



THE HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS' FRINGE NOTES

**SPRING/
SUMMER
2012**

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MEETINGS &
POTLUCKS**

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Our 27th year



IN THIS ISSUE:

NEW MEMBERS.....	2
CONTACT NUMBERS.....	2
PAST OUTING REPORTS.....	2
MEMBER'S PAGE	3 - 5
MEMBERSHIP INFO.....	4
SIGHTINGS.....	4
SPRING OUTINGS.....	6 - 7
MEETING REPORTS.....	8
REGULAR MEETINGS.....	9
'FOR YOUR NOTES'.....	10

LIKE TO JOIN US?

HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS MEETS THE 4TH TUESDAY OF FEB., MAR., APR., MAY & JUNE, AND SEPT., OCT., & NOV., 7:30 PM AT PINE RIVER UNITED CHURCH, HWY 21**. MEMBERSHIP IS NOMINAL—SINGLE OR FAMILY. (EXECUTIVE CONTACT NUMBERS & MORE INFO INSIDE.)

**except April, Annual Dinner in Lucknow, see this issue.

President's Greetings

From outgoing President Catherine Hogg : I am looking out of my dining room window, and I know it's spring. The Redwing Blackbird with its high-pitched call is proclaiming its territory, the Robins are flying tandem up in the air and crashing back to earth, Charley our resident Cardinal is pecking at her image in our windows. In our farm pond we have a solitary Wood Duck waiting patiently for his mate, a pair of Hooded Mergansers resting from their journey to their northern nesting cavity, 2 male Mallards fighting over the one female, and a pair of nesting Canada Geese. Spring is glorious.

I have been a member of H.F.F.N for over 20 years, and it's been an extraordinary learning experience. Field trip leaders past and present have willingly shared their knowledge. I have enjoyed the speakers and gone home after the meeting and repeated the talk verbatim, much to my sleepy husband's chagrin. I know most of the members enjoy our club as much as I do.

This year, JACK CAMPBELL and PAT and JIM ARMSTRONG are stepping down from the Executive. All three members have contributed greatly to our club, and I thank them very much. We have two incoming members, JEAN KENNEDY and LINDA SOMERVILLE. JACKIE CLEMENTS will move to Secretary, and BARB MCNAUGHTON and LINDA CAMPBELL will be our new Social Conveners. Our sincere thanks to you all! We now only need a Vice President. Please volunteer if you can.....it only takes a few hours over the year to help organize the programs.

Thank you! ~ Catherine

MEMBERSHIPS:

Thanks to all who have paid their Membership Fees for this 2011-2012 season . However there are a few members who have not yet paid and hence are past due. It would be a great help if these members would submit their payment. If unsure about your membership payment status, please check with Kirk McNaughton at 519 -395-5711 or email at kirkmcnaughton@hurontel.on.ca

Annual rates 2011-2012 are \$20.00 Single and \$25 Family. Renewals for 2012-2013 (September 2012 to September 2013) will be due effective with the September meeting; advance payments are helpful and always welcome! Note that 2012-2013 Fees remain unchanged at \$20 for singles, but are increasing to a more realistic \$35 for families; this to help cover the ever-increasing costs of getting the great speakers we have been having for our meetings! Please pay Kirk McNaughton or Steve Pepper at a meeting, or mail a cheque payable to: Huron Fringe Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 143, Kincardine, Ontario N2Z 2Y6. Also please let us know if there has been any change to your status or contact information ... address, phone number, e-mail address so we can ensure that our records are up-to-date..... Thanks, folks!

REGULAR MEETINGS—PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR! (Full details inside.)

- April 24** - Annual General Meeting: Dinner at the Anglican Church , Lucknow. Brent Patterson on Wolves, Coyotes and their Hybrids.
- May 22** - Members Art Weibe and Janice McKean will do a plant presentation.
- June 26** - We hope to have someone from the Guelph Arboretum to speak to us.

PLEASE NOTE:

IF YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE NOTIFY THE EXECUTIVE. OUR CONTACT DETAILS ARE BELOW.

H.F.F.N. EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONTACT NUMBERS:

President:

Catherine Hogg 529-7748.

Past President:

J. Campbell 395-5144.

Vice-President:

Marion Fink 395-395-3701.
(VACANCY)

Secretary:

Pat Armstrong 396-5856.

Treasurer

Rhodora Doughty 396-4368.

Memberships:

Kirk McNaughton 395-5711.

Speakers & Outings:

Tom Lobb 482-3342.

Joy Munn 395-3570.

Jim Armstrong 396-5856.

Newsletter Editor:

Jeni Pepper 395-5616.

Member-at-Large:

Jackie Clements, 396-3655.

Social Convenors:

Pat Armstrong, Elaine Holmes
Ontario Nature (FON) Rep:

Tom Lobb 482-3342.

Website Administrator/

Email reminders:

Steve Pepper 395-5616.

Advertising:

Elaine Holmes 396-7107.

OUR HFFN EXECUTIVE:

We very much appreciate our helpers. However, we need incoming people from time to time. Executive positions run for two years, with 2-3 meetings a year. Time required is minimal in most cases. If you'd like to help, contact anyone listed above. The work is easy and fairly straightforward.

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936, Macdonald Ave, Kincardine
N2Z 1A1 (519) 396-2769

NEW MEMBERS....

WELCOME to:

Roger Clayton of Tiverton,

Murray & Gayle Jamieson, Kincardine,

Joan Van Den Broeck of Goderich

**DON'T FORGET -
APRIL MEETING IS OUR
BEEF DINNER,
ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH HALL,
LUCKNOW.**

See announcement for details

OUTING REPORTS

Eagle Watch, February 18th:



After an almost snowless winter, the gods conspired to snow upon our Eagle Watch, with the result that it was cancelled at almost the last minute due to deteriorating weather conditions. But six brave souls met in the Zehr's parking lot; ultimately decided we wouldn't see any eagles as we couldn't see across the parking lot because of the blowing snow. The Thurbers, the Doughtys, the Holmes' and the Armstrongs decided to forego the outing due to the winds and blowing snow and go to the Armstrong's for coffee, goodies and conversation. A good time was had by all.

~ R. Doughty - J. Armstrong

Swans at the Lambton Museum, March:

The reports on the Swan's migration were not promising, but it was decided that Saturday March 17th would be our best bet. Well, we certainly won on the weather, but not on the Swans. Five members enjoyed summer-like sun and warmth as we stood in our shirt sleeves to view about 20-30 swans at great distance. The fields in Thedford Bog were dry, except for a small pond on the far side. Not good viewing. Not even many ducks. The trees and shrubs were full of Song Sparrows and the Redwings were making themselves heard. We ate our lunch at a picnic table outside the Lambton Museum. Then we toured the museum, which has a wonderful art display on at this time of year. A visit to this museum is always worth the trip.



- J. Armstrong

Hullett Wildlife Area, March 31st: (See photo's, further inside issue)



Eleven people met at the main viewing stand at Hullett Wildlife Area for a day of birding. Since stands are a fair distance from the ponds, scopes are a big help in identifying sightings. Linden Thurber and Jack Campbell set theirs up for us, so that with the scopes, Linden's bird knowledge and Jean Kennedy's keen eyesight, we didn't miss too much. At the second viewing stand, a dead raccoon was hanging from a branch in a tree top --had he been shot or did he die from a virus prevalent this year in the raccoon population? - just speculating. On our tour around the perimeter of the Wildlife Area

and up three roads to the inner ponds, Catherine Hogg compiled the following list of sightings:- Canada Geese, Buffleheads, Mallards, Ruddy Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Ring-necked Ducks, Pintail Ducks (a large flock that decided to leave by the time two sets of car doors were closed), Widgeons, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Goldeneye, Lesser Scaup, Redhead Ducks, Red-winged Blackbird, Grackles, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Cardinal, Wild Turkey, Turkey Vultures, Phoebe, Mourning Dove, Franklin's Gull, Chickadee, Egrets, Flicker, Crows, Herring Gull, Killdeer, Great Blue Heron, Tree Swallow, Kingfishers, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Harrier and Merlin. Comments heard frequently were--- how dry the roads and trails were and how low the water level was. Tom Lobb set this outing up for us, but couldn't attend. Another great outing.

- J. Dougherty

Members' Page*

* *Guests Welcome!*

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

PHOTO CONTEST:

The 2nd annual HFFN Photo Contest was a great success! Thank you to all who submitted their beautiful photographs of places near and far. This year saw a total of 26 entries ranging from scenic mountain views to meandering paths through favorite places. This total included 14 - 4x6's and 12 5x7's. **First place** 4x6 went to Marion Fink (Beaver Valley), **second place** to Glen Holmes (Peggy's Cove). **First place** 5x7 went to Marg MacDonald ('Linden's Find' -owl in the tree), **second place** to Jim Armstrong (Shannon Falls). Thank you also goes out to **Jim Snyder of Snyder Studios, Wingham** for providing an interesting assortment of photography magazines & lens cleaning cloths. Certainly look forward to seeing more of those great shots folks!!!

Submitted by D. Murray

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



Our 2012 Photo Contest Winning shots...



FIRST PLACE 4 x 6, Marion Fink,
The Beaver Valley
(Look for this picture in your next issue!)



SECOND PLACE 4 x 6, Glen Holmes,
Peggy's Cove



5 x 7 Winning prints, next page....

Keep those cameras busy and get some good shots for next year's contest!

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TELL US WHERE TO GO!

Know of any good places to enjoy nature? Please bring them to the attention of your HFFN Executive. You don't have to lead an outing unless you'd like to. We will arrange outings to these new places so that every-one can enjoy them. Call Jim at 396-5856 or Tom at 482-3342. Or talk to any of the Executive at any meeting and we'll do the rest!



Members' Page....cont.





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These great pictures were submitted by Jack Campbell after the recent Hullet outing. Seems he risked some goosey warnings to get these close-ups!



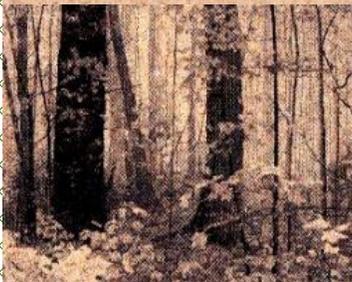
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Perennial Nuisances are back for April

Look around your property. If you see some round clumps of soft, green, heart-shaped leaves fluttering in the Spring breezes, plants five or six inches wide and about the same height, pull one up. If you smell a peppery, garlicky smell, it's Garlic Mustard.....that ubiquitous, tall, white-flowered 'pot herb' brought here by European pioneers. It is taking over our countryside and drowning out wildflowers. These plants need to be pulled or dug up, being sure to get *all* of the root, and placed into a black garbage bag for a few months.....cutting, burning off, spraying, or throwing anywhere else will result in their re-growing and spreading elsewhere!! They are almost indestructible. Broken roots will regrow; even plants thrown into the middle of a hot road will try to grow for weeks before giving up.....be mean - put them into a garbage bag and keep them till they're dead! Don't throw them in your garbage.....they'll grow in the dump, and spread! Don't believe it? Check it out online!



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SPRING AND SUMMER OUTINGS UPCOMING

For our new members:

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 treaded hiking shoes or boots along....just in case!

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



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Spring welcome walk, Point Clark, Thursday, May 3rd:

MEET: 1 pm at the lighthouse. For directions, call Steve, 395-5616. Easy walk.

Let's have a wander down Point Clark's Victoria Road (really a woody lane) and back up the beach.

The trees over the lane should give us some woodland birds, and the shoreline beckons with thoughts of those birds which prefer the sand and waves. Clark Creek bridge is sometimes a good vantage point for those that frequent the river and river banks, and there'll likely be some newly-sprouted greenery to guess at.

There is a small restaurant nearby for washrooms and cuppas after our walk!



Kincardine Lagoon, Saturday, May 19th **PLEASE NOTE:** Coincides with the Birdathon (below), **HOWEVER, if seasonal birds arrive early, this outing could be changed to May 12th. Please plan accordingly.**

Contact : Jim Armstrong 519 396-5856

When: Meet at the Kincardine soccer field parking lot on Bruce Ave. at 10 am.

Details: This walk to the lagoons and along the old railway trail to see the spring return of many bird species is always popular. It is an easy and casual walk. You may want to bring some bird seed, as the birds are always willing for a close encounter when there is food available. There are no washrooms along the trail. Bring your bird guide and binoculars, and watch for frogs and turtles.



BIRD STUDIES CANADA'S (BSC) BAILLIE BIRDATHON.

The Birdathon is an annual event to count as many birds as possible within a given time. The migratory birds will be going through. *You don't have to be a bird expert to participate!* All participants are eligible for great prizes, including a trip, spotting scopes, binoculars, etc. (Register before May 1st to get in on the early bird draw.)

Some of our members will be participating in the Bird Count at the Lagoon and will be looking for sponsors.

President Catherine Hogg will have pledge sheets and information at the Annual General Meeting. The proceeds go to research and conservation. 25% of money collected will be returned to the H.F.F.N. This is a fun way to spend a day birdwatching! For more information, check out the B.S.C. web page: <http://WWW.birdscanada.org>

Have a great day out in nature - help Bird Studies Canada and your nature club!

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Spring outings continued.....

The 2012 Annual Bruce Peninsula Explorer

- "Is it on?"



This trip, which has been quite popular with some of our members, has always been taken during the week after the May 24th holiday, starting on the Wednesday after the May HFFN meeting on the preceding day. The area is quiet after the holiday weekend, which is the reason we choose weekdays,

This year the dates are: Wednesday, May 23, (day's exploration and travel up the Bruce Peninsula and stop-over in the village of Tobermory); Thursday, May 24th (exploring areas around the village, group BBQ and stop-over); and the morning and/or afternoon of Friday, May 25th, after checking out of our lodgings in the morning - (chance to see places you haven't gotten to before you go home!)

Meet: 10 am, Kincardine Sobey's, Highway 21 (directly south of Durham Street turnoff) We form a convoy for the trip up the 'Bruce' - carpooling is usually a good idea.

Please indicate your interest by leaving your name, street address, email number, phone number and cell number on the sheet provided at the April meeting, or contact any of the Executive (see Page 2). We will then be able to contact you before (and during) the trip with regard to travel and lodging information. Signing the sheet does not commit you, and you can confirm or cancel as needed before the actual date. Please sign if you think you might like to go along and are able, so that we know who to send information to.

Canoe at Arran Lake. Wednesday, June 6th

Contact - Art Doughty 519 396-4368

When. Meet at the Kincardine Zehr's parking lot at 9am.

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.



NABA Butterfly Count - Saturday, July 14th (Individual participation)

Place: McGregor Point Provincial Park, nr. Port Elgin.

RAIN DATE: July 15th

Contact: HFFN - Tom Lobb, 482-3342

At the Park: Tom Church, (Friends Of McGregor Point Park) fompp@bmts.com



Come out and see how many butterflies you can spot.....you don't have to be an expert, as you can be teamed with one! Just be sure to make contact before the day - the times and dates may be subject to change.



Note - Corn Roast:



The Corn Roast is scheduled for Saturday, September 8th at Falls Reserve Conservation Area for an afternoon and early evening

event. Remember to mark your calendar! Check your next issue for details.





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Past Meeting Reports

Tuesday, February 28th: Annual HFFN Potluck, Photo Contest and Book Sale.

An understandably well-attended meeting. We got underway at 12:30, with plenty of conversation going on between friends, some of whom had not met since the November meeting. This is proving to be a popular event - very warming in the colder weather!



Tuesday, March 27th : Marie Wilson, 'The Deep Geologic Repository at Bruce Power.'



The speaker's subject was O.P.G.'s assessment for the Deep Geological Repository for low & intermediate level waste. 73% of people polled agreed to an assessment. It would be built at Bruce to service both Darlington and the Bruce.

Marie Wilson gave a really good talk and answered a lot of our questions. Many of the concerns pertained to our children's future. Marie also gave out a folder with her presentation, which includes video, so these can be shared with those who were unable to attend. Low and intermediate level waste from Pickering and Darlington, as well as that generated at the Bruce site for 20 years, has been stored. The waste consists of items such as dusters, mops and used clothing, all incinerated and the ash put into steel lined concrete containers which are stored temporarily above-ground in a reinforced concrete building. This will be stored in the Deep Geological Repository when it is ready.

**IN OUR
NEXT ISSUE!**



YOU may have noticed a change in the timing of your delivery of *Fringe Notes*. This change reflects the fact that there is no longer a January meeting. Instead, the Winter/Spring issue will cover events (such as winter walks and the February potluck and photo contest) from where the Fall/Winter issue leaves off, up until the point where early Spring events such as the homecoming of the Swans in Lambton, the Hullett Wildlife Area visit and Newton Reserve Spring Cleanup have been scheduled, and this issue should be available for the February meeting.

In the Spring/Summer issue, look for scheduling for Spring walks, such as the Kincardine Lagoon exploration, Spring Welcome Walk, and any other upcoming warmer weather outings, including, we hope, canoeing, and something about a Bruce Peninsula over-nighter, which is always scheduled during the week after the May 24th weekend. Issues will be out as soon as events information is available, with any other information posted on email. We will notify any unforeseen changes ASAP.



Icy Woollies!



A recent nature programme (seen while the Editor was on vacation) had the following information:

The well-known Banded Woolly Bear Caterpillar, which is the early form of the Isabella Tiger Moth, in the Arctic regions emerges from its egg in the fall, but does not have time to eat enough to enable it to pupate (build its cocoon) before winter arrives. So it eats as much as it can until the weather becomes too cold, and then crawls under a rock. There it waits.....freezing along with its surroundings, its heart stopping, for all intents and purposes dead, until the Arctic Spring rolls around to reanimate it so that it can continue eating. This process can go on for up to fourteen years before the Woolly Bear finally has eaten enough and can build its cocoon. Once it emerges as a moth, it has only days to find a mate before it dies. There is no truth to the tale that the thickness of the caterpillar's brown band indicates a long or short winter!



~ ~ ~ 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!

APRIL 24TH, 2012: Annual General Meeting & Dinner:

St. Peter's Anglican Church Hall, Lucknow, 7 PM

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

The speaker will be Brent Patterson from Trent University. Brent has conducted studies on 'Wolves and Coyotes and their Hybrid species'. Coyotes have been making their presence known recently, so it will be good to find out more about them. *Bring a small, inexpensive nature-oriented gift for the raffle table - one item per person/s planning to attend.*

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.



MAY 22, 2012:

We will welcome Art Wiebe and Janice McKean, who will do an hour-long presentation on 'Native Plants in this Area'. (They will have plants with them, as it is a good time of year for this.)

JUNE 26TH, 2012:

TBA: (We hope to be able to hear from someone at the Guelph Arboretum.)

The Ark Native Plants

Art Wiebe & Janice McKean
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RR#2, Tiverton, ON N0G 2T0
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theark@bmts.com

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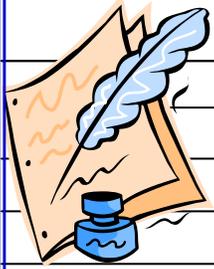
BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR A MEETING, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT IT IS NOT CANCELLED! WE WILL EMAIL UP TO THE LAST MINUTE....IF NOT ONLINE, PLEASE CALL ANY MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE. THERE MAY BE NOBODY AT THE CHURCH.

PICTURES FROM OUR PAST....

SKINNER'S BLUFF LUNCH STOP, OCT. 4, 1995.
KEITH DAVIDSON HOSTED; 23 MEMBERS WENT.



HOT DOGS ON STICKS, GUNBY
PROPERTY, FALL 1989



For Your Notes.....

A large rectangular area with a blue border, containing horizontal lines for writing notes. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page.