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OUR CONTACT DETAILS ARE BELOW.

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New Members

WELCOME to:

Bob and Barbara BELL, Gord BROCKLEBANK, Mary Ann HODDINOTT, Telsa O'CONNELL, and Marilyn SPATE, who are all from the Kincardine area.

OUTING REPORTS**Corn Roast – Saturday, Sept. 11th**

Once again, about 25 members showed up at Art and Janice's Ark for our annual corn and hot dog roast. Art led us on a tour of their property to show us how the native plants were thriving. After an interesting walk, we headed back to the house for corn, hot dogs and various pot luck goodies. The weather held out for us until the end when the threatening rain finally arrived. Thanks again to Art and Janice for hosting the afternoon. - Steve

Saugeen Shores Trails Wednesday, September 29

Saugeen Shores Trails run between Southampton and MacGregor Point. Dave Cheer took us to several stops along the Saugeen Shores Trails and gave informative chats about the construction and history of the trails. It was a beautiful fall day, and our walk ended with a breezy stroll along the new bike path that has been laid along the scenic shore road between Southampton and Port Elgin with the whitecaps purling in off a blue Lake and clouds scudding overhead. Thanks to Dave for a lovely afternoon. - Ed.

Sawmill Trail Walk at Bayfield, Oct. 14th.

Tom Lobb, Catherine Hogg and myself, Joan Dougherty, met Steve and Jeni Pepper in Goderich and all piled into Steve's vehicle for the trip to the trail.

At its beginning is a large viewing stand – a bit different than your 'run-of-the-mill' stands – bring your picnic lunch.



The trail takes about ¾ of an hour to complete at a walking pace, but we did it in about 1 ½ hours at a leisurely learning speed. Tom was kept busy pointing out things and answering questions.

Goldenrod included Blue-Stemmed, Tall and Late Goldenrod. Wild Asters were plentiful – Heartleaf and New England were two of them.

Trees included lots of young Mulberries, two native Sycamores, Black Locusts and a Butternut.

PAST OUTINGS, CONTINUED.....

Sawmill Trail Walk

Birds seemed scarce – the ones we did see, we couldn't see well enough to identify except for one male Belted Kingfisher (the female has a rusty breast band that the male doesn't have) and one Downy Woodpecker. Jeni had her picture take in front of a Cedar with about a dozen rectangular holes in it made by Pileated Woodpeckers.

We saw one toad, and the disappearing tail of a snake and saw fish jumping in the river. Along the riverbank, we thought we saw where the sawmill had been, but everything was covered with plants and vines. Anemone, Thimbleweed, White Snakeroot, Black Snakeroot, Bitter Dock, Moneywort, Boneset were just a few of the plants that Tom named for us.



Virgin's Bower, clustered fungi kept company by poison ivy (at right), and Wild cucumber .

The Virginia Creepers with their scarlet leaves and the Virgin's Bowers' (Old Man's Beards') white silk made a pretty picture. Tom pointed out the little pads on the Virginia Creepers' tendrils that help them climb on wood.

There was a 'bower' made up of mostly Moonseed vines – DO NOT EAT THE BERRIES – they look a bit like wild grapes. Other 'DO NOT EAT' berries were those of the Blue Cohosh.

It was a lovely, sunny Fall day except for a few spatters of rain that made dimples on the river...then more sunshine. Thanks, Tom, for an interesting and easy walk.

P.S. One chap also learned where at least part of his centre back seat belt is located! ~ Joan Dougherty.



At one of several pleasantly-situated rustic benches.

Point Clark Birding and Barbecue, Saturday Oct 23rd

A group of birders enjoyed some calm, sunny October weather to view the birds of Point Clark near the Lighthouse. Among the usual groups of Ducks and Gulls were a small flock of Red-throated Loons and, after much consultation, a flock of Snow Buntings in their summer plumage. After the appetites arrived, the group joined the 22 members at the Campbell's for a BBQ. Jack did wonders at the Barbecue, while Linda prepared a huge spread of good food for the Pot-Luck. We all thank Jack and Linda for their fine hospitality. Thanks to Linden Thurber, listed here are the birds viewed at the Point Clark outing. - Jim Armstrong

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| COMMON LOON | BUFFLEHEAD |
| RED THROATED LOON | COMMON MERGANSER |
| HORNED GREBE | RED-BREASTED MERGANSER |
| CANADA GOOSE | GLAUCOUS GULL |
| MALLARD | HERRING GULL |
| WIGEON | COWBIRD |
| RING-NECKED DUCK | BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE |
| GREATER SCAUP | SNOW BUNTING |

KINCARDINE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT:

First and foremost, thanks to all those who participated this year. Your dedication to this project may well be appreciated for generations to come. If we pay close attention I'm sure the birds can point us in the right direction to solve our environmental issues. Besides giving us birders something to occupy our minds in the white of winter. Special Thanks to the Huron Fringe Ladies for preparing such great food.

Am interested in any feedback on how the count can be improved. Should I pursue having it at the Church in future years? HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

(SEE OUTING REPORT AND RESULTS NEXT PAGE - Ed.)



Members' Page*

* Guests Welcome!

....This is where to send your articles!



Photographs always welcome; please send them in JPEG format, over 100 kbs and under 500 kbs....thanks!



James Turland writes.....

What is going on in the bird world? A female Painted Bunting came to my feeder and stuck around all day. This is the first time this bird has been recorded in Bruce County. The bird was teamed up with an eastern towhee. What a pair.

Long-tailed Jaeger

Submitted by Ralph Knowles

On September 8, 2010 approximately 20 members of the Bruce Birding Club were on their normal bi-weekly birding outing and stopped at Miramichi Bay just north of Port Elgin on Lake Huron.

The day had intermittent rain during the morning and strong gusty winds from the north-west which made bird watching somewhat difficult. While scanning the bay for shorebirds and waterfowl, an observer noticed a particular bird unlike a gull circling around the bay and harassing Ring-billed Gulls.

With all of us having our binoculars trained on this bird it became apparent we had a bird which was totally foreign to this area and one many of us had never witnessed before. Its flight was tern-like; rapid maneuvers scattered the birds in all directions.

While checking our field reference books for this specie and observing the markings on the bird, we determined it was a Jaeger Specie. Closer looks showed it had a black cap, white throat area and white belly. No dark chest band was seen which would eliminate a Parasitic Jaeger and Pomarine Jaeger. A prominent long tail approx. 6 inches long assured us we had a 'Long-tailed Jaeger' before us. This bird was a 'lifer' for many members of our club and was a highlight of the day.

This specie is uncommon in this area and is the first recorded sighting for Bruce County. It breeds in the Arctic Tundra and migrates on both the east and west coast with rare or casual sightings inland.

A report was sent to the Ontario Field Ornithologists by Fred Jazvic. Excerpts from that submission form part of this report.

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Catherine Hogg reports:
Just to let you know, Joan (Dougherty) and I saw a Longtail Duck in Goderich Harbour. James Turland reported a Harlequin Duck in Kincardine Harbour.



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Members' Page....

Longtime HFFN member and plant identifier extraordinaire Tom Lobb has very kindly offered to acquaint us with some of the rarer flora. He hopes to have something to tell us about in future issues of Fringe Notes. Here for our perusal is American Ginseng. Thank you, Tom!



Species At Risk

American Ginseng *Panax quinquefolius* L.

- Status** - S Rank - S3; G Rank - G4; COSEWIC - Endangered (2000)
- Taxonomy** - ginseng is a native perennial herb belonging to the Ginseng Family (Araliaceae)
- other members in our area include Dwarf Ginseng, Sarsaparilla, and Spikenard
- Plant** - green, usually 20 to 60 cm. tall, long-lived
- new plants arise each spring from buds on a rhizome at the 'neck' of the root
- Leaves** - 2 to 4, long-stalked, arising from the top of the stem
- 5 (sometimes 3) palmate, toothed leaflets on each leaf
- Flowers** - a single cluster (umbel) of greenish-white flowers with 5 petals
- on a long stalk extending from the base of the leaves
- flowering from the last half of June to late July
- Fruit** - berries; green at first, then gradually changing to dark red (3 to 4 weeks)
- plants take several years to reach maturity (seed-producing stage)
- seeds require 18 to 22 months of after-ripening (stratification) before germination
- Roots** - a fleshy, gnarled, light-tan tap-root
- often looks like a human body
- contains ginsenosides, polysaccharides, and polypeptides
- Habitat** - rich, moist, undisturbed and relatively mature sugar-maple dominated deciduous woods
- often found near the bottom of gentle slopes facing south-east to south-west
- History** Asian Ginseng (*Panax ginseng* CB Meyer) was discovered over 5000 years ago in the mountains of Manchuria, China. Although originally used as a food, it quickly became revered for its strength-giving and rejuvenating powers, and its human shape became a powerful symbol of divine harmony on earth. The commercial harvesting of American ginseng began in Canada in 1716 after a Jesuit Priest, working among the Iroquois, heard of the root so valued by the Chinese. Reasoning that the environment of French Canada closely resembled that of Manchuria, he began searching for examples of this wondrous herb growing in the Canadian hardwood forests, and after three months of searching he discovered American ginseng growing near Montreal. Thus began a vigorous export of ginseng from Canada to China where American ginseng quickly became much in demand. By the end of the nineteenth century, however, the wild root was near extinction in North America, due to over-harvesting and the destruction of its natural habitat.



< **LEFT:** Joan Dougherty and Tom Lobb confer, Bayfield River Sawmill Trail outing, Oct. 14th.

RIGHT: >
White Snakeroot near the Bayfield River, Sawmill Trail, Oct.



MEETING REPORTS

Sept 28th – Stuart Kenn on Ontario's Pumas

Stuart, who is President of the Ontario Puma Foundation founded in 2002, gave us an interesting and informative talk, which he backed up with some slides. We saw the Ontario Puma Sightings map, which is available on the Ontario Puma Foundation's website. There is a link so that any sightings may be reported and information on how to distinguish the tracks, spoor, or other signs. It is gratifying to know that these magnificent animals

are making a comeback to the areas their ancestors once roamed. One of the ten-year sightings is located near Grand Bend. Thanks to Stuart for a fascinating glimpse into the lives of these animals.

Group shot by Glen Holmes taken at the Campbell's, Birding and Barbecue Oct. 23.



Oct. 26th – Alexis Burnett/Animal Tracks

Seldom have we seen a more enthusiastic speaker as Alexis as he showed us slides of animal tracks he had followed and told us of adventures he had had, always including the story told by the tracks. A man who spends a lot of time out in the cold! An unusual and entertaining way to learn about tracking. Thanks, Alexis! At time of writing, some of us will be going out shortly to see for themselves the story a track can tell. Perhaps also an adventure or two!



Nov. 23rd - Clark Birchard/Queen's Bush

An excellent turnout for our last meeting before Christmas was treated to a very informative talk by Clark Birchard speaking on the Last Half Billion Years in the Queen's Bush.

Clark's talk and accompanying Power Point show gave a very in-depth description of all of the geological changes that have occurred in the area from the distant past to the present. All in all it was a very interesting and enlightening presentation.

Clark has spoken at HFFN meetings in the past and we look forward to the next time that he is with us for another informative talk.

As well, we had our 50/50 draw and Christmas draw before the evening ended.

- Steve

Winter Outings, 2011



On Your Feet! Many of our hikes are like a walk in the park....but not all! If you're thinking of lighter shoes for an outing, do check the announcements for a note on the expected terrain, or call the contact number. Bring your treaded hiking shoes or boots along....just in case!

OUTING CHECKLIST: cell phone, binoculars, bird/plant/other book, bug repellent, hat, water, hiking stick, sunglasses, hanky, area map, snacks, thermos (in car), waist/backpack, boots for rough/wet terrain. In Spring and Fall: rain slicker, gloves.



WINTER WALK January ? 2011

Meet: 1:00 pm. As this will be a weather dependent walk, we won't decide until about a week before and an e-mail will be sent. Those interested can phone the contact for information. Last year we did a Kincardine Trail and had coffee.

Contact: Jim Armstrong. 519-396-5856

Winter Outings, 2011 *Continued from p.7*

Eagle Watch - Saturday, February 19th

Meet: 1:00pm at Zehr's parking lot in Kincardine.

Contact: Jim Armstrong 519-396-5856

Details: Join the group to see Bald Eagles and other birds along the Lake Range Road and the lakeshore near the Bruce Power Plant. Each year we see more and more eagles. It is nice to witness their return to our area.



Wildlife Tracking Outing at The Ark-

Saturday, January 29th at 10:00 a.m. (this is the snow date)

One of our recent speakers, Alexis Burnett, will lead us on a session of Wildlife Tracking at the Ark on Saturday January 29, 2011. Unfortunately on this date we are unable to use the house, so bring a thermos with coffee or tea. Cider will be provided if possible. Please bring your own lunch of sandwiches, soup etc., as this is not a potluck. Meet at Kincardine Zehrs at 9:30 and carpool, as there may be limited parking at The Ark. Dress appropriately! You may want to bring field guides, binoculars, small tape measure, notepad and pencil, water and maybe snowshoes if we have a lot of snow. After lunch we may drive to someplace along the lake (Inverhuron, Bruce Power, MacGregor Point?) for some more tracking, for those who wish to.

Contact: Steve Pepper (519) 395-5616

Directions:

From the intersection of Broadway and Queen in downtown Kincardine (downtown Tim Horton's) go north on the B Line (Bruce County Road 23) for approx. 8 Kms. Just past Lorne Beach Road the county road curves to the east. Watch for 'The Ark' on your left (Lake) side about half way around the first bend.

Swans at the Lambton Museum. Sometime in mid-March.

Contact: Jim Armstrong 519-396-5856

Details: Yes! We are thinking Spring already. This is always a great viewing outing, but when, depends on the swans. In early March keep watching the web-site

www.returnoftheswans.com to pick the best viewing day. Based on this web-site, last year many people chose their own day to go. Feel free to do that again. For those who wish to car pool, I'll have a notice sent out when we can pick a good viewing day. We will car pool from the Pine River Church parking lot and the Sun Coast Mall in Goderich. We will tour by car beside the flooded fields of the Thedford Bog south of Grand Bend. There are washrooms at the Lambton Museum. Bring a lunch. There are usually drinks to be purchased in the museum and the 2010 fee was \$5 for adults; \$3 for seniors and \$3 for children.



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Are you one of the members whose MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED last year?!

SOME PEOPLE ARE ONLY PAID UP UNTIL 2009.

September is renewal month. We hope that you will consider renewing your membership.

Mail to: **Huron Fringe Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 143, Kincardine, Ontario N2Z 2Y6**

By doing this you will help ensure having a continued roster of top quality speakers. See bottom of page 4 for details.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR PAYMENT RECORD. IF IT SAYS 2009 or 2010.....YOU'RE EXPIRED!

Those with expiry dates of **2011** are good till September. Our year now begins in September, not April.

Payments can be accepted any time!

... Thanks Folks!



~ ~ ~ REGULAR MEETINGS ~ ~ ~

Regular meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Pine River United Church on Hwy 21

Social Time: 7. 30 pm ~~~~~ Meeting: 8:00 pm

LUG-A-MUG ... BRING YOUR OWN MUG TO THE MEETING!

WINTER WEATHER CAUTION: BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR A MEETING, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT IT IS NOT CANCELLED! WE WILL EMAIL UP TO THE LAST MINUTE....IF NOT ONLINE, PLEASE CALL ANY MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE. THERE MAY BE NOBODY AT THE CHURCH.

"IF HIGHWAY 21 IS CLOSED...THE MEETING IS CANCELLED."

February Meeting: Feb 22- Pot Luck at the Pine River Church at 12:30 pm.

It will be "Members' Night" and we will have a photo contest. Ontario, nature, unframed, 5" x 7" format only. *No computer-enhanced images, please.* 2 pictures per person. The winner will be by members' choice.

First prize: \$10 plus 1 package of frames. 2nd and 3rd : \$5 and a single frame.

The winner will be asked to enter his or her winning picture in the next Ontario Nature photo contest.

Annual General Meeting:

Dinner at the Anglican Church Hall in Lucknow April 26, 2011. Tickets will be on sale at meetings. Door prizes and a raffle.

St. Peter's Anglican Church Hall location:

Coming from Amberley to Lucknow, turn left just past the arena onto Stauffer St. (Bruce Rd. #1). Turn right onto Wheeler; left onto Outram St.; left on Hamilton St. The Hall is behind the church (592 Outram St.) on Hamilton St.

March Meeting:

Our speaker for the March meeting is Alexis Burnett (who spoke to us in the fall about animal tracks) In March he will talk about fungii and edible plants.

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TREE TRUNK ART ALONG BAYFIELD'S SAWMILL RIVER TRAIL (SEE ARTICLE) - Ed.