

Biodiversity Committee Report for 2026 AGM

Biodiversity Committee Members

Tom Thayer, Maarten Bloemen, Cathy Hughes, Monica Lim, Rod Murray, Shirley Boxem, John Dickason, Liz Jansen (Chair); BTC Staff resources: Mara McHaffie, Land Stewardship Coordinator and Ecologist, Rhiannon Carruthers, Land Stewardship Coordinator and Ecologist, Lyndsey Wilkerson, Project Restoration Specialist. Mara will be transitioning to focus on the southern clubs and Rhiannon is replacing her.

The Biodiversity Committee met nine times, all via Zoom.

Biodiversity Events

- Garlic mustard removal with Toronto Scouts at Honeywood Ridge
- Milkweed seedling planting at Russel property with ODSS senior students
- Periwinkle removal at Rock Hill with ODSS senior students
- Garlic Mustard Removal at Honeywood Ridge with Toronto Scouts
- Educational hike at Splitrock Narrows with ODSS junior students
- American Chestnut sapling monitoring and maintenance at Russel property
- Buckthorn removal at Splitrock Narrows with senior ODSS students
- Seed harvesting with senior ODSS students and reseeded
- Buckthorn removal at Splitrock Narrows (public)
- Educational hike including iNaturalist land-based demonstration and seed orchard tour at Bruce Trail Days.

Community engagement

- Formation of forum for iNaturalist Off Trail members, Land Stewards by Rod Murray, iNaturalist enthusiast/expert
- Presentation of inaugural annual Environmental Stewardship award to a graduating ODSS student who has demonstrated outstanding contribution to environmental initiatives. This year's recipient was Makenna Olmstead.
- Contribution of two articles on the iNaturalist forum
- Participation at Mono Greenfest at Monora Park