



SSA On Line



Web Site

THE SPORTSMAN

"Conservation is Our Aim"

SYDENHAM SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION,
 P.O. BOX 264 OWEN SOUND, ONTARIO,
 N4K5P3
www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/
 Affiliated with the OFAH, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

Volume 35 No. 7 September, 2015



THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING,

First Thursday of each month, October to June,
 September exception -> second Thursday

**Thursday
 September 10, 7:30 pm
 AT THE CLUB HOUSE,**

THE CLUB HOUSE is: on the
 Lincoln Park Road,
 in the township of Georgian Bluffs, or
 {082535 Side Road 6}, or
 {217567 Concession 3 Side road,
 behind Gord Maher Centre}

We won't be having a speaker for the September meeting. Instead we will be talking about club stuff, what we have done and plan for the future based on the suggestions of the majority of the membership so if you have any ideas or questions please plan to attend the meeting.

**Thanks
 Mike Prevost President.**

Presidents Message

Here it is September and we start again, not that we haven't been doing a lot of things over the summer. With the late start to the Salmon Derby we actually get to talk a little about what's happening at the start which has been all positive so far. We have had more fish entered on the opening Friday and Saturday then last year. Currently a 20 pounder is leading with the leader for salmon or trout changing every day. Good crowds enjoyed great entertainment both nights and some 2200 people came out for our first fish fry. Kids day was another overwhelming success for the community thanks to our sponsors Tim Hortons and Sun Life Financial.

This is the beginning of our end of year fall season. If you have any questions about your club the place to bring things up is at our general meetings at the appropriate time. Any member can ask a question about the club. If your question is a concern that is bothering you then you may want to act as a member who wants to support and improve the club by providing constructive criticism as opposed to vindictive criticism. A positive question usually gets a positive responsive. You should also consider that your opinions, however strongly felt, may not be shared by the majority of the membership. Something about democracy there.

I recall the good old days when I was a general member and just came out to the meetings to see what was going on and learn some tips and share some stories. The long deceased Fred Hunt always seemed to put someone up at the front table on the spot but the issue always seemed to be settled with a laugh. I voted for my choices on the executive and figured if they were willing to the job then let them do it. I

Continued on page 2

Over 60 Years Promoting Conservation



Sydenham Sportsmen's Association

President: Mike Prevost
 1st Vice President: Scott Grimoldby
 2nd Vice President:
 Bill Douglas
 Recording Secretary:
 Tim Lahey
 Past President: Dennis Wiseman
 Treasurer: Murray Smart
 Correspondence Secretary:
 Geoff Ford

Directors:

Brian Clements, John Ford,
 Wayne Gallagher,
 Chris Geberdt, Fred Geberdt
 Jim Hastie, Al Hillis, Jim Jansen
 Tim Lahey, Ron Robb,
 Dennis Wiseman

Please inform John Ford if your address, phone number, or email changes!

Newsletter: Dave Skelton
 Webmaster: Bruce Farrell
 Membership: John Ford
 Key Keeper: John Ford

THANK YOU THANK YOU

Many thanks to all those who helped out with boat draw sales around the city this summer. Chris Geberdt was telling me that our sales this year were about 500 books more than last year.

Thanks again to everyone **Brian Clements**



JUNE 4, 2015

STEAK DRAW WINNERS

Dennis McKuenna
 Tim Lahey
 Ray Thompson
 Donna Geberdt
 Randy Doherty
 Allan Smith
 Larry Fischer

Thanks to all, **Brian Clements**



The Tent went UP on the drizzly wet morning of September 26th, before 8am, an impressive crew of some 27 members of the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association started to put together our 100 ft by 290 ft Derby tent that was up and standing by mid afternoon.

This is not easy work as it is hard on the back and knees putting the canvas sections together and thanks to them I do not have to talk from experience. Thanks to Dennis Morton for organizing his club to once again make it happen. Jack Doherty was our SSA ambassador and I think he took that job on because he had a new captive audience to test out some of his unique ideas on.



From page 1

If I heard about something that just didn't seem right my first reaction was to think well they, the executive, must have had a good reason for their decision and until I heard actual proof otherwise, not rumours, innuendoes or personal agendas, that was good enough for me. The club was growing and respected by the vast majority of the community.

Funny how today we have more members than we ever had before. Guess we are doing something right.

Mike Prevost, President

FIREARMS SAFETY COURSES.

There will be a NON RESTRICTED course held at the Clubhouse September 23-25. Course begins at 6:30pm. Open to anyone 12 years or older.

There will be a RESTRICTED course held at the Clubhouse October 3rd 9:00am.

There will be a RESTRICTED course held at the Clubhouse October 17th 9:00am.

DUE TO NEW ONTARIO REGULATIONS RESTRICTED COURSES ARE ONLY OPEN TO PERSONS YEARS OR OLDER

To register for any of these courses call Bob McKay at 519-534-0827.

Cost to register \$35.00

Cost of ANY Course is \$50.00 for Members, \$35.00 for Junior members, \$85.00 for NON members, \$50.00 for under 18 NON members.

DOES NOT INCLUDE REGISTRATION FEE.

FIVE PLACES ONLY for each course. IF I DON'T GET FIVE PEOPLE REGISTERED THE COURSE DOES NOT HAPPEN.

These are the LAST courses that I will put on this year.

There will be no more until the snow leaves.

For a coloured version of this document, go to the SSA website at <http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/> select from SSA Newsletters - right side.

Swap Meet, SSA

Sunday, November 1st.

Buy, Sell, Trade

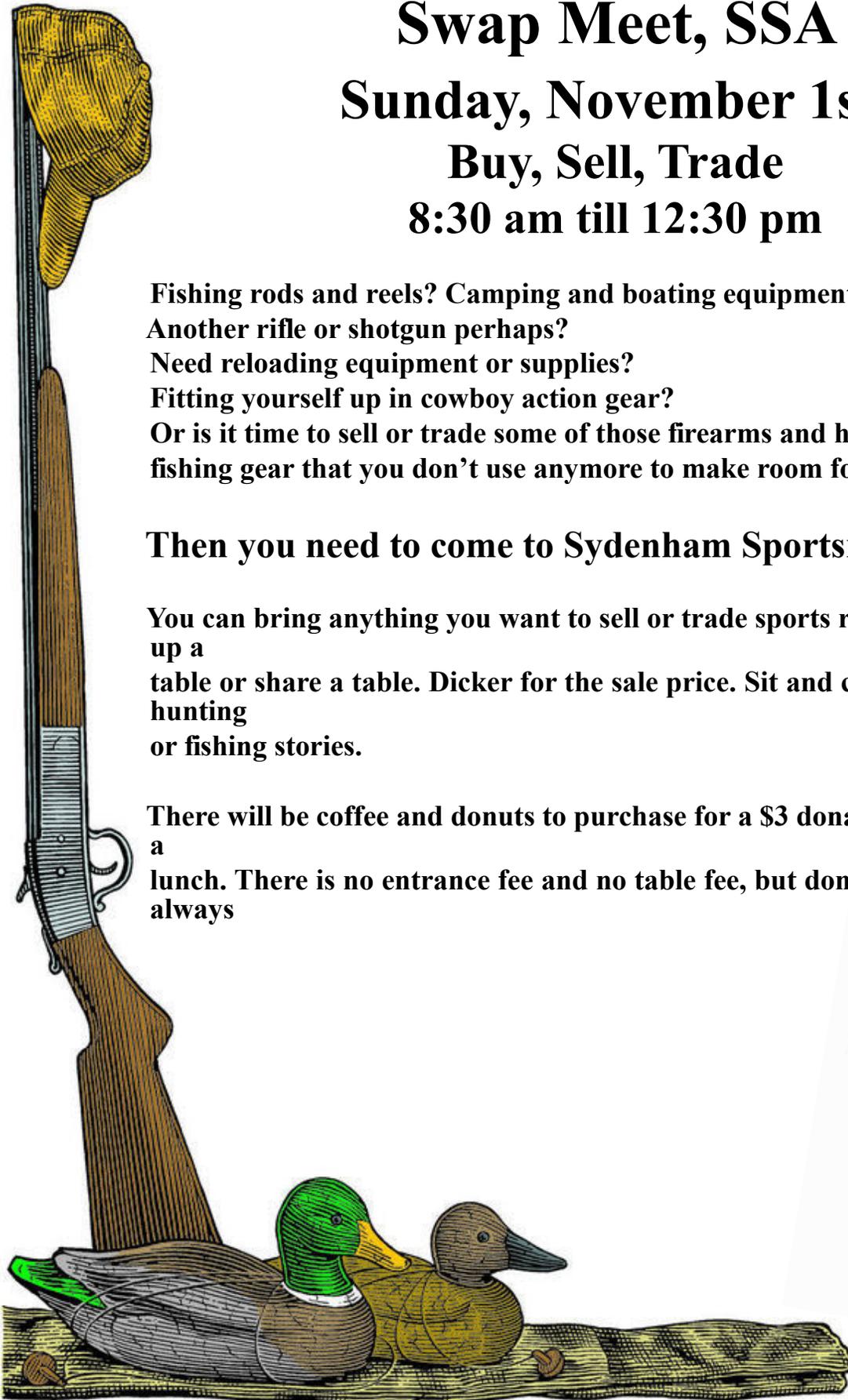
8:30 am till 12:30 pm

Fishing rods and reels? Camping and boating equipment?
Another rifle or shotgun perhaps?
Need reloading equipment or supplies?
Fitting yourself up in cowboy action gear?
Or is it time to sell or trade some of those firearms and hunting or
fishing gear that you don't use anymore to make room for new toys?

Then you need to come to Sydenham Sportsmen Club.

You can bring anything you want to sell or trade sports related. Set
up a
table or share a table. Dicker for the sale price. Sit and chat about
hunting
or fishing stories.

There will be coffee and donuts to purchase for a \$3 donation or bring
a
lunch. There is no entrance fee and no table fee, but donations are
always



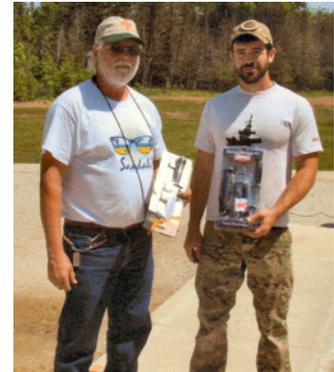
Kids Fishing Day

Nicholas Murdoch is proud of his catch. He was joined by many of his friends on this day. Many thanks to all the organizers and helpers who created many memories for our youth who represent our Conservation future!



RSO Appreciation Day Birds and Burgs

Saturday June 27 Saw a number of Range Officers participate in the RSO Appreciation Day. The Trap competition saw no Olympic gold but all enjoyed sausage and grat dressed up hamburgers. Scores ranged from 6 to 23. Tim Leahy and Tyler Gerrard weren't the best shooters but won the Grand Prize Lottery Draw. Thank to all!



Rick Murdoch Group June



Changes in fishing success are often blamed on the drop in Lake Huron charter trips. Recent research reveals which fish species were most important and also suggests that fishing success was not the only reason for the decline. Chinook salmon can still be caught in Lake Huron but the fishery has shifted to walleye in some areas and a mix of salmon and trout species in others. The decline of Lake Huron's charter fishery is well-documented. From 2002-2011, the number of trips taken from ports along Michigan's sunrise side dropped by 51 percent. The loss of tourism was devastating for some lakeside communities.

Volunteers - Thank you -

The Sydenham Sportsmen's Association would not function, if it were not for its many volunteers. Thank you to everyone that helps with our fund raising ticket sales, shooting range improvements, fish hatchery maintenance, wildlife projects, the Salmon Derby and the many other things that keeps our club going.

The SSA Executive



Thanks for the Help Thanks to everyone that came out to help unload the trailers and set things up inside the tent in time for the start of the derby. A number of committee members commented on what a difference the extra help made this year. Several new members came out to pitch in and introduced themselves responding to our email request for assistance. Little positive things like that can boost your morale when your getting tired. Hope to see you all when we have to pack everything away at the finish of the derby.

Mike Prevost, President

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GREY COUNTY YOUTH OUTDOORS EXPO FOR 2015

For the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association members who are not fully aware of this exciting event, for youths aged 10 to 17, that was held on Saturday June 13 at our Club Properties. The following is a bit of background and information on this fun day for the kids.

The organizing committee for the Youth Outdoors Expo believe that children have a keen interest in outdoor activities but need opportunities to be introduced to them in a "hands on" manner. To facilitate this introduction to the "Great Outdoors", the Youth Outdoors EXPO aims to offer children the opportunity to experience first hand several outdoor activities and instill the values of and appreciation for our natural heritage. This is a full day event for youths ages 10 to 17 to partake in a number of outdoor activities pertaining to hunting, fishing, environmental science and nature appreciation. The first onewas held in 2006 and has been very successful ever since.

This year at SSA we had 65 Youths attending along with 20 adult volunteers who participated in this free program, and everyone seemed to fully enjoy the day. There were five different events which all Youths had a chance to experience. The events were A) Archery:- all youths had archery training and hands on shooting, plus learning about the different types of bows and arrows. B) Rifle Range:- 22 Rimfire rifle training, safety and shooting, [there were some great marksmen and markswomen in the group]. C) Fishing:- learning to cast, fish anatomy, cleaning and most important of all frying and tasting the catch. D) Critter Dip:-Learning the habitat and what lives in the Sydenham River and getting some understanding of the ecosystem there, D) Birding:- bird sighting, bird identification, listening to the songs and trying to identify the different types etc, and lastly E) Dog Training: there use for hunting etc.

Everything started at 9:00 am. with a BBQ lunch being served at noon and closing around 3:30. The youths even had some great prizes.

Partners for Grey County Outdoors EXPO this year were as follows:-
Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, Saugeen Field Naturalists,
Sydenham Sportsmen's Association, Ontario Federation of Anglers and
Hunters Zone H, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, Stewardship Grey
Bruce, & Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests.

We hope to see another great turnout for next years event.

Bill Douglas



Alewife decline threatens

Lake Michigan's salmon fishery

Squeezed between invasive quagga and zebra mussels competing for food at the bottom of the food web and ravenous salmon at the top, alewives are quickly disappearing from Lake Michigan.

Great Lakes water levels at highest point in years

Water levels in Lake Michigan are almost a foot higher than they were last year and are still rising. The Great Lakes hit record lows just a few years ago, creating wide beaches and shallow marinas.

Monarch Manifesto I read a article in the Sun Times about efforts to bring back the declining population of Monarch Butterflies. The presence of milkweed plants is a big factor. In August our Wildlife Demonstration Area has a colourful array of wild flowers and of course flowering weeds. Scattered throughout are patches of Milkweed plants and there is a heavy concentration of them in the township road right of way in front of our Demo area. Unfortunately I could not find any Monarch chrysalis on the plants. Bob Hunt and Dave Hartrick build some butterfly shelter boxes to help protect any species in the area and provide them to other horticultural groups. Hopefully our small efforts will be part of a bigger successful program.

Mike Prevost

An **Application Form** may be obtained by using the link below.

<http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/> Top menu Bar -> **Membership**

Just fill in the form, and mail to the address on the front page of this newsletter, c/o **John Ford.**

FISH HATCHERY

Rainbow Trout -

The Rainbow trout number is sitting at approximately 63,000. Early Mortality Syndrome has taken its toll, but if the number of dead continues to drop, we should be past the worst. If there are no other major setbacks in the future, we should come close to the 60,000 yearling Rainbows we are planning to stock into the Sydenham.

Brown Trout –

18,800 Brown trout fry are swimming in the hatchery tanks. Losses have been relatively low, and with an increase in growth rate from here on in, they should continue to do well.

In spite of all the rumors and misinformation that are circulating, the hatchery operations are continuing as they always have. Rainbow trout and Brown trout are currently being raised in the hatchery, and at the end of September they will be joined by Chinook salmon.

PERMIT TO TAKE WATER

The Permit to Take Water Application was approved, and on August 2nd the actual permit was issued. There were no material changes from the last permit, other for dates and signatures. Permit No. 6688-9XCQ3N is now in effect for ten years, due for renewal on August 2nd 2025.

COMMUNITY HATCHERY PROGRAM

Shane Wood, the OFAH CHP Coordinator has taken a position in his families business and has resigned from his job with the OFAH. As a strong and energetic supporter of Community Hatcheries and the work they do, his help and input will be greatly missed. Shane's replacement has been hired, from within the OFAH's own staff.

WEAVER PROPERTY PURCHASE

Continues to be a Work In Progress. All parties are keeping in touch, although little has changed since the last time we met. Lack of information, or communication between the seller, his representatives, and local municipal authorities, has made movement forward at this time, a bit difficult. Once the information is provided, we expect to move relatively quickly on this. We are only a step or two away from the point where all parties can get down to serious negotiations.

FUNDING APPLICATION RE WEAVER PROPERTY PURCHASE

An application has been submitted to Bruce Power, seeking \$50,000 that would be put towards our purchase of the Weaver Property. The terms of the program were rather broad, and didn't specifically exclude this type of transaction. There is virtually no government program currently available that is willing to fund the purchase of land, so this was an option I decided to follow up on. The application has been accepted, but now all we can do is wait and see if it gets approval.

OWEN SOUND MILL DAM

Correspondence has been received from the MNRF and the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, informing the SSA that the Owen Sound Mill Dam will be shut down the day after Thanksgiving (October 13th), in order for much needed repairs to be made to the main dam structure. A temporary dam will be installed upstream of the main gates, and all water will be directed through the mill race. The fish ladder will still be open and operating, but the mill race will not be available to us for egg collections. This shouldn't be a problem, since we have usually completed egg collection before the Thanksgiving weekend anyway, and if not, we'll have to make do with what we can get at the fish ladder end of the dam.

SIDE CHANNEL SPAWNING BEDS

A tour of the Spawning Channel behind the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Building at Inglis Falls showed that it had deteriorated to the point where mere repairs would not improve productivity.

At this point it is not

being used for spawning purposes, but acts as a nursery for frys and fingerlings. The upper end sits directly on bedrock and can't be lowered in any way to increase the flow of water through the channel. This means that at least one third of the channel at the upper end is lost to any possible spawning activity. The rest of the channel is filled with large rocks and whatever gravel is in the beds themselves, is cover with a thick layer of sediment.

Continued on next page

Use this link below to renew you membership! **Pay Pal or a Credit Card can be used**

<http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/ssastore/>

Where the lower end of the channel joins up with the river, there is a gravel and mud flat, resulting from material being flushed out of the channel, and a change in direction of the river's flow. Short of a complete reconstruction of every structure in the channel, there is no way to make it suitable to spawning salmon or trout. The GSCA has no desire to rebuild, and prefers to maintain a nursery environment instead; cleaning the inlet end of the channel, to improve water flow as much as is possible. Time will tell as to how long this channel will be of any use to young fish in the area.

STREAM ENHANCEMENT WORK

OWEN SOUND SALMON TOUR

Owen Sound Salmon Bus Tours – Owen Sound Salmon Tour / Thanksgiving Weekend –
Both these projects are being worked on, and seem to be developing without any issues or major concerns.

The Bus Tour Project is getting to the point where plans, scripts, materials and schedules are being finalized.

GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Low Water Response Team –
The matter of finding an OFAH Representative for GSCA's Low Water Response Team is now in the hands of the OFAH Zone H Executive.

Dennis Wiseman
SSA FAC



SSA Emergency Fish and Wildlife Committee

July 11, 2015

Keefer Creek Fish Rescue

Present:: Wayne Gallagher, Ron Robb, Don Fosbury, Wally Cunningham, Bill Douglas, John Morneau

Equipment: Two water tubs, two aerators, four nets chest waders, two ATV's, one ATV trailer, camera (pictures taken by Ron Robb).

The group met at John Morneau's home at 9 am, from there we went to Paul Osadzuk's property. All equipment was loaded in to the ATV trailer, Then rode about ½ mile to Keefer Creek.

After netting 3 rainbow trout, all in good condition, and placing them in the water tubs, (with the aerator running). Ron and Wally quickly transported them to the mouth of Bothwell's Creek at the Leith store where they were released. All the fish survived to spawn another day.

While at Keefer Creek, we found more fish trapped in another location up stream and we will be getting MNR approval to rescue them soon.

Time:: about 1 ½ hours Thanks to all participants for helping with this rescue mission.

John Morneau., Co-chair.



SSA Emergency Fish and Wildlife Committee

July 23, 2015

Keefer Creek Fish Rescue

Present:: Rob LeGrand, Ron Robb, John Morneau

Equipment: Two water tubs, two aerators, four nets chest waders, two ATV's, one ATV trailer, camera (pictures taken by Ron Robb).

The group met at John Morneau's home at 9 am, from there we went to Paul Osadzuk's property. All equipment was loaded in to the ATV trailer, Then rode about ½ mile to Keefer Creek.

After netting 7 rainbow trout, all in good condition, and placing them in the water tubs, (with the aerator running). we quickly transported them to the mouth of Bothwell's Creek at the Leith store where they were released.

Six trout survived to spawn another day, and one trout died.

Time:: about 3 hours Thanks to all participants for helping with this rescue mission.

John Morneau., Co-chair.

To date: 31 Rainbow Trout rescued- all spawning fish!

Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association

P.O. Box 548, Wiarton, Ontario N0H 2T0

www.bpsportsmen.com

Wiarton group helps "Partners in Conservation" Owen Sound, Ontario - Wednesday August 26, 2015

Members of Wiarton's Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association lent helping hands Wednesday at the headquarters for the annual Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular. The Volunteer BPSA team helped raise the huge derby tent in the rain, in just 3 ½ hours.

The tent, rented from Big Top Tent Rentals in London, is 340 feet long and 100 feet wide. It serves as headquarters for the 10-day Salmon derby, mounted annually by the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association. This derby is the largest event of the year in Grey-Bruce.

The "big fishing festival" attracts 4-thousand anglers to Owen Sound and Colpoy's Bay near Wiarton. As many as 40-thousand people take part in festivities associated with the derby, which pumps millions of dollars into the Grey-Bruce economy.

Bruce Peninsula club members say they are thrilled to help their neighbouring conservation club. Every year the two organizations work together on projects such as this big derby, and on efforts to keep our rivers and lakes well stocked with sports fish. Proceeds from the derby support conservation efforts across Grey-Bruce.

The Salmon Spectacular, easily one of the most exciting events of the year in our region, runs August 28 to September 6 2015. On the final day, the Salmon Spectacular hands out more than 150-thousand dollars worth of prizes. Add in the free entertainment offered at the big tent and you surely have ten days of family fun for young and old. Good luck in your quest for "THE BIG ONE".

Submitted by Stu Paterson – Paterson Media, for the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association. 519-534-5194
Stu Paterson PATERSON MEDIA "we get your message out" 519-534-5194 519-370-8054



Thanks to those submitting material for this newsletter.

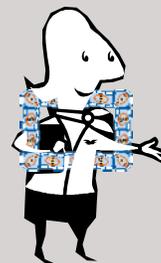
Anyone with articles for this Newsletter should get them to me by the 20th (or sooner) of the preceding month.

*Dave Skelton 519-376-9554
dskel@golden.net*

Ontario's tallest tree is rooted in the Ottawa Valley

CBC News - May 23, 2015
Eastern white pine is 47 metres tall, which reaches higher than a 13-storey building. The town of Arnprior, Ont., now has one tall order — the bragging rights to Ontario's tallest tree. Just west of Ottawa, Arnprior is home to a 47-metre tall eastern white pine tree, which reaches higher than a 13-storey building.
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Disclaimer:



The editorial comments in this Newsletter do not always reflect the policies or opinions of the SSA.

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Pollinators like the **monarch butterfly**, yucca moth, checkered beetle and mason bee are in decline. That's why the 2.7 million acres (1.1 million hectares) protected by NCC is so important: it provides important habitat for these tiny, often overlooked workers. You can help this effort by making a contribution to the protection of this habitat from coast to coast.

Mike Prevost On Monarch Butterflies



Pollinators are extremely important: not only are they responsible for one out of every three bites of food we eat, but they are vital in creating and maintaining the habitats and ecosystems that many animals rely on for food and shelter.

Bees are one such important pollinator. Pollination is among the bee's most important roles. This, in turn, results in flowers getting pollinated!

Prevent bear problems by removing all food sources

As hard to believe as it might be, black bears see a bird feeder as a food source. Bird feeders, garbage cans and barbeque grills all are bear attractants that humans can control.

Bears are more noticeable to people right now, as young bears are establishing their own territories. Bears typically mate in late June to early August, and the mother will kick out her yearlings in order to do so.

Those yearling bears now are looking for new, unoccupied territory and will be roaming to find a new home.

"Bears are looking for food and new territory," said Kevin Swanson, Department of Natural Resources wildlife management specialist with the bear and wolf program. "While we might not think of bird feeders and trash cans as food sources, a hungry bear certainly may."

Bird seed is especially attractive to bears because of its high fat content and easy access. Once bird feeders are discovered, bears will keep coming back until the seed is gone or the feeders have been removed. Bears are capable of remembering reliable food sources from year to year.

"The majority of complaints we receive about nuisance bears involve a food source, and these issues tend to rise in years when natural food availability is low," Swanson said. "The easiest thing people can do to avoid creating a problem is to take in their bird feeders and store other attractants, like grills, trash cans and pet food, in a garage or storage shed."

Bears that are rewarded with food each time they visit a yard can become habituated to man-made food sources. This can create an unsafe situation for the bear and become a nuisance for landowners if a bear continuously visits their yard during the day and repeatedly destroys private property in search of food.

Those who have taken appropriate actions to remove food sources for a period of two to three weeks, but are not seeing results, should contact the nearest DNR office and speak with a wildlife biologist or technician for further assistance.

Great Lakes Fish Finder app

The Great Lakes Fish Finder app is an interactive field guide. Look up and identify fishes, submit sightings, and join a community of enthusiasts to help you classify your finds. The app is available as a free download in the Apple and Google Play stores.

The app includes the Great Lakes Guide to Fishes, which was created by experts from Shedd Aquarium. The guide is intended to help people identify fishes from the Great Lakes, focusing on species that people are most likely to come across, as well as a sample of fish diversity. Two hundred species of fishes call the Great Lakes home. Some are so common that just about everyone has heard of them. Some are so rare that only a handful of biologists have seen them in the wild. And some are popular to catch and eat, supporting a multibillion-dollar industry. ² □

2 Asian carp found in ponds near Toronto waterfront

Asian carp, reviled as the vanquishers of native aquatic species and seen posing a huge ecological threat, have somehow found their way into Lake Ontario.