



M V F N

WHIP-POOR-WILL

mississippi valley field naturalists newsletter

Proud Sponsors of the Environmental Education Projects Programme Volume 6 Issue 12 ~ Septembet 2004

www.mvfn.ca

MVFN PROGRAMME EVENTS 2004~2005

by Tine Kuiper, Program Chair, MVFN

GAINING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity will be the theme of the upcoming Fall and Winter program of the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists.

Biodiversity is a relatively new term, which refers to the variability among living organisms from all sources, including land based and aquatic ecosystems, and the ecosystems or communities in which they occur. The concept of biodiversity represents the ways that life is organized and interacts on our planet. These interactions can take place on scales ranging from the smallest, at the level of genes, to organisms, ecosystems, and even to entire landscapes.

Biodiversity is the key to ensuring the continuance of life on earth. It is also a fundamental requirement for adaptation and survival and continued evolution of species. As each of us gain a better understanding of biodiversity, we will be able to make better decisions, starting in our own backyards.

The first speaker in the series, on **September 16**, is **Dr Charles M. Francis, Chief Migratory Birds, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada**. In his talk "**Biodiversity and Conservation**", Dr Francis will introduce the topic of biodiversity, considering its meaning and patterns at all scales, from local to global, from individuals within species to populations. He will then explore the implications of biodiversity from a conserva-

tion perspective, as well as the challenges related to protecting biodiversity in a world of increasing human populations and human activities. The talk will focus particularly on the speaker's experience in working with birds in Canada and throughout the world, as well as with mammals in south-east Asia. The talk will be liberally illustrated with photographs, many drawn from the speaker's own field work in Canada and south-east Asia.

Later in the series, on **October 21**, **Mike Yee of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority** will speak on **Biodiversity of the Mississippi Watershed**, and on **November 18**, **Dr Brian Naylor, Ministry of Natural Resources**, will talk about the **Biodiversity of the Ontario Forest**. The topic of biodiversity will be further explored in the new year, where we hope to discuss the role of factors, such as climate change, that may have an impact on biodiversity. On **January 20th, 2005**, **Andrea Howard, of the Eastern Ontario Museum of Biodiversity** will speak on **Communicating the Issues of Biodiversity**, and **February 17th** **Dr. Bruce Falls, University of Toronto**, will speak on **Bird Song and Biodiversity**. The last speaker in the series, **Linda Pim of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists**, will speak on **Planning for Biodiversity on March 17th**.

Therefore, mark your calendars for the third Thursday of each month, except December. If you are not yet a member of the MVFN, this may be a good time to join. Meetings take place at the Almonte United Church, at 7:30 pm. Non-members will need to pay a \$5.00 fee. For further information, please contact Cliff Bennett at 256-5013, or consult our web site: www.mvfn.ca.

Highlights of the MVFN Board of Directors Meeting August 5, 2004

The subject of an Archivist was discussed. Colleen McKee is to be the Archivist and Jim Bendell will meet with her to decide how to proceed. Jim Bendell, Mike MacPherson and anyone else with a collection of MVFN documents will go over all this material with her. Past members of the Board should be contacted. It was suggested that the material be divided between Operational documents and Archival documents, such as photos, gifts, prizes, etc. Minutes would go into Operational for 2 or 3 years, then be moved into Archival. What to do with correspondence was not decided.

Correspondence: Mike MacPhail reported a letter asking for a contribution to the Conservation Authority, letters discussing the Highway 7 expansion, as well as the Mississippi Valley Water Management Plan. We should have a representative on the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority committee. Mike MacPhail is interested in that position.

Natural Resources: Jim Bendell reported that he still is trying to get a walking tour of the County Road 9 area. The developers have not arranged this, and have not kept their promise to conform to the environmental study. He also reported that there are two new representatives on the Community Forest Committee: Mike Yee and Mary Vandenhof.

Jim Bendell also reported that our sign, as a donor to the Purdon Conservation Area, is gone. He will find out if this is an accident or an indication that they want more money.

Jim reported that our booth at the Lanark Green Days event was well received. The aim is to make Lanark County a Green Area.

Noreen Young has asked Jim to lead a nature walk to raise money for her Fund; he will do so.

The Lanark Landowners Association is still greatly concerned with the deer problem. There is no good program in place to deal with it and we have no idea what is being done, whether hunting is proving beneficial, etc.

Educational Programs: Janine de Salaberry reported that EEEP is paying for two children from an Interval House family to go to the Mill of Kintail's Wildlife Watchers Day camp. Janine is encouraging Andrea Howard to create a new program on the alvar, which would be more extensive than the usual Museum in a Suitcase program.

Program Committee: The indoor program is on the theme of biodiversity, and all but two of the speakers are engaged. In the outdoor programme, Amelia Ah Yu and Shaun McLaughlan will lead a trip in September to

Mystery Lake and Beyond and Chris Grooms, Nature Network Co-ordinator, will lead a trip to Amhurst Island in February. Cliff will lead the Annual Autumn Canoe trip. Program Committee member Chris Hume is handling the hosting aspect of the meetings. The actual meeting procedure will continue as before, with Cliff Bennett acting as M.C. and Jim Bendell carrying out a "show and tell" discussion.

Other Business: Mike MacPherson reported that Rural Expo has turned down our request for a share of their surplus funds • Cliff noted that Trillium is still interested in us • Mike MacPherson reported that the Charitable Status application requires a street address for the MVFN. This could be either Mike or Janet Fytche • Mike MacPherson thanked everyone for the great success of the Gala. The speaker especially admired the Canoe Club site.

Addenda: - It was moved that MVFN, through its EEEP funds, support a grant of \$250 to help send two kindergarten classes from Naismith public School to the Mill of Kintail Outdoor Education Program. Carried

- It was moved that MVFN cover the admission fees for two children from an Interval House family to attend the Mill of Kintail's Day Camp, for five days, cost to be \$130 per child for a total amount of \$260 Carried.

THE GADWALL

A gadwall walks into a bar and asks,

"Got any crackers?"

The bartender says, "No!" The duck walks out.

The duck walks in the next day and asks,

"Got any crackers?"

The bartender says, "No!". The duck walks out.

The duck walks in the next day and asks,

"Got any crackers?"

The bartender says, "I told you yesterday and the

day before, no, and if you ask me that one more

time I'll nail your bill shut!" The duck walks out.

The duck comes back the next day and asks,

"Got any nails?"

The bartender says, "No!"

The duck says "Good! Got any crackers?"

**You can complain because roses have thorns,
or you can rejoice because thorns have roses. -Ziggy**

MVFN LAUNCHES WEBPAGE ABOUT LOCAL TRAILS

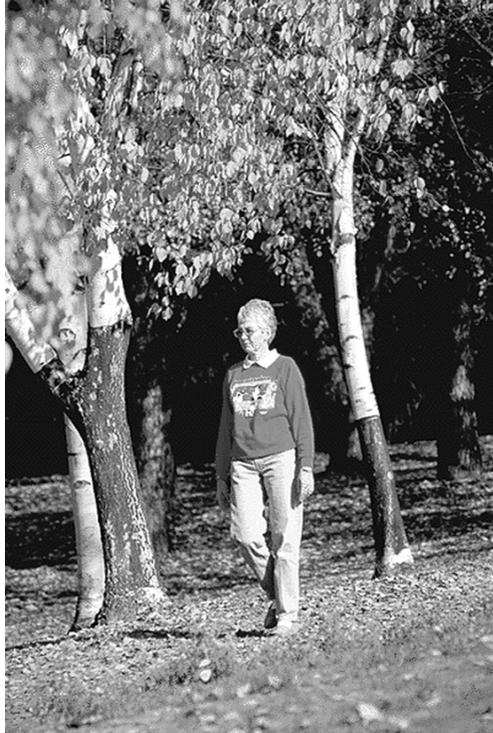
<http://www.mvfn.ca/content/activities/hiking.html>

Just as canoeing trails expose people to the natural wonders of our shoreline forests, streams and open countryside, hiking and quiet walks achieve the same results. Wildflowers, small flowering bushes and groves of sumac, wild cherry and dogwood, framed and sheltered by canopies of maple, pine and ash contribute to a peaceful, cathedral-like setting soothing to the body and soul. Animal tracks and other evidence, fluttering butterflies and moths and a host of mushrooms add to one's nature index. Bird song embellishes a symphony of sound surrounding the serene solitude.

But where can one find these trails to walk on? As a companion page to its touted canoeing routes found on its popular website the MVFN has launched a new web page, identifying walking trails available to the public in Mississippi Mills, Lanark Highlands, Carleton Place, Beckwith and area.

In this trail series the MVFN provides, for your education and enjoyment, a description and location of

walking trails, how to get there, where to park your vehicle, length of trail and time to walk it. Some trails listed already exist while others are unfolding at this time, due to initiatives of various local trail groups. All trails range in distance from one to four kilometres and all are of the "easy degree" of difficulty. Some are circular, some are linear.



Trails presently written up on the page include The Mill of Kintail and the Trans Canada Trail from Carleton Place towards Ottawa. Negotiations are currently underway to use municipal unopened right-of-ways as trails.

As the series unfolds, hiking enthusiasts are invited to add to the list of trails. All trails are not known to all persons. Your

comments are most welcome. For more information call Cliff Bennett at 256-5013 or email bennett@magma.ca. **Have a good hike!**

Check it out:

<http://tycho.usno.navy.mil/vphase.html>

These "Virtual Reality Moon Phases" were created by R. Schmidt from ray-traced images of the Moon. A Clementine spacecraft mosaic of the lunar surface was mapped onto a sphere, and scenes were rendered as a virtual Sun "orbited" the Moon. The depiction of lunar surface features suffers geometric distortion but the terminator is correct with respect to the spherical Moon. At this site you can view the phase of the Moon for any date and time [1800-2199 A.D].

TRANS-CANADA TRAIL

In this particular section the TCT follows the abandoned rail line. It's straight as a die but has many natural attributes along the verges. We never fail to find at least twenty-five species of birds, and the same number of wildflowers, depending upon the season. An observation platform is constructed at Lavalee Creek where you can view on one side, one of the finest soft maple swamps in the area and the other side, a marshland in the throes of reclaiming itself from man's incursion.

You can connect with the Trans-Canada Trail at Carleton Place, just off highway seven on McNeeley Avenue, just past the Canadian Tire Store at Coleman Street. Ample parking is available.

Also at Ashton Station Road, seven km. east of Carleton Place and a few yards north of the highway by the feed mill, and at Mississippi Wonderland Road, halfway between Ashton Station Road and Carleton Place on Hwy 7 and north about 300 m.

CANOEING PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

The canoeing programme for this past spring and summer proved very popular as an activity for MVFN members and friends. Cliff led four trips, (it didn't rain on any of them) beginning in May with a paddle through the Smiths Falls marshlands and into the Rideau Canal and up to the lock station at Poonamalee, where the group enjoyed a picnic lunch. Four pairs in four canoes circled through various channels in the marshland, spotting several duck species, swamp sparrows and pied-billed grebes. We were thrilled to find an active osprey nest right in the park in town.

In our next paddle, in late July, we circumnavigated Clayton Lake, again in four canoes. The weather was perfect and again, nesting ducks abounded in the small channels and bays. We also noted little green herons, several loon couples and an osprey flew overhead overhead, searching the lake for a surfacing fish. The wild rice beds attracted much interest as we sliced through several beds. Lunch was enjoyed in the small park by the dam in Clayton.

A trip down the Tay River from the basin in Perth in search of Jebbs Creek was conducted on August 8th. This time, we had fourteen paddlers in six canoes and one kayak. We failed to find the mouth of the creek so we wended our way along the canal channel to Beveridges Locks, where we picnicked and watched the boats being locked through the canal gates. On the way

back, we paddled very close to an osprey nest situated on a duck blind only four feet above the water. There were two awkward looking juveniles in the nest and they just gawked at us as we passed by. No sign of parents overhead, otherwise they would have bombarded us with scolding.

On August 22nd three canoes circumnavigated Dalhousie Lake near McDonald Corners. This is a very pretty lake, however it is dominated by cottagers for over half the shoreline. The lunch place we chose was rough with loose rocks but we did get ashore and back into the water, without too much difficulty (except for "splits" who put on a great demonstration on how not to do it).



By the time you read this, the last of the informal canoe trips, which will be led by Chris Hume, will have been held on Sunday, September 5th. Chris is going to lead the group around Robertson Lake at Lavant.

The official MVFN Autumn canoe trip will be held on Sunday, October 3rd, when we will be canoeing the Mississippi River from Pakenham to Blakeney and back.

In conclusion, canoeing is a great activity for conditioning, enjoying nature and, most importantly, the companionship of like-minded enthusiasts. We certainly enjoyed it all. To check out all of our designated canoe trips, call up our website at www.mvfn.ca.

TRAIL AT MILL OF KINTAIL CONSERVATION AREA

The Mill of Kintail not only includes a museum of note but picnic area, toilets, playground and several great walking trails. The trails and grounds are open from dawn to dusk and a fee of \$5 per car is charged. A ticket machine is available at the gate. Simply purchase your ticket and leave it on your dash.

To find the Mill of Kintail, drive north from Almonte on highway 29 three km. towards Pakenham, turn onto Clayton Road and drive one Concession to Ramsay Conc. 8. Turn north (right) on Conc. 8 and drive 1 km to the Mill. Follow the Conservation Area signs; the route is well marked.

Once inside the gate, park your car. The trails start on the north side of the parking lot or the east side. Or you can walk the roadway right to the mill and start there. The first trails take you to the Mill of Kintail and the second set of trails go over the bridge. They are well marked. Total distance of trails equals approximately 2 kilometres. The museum is open from May to October. Their telephone number is 256-3610. **Enjoy!**

HIKE THE BIOSPHERE ~ RAIN OR SHINE! HIKING, WALKING & BIOSPHERE APPRECIATION

CHARLESTON LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK SATURDAY ~ SEPTEMBER 25, 2004 ~ 9:30 A.M.

The friends of Charleston Lake Park are hosting a day of hiking, walking and Biosphere appreciation on Saturday, September 25th.

Meet at the **CHARLESTON LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK VISITOR'S CENTRE PARKING LOT** at 9:30a.m. for refreshments and a brief introduction to the Biosphere Reserve, before heading out to the trail of your choice. Bring along a trailside lunch.

For the energetic, enjoy the West side trail, a level 2 of some 14 kilometres, or take a guided tour of one or all of the East side interpretative trails. The choice is yours to enjoy!

THE CHARLESTON LAKE TRAILS OFFER SOME OF THE MOST BREATHTAKING VIEWS IN EASTERN ONTARIO.

The West side hike will leave the trailhead at 10:15a.m. and the East side walks will depart at regular intervals until early afternoon. Regular park entrance fee is required. For more information please call 659-2059 or 382-2824.

THE GATHERER

submitted by Chris Hume

Written while on a nature hike in Pakenham backwoods trail

Into the woods I go

It's a place that is good for my soul

Along the path I roam

I really feel at home...

Alone, but not lonely

I feel at peace and enjoy the sounds

Of birds and wildlife all around

What's this I see beside a tree?

A gnarly piece of bark, some lovely moss,

Some small pine cones, nature's loss...

Is my gain!

As I gather and wander

I feel at peace and whole again.

My cousin just got a job with the National Institutes of Health. He is into research on marijuana. He is working with seagulls, particularly terns, to find out the effects of grass on the birds. His job is to leave no terns unstoned

Use the talents you possess, for the woods would be a very silent place if no birds sang except the best.

-Henry Van Dyke

EEPP HAS MOST SUCCESSFUL SEASON YET!

submitted by Cliff Bennett

The year 2003/04 was the most successful year yet for our Environmental Education Projects Programme (EEPP). Close to \$3000 was awarded in grants to school groups involved in environmental education. Projects included two field trips, funding two young people from an Interval House family to attend a week's summer camp at the Mill of Kintail and helping to fund three students to attend the World Biodiversity Conference in the USA last May.

Our newest adventure into the field of helping to fund environmental education is the provision of a programme from the Eastern Ontario Biodiversity Museum on School Science programmes to area schools. The programme, entitled *Museum in a Suitcase* comes complete with a teacher presenter in the name of Andrea Howard. Andrea shows up in the classroom, complete with a trunk full of hands-on artifacts and information, takes over the class and teaches the topics for at least one hour.

The suitcase programme is geared for all groups, Grades 1-12, and is also suitable for other youth groups such as

Scouts and Guides, church groups and 4H. Andrea will also do professional development for staff members. Schools with funded units so far have been Arklan, in Carleton Place, Beckwith Public School, Pakenham Public School, Maple Grove in Lanark, Naismith and R.Tait McKenzie in Almonte and The Mill of Kintail summer programme.

To add money to the coffers of EEPP, the MVFN held a most successful event in May which raised at least \$3000 from the silent auction. We also received a grant of \$2000 through a Rural Clean Water Projects programme. The MVFN has applied for a Trillium Foundation grant to allow for stable funding for the Suitcase programme for the next three years.

The EEPP is coordinated by Jannine deSalaberry, a member of the MVFN Board of Directors and assisted by Cliff Bennett. For more information, contact Janine at 256-7292 or Cliff at 256-5013.

Almonte Lectures

Friday, October 15, 2004 7:30 p.m.
Almonte United Church Social Hall

A Virtual Tour of Almonte's Textile History

Speaker: Michael Dunn

The lecture will concentrate mainly on the spectacular rise and subsequent demise of the wool industry. Mitigating factors relating to the industry such as water and steam power, the arrival of the railroad, local and world conditions and tariffs will be expounded upon. Many digitized images of old photographs and post cards will be shown as well. Most of these images come from Michael's "Walking Tour of Almonte" website (almonte.clal.ca).

Michael Dunn is a retired federal civil servant who laboured for many years in the high voltage electricity industry and electricity metering field. He is the son of John Dunn who, for many years, has been the pre-eminent local historian and was raised in Almonte. His primary interest these days is the marriage of old information and new computer technology. He makes his home in a two storey apartment in the old Thoburn Woollen Mill in Almonte.

For more information on the Almonte Lecture Series please visit: www.almontelectures.ca

BAIRD TRAIL ~ One of the Most Beautiful Trails in the Area

The Baird trail, less than one kilometre long, in a circular route, is one of the most beautiful trails around. Various points are marked with ecological values and one can find the most enormous individual maple and beech trees in the area. Old rail fences indicate farming practices of long ago and the forty year old red pine plantations under a Lanark County Forest Agreement provide a quiet sanctuary from the outside world. A fully sedged wetland in the middle of the property is halved by a fine boardwalk, affording a view of typical wetland attributes of this type.

To find the Baird Trail, travel west on Wolf Grove Road (County Road 16) from Almonte to Middleville and then south on County Road 8. There is no obvious sign at the moment marking the park and trail but the property number is 1024. You can also reach the same place by travelling north on highway 511 from Lanark Village to County Road 8, turn east (right) and find 1024.

Drive into the parking area and next to it you will find a picnic area and clean washrooms. The information board in front of the parking lot tells the history of the property and points to the start of the trail. Right after the boardwalk, the trail is not very well marked. Look for a small orange arrow marker and a pile of cut stove wood. Enjoy!

Two vultures were in the desert eating a dead clown. The first vulture asks the second vulture: "Does this taste funny to you?"

I understand that a crow *has one less pinion feather than a raven. Therefore how do you tell a crow from a raven? I'm not absolutely sure - I think it's just a matter of opinion.*

A PERIL OF OWLING

submitted by Pip Winters

It was a clear, crisp night, about 4C. There were a few wispy clouds when we set off owling. We headed for an area west of Hopetown contained in our Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas square. It seemed prime owl territory- wetland surrounded by spruce and cedar.

Using the atlas tape recording that features screech owl and barred owl calls, we made our first stop as dusk set in. Frogs were croaking but nothing else. No response to the calls.

Our second stop was about 1 km away. We heard owls as soon as we stopped the car. Two barred owls were calling but they were going further away from us. We hastily set up the "boom box" on top of the car...silence...screech owl(tape)...silence....barred owl(tape).....silence. Suddenly, the barred owls were calling back and coming closer. Barred owl (tape) again.

I was positioned by the car and my partner about 20 feet up the road. I looked NW through a corridor of trees and saw a dark shadow of wings coming towards me. Instinctively I put my hands over my head and ducked.

I heard a whoosh of wings and saw the owl circle and land in a tree across the road from me. Seconds later another owl landed near the first. We held our breath. The owls "chatted" to each other for a minute. Paul moved closer and one owl changed its position. I shone my flashlight under the first owl to get a better look. Another minute and they both flew noiselessly away. What a breathtaking experience!

WEASELS submitted by Cliff Bennett

Weasels are active hunters of our forests, with an abundant appetite for rodents. Usually, they are secretive, slinking through the underbrush, around wetlands and through open woodlands.

Sunday evening, July 7, Lynda and her mother and I were sitting outside under our sun canopy enjoying a late afternoon drink when we started to notice a rustling in the leaves and a slight, plaintive pleading coming from behind the nearby rock wall. Suddenly, pouring around the end stone came not one but six baby weasels, stumbling over each other. The gaggle of light brown and white mammals headed out over the lawn, under the picnic table, between our feet and continued to the wall of the house.

At this point, they paused to regroup and then turned to the left and followed the foundation until they disappeared around the back of the house; all that is except one wee fellow. He stopped short of the corner, turned, looked me straight in the eye and whimpered pleadingly at me as if I were it's mom. That pause was enough to confuse him and he started back between my legs.

Not wanting him to imprint on me, I barked sternly, hoping to turn it back on the path the others had taken. Not this guy! He rose on his hind legs, turned his head from side to side as if to say "What song is that you are singing?". Trying to shoo him away, he started a game of touch tag, scooting around the table legs. I had no choice but to ignore him and return to my seat. Eventually, he retreated to the same path the others took and disappeared around the back of the house.

However, that wasn't the end of things for the young weasel returned to our area about ten minutes later, stopped, looked enquiringly at us as much as to accuse me of steering him down the wrong path. We ignored him and he retreated back the way he came from behind the stone wall. I've no idea where the rest of the litter got to.

Two old men went out on a fishing trip with a wise old skipper. Shortly after leaving the dock two laughing gulls flew over their craft and one decided to let its intestinal contents free. The excrement landed on the bald head of one of the fishermen. The other old man exclaimed "Don't get upset - stay right here and I'll go fetch some toilet paper". The skipper replied, "No need for that. By the time you return the birds will have flown away".

True Trivia

- Dominica, Mexico, Zambia, Kiribati, Fiji and Egypt all have birds on their flags.
- Ancient Egyptians shaved off their eyebrows to mourn the deaths of their cats.
- The first national park in the USA, Yellowstone, was proclaimed a national park in 1872 however there was no National Park Service until 1916. Until then, the parks were administered by the U.S. Army. When the Park Service was formed they got their first uniforms from the Army, hence the ranger (campaign) hats.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than it's brain.
- The two-foot long bird called a Kea that lives in New Zealand likes to eat the strips of rubber around car windows.
- The distance between an alligator's eyes, in inches, is directly proportional to the length of the alligator, in feet.
- A full grown bear can run as fast as a horse.

TO A BUZZARD SWINGING IN SILENCE

By Marjory Stoneman Douglas

I never knew how fair a thing
was freedom, till I saw you swing,
Ragged, exultant, black and high,
Against a hollow, windy sky.
You that with such a horrid gait
Lumbers and flops with red, raw pate.
I never knew how beauty grew
>From ugliness, until you flew
With soaring, sombre, steady beat
Of wings rough-edged to grip the fleet
Far coursing horses of the sky --
To ride, to ride them gloriously.
Oh, brother buzzard, you whose sin
On earth is to be shackled in
To horror, teach me how to go
Like you, to beauty, sure and slow.
Like you, to slip such carrion ties
And lift and lift to high, clean skies,
Where winds and sun and silence ride,
Like you, oh buzzard, glorified.

(Included in the description of the Turkey vulture, in The Birds of Florida,

Harold H. Bailey, privately published by the author, 1924)

Marjory was the author of Everglades: The River of Grass, The Joys of Birdwatching in Florida and many other books. She died at the age of 108 in 1998. She spent the last thirty years of her life fighting to save the everglades. South Florida is a major wintering area for eastern turkey vultures. RKelley@cs.cs.miami.edu

MVFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2004-2005

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION 2004~2005

Sandy Atack	Past president
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Mike McPhail	- Vice-President
	- Environmental issues chair
Billy Wiles	Secretary
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DIRECTORS

Jim Bendell	Natural Resources Issues Chair
Janine deSalaberry	Coordinator, EEPP
Tine Kuiper	Programme Chairperson
Franziska vonRosen	Community Stewardship Council
Pip Winters	Ontario Nature representative

NON-ELECTED PERSONS SERVING MVFN IN THE COMING YEAR ARE:

Cliff Bennett	- Mississippi Mills Community Official Plan representative
	- Canoe programmes
	- Christmas Bird Counts
	- Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas Square Webmaster
Christine Birkett	Membership Coordinator, member e-mail network
Janet Fytche	Lanark County Trails Issues
Paul Frigon	Newsletter publisher
Eileen Hennemann	Refreshments at meetings
Maida Lowe	

Programme Thanks You

Programme Chairperson Tine Kuiper wishes to thank the members of her committee for their work and inspiration in putting together this exciting list of events for the coming year. Members of the committee are as follows: Susan Fisher, Chris Hume, Jim and Yvonne Bendell, Cliff Bennett and Mike MacPherson.

Thank You

Many thanks to those who contributed articles and information for this newsletter.



Brought to you by.....

This newsletter is produced by the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists, with copy contributions and submissions from members and various publications. Please submit any suggestions, comments, or corrections, as well as any content submissions to standes@magma.ca. Thank you.

MVFN 2004-2005 PROGRAMME

INDOOR PROGRAMME *Meetings at Almonte United Church, 7:30p.m., unless indicated otherwise*

SEPTEMBER 16, Thursday, is **Dr Charles M. Francis, Chief Migratory Birds, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada** with his talk "**Biodiversity and Conservation**

SEPTEMBER 19: Annual Fall Nature Walk: Mystery Lake and Beyond. Led by **Amelia Ah Yu** and **Shaun McLaughlan**

OCTOBER 3, Sunday, is the **MVFN Autumn Canoe Adventure** when we will be canoeing the **Mississippi River from Pakenham to Blakeney and back.** Call Cliff 256-5013 to register.

OCTOBER 21, Thursday, **Mike Yee** of the **Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority** will speak on **Biodiversity of the Mississippi Watershed**

NOVEMBER 18, Thursday, **Dr Brian Naylor, Ministry of Natural Resources**, will talk about the **Biodiversity of the Ontario Forest.**

Christmas Bird Counts - Cliff Bennett 256-5013
December 27 - Carleton Place
December 30 - Watsons Corners

ON JANUARY 20TH, 2005, Thursday, **Andrea Howard** of the **Eastern Ontario Museum of Biodiversity** will speak on **Communicating the Issues of Biodiversity.**

FEBRUARY 17TH, Thursday, **Dr. Bruce Falls, University of Toronto**, will speak on **Bird Song and Biodiversity.**

MARCH 17TH, Thursday, **Linda Pim** of the **Federation of Ontario Naturalists** will speak on **Planning for Biodiversity.**