

The Esquensing



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Green Darner Dragonfly

Photo Credit: Don Scallen

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President's Message



While in South Africa in July with the Anne Innis Dagg Foundation, we visited an

elementary school in Zululand. Being a retired teacher, it is always interesting for me to hear about education in other countries. Something I really took notice of was the statement that the teachers must educate the children about why the animals in their country are worth saving. Coming from Canada, it just seemed to me that we automatically understand the value of all living things. Don't we marvel when we see a majestic moose in Algonquin Park or the downed trees that are the result of beavers' work? It has become apparent to me that that is not a true statement. There is ample evidence here at home about economics being more important than the state of our planet. You just have to read the news, watch it on tv or scroll social media sites to see how the environment has taken a back seat to, what I think, are less important or equally important things.

Additionally, we value some living beings more than others. Take the attack on insects, for example. It seems that humans think it is their right to kill mosquitoes and other flying annoyances in their yard. After all, insects interfere with our pleasure! What about their critical role in the ecosystem? Just hire a company to spray your yard and you will be able to relax and enjoy the great outdoors. But, this activity is extremely detrimental to all insects, which in turn harms us. I hope that most of our members, if not all, refuse such a harmful practice!

In South Africa, there are confrontations between farmers and elephants. Elephants are very destructive to the farmers' fences and crops. Therefore, they are pests and not valued for their place in the ecosystem. That is one message the Zulu children get about elephants. To us, they are amazing for their size, family groupings, feeding habits, and many other things. It is all about perspective. The good news is that not long after my trip to South Africa, I saw a Facebook post about the first groups of South African children from the school we visited on a safari to see the magnificent animals that live around them and to learn about their importance. Encouraging news! I think we need to do similar things here.

Please contact any of the executive or directors if you know of a speaker we could invite to a future meeting. Next month we are welcoming Mark Engstrom, Senior Curator Emeritus from the ROM. November brings Brenna Bartley from Conservation Halton to talk about the importance of Crawford Lake. You might want to look up what a meromictic lake is. To close out 2025, December is our annual member slide show. This is when I put new places to visit on my bucket list!

I made an error in the last newsletter. Our club is 60 years old! I left out a whole decade of our existence.

Yours in nature,
Margaret Beaudette

Talks and Walks

Indoor Events - Talks

Time/Date: 7:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month

Location: **St Alban's Hall**, 537 Main Street, Glen Williams, ON L7G 3T1
Map on last page of the newsletter.

September – Mary Dagg

Join Mary Dagg, CEO of the Anne Innis Dagg Foundation, for a special talk as she shares the remarkable story of her mother, Dr. Anne Innis Dagg—a trailblazing scientist, feminist, and giraffe advocate. In the 1950s, Anne became the first Western researcher—male or female—to study giraffes in the wild, paving the way for generations of wildlife biologists. Her groundbreaking book on giraffe ecology, behaviour, and conservation is still considered the definitive "giraffe bible".

Mary will reflect on Anne's early love for giraffes, her bold solo journey to South Africa at the age of 23, and the systemic barriers she faced as a woman in science. She'll share how Anne fought back against discrimination and reclaimed her legacy, inspiring a new generation of conservationists and changemakers.

And, of course, this talk will also celebrate the majestic giraffe itself—spotlighting fascinating facts, interesting research, and the challenges giraffes face in the wild today.

Here is a link to Annie's movie – The Woman Who Loves Giraffes.

Movie Version - 83 minutes.

[THE WOMAN WHO LOVES GIRAFFES on Vimeo](https://vimeo.com/269351028)

<https://vimeo.com/269351028>

password: GoodGiraffeThingsFor2023

October, Mark Engstrom

"A whale of a story: from tragedy comes hope for the conservation of Blue Whales in the North Atlantic"

In 2014, nine blue whales were trapped in ice and died in the Gulf of St. Lawrence Straight west of Newfoundland, making headlines around the world. I led a team from the Royal Ontario Museum to recover two of the specimens, in the hope of salvaging something positive from this tragedy. These specimens were the highlight of a major exhibition at the ROM in 2017, "Out of the Depths: The Blue Whale Story". At the same time, we began a research project using tissue samples from these



individuals to examine the genetic structure of populations of blue whales in the North Atlantic to better inform conservation efforts designed to save this endangered species.

Blue whales were hunted to the brink of extinction in the twentieth century. Despite so many whales being harvested, identification of potentially discrete populations and their movements across the North Atlantic were poorly understood, information that is critical to directing conservation efforts. To address these issues, we developed a genome of the North Atlantic blue whale, assembled a genetic sample of current and historical populations, and examined divergence of blue whales across the North Atlantic.

After a lot of effort, we were able to demonstrate that blue whales on either side of Atlantic are somewhat isolated but occasional individuals travel from west to east and mate. In addition, we found a surprisingly high level of hybridization of blue whales with fin whales—something that had not been previously known. In this talk, I discuss the implications of our results for the status and conservation of endangered Canadian blue whales and I promise that it won't be boring!

Upcoming Adventure Walks and Events

Bird Box Cleaning – September 13th 2pm

Scottsdale farm

More details to come

Willam D McIlveen, tree dedication

By Don Scallan

In late May a group of Bill McIlveen devotees met at Joseph Gibbons Park in Georgetown to dedicate a sugar maple in honour of the great naturalist. The maple and a plaque were paid for via the generous donations of Halton/North Peel Naturalist members.

In attendance were members of both the Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club and the South Peel Naturalist Club. Several members of Bill's family were also present.

Bill's fascinating life and manifest contributions to our understanding of the natural world are known to many in our club and beyond. He recently spoke to our club giving us an overview of his life trajectory and his varied and impressive accomplishments.

As I've written before, Bill is one of the finest all-round naturalists in Ontario. We are honoured to have him as a member.

Bill has joked that most people need to wait for their ultimate demise to be honored with a tree planting. It was more than appropriate that we got our acts together to honour Bill well prior to that time.

Thank you to everyone in the club who made this possible!



A Heartfelt Thank You for My Tree – Bill McIlveen

I was a bit surprised when I first learned that the Halton/North Peel Naturalists were planning to plant a tree in my honour. On reflection, I realized that over time, I had done many things that supported the general interests of the HNP Club as well as that of other groups. Still, it was a bit humbling, especially to be the first person in the organization to be so recognized in this manner. I was especially delighted that I was being recognized in this way but particularly because I would be able to actually see my tree. Lots and lots of people have trees planted in their honour but so often that happens after the person has departed this earth. I can hardly find suitable words to express how wonderful it is to be able to actually see and touch 'My' tree. I can only hope that a large number of you will get to share a similar experience.

I must say 'Thank You' for this honor and especially to be the first to receive it. I say 'Thank You' to the Naturalists in general. I say a special 'Thank You' to everyone that participated in arranging for the tree. And a very special 'Thank You' to Don Scallen who was instrumental in arranging the whole thing. I am truly grateful for this honour.

Some people that saw the tree at the time of the dedication recognized that its compliment of foliage was somewhat limited. The leaves forming the upper crown were small. Still, there appeared to be a fairly good number in that part. This is the area where the future main crown will develop. I had faith that the crown could develop into a lush growth if the leaves had a decent chance to expand. My faith in the tree was justified for the leaves have now all grown to near normal size. Some judicious pruning will help but it is anticipated that the new growth next Spring will show the tree to be healthy and vigorous.

When I first heard the name of the Park where the tree was to be planted, my initial reaction was that it was just one of many parks within Georgetown. After a little reflection, I realized that I had several connections to the place though perhaps via an indirect route. The first connection was related to the origin of this whole section of Georgetown. In the mid-1950s. the developer



Rex Heslop bought the farmland where the entire subdivision was built. I recall the empty land and the old farmhouse. I might not have remembered it had it not been for the model of the area with small Monopoly-type houses that they placed in one of the stores in Georgetown. I guess I was impressed. Here we are roughly 70 years later and those house properties now sell for close to 100 times their original asking price.

The next connection relates somewhat to my employment. My old boss in Sudbury left there to take up a new position in Toronto. That meant he needed a new house within commuting distance of the big city and he ended up buying a house on Webber Drive in Georgetown. It backed onto Joseph Gibbons Park. I had some reason to visit him there. Later, and totally unknown to me, my sister purchased that same house from my old boss. So, I had an employment connection and a family connection to the park.

Later, I had moved to take up employment in Toronto and had an opportunity to join the Halton/North Peel Naturalists. I got involved with the workings of the organization. One of those things related to photo slides that were given to the Club by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. The slides were taken by Dr. L.E. and Barbara Jaquith. They lived in Toronto but came to Terra Cotta nearly every weekend and were pretty much a fixture in the area due to all their activities with photography being one of those. I am pretty certain that Dr. Jaquith came to talk to an early public school class at S.S. #3 Public School on Old School Road. His presentation was my first introduction to conditions in the Southwest of the United States. So, I had a new connection to the Jaquiths through the slides given to HNP. The Club's role was to sort the slides into those that had some relevance to nature and those that were personal. The Club did that at the home of Bev and Reed Whatmough that was on Jessop Court that backed onto Gibbon's Park. Bev was one of the Presidents of HNP. So, the Park has yet another connection to me via the link to a former president of the Club and to a speaker at a public school class.

Having established these links between myself and parts of the Gibbon's Park makes the positioning of my tree particularly satisfying. I smile, at least internally, any time any of these thoughts pass through my head.

Moths of the Limberlost

By Don Scallen

Gene Stratton-Porter's "*Moths of the Limberlost*" was published in 1912. In it she waxes poetic about her childhood adventures with the beautiful moths that she encountered on her rural property in Indiana – moths like luna, cecropia and polyphemus.

I love Gene Statton-Porter's nature writing. It brims with joy and passion in a bygone style now considered quaint and unscientific. She captures the wonder of discovery that all of us felt when we were new to this world, when everything was fresh and surprising.

One delightful story recounts her first experiences with day-flying, white-lined sphinx moths that sipped nectar from the flowers around her rural home. Breathless, she announced her observations to her father, who confidently identified the moths as tiny birds – smaller even than hummingbirds. Her dad called them "lady birds".

This identification, backed up by her mother, didn't sit well with Gene. She watched the curious creatures carefully, noted their lack of beaks and tails, and then captured one. Carefully holding it by the wings, she counted six legs and triumphantly announced to her parents that it was a moth, not a bird.

In another story, Gene writes about hummingbird clearwing moths, another species that flies during the day. In early August as I write this, these lovely little moths are visiting a butterfly bush in my front yard.

Like "lady birds", hummingbird moths uncoil long tongues to sip nectar as they hover in front of blossoms. Here's what Gene wrote about these sprites: "Talk about exquisite creatures! These little day moths, not much larger than the largest bumblebees, had some of their gaudiest competitors of moonlight and darkness outdone".

I understand Gene's enthusiasm. These furry little moths, cloaked in olive, orange and black and carried aloft on transparent wings, are stunning. And their little faces and big eyes – to lean in Gene's direction for a moment – are delightfully cute.

If you enjoy nature writing dripping with childlike wonder, I highly recommend *Moths of the Limberlost*.



The Wildflowers of Scotsdale Farm – Part I

By W.D. McIlveen

In 1983, Jocelyn Webber conducted a biological inventory of Scotsdale Farm located northwest of Georgetown. Subsequent visits to the property by Bill McIlveen, Irene McIlveen and other members of the Halton/Peel Naturalist identified a number of other species bringing the total to 312 herbaceous wildflowers. The present part of the summary of wildflowers stands at 102 species of which 36 are alien (35.3%). The present account includes the taxonomic names of species that have been updated. There are many changes in names as well as some additions such that the list from 1983 may appear vastly different, especially to those unfamiliar with all the changes in nomenclature.



Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) 2015



European Gromwell (*Lithospermum officinale*) 2016

The present account covers about one third of the herbaceous plants that we would generally consider to be wildflowers. The group included the families Alismataceae to Boraginaceae.

The dominant plant family in this group is the Asteraceae which includes species such as the asters, goldenrods, thistles, fleabanes and hawkweeds. They account for 59 species of which 26 are alien. The Boraginaceae are represented by 7 species of which 4 are not native. The Carrot family Apiaceae includes 8 species. Two of these including Wild Carrot are alien. Notably, the other non-native in this family is Wild Chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*). There is a center of introduction at Silver Creek located about 2 km to the east. The colony has been expanding and is to be expected that this species would be increasing in abundance. It was not seen at Scotsdale during the 1983 surveys.

The plant group includes the invasive Lesser Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*). Although it is not as aggressive as Vinca, Chionodoxa (*Chionodoxa sardensis*) can spread from its point of introduction.

The Wildflowers of Scotsdale Farm – Part I			
Family	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Alismataceae	Common Water-plantain	<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	
	Broad-leaved Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	
Amaranthaceae	Powell's Amaranth	<i>Amaranthus powellii</i>	Alien Alien
	Common Lamb's-quarters	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	
	Oak-leaved Goosefoot	<i>Chenopodium glaucum</i> ssp. <i>glaucum</i>	

The Wildflowers of Scotsdale Farm – Part I			
Family	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Apiaceae	Wild Chervil	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Alien
	Bulbous Water-hemlock	<i>Cicuta bulbifera</i>	
	Spotted Water-hemlock	<i>Cicuta maculata</i>	
	Canada Honewort	<i>Cryptotaenia canadensis</i>	
	Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Alien
	Hairy Sweet-cicely	<i>Osmorhiza claytonii</i>	
	Maryland Sanicle	<i>Sanicula marilandica</i>	
Apocynaceae	Hemlock Water-parsnip	<i>Sium suave</i>	
	Spreading Dogbane	<i>Apocynum androsemifolium</i>	
	Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	
	Common Milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Alien
Araceae	Lesser Periwinkle	<i>Vinca minor</i>	
	Jack-in-the-pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	
	Wild Calla	<i>Calla palustris</i>	
Araliaceae	Lesser Duckweed	<i>Lemna minor</i>	
	Wild Sarsaparilla	<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>	
	American Spikenard	<i>Aralia racemosa</i>	
	American Water-pennywort	<i>Hydrocotyle americana</i>	
Aristolochiaceae	American Ginseng	<i>Panax quinquefolius</i>	
	Canada Wild-ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>	
Asparagaceae	Chionodoxa	<i>Chionodoxa sardensis</i>	Alien
	Wild Lily-of-the-valley	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	
	Large False Solomon's Seal	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	
	Star-flowered False Solomon's Seal	<i>Maianthemum stellatum</i>	
	Three-leaved False Solomon's Seal	<i>Maianthemum trifolium</i>	
	Hairy Solomon Seal	<i>Polygonatum pubescens</i>	
Asteraceae	White Snakeroot	<i>Ageratina altissima</i>	
	Common Ragweed	<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	
	Field Pussytoes	<i>Antennaria neglecta</i>	
	Stinking Chamomile	<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Alien
	Greater Burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>	Alien
	Common Burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>	Alien
	Nodding Beggarticks	<i>Bidens cernua</i>	
	Devil's Beggarticks	<i>Bidens frondosa</i>	
	Three-parted Beggarticks	<i>Bidens tripartita</i>	
	Nodding Thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Alien
	Wild Chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Alien
	Canada Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Alien
	Bull Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Alien
	Canada Fleabane	<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	
	Narrow-leaved Hawksbeard	<i>Crepis tectorum</i>	Alien
	Eastern Burnweed	<i>Erechtites hieraciifolius</i>	
	Annual Fleabane	<i>Erigeron annuus</i>	
	Philadelphia Fleabane	<i>Erigeron philadelphicus</i>	

The Wildflowers of Scotsdale Farm – Part I			
Family	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Asteraceae	Robin Plantain Fleabane	<i>Erigeron pulchellus</i>	Alien
	Rough Fleabane	<i>Erigeron strigosus</i>	
	Common Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	
	Large-leaved Aster	<i>Eurybia macrophylla</i>	
	Grass-leaved Goldenrod	<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	Alien
	Spotted Joe Pye Weed	<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i>	
	Hairy Galinsoga	<i>Galinsoga quadriradiata</i>	
	Low Cudweed	<i>Gnaphalium uliginosum</i>	
	Elecampane	<i>Inula helenium</i>	Alien
	Canada Lettuce	<i>Lactuca canadensis</i>	
	Oxeye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	
	Pineappleweed	<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	
	White Rattlesnake-root	<i>Nabalus albus</i>	Alien
	Tall Rattlesnakeroot	<i>Nabalus altissimus</i>	
	Golden Ragwort	<i>Packera aurea</i>	
	Orange Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>	
	Meadow Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella caespitosa</i>	Alien
	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	
	King Devil Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella piloselloides ssp. praealta</i>	
	(<i>Pilosella caespitosa</i> X <i>Pilosella lactucella</i>)	<i>Pilosella x floribunda</i>	
	Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Alien
	Common Ragwort	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	
	Tall Goldenrod	<i>Solidago altissima</i>	
	Blue-stemmed Goldenrod	<i>Solidago caesia</i>	
	Canada Goldenrod	<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Alien
	Zig-zag Goldenrod	<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>	
	Grey-stemmed Goldenrod	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	
	Rough Goldenrod	<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	
	Bog Goldenrod	<i>Solidago uliginosa</i>	Alien
	Field Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis ssp. arvensis</i>	
	Prickly Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	
	Heart-leaved Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum cordifolium</i>	
	White Heath Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum ericoides var. ericoides</i>	Alien
	Panicled Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum lanceolatum</i>	
	Calico Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum lateriflorum</i>	
	New England Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>	
	Purple-stemmed Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum puniceum</i>	Alien
	Common Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	
	Yellow Goat's-beard	<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	
	Meadow Goat's-beard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	
	Colt's-foot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Alien
Balsaminaceae	Spotted Jewel-weed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	
	Pale Jewel-weed	<i>Impatiens pallida</i>	
Berberidaceae	Giant Blue Cohosh	<i>Caulophyllum giganteum</i>	
	Blue Cohosh	<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	
	Mayapple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	

The Wildflowers of Scotsdale Farm – Part I			
Family	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Boraginaceae	Common Hound's-tongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Alien
	Common Viper's-bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Alien
	Virginia Stickseed	<i>Hackelia virginiana</i>	
	Virginia Waterleaf	<i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i>	
	European Gromwell	<i>Lithospermum officinale</i>	Alien
	Small Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis laxa</i>	
	True Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	Alien



Wild Chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), 2011



Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), 2008



Elecampane (*Inula helenium*), 2015



Tall Meadow-rue (*Thalictrum pubescens*), 2014

The Buzz about Dragonflies

By Don Scallen

Insects in general get a bad rap, but dragonflies are often cut some slack. They are beautiful, shimmering in an artist's palette of colours. They also merit our appreciation for hunting the biting flies and mosquitoes that torment us in the summer.

Savvy businesspeople have capitalized on dragonfly diets. You can now buy imitation dragonflies perched on wires that can be clipped on hats to scare deer and horse flies. I haven't worn a dragonfly yet, but I am intrigued.



Though almost everyone is familiar with adult dragonflies, their lovely aquatic larvae aren't well known. These immature dragons are also voracious predators – nightmares that haunt a pollywog's dreams.

Some species of dragonflies migrate, along with birds and monarch butterflies, in the spring and fall. The lovely green darner is one of those species.

Green darners migrate north from the southern U.S. to Canada in the spring. They lay eggs here and then die. Their offspring emerge from our ponds and lakes in the summer and fall and wing southward. There, they also lay eggs and die. The offspring of this generation overwinter in the south before launching themselves northwards in the spring, repeating the cycle.

So, like the fabled monarch butterflies, green darners don't make round trips – they have never been to their destinations in the north, or the south for that matter. How monarchs and darners negotiate these journeys is one of nature's delightful mysteries.

Also delightful is the folklore surrounding the darner name. My aunt Mooney used to call dragonflies "darning needles" a once widespread usage alluding to the shape of their bodies. When I was a child, my aunt warned me that these "darning needles" might sew my mouth shut! It turns out that this cautionary tale was once commonly invoked by adults frustrated by noisy children. Why my aunt thought I should heed this warning is a mystery to me.

This article first appeared in Don's blog at <https://www.inthehills.ca/author/don-scallen/>

The Joro Spider is Coming

W.D. McIlveen

At present, we have nearly 900 species of spider in Ontario. They are not particularly well-known as relatively few people spend time studying them. Many are small and secretive. Lots of opportunities exist for people to get involved with spiders if they can pull themselves away from looking at birds and plants and the other flora and fauna of the province.

Most of the spiders in Ontario are relatively small. There are a few larger types that catch our eye when they make an appearance. The four largest species that we usually encounter are mentioned in the following table along with the species under discussion in this article (Joro Spider). The sizes of the individual species as reported in the common literature is a mix of metric and imperial (inches). It is not always clear whether the author uses the true body length or whether the long legs are included in the reported length.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Full Length	Body
<i>Dolomedes tenebrosus</i>	Dark Fishing Spider	60 mm	15-26 mm
<i>Araneus diadematus</i>	Cross Orbweaver	13 mm	6.5 to 20 mm
<i>Argiope aurantia</i>	Yellow Garden Spider	51-74 mm	19–28 mm
<i>Hogna aspersa</i>	Forest Wolf Spider		18-25 mm
<i>Trichonephila clavata</i>	Joro Spider	100 mm	17–25 mm

One of our largest spiders is the Dark Fishing Spider (*Dolomedes tenebrosus*). The females grow up to 26mm. They feature distinct leg and abdomen patterns that provide camouflage in their preferred habitat near water bodies. Despite their intimidating size, they pose no significant harm to humans.

The Cross Orbweaver (*Araneus diadematus*) is not as large as the Dark Fishing Spider but it is still sizable with females growing up to 20mm. These types are recognized by the unique cross-shaped marking on their abdomen. Their size and appearance might be intimidating but again, they are harmless to humans.

Forest Wolf Spider (*Hogna aspersa*) is identified by their characteristic body markings. Females can be as large as 18mm. They are ground-dwelling hunters that do not build webs. Bites can cause temporary discomfort but they are generally not dangerous to humans.

The other large spider that we are most-likely to encounter is the Yellow Garden Spider (*Argiope aurantia*). It is a common inhabitant of open, sunny fields and gardens. Females are much larger (in length) than their male counter parts (5-9 mm in length). Their bright yellow and black bodies 18 to 25 mm long perched conspicuously in their web is sure to catch our eye.

Overall, this group of spiders fits quite well within the natural landscape, catching insects to keep them within bounds in a natural way. It is into this setting that we have the potential for a new member of the group, the Joro Spider (*Trichonephila clavata*).

The Joro Spider is native to East Asia including China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan, It has been spreading across North America since the 2014. It is venomous, but it rarely bites humans and its venom is not deadly. By 1922, it had spread though the southeastern US from Georgia and Alabama as far north as Maryland and Pennsylvania. At this time (2024), the species has not been reported in Canada. It seems like only a matter of time before it arrives here. It is expected to survive the weather conditions in our part of the world.

Physically, Joro Spiders are distinct. They produce a yellow-tinted, wheel-shaped web that may reach several meters in length. When viewed in cross-section, it has three layers - the central orb,

plus two irregular layers in front and behind the orb. Joro adult females are brightly colored with alternating yellow and black-blue colored abdomens and legs that have yellow and black-blue segments.

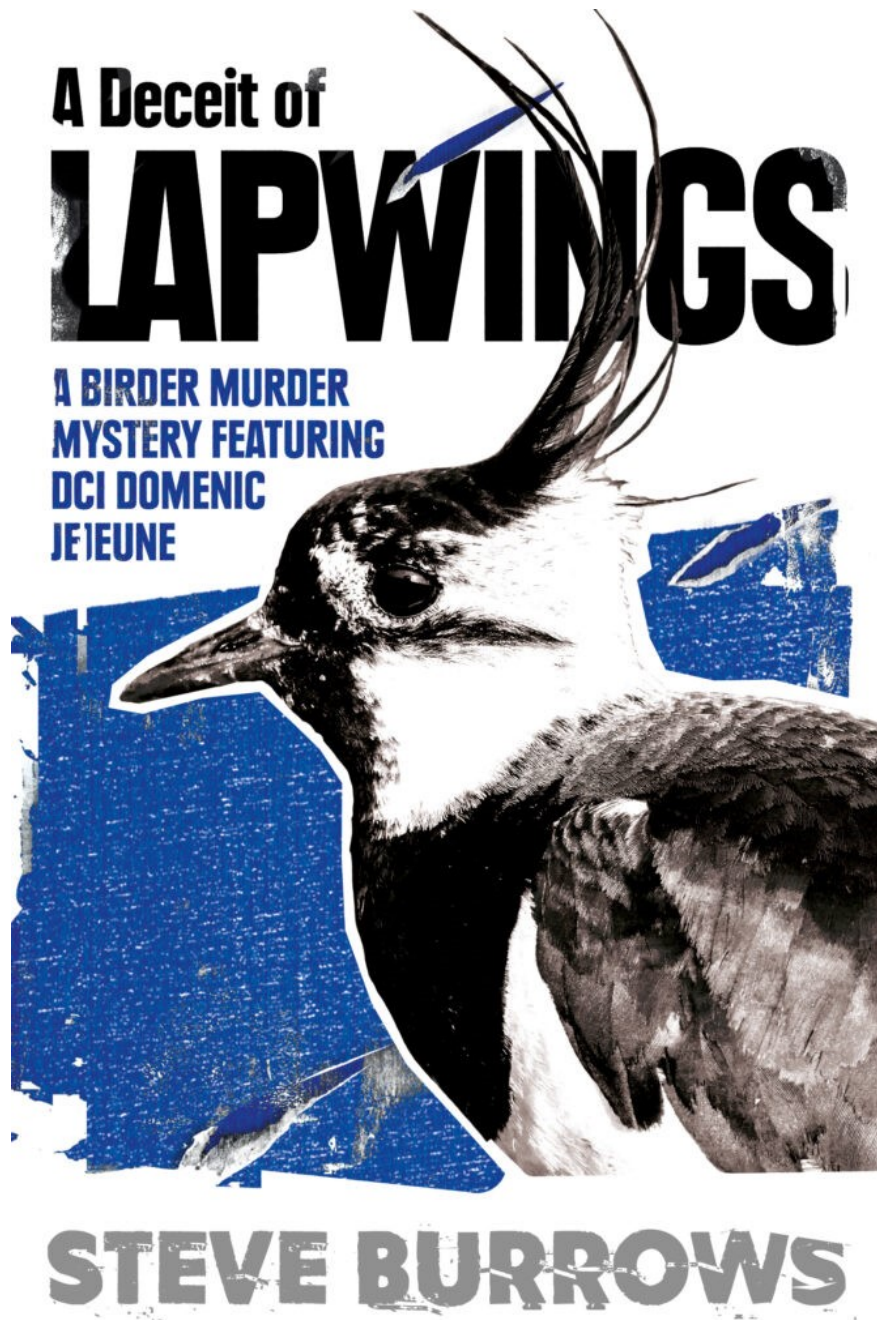
Adult male spiders do not spin their own webs but are found in the webs of females. After mating, female spiders produce a single egg sac which contains 400–1500 eggs. The egg sac is usually attached to bark, leaves, or other structures. The female dies by late autumn or early winter. Joro Spiders pass winter as eggs and the next generation emerges in spring. The young scatter as tiny juveniles in the spring when they produce a long silk thread that allows them to ‘balloon’. This technique is used by many spider species but had been highlighted by the press regarding Joro Spiders. The press is describing them as poisonous flying spiders. The ‘flying’ is a normal dispersal mechanism for spiders. They are reluctant to bite but if they do, the venom is weak and less painful than a bee sting. The press is overblowing the potential problem of this species. In reality, they are not greatly different from some species that we already live with. On the other hand, we must acknowledge that they are not native but will likely become part of our fauna



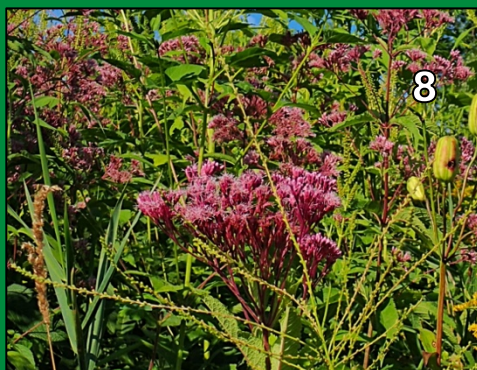
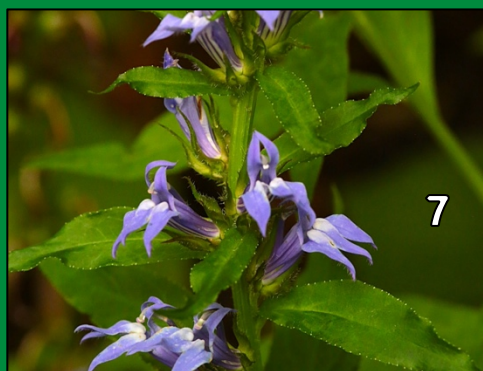
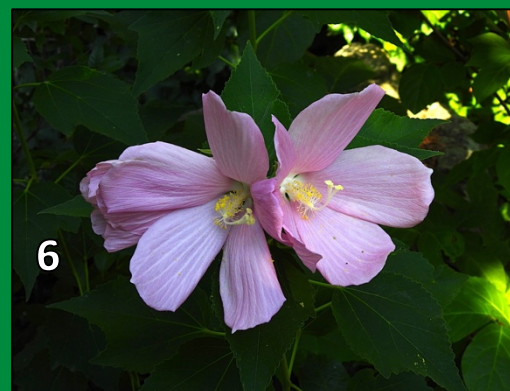
Joro Spider (*Trichonephila clavata*)

A Deceit of Lapwings

Steve Burrows, a birder and a writer, who spoke to our club in 2023, has recently published yet another Birder Murder mystery. His latest effort is called “A Deceit of Lapwings”. Lapwings are common in the UK where most (all?) of Steve’s stories are set. They are not found in Canada – not even in a certain Tweedle Street yard which is a noted birding hotspot.



Monthly Quiz – Late Summer Wildflowers



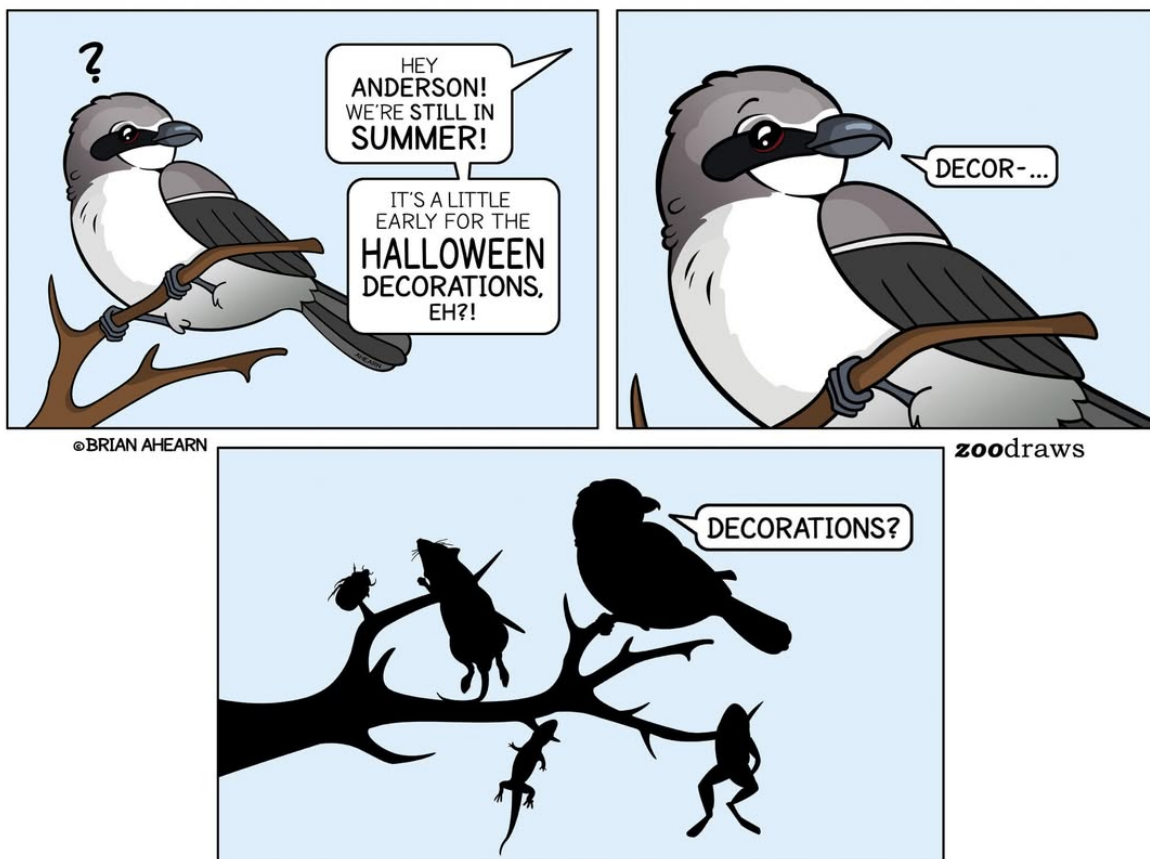
Answers to the Photo Quiz on page 18

1. Cardinal Flower
2. Turtlehead
3. Boneset
4. Orange Jewelweed, Spotted Touch-me-not, Spotted Jewelweed,
5. Sneezeweed
6. Swamp Rose Mallow
7. Great Blue Lobelia
8. Joe Pye Weed
9. Cup Plant

Monthly Memes



Birds as soon as pumpkin season starts



Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Application Type: New _____ Renewal _____

Membership Type: Single (\$40) _____ Family (\$50) _____

If "Family Membership", please list additional names:

The membership year is September 1 to August 31. Renewals are due in September. For new members who join after April 1, the fees are applied to the following year's membership.

Participation in our outings involves walking or hiking on various trails. By voluntarily participating, you assume full responsibility for all risks of personal injury. Make sure that any outing you choose to participate in is within your fitness level. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

Please fill out this form and bring it to our next indoor meeting, or mail it along with a cheque payable to Halton/North Peel Naturalist club to:

Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club,
P.O. Box 115,
Georgetown, Ontario,
L7G 4T1

Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club

Box 115, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4T1
Charity Registration number 869778761RR0001
www.hnpnc.com

Board of Directors

President: Margaret Beaudette
Vice President: Ian Jarvie (905) 877-1441
Treasurer: Helen Pettingill
Secretary: Pedro Pereyra
Past President: Yves Scholten

Appointments

Membership: Leslie Bissegger
Newsletter: Imogene MacMoffat (geniemac16@gmail.com)
Webmaster Communications Director: John Beaudette
Roving: William McIlveen
Ontario Nature Rep: Don Scallen (905) 876-6180
Crozier Property Steward: Pedro Pereyra
Hardy Property Steward: TBD

Meeting Time/Date: 7:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month
at
St Alban's Hall, 537 Main Street, Glen Williams, ON L7G 3T1

