

Providing ecological restoration educational opportunities

The Society for Ecological Restoration of Ontario (SERO) is pleased to offer three field trip opportunities in 2015 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.

2015 Field Trips

Property	Agency	Trip Leader	Restoration Efforts	Date
Terra Cotta and Upper Credit Conservation Areas	Credit Valley Conservation Authority	Sherwin Watson-Leung & Rod Krick	Stream, online pond removal, invasive species, grassland	Monday July 6
Hazel Bird Nature Reserve, Rice Lake Plains	Nature Conservancy of Canada	Val Deziel	Grassland, invasive species	Friday September 11
Various – Brant County and St. George	Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	Graham Buck	Prairie and Savanna	Monday September 21

To reserve a spot for one or more trips, please use the EventBrite registration system. Minor 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

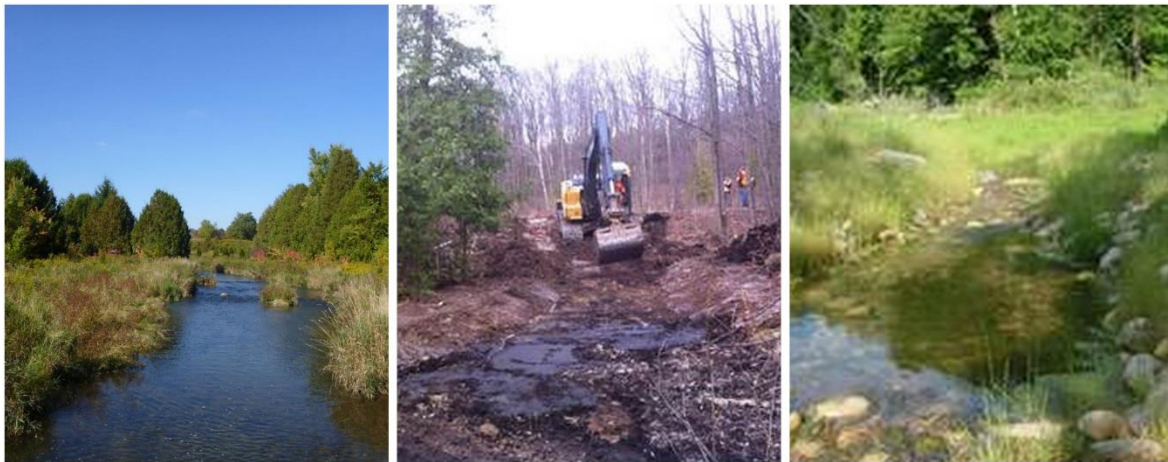
Terra Cotta and Upper Credit Conservation Areas

Monday, July 6 (9:30 am – 2:00 pm)

Leaders:

Rod Krick (Manager, Terrestrial Restoration & Management), Credit Valley Conservation

Sherwin Watson-Leung (Program Coordinator, Aquatic Restoration), Credit Valley Conservation



Upper Credit Conservation Area (UCCA)

Grassland Restoration: CVC is naturalizing an old field at Upper Credit Conservation Area. The former farm field is overgrown with non-native and invasive plants. It is being transformed into a thriving grassland with native plants and grasses to support the recovery of at-risk grassland birds and as a demonstration site for the public. This is a pilot project that will assist in developing in-house expertise for grassland restoration and management in the CVC watershed

River Restoration: After decades of cattle access to the Credit River, the river within the UCCA is over-widened, too shallow and unshaded. CVC is working with watershed partners (Trout Unlimited Canada, Greg Clark Chapter) on the “Bringing Back Brookies” program which seeks to restore Brook Trout habitat in the UCCA. This community based restoration project involves the implementation of dozens of instream habitat restoration techniques designed to narrow the river and improve stream habitat. Learn how we are using Christmas Trees and volunteer labour to restore the river.

Terra Cotta Conservation Area (TCCA)

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB): CVC and its partner municipalities have made a significant investment in protecting and enhancing the environmental health of the Credit River watershed. A CVC Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan is in place to address this threat. Learn how CVC is responding and developing a plan to help manage the impact of EAB on watershed forests. At Terra Cotta see how CVC is moving forward with this process within the conservation area.

Invasive Species: Learn how CVC is dealing with invasive species on their properties and see examples of successful Phragmites, Garlic Mustard and Common Buckthorn removals at TCCA

Stream Restoration and Pond Mitigation: CVC has developed a plan to mitigate the impacts of several ponds at the TCCA. Projects that you will see include: the conversion of the former outdoor swimming pool to the “Award Wetland”, a constructed pond bypass channel around Wolf Lake, and the conversion of Spring Pond, back into a wetland and headwater stream channel.

Location: Upper Credit Conservation Area, 20073 Porterfield Road (Regional Road 136), Alton ON L7K 1S9

Capacity: 20 people

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

Hazel Bird Nature Reserve

Friday September 11, 2015 (9:50 am – 2:00 pm)

Leader:

Val Deziel, Nature Conservancy of Canada



The Nature Conservancy of Canada acquired the Hazel Bird property in 2011 as it is part the Rice Lake Plains Natural Area and protects many tallgrass prairie, sand barren, oak woodland and Black Oak savanna species and habitat characteristics. The site is named after Hazel Bird, a local naturalist who helped in the recovery of the Eastern Bluebird. Although the large areas of the grassland have been degraded by non-native species, the natural habitats are being restored by NCC staff. Stewardship work to restore and enhance these habitats include: prescribed burns, native plantings, removal of scotch pine, dog strangling vine and spotted knapweed. Hike participants you will be able to see the results of our recent prescribed burn (36.4 acres) as well as some scotch pine removal and native planting plots.

Location: 4639 Robson Road, Baltimore, On, K0K 1C0

Capacity: 30 people

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

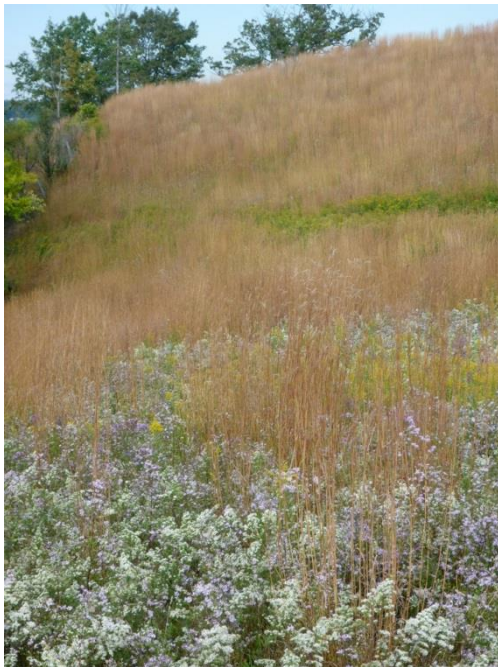
Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savannah Restoration in the Cambridge and St. George area

Monday, September 21 (10:00 am – 2:00 pm)

Leader:

Graham Buck, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Branchton Prairie



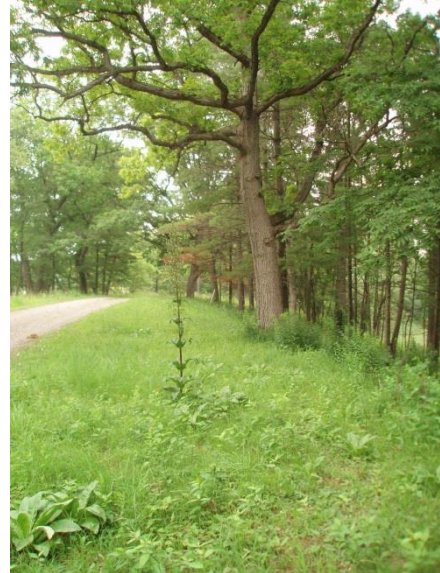
The trip will start at Waynco Aggregates Waynco Road Pit where the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Waterloo Stewardship Council have been restoring a railway prairie remnant and old field system back to a tallgrass prairie. The goal of the ambitious project to expand the small railway prairie to a 12 hectare tallgrass prairie through prescribed burning, invasive species control and strategic planting. The group will see some of the success and challenges of the project, which commenced in 2006.

The second stop will be at a second Waynco Aggregates property, located nearby which is also part of the historic Branchton Prairie. This project is also a partnership between the Ministry of natural resources and forestry and the Waterloo Stewardship Council.

The team members have been working to reverse habitat succession and to expand a railway prairie and oak savannah remnant into an abandoned agriculture field. This project is taking place within a unique natural area, the Branchton swamp which is large marsh, swamp and wetland and Carolinian forest complex with patches of prairie and savannah. Rare and unusual species abound.

Blue Lake, Brant County

Blue Lake contains the best example of the extensive oak plains that formerly occurred in the area in abundance. The property also contains the best example of White Oak savanna and woodland in Ontario, with close to 40 oak savannah and woodland indicator species being recorded. The restoration of the property began in 2006 with invasive species removal and burning. And this work continues today, with the last burn completed in fall 2014. The results have been amazing with most of the indicator species increasing in abundance over time, including one of the largest concentrations of an endangered plant species in Ontario.



All three stops are private property, so this field trip offers a unique opportunity to visit some of the most unique natural spaces left in the Cambridge and St. George area while seeing the results of the restoration first hand.

Location: Tim Horton's located at the intersection of Myers Road and Highway 24

301 Water St S, Cambridge, ON

Capacity: 20 people

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