

The Canadian Field-Naturalist

News and Comment

Upcoming Meetings and Workshops

Canadian Herpetological Society Annual Conference

The Canadian Herpetological Society Annual Conference to be held 20–23 September 2019 at the Redpath Museum in McGill University, Montreal,

Quebec. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://canadianherpetology.ca/conf/index.html#2019>.

Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society Joint Annual Conference

The first Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society Joint Annual Conference to be held 29 September–3 October 2019 at the Reno-Sparks Con-

vention Center, Reno, Nevada. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://afstws2019.org/>.

Student Conference on Conservation Science-New York

The 10th annual Student Conference on Conservation Science-New York to be held 2–4 October 2019 at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York. Registration is currently open.

More information is available at <https://www.amnh.org/research/center-for-biodiversity-conservation/convening-and-connecting/student-conference-on-conservation-science-new-york-sccs-ny>.

Association of Field Ornithologists and the Wilson Ornithological Society Joint Meeting

The joint meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists and the Wilson Ornithological Society, hosted by the New Jersey Audubon's Cape May Bird Observatory, to be held 27–30 October 2019 at the Grand Hotel, Cape May, New Jersey. Registration

is currently open. More information is available at <http://www.cvent.com/events/2019-afowos-joint-meeting/event-summary-fc644f2542184eba9fe3b-1d37928e0fd.aspx>.

Entomological Society of Ontario

The annual general meeting of the Entomology Society of Ontario to be held 1–3 November 2019 at the Bark Lake Conference Centre, Haliburton, Ontario.

More information is available at <https://www.entsoc.ont.ca/>.

Entomology 2019

The annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America to be held 17–20 November 2019 at the America's Center Convention Complex, St. Louis, Missouri. Registration is currently open. More infor-

mation is available at <https://www.entsoc.org/events/annual-meeting>.

James Fletcher Award for *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* Volume 132

The James Fletcher Award is awarded to the authors of the best paper published in a volume of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (CFN), and first started with Volume 130. The award is in honour of James Fletcher, founder of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club (OFNC) and the first editor of CFN's earliest iteration, *Transactions of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club*. A subcommittee of the OFNC Publications Committee sifted through all papers in Volume 132 of CFN, and came up with a list of the top five papers. From these top five, the committee selected the top paper, which for this volume was actually a tie between two papers, both of which receive the James Fletcher Award. The awards for Volume 132 of CFN go to:

Joseph J. Bowden, Kyle M. Knysh, Gergin A. Blagoev, Robb Bennett, Mark A. Arsenault, Caleb F. Harding, Robert W. Harding, and Rosemary Curley. The spiders of Prince Edward Island: experts and citizen scientists collaborate for faunistics. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 132(4): 330–349. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v132i4.2017>

- This paper presents the first comprehensive list of spider species on Prince Edward Island, increasing the known list from 44 to 198 species, which is a huge accomplishment. The paper also used a unique collaboration between experts and citizen scientists.

And to:

Richard Troy McMullin, Katherine Drotos, David Ireland, and Hanna Dorval. Diversity and conservation status of lichens and allied fungi in the Greater Toronto Area: results from four years of the Ontario BioBlitz. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 132(4): 394–406. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v132i4.1997>

- This paper presents data on a concentrated effort to collect observations of lichen species during the Ontario BioBlitz in the Greater Toronto Area over four years, and demonstrates the utility of rapid assessments for monitoring the diversity of lichens. This paper was based on a collaboration between experts and citizen scientists.

Diana Beresford-Kroeger: a new book, a life's work

Classical botanist, medical biochemist, and revolutionizer of how we look at forests has—by the time you read this—launched her seventh book. The event is scheduled for 24 September 2019 in Toronto, and we will have a review of it in our next issue of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*. In the meantime, here

Congratulations to Joseph Bowden and co-authors and to Troy McMullin and co-authors for writing these excellent papers.

The runners up for this award are:

Chris R.J. Hay, R. Greg Thorn, and Clinton R. Jacobs. Taxonomic survey of Agaricomycetes (Fungi: Basidiomycota) in Ontario tallgrass prairies determined by fruiting body and soil rDNA sampling. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 132(4): 407–424. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v132i4.2027>

- This paper used genetic techniques and traditional survey methods to describe the diversity of Agaricomycetes in Ontario tallgrass prairies.

Sue Carstairs, Marc Dupuis-Desormeaux, and Christina M. Davy. Revisiting the hypothesis of sex-biased turtle road mortality. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 132(3): 289–295. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v132i3.1908>

- This paper tested a long-standing hypothesis that female turtles are more at risk of road mortality than males using a unique dataset collected at the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre, and found evidence to refute this hypothesis: both sexes were just as likely to be struck on roadways in three of four turtle species.

Rebekah Neufeld, Cary Hamel, and Chris Friesen. Manitoba's endangered alvars: an initial description of their extent and status. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 132(3): 238–253. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v132i3.1865>

- This paper describes endangered alvars in Manitoba, describing their extent, plant communities, and land use.

Congratulations to these finalists. We would also like to show our appreciation to all authors who chose to share their interesting and valuable field-based studies with the readers of Volume 132 of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*.

WILLIAM D. HALLIDAY AND JEFFERY M. SAARELA
OFNC Publications Committee

is a brief note on Diana, the book, and selected aspects of her work. I spoke with her by telephone—she in Ottawa, I in rural Prince Edward Island—on 13 August 2019 and this account is based in part on our conversation.

The title of her new book, *To Speak for the Trees*:

My Life's Journey from Ancient Celtic Wisdom to a Healing Vision of the Forest (Penguin Random House, 2019), captures the essence of her work, which is a unique combination of almost-lost beliefs in the forest-enabled human connection with nature and the eruption of recent research into the wholeness of land, sky, and waters through the forests. The capacity to hold in the mind—and body and spirit—the knowledge of both modern science and indigenous systems built on that wholeness is rare. Fortunately for the planet, it is becoming less rare, and Diana's lifework is a major stream contributing to this 'new renaissance'. She's particularly encouraged by the range of engagement, from community efforts to improve the health of cities and neighbourhoods to the activism of youth world-wide to combat climate change. Diana informed me of the 2017 passing by the New Zealand Parliament of an Act that gives the Whanganui River the status and rights of a person, a precedent-setting major step forward that settled years of litigation and provided funding for improving the health of the river.

Diana's previous books celebrate and urge preservation of the world's forests, especially the boreal forest ringing the north, the last, relatively intact great forest on Earth. The message is simple: the forests are key to the survival of life on the planet, including human life. And it isn't just the capacity to survive but the quality of life in all its aspects. With their concept of "forest bathing", the Japanese have been aware of this for over 1000 years; through her writings—including a chapter in the forthcoming *International Handbook of Forest Therapy*—and other media, Diana is helping bring this practice to North America. Her research in biochemistry has enabled her both to understand the chemical communications among trees and the impact of that communication on land and waters and how that biochemistry can be harnessed for human health: mental, physical, and spiritual. She is also an accomplished medical researcher with some 300 articles to her name. Perhaps the most easily accessible summary of her work can be found in the inspiring documentary *Call of the Forest: The Forgotten Wisdom of Trees*, which can be viewed on the TVO website (<https://www.tvo.org/video/documentaries/call-of-the-forest-the-forgotten-wisdom-of-trees>). In the making of this film, Diana travelled to various corners of the world—Tokyo and Hokkaido Island, Ireland's Raheen Oak Wood, the redwoods of California, the Avatar Grove on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and UNESCO world site Pimachiowin Aki on the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg—to meet and share experiences with people engaged in restoration of forests and research demonstrating their value is highest and most essen-

tial when left intact.

A second key theme of her work is science-based wisdom for living: her 2013 volume *The Sweetness of a Simple Life: Tips for Healthier, Happier, and Kinder Living Gleaned from the Wisdom and Science of Nature* (Random House Canada), contains 60 short chapters organized around "Health and Food", "Home and Garden", and "The Larger World". The book concludes with a description of her Bioplan, a constant third theme in all her work.

The foundation of the Bioplan is simply stated—everyone plants a tree a year for six years—and potentially very effective. She knows not everyone can or will do that, but the science is getting behind it; she cited "The global tree restoration potential" in *Science* (365: 76–79 <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aax0848>), as a recent example. Diana consults with many schools and other institutions on how to follow her Bioplan. She also has her own forest and garden, a 65-hectare plot she calls Carriglaith near Merrickville, just outside Ottawa, where she and her husband, Christian Kroeger, work hard to preserve rare species of trees. She goes to phenomenal efforts to find these species.

Awards have flowed in. In 2010, she was elected a Fellow by Wings WorldQuest, an international organization "dedicated to recognizing and supporting visionary women" and the following year, the Utne Reader named her one of their 25 Visionaries for 2011. The Royal Canadian Geographical Society elected her to the College of Fellows in 2013 and named her one of 25 women explorers of Canada in 2016. Diana received an honorary doctorate from Carleton University on 11 June 2019. The citation notes that *Call of the Forest* "was nominated for the Rob Stewart Award for Best Science or Nature Documentary Program at the 2018 Canadian Screen Awards. Her peer reviewed work, *Arboretum America: A Philosophy of the Forest*, won the prestigious National Arbor Day Foundation Media Award for an exceptional educational work on trees and forests" (<https://newsroom.carleton.ca/2019/diana-beresford-kroeger-receives-honorary-degree-from-carleton-university/>). She has been profiled in many newspapers, the *New York Times*, *Winnipeg Free Press*, and *Ottawa Citizen*, to name only a few; interviewed on Baltimore NPR's Marc Steiner Show, by the CBC, and other radio stations; in October 2018, Andrew Nikiforuk published a two-part article on her work in *The Tyee*, an independent, online, British Columbian news magazine. As well, Diana has written over 300 scientific and 'popular' accounts of her research for various journals and magazines. (See the Media section of <http://calloftheforest.ca/about-diana/> for a partial list.) She gives guest lectures and masterclasses

and is a science advisor for the Archangel Ancient Tree Archive, which works to preserve the Earth's oldest trees through its Champion Tree Project (<https://www.ancienttreearchive.org/>). How she does all this while managing to live off-line is a wonder—she's not sure how she does it either, but noted that not having the internet is certainly helpful in getting things done!

A final comment: in addition to inspiring people all over the world, she was recently fictionalized as scientist Patricia Westerford in Richard Powers' near-

overwhelming novel about the life and times of trees, *The Overstory*, soon to be reviewed in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*. Space won't allow recounting her story of how she heard about this, but it became yet another means of getting the message out. Clearly, Diana Beresford-Kroeger's work, like all works of nature, will live on in many forms.

BARRY COTTAM
Book Review Editor –
The Canadian Field-Naturalist