

Newsletter August 2015a

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GIANT'S RIB ESCARPMENT EDUCATION NETWORK

Telling the Story of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve



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Stan Nowak, Editor.

August/September 2015

Volume 10, Issue 5

Welcome to the new-sletter!

As you can see we've gone to a new design and format to go with our new website platform. Now it's easy to access all our channels and keep up with what's new and exciting along the Rib.


Save the Date! Saturday October 17, 2015

Okay, so we've spent the summer working on the Centre, bringing you new and exciting things... but we're not quite done! As we write this, our new interpretive panels are on their way to the Centre and we're still working on a few more surprises!

Our "Grand" Re-Opening will be held on Saturday October 17, along with the SONSI reception and our fall volunteer appreciation day. It will be a great day for a guided hike, some snacks and to see what our NEW Centre is offering!

Many thanks to all those who have worked so hard to make this happen!

The Natural and Cultural History of Southern Ontario,
Illustrated
Southern Ontario Nature and Science Illustrators
2015 Exhibit



Checklist from top left:
K. Lyons, C. Gellan, N. S. Potts,
K. Channon, E. Demichie,
T. Burton

Giant's Rib Discovery Centre
Dundas Valley Conservation Area
650 Governors Road, Hamilton, ON

Exhibit Open Saturdays & Sundays
from Sept 5th - Nov 1st, 2015
Hours: 10am - 3pm
(Park entry fee \$10/vehicle - funds support trail maintenance)

SONSI
SOUTHERN ONTARIO
NATURE AND SCIENCE
ILLUSTRATORS

www.sonsi.ca



Lecture Series for 2015-16

Our Lecture Series is about to begin in September with Rebecca Launchbury, Executive Director of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Fund who will enlighten us all on just ***What the Heck is a Biosphere!*** Discover what a Biosphere Reserve is with some examples from around the world. Rebecca looks at the Niagara Escarpment and how the Biosphere Reserve concepts are implemented

Artist of the Month for September-October

We have the privilege of hosting SONSI, the Southern Ontario Nature and

Science Illustrators who have each created a unique piece specifically for this exhibit. The theme this year is *The Natural and Cultural History of Southern Ontario!* View works from [Tarja Barton](#), Kathryn Chorney, [Emily Damstra](#) (whose work can be seen in our new Ancient Seas mural!), [Celia Godkin](#), [Robin K. Herman](#), [Kathryn Killackey](#), and [Karen Logan](#).

For full details visit the [Arts and Photography](#) section of the website.

Reserve concepts are implemented.

Presentation will be held on **Sunday September 27, 2015 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.** at the **Waterfront Trust Centre, 57 Discovery Drive, Hamilton L8L 8B4**. Parking is free, but there is an admission charge of \$5.00 for each of the presentations.

Door prizes and refreshments will be provided after the presentation, along with an opportunity to talk with our guest speaker!

2015-2016 Lecture Series Schedule

Sunday September 27, 2015 – Topic: What the Heck is a Biosphere Reserve?

Rebecca Launchbury, Executive Director, Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Fund

Sunday October 25, 2015 – Topic: Ancient Cedars of the Niagara Escarpment

Peter Kelly, Coordinator, Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark

Sunday November 29, 2015 – Topic: Fossils of the Niagara Escarpment

David Rudkin, Assistant Curator of Invertebrate Palaeontology, Royal Ontario Museum

Sunday January 31, 2016 – Topic: The Griffin House, A National Historic Site.

Lois Corey, Curator, Fieldcote Memorial Park & Museum, Ancaster Old Town Hall and Griffin House

Sunday February 28, 2016 – Topic: It's a Surprise

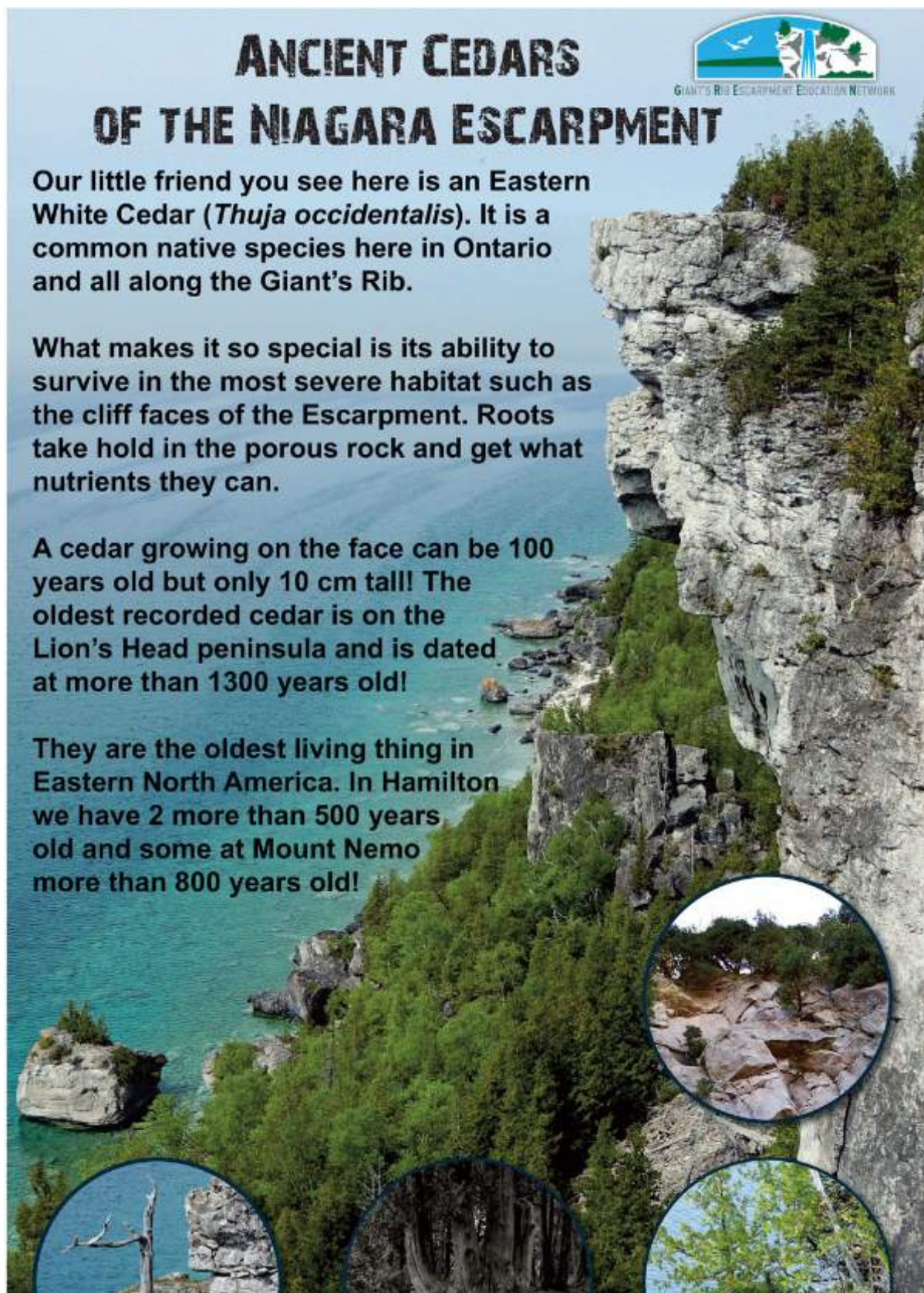
Dr. David A. Galbraith, Head of Science, Royal Botanical Gardens

Sunday April 3, 2016 – Topic: Bugs

Marvin Gunderman, aka "The Bug Man", from the Department of Biology at McMaster University

Sunday April 24, 2016 – Topic: Randle Reef

Chris McLaughlin, Executive Director Bay Area Restoration Council

The poster features a background image of a rocky cliffside overlooking a turquoise lake. The title 'ANCIENT CEDARS OF THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT' is prominently displayed at the top. A logo for the 'GIANT'S RIB ESCARPMENT EDUCATION NETWORK' is in the upper right. The text describes the Eastern White Cedar's resilience in a harsh environment, its age, and its status as the oldest living thing in Eastern North America. Three circular inset images show close-ups of cedars growing on rocks, a dead cedar, and a healthy cedar tree.

ANCIENT CEDARS OF THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

Our little friend you see here is an Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*). It is a common native species here in Ontario and all along the Giant's Rib.

What makes it so special is its ability to survive in the most severe habitat such as the cliff faces of the Escarpment. Roots take hold in the porous rock and get what nutrients they can.

A cedar growing on the face can be 100 years old but only 10 cm tall! The oldest recorded cedar is on the Lion's Head peninsula and is dated at more than 1300 years old!

They are the oldest living thing in Eastern North America. In Hamilton we have 2 more than 500 years old and some at Mount Nemo more than 800 years old!

GIANT'S RIB ESCARPMENT EDUCATION NETWORK



We have a new addition to the Discovery Centre! We are growing an Eastern White Cedar to help visitors become aware of the amazing ecosystems we have along the Rib, including the oldest living thing in Eastern North America.

Can you help us name our new Cedar?



To help the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre continue to enhance your visitor experience to the Dundas Valley and continue delivering Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere programs, we will be raffling off a new piece of art every few months!

On display now at the Discovery Centre is a framed print, *Dawn's Light*, by Stephen Landers. It is a print of an original Stephen Landers photograph, professionally framed by McMaster Gallery and Framing in Dundas. Stop by the Centre and have a look for yourself! Tickets are on sale at the cash counter all week long or in the Discovery Centre on weekends. Tickets are also available by contacting us, or at the McMaster Gallery in Dundas.

Tickets are \$10 and the draw will take place Saturday December 5 Just in time for Christmas!

Winner need not be present for draw. Winning entry will be notified.



The GREEN Waterfall of the Month for September is Indian Falls

The main natural feature of this site is the horseshoe shaped waterfall, named after the Nawash Indian tribe who lived in this area at one time. The 15 metre high waterfall was formed by the erosion of soft Queenston shale beneath hard Manitoulin dolomite, in a manner similar to Niagara Falls.

The 0.8km rigorous trail to the waterfall follows the Indian River, providing many opportunities to view a variety of tree, fern and wildflower species and wildlife.

Near the parking area, in a reclaimed gravel pit, sits ball diamonds, tennis courts and playground equipment. These recreational facilities are owned and maintained by the Township of Georgian Bluffs for its residents, thus demonstrating a successful partnership between two different organizations.

Entrance Location:

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 44.61939° North (Decimal Degrees), Longitude: -80.9461° West

UTM Coordinates: X Easting: 504278.3075, Y Northing: 4940672.496

For more information:

www.greysauble.on.ca/ca_land/indianfalls.html

Thanks to Gemm Webb for the use of this cool photo.

Photo of the Month



The Photo of the Month is this spectacular image taken the night of August 18th by [Sarah Chisholm Photography](#) of Kincardine, Ontario she tiles "**Spilled Milk (Don't Cry)**".

In her own words:

"Last night it was absolutely gorgeous down at the lake shore. I waited until scattered clouds swept away to get this glorious scene of the Milky Way over our

scattered clouds swept away to get this glorious scene of the Milky Way over our small town lights. I love the night sky!

Please help out pages like mine by liking, commenting, and sharing when you see posts! Thank you so much for your support.

Cheers!"

This image is from the Giant's Rib Facebook page, but you can see more of Sarah's photographic work by visiting www.sarahchisholmphotography.zenfolio.com

In Case You Missed the News

[Discovery Centre 2 Go Hits the Road](#)

[Giant's Rib Donates Fossil to the ROM](#)

[Giant's Rib Receives Significant Fossil Donation](#)

Your Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Board of Directors for 2014 - 15

Executive Officers

Chris Hamilton, President

Ken Hall, Past President

Warren Beacham, Treasurer

Jennifer McPherson, Director

Kenneth Hall: Coordinator, Friends of The Giant's Rib, Education Committee

Chris Hamilton: Coordinator Outreach/AV/Website

Joseph Hollick: Coordinator, Niagara Escarpment Waterfalls Research

Stephen Landers: Coordinator, Art and Photography Series

Subul Khalid: Secretary

Leigh Kirschner: Coordinator Media Relations

Ernie Kuechmeister: Coordinator, Recognition Program

Cindy Marr: Coordinator ROM Programs

Jennifer McPherson: Director

Kyle McLoughlin: Coordinator Outdoor Programs

Stan Nowak: Newsletter Editor

Sylvia Zsidi: Coordinator, Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series



Come Join the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre!

Are you interested in the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve? Do you want to learn more about it and contribute to its protection? Volunteering with the Giant's Rib is one way you can do that. We have positions available for volunteers on weekends at the Centre, and Director openings as well. We're growing and expanding, so if you're excited about the Niagara Escarpment, this is the place to be. Please visit www.giantsrib.ca to learn about available positions or [contact us](#) to inquire.



The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre tells the story of the Niagara Escarpment through interpretation at the Centre on weekends and through our public outreach programs. These include a weekend Arts and Photography Series featuring a local artist each month, guided interpretive hikes, the Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series, and we offer a Grade 4 curriculum-based Rocks and Minerals unit to elementary schools free of charge.

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