

ST. THOMAS FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

2026-2027 Guest Speakers

“Nurturing nature in Elgin”

Meeting Date	Guest Speaker	Presentation/Description
Friday, September 11, 2026	Members Only Night	*Moth Presentation from our Hawk Cliff Moth Night (Nancy Douglas) *Members are welcome to bring a story, show & tell item for a 5-minute presentation *Welcome to new president and vice president
Friday, October 2, 2026	Robert (Bob) Bell	Join local author and avid birder Robert (Bob) Bell for a presentation on his book, <i>Out of the Lyme Light and into the Sunlight</i>. Bob shares his journey living with Lyme disease, the challenges of seeking treatment, and how birding became a source of healing, purpose, and hope. Drawing from his personal experience, Bob explores the therapeutic benefits of connecting with nature and offers practical tips for getting started with birding, regardless of age or ability. His inspiring talk highlights how birding can support wellness and resilience for those living with chronic illness, chronic pain, or anyone looking to deepen their connection with the natural world. His book <i>Out of the Lyme Light and into the Sunlight</i> will be available for purchase (\$25) after his talk.
Friday, November 6, 2026	Can Raffle	Please bring a new or gently used item to donate to our Can Raffle! It's a fun way to support our club while giving everyone a chance to win some great prizes. The lucky winners of each draw will take home a wonderful item (s). Let's see which table will be the lucky one this year! Refreshments will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!
Friday, December 4, 2026	Alan Macnaughton	<i>20, 000 Moths and Counting</i> Alan Macnaughton is Vice-President of the Toronto Entomologists' Association and a leading lepidopterist in Ontario—he has been fascinated by moths since his teenage years. Since retiring in 2019, he has devoted much more time to studying and documenting Ontario's moths. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to entomology, Alan received the Norman Criddle Award from the Entomological Society of Canada in 2013. The award honours outstanding amateur entomologists who have significantly advanced the study of insects in Canada. Alan will talk about lepidoptera and some species of moths that can be found in and around Elgin County.

Friday, January 8, 2027	Tristan Ducharme	Bluegill Sunfish/Round Goby Fish reproduction and behavior - Guest speaker Tristan Ducharme a PhD student from the University of Western Ontario. He will talk about reproductive behavior in Bluegill Sunfish and Round Goby; he will also give some examples with reptiles and birds. Males of the same species do not always use the same strategy to reproduce. Some males defend nests and try to attract females, while other males avoid building their own nest by sneaking into a defending male's nest to mate. These alternative reproductive tactics occur in many animal groups, including reptiles, birds and insects, but they are especially common in fish. In this talk, he will explain how these different tactics work in fish and how environmental conditions can influence which tactic is most successful.
Friday, February 5, 2027	Nick Crease	Nick & Cindy Crease explore New Zealand for 3 months. This is a trip of a lifetime and given the area and duration of their trip, this talk will be broken into 2 parts (North & South Island). Nick will do a presentation on their adventure across New Zealand. The second half of the trip will be presented at a later date.
Friday, March 5, 2027	David Rankine	Eastern Coyotes - David Rankine Over a period of 5 years, artist, musician and educator David Rankine has walked thousands of kilometres on coyote trails learning first hand about the behaviour and ways of this coyote pack. Exciting face to face encounters, howls and many trail camera photos have led David to a greater understanding of himself as a human being and a deeper understanding of these magnificent creatures. He gained their trust, and he shows they're not the threat many believe. He will share funny and moving stories and help ease fears about these intelligent animals in rural and urban areas. He will have books for purchase (\$20) available at the meeting. He also has a children's book for \$12.
Friday, April 2, 2027	Pat Fowler	Native Plants – Pat Fowler will give a presentation about the importance of Native Plants. She will give some examples of native plants we can plant in our own gardens, making a pollinator friendly garden.
Friday, May 7, 2027	Carole Clarke	With over 30 years' experience with wildlife and wildlife rehabilitation and the founder of Another Chance Wildlife, Carole will share her story and experience with us.
Friday, June 4, 2027	Pot Luck at Pinafore Park	Let us wrap up another wonderful year of exploring and appreciating nature with our fellow naturalists and nature enthusiasts at our annual outdoor potluck and last meeting of the year! Please bring your favorite dish, dip or dessert to share, and join us at the Woodlot Shelter in Pinafore Park, St. Thomas . It's a great opportunity to enjoy good food, great company and reflect on another memorable year. Although this is our last official meeting of the year, the adventures don't stop here! Keep an eye on your email for an outing or two this summer as they are planned. Please also note July's annual butterfly count is coming up, please see Ann or Cindy to let them know if you plan to participate.

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