



# THE BULLETIN

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE RICHMOND HILL NATURALISTS

April - May 2012 — No. 504

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## Should Snapping Turtle hunt be banned?

"Snapping turtles have roamed the earth for ages. Currently known as living fossils, they are one of the few members of their genera to not be extinct. Having been around for so long, it's no wonder that people have learned to enjoy the snapping turtle as a delicacy."

- from ehow.com page on "How to Cook Snapping Turtle"

It's always open season on Snapping Turtles, although designated a species of "special concern". Ontario Residents with a fishing licence may bag 2 snapping turtles per day with a possession limit of five. A coalition of Ontario Nature, the David Suzuki Foundation and the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre are calling for a ban on the "unsustainable" Snapping Turtle hunt. Snappers can live for 100 years -- if not run over by cars -- but reproduce extremely slowly. Ontario Nature states that

"Snapping turtles have a delayed sexual maturity with reproduction beginning at 20 years of age; typically only seven in 10,000 eggs laid survive to adulthood. This species is especially vulnerable and any increase in adult mortality will have detrimental effects on a population."

A Google search quickly illustrates that there's a demand for Snapping Turtle recipes out there, with hunters boasting of capturing "man-hole sized" turtles and needing some instruction on how to process them. A non-scientific poll of comments on recipe sites suggests that turtle eaters believe the species is not under any threat and that eating them is no worse than eating fish or any other animal.

What do YOU think?



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The Bulletin is published 9 times per year, from September to May inclusive, by the Richmond Hill Naturalists, and is mailed free to members. The Bulletin is the official publication of the Richmond Hill Naturalists, a non-profit organization the objectives of which are to stimulate public interest in natural history and to encourage the preservation of our natural areas.

Address Correspondence to:  
 Richmond Hill Naturalists, P.O.  
 Box 32217, RPO Harding,  
 Richmond Hill, ON, L4C 9S3

Deadlines: The editor encourages submissions from any member on any topic related to nature or conservation, and in particular, any issue that might be of interest or concern to members of this club. e-mail: editor@rhnaturalists.ca Deadlines are the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Bulletin Advertisers have been selected because of their relevance to member interests. Members are encouraged to patronize our advertisers and please mention that you saw their ad in our Bulletin.

Change of Address: Any change of email or street address should be sent to Mike Turk who prints the envelopes for the Bulletin mailing.

Denise Potter, Bulletin Editor:  
 editor@rhnaturalists.ca

647-504-4586  
 Mailing Address: 128 Pugsley  
 Av, Richmond Hill, ON

Mailing Database: Mike Turk

Distribution: Athena Antiochos

Visit our Website at  
<http://www.rhnaturalists.ca>

See the Executive List for  
 additional contact information.

## 2011 / 2012 RHN Executive

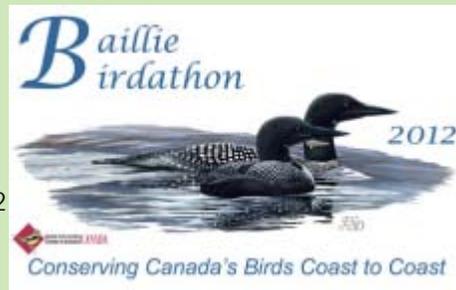
President.....	Marianne Yake (president@rhnaturalists.ca .....905-883-3047)
Past President.....	Natalie Helferty
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Field Trips.....	Joe Agg (trips@rhnaturalists.ca)
Environment.....	Position Available
Publicity.....	Position Available (publicity@rhnaturalists.ca)
Bulletin Editor.....	Denise Potter (editor@rhnaturalists.ca)
Membership.....	Mike Turk (membership@rhnaturalists.ca)
Events.....	Position Available
Ontario Nature Rep.....	Marianne Yake
Website Admin.....	Rod Potter (webmaster@rhnaturalists.ca)
Chair of AstroNats.....	Heide DeBond (astronomy@rhnaturalists.ca)

### Please support the 2012 Baillie Birdathon

Several Richmond Hill Naturalists are among the more than 7,000 people from across Canada (and from several countries around the world) participating in and/or sponsoring a participant in the Baillie Birdathon. During a 24-hour period in May, participants attempt to find as many bird species as they can, sponsored at a flat rate, or on a per-species basis. The money raised benefits Bird Studies Canada, the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund, and participating Migration Monitoring Stations and Conservation Organizations. 25% of your tax-deductible pledge to the Hill Hikers (Rod and Denise Potter) or The Sloths (Theo Hofmann) will go to the Richmond Hill Naturalists.

It's easy to pledge online. Just follow the pledge links here:

<http://www.rhnaturalists.ca/2012/04/baillie-birdathon/>



### Membership



Your membership fee helps pay for the club's monthly hall rental, website registration, speakers, printing and postage for the Bulletin (all Website and Bulletin contributions and editing are on a strictly volunteer basis), and special events. You can join or renew online by clicking on the "Membership" link on the website at rhnaturalists.ca; pick up an application from any member of the executive, or in person at the monthly General Meeting. A single membership is \$30; get a membership for the whole family for only \$35.

## Coming Events

### Richmond Hill Naturalists General Meetings

Unless otherwise noted General Meetings are held at Presbyterian Church, Wallace Hall. 10066 Yonge St., North of Major Mackenzie Dr., West side. For info contact Marianne Yake at 905-883-3047, or visit [RHNaturalists.ca](http://RHNaturalists.ca).



April 19, 6:00pm: Potluck Dinner and Annual General Meeting with speaker Paul Laporte, North American Native Plant Society



### Bird Group Meetings

Next Bird Group meeting is October 10th. For more information about the Bird Group contact Mike Turk at [turkm@accessv.com](mailto:turkm@accessv.com)



### Astronomy

Friday night observations continue weather permitting. Contact [astronomy@rhnaturalists.ca](mailto:astronomy@rhnaturalists.ca) for more information.



Saturday, May 26: Healthy Yards Event. Richmond Hill Naturalists are participating at the town's Healthy Yards event. Pick up your pre-ordered (deadline is May 11) rain barrels and yard kits at this event at the Public Works Open House at Richmond Hill's Operations Centre (1200 Elgin Mills Road East) between 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. For more information email [naturaleenvironment@richmondhill.ca](mailto:naturaleenvironment@richmondhill.ca) or call 905-771-8800

Sunday, June 3. 12-4:30pm - 14th Annual Mill Pond Splash. Co-hosted by the Don Watershed Regeneration Council, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), the Town of Richmond Hill and the Richmond Hill Naturalists, this popular eco-festival takes place at Mill Pond in the heart of Richmond Hill.

Please note: Richmond Hill Naturalists welcomes anyone to volunteer as an outing leader. Contact [trips@rhnaturalists.ca](mailto:trips@rhnaturalists.ca) if you would like to organize or promote an outing.



April 28, 2012 - Oak Ridges Community Clean Up Day. Join friends and neighbours and help clean up the winter litter from our parks and green spaces. Students – this is a great way to earn volunteer hour credits! If you have not joined us before, see the 2011 report to get the flavour of the event. Visit: <http://www.oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca/CommCleanUp.htm>

If you would like to help plan and organize the day or would like more information, please contact ORFE at: [orfe@oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca](mailto:orfe@oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca)



June 1-3: Carden Nature Festival 2012. Register soon: many of the events at the Couchiching Conservancy-sponsored festival fill up by the end of April. Register at <http://www.regionalguidebook.com/carden-nature-festival.html>

## Volunteers needed at Mill Pond Splash and Healthy Yards events

The Richmond Hill Naturalists are looking for volunteers to help with two important events this spring:

Healthy Yards event on Saturday, May 26 between 10am and 2:30pm  
Location: Public Works Open House at Richmond Hill's Operations Centre (1200 Elgin Mills Road East)

Richmond Hill's Healthy Yards Program seeks to encourage and educate residents about the importance of planting native trees, shrubs and wildflowers on their own property, as well as ecologically sound lawn-care practices. This program offers residents the option of purchasing subsidized plant kits and rain barrels.

Large Plant Kit [PDF] - includes 5 trees and/or shrubs and 18 wildflowers \$36 plus HST

Small Plant Kit [PDF] - includes 2 trees and/or shrubs and 18 wildflowers \$24 plus HST

Rain Barrel [PDF] - \$35.40 plus HST

To order a native plant kit or rain barrel, download the Native Plant Kit application and/or Rain Barrel application, complete it and submit it to the Town with your payment (all the payment options are included on the application).

Important Information:

The application deadline is Friday, May 11. There are no refunds or exchanges.

Plant Kits and rain barrels will be available for pick-up at the Healthy Yards Event on Saturday, May 26, which is being held at the Public Works Open House at Richmond Hill's Operations Centre (1200 Elgin Mills Road East) between 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

For more information about the program, please email [naturalenvironment@richmondhill.ca](mailto:naturalenvironment@richmondhill.ca) or call 905-771-8800.

14th Annual Mill Pond Splash  
The 14th annual Mill Pond Splash, a popular eco-festival hosted by the Richmond Hill Naturalists, the Don Watershed Regeneration Council, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), and the Town of Richmond Hill will be taking place on Sunday, June 3, 2012 at Mill Pond Park from 12 to 4:30 p.m.

Mill Pond Splash is a lively, family oriented event showcasing environmental conservation and our natural heritage. Enjoy the children's activity zone, live music, native wildlife shows, tree and shrub planting, a local food market, and environmental displays. Parking is available in the lot opposite York Central Hospital, on Trench Street.

If you are interested in helping out at either of these events, please contact Joe Agg or Marianne Yake.

## A spring cleaning plea from Joe Agg

This is a plea from Joe Agg, recipient of the town's Volunteer Award, as he has begun again with the cleanup of German Mills Creek. PLEASE - if you have trash to get rid of, take it to the Community Environmental Centre. This Centre provides a convenient, one-stop location to drop off a variety of reusable and recyclable materials. A car-load of non-recyclable garbage can be responsibly disposed of for \$10. There is no charge to bring back old electronics, scrap metal, tires, and household batteries, as well as donations to Goodwill such as clothes and books and to Habitat for Humanity such as renovation and building materials. It is

located at 1124 Elgin Mills Rd. between Leslie St. and Bayview Ave., just west of Richmond Green.

For more details and hours of operation visit:  
<http://bit.ly/z6Ebei>

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## Quiz Question: What's a Coyote's favourite food?

by Denise Potter

Hint: if you love Tiger, keep him indoors!

Coyotes are increasing in population in many urban and suburban areas in North America, and it turns out that Fluffy is one of their favourite foods.

Rod and I walk around the Richmond Hill neighbourhood regularly as part of our EXTREMELY Moderate Exercise Program. It's very common to see pictures of missing cats and small dogs plastered to telephone poles. These beloved pets may turn up safe and sound...but there's a distinct possibility that they have made a meal for a coyote family or been hit by a car.

Domestic cats made up 42% of the observed diet for coyotes living among people in the middle of Tucson, Arizona (a city of more than half a million people in a metropolitan area containing more than a million people), according to a study recently published in the Journal of Wildlife Management.

The number of coyotes living in the GTA is unknown but sightings have increased over the past decade. Coyotes are known to be opportunistic and highly adaptable, and a plentiful and probably plump food source such as *Felis Catus* makes a tasty addition to a dumpster-diving diet.

If love for your cat is not reason enough, consider that domestic cats are also responsible for the deaths of many songbirds and other creatures. How many birds do cats account for in North America? Estimates range from 100 million birds EACH YEAR to as high as a billion.



*Can Fluffy come out to play? Coyote* Photo used with Creative Commons Licensing from Emdot

(These wildly-varying estimates are based on different assumptions as to how many outdoor cats there are in North America and how many birds the average cat kills each year).

Where cats rank among all the things causing the decline of bird populations is debatable, but no matter what your feelings on the matter, there is no doubt that as a "subsidized" predator with a dense population, outdoor cats have a dreadful impact on bird survival rates. As someone who loves cats AND birds -- and even coyotes -- I advocate keeping the cat inside.

No matter what he says.

See

<http://www.bioone.org/doi/abs/10.2193/2008-033> for the Cat-Coyote article as well as a bibliography of studies on the impact of cats on wildlife, and more information about coyotes.

*A change in the weather is sufficient to recreate the world and ourselves.*

Marcel Proust

# Nightjars illuminate Bird Group

*March Bird Group report by Gene Denzel*

The group convened at the home of Joe and Berte Agg, to discuss the Whippoorwill and 'Nightjar'. The latter name led to some different interpretations. Some people went with Common Nighthawk, others with the Buff-collared Nightjar from Mexico, whose territory comes up into S Arizona and New Mexico. The only other nightjar possibilities for our Canada/US region would be the Common Poorwill, Chuck-wills-widow, and the other two nighthawks whose range comes into the states. As a result of the confusion, we actually discussed three birds: Whippoorwill, Common Nighthawk, and the Buff-collared Nightjar.

## Goatsuckers

These birds are all members of the world-wide family Caprimulgidae (Nightjars), which also includes the Pauraque found in south Texas. They are often called 'Goatsuckers', from the mistaken belief that they would drink milk from goats! These are all aerial insectivores, albeit of fairly widely differing size, colouration, and modes of feeding. They all have small bills, with the ability to open their gapes very wide (both vertically and horizontally) to more easily gather flying insects. Many have extensive bristles around the mouth. Aside from the Nighthawks, seen feeding and calling high in the sky at dusk or dawn, nightjars are usually known (and often named) by their calls, as they have very cryptically coloured plumage for camouflage during the day. (They can sometimes be seen at night by means of 'eyeshine', due to an extra layer in the eye which helps them see at night, but will reflect back light from headlights or flashlights.)

Whippoorwill courtship ritual is elaborate  
The Whippoorwill, a bird of roughly Robin size, is not globally threatened, but it has been decreasing in numbers in much of the North (including Ontario) over recent decades. Reasons probably include habitat loss, predation by cats and other ground predators, forest succession (they do not like thick underbrush or canopies), etc. They typically hunt a wide variety of insects by short sallies from perches or the ground, or longer ones within forest clearings. They have a fairly elaborate courtship ritual. Their egg-laying is reportedly tied to the lunar cycle, so that chicks will hatch in a period of maximum moonlight for optimal foraging. Come winter, they retreat to the Gulf Coast.

## Long Migration

The Common Nighthawk represents another



*A Common Nighthawk gets a drink on the fly. Photos from Birds of the World*

subfamily of the Nightjars, which (although no relation to Hawks) do tend to forage higher in the air, with much longer flights - somewhat like Swifts. This species is a widespread and common breeder in North America, south of the tree line. It is of course in need of large numbers of flying insects, which can be locally scarce due to pesticides. It is a little larger than an American Kestrel, noticeable in flight because of its falcon-like shape, the distinctive rectangular white patches on the outer wings, and its frequent calling. In migration it often gathers in large groups, on occasion in large kettles as with Broad Winged Hawks. It goes quite far south in the Winter, some as far as Patagonia!

## Spectacular Flying

This bird exhibits some spectacular flying. In courtship, it will circle high over a potential mate on the ground, then plummet vertically almost to the ground, pulling up at the last moment with a loud 'peeent' call, and a booming sound from its

## Known to nest between railway ties

wings. It will bathe in flight by executing a vertical stall and wing flutter in a rain shower. During the day they often roost on tree branches, perched along the branch and with their cryptic colouring are extremely hard to see. They nest on bare ground, and in recent times on fence posts, roofs, even railway ties between the rails, where they will stay on the nest even as a train goes over! They are targeted by Peregrines, gulls, owls, and ground predators.

### Found by Sound

The third bird for the evening was the Buff-collared Nightjar, which lives up to its name with a full, visible collar (assuming you can see the bird at all). It tends to roost during the day under bushes, and then hunt at dusk and dawn with short sallies from the tops of bushes or small trees. The bird is slightly smaller than the

Whippoorwill. It is only found in the US in particular canyon habitats. It has a quite distinctive call, which as usual with nightjars will be the way it is found.

### Fight against Pickering Airport Resurrected after 40 years' sleep

Transport Canada, like most aviation organizations around the world, wants to avoid the hazards caused by bird strikes. On their website, they state:

"Transport Canada policy is to regard all wildlife on airports as potential hazards to airport and aircraft safety."

This together with seven other key points forms the basis of Ontario Nature's protest against building the proposed Pickering International Airport on the border of the new national Rouge Park.

At the recent Lake Ontario

North Region meeting, the Richmond Hill Naturalists were among the signatories to the resolution: "Therefore be it resolved, on the 40th anniversary of the original opposition to the proposed Pickering International Airport and before the final decision is made to develop the airport, that Ontario Nature oppose the construction of an airport on any part of the 75 square kilometres of federally expropriated land, and urge the governments of Canada and Ontario to protect all these lands in perpetuity for farming and nature conservation, thus preserving clean water, locally grown food and habitat for Ontario's threatened flora and fauna."



Looking for a new toilet, showerhead or faucet? The Ontario government is promoting a labelling program

to help water-conscious consumers. The WaterSense label is intended to help consumers choose products tested and proven to use 20 per cent less water, without sacrificing performance.

As consumers look to replace their less efficient fixtures, they can now find Ontario-made brands with the WaterSense label. Using less water protects natural resources and reduces demand on water heaters so households save energy and money. It also supports Ontario manufacturers and retailers operating in the new green economy.

Created by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2006, WaterSense helped U.S. consumers save 470 billion litres of water, over a 5-year period. You can already find the WaterSense label on some Ontario products.

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## A bold eye ring and a careful step separates Connecticut from Mourning Warbler

April Bird Group Report by Tony Marshall

Eleven individuals attended this year's dinner that was hosted at the home of Joandice & Tony Marshall. Since dinner lasted almost two hours, one might rightly infer that a great time was had by all. In deed! - with all the fun in catching up on each others travels and adventures, it was only upon the emphatic insistence of Mike Turk that the meeting actually began in earnest.

The night's discussion focused around two rather enigmatic birds, the Mourning Warbler and the Connecticut Warbler. Both birds are noted as, "Uncommon" in Peterson's Field Guide to Birds in Eastern and Central North America,

Mourning Warbler –  
*Oporornis philadelphia*  
*Oporornis*: Opora (Greek) = autumnal, ornis (latin) = bird,  
*philadelphia*: was discovered 1828-29 near Philadelphia

Other names: Black-and-yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Spotted Warbler

History: Nothing, other than that it was discovered by Wilson near Philadelphia.

Status: Not globally threatened. Generally, fairly common in its smallish area. Populations stable, or increasing in local areas: eg. Mass, Mich., stable in Ontario.

Voice: Contrary to its name, "Mourning warbler", this bird's song is a paean of joy as it mounts the top of a bush, or small tree.

Song: a vibrant trilling of two parts, with the second lower in pitch: "churry, churry, chorry, cho". Many individual and



Participants: (Back row, L to R) Theo Hoffman, Barbara Jackson, Tony Marshall, Gene Denzel, Athena Antiochos, Muriel Farrant, Mike Turk (Front Row, L to R) Joe Agg, Martin Chen, Charlene Denzel, Joandice Marshall

regional variations. Its voice can be heard at:  
<http://www.birdjam.com/birdsong.php?id=82>

Food: Poorly documented. Insects, insect larvae, and spiders during the breeding season. Insects and fruiting bodies of *Cecropia* tree leaves in winter down south.

Population and distribution: For a summer home site, the "Mourning Warbler" seeks overgrown clearings and upland thickets where raspberry and blackberry bushes abound. Late in the season, they head to the tropics from Nicaragua to South America.

Size: 13-14 cm

Identifiers: Usually heard before being seen. Found in dense & shrubby thickets, often in moist areas of forests and along edges of ponds, lakes and streams. Usually no eye-ring, but if present, is very thin & pale. Breeding male has darker blue-

grey hood and black upper breast patch, while the female has a grey hood, whitish chin & throat, and immature has grey-brown hood, pale grey to yellow chin & throat. Hops, or skulks in thickets.

Habitat: Clearings, thickets and undergrowth, bogs and marshy areas.

Eggs & Nests: Nesting behaviour is not well known. The male sings to defend their territory. When defending their territorial space, they bob their heads, flip wings out and fan their tails. Mourning warblers nest on the ground next to weeds. The nest is likely a collaborative effort by both male and females appearing like a bulky cup of leaves, weeds and grass. 3-4, perhaps 5 eggs, creamy white coloured with brown spots. Incubation by female is about 12 days. The male feeds female during incubation. Both parents feed the nestlings, with the young leaving the nest in

between 7-9 days. Care of young may continue for four weeks and produce one brood per year.

Range: Breeds in Canada East of Rocky Mountains from NE B.C. & N. Central Quebec to N. Minnesota & Central Ontario. In Spring: From S. America, they move North across Caribbean & W. Appellations to Canada. They can arrive in Florida in late

Connecticut Warbler –  
*Oporornis agilis*

Other names: Bog Black-throat, Swamp Warbler, Tamarack Warbler

History: Also found by Wilson in 1812 in Connecticut, although it occurs there only during migration. It was named after the state where the first specimen was collected. The species does not breed in Connecticut, nor is it a common migrant there.

Status: Not globally threatened, however, generally uncommon and local. There's been a decline in migrating population, which is probably decreasing, but no solid information. This warbler may be vulnerable in wintering quarters: Brazil, Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador. In it's breeding area, an atlas of Ontario indicates some increase in range.

Voice: The uncommon Connecticut warbler is a skulker of thickets, foraging primarily on, or near the ground.

Song: Song is a series of loud, snappy notes that are bold and described as jerky. For example: "Wit-cher, wit-chery, wit-cherry-wit". It's voice can be heard at: <http://www.birdjam.com/birdsong.php?id=66>

Food: Spider, insects and some

fruit. Feeds at, or just above ground level. It is believed to be primarily insectivorous year-round, though it does eat some seeds and berries, at least seasonally.

Size: 13-15 cm , slightly larger & stockier than Mourning Warbler.

Identifiers: Seldom seen. Found in open pine forests and fairly open spruce bogs with well developed undergrowth. Breeding male has a blue-grey hood, white female & immature have dull brown hood and light grey throat. All Connecticut warblers have a bold white eye-ring. They walk along the forest floor with careful steps, like gliding movements.

Habitat: Poplar bluffs, mixed woods near water during migration. In Eastern Canada, prefers bogs of spruce and tamarack and in Western Canada, Aspen groves during migration. During migration they are found in the undergrowth of forests, or dense bushes in meadows.

Eggs & Nests: Nests on ground and is like an open cup made of leaves, grass & bark strips. Male sings to defend area. 4-5 creamy white eggs with white spots. Incubation period & roles of parents is not well known; 11-12 days. Their nests are rarely parasitized by Cowbirds. Both parents care for young. Age of departure from the nest is also not well known. They only produce one brood per year, arriving late in spring and leaving early for fall migration.

The next meeting of the group will be on October 10 at the home of Muriel Farrant.

### Quiz!

The bird study group's meeting came to a close with the distribution of Theo Hoffman's much anticipated "Bird Quiz". Oh, it was a challenging one! So, much so, that Gene Denzel commented, "This must be the PhD edition." Though there were tough questions, all were excellent in that they challenged us greatly.

See if you can best the Bird Group with three examples (answers on back page):

1. Many Surf Scoters winter in Lake Ontario because of a relatively recent food source. What is it?
2. Which Duck became extinct in 1875?
3. Which species of duck breeds in the far northern Arctic?

## More Events and Volunteer Opportunities

**NATIVE PLANT SALE –  
SATURDAY MAY 12, 10:00AM  
– 3:00PM, MARKHAM CIVIC  
CENTRE, 101 TOWN CENTRE  
BLVD, MARKHAM ON**

The North American Native Plant Society is having their annual sale on Saturday May 12 This is the place to purchase wildflowers, ferns, grasses and sedges as well as trees and shrubs at reasonable prices. There is also a selection of nature books and an “ask an expert” table to help you with all of your questions. You can even order plants online in advance (until April 22) if you are a member. Not a member – just add the membership fee (\$20) to the cost of your order. The plant list and Members Advance Order information are online at [www.nanps.org](http://www.nanps.org). For more info, email [nanps@nanps.org](mailto:nanps@nanps.org)

**EARTH DAY TREE PLANTING –  
FRIDAY APRIL 20, 10:00AM-  
3:00 PM, RICHMOND GREEN,  
1300 ELGIN MILLS RD. E.**

Join in the Richmond Hill Earth Day celebration to plant a tree and learn more about water quality, air quality and waste management. Equipment and gloves will be provided. Dress according to the weather and bring sturdy footwear, a hat, sunscreen and a light snack. For further information and/or to register contact, the Natural Environment Section at: [naturalheritage@richmondhill.ca](mailto:naturalheritage@richmondhill.ca) or 905-771-8800.

**OAK RIDGES COMMUNITY  
CLEAN UP DAY**

Saturday April 28, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm. Meet at the Parks and Recreation Bldg at 39 King Rd. just west of Yonge St.

Bring the family, and the neighbours. Garbage bags and gloves will be provided. Fill up a couple of bags and come back for the barbeque and cake about 2:00 pm. Nick and Mira's No Frills are providing the food and the Oak Ridges Lion's Club will be the chefs. We shall have coffee, water & juice but please lug your own mug. Also be sure to check out all of the nature and garden information that will be on hand. Please dress for the weather with sturdy footwear and a hat and sunscreen if the weather cooperates. New this year is a youth photo contest, so bring the camera or your phone and be prepared to take some awesome shots. Full details will be available on the day. Students please join us and bring your friends to earn credit for your volunteer hour requirement! If you can't come out on this day, please Pitch – In with at minimum a 20 minute workout to clean up around your own property and especially around your local super mail box. If you have questions, would like to pre-register or are interested in assisting with set up and registration, please contact us at 905-773-7415 or [orfe@oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca](mailto:orfe@oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca)

**SPRINGBROOK PARK TREE  
PLANTING**

When: Sunday April 29th, 2012  
Time: 9:30am—12:00pm

Where: Springbrook Park (located in the subdivision to the south-west of 16th Avenue and Bayview Avenue intersection. Come out and help Ontario Streams and other members of your community plant native trees and shrubs in Springbrook Park. German Mills Creek, a tributary of the Don River, flows through the area. The project will help to create local wildlife habitat and positively affect water quality in the creek.

Shovels, gloves and light refreshments will be provided. Be sure to wear sturdy footwear and dress for the weather—the event will happen rain or shine! For more information and to register your participation, please contact: Jessica Benvenuti, Project Coordinator, Ontario Streams Tel: 905-713-7399 (office); 416-554-6262 (cell) E-mail: [jessica.benvenuti@ontariostreams.on.ca](mailto:jessica.benvenuti@ontariostreams.on.ca)

*Clouds of gnats mean a fine day tomorrow*

*~Proverb from the Isle of Wight*

Answers to Bird Quiz

1. Zebra Mussels
2. Labrador Duck

3. Long-tailed Duck (Theo Hoffman has even seen them at Eureka on Ellesmere Island, high in the northern Arctic, at 82°N!