

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor
April 2012

www.giantsrib.ca
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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 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, April 29th

The Natural Treasures of Carolinian Canada

with Lorraine Johnson – Editor / Author, City Farmer, Lecturer - York University



Lorraine Johnson is a writer and editor based in Toronto. Her published works cover a broad range of subjects, from gardening with native plants to censorship and the visual arts to travel.

She is the author of eight books (including *Grow Wild*; *Green Future*; *A Gardener's Manifesto*; and *The New Ontario Naturalized Garden*) and the editor of two essay collections (*Suggestive Poses*, and ***The Natural Treasures of Carolinian Canada*** – see The Literal Rib further on in this newsletter).

She teaches a course on native plant ecosystems at York University's Faculty of Environmental Studies.



Magnolia



Tulip Tree

The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

The Complete 2011 – 2012 Program

- October 23 **The Wonders of Long Point, One of Canada's World Biosphere Reserves**
STUART MACKENZIE – Land Bird Program Coordinator for the Long Point Bird Observatory
- November 13 **Jon's Journey - Experiences in Exploring the Natural Areas of Hamilton**
JON WELLS – Award-Winning Reporter for the Hamilton Spectator
- December 4 **Creating Ecological Improvements within the Red Hill Valley since the Construction of the Red Hill Parkway**
JAMES ROCKWOOD – Environmental Coordinator, Public Works Department, City of Hamilton
- January 22 **The Formation of the Niagara Escarpment**
Professor NICK EYLES – Expert on glaciations and ice sheets
Author – Ontario Rocks, Canada Rocks
Advisor and participant with CBC's Geologic Journey and Host of Geologic Journey – World
- February 12 **Trails Along the Niagara Escarpment utilized in the War of 1812**
JOHN BRYDEN – former journalist for Hamilton Spectator, Globe and Mail and Toronto Star
Former MP, Historian, Author and Researcher
- March 18 **The Niagara Peninsula Hawk Watch**
MIKE STREET – Hamilton Naturalists' Club.
A local expert on hawk migrations
Developer and Hamilton-Wentworth Co-ordinator of ONTBIRDS
- April 29 **The Natural Treasures of Carolinian Canada**
LORRAINE JOHNSON – Editor / Author, City Farmer
Lecturer- York University
- May 13 **The Effects of Climate Change on the Ontario Wine Regions**
ANTHONY SHAW – Professor, Department of Geography, Brock University
- June 10 **Escarpment Parks and Open Spaces: Effective Management Planning**
SUSAN COOPER - Natural Heritage Advisor, Land Use and Planning Department, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

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), Stan Nowak (basil.cottage@sympatico.ca).

The Giant's Rib presents:
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 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Park entrance fee is \$4.00 per person (walk-in or bicycle) or \$7.00 per car. No admission fee for children under 12.

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

For further information: Arts Program Co-ordinator Kenneth Hall kenjoan75@sympatico.ca

For the Month of April 2012:

Off The Trail

Featuring the Photography of Stephen Landers



During the month of April, 2012, **Stephen Landers** is showcasing his photographic work "Off the Trail" at the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre in the Dundas Valley Trail Centre. He has submitted a number of exceptional canvas-mounted photographs taken from Dundas to Tobermory.

Stephen Landers is a professional Fine Art



Photographer who feels fortunate to be living in Dundas because of its richness in diverse landscapes. This close proximity to nature has given him an extensive array of natural backdrops to capture with his lens. Stephen embraced his artistic ambitions and left a 13 year career in Finance, launching a turning point in his life. The self-taught photographer employs no digital manipulation in his photography. Instead he prefers to use the artistry learned from years of shooting with film cameras for the composition of his images. The fourth generation artist is best known for his water and nature prints. He has the innate ability to capture breathtaking images of the beauty that surrounds him, and finds himself most at home in the beauty of nature. He has been featured in numerous Art galleries and Exhibitions throughout Ontario and has built a reputation as an architect of fine art photography by selling his craft to admirers around the globe. Stephen's clients include Municipal, Provincial and Federal governments in Canada, along with personal and corporate collections. Stephen is the co-owner in McMaster Art Gallery and Custom Framing.

Artist's Statement

"I use photography to navigate my way through this existence. It is my excuse for solitary, my solace of life, my essence translated into a visual presence. There is no other place I feel at home in the world than when surrounded by the presence of nature. These are the feelings and experiences I endeavour to capture with my photography and hopefully invoke the similar empathy from its viewers. My decision to renounce digital manipulation in my photography comes from my sense of comprehension of the world around me. My images contain all the elements of reality, the beauty including the imperfections of the world around us. "



Saturdays and Sundays only
Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area.

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

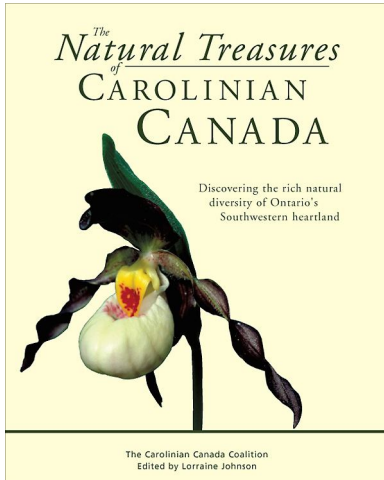
The Literary Rib

The Natural Treasures of Carolinian Canada

**Written by the Canada Carolinian Coalition
James Lorimer and Company Ltd., Publishers**

Edited by Lorraine Johnson

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 countries 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.



Sassafras



Pawpaw Tree with Fruit

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



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, 519-433-7077) and bookstores across the region. Visit the website for information about upcoming signing events.

Submitted by Kenneth Hall, President, Giant's Rib Discovery Centre

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment

by Joseph Hollick

Sugar Shack Falls is located in the Flamborough section of Hamilton along the Escarpment Trail / Bruce Trail about half way between the RBG parking lot on Rock Chapel Road and the end of Romar Rd. at top of Sydenham Hill (15 minute walk from either direction). It is located at the ravine where a stone bridge has been built over the creek, a short distance past the maple syrup sugar shack that the RBG has there, thus its name. The waterfall is situated on lands owned by the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Sugar Shack Falls is considered an Overhang Ribbon Waterfall with a height of 9 m (30 ft.) and a width of 4m (13 ft.). It is dry much of the year with flow only after rainfalls and during the winter snow melt. It is situated on a small tributary in the Borer's Creek sub-watershed.

To reach this waterfall from Hwy 403, take the Hwy 6 N (Guelph) exit, and travel approximately 3 km to Hwy 5 E. (Dundas St. E.). Turn left onto Hwy 5 E and then turn left onto Rock Chapel Rd. At the Escarpment brow, park at the Rock Chapel Sanctuary and follow the Bruce Trail/Escarpment Trail south to the waterfall.

The attached photo of Sugar Shack Falls was taken after a heavy rainfall where some topsoil had been washed from farmers' fields upstream of the waterfall, thus giving the distinct brown colour.



Happy Waterfalling!

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

Teachers' Corner

by Ken Hall

This article appeared in the Hamilton Conservation Foundation Newsletter. I thought it might be of interest to teachers in the Hamilton area who would like to get their classes involved in outdoor environmental programs.



\$10,000 GRANT ENABLES MORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TO ACCESS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



The gift of outdoor education is coming to more Hamilton students thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Edith H. Turner Foundation. The funding will enable students from high need schools to participate in the Outdoor Environmental Program.

"We see so many faces light up with excitement after having the opportunity to participate," says HCA Program Manager, Beth Stormont.

Students are able to learn and explore nature, wildlife, conservation, leadership and sustainable living while exploring the forests, streams and wetlands in the 3,000 acre Dundas Valley.

The active participation creates lasting memorable experiences for nearly 10,000 students who annually attend the now 40 year-old program. The grant reimburses schools from both Hamilton Boards of Education for student transportation costs.



If you know teachers or anyone else who would be interested in this information, please 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.

Rib Facts

The Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve

The Directors of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre form a Committee of the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve. Their basic responsibilities are directed to helping ensure that the Niagara Escarpment continues to meet the three basic criteria of a biosphere reserve:

- Contribute to conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation;
- Foster economic and human development which is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable;
- Provide support for research, monitoring, education and information exchange related to local national and global issues of conservation and development.

The UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Designation



The biosphere is all of the land, water and atmosphere that support life.

A biosphere reserve is an international designation of recognition from UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) for an area in the world which is deemed to demonstrate a "balanced relationship between humans and the biosphere".

By this is meant that collaborative efforts among people in the designated area serve to promote the sustainability of local economies and communities, as well as the conservation of the terrestrial/or coastal ecosystems they are in.

Come Join the Friends of the Giant's Rib

Would you like 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 magnificent 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 and join our Team today! We hope to hear from you soon !



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

Executive Officers

Kenneth Hall, President John MacRae, Treasurer Joseph Hollick, Secretary

William Edwards	Web-Site Administrator
Kenneth Hall	Co-ordinator, Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series Co-ordinator, Arts Program
Chris Hamilton	Outreach Co-ordinator
Joseph Hollick	Co-ordinator of Niagara Escarpment Waterfalls Research Co-ordinator of Site and Building Development
Ernie Kuechmeister	Co-ordinator, Recognition Program
Dr. John MacRae	Director of Audio-Visual Presentations
Maya March	Field Trip Co-ordinator
Nancy Martin	Publicity and Communications Director
Stan Nowak	Newsletter Editor
Donna Quigley	New Direction's Co-ordinator
Danya Scime	Co-ordinator, Special Events

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unless you really need to.***

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