



# The Rambler

Spring 2023

## From the President's Pen

With Deb Sherk's term coming to an end as President of the Club, the office of President is now vacant, along with the Vice President's position, which has been vacant for some time now. The Board Members have agreed to take on the President's duties for a month at a time. For instance, for June, Anne Mills is the acting President.

While this system does seem to be working for now, the Board would prefer that the Club have an actual President. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in becoming President, please let any Board member know. Holding the position of President is an excellent opportunity for anyone with enthusiasm for nature, and who would be willing to lead like-minded individuals, supported by an experienced and dedicated Board. The President is required to engage with a lot of people during the course of their duties, making the office of the

President of the Bert Miller Nature Club, a challenging but prestigious position, held in esteem by club members and the community. The President, as leader of the Club, has the flexibility to make their duties as demanding as their energy level and their time permits. We are hoping you or someone like you will consider this opportunity.



The Board has decided the meetings for November to March will be held online via Zoom, while meetings for September and October, April, May, and June, will be in-person meetings held at the Stevensville Conservation Club Hall. The in-person meetings will not be available on

Zoom because running hybrid meetings was found to be too complicated. However, many of our online meetings and some of our in-person meetings are made available through the Club's YouTube channel. Be sure to subscribe! <https://www.youtube.com/@bertmillernatureclub>

## Welcome New Members

- Ken Fretz
- Karen Gregory
- Liz Macdonald

## Upcoming Meetings

- Wednesday June 21 @ 6:00 pm - Nature in Niagara at the Crystal Ridge branch of the Fort Erie Public Library. Marcie Jacklin introduces us to the world of birdwatching. Learn tips and tricks for identifying local birds. Registration is required through Eventbrite or by calling any branch of the Library.
- The speakers for the upcoming season starting in September have not been finalized yet, so keep an eye out for more information soon.
- We will be keeping the split meeting format, meeting in person for September and October, Zoom meetings for November through March 2024 and then back to in-person meetings for April, May and June 2024. Watch your email for further updates.

## A Moment of Gratitude

by Lynda Goodridge

Deb Sherk has stepped down from her role as Bert Miller Nature Club President after serving in that capacity for almost 5 years.

At our February Annual General Meeting on February 13, 2023, the BMNC board presented Deb with a Certificate of Appreciation for all her efforts over the past 4 ½ years. Deb always begins her meetings with a moment of gratitude, so this presentation was the opportunity to express our sincere



Deb with her Certificate of Appreciation. © Ron Goodridge

thanks for coming to our aid when we needed her most.

Deb has done a fantastic job in navigating the Club through COVID-19 restrictions and the changes it required. She is an excellent leader and always managed to keep us on track. Although she has stepped down from her position as President, she has agreed to stay on the board for another term as a director, providing a much-appreciated transition as we move into operating

## Upcoming Outings

- Watch for email updates or refer to the Club's website or Facebook page for information on future outings.

## Memberships

- A new season will start in September for the Club. We look forward to being together with old friends and meeting new ones. Everyone is always welcome. Be sure to mark your calendar!



## A Moment of Gratitude *continued*

by committee once again.

If we want this club to continue to succeed and maintain its status in the community, we must have volunteers who are willing to help carry the load. In these times of ecological peril due to the loss of biodiversity, the dramatic effects of climate change and the disappearance of our natural areas, our role as a club is

even more important. The Town will likely be approaching us to participate in the stewardship of the remaining woods at Waverly Woods/Erie Beach.

Many of us on the board have been serving for 20-plus years. We need an infusion of new people, with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Will you be the one to step forward? We hope so!

## Our Thanks to Janet

On behalf of the board, I sincerely thank Janet Kellam for over 20 years of service to the Bert Miller Nature Club. Janet has been a Director on the Board since Rob Eberly was our President! Although Janet has stepped down from her position as a Director, she will continue to look after us by making tea and coffee and arranging for goodies to be brought to each of our in-person meetings at the Conservation Club. We all appreciate having a cup of coffee or tea and a cookie (or two or three) while we chat before and after each meeting.

Thanks so much, Janet. Your hard work on the Club's behalf is sincerely appreciated.

by Deb Sherk



© Win Laar

## Beauty on the Bruce

Win took us into several varied habitats on the Bruce Peninsula to look more closely at the flora and fauna that have existed there for hundreds of years. She moved from the Lake Huron side on the west of the peninsula, around Tobermory on the north, then down Georgian Bay on the east.



Piping Plover.

© Ron Goodridge

The first stop was at Sauble Beach, to see the endangered Piping Plovers. Here plover lovers protect nesting birds with a fenced enclosure and provide rest stops where the young can hide as they move to and from the shoreline where

they forage for food.

Olipphant Fen, on Lake Huron, may look like a flat wasteland, but its low nutrient shallow waters harbour a fascinating diversity of plants that have adapted to specific conditions. Carnivorous plants, such as Pitcher Plant, Butterwort and Sundew, offer false promises of water to drink or sweet nectar, then trap and digest insects which land to feed. Showy Lady's Slipper, called the queen of orchids, rewards those who pick the flowers with a rash caused by toxic stinging hairs, and its tissues have needle-sharp crystals, to discourage grazing by animals.

Petrel Point is a 91-acre nature reserve owned by Ontario Nature. In the globally rare habitat of its Great Lakes Coastal Meadow Marsh, we saw Grass of Parnassus, named by the Greeks, whose cattle grazed the flowers on Mount Parnassus. After being grazed, the flowers resembled grasses. The distinctive blue flowers of Kalm's Lobelia are similar in shape to another lobelia closer to home, *Lobelia cardinalis*, or Cardinal Flower.

Bruce Alvar Nature Reserve has two main vegetation communities: rock barrens dominated by a ground cover of moss and herbaceous plants, and semi-open coniferous forests



Trumpet Lichen.

© Win Laar

dominated by Jack Pine. Plants that survive here are well adapted to extreme conditions - freezing cold in winter, searing hot and dry for much of the summer, and soaking wet in spring. Here we saw Lakeside Daisy, a globally rare plant, found in only a few sites in the world, all around the upper great lakes, and the rich blue of the rare Dwarf Lake Iris.

Seneca Snakeroot has traditionally been used as a cure for snakebite by First Nations people, and also to ease earaches, toothaches and sore throats. Whorled Milkwort was rumoured to make cows give more milk when eaten. The cones of Jack Pine are coated in a thick resin that requires fire to melt the resin and release the seeds, which are eaten by Pine Siskins, Pine Grosbeaks, and Red Crossbills. The globally endangered Kirtland's Warbler requires large stands of Jack Pine to nest.

At Singing Sands Provincial Park we saw Balsam Fir, readily identified by the blisters on its bark. The blisters contain a fragrant clear and very sticky resin, which is the source of Canada Balsam, a glass cement for optical instruments. Here too we found Dwarf Mistletoe, a parasitic plant whose spores infect spruces, causing explosive new growth which eventually kills the tree.

Moving to the Georgian Bay side, we saw the rare and beautiful Calypso Orchid and the parasitic Striped Coralroot.

It was along the towering limestone cliffs at Lion's Head

## Beauty on the Bruce *continued*

that Doug Larson discovered old-growth Eastern White Cedars, some over 1,000 years old.

As it began, so it ended, with birds. Along the grassland habitat of Purple Valley we saw Bobolinks and Eastern Bluebirds, one holding in its beak a Black Swallowtail larva, a reminder that if we want birds in our lives, we need to grow caterpillars. The last flora was the rare and tiny Ram's Head Lady's Slipper Orchid, and the last fauna was a Black-and-White Warbler, flushed from its nest site hidden deep within the woods.

Go, and enjoy the beauty on the Bruce!



Calypso Orchid.

© Win Laar

## Walk on the Wild Side

Although it was bitterly cold for a day or two just before our outing, we ended up having a warm day (6°C) with many sunny breaks in the clouds, and lots of wind. Furthermore, the sudden cold spell caused Lake Erie to freeze over the day before our outing, forcing many more waterfowl into the open waters of the Niagara River. Although the waters just north of the ice boom were covered in massive flocks of Scaup, Golden eye, bufflehead and red-breasted mergansers, the parking is an issue along this stretch of the parkway. We started our outing in the parking area at the foot of Beatrice St. where we saw the same species in smaller flocks and decided to not visit the vista near the ice boom, which was much more exposed to the cold breeze. Just in case, Marcie checked the boom for us for any Snowy Owls, Bald Eagles or hawks.



The group pauses for a photo while looking out into the Niagara River.  
© Dawn Pierrynowski

In addition to the species mentioned above, we had good looks at Canvasbacks, Redheads, Mallards and Black Ducks, and Common and Hooded Mergansers at the various stops along the parkway. We also found good numbers of Tundra Swans, a couple of Mute Swans and lots of Canada Geese. The species of gulls we saw were Ring-billed, Herring, Bonaparte, and Greater Black-backed. In addition to the many Crows guarding our border, we did happen to see one Cormorant.

At our last stop at Miller Creek, Damian spotted two Bald Eagles. We watched them soar together over the river for a few minutes, hoping they would talon grapple. Instead, they settled, facing us, on a small piece of ice floating towards Niagara Falls, for their honeymoon, perhaps?

by *Tim Seburn*

## A Rainy Walk in the Woods

Sunday, April 30, 2023, was a drizzly day. About forty hardy folks showed up in rain gear for the Bert Miller Nature Club's spring Marcy's DiCienzo's Woods hike. After a brief introduction, everyone was divided into two groups; one for concentrating on wildflowers took the lower trail and the other, for those interested in seeing some birds, took the upper trail.

For spring wildflowers, our timing was good. It was quite a show. Red and White Trilliums, wildflowers that bloom



Red Trillium

© Debbie Wright

later, had just opened, while a couple of Bloodroot, one of the earliest flowers, were still in bloom. We even found some Wild Ginger in a new spot. Some participants

had an app on their phones that helped to identify unusual species.

Birding was slow due to the rain being too heavy.

We did see a Bald Eagle, but no Pileated nor Red-headed woodpeckers, and no Warblers. An Eastern Towhee and Carolina Wren were heard.

All in all, it was a satisfying day, and we are very grateful to the DiCienzo family for their stewardship of the woods and for permitting us to visit.



Dutchman's Breeches (left) and Squirrel Corn (right).  
© Debbie Wright

by *Tim Seburn*

# A Rainy Marcy / DiCienzo's Woods Walk *continued*

A quote from Charlevoix's journal for May 1721 as he camped at Point Abino and other locations along the north coast of Lake Erie. "each day a new situation chofen at pleafure; a neat and commodious houfe built and furnifhed with all necefaries in lefs than a quarter of an hour, and floored with a pavement of flowers, continually fpringing up on a carpet of the molt beautiful green on all fides fimple and natural beauties unadulterated and inimitable by any art... we are no more than pilgrims on the earth, and we have no right to ufe but as pafengers, the good things of this world." Amen, and, remarkably, it is still the same today!



Members of the birding group pointing at the birds they didn't see. © Debbie Wright

## Our Visit to I CAN-T.E.R

A group of about eight members met at I CAN-T.E.R. on May 28 at 10:00 a.m. for an "Informative Nature Hike" around the 87-acre property on House Road.

Brie Smalldon and Karen Van der Zalm, Executive Director, guided us around the property, pointing out the horse barns, bioswale, and organic gardens. The property also contained two separate cabins, in tranquil surroundings, for overnight stays. Both were equipped with cooking facilities and a nearby "comfort station" with a toilet and shower.



The group.

© Dawn Pierrynowski

*by Christine Knighton*

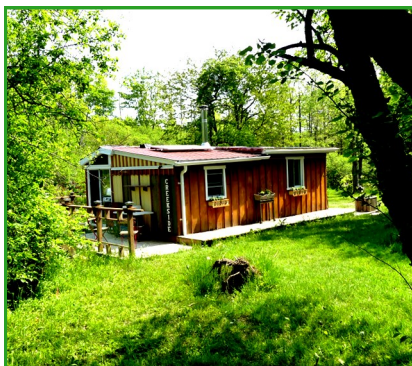
of the creek and birds were plentiful. Sightings provided by Lynda were Great Egret, House Sparrow, Killdeer, Warbling Vireo, Red-winged Blackbird, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, American Robin, Red-tail Hawk and Savannah Sparrow. Brie pointed out the enhanced areas for three species of concern - the Grass Pickerel, Eastern Foxsnake and Blanding's Turtle.

There was a lovely little clearing with several

hammocks set up where one could relax and listen to the sounds of nature. We discovered that it is much easier to get into a



Hammock Hangout. © Dawn Pierrynowski



One of the cabins available to rent. © Dawn Pierrynowski

The bulk of the tour was spent along the trails at the Beaver Creek Restoration Project. Brie shared her knowledge of plant life with us, particularly native plants. She was able to identify anything we asked about and point out the invasive species that the restoration project is trying to eliminate, as well as the native plants that have been



Hammock sausage. © Dawn Pierrynowski

hammock than get out of it.

I CAN-T.E.R is a registered charity and provides several educational and recreational programs for kids. It looks like a great place for a child to spend time in the summer!

introduced. We saw Joe-pye Weed, Great Blue Lobelia and Cardinal Flower, among other native species. Buckthorn was very evident despite attempts to remove it to make way for native trees and shrubs. There was lots of evidence of native tree planting, including my favourite: Eastern Redbud. Plans for the restoration of Reach 2 and 3 are in the works, including plans to repair a bridge that goes over the creek.

We saw two frogs sunning themselves along a restored section



Inside cabin #1.

© Christine Knighton



"Pay toilet".

© Christine Knighton

# Our Visit to I CAN-T.E.R

*continued*

This is two of the many educational signs displayed on the property.



© Christine Knighton



© Dawn Pierrynowski

## Christmas 2022 Blizzard

The Christmas 2022 blizzard was hard on Cardinals, Great-horned Owls, Fowler’s Toads and even Chipmunks and is one that we won’t soon forget. A three-day gale combined with over three feet of snow caused many Christmas galas to be cancelled, with many stories of travellers’ unexpectedly spending their Christmas stranded in Fort Erie. The Town’s water supply, which goes along the beach at Thunder Bay, was exposed when the storm scoured the beach down to its clay base, causing a lot of damage. Ridgeway was particularly hit hard with many large trees being toppled. I saw our five-foot-diameter maple tree go down. Our critters were also affected, and this spring naturalists have shared some observations with me.

Last fall and early winter, many of us saw and heard many immature Great-horned owls, indicating the species had a good 2022 breeding season. However, Rob Eberly tells me he has only located four active Great-horned owl nests this spring. Usually, this number would be much higher. Great-horned owls normally do not build their nests and instead rely on taking over an old nest built by a Red-tailed Hawk or some other species that build their nests with sticks. He noted the gale-force winds destroyed many stick nests.

Believe it or not, Northern Cardinals are a relatively new species for Ontario, having expanded their range here only recently due to the warming of our climate. Ontario’s first breeding record was at Point Pelee in 1901, but the bird was not common in Ontario until after the 1940s. Eliza Durant reported a Northern Cardinal frozen in snow and there were many other similar reports of cardinals being frozen solid. However, many other northern range expansion species, like the Carolina Wren, Tufted Titmouse, and Red-bellied



A frozen Northern Cardinal.

© Dave Borbeley

*by Tim Seburn*

woodpecker, seemed to have made it through the storm okay. The one pictured here survived when it was rescued and warmed by the photographer.

Lake Erie’s high water levels during 2020, combined with the unusual series of fierce fall and winter storms that have occurred over the past three years, have left its coast badly battered. Fowler’s Toad numbers have declined over the past three years, presumably due to many of the sand dunes along the coast where they hibernate having been lost or seriously damaged. The Christmas storm has me worried about the fate of our Fowlers. I have not heard a Fowler’s Toad call yet this spring. Calling usually begins around late May, and they tend to emerge on a full moon. How they know the moon is full when they are buried deep under the sand, I don’t know. The next full moon is June 3, and I am eager to census the shoreline to see how this endangered species is doing here in Fort Erie.

And, finally, we no longer have chipmunks at our home along the Lake Erie shore. A few years ago, I inadvertently transferred a family of them to my daughter’s yard in Stratford. As I was boarding my car, I thought it strange when a chipmunk I saw go underneath my car seemed to disappear. During the ride to Stratford, there was a strange noise every time I turned a corner. Were they storing nuts in my car? And what was that strange smell? I hoped it wasn’t chipmunk pee.

I arrived at my daughter’s house, and we sat in the backyard chatting. A chipmunk scurried across the lawn. “I didn’t know you had chipmunks”, I said to her. “I don’t!”, she replied. I ran to my car and lifted the hood. Sure enough, three more chipmunks were scurrying about in my engine compartment. I made sure they all vacated before driving home to Fort Erie.

Their final demise at our home, however, was not my fault. It seems that the seiche associated with the storm pushed the water level up to and into the old well where our local population of chipmunks hibernate each winter and they must have all perished. Poor critters. I’ll ask my daughter if I can have a couple back.

## Winter Festivals 2023

by Dawn Pierrynowski

The Bert Miller Nature Club participated in two winter festivals in 2023. An interactive display was set up for each festival for the public to learn more about our Club and nature.

The first festival attended was the Birds on the Niagara winter bird festival. It is the only international winter bird festival and it was held this year from February 17-February 20<sup>th</sup> at locations throughout the international Niagara River corridor. The Club's display was at the School of Horticulture along with the Niagara Falls Nature Club and the Peninsula Field Naturalists.

<http://www.birdniagara.org/>

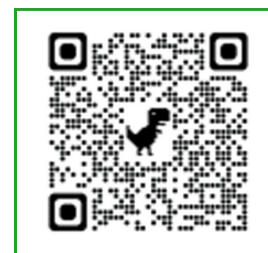
The second festival attended was Winterfest at Heartland Forest in Niagara Falls on February 25. It was well

attended by families with young children. The activities were enjoyed by children and adults. Many thanks to Eliza and Owen for volunteering to help.

<https://heartlandforest.org/>



Dawn, Eliza and Owen at the BMNC display.  
© Tim Shafley



Scan this QR code with your device. Then tap the Data link to see the Important Bird and Biodiversity areas of the Niagara Region map in colour.

## A Short History of Shagbark Nature Park

by Dawn Pierrynowski

Shagbark Nature Park was formerly known as Shagbark Nature Trail. The "Park" designation came at a later date.

In 1999 the late Earl Plato approached the Town of Fort Erie to begin the process of obtaining stewardship of Shagbark Nature Trail for the Bert Miller Nature Club. The land had been donated to the Town of Fort Erie in three parcels: 6.7 acres were donated by Ridgeway Lions Club; 32.19 acres were donated by Ed Lanchyshyn (Parklane Homes) and 26.5 acres were donated by George Parazader (Maroon Enterprises) for a total of 64.39 acres. (27 hectares)

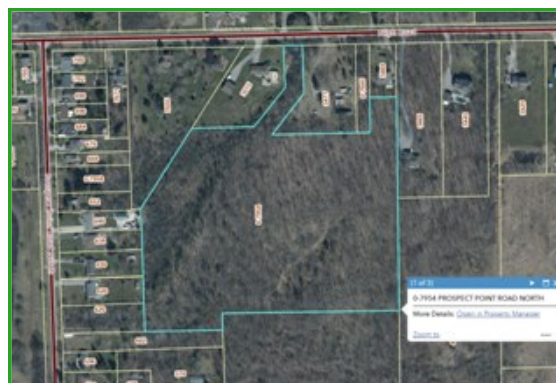
Two committees were formed in the ensuing years to first get an agreement with the Town to have the Bert Miller Nature Club formally become stewards of the Trail. The first committee was chaired by the late Bob Chambers. After considerable negotiations, insurance issues were settled resulting in the Club becoming stewards on December 6, 2001. A park sign was designed by Bob and funded by the Ridgeway Lions Club, and a gravel parking lot, trail and berms were added. The Town built a French drainage on the south side to take care of water issues for homeowners along Dominion Rd.

In December 2004, a new committee was formed and chaired by Dawn Pierrynowski. The committee established the following goals: To extend and enhance the woodlot and meadow with native plants and trees; to build a chimney swift tower and display; to create a demonstration wetland and pond; to improve the trails for year-round activities such as hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing and to create an interactive and educational naturalized area.

Generous grants were obtained from the Niagara Peninsula

Conservation Authority, TD Friends of the Environment and Evergreen Home Depot. The Town of Fort Erie allotted a budget and local businesses, schools and volunteers donated time and materials to make Shagbark what it is today. Visit the Bert Miller website at: <https://bertmillernatureclub.org/activities/projects/shagbark-nature-park/> and open the PDF to read further about some of the activities accomplished to date.

In 2021 the Bert Miller Nature Club sent a letter to the Town of Fort Erie requesting that the Town consider purchasing an adjacent property to increase the size of Shagbark from 64.39 acres to 80.27 acres thus allowing the Park to provide even greater benefits to the community than it did at that time. Nature had become a refuge, not only from the pandemic specifically, but from the pace and pressures of modern life. Physicians prescribed more time in nature to improve both physical and mental health. Preserving and enhancing the natural heritage of Fort Erie is extremely important as the Park and the adjacent lands are breeding habitat for a variety of birds and other wildlife and a stopover point for many more species of migrating birds, some of which are species of risk. eBird shows that 128 species of birds have been reported at Shagbark over the years.



Official Map with Shagbark outlined in blue from April 2023.  
© Town of Fort Erie

### Update 2023

The Club was delighted to learn on April 20, 2023, that the Town purchased 16.23 acres (6.57 hectares) of vacant land adjacent to Shagbark Nature Park to preserve more natural heritage in the area and to fulfill a much-needed increase in the preservation of wild spaces. Shagbark is now approximately 80.62 acres. (32.6 hectares) The Club looks forward to working closely with the Town to "thoughtfully integrate this newly acquired land" into the Shagbark Nature Park complex.

## Migratory Bird Day Celebration

Every year, nature organizations around the world celebrate World Migratory Bird Day. The event is held on the second Saturday in May and October to promote the conservation of these migratory species that travel through our area.

World Migratory Bird Day is a global awareness-raising campaign that celebrates the amazing journeys of migratory birds. Some of these birds travel great distances to their breeding grounds in the north and then back in the fall to their wintering grounds as far south as Chile and Argentina. It is hoped that this event will inspire worldwide conservation of these incredible species and their habitats, many of which are in decline.

This year's theme highlights the importance of water for migratory birds and the need to protect our water resources and aquatic ecosystems. Water is fundamental to life on our planet, and the vast majority of migratory birds rely on these resources during their life cycles. Inland and coastal wetlands, rivers, lakes, streams, marshes and ponds are all vital for feeding, drinking or nesting, as well as a place to rest and refuel during their long journeys.



Blackpoll Warbler.

© Ron Goodridge



Baltimore Oriole.

© Ron Goodridge

by Lynda Goodridge

to do this was made and passed the same evening.

For our local celebration, we offered birding walks at the Centralia Window on the Water public path off Thunder Bay Road. Since this is a small wetland area, it seemed most appropriate. Three walking tours were scheduled for 8:30 am, 9:30 am and 10:30 am, with a total of 22 people attending. Each participant received a package of pamphlets containing information on our club, as well as other useful brochures. They also received a Clif energy bar courtesy of Nature

Canada.

Marcie Jacklin led the walks using her expert ID skills as both a birder and a champion for bird life in general. Her skills at identifying the different species by their songs impressed us all. She also shared her extensive knowledge of migratory birds and their habitat needs. Many thanks to Marcie for volunteering her time to help make this event a success.



Yellow Warbler.

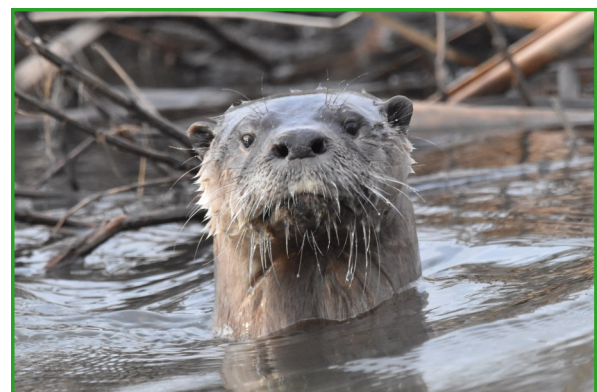
© Ron Goodridge

## River Otters

The latest mammal to return to Niagara is River Otters. Beavers returned to Fort Erie in the 1980s. Fishers returned about ten years ago. Presumably, these species returned to Niagara from Western New York where the habitat is much more intact than on this side of the border.

Check this video captured by Debbie Wright, which she has posted on her YouTube channel. She does great work and posts amazing videos of our plants, birds, and animals here in Niagara. Subscribe to her channel and be sure to give her Otter video a thumbs up. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4IXSieQxJ4>

by Tim Seburn



Who doesn't love that face?

© Shirley Chambers

## Bert Miller Nature Club

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### 2023 - 2024 Executive

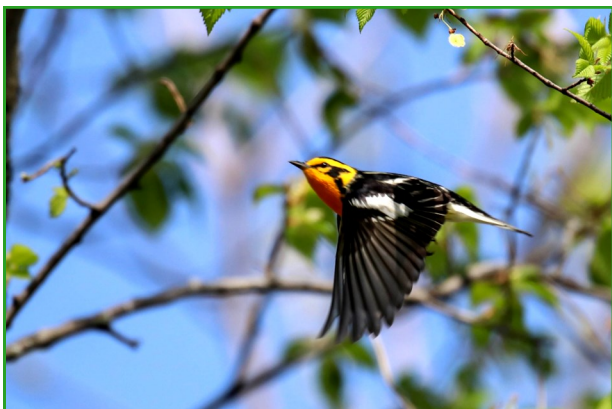
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### The Rambler Newsletter

•*Newsletter contact: Tim Seburn*  
•*Editor: Lorraine Brown-Joyce*

## ... in closing

Here's a couple of great photos to enjoy, the photographers are as credited.



Blackburnian Warbler.

© Wally Parker

The Bert Miller Nature Club is a charitable organization formed in January of 1995 by a group of people interested in sharing their enthusiasm for nature. Earl Plato, a local naturalist and history buff, was the founding president. The club is named after a well-known naturalist and resident of Fort Erie, Bert Miller, whose passion inspired all those who participated in his many rambles throughout the Niagara Peninsula. Since its inception, the Bert Miller Nature Club has been committed to preserving, protecting, restoring and improving the Niagara Peninsula's natural environment. Through monthly meetings, field outings and advocacy activities, the Club strives to foster an understanding and awareness of our natural heritage and its value in enhancing the quality of life. It also promotes cooperation with other organizations having similar interests.

In conjunction with the Town of Fort Erie, the BMNC maintains stewardship of the Shagbark Nature Park. This rehabilitated natural area features a woodland with marked trails and interpretive signage, a meadow containing native plantings and a chimney swift tower. The Park is located on Burleigh Rd between Nigh and Dominion Roads in Ridgeway.

Meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m., in person from September, October and April to June, and virtual via Zoom for November through March. Field outings may be scheduled periodically. Please visit our website, [www.bertmillernatureclub.org](http://www.bertmillernatureclub.org) for more information on our club and a complete list of activities.

The Rambler newsletter is published biannually in the Spring and Fall. Members are encouraged to submit articles, nature events or experiences, photos and outing reviews to [bertmillernews@gmail.com](mailto:bertmillernews@gmail.com). Items submitted may be edited and will be used subject to space allowances. Thanks to the many members who take the time to contribute to making a newsletter for everyone to enjoy.



Snowy Egret.

© Dan Pay