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Fringe Notes

Fall, 2009



HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS, Box 143, Kincardine ON. N2Z 2Y6
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Welcome.....
To **NEW MEMBERS**
Diane Wells and
Wayne and Marion
Fink.

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Greetings from our new/past president: **September, 2009**

It looks like we are into RECYCLING PRESIDENTS in the Club.
A big Thank You to Maithel Lee for the work she has done for our Club. I will be asking Lee for guidance along the way, as well as being coached by the rest of the Executive.
You may know, or maybe you don't know, that we are going into our 25th year. Will It Be Our Last? That will be you, the member's, decision.
For this special year we would like you to pull on your thinking caps & come up with ideas as to what you want to see happen to celebrate this memorable time.
Our Corn Roast will be at The Ark again this year. A Big Thank You to Janice & Art for hosting us. Looking forward to seeing you all in September at the Corn Roast; if not, at the meetings this fall.
Joy has a great lineup of speakers for us to learn a lot & enjoy again for this coming year.
-- Jack Campbell

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS:

Catherine Hogg writes: 'Joan (Dougherty) has unusual neighbours. There is a successful Merlin's nest in the spruce tree between her house and her neighbour's. A few feet away from the Merlins is an active Swift Chimney. When a fledged Merlin sat on the old T.V. antennae next to the chimney, eight Swifts in obvious distress flew around the Merlin, with no harm done to either species. A second Merlin's nest was observed all summer on Lighthouse Street with four fledged Merlins.'

Tom Lobb reminded us that there is an **honour roll for trees in Huron County** and he thinks there is one for Bruce as well. If you know of any heritage type trees, report them for listing.

Of Note...

Latest on the SWIFT MONITORING PROGRAMME: During summer, about 8 to 10 people attempted to locate Swifts roosting or nesting in Kincardine. Some chimneys just have a pair in them obviously nesting, while other chimneys are more like roosts but also may contain nesting pairs. In mid May the Swifts returned to Kincardine and our first few observations located at least 2 or 3 chimneys with many birds entering just around sunset. Maybe as many as 75 in one chimney. In a few weeks they were observed at many more sites. At least a dozen or more chimneys became active during the summer and now we have a good idea where these birds are located during the spring and summer months. It would appear that during the first couple of weeks after returning in the spring they seem to find a mate and split away from the main group.
We will now use this information as a base for next years monitoring. Hopefully, we can have more volunteers next year for this project. -- Ralph



Snowy Owl on the 2nd Conc. Huron in June.
- Jack and Linda Campbell

FOLLOWING IS A REPORT FROM JANICE MCKEAN:
-- Art & I attended the workshop on chimney swift monitoring at Bird Studies Canada, August 10th. About 25 people were there in all-- folks from other Naturalist clubs also doing monitoring (London, Peterborough, Schomburg, Stratford), some researchers from Queens and Trent U., and some wildlife biologists.
We are on the right track here in Kincardine. We will be able to set up a regular monitoring program for next year. We will need extra people to watch the chimneys where we think there are swifts. With some public education (in schools maybe) and other citizen volunteers, hopefully we can monitor a dozen chimneys or more. >>>>

SWIFTS, CONTINUED...
The swifts roost in one place and nest in other places and change places. But we know that from our own observations this summer.
-- Janice McKean



OUTING REPORTS



Tundras by the hundreds!

Photo: Jack Campbell

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**Website Administrator/
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Steve Pepper 395-5616

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

Swans at the Lambton Museum. Saturday March 21 2009

Members of HFFN enjoyed a day viewing Tundra Swans and several other migrating bird species at the Lambton marsh area. After exploring the marshes we visited the Lambton Museum for lunch. This museum has many artefacts from the area going back to the time of the early settlers and is well worth a visit on its own....

-- Jim Armstrong

April 4, 2009 – Hullet Wildlife Area Outing:

A very cold and windy day kept the number of birders down to just 6 for the field outing to Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area. Two birders from the K-W Field Naturalists and 4 from our club were toured around the property by Tom Lobb.

Water levels were high and the ice was gone from the ponds, so the water birds were spread out over a large area.

Besides the normal early migrants that most people see in the spring, we were fortunate to see the following waterfowl:

Northern Shoveler	Blue-winged Teal
Gadwall	Hooded Merganser
Northern Pintail	Mallard
Black Duck	Bufflehead
American Widgeon	Tundra Swan
Ring-necked Duck	Canada Geese
Pied-billed Grebe	Great Blue Heron

Other Spring Migrants included: Sandhill Cranes, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Turkey Vulture, American Kestrel, Song Sparrow, Eastern Phoebe and Killdeer.

-- Ralph Knowles

Newton Reserve Cleanup. April 8th 2009.

Three members of HFFN spent a day walking the trails of the Newton Reserve doing general cleanup of the trails. In some places the trail was widened through the cedar trees. Small deadfalls were removed from the path. There is always maintenance to be done, and it is a pleasure to walk the trails through a wide variety of flora and fauna, so next time, please join us!

-- Jim Armstrong

OUR 25th ANNIVERSARY !!

We cordially invite you to share your favourite (or amusing) memories of past Club outings for our Spring issue. Send them to the Editor at:

BEECHLEA@TNT21.com



Sunday, May 3, Goderich Spring Walkabout

Catherine Hogg and Joan Dougherty joined the Peppers for a convivial Spring walk along the Goderich boardwalk and pier. Regretfully, Helen Vanderglas, who had planned to join us, arrived earlier and somehow we missed each other!! Sorry about that, Helen.

It was a pleasure to get together with longtime HFFN friends and take in the breezy spring ambience. Perhaps we can walk on the Menesetung Bridge and along the trail next year? -- Ed.

May 16th, 2009 – Kincardine Lagoon Outing.

Seven souls braved the weather that morning and the rain stayed away to let us have good walk. Lack of sunshine didn't allow for bright colours and easy spotting, but we did see and identify 24 species. For the lagoon, it was pretty quiet. Many areas in the bush and along the rail bed did not yield any sightings, but other areas were fairly active. Quite a number of the sightings were regular local birds. Species of particular interest included: Wilson's Warbler, Yellow Rump Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Palm Warbler, American Redstart, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager and either a Snow Goose or Ross's Goose (we could not decide from the distance). Considering the forecast, we had a very successful outing. -- Glen Holmes

Bruce Peninsula – Tuesday, May 19

Twelve intrepid adventurers and one Border Collie set off from Kincardine in a convoy headed for Tobermory. We took the shoreline route to the Sauguen Nations Amphitheatre, where we enjoyed a scenic lunch. Turning off the main route just before Wiarton, we took a loop around panoramic Colpo's Bay Overlook, pausing for a browse around Big Bay Store – complete with the famous Ice Cream and a look at the Cliff Swallow colony under the eaves - then headed for Bruce's Caves, via the Oxenden Pottery, and Petrel Point Reserve, where we followed boardwalks through some interesting wetlands and piney woods. Just before reaching our destination, we turned back onto the highway, at which point a Black Bear was sighted in a roadside field near Johnston's Harbour Rd. east of Hwy 6.

We arrived in Tobermory just before suppertime, checked into our rooms and had a very convivial supper at the Lighthouse Restaurant. After breakfast next morning, we toured the new Parks Visitor Centre Museum, and climbed all the steps up to the top of the viewing tower! Several people took to the nearby trails, and enjoyed the easy walk to the beautiful view over Little Dunk's Bay. Some of the guys went on the rather rugged Bruce Trail, and came back so much the wiser! The afternoon was open, and everyone did their own thing.....later on, we bade goodbye to a few of our number who had to return home. There were still plenty of people to enjoy another supper, after which we said goodbye to a few more. Before leaving Tobermory, Catherine and Joan wanted to visit the nature preserve at Singing Sands, and were fortunate (?) enough to have a close encounter with a Massasauga Rattlesnake, which lay across the trail they were using. They were obliged to wait until the snake decided to leave the trail....a decision which I believe was helped by the fact that two ladies were stamping their feet nearby to make the snake move!

One of the more successful and well-attended Peninsula trips. We would like to thank everyone for coming, and to say that it may be possible to go again in May, 2010. Since the chosen week – immediately following the May 24th long weekend - worked so well, we will probably take the same week next time, so if you would like to join us, you may want to plan around that week. See you there! (Photo's next page...) -- Ed.

GOUD FARM - Saturday, May 30, 2009

Eight members met in Benmiller on a sunny Saturday morning before driving to the nearby Goud farm, which had recently been purchased by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. This 180 acre property features pine plantations, old meadow, cedar wetlands, hardwood forest, and an extensive area of river valley along the Maitland River. Our goal was to assist NCC in an inventory of the property. We recorded a nice variety of birds, plants, and butterflies as we walked the old laneway from the house to the river. Here, we met up with John Gerrath from NCC and his group of volunteers, and joined them for lunch. Afterward, we continued to record species as we walked a section of the Maitland Trail that runs through the property. We eventually circled back to the house for a wrap-up and discussion. It was a very successful and enjoyable day, and John invited us to come back again. -- Tom Lobb



Linden, Greta, Jeni, Joy, Joan, Catherine, Rhodora, Art & Don at the Colpoy's Bay bluff, May 19th. Photo: Steve Pepper



Taking in the scope of Bruce's Caves, Catherine, Linden, Rhodora, Steve and Art. Photo: Jeni Pepper



Joan and Catherine's new friend at Singing Sands! Photo - Catherine Hogg



Starving adventurers awaiting sustenance! (S.Pepper photo)

Canoe Outing to Arran Lake

On June 8th, six canoes and three kayaks were taken to Arran Lake, which is between the road from Burgoyne to Tara and Highway 21. We paddled the northern part of the lake, which includes a large marsh area as well as a navigable creek.

The weather was fine with very little wind to interfere with paddling. We put in at a conservation area and paddled the shore to the marsh and creek area where we saw most of the birds. We had lunch at an open grassy area that was almost bug free!

Returning after lunch, we paddled the far shore area, which includes a camping area, and then paddled across the lake to the conservation area.

Including sightings from a day trip to check out the area a week earlier Linden Thurber (who has the list) says we identified close to fifty different birds on the lake. Some of the ones I remember include: snowy egret, green heron, sandhill crane, kingfisher, eastern kingbird, great blue heron, marsh hawk, and a whole bunch of others.

There was a lot to see and it was an easy paddle, which made for an enjoyable outing. You should have been there! (Photo's Next Page.....) -- Art Doughty



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.





Canoers and Kayakers at Arran Lake
Photos: Jack Campbell



UPCOMING OUTINGS -
Put these on your
calendar:



Corn Roast. 2:30 PM Saturday September 12th 2009.

When: 2:30 pm.
Where: The Ark. (Art Wiebe and Janice McKean's)
Contact: Tom Lobb 519-482-3342 or Jim Armstrong 519-396-5856.



Details: Once again this ever popular outing will be at THE ARK with our hosts Art and Janice. We will have good food and fellowship with a tour of the Ark and maybe a hike followed by a potluck meal. Corn, hotdogs and cold drinks provided. Please bring a salad or dessert and eating utensils. Chairs would be a good idea. This event goes rain or shine!

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 approximately 8 kms. Just past Lorne Beach, the road curves to the east. Watch for "The Ark" sign on the left (Lake Side) about half way around the first curve.

Kincardine Trails - Saturday September 19th 2009

When: 1pm.
Where: Geddes Park parking lot
Contact: Jim Armstrong 519-396-5856
Details: We will explore some of the Kincardine Trails starting at the Geddes Park and the Peace Garden. Access to the parking lot is from the east side of Queen Street, Kincardine, at the north end of the Penetangore River bridge. Maps of the trail system are available at www.kincardinetrails.net (Public washrooms nearby)



Bayfield Trails - Thursday, October 1, 2009.

Contact: Tom Lobb 519-482-3342
Where: Meet at Clan Gregor Square in Bayfield at **1:30 pm.**
Details: We will be hiking the Woodland Trail. This is a fairly easy 4 km loop that starts and ends at Clan Gregor Square and follows the south side of the Bayfield River. Approximate time: 2 hours. We should see some migrating birds, maybe some leaves starting to colour, and no bugs!
Note: Those from the north may wish to carpool at Pine River Church (12:30).

Point Clark Birding and Barbecue, 9 a.m., Saturday, October 17th, 2009

Where: Point Clark Lighthouse – dress warmly!
Contact: Jack Campbell 519-395-5144 for details.
Details: Meet at the lighthouse, rain or shine; head back to the President's house (745 Victoria Road, Point Clark) for a pot luck BBQ (hamburgers supplied by Linda and Jack). If you do not have the time or desire to do the birding, just join us for lunch! Bring your appetites!

Directions: Highway #21 to West on Concession #2; Instead of taking the curve go straight through to the lake. Turn left at the bridge. Go 2 1/2 blocks to 745 Victoria Rd.)



~ ~ ~ **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!



Mark your calendar!



SEPTEMBER 22, 2009: Turkey Tales.

Andy McKee of the Ministry of Natural Resources is coming to tell us about the reintroduction of wild turkeys in our neck of the woods.

October 27th, 2009: The Great Journey of David Thompson.



Canoeist Eric Williams, a past employee of Douglas Point, will present a video and talk about his 63-day canoe trip last summer, from May 10th to July 12th, when he and about 300 other paddlers retraced the fabled four-province route taken by Englishman David Thompson when he mapped the canoe routes from the Rockies to Ontario. Coming to Canada in May, 1784, at the age of 14, as an apprentice to the Hudson's Bay Company, Thompson eventually opened up a vast 3.9 million square kilometers of land, much of which is now National Parkland. Parks Canada has an excellent web page on this subject. The original map is at Fort William, where Thompson ended his long journey.

November 24th, 2009 (Our Christmas Meeting....) ????

This is in the works, and will be announced at a later date.



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

NABA Butterfly Count.

On Saturday July 4th, 2009, MacGregor Point Provincial Park hosted its 11th annual NABA Butterfly Count. Sixteen enthusiastic counters came out for the day with morning weather that seemed unpromising for record numbers. In total 35 different species of butterfly were observed and 6429 (5601 of which were European Skippers) individual butterflies were counted.. A congratulations goes out to all who participated in the count, as well as a special thank-you for your time and interest. We look forward to seeing you all again next year. Thanks Again! Count Organizers, Sarah, Natalie and Kyle

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MARION	MOSOLF
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HEINZ & WENDY	HOERNIG



To verify your HFFN membership expiry date, check your mailing label. You will see beside your name either an '09' or '10' which denotes when you are paid up until, i.e. Sept. 2009, Sept. 2010.

The membership year runs from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31.

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.



NABA Butterfly Count.

Butterfly	Team A	Team B	Team C	Team D	Team E	Team F	Team G	Total
European Skipper	33	458	28	80	2800	890	1312	5601
Cabbage White	4		5	71	11	30	21	142
Northern Crescent	31	23	23	2	9	10	7	105
Clouded Sulphur			1				1	2
Great Spangled Fritillary	1	1			6	1	1	10
Monarch	1	11	6	1	9	3	19	50
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	2	7	17	3		1		30
Red Admiral	1		1	3				5
Common Wood Nymph		2	1				5	8
Eyed Brown		1	1			6	4	12
Meadow Fritillary					3			3
Least Skipper		3	9			10	1	23
Summer Azure	1	1	1	1				4
Little Wood Satyr	47	54	13	3	1			118
White Admiral	5	4		5	5	4	3	26
Northern Pearly Eye							1	1
Aphrodite Fritillary		8						8
Mourning Cloak	2	2	5	1	3	4	2	19
Viceroy	2		1	2	3		1	9
Baltimore Checkerspot	2							2
Long Dash Skipper	5	15				1		21
Coral Hairstreak				1				1
Eastern Comma	1				1			2
Black Swallowtail							2	2
Common Ringlet	10	1	1				8	20
Pearl Crescent			1				12	13
Hobomok	6	61		2				69
Red-Spotted Purple	1	1			1	3	1	7
Peck's Skipper			1					1
Tawny Edged Skipper		68						68
Bronze Copper							2	2
Milbert's Tortoiseshell		1		21				22
Appalachian Brown						21		21
Two Spotted Skipper	1							1
Dreamy Duskywing	1							1
Total Numbers:	157	722	115	196	2852	984	1403	6429
Total Species:	21	19	17	14	12	13	18	35
Types of Larvae Seen:								
Monarch		6		11				17
American Lady	3							3
Types of Eggs Found:								
Monarch								4



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