian Cheese matured in grape skins, Tasmanian Blue Cheese, Basque Sheep Cheese, Guinness Cheddar and Banon, made with peppers and wrapped in chestnut leaves.

This Spring our musical entertainment will be provided by the Avalon Music Academy of Dundas, featuring Steve Parton.

Proceeds raised from this event will further the efforts of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre to promote public awareness of the Niagara Escarpment - The Giant's Rib - and its relevance as an internationally-recognized World Biosphere Reserve.



For further information, or to purchase tickets for this event, please contact any of the Directors of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre listed below.

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We look forward to seeing you there!

The Giant's Rib presents

The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre proudly announces the next presentation of the second annual Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series.

This series, named in honour of the former General Manager of the Hamilton Conservation Authority, is dedicated to promoting the Niagara Escarpment as an internationally-recognized World Biosphere Reserve, as well as being a truly unique topographic feature of our natural and cultural heritage.

Next Presentation: Sunday, June 7:

The Insects of Ontario with Marvin Gunderman (The Bug Man), Biology Department, McMaster University



Marvin Gunderman has cockroaches in his office, but he won't be calling the exterminator any time soon. The cockroaches are his pets, not pests. Gunderman, also known as the "bug man," is an insect aficionado. As technical coordinator, curator of entomology and insect taxonomist in the Department of Biology, Gunderman is as happy as a bug in a rug. "I'm a very happy guy," he says. "I'm getting paid to do what I love. Not many people can say that."

His office is a plethora of insect paraphernalia. The walls are covered with bug posters and display cases filled with pinned insects. Bug books line his bookcases. He even has a bug on his mug.

Gunderman's fascination with the insect world started in childhood. He began collecting them in jars at the age of 10. By his teens, he was making his own displays out of cigar boxes, sewing pins and handwritten labels. While attending McMaster, he took every course on invertebrates he could find, graduating with a B.Sc. in 1983, followed by an M.Sc. He began working at McMaster in 1989.

Digital photography has taken his passion for bugs to another level. He explained that while children enjoy catching bugs and keeping them in jars, eventually resulting in the bug's demise, photography allows him to observe bugs in their natural habitat without killing them.

Gunderman gets bug-eyed over beetles, but not just any beetles. Tiger beetles are his favourite. "They're the most beautiful insects I've ever seen," he says. A tiger beetle even graces his business cards. And that bug on his mug? It's a tiger beetle too.

The biggest misconception about bugs is that "they're all harmful, they all bite, and they're all poisonous," says Gunderman. He adds that only two per cent of insects fall into these categories, and all insects are "vitaly important to all ecosystems."

Gunderman assists with bug-related courses at McMaster and teaches a summer course on insect taxonomy at the Queen's University Biological Station.

He also takes his bug collection on tour to local schools, and he will have some on hand at this presentation for viewing - and handling!

"I like to work with young kids and get them to love insects, which they usually do, before their parents instill fear," he explains.

So the next time you see a spider in your home, resist the urge to squish it. Just leave it alone, Gunderman advises. The eight-legged exterminators eat other bugs.
Source: McMaster University

All presentations will be held at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area, 650 Governor's Road, Dundas, starting at 2:00 p.m.

Park entrance fee is now \$3.00 per person, or a maximum \$6.00 per car. No admission fee for children under 12.

All presentations will be held Sunday afternoons of the noted date starting at 2:00 p.m.

There is no charge for the lectures, but donations are welcome and appreciated.

For further information: Kenneth Hall (kenjoan75@sympatico.ca), Stan Nowak (basil.cottage@sympatico.ca).

Everyone is welcome - we look forward to seeing you !!

The Giants Rib presents

Art and Photography of the Heritage of the Niagara Escarpment

Celebrating 'the art' of the natural and cultural heritage of the Niagara Escarpment featuring a new local artist every month at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre.

Dundas Valley Conservation Area, 650 Governor's Road, Dundas. Saturdays and Sundays only from 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Park entrance fee is now \$3.00 per person, or a maximum \$6.00 per car. No admission fee for children under 12.

For the Month of May:

Native Wildflowers - Don Corby

Don Corby has been a photographer since high school. He became interested in capturing the wonder of nature and the intricacies of botanicals while working in a Weston, Ontario camera shop to pay his way to an engineering degree.

He enjoys landscapes and close-up botanicals, and captures the character of the places he visits. Trips to Yosemite, Hawaii, Britain and the Canadian Provinces have added to his portfolio, but he also enjoys photographing parks, conservation and rural areas around the Niagara Escarpment. You will also find Don shooting images of his rural property, wandering amongst the wildflower and native plant gardens, rose gardens, perennial beds, water garden and natural meadow.

Although experimenting with various photographic techniques, Don enjoys the challenge of capturing nature without contrivance. His photographs represent exactly what the camera (and Don) saw when the shutter was released. Using a Nikon F2 with a 200mm micro lens, Don takes most of his pictures in the early morning when the light is just right, the dew is on the plants and the air is still and fresh.

In 2006 Don has shown his work in a solo exhibition "Botanicals Naturally" at the Royal Botanical Gardens. Again in 2008 Don had another solo exhibition at the RBG titled "Complex Simplicity". He has also participated in multiple medium shows at the Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts, Carnegie Gallery and at the Burlington Art Centre. Don's work is always on display in his own gallery and in the Village Gallery in Waterdown.

Don is a member of the Trillium Photographic Club of Burlington. He has won several awards within the club, including the Louise Elder Award for best Wildflower photo. In 2006 he also won the Bronze medal (1st place) for the Canadian Association for Photographic Art (CAPA) Theme Competition "Flowers".

His photos have been published in Camera Canada Magazine and Nature's Best Magazine. His images have also appeared on the covers of Cannon Nurseries plant catalogue and Poetry Canada Magazine.

Don Corby 905-689-1976 or toll free 1-877-689-1976
www.corbyframing.ca

Upcoming Exhibition

June: LOCAL LANDSCAPES - DOUGLAS BROWN

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment by Joseph Hollick

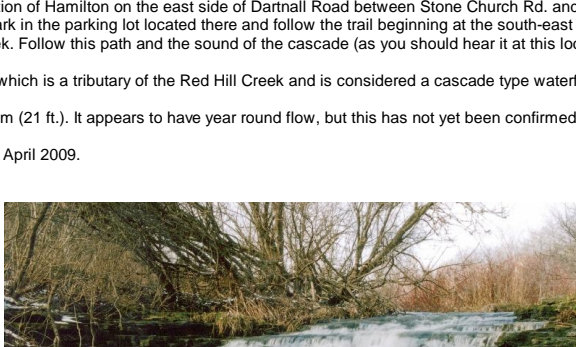
Billy Monkley Cascade is Hamilton's newest waterfall which was found by Chris Ecklund, Dan Court and Jeremy Shortt in April 2009. It has not yet been officially added to Hamilton's list of waterfalls but hopefully it will be included later this year. It is so new that even its name is considered just a working name until the Hamilton Waterfall Group can review all aspects of this waterfall.

Billy Monkley Cascade is located in the Hannon section of Hamilton on the east side of Darnall Road between Stone Church Rd. and Rymal Rd. in the Billy Monkley Bird Sanctuary which is part of the Mt. Albion Conservation Area. Park in the parking lot located there and follow the trail beginning at the south-east end of the lot to the bend (going eastwards). At this bend there is a faint path going south to the creek. Follow this path and the sound of the cascade (as you should hear it at this location) south across the field to the cascade.

Billy Monkley Cascade is located on Hannon Creek which is a tributary of the Red Hill Creek and is considered a cascade type waterfall.

Its total height is 3 m (10 ft.) and it widens out to 6.4 m (21 ft.). It appears to have year round flow, but this has not yet been confirmed.

The attached photo shows Billy Monkley Cascade in April 2009.



Teacher's Corner

McMaster University's Geography and Earth Science Department have offered to coordinate their outreach program with the unit of work that the Giant's Rib has prepared for Grade 4 classes on "Rocks and Minerals". Sean Fletcher, the Instructional Assistant for the Department will arrange for McMaster students studying in their program to come to local Grade 4 classes to provide a basic lesson on rocks and minerals. Teachers who are interested in taking advantage of this offer should contact Sean at 905 525 9140 x 23519 to set up visitations for the 2009-2010 school year.

Teacher's Kit Available

The Giant's Rib is able to provide teachers of Grade 4 with a guide and resource package on "ROCKS AND MINERALS" based on the Ontario Science and Technology Curriculum.

There will be no costs to schools or teachers because this project is sponsored by TD FRIENDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION.

If you are interested or know teachers who would be interested in receiving this package, please contact Ken Hall at 905-627-1320.

Join the Friends of the Giant's Rib

Your assistance would be welcome in helping the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre to increase awareness and protection of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve; or you may wish only to be kept informed of upcoming GRDC activities and events.

We hope to hear from you!

For more information, please contact: Ken Hall 905-627-1320 Gordon Perrault 905-648-8041

Please consider the environment.

Don't print this newsletter unless you really need to.

But please feel free to share this Newsletter electronically with others.