

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

Conservation Education Programs

2016 - 2017

*"I hear, I know.
I see, I remember.
I do, I understand."
- Confucius*



hands-on, elementary and secondary school curriculum-based programs

For more information on elementary and secondary school programs visit us at www.scrca.on.ca



CONSERVATION EDUCATION AT THE ST. CLAIR

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority provides both in-class and outdoor conservation education experiences which are closely tied to a variety of grade-specific curricula. Demand for these programs is very high, so it is recommended you book early to avoid disappointment. By visiting our website, you can find information on each program including how they relate to current curriculum and how to book a program. Many of the programs listed can be adapted to suit your specific interests. First-hand self learning is the emphasis of our program activities.



OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Outdoor Education brings classroom studies to life. We offer 19 hands-on elementary programs available at the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area near Petrolia. Other Conservation Areas may be available for certain programs (discuss with our staff when booking). Most programs are 2 hours in length.

PRIMARY/JUNIOR PROGRAMS

Pond Pals - Grades JK – 2

Hands-on investigation of the pond highlights this primary wetland study. Emphasis will be placed on the needs and habitat of pond critters.

The Lorax - Grades JK – 2

This Dr. Seuss story introduces students to the importance of clean air, fresh water, and animal habitats through a slide presentation, hike, and nature activities.

Choose Your Own Adventure Orienteering - Grades 2 – 5

Students navigate through a “Choose Your Own Adventure Story” with the aid of a map and compass to locate “adventure” stations. Along the route, animal survival decisions are made which determine the main character’s actions. Students earn “survival points” to determine the strongest survivor.

Fabulous Fall - Grades JK – 4

Preparation for winter is the job of every living organism in the autumn. Hibernation, migration, fall flowers, life cycles, and a variety of other topics will be presented to your students by a series of slides, a nature hike, and activities.

Nature in Winter - Grades JK – 4

Through nature activities and a guided hike, students are encouraged to explore natural habitats in the winter. Topics to be investigated include: how active animals meet their needs in harsh winter conditions, hibernation, and dormancy in plants. Highlights of the program include searching for animal tracks and a chance to hand-feed wild birds at the woodland bird feeder. Please note - there are no guarantees the birds will co-operate.

Spring Has Sprung - Grades JK – 4

Start your spring by studying the variety of changes that occur in nature. Flowers in blossom, budding trees, nest building, and animal habitats are all discussed.

The Circle of Life – Grade 2

In the *circle of life* many creatures experience changes in both appearance and activity. Students will have the opportunity to role play the life cycle of a butterfly and to explore the metamorphosis of some other insects and amphibians.



Slippery Soils – Grades 3 – 4

Students are given a hands-on opportunity to explore a soil community, digging under leaves and logs looking to see who calls this habitat home. Soil formation, soil types, decomposition, and interconnections between soil, plants and habitats are all topics that are discussed through a guided hike and outdoor activities.

More Than Just a Bunch of Trees - Grades 2 – 4

Plants fuel all food chains on earth and the relationships they have with insects and other animals form the foundation of all habitats. Students will study the needs of plants, their relationships, and become *tree detectives* as they learn tree identification skills. Butterfly-net insect collection from a tall meadow can be included upon request.

Owl Prowl - Grades 3 – 5

Birds of prey by night or day, hunt their food before it strays. Students become owls and through an active simulation game learn how owls meet their needs, what specialized adaptations help them survive and the roles they play within their habitats.



JUNIOR / INTERMEDIATE PROGRAMS

Boots, Birds and Bugs - Grades 4 – 6

Aquatic food chains and adaptations are emphasized in this hands-on pond community investigation. Students dip their nets into the pond and identify the life forms they discover.

Nature in Flight - Grades 4 – 6

Winged animals, insects, birds and bats are used to examine flight. Adaptations allowing these animals to fly and the unique spaces they fill within their habitats will be discussed. Properties of air and the characteristics of flight will be identified and human impacts on winged animals will be explored.

Instincts for Survival - Grades 4 – 10

Survival of the fittest is the harsh law required for the balance of nature. This simulation game teaches students about animal interdependencies, predator/prey relationships, disease, elements, camouflage, and the various influences of humans.

Endangered Species Game - Grades 4 – 6

This active game introduces students to the Endangered Species of Ontario. A positive effect on students' value system, and attitudes towards the environment, ecology and wildlife will be instilled.

Geocaching - Grades 3 – 10

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunt using a Global Positioning System Receiver (GPS) and longitude and latitude coordinates to find hidden caches. During the 2 hour program, students will be taught how to mark and hide a cache. Students will then use the learned knowledge to locate hidden geocaches.

You may choose to stay for an ALL DAY GEOCACHING ADVENTURE: Older grades can search for published geocaches. Following the morning program, students spend the afternoon searching for published geocaches at the 135 ha Conservation Area. Two program fees apply for full day activities.



Conservation in Crisis with GPS technology - Grades 6 – 8

The state of the environment is a serious problem in our world today. Loss of habitat, pollution, erosion, and climate change are only a small portion of the problems we face. The Conservation Authority's role in finding solutions to these problems will be explored through outdoor activities and a self-guided hike using GPS receivers. A short introduction to the GPS units is included.

A Bug's World - Grades 6 – 8

Investigation of vertebrates and invertebrates highlights this hands-on biodiversity study. Students collect and classify animals from two different habitats to observe the complex diversity of life. Examination of the organism, its community, and how the abiotic parts of the ecosystem allow a greater understanding of the animal and its role within the ecosystem.

Orienteering - Grades 4 – 8

With compass and map in hand, students find their way through a designated course. Students learn the basic parts of both a map and a compass and how to use them together in order to orient themselves.

Wild, Wild, Wetlands - Grades 7 – 8

What is the value of a wetland? Students will explore this question through a guided hike and a hands-on wetland ecosystem study. Students will discover that plants, animals, and abiotic factors all play a vital role in the health of the ecosystem. Habitat, flood control, erosion, pollution, climate change, and ecosystem services will all be discussed.



CLASSROOM PROGRAMS

A Conservation Education instructor can be made available to bring the outdoors into your classroom. In addition to programs listed below, specialized programs can be developed including animal/plant preparation for winter/spring, life cycles, soils, etc. Activities can include Power Point presentations, games and nature activities. Some activities can be played in the school yard. Please call for details. The cost for a one hour program is \$100 per class and \$75 for each additional class in the same school for the same day.

The 5 programs below are offered free of charge thanks to our sponsors

St. Clair River Bottom Critters - Grades JK – 10

Sponsored by the Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association

Students will explore live critters from the bottom of the St. Clair River which are used to determine the quality of the environment. They will discover that a healthy environment is important to everyone - industry and residents alike. **In-class Program**

Go with the Flow - Grades JK – 8

Sponsored by the Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association

Using an interactive Groundwater Model, this program demonstrates how interdependence links the soil, earth materials, and water, making them part of the same system needed to support life. Different activities for each Grade: Water in our Environment; Soil Erosion; Rocks and Minerals; Energy; Electricity; Ecosystems and Water Systems.

River RAP - Grades 8 – 10

Sponsored by the Friends of the St. Clair River

Learn about local threats to our watershed using a hands-on 'enviro-scape' model. Students will learn about current strategies to ensure safe, healthy water for the St. Clair River community and the plants and animals that inhabit it.

Aquatic Species at Risk - Grades 4 – 12

Sponsored by Environment Canada

This program provides an in-depth look at LOCAL species at risk (including hands-on investigation of specimens). Exploration of the species, their importance, the factors that cause species decline, and the solutions available to help restore healthy populations are all discussed in the presentation.

Spring Water Awareness - Grades JK – 6

Sponsored by Union Gas

Children often don't think about the dangers of ice and waterways during the spring thaw. This program will highlight dangers to watch for - hypothermia, protecting floodplains, and the impact of climate change. An introduction to the natural world around us is also included through a power point presentation and grade -appropriate activities.

Outdoor Program Fees

\$4.50 per student for a two hour program
\$8.50 per student for 4 hours (2 programs)
Minimum Fee: \$60.00

In-Class Program Fees *

\$100 per class for a 1 hour program
\$75 for each additional class for the same school on the same day

* Some programs are sponsored and are free of charge - these are noted with the program.

This program is sponsored in part by the generous contributions of:



For further information on how to book a program:

Visit our website:

www.scrca.on.ca

Contacts:

Sharon Nethercott, H.B.O.R., B.Sc., B.Ed.
Conservation Education Coordinator
Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area
3653 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, Ontario N0N 1R0
519 882-2399 Cell: 519 384-0735
E-Mail: snethercott@scrca.on.ca

Melissa Gill, H.B.Sc.
Conservation Education/Community Partnership
Technician
Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area
3653 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, Ontario N0N 1R0
519 882-2399 Cell: 519 852-6037
E-Mail: mgill@scrca.on.ca

Administration Office:

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
205 Mill Pond Crescent
Strathroy, Ontario N7G 3P9
519 245-3710 Fax: 519 245-3348
E-Mail: stclair@scrca.on.ca
Website: www.scrca.on.ca