

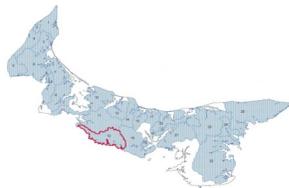


Spring, 2014

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SSWA is online: www.sswa.ca

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WRWG AGM

Wed., Apr. 9, 2014, at 7:00 pm

Crapaud Community Hall

SSWA AGM

Thurs., Apr. 17, 2014, at 7:00 pm

Crapaud Community Hall

Eric's Day In May

(DREAM Volunteer Day)

Sun., May 25, 2014, 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Linden Hill Pond Hall

2013-2014 SSWA Board of Directors:

- Martha Howatt, Augustine Cove
- Peter Bower, Westmoreland
- Dina Blot, Westmoreland
- Barb Clement, Tryon
- Duane MacDonald, Tryon
- Harry Smith, DeSable
- Emily Gorman, DeSable

Spring: Ready, Set, ...Renew

A new phase begins for both nature and groups like ours, now that seasonal work plans are set and final reports and applications are sent in. Next, the SSWA Manager and volunteers will likely be braving soggy snow banks, checking out which owl boxes are used for nesting this season, and noting where to add more next fall. See more on owls on page 2, in TRWC News.

The cycle of life begins anew as, despite the snow, Spring has begun on the South Shore. Every day, more species will be returning to the Island, or for those which never left, reappearing. Flocks of song birds will soon swoop in and finish the valuable emergency foods still found reddening sumac stands. With the extra heavy snow cover making it difficult to get to seeds, one may want to consider putting extra seed out for resident and arriving species. The huge northerly bird migrations will be seen by those who brave cutting Spring winds at the shore, who are rewarded by witnessing one of the true spectacles of the wild here on PEI. Smelt will soon be gathering to spawn as far up streams as they can swim, and hopefully, small kids can be seen again in Crapaud helping them upstream. This is the *Kiss the Fish Program* time, though exactly when it happens, around mid-April, is up to the smelts. The farther smelt can make it upstream, the better for Brook trout populations already there.



N.Saw-whet Owls are only 6" long



A much more subdued northerly migration occurs with the Island return of the Monarch Butterflies, a migration that is as incredible as it is silent...and threatened. For those wanting to know more about what may be the most impressive and puzzling migration story of any land species on Earth, Westmoreland River Watershed Group is inviting everyone to a Talk they are hosting by Tracy Brown, as part of their Annual General Meeting in April (see left and pg. 2 for details). Tracy is the Executive Director of Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Assoc. (BBEMA), which has programs to research and assist this increasingly rare visitor and milkweed eater. It will be a great Talk ! Congrats to BBEMA for recently being one of 18 groups throughout all of North America to obtain funding from NAPECA from among 589 applicants. BBEMA is to study carbon storage ability as another reason for protecting and restoring salt marshes.

SSWA AGM & Photo Contest Selections

SSWA holds its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, April 17, at 7:00 pm, downstairs entrance of Crapaud Community Hall. In addition to official reporting, watershed plans for 2014 will be unveiled for the region, as will the latest on the Watershed Critters Youth Education Pilot Project. It has been a busy winter as SSWA has taken steps to become more visible in the community and transparent in what it is doing within the community. How that works will be on display. The AGM is the finale for the SSWA Annual Photo Contest and all regional category images, regional and Grand Prize selections will be on display. Judging of these was generously provided by Doris Chandler. Doris and her family reside in the area. She is an artist and a respected professional photographer. Due to the high volume of quality photos of our beautiful South Shore, judging could not have been easy. Rules were reviewed this winter to provide clearer rights of photographer ownership and credit while allowing SSWA to share these images more with the public in its publications. One photo category, Cherished Older Watershed Images, remains to be judged at the AGM. Bring 5 X 7" scans of more, if you have them. We will add them to the entries sent in for public selection that night. Refreshments will be served.

