

**National Capital Region Wildlife Festival**  
**Event Highlights 2011**

**Friday, March 25 (English), 7-10 p.m.:** **Gatineau Park Visitor Centre, 33 Scott Road, Chelsea QC:** Friends of Gatineau Park present *Owl Prowl*. This program is a hoot!! Join the Friends of Gatineau Park for their popular evening program, Owl Prowl. Bernie Ladouceur, experienced birdwatcher, will introduce us to the many owls that share the Park with us. Learn about their unique features and behaviours. Afterwards, we will go into the Park, learn their calls and see who will respond! Adults \$15 (Members \$12), Seniors/Students \$12 (Members \$10), Children \$5 Information and Registration: (819) 827-2020 [www.friendsofgatineaupark.ca](http://www.friendsofgatineaupark.ca)  
[35 people attended a successful evening.](#)

**Saturday and Sunday, March 26 and 27 (Mall hours):** **Billings Bridge Shopping Centre, Bank Street at Riverside Drive:** ***Wildlife Awareness Event*** where wildlife organizations from around the region come together to celebrate National Wildlife Week in the Nation's Capital. Give-aways, information on wildlife, conservation, mascots, face painting, live animals. ***Silent auction begins on March 25.*** Information 613 831-2253 [Students from Ridgemont High School painted faces and wore mascot costumes. The 20 exhibitors enjoyed the flow of traffic through the mall. Adult volunteers interviewed guests and manned the silent auction and Wildlife Festival booth. A profitable time was held by all.](#)

**Sunday, April 10 and ongoing: Arboretum, Experimental Farm, Prince of Wales Drive:** Find the GPS coordinates on our website, [www.wildlifefestival.org](http://www.wildlifefestival.org), and ***Geo-Search*** for ten interesting sites while sharpening your senses to sights and sounds along the way. Your reward is finding the sites! Information 613 831-2253

**Tuesday, April 12, 6 - 9:30 p.m.:** **Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets:** Celebrate National Wildlife Week in this region and the International Year of Forests with a ***Forum on Forests***. Join us for a thought-provoking evening as we look into the threats to our forests and the tools for protection, and the various ways to conserve our forests from national, regional and local perspectives. Information tables, displays, handouts and refreshments. For information 613 831-2253 or [www.ncrwildlifefestival.org](http://www.ncrwildlifefestival.org) [The 9th annual forum was a resounding success. This event was organized by the Ottawa Stewardship Council, Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee, Tree Canada, the Eastern Ontario Model Forest, the Canadian Museum of Nature, and Facilitations. The Master of Ceremonies for the Forum was Johanne Ranger from Parks Canada. Marie Lasnier, Director of Community Services, Canadian Museum of Nature, welcomed guests on behalf of the Museum. Six very engaging and interesting speakers held the rapt attention of the approximately 60 people in attendance.](#)

**Friday, April 15 (French) and Friday, April 22 (English), 7-10 p.m.:** **Gatineau Park Visitors Centre, 33 Scott Road, Chelsea QC:** Friends of Gatineau Park of Gatineau Park present *Frog Chorus*: Spring is in the air and frog songs are filling the night! Join the Friends of Gatineau Park for their popular evening program, Frog Chorus. Rob Alvo, an amphibian specialist will introduce you to amphibians of Gatineau Park and their different calls during an indoor presentation. Afterwards, we will go into the Park, enjoy the concert first hand and identify who is who! All participants will receive a free CD with frog calls from the Frogwatch Programme! Adults \$15 (Members \$12), Seniors/Students \$12 (Members \$10), Children \$5 Information and Registration: (819) 827-2020 <http://www.friendsofgatineaupark.ca> [April 15 was cancelled due to lack of registration. 32 people participated in the session on April 22.](#)

**Friday, April 15, 6 p.m. to dark: Stony Swamp Parking Lot for Beaver Trail, Moodie Drive, south of Hunt Club:** ***Family Nature Walk at Stony Swamp*** with Martha Webber, botanist, naturalist and educator, who will encourage participants to discover the wonders of the night sounds and sights of nature in spring. Information and Registration 613 839-5217. [About 25 people in all, lots of kids came on a chilly night and the littlest ones were taken home early after seeing the huge \(10 or more\) group of deer cavorting, flipping their white flag tails, down around the Wild Bird Care Centre. The rest continued to monitor for spring, frogs were calling, the beaver did not come out since it was a bit early](#)

and some kids got impatient, ended up after dark with a wolf howl down in the woods. A photographer was there, did a video of Martha and the circle around the tape of frog calls.

**Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m. to Noon: Cliffland Clifford Family Protected Wilderness, 502 Hills of Peace, Lanark:** Enjoy 5 km of relatively easy to moderate hiking on the **Earth Day Walk to Blueberry Mountain**, one of the seven wonders of Lanark County. This guided walk will include a dramatization of the life of John Muir and participants will be rewarded with a very scenic outlook from the top of the mountain. Information and Registration 613 259-3412. The day turned out to be as forecasted, a bit rainy and cold. Ten showed up, seven of which hiked to Blueberry. They were appropriately dressed for the weather and each found the hike to be very enjoyable. Like me they find that hiking in a drizzle has its own rewards, heightened smells, and a different face of nature. The group returned to the indoor classroom to join the other three for refreshments and an opportunity to socialize. The appearance of John Muir to relate some of his life stories relating to inclement weather had a certain appeal and was well received by those who were there. One couple presented a wonderful cake to add to our Earth Day Celebrations

**Tuesday and Wednesday, April 19 and 20: Wild Bird Care Centre, 734 Moodie Drive, Park in Stony Swamp Parking Lot for Beaver Trail:** The National Capital Region Wildlife Festival and the Wild Bird Care Centre will host

**Birds: A Walk and Talk** from 1 to 3 p.m. Get acquainted with the rehabilitation centre staff and their bird guests and take a walk along the Beaver Trail. Donations. Registration required. Information and Registration 613 828-2849 Weather didn't cooperate. The participants also expected a walk on the Beaver Trail, but that was not planned. For the first day, 2 tours of 25 people toured the Centre and saw into the back rooms, got to understand what went on, and met the current patients. The next day only 6 to 10 people came because of weather. They had a question period at the end of the session. One person is now a volunteer.

**Saturday, April 23, 1:30 to 4 p.m.: RIM Parking Lot, Innovation Drive, Klondike and Second Line:** Learn about the culinary wonders of the wild with botanist and naturalist Martha Webber by joining her **Edible Wild Walk in the Kanata Woods**. Information and Registration 613 839-5217. About 20 people came and enjoyed finding wild edibles, including wild leek. A good group.

**Tuesday, April 26, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.: Dinosaur Nature Centre, 333-515 St. Laurent Boulevard:** The National Capital Region Wildlife Festival and St-Laurent Academy Centre will host a **Talk and Walk at the Macoun Marsh** which is located on the grounds of Beechwood, Canada's National Cemetery in Ottawa. It is a small wetland in the South-East corner filled with many, many species of life; 1307 have been documented so far. Students of St-Laurent Academy will provide a tour of the site which is rich in aquatic species, blue-spotted salamanders, painted turtles and birds. Weather dependent. Registration required to [lmleveille@rogers.com](mailto:lmleveille@rogers.com). Information 613 564-3466 [www.st-laurentacademy.com](http://www.st-laurentacademy.com) Grade 6-7 students from St-Laurent Academy Elementary and Junior High gave a tour of the Macoun Marsh as part of the National Capital Region Wildlife Festival. Despite the risk of rain, many people came out for the inner city nature walk. Some of the species seen included common redpolls, a hoary redpoll, red-winged blackbirds, grackles, tree sparrows, cardinals, several painted turtles, a blue-spotted salamander, siberian squill, violets, and some bird nest fungi. We also had a look at some exposed Ordovician rock filled with ancient trilobite tails, and other prehistoric marine species.

**Saturday, April 30, 8 a.m.: Entrance to the Britannia Filtration Plant on Cassels Street:** Dave Moore and Bev McBride of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club lead a **General Interest Nature Walk** through the Britannia Conservation Area. Limited to 15 participants. Information and Registration: 613 729-9330 [redstart@vif.com](mailto:redstart@vif.com) 15 people registered but only 9 showed up. The wind storm had felled large tree across the paths and we had to climb over several large trees. We had a beautiful day and an enjoyable walk. Some highlights were a good look at a Common Loon and Black-crowned Night-heron, about 150 painted turtles sunning themselves in the back bay of Mud Lake and one Snapping Turtle. Other birds included Mallards, Canada Geese, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Warbling Vireo, Ravens, Tree Swallows and the ever-present Black-capped Chickadee. I talked about forest succession and the importance of preserving natural areas within the city and Bev pointed out many species of trees in the woodlot.

She showed everyone how to identify different species from their buds and branch arrangements. We saw Dog-tooth Violets [some people know them as "Trout Lily", small white violets, Bloodroot and three species of horsetails. The walk ended about 12:00.

**Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Klondike and Second Line Roads (Park on Second Line Road):**

***Families in Nature Walk on the Heron Pond Trail in the Kanata Woods*** with Martha Webber, botanist, naturalist and educator, who will encourage participants to discover the wonders of the sights of nature in spring. Bring a bag lunch. Information and Registration. 613 839-5217. [Several families with children came to picnic and enjoy the walk. We found wintergreen and the children played nature games.](#)

**Sunday, May 1, 2 p.m.: McCarthy Woods, Riverside Park/Hunt Club: *Nature Walk in the McCarthy***

***Woods*** with Lynn Kaplansky through a small but diverse urban forest with huge hardwoods, carpets of spring flowers and many signs of wild inhabitants. Easy trails but some may be muddy. Meet in mall parking lot at McCarthy Rd. and Paul Anka Dr. Information and Registration. 613 731-6141 [14 walkers including 2 children meandered around McCarthy Woods for almost 2 hours looking at the many flowers brought out by the warm weather. The spring is a great time in these woods not only for the flowers but also it is so much easier to see the trees - their height, shape and interesting burls and cavities. We stopped frequently to study the red trilliums, white trilliums, Spring Beauties, Hepatica, Trout Lily and blue cohosh on the ground then looked out through the woods at the stately beech. Maples, oaks, poplar and white and yellow birch. The white Trillium were just coming out and in a few days they'll make a blanket of white throughout the woods. Soon there will be leafy and flowering shrubs which will change the views. An added but sad feature on the walk was the sight of so many trees snapped off or uprooted by the severe wind 3 days before. There were people from as far as Kanata and as close as across the street. The 'neighbours' were encouraged by their first venture into the woods and will be back to see the changes over the seasons. Everyone had a good time and we all added to each others knowledge about the woods' flora.](#)