

Providing ecological restoration educational opportunities

The Society for Ecological Restoration of Ontario (SERO) is pleased to offer three field trip opportunities in 2016 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.

2016 Field Trips Ideas

Property	Agency	Trip Leader	Restoration Efforts	Date
Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail	Toronto & Region Conservation Authority	Katie Turnbull	Hydro corridor rehabilitation	Wednesday, July 27
Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway "Parkway in a Prairie"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-Hosted with Tallgrass Ontario Ontario Ministry of Transportation Essex Region CA Amec Foster Wheeler 	Various	Grassland restoration, species at risk, ecopassages	Monday, August 15
Carden Plain Grassland Habitat Enhancements	Couchiching Conservancy Land Trust	Ron Reid & David Hawke	Grassland restoration, species at risk	Wednesday, September 7

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: \$15 for SERO members and \$20 for non-SERO members

Contact: Nigel Finney
SERO Field Trip Coordinator
sero.fieldtrips@gmail.com

Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail (Phase 1-4)

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Wednesday, July 27 (1:00 pm - 4:00 pm)

Leaders:

John Stille (Project Manager – Restoration Projects)

Katie Turnbull (Project Manager I – Restoration Projects)



Over the years, many grassland bird and butterfly species have experienced a decline in population. This is predominantly due to loss of habitat. As development grows, habitat opportunities for meadow species become increasingly scarce. In recent years, The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) have embarked on various meadow restoration projects in an effort to develop meadow communities in the Toronto Region. Recently, TRCA has partnered with Hydro One Networks Inc., City of Toronto and The W. Garfield Weston Foundation to establish native wildflower meadows on lands within the Gatineau Hydro Corridor. The corridor is a 40 hectare parcel of publicly accessible greenspace in Scarborough starting at Brimley Road and Lawrence Avenue running northeast to Ellesmere Road and Scarborough Golf Club Road. The site was historically mowed six times a year by Hydro One, leaving an extensive swath of thick fescue grass that limits biodiversity and natural appeal. By creating native meadows along the hydro corridor, mowing maintenance on the fields is reduced to once every 4 years. Meadows are a perfect fit for hydro corridors given the restriction of only being able to plant certain shrubs, grasses and forbs. The revitalization of hydro corridors within the City of Toronto has become the single most important opportunity for creating significant meadow habitat in Toronto.

Meeting Location: Thomson Memorial Park – Gatineau Hydro Corridor Parking Lot (Brimley Rd and Lawrence Ave E – North East Corner Parking Lot)

Capacity: 20 People–Bike Tour: Please bring your own bikes

Registration: <http://sero.eventbrite.com>

Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway “Parkway in a Prairie”

Monday, August 15 (10:00 am – 3:00 pm)

In partnership with

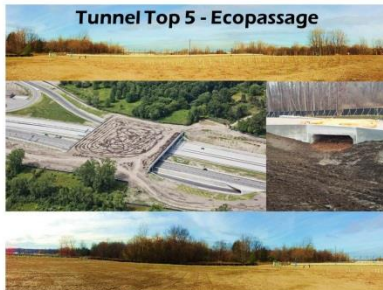


Leaders:

Barb Macdonell (Sr. Environmental Planner), Ministry of Transportation of Ontario, Tallgrass Ontario
Season Snyder, Senior Plant Ecologist, Amec Foster Wheeler, Tallgrass Ontario
Dan Lebedyk, Conservation Biologist, Essex Region Conservation Authority, Tallgrass Ontario

Field Experts:

Russ Jones, Biologist, Amec Foster Wheeler
Said Mohamed, Botanist, Amec Foster Wheeler
Andrea Peak, Environmental Compliance Manager, AECOM



The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway is the Ontario access road portion of a new end to end border transportation system between Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan. The Parkway includes 120 hectares of greenspace, of which 74 hectares are created ecological landscapes that feature tallgrass prairie and oak savanna. Outside the Parkway corridor, an additional 60 hectares of land including wetland preservation areas and species at risk habitat has been actively managed for the past 5 years. Within these restoration sites, there is an estimated population of over 600,000 species at risk plants.

2016 Field Trip Program

The objective of this tour is to introduce participants to the *Endangered Species Act* (ESA 2007) in action as part of managing sensitive tallgrass ecosystems. Participants will visit prairies in various stages of development – recently seeded, early establishment (3 years) and remnant sites. The remnant prairies are home to eight species at risk and over 20 provincially rare species. Some of the tour highlights include:

- The Province's largest known population of Colicroot (*Aletris farinosa*) and a practitioner's perspective on successful transplanting and propagating techniques.
- How First Nation traditional knowledge was integrated into the ecological restoration process.
- How prairie sites are managed for the benefit of species at risk plants and snakes - an effort that requires careful timing and management.
- How a tunnel top over the highway serves as an Ecopassage reconnecting two natural areas for the benefit of two species at risk snakes and other wildlife. This tunnel top is 14,500 m², approximately the size of 9 NHL hockey rinks!
- Early establishment phase of tallgrass prairie seeding along the Parkway corridor.

Meeting Location: Ojibway Nature Centre, 5200 Matchette Road, Windsor ON N8X 3N6

Capacity: 30 people

Registration: <http://sero.eventbrite.com>

Optional: After field trip social at a local restaurant

Carden Plain Grassland Habitat Enhancements

Couchiching Conservancy

Wednesday September 7 (10:00 am – 4:00 pm)

Leaders:

Ron Reid, Carden Program Co-ordinator, Couchiching Conservancy Land Trust

David Hawke, Stewardship Program Manager, Couchiching Conservancy



The Couchiching Conservancy has entered into agreements with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to provide habitat offsets under the Species at Risk Benefit Exchange (SARBEX) program. These projects are to improve breeding habitat primarily for bobolink and Eastern meadowlark, both species being listed as threatened within the province.

Two properties will be visited on September 7, Bluebird Ranch and Turnbull Ranch, both owned and managed by the Couchiching Conservancy. By utilizing cattle grazing in conjunction with active management of invasive shrubs, many acres of grassland have been reclaimed and have already seen increases in breeding populations of the targeted species. Other grassland species, such as upland sandpiper, clay-coloured sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, snipe, and others are also benefitting from these projects.

Discussed will be the preliminary work required to qualify for these projects, the field work undertaken to manage the habitat, and the resulting research opportunities to study grassland birds.

2016 Field Trip Program

Meeting Location: Gather at Bluebird Ranch parking area (corner of Wylie Road and MacNamee Road, just off City of Kawartha Lakes Road #6; about 5 km north of village of Kirkfield). Washrooms available at nearby Kirkfield Lift Locks.

Lunch will be BYO field lunch, held at a cabin on Turnbull Ranch.

NOTE: Both ranches will have cattle present. As we will be entering through gates, late arrivals may not be accommodated unless cell phone contact is made. Car pooling may be necessary; this can be done at meeting place.

Capacity: 15 people

Registration: <http://sero.eventbrite.com>