

WINTER 2008



5200 Matchette Road, Windsor, Ontario N9C 4E8

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

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Visit our web site at:

www.ojibway.ca

Over 100 web pages of information on the *Friends*, Ojibway, wildlife, prairie wildflowers, birding and upcoming events.

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Kim Scherer



First-rate Fiftieth Anniversary Fall Festival!

By: Kristen Fawdry

The sun burned through the hazy sky onto the crowd of eager faces. The smell of insect repellent, sunscreen, and hotdogs filled the steamy air. The thermometer read a scorching 30°C. Through my sunglasses I could see that shorts and sandals replaced the typical October jackets and sweaters. It felt like a mid-July barbecue, even though at home, I knew that the Thanksgiving turkey was roasting and awaiting my presence.

Though it was a scorching summery day, our FOOP volunteers donned their best fall faces for our annual Fall Festival at Ojibway Park on Thanksgiving Monday. The day started out slowly, but gathered momentum, with a total of _____ people coming out to

enjoy one of the final sizzling days of 2007. The Fall Festival is an annual tradition for many local families and it was nice to see many familiar faces bringing new friends with them to experience the wonders of Ojibway

Children enjoyed face painting, exciting fall crafts, and a snake tracking demonstration, while whole families participated in guided hikes, scavenger hunts and delicious food. Special activities inside the nature centre helped us celebrate 50 years of the City of Windsor's acquisition of Ojibway Park. What a fabulous way to celebrate a golden anniversary!

Annual Detroit River Christmas Bird Count

By: Kristen Fawdry

Through blowing snow and driving wintry winds, _____ people braved the frigid weather and looked high and low along the Detroit River on New Year's Day in search of feathered friends.

Although the weather did not truly cooperate with the searchers, and it was a quiet birding day in general, a total of _____ species were found.

On a very good note, there were once again double-digit numbers of tufted titmice discovered; a feat that has not occurred in many years due to an attack by the west Nile virus some years ago. It is good to have these forest gems back again!

Large numbers of Mute Swans, and views of a Peregrine falcon were also highlights of this blustery count. Many thanks to all those who braved the elements on New Year's day to count our fine feathered friends.

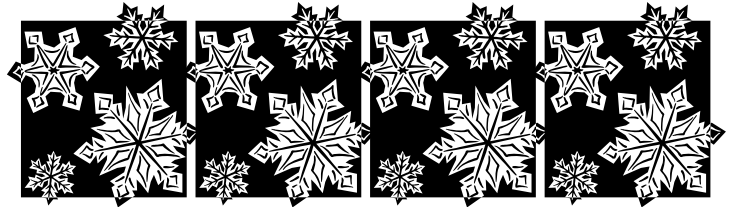
Exploring Habitats: The Tallgrass Prairie

By: Kristen Fawdry

This spring, staff from Ojibway Nature Centre will be traversing the city, with information, activities, and hands-on learning tools in tow to educate local children about the Tallgrass Prairie and some of its inhabitants.

Children of all ages are taking part in this fabulous free program which is being provided with the support of a grant from the Habitat Stewardship Program.

With this new knowledge, these children can help others understand the importance of the Tallgrass Prairie, the benefits to the environment which Tallgrass Prairie species provide, and learn to love the natural world that is right outside their front door!



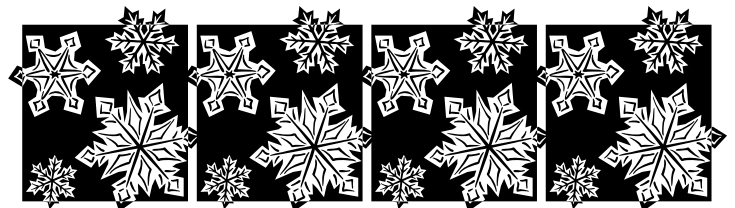
What a Wonderful Wintry Day!

By: Kristen fawdry

The shining sun, the glistening snow, and the welcoming aroma of apple cider drew over 200 people to Ojibway Nature Centre on Sunday, February 4 for our annual Winter Festival. It was one of the most beautiful days for our winter festival in some time, and the public certainly showed their excitement!

Our volunteers worked diligently to appease the crowd with food and beverages to warm cold tummies after a long hike or scavenger hunt. Children took part in creating a recycled materials bird feeder, and families gathered together to take a guided hike. Those who cared not to brave the outdoors were able to meet some of our reptilian friends at two "Creature Features", and many gathered outside the building to make and decorate some lovely snow creatures.

A fabulous time was had by all. A very special thanks to all those who volunteered their time to help us out on another successful festival day!



WINTER BIRD PLEASERS

The winter months can be tough for some of our local bird species. During the harshest parts of the year, it can be very difficult for birds to find adequate food in the wild. Setting up a feeding station in your yard is not only a great way to enjoy wildlife in the winter; it also provides a protected sanctuary for species to survive through the coldest temperatures of the year.

Here are some simple and charming recipes that can make for an attractive (and delicious) addition to any bird feeders' yard.

*Rendered suet is suet that has been boiled down to a liquid, then solidified again.

Plum Pudding

2 cups rendered suet*
½ cup peanut butter
1 ½ cups raisins or dried fruit
1 cup chopped nuts
1 cup dry bread crumbs or yellow cornmeal

Method: in a large saucepan, warm suet until it melts to a thick liquid. Stir in the peanut butter, then mix in the remaining ingredients.

To Serve: Pack into a log feeder, milk carton feeder, make into cakes or a loaf for your suet feeder, or put into a can or pan to make a solid shape to hang.

To Store: Refrigerate up to 2 weeks or freeze up to 2 months.

NOTE: try adding some of your own ingredients to the mixture; popped popcorn, corn syrup or other such items often work well!

Apple Cakes

2 cups rendered suet*
3 cups chopped apples, including cores and seeds
1 cup brown sugar, packed
1 cup chopped raisins

3 cups dry crumbs (bread, cake, cracker, cookie)
1 cup rolled oats
1 cup peanut butter

METHOD: IN A SAUCEPAN, WARM THE FAT UNTIL POURABLE. MEANWHILE, STIR TOGETHER THE REMAINING INGREDIENTS. GRADUALLY ADD THE FAT TO THE FRUIT MIXTURE UNTIL A SAMPLE JUST HOLDS ITS SHAPE WHEN SQUEEZED. PRESS INTO MUFFIN CUPS FITTED WITH PAPER LINERS, OR PACK INTO A LOAF PAN LINED WITH PLASTIC OR FOIL. CLEAN TUNA CANS ALSO WORK WELL. CHILL UNTIL FIRM.

To Serve: hang one or two muffins (without liners) or a hefty chunk in a bird feeding bag or put into a suet holder. Tack filled cans to a post or tree. Balls made of the mixture may be hung from a branch.

To Store: Refrigerate, wrapped up to 3 days, or freeze up to a month.

Simple Seed Bells

1 envelope unflavoured gelatine
1/3 cup water
1 ½-2 cups bird seed of your choice**

Method: heat the water to boiling. Dissolve gelatine into the water, stirring constantly. Once the gelatine is dissolved, stir the birdseed in, making sure that all seeds have a thin coating of the gelatine mixture on it.

To Serve: Place a large spoonful onto a piece of plastic wrap or into a plastic baggie. Squeeze into the shape you would like to use. Chill until set.

To Store: Refrigerate, wrapped up to 1 week; freeze up to 2 months.

**black oil sunflower seed works very well to attract a wide variety of birds, as well as a good mixed seed. Try not to purchase seed with excess corn in it; this only attracts pigeons and squirrels and drives away other species.

Quotable Quotes

Here are a few of the recent quotes seen on the comment pages at the Ojibway Nature Centre. We are proud of all the positive feedback we receive from our many guests! If you haven't been out in awhile, we'd love to hear from you too.

"My first visit to the Centre! I have been outside many times; I LOVE the birds!"

"We had a wonderful time. Thank you"

"A great day with great outdoor trails!"

"A really awesome park."

"A great place to bird watch with great exhibits."

"Ojibway is fun! Keep this park open."

Don't Forget!

Native Plant Sale

This spring, as always, we will be participating in the annual native plant and tree sale. Remember the new location at Lanspeary Park on _____ from 8am-2pm. Come early to pick out your favourite native beauties!

Earth Day 2008

This year, our Earth Day celebrations will be held again at Mic Mac Park, about 2km north of Ojibway Park. The celebration will be held on April 27th, from 10-4. Most events and all parking is at Mic Mac Park. As always, there is no charge for admission to this exciting event. Please join us for a fun filled day of environmental awareness and to celebrate this fantastic planet!



FOOP News & Notes

Writers Do Apply

Do you have something to say about your experiences with Ojibway, or with volunteering?

Do you have an interest in learning more about the *Friends* and the events they are a part of? Do you like to write and would you like to see your words and thoughts in the newsletter? Do you already attend a lot of the *Friends* events and feel you could summarize what went on? If you replied, "yes" to any of the previous questions please consider volunteering to write an article or two for the FOOP Newsletter. We have made up a list of events, celebrations and notable activities that need to be reported on. So if you have a flare for writing and would like to improve your computer skills, please give us a call at the Nature Centre at **966-5852**.



If you are interested in volunteering your time to an environmental group making a difference please call the Ojibway Nature Centre at **966-5852** for our weekly and special events schedule. There are many opportunities ranging from seed collecting, cleaning and packaging, food sales at seasonal festivals, native seed planting, writing articles for the newsletter, participating in spring and fall cleanups, and being part of the Board of Directors.

FOOP Volunteer Schedule 2007

Here is the Friends of Ojibway Prairie Volunteer Schedule for 2007. It is our hope that this list of volunteer opportunities will have something for everyone. Of special note, all of the activities on this list can be used to fulfill the 40 hr. volunteer requirements for high school students. If you are interested in helping or bringing out a group of friends to help, please contact us at the Ojibway Nature Centre: **966-5852** or ojibway@city.windsor.on.ca.

	DATE & TIME		WHAT'S PROVIDED
MARCH			
Seed Cleaning and Packaging	Tuesdays	1pm	hot drinks
Park Cleanup	Tues. & Sat.	1pm	bags and gloves
APRIL			
Annual General Meeting	April 1	2pm	refreshments; speaker
Seed Cleaning and Packaging	Tuesdays	1pm	hot drinks
Garlic Mustard Removal	Tues. & Sat.	1pm	bags
FOOP Spring Cleanup	April 22	10am-12pm & 1-3pm	lunch
Earth Day (setup and/or cleanup)	Sun., April 27	8-10am or 4-6pm	
(food sales, crafts, workshops)	Sun. April 27	10am-4pm	
Prairie Planters and Native Tree & Plant Sale (preparation)	Tuesdays	1pm	
MAY			
Garlic Mustard Removal	Tues. & Sat.	1pm	bags and gloves
Black Locust Removal	Tues. & Sat.	1pm	bags and gloves
Park Cleanup	Tues. & Sat.	1pm	bags and gloves
Native Tree & Plant Sale (setup, sales)	Sat. May 5	8am-2pm	
JUNE			
Seed Planting, Scouting & Collecting	Mondays	10am	cold drinks, bags
Black Locust Removal	Tues. & Sat.	1pm	cold drinks, gloves, bags
Park Cleanup	Tues. & Sat.	1pm	bags and gloves
JULY			
Seed Collecting	Mondays	10am	cold drinks, bags
Purple Loosestrife Removal	Tuesdays	10am	water, tools, bags
Park Cleanup	Tues. & Sat.	1pm	bags and gloves
Butterfly Count	Sat. July 7	9 am	lunch, nets, guides
(\$5 participant fee payable to N.A. Butterfly Association)			

	DATE & TIME	PROVIDED	WHAT'S
AUGUST			
Seed Collecting	Mondays	10am	cold drinks, bags
Purple Loosestrife Removal	Tues.	11am	water, tools
Park Cleanup	Tues. & Sat.	1pm	
SEPTEMBER			
Seed Collecting	Tuesday	10am	drinks, bags
Park Cleanup	Tues. & Sat.	1pm	bags and gloves
OCTOBER			
Seed Collecting and Cleaning	Tuesdays	1 pm	drinks, bags
Park Cleanup	Tues. & Sat	1pm	bags and gloves
FOOP Fall Cleanup	Tues. Oct 2	10am-12pm & 1-3pm lunch	
Fall Colour Festival			
setup and/or cleanup	Mon. Oct 13	10am-12pm or 4-5pm	
food sales, craft table	Mon. Oct 13	12-4pm	
NOVEMBER			
Seed Collecting & Cleaning	Tuesdays	1pm	drinks, bags
Park Cleanup	Tues. & Sat.	1pm	bags and gloves
DECEMBER			
Seed Cleaning and Packaging	Tuesdays	1pm	hot drinks
Park Cleanup	Tues. & Sat.	1pm	bags and gloves
Volunteer Recognition Lunch	Tues. Dec.11	12pm	lunch

NOTES

- Seed collecting, cleaning, packaging, scouting, and planting are all a part of the *Friends* Prairie Restoration Efforts.
- Garlic Mustard and Purple Loosestrife Removal – These exotic species are removed because they are very invasive and crowd out native species in woodlands and wetlands (see article).
- All activities begin at **Ojibway Nature Centre**, 5200 Matchette Road, Windsor (966-5852) unless otherwise indicated.
- Children under the age of sixteen must be accompanied by an adult.

Mark Your Calendars!
April 6 Sunday 2 pm
Annual General Meeting
Ojibway Nature Centre
Guest Speaker: [Redacted]
Topic: History of Ojibway
Refreshments and fun!

FOOP Volunteer Opportunities 2006

Throughout the year there are also jobs that are ongoing. If any of these opportunities spark your interest please call us and we will make an arrangement (time and day of the week) that fits into both of our schedules. Again, please call us if you are looking for something to do that will make a difference for a non-profit group. Of special note, all of the activities on this list can be used to fulfill the 40 hr. volunteer requirements for high school students.

- ***Prairie Planters*** Using our startup kit help to grow prairie plants for Native Tree & Plant Sales in the spring and fall and for prairie restoration plantings.
- ***Newsletter Journalist*** Write an article about a *Friends* event you attended; Submit your thoughts on a nature/prairie topic; an ideas list is available; learn or improve computer skills, compile articles for Newsletters.
- ***Display Design*** Brainstorm; develop and revamp existing *Friends* displays.
- ***Board of Directors*** Attend monthly meetings, plan *Friends* events; make important decisions regarding the *Friends*.
- ***Grant Writing*** Assist in writing grants for publications, special events, projects.
- ***Nature News clipper*** Clip articles from the paper or magazines you read – nature related topics, articles that mention Ojibway or articles that have a quote from Ojibway Naturalists.

Forget to renew your membership?

Don't worry, there's still time!

We still need you and your support for the Ojibway Prairie Complex to fulfill the Friends' goals. Please fill out this form and return it to the Ojibway Nature Centre as soon as possible to retain your benefits of being a Friend. Thank you in advance.

Yes, I wish to renew with the Friends of Ojibway Prairie and continue to support their efforts to assist the Ojibway Prairie Complex.

Name: _____ Phone: _____



Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

- SENIOR \$7
 INDIVIDUAL \$10
 FAMILY \$15
 CLUB/ORGANIZATION \$20
 CORPORATE \$50
 ADDITIONAL DONATION \$ _____

(Please make cheques payable to The Friends of Ojibway Prairie)

OJIBWAY NATURE CENTRE, 5200 MATCHETTE ROAD, WINDSOR, ONTARIO N9C 4E8 (519) 966-5852

Upcoming Events and Programs at Ojibway

FOOP Annual General Meeting

Sunday, April 8 at 2:00pm
Free and open to all. Refreshments provided.
Guest Speaker: Lloyd Burrige

FOOP Spring Cleanup

Join the Friends of Ojibway Prairie as we help beautify our local natural areas. Lunch provided.
Tuesday April 22 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Earth Day

Fun for the entire family: environmental exhibits, entertainment, children's activities, food and much more! Join us at Mic Mac Park for events and at Malden Park for tree planting.

April 27

Sunday 10:00 - 4:00 pm

Free Admission.

Parking and events at Mic Mac Park

Spring Bird Migration

A series of field trips to observe the incredible variety of bird life which migrates through Southwestern Ontario.

Apr. April 12, 26, May 10, 24

Saturday morning field trips 8:30am

\$15/trip

Spring Native Tree and Plant Sale

Attract wildlife to your yard with beautiful wildflowers, trees and shrubs.

Saturday, May 5, 8am-2pm Parks and Recreation Greenhouse (Lanspeary Park)

Weekday Birding At Pelee

Discover the most popular outdoor hobby in North America through a series of morning field trips at Point Pelee.

April 30, May 14, 21

Wednesday 8:30 am

\$15/trip

Big Day Birding

An intensive day of birding for people seeking 100 plus species of birds in a single day.

Wednesday, May 7 6:00 am or

Saturday, May 17 6:00 am

\$25/day

Windsor Butterfly Count

Attention butterfly watchers! Help us with this exciting field inventory of Windsor's butterflies.

July 7

Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

\$5 participant fee to N.A. Butterfly Association, free for children under 12.

Free lunch provided by FOOP.

Captivating Critters (ages 3-5)

Wildlife exploration and nature fun for the younger set.

Spring Session Feb 11-May 12

Mondays: 1-3 pm

\$90/12 weeks

Possum Pals (ages 2-4)

Children too young to leave the pouch? Join us for parent and tot fun in nature. Summer Session will be held on Tuesdays.

Feb 11-May 12

Mondays 10am – 12 pm

\$90/12 weeks

Frogs Snakes and You (ages 4-6)

Enjoy a morning or afternoon filled with activities about slimy, scaly creatures (Limited Enrollment)

March 10, or 12, or 14 from 10am-12noon or 1pm-3pm

\$10/2 hours

Wildlife Discovery (ages 7-11)

How do plants and animals survive in the wild? Discover the secrets at this hands-on camp. Call about a ½ day program. Make sure to pack a lunch and snacks, and come dressed for the weather!

March 11 or 13 9am-4pm

\$30/day

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES or for more programs available:
call 966-5852 or visit www.ojibway.ca

PRAIRIE GENUS WORD SEARCH

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 SOLIDAGO
 MONARDA
 RATIBIDA
 ASCELPIAS
 EUPHORBIA
 HELIANTHUS
 SILPHIUM
 LESPEDEZA

LILIUM
 AUREOLARIA
 IMPATIENS
 LOBELIA
 COREOPSIS
 HYPERICUM
 RUDBECKIA
 EUPATORIUM
 PYCNANTHEMUM

ANDROPOGON
 CIRCIUM
 ELYMUS
 JUNCUS
 ASTER
 RHUS
 GERARDIA
 GAURA
 VERNONIA

LECHIA
 APIOS
 CLEMATIS