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News Journal of the *Friends of Point Pelee*

the POINT

Our Point is Pelee

Welcome to The Point

The news journal of the Friends of Point Pelee

Who are the Friends of Point Pelee?

We are just what our name suggests – a non-profit group of individuals dedicated to helping operate, protect and present **Point Pelee National Park** for future generations of Canadians to enjoy and learn from. Established in 1981, it was one of the first not-for-profit, volunteer based organizations formed to assist a national park in Canada.

In partnership with **Parks Canada**, the Friends of Point Pelee (FoPP) support and raise funds through memberships, donations and retail sales to help ensure the ecological integrity of this Lake Erie peninsula for present and future generations. We achieve our purpose by focusing on the three specific areas

of **education, research, and habitat restoration/management.**

In the field of education, we help develop and publish books in our Point Pelee Nature Series, including the *Woodland Nature Trail Guide*, *Butterflies of Point Pelee National Park*, *Trees of Point Pelee National Park*, *Warblers of Ontario*, and *Sparrows & Finches of Ontario*. We host guided birding hikes during the Festival of Birds in May, have helped raise funds to update and expand exhibits in the Visitor's Centre and Marsh Boardwalk, and have recently contributed to the construction of the Red Cedar Savanna Discovery Walk.

The Friends of Point Pelee fund research on Species at Risk in the park, most recently including the Impact of Raccoon Predation on Turtle Species,

and the successful reintroduction of the Southern Flying Squirrel.

We also help restore and manage habitat through programs such as our **Adopt-A-Tree Fund**, proceeds of which are used to help restore Carolinian habitat in and around Point Pelee in conjunction with partners such as the **Essex County Stewardship Network**.

The Friends of Point Pelee are key operational partners who assist Parks Canada by running The Nature Nook Gift Store, the Cattail Café, the Shuttle to the Tip and the canoe and bicycle rentals. By operating these facilities, the Friends pass on a significant savings to Parks Canada, allowing it to focus more on research and restoration of this tiny but precious sliver of Canada.

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How You Can Help Point Pelee National Park

Did you know that Point Pelee has more rare and endangered species than any other national park in Canada?

Point Pelee National Park is one of the smallest national parks in Canada. Because of its tiny stature and its separation from other habitats and natural areas, Parks Canada has significant challenges protecting the many Carolinian species that live here. The Friends of Point Pelee help by providing funds to Parks Canada's Species at Risk program. In 2007, the Friends, in conjunction with Parks Canada and local volunteers Brian Sweet and Nicole Barron, produced a DVD/CD called **Pelee Music** highlighting several of the park's Species at Risk. Sales of Pelee Music have raised more than \$12,000 to date.

Did you know that seeds collected from Point Pelee National Park and funds donated through our Adopt-a-Tree program are being used to restore habitat throughout southern Canada?

Since 1981 the Friends of Point Pelee have been helping Parks Canada protect Point Pelee for future generations. Protecting key examples of bio-diversity in Canada is critical to ensuring our children and their children have the ecological and genetic building blocks necessary for the future.

Did you know that Point Pelee is the second most visited park in Canada per area, providing many opportunities to experience and learn from nature at its best?

Ensuring our children have a place to immerse themselves in nature is key to their health and development, as well as ours. Studies show that spending time in nature reduces stress and promotes

active living. The Friends of Point Pelee help provide one of southern Canada's premiere natural attractions and learning opportunities for us and for our children.

Help protect Point Pelee National Park today by:

1. **Joining the Friends of Point Pelee** (\$15-\$20);
2. **Donating to our Adopt-a-Tree Fund** (\$25);
3. Becoming a **Sponsor** (\$50) or a **Patron** (\$500).

All donations receive a tax receipt. Donations can be made and memberships purchased online at www.friendsofpointpelee.com. They can also be purchased by mail, by phone or in person when you visit The Nature Nook at the park's Visitor Centre. ☺

Birding for the Non-Birder

by Loretta Sbrocca

A walk in the great outdoors; soaking in some sunshine; inhaling a welcome lungful of clean, fresh, natural air. If these are a few of your favourite things, there are many delightful sights, sounds and smells awaiting you at Point Pelee National Park.

But wait! you exclaim. *I'm not a birder – not even a beginner. I enjoy listening to a pretty song or seeing a flutter of colour at my backyard feeder, but that's as far as it goes. I don't like to get up early on weekends, don't own binoculars, and never understood how a perfectly good noun like 'birdwatchers' was ousted by the obviously-invented 'birders'.*

“That’s exactly why you should experience Point Pelee National Park for yourself!” says Friends of Point Pelee General Manager Janice Rogers. “You don’t have to be a birder – not even a beginner – to take advantage of having “The Warbler Capital of Canada” right here in Southern Ontario’s Essex County. During spring migration, there are regularly 36 of 50 known warblers visible in the park. These birds are bright and colourful with beautiful songs. We are fortunate to be witness to such a rich, natural spectacle of colour and sound. Whether or not you want to take up birding as a hobby, you should visit the park to experience such a show.”

A few simple items will keep you comfortable on the trails as you delve into the spectacle of birds at Point Pelee. You’ll need good walking or running shoes, like you would wear if you heading to the mall or the Autoshow, for example. A hat and sunscreen are essential, and sunglasses will be useful if you are intending to spot birds. Wear layers of clothing so you can remove items if you get hot. Try a t-shirt covered by a fleece covered

by a jacket, for instance. Note that some of the best birding opportunities are associated with inclement weather, so don’t shy from visiting on a rainy day; just bring rain gear and shoes that’ll stand up to muddy trails. Finally, at least one member of your party should carry a backpack so you can store jackets and carry water and **snacks**; again, consider how hungry you would be after a day of shopping.

There are **eight main trails** in the park, each with its own charm. During the park’s spring and fall migration festivals – **Festival of Birds** was held this year from May 3 through May 19, with the **Festival of Hawks and Monarch Migration** upcoming in September – you can sign up for early morning and daytime interpretive hikes, family tours of the boardwalk, French language hikes and bus tours.

Or, if visiting at other times of the year, use the park map provided at the park’s entrance gate to choose your own self-guided route. Will it be Shuster Trail so you can include a stop along the eastern beach? Or perhaps you’ll opt for

Woodland Nature Trail, closer to the Visitor Centre (open 10 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday and 10 am to 7 pm weekends and holidays).

Bear in mind the length of the trail and allot yourself twice as much time as you’d normally expect for a walk, as you are guaranteed to stop along the way to check out birds, bugs and other nature, snap a few pictures, take a break on a bench, or just close your eyes and feel the solitude of nature surrounding you.

You may not want to *become* a beginner

birder, but a beginner might just be your greatest asset as you explore the park. If you have beginner birder friends, invite them along. They’ll know how to read field guides (books with detailed drawings to help you identify the birds), help you spot tiny warblers in the brush, drop a few impressive names of birds your way, point out other aspects of the park, and be in tune to your request to quit early and go grab some lunch. They’ll probably even let you use their binoculars!

I don't have a pair of my own. Do I really need them?

Yes, you should have a decent pair of binoculars. Luckily, you can rent them from the Nature Nook Gift Store, inside Point Pelee’s Visitor Centre, for just \$10 per day, and all purchases support the Friends of Point Pelee and help our national park. Nearby **Pelee Wings**, on Point Pelee Drive, has a broad selection at all price levels, and most retail stores with a sporting goods department also carry binoculars. They’re a good investment that you can use for many things; think rock concerts and nose-bleeder seats at your next baseball games.

To spot birds, use just your eyes as you walk the trail to look for quick movements in the trees (in the spring time when the leaves are just beginning to sprout, it will be relatively easy to spot flashes of colour). When the movement stops, use your binoculars to try to locate the roosting bird, starting from the ground and moving upward along the trunk and branches of the tree where you saw the bird stop.

Here’s an example of how to locate and/or point out a bird:

“See that tree over there [points] with the dark trunk, the big one close to the bend in the trail? Where the trunk splits into two branches, follow the left branch up about two metres. It’s bright orange – an oriole, I think.”

Using your eyes, locate the area on the tree. Now, with your binoculars, bring the base of the tree into focus. Follow

Snacks

“Enjoy a light lunch at the Cattail Café located at the marsh boardwalk,” says Friends of Point Pelee General Manager Janice Rogers. “You’ll be supporting the Friends of Point Pelee, and it’s a great place to start off your visit to the park because it offers a terrific view out over the marsh. Look for painted turtles, frogs, red-winged blackbirds and fish. If you packed a lunch, grab a beverage from the Cattail Café and head to the shuttle loop. There you can spot such spring birds as orchard orioles and yellow warblers. Their colours are vibrant and their songs melodic. You’ll enjoy the birds regardless of whether or not you know them by name.”

it upward until you find the split and eventually the bird. If you lose track or focus, start all over again from the beginning, using just your eyes to relocate the tree.

So, I'll need proper clothing, water and snacks, binoculars and a park map. Anything else?

Believe it or not, that's all you need to enjoy a walk with the winged wonders! Should you want to learn about the birds you are seeing, there are beginner field guides. Try out a friend's guide or one from your local library, or visit the Nature Nook for assistance selecting something easy to use.

Regardless of the time of year, keep in mind proper etiquette when using a park trail. Stay on the trails and footpaths, never straying into the bush. It is illegal to pick flowers or plants from a national park, or to remove rocks or foliage. Be mindful of others stopped along the trail by passing by quietly so as not to disturb the photos they are setting up or the wildlife they are viewing. Avoid cornering, chasing or 'flushing out' a bird or other wildlife. Do not use recordings or other methods of attracting birds – not even whistling calls. These exhausted migrants have traveled thousands of kilometres and it is the job of the national parks program to protect them. As such, you should

keep stresses in their environment to a minimum.

Sounds like a fun opportunity to spend a day in nature. Do I get to invent a noun for myself?

If you don't fit the description of a 'beginner birder', or you're just not ready to commit to the sport, there are many options. You can call yourself an outdoor enthusiast, a hiker, a trail walker, a nature lover, or you can be a plain old park visitor stopping in to enjoy all that Point Pelee offers.

Thanks! I'll work on that! Maybe something with the word 'casual' in it, or 'preebie' for pre-beginner, or... ☞

Tilting at Windmills?

by Chad Jeffery



Pollution concerns, higher fuel costs and electrical system failures due to energy shortages have contributed to a changing attitude and approach to public policy on energy use throughout North America. Alternative energy sources such as solar power, wind energy, and biomass are no longer restricted to expensive pioneer projects at the poles being profiled on Nature

of Things. Here in the southernmost tip of Canada, the County of Essex is currently creating a renewable energy policy that may open the door for the erection of hundreds of wind powered turbines throughout local municipalities.

The government encourages alternative energy source development.

There are incentives to establish new energy systems that will feed the power supply of a region. One such incentive is the **Ontario Power Authority's Standard Offer** for alternative energy projects. In short, this program guarantees 11.0 cents per kWh of energy produced from renewable energy generating projects of 10 megawatts or less. The intent of the program is to make it easier for small renewable energy generating facilities to contribute to Ontario's electricity supply by providing power to their local distribution company.

Prompted by this offer, and due in

large part to this area's flat lands and strong winds, windpower companies such as AIM PowerGen, Wind Prospect and GenGrowth, and proponents

large and small have shown keen interest in establishing wind energy projects throughout the Essex County region. These proposals have polarized the public opinion on the issue of wind energy.

Although many support wind energy as part of the solution to establishing a better energy mix, there are many who **vehemently oppose** these projects. The arguments used by opponents are largely based on issues related to aesthetics, health, safety, and bird migration – the latter an issue of particular importance to the Point Pelee community and to Essex County as one of the most biologically diverse regions in Canada.

The upper levels of government have provided little in the way of actual guidance and direction towards a widely accepted policy and regulatory environment related to wind energy

Local Opponents

The primary group of wind energy opponents locally have organized themselves as the Essex County Wind Action Group. Their website is www.ecwag.org. They also maintain a web page that attempts to gather experiences with wind energy from around the world. You can check these out at www.essexcountywind.wordpress.com.

projects. As such, and in the face of both interest and concerns raised to date, the Councils of the local municipalities undertook a County-wide comprehensive review to establish a position on wind energy and other alternatives.

The planners from the local communities, through the **Intermunicipal Planning Consultation Committee (IMPCC)**, convened to discuss the issue early in 2007. After discussing a number of issues related to wind energy and listening to a presentation by Phil Roberts, a local birding expert, on the importance of the Essex Region as an international bird migratory route, the group determined that an independent and objective regional land use study pertaining to wind energy and other renewable energy would be the most responsible approach. A Steering Committee consisting of the local planners and a representative of the **Essex Region Conservation Authority** was established and **Jones Consulting Ltd.**, a land use planning consulting firm with extensive experience in the area of wind energy policy, was retained by the County of Essex to conduct the study and develop County-wide land use policy for wind energy and other alternative energy projects.

In September of 2007, the final draft of the background report, titled **“Windpower and Renewable Energy Planning Study, County of Essex”** was submitted to the Steering Committee and ultimately to County Council. The study provided such information as an assessment of regional landscapes, an analysis of policy and environments of other areas where windpower is being used and suggested zoning by-laws and

regulations. Lexicon, terminology, a planning process and framework and a proposed regulatory environment were also addressed, and a discussion of other alternative energy sources was included.

Upon reviewing the contents of the study with the Steering Committee and collectively determining an appropriate policy approach, Jones Consulting prepared a draft set of land use policies. Depending on the nature of the Management Area, various scales of alternative energy projects (wind, solar and biomass) were either permitted as of right, permitted subject to meeting certain criteria (i.e. in and around settlement areas) or prohibited outright (i.e. significant natural heritage areas and bird migratory routes). The draft policy also established minimum setbacks for structures such as wind turbines and solar panels from roads, dwellings and property lines.

The draft policies were presented to stakeholders at various public meetings held at the County of Essex Civic Centre. Given the polarized public opinion toward wind energy projects, stakeholder consultation was at times tumultuous with wind energy advocates (particularly wind energy companies and farmers whose lands were optioned for these projects) facing off against opponents of wind energy who raised concerns of noise, aesthetics, property values and impact on wildlife.

After listening to the various concerns raised at these public meetings and reviewing numerous written comments from interested parties, the policies were revised and reviewed over the ensuing months. The final draft version of the policies was then presented at a Public Meeting on May 7, 2008 in the County Council Chambers of the Civic

Centre, with the intent to balance the interests of the various stakeholders and provide a planning framework for ensuring that alternative energy projects in the Essex Region are developed in the most appropriate areas and in the most appropriate manner from a land use perspective.

At this meeting, which lasted roughly three hours, both sides were well represented and County Council members heard the expected arguments for and against the proposed policies. Some of the arguments forced the Steering Committee and its consultant to once again revisit the draft set of land use policies before going before County Council on June 4 for consideration for adoption. It seemed, however, that neither side was completely satisfied with the draft document and it became clear that a consensus on the land use policy approach to windpower and other alternatives would be a difficult one to reach.

If County Council adopts the proposed Official Plan Amendment, it will then be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for approval and, barring no appeals, the region could see its first large scale wind farms within the next year. Whether they will be viewed by the citizens of Essex County as unsightly behemoths ravaging the landscape or beautiful sculptures symbolic of a greener future will be debated for many years to come. ↗

IMPCC
The IMPCC does not have any administrative component and there is no website for this organization.

Feedback
We'd like to hear your views on wind energy, and specifically on the erection of windmills in Essex County. Please send a paragraph or two of your comments to thepoint@friendsofpointpelee.com, or mail them to **1118 Point Pelee Drive, Leamington, Ontario N8H 3V4**. No phone calls, please. Include your name and phone number or email address (kept confidential) so that we may contact you if we choose to print your comments.

Fertile Ground

By Trevor McFadyen

The University of Windsor embarks on an ambitious project – the creation of Canada’s first Great Lakes and Carolinian Forest research centre near Point Pelee National Park.

It’s not much to look at. A scrubby plot of land with a large pond in the middle of it that residents of Leamington, Ontario have called “the clay pits” for years. There are a few trees planted by the Essex Region Conservation Authority around it, but its claim to fame has largely been supplying clay for dyke construction north of Point Pelee National Park.

But lately it’s become something more...inspiring. In September 2007, the Municipality of Leamington bequeathed the land to the University of Windsor for the creation of Canada’s first-ever Great Lakes and Carolinian forest research centre. Like an ugly duckling, the clay pits are scheduled to metamorphose into a centre for world-class research and learning. It’s a huge boon for the region and exciting times for one of Canada’s most researched national parks, Point Pelee.

The idea of the research centre, now christened the Pelee Environmental Research Centre, is the aspiration of biology professor Dr. Dan Mennill and the **Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research’s** Dr. Daniel Heath from the **University of Windsor**. They and other researchers will use the centre as a catalyst to study ecosystems, creating a better understanding of local biodiversity and climate change effects. The centre will furthermore help produce environmental and economic solutions for local fishing, shipping and agricultural industry challenges.

With more species at risk than any other national park in Canada, significant erosion concerns and other ecological challenges, Point Pelee is likely to be a big focus for the centre.

“The University of Windsor’s Pelee Environmental Research Centre

will allow outstanding scientists and professors to conduct internationally-renowned research in the Pelee area and build new connections to Point Pelee National Park,” says Dr. Mennill. “Many of our professors and students are conducting field studies in far-flung places because of a lack of local facilities. By developing a research centre in the Leamington area, we hope to develop many new connections to the ongoing research taking place in the park.”

The new centre will be designed as a multi-tiered facility, with research, training, teaching and community outreach opportunities. Creation of the research centre will evolve in three phases: Phase one was realized with the securing of the land base near Leamington. Phase two involves raising \$2 million from various sources including private donors for a research and meeting centre. This will include a dormitory for field researchers and a teaching facility.

Phase three will be the most exciting – performing world-class research including the behaviour of birds in one of North America’s major flyways. Dr. Mennill’s research includes behavioral ecology and bird communication. He joined the Biology Department at the University of Windsor in January, 2005, but it’s his work helping to establish the probability of ivory-billed woodpeckers, once considered extinct but now thought to be remaining in the Florida panhandle, that has earned him international acclaim.

The University of Windsor now has three professors whose research focuses on birds: Dr. Stephanie Doucet (an ornithologist who studies bird colouration and reproductive behavior), Dr. Trevor Pitcher (an ornithologist and ichthyologist focusing on animal mating systems), and Dr. Mennill (an ornithologist focusing on vocal communication).

“Birds will be a special focus for several new research and teaching programs based out of the research



Photo by Dan Mennill

Proposed site of Canada’s first Great Lakes and Carolinian Forest research centre.

centre,” says Mennill. “Over the coming years, the three of us plan to begin new components of our research programs devoted to understanding the behavior and ecology of migratory birds and how environmental change influences their behavior and reproductive decisions. We are also interested in studying how migratory animals use the different habitats in the park and surrounding areas.”

The plot of land situated between

Cont’d on page 9

Re-printed from “view”, The University of Windsor Alumni Magazine Spring 2008

Great Lakes and Carolinian forest research centre Co-Chairs are:

Dr. Daniel Heath, Canada Research Chair in Conservation Genetics, helped further establish his reputation and that of the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, when he published his research on captive salmon in the journal *Science*. Conservation genetics is aimed at providing a clearer understanding of factors operating at the individual and population levels before drawing any meaningful conclusions at the eco-system level.

Dr. Dan Mennill, who specializes in behavioral ecology and animal communication, runs Canada’s largest laboratory devoted to the study of animal sounds. Mennill has developed many new technologies for conducting field studies of wild birds, and published his research on bird songs and mating behavior in *Science* in 2002. Mennill made news last year when he and his team of researchers published evidence of the existence of the ivory-billed woodpecker, an animal considered by many to have become extinct in the 1940’s.

Point Pelee National Park and Hillman Creek Conservation Area is also ideal for aquatic research because of the clay pit lake. It will allow Dr. Heath, Canada Research Chair in Conservation Genetics, to install fish pens and study several species in a semi-natural state. An expert in conservation genetics, Dr. Heath is a leader in this relatively new field whose goal is to determine genetic viability at the individual and population levels.

Particularly interesting is the multi-disciplinary approach to the new centre. This new and important trend in research involves the coordination of disparate disciplines such as economy, chemistry and political science with biological and environmental sciences. This approach suggests this may indeed be the world-class centre of excellence as the University of Windsor claims.

Dr. Richard Caron, Dean of Science with the University of Windsor, is very excited about the community outreach programs the centre plans to offer.

“We plan to approach our school boards to develop partnerships that will see students coming to the centre for environmental education,” says Caron. “We plan community outreach with a series of public lectures of interest to our citizens. This research centre will be a catalyst for activities that will benefit

students from elementary grades to doctoral level and all other members of the community.”

Perhaps the biggest assurance of the new Great Lakes and Carolinian forest research centre’s success is the passion the University of Windsor has for it. “As the centre becomes an international

research destination, we expect more research teams from around the world coming to study, for example, at Point Pelee National Park,” says Caron. “This is a huge catalyst for research, teaching and community outreach and will bring economic benefit to the Leamington area.

“This is a really big opportunity.” ✂

How You Can Get Involved

A Note From **Dr. Dan Mennill**, Professor of Biology, University of Windsor

All of the organizers of the University of Windsor’s Pelee Environmental Research Centre are really excited about working with everyone in the community. There are many ways that people can help the research centre to take flight.

(1) The property on Mersea Road 19 where the university will develop the base site of our research centre is relatively small. We are looking for other properties where our researchers, graduate students, and undergraduate students could conduct research, to complement the research we intend to conduct within the Park and local conservation areas. Having access to privately-owned properties in the area would help us develop new and expanded research programs. In terms of bird studies, we are interested in surveying migratory birds in the area, monitoring the breeding activities of resident birds, setting up nest boxes, etc. People who are interested in allowing us access to their properties for such purposes should contact Fedela Falkner in the Dean of

Science’s office at ffalkner@uwindsor.ca.

(2) We are actively looking for donations to support the development of an advanced facility for monitoring biological responses to environmental change. We have recently received substantial financial support from the University of Windsor towards writing a grant for matching funds from the Federal and Provincial governments. However, we are also seeking donations of all sizes to contribute to this effort to develop a state-of-the-art research centre at the Leamington site. Our intention is to develop a world-class research destination for biologists and environmental scientists. Anyone interested in providing a tax-deductible donation should contact Fedela Falkner in the Dean of Science’s office at ffalkner@uwindsor.ca.

(3) After we have developed facilities over the next couple of years, we hope that everyone in the community will watch out for open houses and research seminars that we will host at the Pelee Environmental Research Centre. We look forward to sharing the excitement of our new research and teaching programs with the community.

Tip Watch

It's there, then it's not...

Studies have now determined that depositional and erosion patterns around Point Pelee National Park have been significantly altered by shoreline development leading to a ‘disappearing’ tip. This icon of Canada now comes and goes – and may someday leave us for good.

Send us your recent photos of the tip and we’ll publish some of them in FoPP’s online **photo gallery** and select the best for this news journal. If we choose your photo for publication in The Point, we’ll give you or someone of your choice a free single FoPP

membership good for one year and a 10% discount at The Nature Nook Gift Store.

Help us keep an eye on the tip and show the world what’s happening to Canada’s iconic southern point. Send your photos to thepoint@friendsofpointpelee.com with the subject title “Tip Watch” and be sure to include your name and contact information so that we may contact you before publication. All personal information is kept confidential.



Photos by Dianne McFadyen

This edition of **The Point** news journal is graciously supported by **Point Pelee National Park.**

Ask how you can help support the park.



Parks Canada

Parcs Canada

Friends of Point Pelee & Point Pelee National Park

Nuts about Flying Squirrels!

3 pm at Visitor Centre. Guaranteed to entertain young and old, flying squirrels Sabrina and Scooter are ready, willing and able to show their stuff! Join flying squirrel expert Steve Patterson as he explores the mysterious nocturnal world of these difficult-to-study denizens of the dark and learn about Point Pelee National Park's efforts to restore flying squirrel populations.

June 28

Canada Day

Free Park Entry! Celebrate Canada's birthday! Sing for your cake at the Visitor Centre and participate in other fun programs.

July 1

Celebrate Parks Day across Canada!

Pick up a paddle and take part in our 2nd annual paddling demonstration weekend.

July 19

Splendor Of The Night – Dark Sky Preserve Exploration

8:30 pm to 11 pm at south end of West Beach, weather permitting (mostly clear skies). Discover the world of astronomy at Point Pelee National Park, Canada's most southern Dark Sky Preserve.
\$5.00 per person, children under 10 free, park entrance fee extra

August 2

12th Annual Butterfly Count

8 am – 4 pm. Register by August 4th. \$5 fee for the North American Butterfly Association. All experience levels welcome. 42 species seen last year!

August 9

Fall Migration Hikes

8 am - 10 am, \$14.70/person. Limit 12 participants. Meet at the Visitor Centre. A two-hour guided hike. View migrating birds, dragonflies and monarchs.

September
6-7 & 13-21

Family Migration Trek

1 pm, Sundays. Free with park entry. Did you know that the Monarch butterfly travels 4000 kilometres to Mexico each fall to overwinter? Meet a Park Interpreter at the Visitor Centre for a one-hour experience learning the marvels of migration.

September 6-21

Annual Christmas Bird Count

8 am – 4 pm. Register by December 15th. \$5.00 fee for Bird Studies Canada. All experience levels welcome.

December 22



Enjoy The Sights and Sounds in Point Pelee National Park

Learn about our park and some of the species at risk within our fragile Carolinian habitat. Listen to our original song "KEEP THE SONG ALIVE" ©

Cowritten by Brian Sweet and Nicole Barron

Support the Friends of Point Pelee Purchase "Pelee Music" © from The Nature Nook Gift Store in the Point Pelee Visitor Centre TODAY!