

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
May 2011

www.giantsrib.ca
Volume 6, Issue 5

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre is now on Facebook! Visit our website and look for the link:  Login with Facebook
or use the link: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Giants-Rib-Discovery-Centre/173267026030262?v=wall>
for the latest news and updates.

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre proudly presents Our Fifth Annual

Giant's Rib Summer Solstice

Circle Tuesday, June 21, 2011 on your calendar.

Our annual Summer Solstice Celebration will surely be a spectacular evening!

Giants Rib 2011 Fundraiser

Dinner & Silent Auction

This year held at the Lakeview Centre on Hamilton's beautiful waterfront!

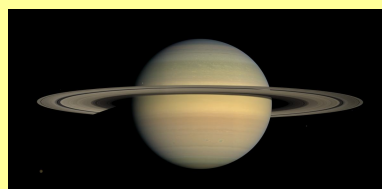
Your evening will include:

*A delicious meal prepared by Carmen's Live and Silent Auctions
Spectacular Panoramic Views Sun Setting, Stars Shining and Local Entertainment*

Watch the Sunset from the five-story Viewing Tower!

*The Hamilton Amateur Astronomers Club joins our evening with telescopes
for your viewing pleasure!*

On a clear night, Venus and Mars will be visible as well as the rings of Saturn!



Giant's Rib Summer Solstice

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

\$65 in advance

\$75 after June 1st

Call: Danya: 905-541-2980 Stan: 905-627-8832



*This year, the GRDC is proud to host our event at the
[Lakeview Banquet Hall](#) on Hamilton's beautiful waterfront!
180 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, Ontario*

For further information, visit our website at www.giantsrib.ca

The Giant's Rib presents:

The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre announces the return of the winter edition of the Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series, starting in February 2011.

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, May 15, 2011

Discovering the Spring Wildflowers in Hamilton's Natural Areas

with Dean Gugler, Hamilton Naturalists' Club

Dean Gugler has been searching out and identifying wild flowers for over 60 years, with the last 45 years being spent primarily in the Hamilton region. He has belonged to the Hamilton Naturalists Club for most of those 45 years and spent them learning about the local wild flowers and, for the last 30 years, passing the information along to others on wild flower walks. He has volunteered for 12 years in the herbarium of the Royal Botanical Gardens and spent thousands of hours in the forests and fields of the RBG grounds and the Dundas Valley.

He has found wild flowers in bloom during every month of the year, even during the depths of winter, and has discovered two species never before seen in the area.

Although not a professional photographer, he has enjoyed photographing wild flowers and other natural objects and has given slide presentations in Malta, the U.S.A. and various places in Canada.

Check out what flowers are currently blooming at www.deanswildflowers.com.

Dean has updated the site regularly since it started in 1997.



Please note that presentations will continue to 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 a toonie (\$2.00) for the presentation.

For further information:

Kenneth Hall (kenjoan75@sympatico.ca), Stan Nowak (basil.cottage@sympatico.ca).

The Literal Rib

We hope you will enjoy this new feature for the Giant's Rib Newsletter. We will regularly present a review of a book that highlights the cultural and / or natural heritage of the Niagara Escarpment.

Whenever possible, the review will focus on a recent publication produced by the featured Bruce Duncan Series speaker for that month.

Copies of this book are available at Bryan Prince Bookseller, Coles and Chapters.

The Natural Treasures of Carolinian Canada

Discovering the Rich Natural Diversity of Ontario's Southwestern Heartland

The Carolinian Canada Coalition,

Edited by Lorraine Johnson James Lorimer and Company Limited, Publishers

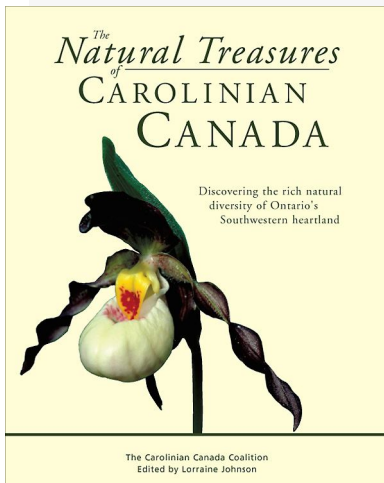
First Major Book about Carolinian Canada

Carolinian Canada Coalition

Collaborating for a Healthy Ecoregion

1017 Western Rd, London ON N6G 1G5, Grosvenor Lodge (by appt.)

519-433-7077 519-913-2449 (fax) info@carolinian.org www.carolinian.org



Sweeping from Toronto to Lake Huron and Lake Erie is a region of biological richness unmatched in Canada. Here the native trees have unusual names – Sassafras, Cucumber, Magnolia, Tulip Tree, Pawpaw, and evoke the distinctly southern character for which the region is named.

The zone is also home to many species of plants, mammals, birds, fishes and mussels, amphibians and reptiles, butterflies dragonflies and other insects not found elsewhere in Canada

The Carolinian Region is only a quarter of a percent of the country's total land area, but close to one-third of Canada's rare and endangered plants and animals live here. So does more than a quarter of the country's population.

Many unique species depend upon the region's distinctive habitats that are often themselves in jeopardy. The Carolinian landscape is one of the most threatened in North America.

This book is a labour of love for the contributors who share their personal knowledge of the diverse richness and rarity of the species and spaces in Carolinian Canada.

The contributors include naturalists and scientists working at World Wildlife Fund, Bird Studies Canada, the Royal Ontario Museum, many universities and at government natural resources ministries. The contributors were coordinated by editor Lorraine Johnson, a past president of the North American Native Plant Society, on behalf of the Carolinian Canada Coalition, a non profit coalition of over 40 conservative groups and many working to conserve the ecological diversity of the region.

This book makes an excellent reference, gift or library donation. Each purchase supports conservation financially and by building support and awareness. This landmark book is one concrete way that each individual can help conserve the unique nature of southwestern Ontario. Available from the Carolinian Canada Coalition (www.carolinian.org) and at bookstores across the region.

The Giant's 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 different local artist every month at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area, 650 Governor's Road, Dundas.

Saturdays and Sundays only from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Please note that the Park entrance fee is now \$4.00 per person (walk-in or bicycle), or \$7.00 per car.

There is still no admission fee for children under 12.

There is no admission fee to view the exhibit, but donations are gratefully accepted.

For further information: Artistic Director Nancy Clarke Hauser nancyclarkehauser@gmail.com

For the Month of May 2011:

Splendor of the Giant's Rib

Featuring Pat and Maurice Green, II Illustrators and Photographers



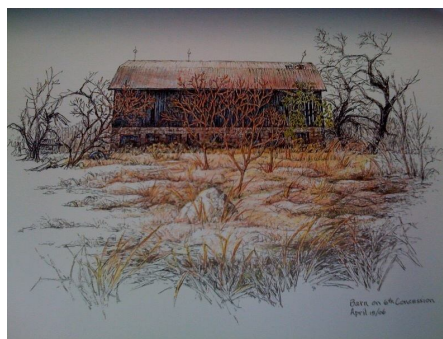
Patricia Green began her career as a commercial artist doing technical drawings for handbooks. Later, her work included fashion and product illustrations for advertising.

The years 1975-1984 were spent working for the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority producing publications and displays. This sparked a keen interest in the outdoors.

Presently, she spends time sketching the local scene using pen and ink, or pencil, to portray natural areas.

Plants, trees or old structures, such as the McCormack property on Governors Road, are included in her genre.

She resides in Waterdown with her husband Maurice, with picture window views of the conservation lands.



Maurice Green had an early passion for photography as a hobby which continues today. In 1956, he became a professional photographer and later served as head of the Photographic Department and Lecturer at The University of Waterloo, until his retirement in 1990.

In 1960, he earned the distinction 'Associate of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain'.

Maurice has published six books which include his photographic works, three of which he has co-authored, which include illustrations and maps by his wife Pat Green, for the Waterdown -East Flamborough Heritage Society.



Saturdays and Sundays 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area

Teachers' Corner

by Ken Hall

This summer the Hamilton Conservation Authority is running a series of one-day mini camps called **Adventures in the Valley**, for boys and girls age 6 to 9. Each day includes fun-filled games, activities and a take home craft.

The programs will be held in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area, 650 Governors Road, Dundas.



Dates (Fridays) and Programs

July 8: Nature Sense – Smell, taste, touch and hear your way through a fun filled day. Find out how different animals use their senses in amazing ways.

July 15: Young Explorers- Focus on the natural world of the Dundas Valley. Discover how the creatures that live here connect to each other.

July 22: Habitat Heroes – Find out why conserving habitat is important to maintaining balance in nature. Help out with a conservation project.

August 5: Sky Hunters – Learn about raptor adaptations and the natural communities where they live. Discover other airborne predators in the valley

August 12: Magical Metamorphosis - The Valley is filled with all kinds of small creatures that start life as one thing and end up as something different.

August 19: Nutty for Nature – Share your appreciation of the great outdoors with fellow nature nuts. Hike, make a craft, and explore plants and much more.

There is also a Junior Conservationist program for boys and girls age 10 –12

Dates (Tuesdays) and Programs:

July 12, Becoming a Naturalist

July 26, Species at Risk

August 9, Outdoor Skills

August 23, Habitat Restoration

For more information, contact Beth Stormont at bethdvca@conservationhamilton.ca or at 905- 627-1233.



If you know teachers or anyone else who would be interested in this information, contact Ken Hall at 905-627-1320 or at kenjoan75@sympatico.ca

Please note that past items from “Teachers’ Corner” are available at www.giantsrib.ca in the Newsletters section.

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joseph Hollick



Darnley Cascade has been featured on a few vintage post cards dating back to the early 1900's when it was known as Stutt's Falls. A third name for this waterfall is Crooks Hollow Falls.

Shown are pictures of a vintage post card dated 1911 (left, courtesy of Janet Forjan-Freedman) calling it Stutt's Falls, a current picture taken in 2008 from a similar location as the post card and another photo taken of this waterfall from the bridge on Crooks

Hollow Road crossing the Spencer Creek.

Darnley Cascade is considered a washboard curtain cascade. Its height is 4 m (13 ft.) and its width is 22 m (72 ft.). This waterfall has year round flow.

In 1813, Scottish born James Crooks completed the construction of a new dam, sluice and mill on the Spencer Creek and named it "Darnley Grist Mill" after the Scottish hero, Lord Darnley. This area increased in size to include the Darnley Grist Mill, a distillery, linseed oil mill, cooperage, tannery, woollen mill, foundry, agricultural implement factory, paper mill, log cabins for the workers, a general store and an inn. A 100 man workforce and their families lived in the community that aligned Spencer Creek for half a century. In the early 1900's this mill and land was owned



by the Stutt family and the waterfall became known as Stutt's Falls. Today the land and waterfall are on Hamilton Conservation Authority property and all industry in the area is gone with only ruins of the Darnley Mill remaining.

To visit Darnley Cascade, follow Hwy #5 westward from Clappison Corners (junction of Hwy #6) and turn left onto Brock Rd. to Greensville. At the four-way Stop intersection, turn right onto Harvest Rd. Bear left at about 300 m onto Crooks Hollow Rd. There is no parking at the Darnley Mill, thus when you reach the small bridge crossing Spencer Creek, slow down to view the waterfall on the right side about 100m up the creek.

Joe Hollick is the GRDC's Waterfalls of the Niagara Escarpment Research Coordinator and has developed a presentation of the Waterfalls of Hamilton.

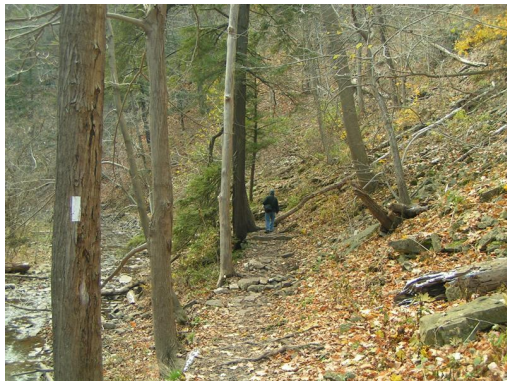
If you're interested in having Joe present this to your group, please contact him at **905-628-3132** or at joehollick@sympatico.ca

Activities on The Giant's Rib



Bruce Trail Hiking 101 Learn how to hike.

The Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club is offering a Hiker Initiation Program in the Spring of 2011 for those people who would like to know more about hiking the beautiful trails of Southern Ontario.



It will begin with a classroom session on Monday May 9, 2011 at 7PM. This will be held at Tumblehome Source for Adventure (401 Brant St. Burlington). Experienced hike leaders will teach the essentials so that you will have safe, enjoyable hiking experiences.

A shopping experience at the same location with knowledgeable staff on hand, will be offered for those who are interested, on the same evening following the classroom session.

And finally, on Saturday, May 14, 2011 starting at 10:00 AM, an experienced hike leader will lead you on a scenic hike of the Bruce Trail in Lowville.

You are required to register for the program. For more information or to register, please contact Linda Tiley at 905-627-4150 or lindatiley@hotmail.com.

For further information on activities offered by the Iroquoia Bruce Trail club go to www.iroquoia.on.ca



Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch

The annual hawkwatch has been taking place for over 30 years at Beamer CA., just above Grimsby on the escarpment. There are experienced birders here every day, counting all the raptors that are migrating north in the spring and taking advantage of the thermals rising up the cliffs from the lake to lift them on their way. Continues until May 15th.

If you would like to observe the fascinating spring migration of hawks and other raptors, contact Mike Street at 905-648-3737.



Your Giant's Rib Discovery Centre's Board of Directors for 2011

William Edwards Web-Site Administrator
Kenneth Hall President, Co-ordinator, Friends of the Giant's Rib,
Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series, & Research
Nancy Clarke Hauser Arts Program Co-ordinator, Trail Centre Manager
Joseph Hollick Secretary & Co-ordinator, Niagara Escarpment Waterfalls Research,
Site and Building Development
Ernie Kuechmeister Recognition Program Co-ordinator
Jack Lee Chair, Education Committee & Liaison Coordinator with Affiliated Groups
Dr. John MacRae Treasurer, Director of Audio-Visual Presentations
Mike McCallion Co-ordinator of Funding Applications
Stan Nowak Publicity and Communications Director
Danya Scime Co-ordinator of Special Events

Join the Friends of the Giant's Rib

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The Executive of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre is looking for volunteers who wish to assume leadership roles with an organization that strives to educate the public on the need to preserve our Niagara Escarpment as a World Biosphere Reserve.

If you are such a person, please contact **Ken Hall** at **905-627-1320** or at kenjoan75@sympatico.ca

You will learn more about the goals and objectives of the Giant's Rib and also have the opportunity to express what skills and talents you could offer to help the organization achieve its present undertakings and to move forward in new directions.

Come on and join our Team! We hope to hear from you!

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

But please feel free to share your newsletter with others via e-mail.