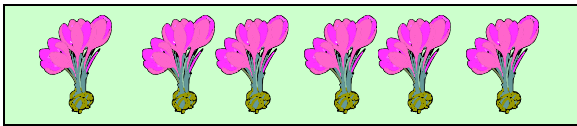


H.F.F.N.



Fringe Notes

MARCH, 2009

HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS, Box 143, Kincardine ON. N2Z 2Y6

~~ Founded 1985 ~~

We're on the Web! SEE US AT: www.huronstewardship.on.ca



President's message....

Spring is on its way!! Take some time at our next meeting to share your "winter" experiences. Thanks to Greta and Lynden Thurber for taking the time to organize our phone tree. Tickets (\$15) for our Annual General Meeting, April 28, in Lucknow will be available at our next meeting. If you are willing to sit on the executive, please contact one of the executive. We have a variety of outings and speakers lined up for the rest of the year. Enjoy! Happy Easter!

If you have any pictures for the Kincardine News, please contact Rachel at kincardinesports@bowesnet.com. She would be happy to publish them!

- Maithel Lee

New Members:
Marg and Barry
MacDonald of Ripley;
Bruce Edmunds and
Liz Addison
Of Kincardine.
WELCOME!

MacGregor Point Provincial Park

We are fortunate to have several Provincial Parks in our area. MacGregor is open to the public all year and has an active program. This year they are planning:

- 1 - **The Huron Fringe Birding Festival** - May 22 - 25 & May 28 - 31, 2009
- 2 - **Friends Annual General Meeting** - **SPECIAL FOR 2009!** - The Huron Fringe Birding Festival is partnering with [Ontario Nature](http://www.ontariounature.com) for their own event, Saturday May 30, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. at the Bruce County Museum.
- 3 - **The butterfly count** - July, please check the web pages
- 4 - **Wild for the Arts Festival** - September 12 & 13, 2009

Check them out at: www.friendsofmacgregor.org and: <http://www.ontarioparks.com>



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Of Note...



How observant are you?

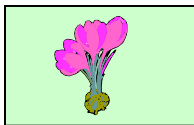
-- Did you know we have an endangered bird species living right in downtown Kincardine? It's the Chimney Swift. Long-time residents of Kincardine remember seeing hundreds of swifts swoop down at sunset into the chimneys that used to stand next to the Presto Crest factory. Now there may be just a few dozen birds.

Bird Studies Canada is studying the swifts in London and would like some help to study our birds in Kincardine, too. I think it will involve some time to bird watch and document how many swifts do live here, and where they are nesting.

There is a workshop on the swifts at the Birding Festival this year. Elizabeth Van Stam, who is heading up this study, is doing the presentation. Elizabeth will be looking for help in the spring, probably before the swifts migrate back here. I expect some volunteers will need a little training in monitoring. The Kincardine Municipality Environmental Advisory Committee is very interested in the swifts and their endangered listing. They too would like to help.

Would you like to help an endangered species? Then contact Ralph Knowles or Janice McKean to sign up. Ralph Knowles: 396-5580; Janice McKean: 4396-971

(FEBRUARY MEETING): Jayne Miltenburg spoke to us on 'The Camino de Santiago' accompanied by photographs illustrating her walking trip, which traced part of the 800 km. route taken by pilgrims. As well as giving a great talk, Jayne merits praise for her ability to carry on regardless, like the pilgrims, after being faced with slide show and microphone problems! Thank you kindly, Jayne.

**President:**

Maithel Lee Wilson 395 5086

Past President:J. Campbell
– Nominating Committee**Vice-President:** OPEN**Secretary:**

Pat Armstrong 396-5856

Treasurer

Rhodora Doughty 396-4368

Memberships:

Dennis Donnelly 395-0682

Speakers & Outings:

Tom Lobb 482-3342

Joy Munn 395-3570

Jim Armstrong 396-5856

Newsletter Editor:

Jeni Pepper 395-5616

Member-at-Large:Greta Thurber 395-4144
~~~~~**Social Convenors:**

Pat Armstrong 396-5856

Elaine Holmes 396-7107

**Ontario Nature (FON) Rep:**

Tom Lobb 482-3342

**Website Administrator/****Email reminders:**

Steve Pepper 395-5616

**Advertising:**Elaine Holmes 396-7107  
~~~~~

Fringe Notes is published three times a year for members of HFFN. Membership is \$12/ year for single and \$18/ year for family.



OUTING REPORTS

EAGLE WATCH - Saturday, February 21, 2009

Eight members enjoyed a brisk afternoon looking for eagles and snow squalls. Eagles were not present on the B Line but a large Rough-legged Hawk was watching us closely. Down along the shore there were more Rough-legged Hawks and numerous Bald Eagles. A few deer were seen in the fields at the bottom of the 6th.

Snow squalls chased us back to town for tea and coffee with muffins at the Armstrong's.

Upcoming OUTINGS and EXCURSIONS

Swans at the Lambton Museum: Saturday March 21st. 2009.

Contact: Jim Armstrong. 519-396-5856. Tom Lobb 519-482-3342

When: Car pool from Pine River United Church at 9:00 am or at the Suncoast Mall, Goderich at 9:45 am.

Details: This is a good opportunity to see Tundra Swans as they migrate north. We will tour by car along the flooded fields of the Thedford Bog south of Grand Bend. The Museum will be open with its interesting displays and exhibits of wildlife and early settler days. There are washrooms in the museum. Bring a lunch. There are usually drinks to be purchased. There is an entry fee to the Museum of \$5 for adults, \$4 for senior and \$3 for children.

www.returnoftheswans.com is a great website to read about the swans and get up-to-date reports on their arrival.

(Depending on birds. Phone and email contact if date changed.)



Hullett Wildlife Area – Saturday April 4, 2009– Hullett Wildlife Centre with Kitchener club. Weather permitting.

Where: Meet at the viewing stand on the West side of the waterfowl sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. Those from the North may wish to carpool from Pine River Church at 9:00 am.

Directions: HWA is 5 km North of Clinton on Hwy. 4, then turn East of Summerhill Road and go 4 km to the parking lot off the viewing stand. **(Watch for the HFFN sign.)**

Leader: Tom Lobb 519-482-3342

Details: We should see swans, geese, several duck species, and other early migrants. Bring binoculars, scopes, and a lunch. We welcome members from the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists.

April 8 or 9 – Newton Reserve - work party.

When: Wednesday, April 8 (Rain Date Thurs. April 9)

Time: 10:00 am

Leader: Tom Lobb 519-482-3342

Details: The trails need a good clean-up! Come out and help with clearing dead limbs, picking garbage, pruning, re-painting the blazes, repairing steps, etc. **Bring a lunch.**

Those from the north can carpool at Pine River church at 9:00.

Where: The reserve is south of Goderich on Kitchigami Road and just east of the intersection with Porter's Hill Line.





SUNDAY, May 3, 2009, 2pm - Sunday stroll in Goderich, anyone?

Some of us will already have enjoyed a few spring walks. Now you are invited to come share the Spring ambience and fresh breezes with your HFFN friends! Let's have a meander along the Goderich beach boardwalk and see what we can see....and hear. Meet the Peppers on foot at the 'umbrella gazebo' on the south pier. (Maybe Timmy's after?) Bring your binoculars – you never know!

Contact number is in side panel on P. 2.



Kincardine Lagoon, Saturday May 16, 2009. 9:00 am.

Contact: Ralph Knowles 519-396-5580. Glen Holmes 519-396-7107

When: Meet at the Kincardine soccer field's parking lot on Bruce Ave. at 9:00am.

Details: Ralph and Glen will lead us on this always popular walk to the sewage lagoons and the old railway trail to see the spring return of many species of birds. It is an easy and casual walk. There are no washrooms along the trail. You may want to bring some birdseed, as the birds are always willing for a close encounter when there is food available.

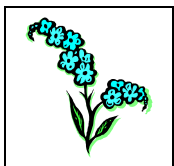


May 19-21 or 22-24- Explore our Wonderful Bruce Peninsula.

We are extremely fortunate, as a Nature Club, to live on the doorstep of the Bruce Peninsula. Not only that...but we are close neighbours to a World Biosphere Reserve, of which there are just over 500 in the world as designated by UNESCO. There are under 20 Biosphere Reserves in Ontario.

This being so, doesn't it make sense for us, members of HFFN, to visit and explore this diverse and fascinating area? For this reason, there is an outing being planned for the Club which will encompass many of the natural sights and delights of the Bruce. Options for one, two, or three days' exploring are being considered, as follows: Day One: the trip up the Peninsula, using scenic routes as much as possible, and with time for stop-offs, to enjoy a few of the views and have lunch. Our destination will be the 'village at the tip o' the Bruce', Tobermory, for the evening and night. This part of the trip will be for those who wish to book overnight accommodation. Days Two and Three will have optional outings to the natural sites closer to the village, including: the new Parks Visitor Centre, which has great displays about the area, a viewing tower and a short trail to the shore; Singing Sands, with its Pitcher Plants, froggy brook, wet meadow boardwalk and hikes; a possible boat trip; a look at a perennial garden hewn out of the wilderness; an exploration of a rocky glacial shore to discover any plants that may grow in the clefts....and many other little side trips too numerous to mention! Anyone is welcome to join us for either or both of these days. If you would like to have more information (and we have plenty!) please contact us – the Peppers – and leave your email or other contact information *so that we can keep you informed as details become available*. We will bring some photographs to the meetings. Our contact details are on the side panel of Page 2 (previous page). – Jeni & Steve.

Saturday, June 6, 2009 - Maitland Conservation Authority Plant Inventory near Ben Miller



Where: Meet at the parking lot at the ball diamond in Benmiller at 10:00am. Those from the north may want to carpool at Pine River church at 9:00 am.

Leader: Tom Lobb 519-482-3342

Details: John Gerrath from the Nature Conservancy has invited us to explore their new property at the Goud Farm. We will walk the Maitland Trail which passes along the river, and record any plants, birds, butterflies and animals we see for their inventory. **Bring a lunch**, mosquito repellent, and good footwear.

Canoe at Aaron Lake, June 10th, 2009, 9 a.m.

Contact: Art Doughty 396-4368 or Linden Thurber 519-395-4144

When: Meet at Kincardine Zehr's parking lot, 9:00 am.

Details: We need to know who wants to go, on what has become an annual Event, and who is bringing a canoe along on this outing to observe shore and marsh birds.





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. Bring your treaded hiking shoes or boots along....just in case!
OUTING CHECKLIST: 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.



~ ~ ~ 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!

Tuesday, March 24th, 2009: Welcome back Mary and Tony Rapati with Butterflies! Mary and Tony have been helping with the Tobermory Butterfly Count in conjunction with Bruce Peninsula National Park since it started in 2006. They also co-ordinated the MacGrear Butterfly Count for the first few years.



WRIST WATCH DONATIONS FOR THE AMAZON, PERU (MARCH MEETING)

Linda Lownds says: If you have any old wrist watches that you no longer need/use ... please bring them to the March meeting of the Fringe Naturalists. They will be given a good home and cherished. I will take any watches collected to the Amazon on my next trip to donate them to folks in Iquitos. Batteries can be purchased there very inexpensively, so do not worry if the watch is not operational. Wrist watches are an ideal item to take to give to folks in town and they are easy to transport. Most people cannot afford them but a watch certainly is a useful item for those living in the city. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

Tuesday April 28th 2009 – Annual General Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Venue: St. Peter's Anglican Church Hall, Lucknow

Roast Beef Dinner catered by the St. Peter's Church Ladies

Speaker: Peter Middleton, an eco-tourist guide who has escorted tours to locales all over the world, will bring us 'India: Exotic Places and Wildlife'.

Bring: 1. an inexpensive, nature-related gift per person attending, for the gift exchange.

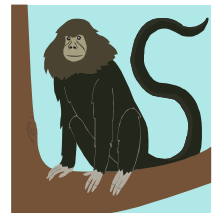
2. any watches for Linda Lownds to take to the Amazon later (see enclosed write-up, above)

Draw Prizes: Tickets: \$2 each or 3 for \$5

Thanks to Linda once again for her generous contribution of items!

Cost: Even though the price of the meal has increased by \$2, we will keep the price at **\$15**. Tickets will be available at the March 24th meeting or call/email Maithel Lee to reserve your ticket(s). 395-5086

Directions: 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.



Tuesday, May 25th, 2009:

Speaker: Dr. Peter Kelly from the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of Guelph will speak to us. His topic will be, 'The Last Stand: A Journey through the Ancient Cliff Face Forest of the Niagara Escarpment'.



*Spring has returned. The Earth is like a child that knows poems.
 - Renier Marie Rilke*



REGULAR MEETINGS...

May 27, 2008>>> **PLANT SALE!** <<<**Plant sale:** We would appreciate your donation to the plant sale.

Items we suggest are:

- Vegetable garden seedlings
- Perennials
- Indoor plants
- Gently used garden tools
- Garden magazines



Contact Wendy Hogenbirk 396-8759 or Maithel Lee 395-5086

Tuesday, June 23, 2009:

We have invited Allan Anderson of Guelph to tell us about 'Native Species of Plants in Our Area'.

**Report: Kincardine Christmas Bird Count 2008** Ralph Knowles

The 25th Annual Kincardine Christmas Bird Count was held on December 29th with 24 participants covering the area of a 15 mile diameter circle with its centre just east of Ripley. Eleven members of the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists took part in the Count.

The group found 54 species and a total of 6056 individual birds. New birds found were: Common Raven, Northern Pintail and Lesser Scaup. The count-week species were: Rufous-sided Towhee, Ruffed Grouse and Tree Sparrow.

Low numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos (29), European Starling (612), Black-capped Chickadee (302), Hairy Woodpecker (3), Downy Woodpecker (18), Mourning Dove (29) and Rock Pigeon (209) were counted.

High numbers counted were 1 Northern Shoveler, 2 Winter Wrens and 204 White-winged Crossbills.

Canada Goose57
 American Black Duck..... 3
 Mallard Duck67
 Northern Pintail2
 Northern Shoveler..... 1
 Lesser Scaup6
 Common Goldeneye 195
 Bufflehead73
 Hooded Merganser2
 Common Merganser166
 Bald Eagle 1
 Coopers Hawk3
 Red-tailed Hawk20
 Rough-legged Hawk 16
 American Kestrel5
 Wild Turkey32
 Ring-billed Gull3
 Herring Gull1165
 Glaucous Gull2
 Great Black-backed Gull8
 Rock Pigeon202
 Mourning Dove29
 Eastern Screech Owl10
 Great Horned Owl 7
 Snowy Owl..... 2
 American Crow346
 Common Raven3

Red-bellied Woodpecker3
 Downy Woodpecker18
 Hairy Woodpecker3
 Pileated Woodpecker 1
 Blue Jay47
 Black-capped Chickadee-302
 Red-breasted Nuthatch9
 White-breasted Nuthatch6
 Winter Wren2
 Golden-crowned Kinglet2
 American Robin12
 Cedar Waxwing57
 Northern Shrike5
 European Starling612
 Northern Cardinal38
 Song Sparrow 1
 Dark-eyed Junco29
 Snow Bunting971
 Purple Finch7
 House Finch128
 White-winged Crossbill204
 Red Crossbill7
 Common Redpoll120
 Pine Siskin66
 American Goldfinch394
 House Sparrow425



To verify your HFFN membership expiry date, check your mailing label. You will see beside your name either an '08' or '09' which denotes when you are paid up until, i.e. April 08, April 09.

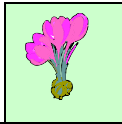
The membership year runs from May 1 to April 30.

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. Other clubs have increased their dues by quite a lot, so if you could help recruit new members it would help keep dues low. Thanks to all for your continued support of your club.

We're on the Web! SEE US AT: www.huronstewardship.on.ca



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