

# The Steward



Fall 2010

## Upcoming Events

### Annual General Meeting

Orono Town Hall  
Monday, August 9th, 2010  
6:30 pm  
Silent Auction & Social

### Guest Speaker

J. Russell Powell, CEO  
CLOCA

### Annual Corn Roast & BBQ

Saturday August 28, 2010  
11 am to 3 pm

Ochonski Rd/Station St.  
Entrance

## Trail Maps

Now available on our  
website!

[www.oronocrownlands.com](http://www.oronocrownlands.com)

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## Wood Wasps

Article by E. Czerwinski, Jason Pollard, T. Scarr

A native to Europe, Asia, and Northern Africa, *Sirex noctilio* F. has been accidentally introduced into many parts of the world, most recently North America. *Sirex* woodwasps, also known as horntails, attack and kill living pine trees. In its native range this insect is not considered to be a significant pest. However, in parts of its introduced range it has caused significant tree mortality.



All hard pines in Ontario are considered susceptible, these include: jack pine; *Pinus banksiana* Lamb; red pine; *Pinus resinosa* Ait; pitch pine; *Pinus rigida* Mill; Scots pine; *Pinus sylvestris* L. Other pine species may also be susceptible.

This insect was first discovered in North America in a Scots pine plantation in upper New York State in 2004. In Ontario in 2005, *Sirex* woodwasp adults were trapped in Prince Edward County and near Prescott, Uxbridge and Cambridge. Surveys and trapping led by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in partnership with the Canadian Forest Service and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency are continuing to determine its range, distribution and how this insect may be affecting Ontario's forests.

*Sirex* woodwasps are large insects, 5 to 7 cm long. Adults have a spear-shaped plate at the posterior end and are dark metallic blue to black. Mid-abdomen segments on males are dark orange. Antennae are entirely black. Legs are reddish-yellow, feet are black; males have black hind legs. The larvae are creamy white, legless, with a distinctive dark

coloured spine at the posterior end.

Generally one generation per year, although this insect may take two years to fully develop in the colder parts of its range. Adult wasps emerge between July and September, with peak emergence around mid-August. Females are attracted to stressed pine trees. They drill their ovipositors into the outer sapwood and inject a fungus, toxic mucus and eggs. Females lay 25-450 eggs. The developing larvae feed on the fungus as they tunnel through the wood of the tree. The larval stage of the life cycle takes approximately 10-11 months to complete. Adults emerge three weeks later and live one to two weeks.

Attacked trees show crown symptoms within a couple of months. Crowns turn light green, needles may then wilt and turn yellow to reddish brown. Resin beading may develop on the trunk from oviposition (egg laying) wounds.

Fungal staining of wood from each oviposition site may be visible if bark is cut away. Larval galleries, packed with frass, turn inward toward the heartwood and then back

The Orono Crown Lands Trust is a member of  
Ontario Nature

Article and photos by  
Jim Richards

## Reptiles of the Orono Crown Lands

In a previous newsletter (*The Steward – Spring 2009*), I presented a note about amphibians of the Orono Crown Lands. In this issue, I would like to follow up with a similar note dealing with the reptiles.

Of the 24 species of reptiles (snakes, turtles and lizards) found in Ontario, I am only aware of 3 species known to inhabit the OCL. I would certainly expect more: especially snakes. If readers have information about other species, I would be pleased to hear from them.

All 8 turtle species have a range in Ontario that would include our area, but I only know of two species ever recorded here; Snapping Turtle and Midland Painted Turtle.



Snapping Turtle



Midland Painted Turtle

The only species of lizard found in Ontario is the Five-lined Skink, and their range is restricted to the northern and south-western portions of the province.

Of the 15 species of snakes normally found in the wild in Ontario, I am only aware of one species ever recorded for the OCL; Eastern Garter Snake. Undoubtedly there are more! Of these 15, there are 6 species restricted mainly to south-western Ontario. Of all the species in Ontario, only one is venomous, the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, and it is not found here. It is found more frequently on the Bruce Peninsula.

Eastern Garter Snake



**continued from page 1**

toward the bark. Emerging adults create round exit holes 3 to 8 mm in diameter.

Silvicultural treatments to maintain and enhance stand vigour are important in preventing establishment. However, thinning and pruning should be avoided during woodwasp flight season since these activities wound trees and may attract pests or leave them susceptible to infestation.

Biological controls have been successful in other jurisdictions. A parasitic nematode, *Deladenus siricidicola*, can penetrate larvae and render the female *S. noctilio* sterile. However, this nematode must be mass produced in a lab and inoculated into areas with *Sirex* since it does not naturally distribute well.




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## Congratulations to our Raffle Winners!

**1st prize:**

Toronto Maple Leafs Package  
Robin Ferguson - Barrie

**2nd prize:**

Set of Tools  
Bob Dillon - Orono

**3rd prize:**

Wildlife Print  
Louise Grande - Orono

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## We Would Like to Say Thank You!!

The Board of the Orono Crown Lands Trust would like to thank the following people for their generous donations and support:

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**Dedicated Picnic Tables**

We have added seven tables to our events area. These tables are dedicated as follows:

In memory of Don Lycett, Roy Forrester, June Smith, Jan Schoenmaker 1933-2006. Donated by the Orono Firefighters Association and by the Slater Family.



If you are interested in participating in the Dedicated Picnic Table program, please give our Chair, John Slater a call at 905-983-9785 or email slaterman@sympatico.ca

**It's 2010 Stewardship Time...**

The Board of Directors would like to thank our membership for their continued support. A stewardship cost \$10 per year and your dollars contribute to the protection and enhancement of our 633 acre jewel. Recently, we have added your current stewardship status to our address labels. If your label reads 10 your membership is current and you are entitled to vote at our upcoming AGM. A stewardship application is included on this back page or available online @ [www.oronocrownlands.com](http://www.oronocrownlands.com). Stewardships will also be available at our AGM on August 9th .

Visit Us On The Web at  
[www.oronocrownlands.com](http://www.oronocrownlands.com)

**2010 STEWARDSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Charitable # 864232137 R0001

Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
E-mail:	
<b>Please accept an additional contribution of \$ _____ towards ongoing conservation activities at of the Orono Crown Lands.</b> Please Note: A charitable receipt will be issued for the additional contribution.	

Please mail the completed Stewardship application, along with a cheque for \$10 to:  
Orono Crown Lands Trust  
P.O. Box 242 Orono, ON L0B 1M0