

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
May 2013

www.giantsrib.ca
Volume 8, Issue 4

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre is now on Facebook!

Visit our website and look for the link:  Login with Facebook for all the latest news and updates.

The Giant's Rib proudly presents our Seventh Annual



The poster features a background image of a sunset over a landscape. At the top center is the logo for the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre, which includes the text "Giant's Rib DISCOVERY Centre" with a stylized circular graphic around the word "DISCOVERY". Below the logo, the words "SUMMER SOLSTICE" are written in large, white, serif capital letters. Underneath that, "Celebration & Fundraiser" is written in a smaller, white, serif font. A horizontal line of dots separates this from the date "Thursday, June 20", which is in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. Below the date is the venue information: "Hamilton Air Force Association Banquet Hall", "128 King St. E., Dundas L9H 1V2", and "Cocktails at 6:00pm • Presentations at 7:00pm". Another horizontal line of dots follows. Below that, the text "JOIN US FOR" is in a small, white, sans-serif font. The main event description is in a white, italicized serif font: "Silent auction, prizes, draws, cash bar, live music, sunset hike and birthday cake to celebrate the Niagara Escarpment Plan's 40th". Below this is the ticket information: "Tickets \$40 • tickets@giantsrib.ca". Underneath that, in a smaller white sans-serif font, it says "TICKET PRICE INCLUDES 10 DRAW TICKETS". At the bottom, the website "www.giantsrib.ca" is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

Giant's Rib
DISCOVERY
Centre

SUMMER SOLSTICE

Celebration & Fundraiser

.....

Thursday, June 20

Hamilton Air Force Association Banquet Hall
128 King St. E., Dundas L9H 1V2
Cocktails at 6:00pm • Presentations at 7:00pm

.....

JOIN US FOR

*Silent auction, prizes, draws, cash bar,
live music, sunset hike and birthday cake to
celebrate the Niagara Escarpment Plan's 40th*

Tickets \$40 • tickets@giantsrib.ca
TICKET PRICE INCLUDES 10 DRAW TICKETS

www.giantsrib.ca

The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

This series, proudly sponsored by the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre, is named in honour of the former General Manager of the Hamilton Conservation Authority and 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 of this Season: Sunday, May April 5th, 2013

The Wild Orchids of the Bruce Peninsula

With Walter Muma, Hamilton Naturalists Club

Walter Muma has had a lifelong fascination with nature and the wild places of Canada. He travelled to the Yukon and Inuvik in 1978 by moped, to James Bay, Labrador, and Newfoundland, to the wilds along the north shore of Lake Superior, and many other places. But his favorite wild place that he returns to explore over and over again is the remarkable Bruce Peninsula. He shares his love of the natural world through his photography and his numerous websites. A Life Member of the Hamilton Naturalists Club, he currently lives in Cambridge with his wife Julie and her menagerie of pets (both indoor and out). When he is not up north near Owen Sound looking for orchids and other neat stuff on his properties, he makes his living as a self-employed business and IT consultant.



For more information on Ontario Wild Flowers, please visit Walter Muma's websites:

Ontario Wildflowers: www.ontariowildflowers.com



Grey-Bruce Wildflowers www.greybrucewildflowers.com



The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

The Complete 2012 – 2013 Program

- September 30 **Fungi: Friend or Foe**
KYLE McLOUGHLIN Experienced Wilderness Guide and Naturalist
- October 21 **For The Birds: What Birdwatchers Do**
JOHN BLACK, Past President of Ontario Field Ornithologists
Co-Author of "Niagara Birds"
- December 2 **My Favourite Hikes Along the Bruce Trail**
BETH KUMMLING, Executive Director. Bruce Trail Conservancy



- February 10 **Origins of The Niagara Escarpment Plan**
CORWIN T. CAMBRAY, former Niagara Escarpment Commissioner
- March 24 **The Cootes to the Escarpment Plan**
BRIAN BAETZ, Environmental Engineer, McMaster University
Member of the Cootes to the Escarpment Planning Team
- April 14 **Rehabilitation of Escarpment Quarries**
MOREEN MILLER, President, Ontario Stone Sand and Gravel Association
- May 5 **The Wild Orchids of the Bruce Peninsula**
WALTER MUMA, Hamilton Naturalists Club

Attempts will be made to organize field trips related to the Lecture Series presentations.

Presentations will be held on Sunday afternoons, from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the former Parks Canada Discovery Centre on 57 Discovery Drive, Hamilton, now administered by the Hamilton Waterfront Trust.

Parking is free, but there is an admission charge of \$3.00 for each of the presentations. Refreshments will be provided after each presentation, along with an opportunity to talk with our guest speaker!

For further information: Kenneth Hall kenjoan75@sympatico.ca, Sylvia Zsidi sylviaz@cogeco.ca

Art and Photography of the Heritage of the Niagara Escarpment

Celebrates '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. - 3:00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Park entrance fee is now \$9.00 per car, but walk in or bike in is FREE. Your parking fee supports the Dundas Valley Conservation Area and can be used towards admission at any other Hamilton conservation area on the same day.

There is no admission fee to view the exhibit, but donations are gratefully accepted. For further information: Kenneth Hall kenjoan75@sympatico.ca, Robert Gerritsen rjgerritsen@cogeco.ca

For the Month of May 2013 – Two Exhibitions:

"Fine Art" Watercolours

Featuring the artistic works of Karen Woods



"While my husband was in treatment for cancer in 2000, I had the opportunity to take a few lessons on painting with acrylics. Following the patterns from books, I continued to learn and become more comfortable with the medium. Viewing a selection of watercolours led me to inquire about lessons and was directed to a weekend workshop where I had my first opportunity to put water and colour on paper.

Over the next two years I gradually shifted over to the "fine art" side of things and consider myself a continuing learner of the craft. In the ensuing years I have taken several workshops to broaden my experience and vision. I hope you enjoy what I bring into your view this month."

Karen Woods

Birds of Prey: Owls and Hawks

Featuring the work of taxidermist Jim Jackson



Jim Jackson is an award-winning taxidermist, having gained international recognition at various taxidermy competitions, including the World Taxidermy Competition.

His work will be a regular feature at our Trail Centre in the coming months and will showcase local birds.

This month, the exhibit will feature birds of prey that stay with us throughout the winter.

Jim is based in Hamilton and he is a member of the National Taxidermists' Association with over 30 years' experience.

For more on Jim and his work, visit www.jimswildlifetaxidermy.com



**Saturdays and Sundays only from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area**

Rib Happenings



Planning a photo outing to Dundas Valley Conservation area?

Dundas Valley is an UNESCO world biosphere site. In co-operation with the Giant Rib Discovery Centre, the Burlington Photography Meetup Group will be hosting a photo exhibition for those who participate in the outing over the month of June.

The Burlington Photography Meetup Group is for residents of Burlington and surrounding areas to meet up in for photographic outings to share our photos and to meet others with similar interests, to learn from each other and enjoy this great hobby.

Framed prints of your images will be on display and for sale if you wish in the Trail Centre in the Dundas Valley.

The photographer will be responsible for all printing, framing and delivery to the Discovery center; set-up will take place June-1st.

For more information: www.conservationhamilton.ca/dundas-valley

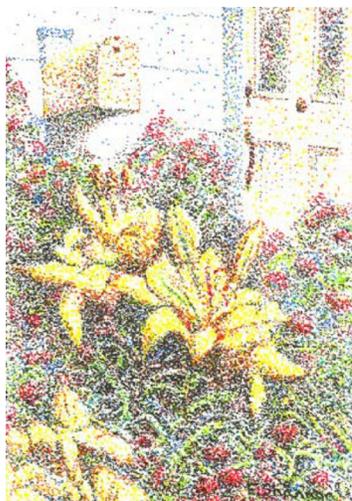
Mount Nemo Day 2013



Mount Nemo Day! Our third annual Mount Nemo Day will be **Saturday, May 25, 2013** at the Mount Nemo Conservation Area between **1:00 and 4:00pm**. Free entrance to the park!

Everyone is welcome, including leashed dogs. Enjoy the beauty of Mount Nemo and learn how you can help protect it.

Sponsored by the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE)



Mark your calendars:

SecreT GardenS

An Annual Fundraiser for the Carnegie Gallery

20th Anniversary Tour of Artistic Garden Retreats
10 - 4, Sunday June 2, 2013

\$20.00 Ticket includes Collector's Artist Poster & Tea Room in the Gallery



10 King St. W. Dundas, ON L9H 1T7

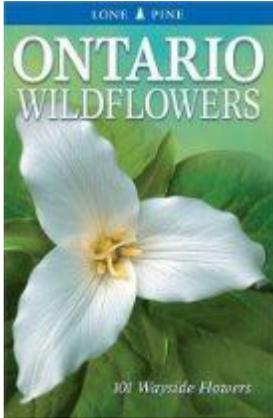
905-627-4265 carnegie@carnegiegallery.org

The Literal Rib

Book reviews submitted by Stan Nowak

Ontario Wildflowers: 101 Wayside Flowers

by Linda Kershaw



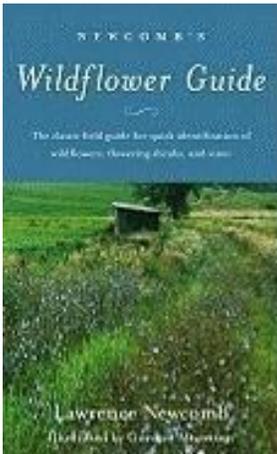
Ontario has an abundance of beautiful wildflowers including many immigrant garden escapees. This lovely little guide helps you correctly identify many of our roadside, forest and fen flowers, including some that have to be avoided. Most descriptions and pictures are very clear. .

The only serious problem arises when the one plant you want to name is not included. If only another book (Another 101 wayside flowers) could be published in the same format. The organization made locating the plant you were seeking fairly easy and many descriptions included specific differentiating characteristics, when there was more than one possibility.

A customer's review from www.greybrucewildflowers.com

Newcomb's Wildflower Guide

by Lawrence Newcomb



Lawrence Newcomb's system of identification on wild flowers is based on natural structural features that are easily visible to the untrained eye and enables amateurs and experts to identify almost any wildflower quickly and accurately.

The author's system allows even amateurs like me to quickly and accurately identify wildflowers.

It is as simple as answering five questions which point the user to the appropriate page in the book where the flower is described and pictured. The text is great. The first sentence of each description distinguishes that plant from all others in that group. If you are looking for a wildflower guide, they do not get better than this one.

By Craig L. Howe "The Pointed Pundit" from www.ontariowildflowers.com

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

Waterfalls of the Month by Joseph Hollick

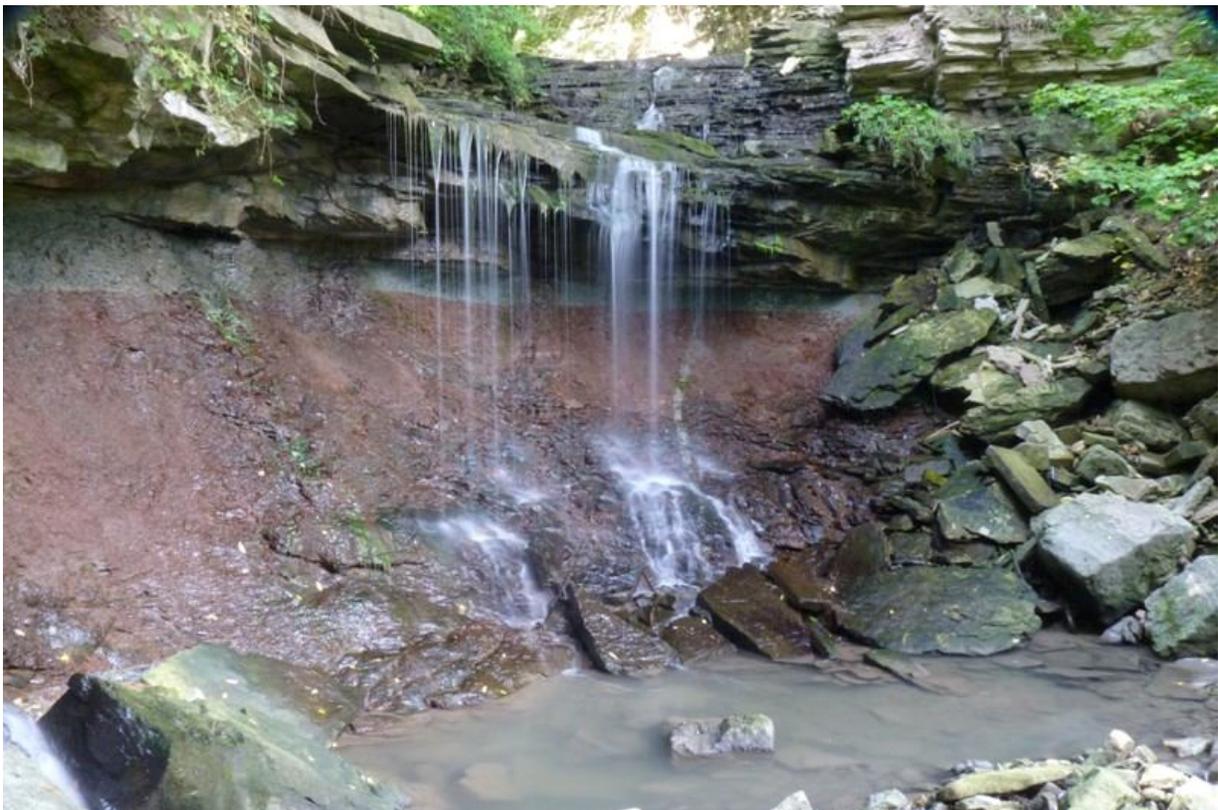
Lower Westcliffe Falls is located on a tributary of the West Chedoke Creek at the Chedoke Civic Golf Course in Hamilton.

Lower Westcliffe Falls is considered a Complex Classic Cascade, with a Plunge section, type waterfall. This waterfall has year round flow, thus can be viewed at any time. Its total height is 9 m (30 ft.) and its width is 6 m (20 ft.).

This is the second waterfall on this branch of the West Chedoke Creek as the first waterfall is located approximately 75 m upstream of Lower Westcliffe Falls and is called Westcliffe Falls.

In addition, Lower Westcliffe Falls is actually the west half of the Double Waterfall at the Chedoke Golf Course, with Lower Cliffview Falls being the east half of this Double Waterfall. The two waterfalls are located on two separate branches of the West Chedoke Creek which fall over the escarpment almost side by side, forming two separate waterfalls. At the bottom of these two waterfalls, the two creeks join together to become one creek.

To visit Lower Westcliffe Falls is fairly easy. From Hwy 403, take the Aberdeen Avenue exit, then travel for less than 1 km and turn right onto Studholme Road (towards the Chedoke Civic Golf Course), then turn left onto Beddoe Drive and follow it to the golf course. Park in the parking lot. The waterfall is located west of the steel staircase (going up the Niagara Escarpment) and just west of Lower Cliffview Falls. It can be viewed through the chain link fence located beside the paved walkway west of the steel staircase.



Happy Waterfalling!

Teacher's Corner

by Ken Hall

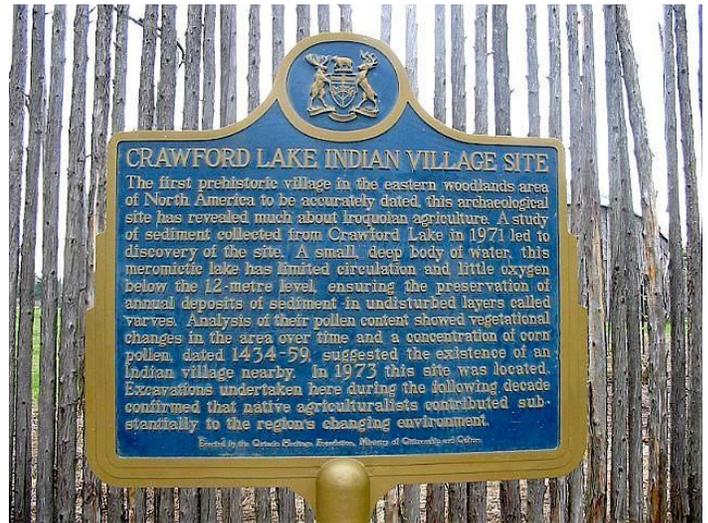
Take your class to Crawford Lake in Conservation Halton!

Where else can you find a 468 hectare park, a rare meromictic lake (where layers of water do not intermix) and a 15th century reconstructed Iroquoian Village? Located in Milton and nestled in a spectacular section of the Niagara Escarpment, Crawford Lake Conservation Area invites you to come and explore this living, breathing classroom.

For Grades 3 to 6, Crawford Lake offers a 1.5 hour program called LIFE IN THE LONGHOUSE

Students discover Ontario's First Nation's heritage as they explore the 15th century reconstructed Iroquoian Village. Hands-on opportunities as students engage in games, a village tour and longhouse exploration as they learn about what life was like in a longhouse village over 600 years ago. Activities include: Longhouse exploration, circle gathering and fire starting, multimedia presentation, native games and take home craft activity.

For more information or program reservations, please call Crawford Lake at (905) 854 0234 x 3200 or email crawfordlake@hrcan.on.ca .



Finally, something new....

Giant's Rib Photo of the Month



Who says ancient trees are expected to be massive? The Niagara Escarpment's ancient Eastern White Cedar trees can appear to be very small giving the impression that they are young. However, many of these trees can be over 800 years of age. The exposed location to extreme seasonal weather and lack of nutrients in the Escarpment's solid cliff face stunt their growth but they are very much alive!

Have you found any of the Escarpment's ancient cedar trees?

Giant's Rib Discovery Centre shared Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE)'s photo on Facebook.

Photo credit: Alex Indigo

Come Join the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre!

The Discovery Centre Needs Your Help!

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 the available positions listed below



Discovery Centre Interpretive Volunteers



About the GRDC

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.

We require interpretive volunteers to work half-days on weekends at the Centre (located within the Dundas Valley Conservation Area at 650 Governor's Road in Dundas) and co-ordinators to manage public programs and support our annual fundraiser in June.

For detailed descriptions, please visit www.giantsrib.ca



If you are interested in any of these positions, or if you have a specific skill set you feel may assist us, please contact Chris Hamilton at chamilton@giantsrib.ca



Your Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Board of Directors for 2012-13

Executive Officers

Chris Hamilton, President **Ken Hall**, Past President
Warren Beacham, Treasurer **Joseph Hollick**, Secretary

Kenneth Hall Co-ordinator, Friends of The Giant's Rib
Director, Education Committee

Chris Hamilton Outreach Co-ordinator
A / V Presentation Co-ordinator

Joseph Hollick Co-ordinator, Niagara Escarpment Waterfalls Research
Co-ordinator, Site and Building Development

Robert Gerritsen Co-ordinator, Art and Photography of the Heritage of the
Niagara Escarpment

Ernie Kuechmeister Co-ordinator, Recognition Program

Jennifer McPherson Marketing and Fund-raising

Kyle McLoughlin Co-ordinator, Field Trips

Stan Nowak Newsletter Editor

Danya Scime Co-ordinator, Special Events

Rob Willett Co-ordinator, Marketing and Communications

Sylvia Zsidi Co-ordinator, Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

***Please consider the environment.
Don't print this Newsletter
unless you really need to.***

***But, by all means, please feel free to share your newsletter with
others via e-mail.***