2018 Field Trip Program

Providing ecological restoration educational opportunities

The Society for Ecological Restoration of Ontario (SERO) is pleased to offer three field trip opportunities in 2018 for members and non-members. These events will enable registrants to view innovative, new and established ecological restoration projects in Ontario.

The objective of the SERO program is to promote dialogue between practitioners and to introduce the public to notable restoration efforts that are occurring in Ontario. This is done by organizing short field trips, led by restoration practitioners and researchers, which promote the practice, principles, and benefits of ecological restoration.

2018 Field Trips

Property	Agency	Trip Leader	Restoration Efforts	Date
Luther Marsh, Grand Valley	Grand River Conservation Authority	Lindsay Campbell	Big block habitats	Saturday, June 23
Mount Pleasant NHS, Brampton	Savanta Inc.	Heather Whitehouse & Heather Beam	Urban NHS Restoration & Creation	Wednesday, September 19
Drumquin Park, Milton	Conservation Halton	Nigel Finney	Weir removal, natural channel design, floodplain wetlands	Saturday, September 22

To reserve a spot for one or more trips, please use the EventBrite registration system. Children must be at least 10 years old and accompanied by a responsible adult at all times. Participants will be responsible for providing transportation to and from the field trips. Pets and smoking are not permitted on field trips.

Registration: Online at Eventbrite http://sero.eventbrite.com

Cost: $7 for SERO members and Students, $15 for non-SERO members

Contact: Nigel Finney
sero.fieldtrips@gmail.com

Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area

Grand River Conservation Authority

Saturday, June 23, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

(Rain Date – Tuesday, June 26, 1:00 – 3:00pm)

Leader:

Lindsay Campbell, Restoration Specialist, Grand River Conservation Authority

Enhancing, restoring and creating big block habitats at Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area

The Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area is located in the headwaters of the Grand River watershed. The 5,600 hectare property, about the size of the City of Waterloo, is centered by Luther Lake (1,400 hectare), created by Luther Dam. The dam was built in 1954 to attenuate flood waters and augment flows in times of drought. Due to the creation of the reservoir, large areas of surrounding lands were acquired by the GRCA. These included swamp, marsh, bog and fen habitats as well as farmland and small woodlots. As these farmlands were retired, big block restoration began to take place. This tour will provide the opportunity to explore a portion of the over 380 hectares of wetlands, grassland and forest habitat enhancement, restoration and creation implemented throughout the last 50 years using a variety of techniques, time frames, and funding.

Due to the vast size of the property and the lack of parking we would ask that everyone meet in the main parking lot and car pool throughout the tour. Please note the interior road in Luther Marsh is rough and there are low water crossing areas. There will be off trail hiking for up to 20-30 min to visit some sites. Remember to bring your sunscreen, water and bug spray!

Meeting Location:

34588 21 Side Road, Grand Valley, ON L9W 0H2

Capacity: 20 people

Registration: http://sero.eventbrite.com

Mount Pleasant Urban Natural Heritage System Restoration & Creation Project

Savanta Inc.

Wednesday, September 19, 9:30 – 11:30 am

Leaders:

Heather Whitehouse and Heather Beam, Senior Ecologists, Savanta Inc.

The Mount Pleasant community located in northwest Brampton contains one of the largest urban Natural Heritage Systems (NHS) in southern Ontario. The fully constructed NHS is comprised of valleylands, watercourse corridors, woodlands, wetlands, buffers, enhanced wildlife crossings and ecological restoration / creation areas. Approximately 5 km in length, the new watercourse corridor represents one of the largest restoration projects of its kind in Canada within an urbanizing area.

Virtually the full length of the main branch of the East Huttonville Creek was converted to municipal drains in the late 1970s and early 1980s to improve drainage of adjacent agricultural fields. An important consideration in the design of the realigned, naturalized watercourse was to provide habitat for Redside Dace, a provincially endangered fish species. Approval and regulatory agencies, including the City of Brampton, Credit Valley Conservation, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, played key roles throughout the process. Their input helped create a very unique watercourse design that goes beyond a routine watercourse realignment.

For more information on the project visit: http://www.savanta.ca/project/mt-pleasant-natural-heritage-system-design-construction-and-monitoring

Meeting Location: 10510 Creditview Road (Creditview Sandalwood Park – soccer parking lot)

Capacity: 20 people

Registration: http://sero.eventbrite.com

Drumquin Park Creek Restoration Project

Conservation Halton

Saturday, September 22, 9:30 – 12:00 am

Leader:

Nigel Finney, Project Manager, Greenspace Restoration & Conservation, Conservation Halton



Conservation Halton, in partnership with Milton, is carrying out an ecological restoration project on Sixteen Mile Creek at Drumquin Park. The project objectives are to restore the natural functions of the creek, improve the quality of fish habitat, remove instream fish barriers, and increase biodiversity in the floodplain, which overall enhances the health of the entire Sixteen Mile Creek watershed. Once complete, this project will see the creek and floodplain returned to more of a natural state, providing a healthier watershed for wildlife and Halton residents.

After two years of planning, Phase One of the project will be constructed in summer 2018. This portion of the project includes the removal of one weir, 170 metres of upstream natural channel design and several floodplain wetlands. Participants will be able to view recently installed channel restoration works, bioengineering (sod blocks, live stakes), habitat features, floodplain wetlands and pit and mound. The project is part of two *Endangered Species Act* Overall Benefit Activities designed to enhance and restore the habitat of Silver Shiner.

More Information: www.conservationhalton.ca/drumquin-park-restoration

Meeting Location:

Drumquin Park - 185 Britannia Road, Milton
https://www.google.ca/maps/place/Drumquin+Park

Capacity: 20 People

Registration: http://sero.eventbrite.com