



THE HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS' FRINGE NOTES

SPRING into SUMMER
2016...
WALKS, MEETINGS
+
POTLUCKS
~~~~~  
FREE  
FROM OUR  
SPONSORS  
THREE TIMES A  
YEAR

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT, GINA DALKIN-DAVIS ~



' First a howling blizzard woke us,  
Then the rain came down to soak us,  
And now before the eye can focus –  
Crocus.'

.... Lijia Rogers.



### Inside this Issue:

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**This has been** a very unsettling winter ... milder than normal, chilly as opposed to the frozen Canadian weather we normally enjoy. Unsettling, too, when considering the overwintering of birds and animals. The appearance of birds unknown to this area has been an unexpected treat for birders.

An enthusiastic group of birders gathered for tasty snacks and hot drinks before hiking into the woods in celebration of our annual **March Owl Prowl** this year held at Golden Orchard Sea Buckhorn Farm. Owners Marlene Wynnyk and Roger Shankland were gracious hosts inviting us to curl up before the fire before heading out into the night. Despite the romantic atmosphere presented by a full moon on a crisp night, the Owls remained unmoved by our efforts to seduce them into the open. Although it is rumoured that the call of the Great Horned Owl was heard in the distance. Ahh, well... perhaps next year.

Both **spring outings in April** were blessed with clear, sunny days. Members of the work crew tackled cleanup of the trails at the G.G. Newton Reserve. The Hullett Spring Walk celebrating National Wildlife Week met with great success on a sunny but windy day.

(PLEASE TURN THE PAGE..... )



'NO THANK YOU!  
NOT EVEN A SAW-WHET OWL  
DEIGNED TO GRACE US WITH HIS PRESENCE AT OUR OWL PROWL IN MARCH!

PHOTO: KIRK MCNAUGHTON

### SPRING-SUMMER EVENTS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- MEETINGS:** Full details inside.
- MAY 24th:** Members' meeting...show and tell - see pp. 11
  - JUNE 28TH:** An Introduction to 'Backyard' Astrophotography. Jim Roberts.
  - SEPT. 27th:** John Van den Broeck - details inside!



**OUTINGS:** Outings will be announced via email or newsletter

- May:** Spring Welcome Walk, TBA; Bruce Peninsula Explorer, May 24th - 27th
- June:** 4th - Spring Walk; 11th: Riverbend Hike; 7th: Canoe/Kayak with Art
- JULY - AUGUST - SEE INSIDE....**

TITLE PHOTO : DAFFODIL GLORY AT BIG BAY GENERAL STORE, MAY 2015, PEPPER

**LIKE TO JOIN US?**

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

\*\*except April, Annual Dinner at another venue.



**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:**

**Gina D. Davis 519-440-0403**

**Past President:**

**Marion Fink 395-3701**

**Vice-President:**

**Margaret Visser 395-3173**

**Secretary:**

**Jackie Clements 396-3655**

**Treasurer:**

**Rhodora Doughty 396-4368**

**Memberships:**

**Barb Simpson 396-5486**

**Outings:**

**Tom Lobb 482-3342**

**Bob Simpson 396-5486**

**Speakers:**

**Margaret Visser 395-3173**

**Newsletter Editor:**

**Jeni Pepper 395-5616**

**Member-at-Large:**

**Jack Campbell 226-396-5144**

**Social Convenors:**

**Linda Campbell 226-396-5144**

**Christine Roberts 395-5008**

**Ontario Nature (FON) Rep:**

**Tom Lobb 482-3342**

**Website Administrator/****Communications:(volunteer):**

**Steve Pepper 395-5616**

**Advertising:**

**Elaine Holmes 396-7107**

*>> Our Club Executive is always ready to welcome new members with fresh thoughts and ideas! We meet three times a year over lunch, and new Executive members are given any help they may need for whatever assistance they may wish to give. <<*

***FRINGE NOTES***

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**President's Comments, Cont.:**

**With respect to membership**, we welcomed six new members bringing our total complement to 90 the majority of whom very actively support the HFFN's activities. New members welcome!



We held our **Annual meeting** once again at the Lucknow United Church. Can't say enough good things about the Church Ladies who provided a really swell beef dinner. After a superb repast, Wildlife photographer Sue Southon entertained us with tales of her adventures on St. Paul, one of the Pribilof islands just off the Alaska coast.

At our recent Annual meeting, I quoted a saying attributed to the Chinese philosopher Confucius: "The man who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones." Well, in the wider world of environmental concerns, our Chapter, the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists, may be looked upon as the man who carries away small stones. Each action individually or collectively eventually moves the mountain. In other words, our actions count; whether cleaning up the Newton Reserve as we did recently, fighting to preserve wetlands in our region, booking interesting speakers for our regular monthly meetings, arranging coffee and goodies and pot lucks, these actions serve to remind us of the importance of preserving our environment for our children, grandchildren and future generations.


Such proud ambitions rely upon dedication. In this respect, I want to acknowledge the effort of our Executive Team and Members-at-Large. Thanks to everyone's efforts we are able to enjoy the pleasures of good company and common interest while in our own small way making a positive difference to our environment and ultimately the world around us.

~ *Gina*

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!**

**HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS EXTEND A HEARTY  
WELCOME TO THOSE WHO ARE JOINING US. WE HOPE THAT YOU  
WILL ENJOY OUR PRESENTATIONS AND REAP THE  
BENEFITS OF ALL OR ANY OF THE WALKS OR HIKES YOU FANCY  
COMING ALONG ON! PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN  
TO US SO THAT WE CAN DRAW YOU INTO OUR  
MIDST AND GET TO KNOW YOU!**

*'There are always flowers for those who want to see them.'* ~ *Henry Matisse*



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## PAST MEETINGS

### February 23rd: Annual Photo Contest and Potluck

Another cheerful and well-attended event. Everyone was happy to meet and greet after the Christmas break, and a happy hubbub dominated the room. Our photography cup 'ranneth over' with no less than 14 five-by-seven entries and the same number of four-by-six views. The contest was ably run by Christine Roberts.



Thank you, Christine!

### **RESULTS:**

#### 4" x 6" ENTRY WINNERS:

Onno Visser, *HIGH FALLS, MANITOULIN*

Bob Taylor, *WATER MAGIC*

#### 5" X 7" ENTRY WINNERS:

Glen Holmes, *TROUT RIVER POND*

Bob Taylor, *ICE MONSTER*

The expertise of our HFFN photographers is evidenced by the fact that there were a couple of ties....all of the entries were beautiful, and firm choices were obviously very difficult to make.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS AND TO ALL OF YOU WHO HELPED MAKE THIS YEAR'S EVENT A SUCCESS!**

### *Our 2016 Winning Entries*

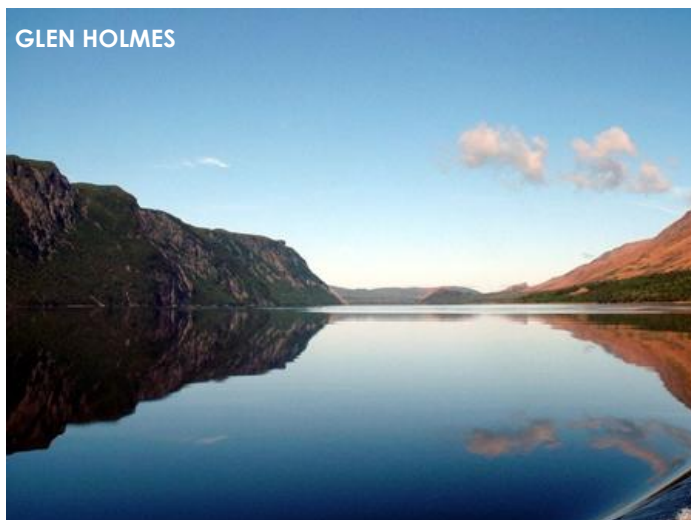


ONNO VISSER

4  
X  
6



BOB TAYLOR



GLEN HOLMES

5  
X  
7



BOB TAYLOR

## PAST MEETINGS

**March 22:**



THE GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH.  
(Microsoft Clipart)

**Speaker Katrina McQuail spoke to us about the plastics in the ocean gyres.**

Katrina very kindly filled in for us after our scheduled speaker could not attend. Her presentation was extremely interesting, emphasizing the absolute importance behind the **eXXpedition Amazon** she was fortunate to be part of in 2015 (see her comments below...) This presentation has definitely raised our awareness as naturalists concerned with the Earth's environmental dangers...as well as raising our eyebrows with the facts of the amount and extent of the virtual islands of plastics, from microscopic to massive, which has been gathered by currents and is now circling in our oceans and endangering multiple food chains...including our own.

**FROM HER WEBSITE:** Born and raised in Southwestern Ontario, I'm excited to be representing my part of Ontario, Canada on the **eXXpedition** research crew that includes female researchers from all over the world.

I was selected as one of 14 women, from around the world, to be a crew member for eXXpedition Amazon aboard the S/V Sea Dragon to sail from Recife, Brazil to Georgetown, Guyana this December 2015. We will be doing research on plastics in the ocean. Our goal is to bring awareness of the issue of plastics in our environment and our bodies. We hope to ignite public support on this issue, to inspire others to take action, and to promote women in science.

I feel led to participate in this research and awareness trip for a number of different reasons. As a woman who works with youth, I feel a strong need to model being a woman in science and sailing. As a person with family and friends who have been affected by cancer, I hope to educate myself and raise awareness about exposure to plastics and avoidable toxins in our environment. Through this work I hope to honour those who have passed due to cancer and to celebrate and support those who are survivors. As part of this, each member of eXXpedition (not just Amazon) has given blood to be tested using the UNEP Safe Planet Protocols for: **14 fluorinated compounds, 14 PCBs, 5 pesticides, 2 PBDEs and 1 dioxin.**

This will build a better understanding of exposure around the world.

....So, if you do nothing else....remember that some of the worst offenders are Styrofoam, *billions* of plastic water bottles, pop can holders, and cleaning or beauty products with 'beads'. These do not break down and are finding their way into all kinds of places (and stomachs) that they are not supposed to. **REDUCE, RE-USE, RECYCLE!** Bring water from home, in your own bottle. Cut up your pop can holders before you discard them. Think about where your plastics will go before you throw them 'away'.

You may like to look up Ocean Gyres on the Internet. *National Geographic* also has a map on their site.

**HFFN extends sincere thanks to Ms. Mcquail for an extremely interesting and informative presentation. ~ Ed.**

**KATRINA HAS RECENTLY BROUGHT OUR ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING:**

**There is going to be an eXXpedition Great Lakes on August 20th, organized by Jen Pate of Bayfield - <http://exxpedition.com/greatlakes2016/>. Take a look!**

**April 26<sup>th</sup>: Annual Dinner Meeting:**

After our belt-busting beef dinner served by the ladies of the Lucknow United Church, we settled down to an equally great presentation.

Sue Southon is from London Ontario and has travelled to many parts of the world including the Arctic and Antarctic photographing the scenery and wildlife. She has given presentations to Nature London and to the Woodstock Field Naturalists in the past year. Sue shared info and photos from her 2015 visit to St. Paul, one of the Bering Sea Pribilof Islands. The islands are part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Sue had photos of the birds such as puffins and auklets, sea mammals and great scenery. Her engaging conversational manner, personal travel experiences, and superb photographs kept us enthralled and took us along on her memories. A wonderful presentation followed by our Door Raffle before we wended our ways home, replete. ~ Ed.



**PAST OUTINGS:****OWL PROWL, SNACK POTLUCK, March 18th:**

The dearth of owls during this event, hosted by member Marlene Wynnyk at the Golden Orchard Sea Buckthorn Farm, did nothing to dispel the warm welcome received by some fifteen to twenty eager owlers on a very chilly evening. A cheery fire warmed us all as we enjoyed a convivial get-together. An overflowing tableful of sandwiches, munchies and desserts was well-attended before finally we toggled up, flashlights at the ready, for a short very dark trek into a pine grove. Alarmed flutterings ensued from roosting occupants as we made our way in, and then silence reigned, except for a few cautious whispers. Cold wind got down our necks and nipped our ears as we listened, in vain. One owl hoot in reply to Tom's owl tape was apparently all we were to have. A couple of ladies wanted back into the warm, and most thought it was a great idea! After a couple of wrong

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turns amongst the silent trees, a gallant gentleman with a good light appeared to show us our way. However a few people mentioned how amazing it was to stand in the woods at night and with all the stars out in their glory. Cold, but still a super outing!



~ Ed.

**Hullett Wildlife Area Birding, April 14th:**

About 11 people met Tom at Hullett Wildlife Area on a sunny but windy and cool day to view the many species of waterfowl in the area.

We met at the main parking lot on Summerhill Road and viewed some waterfowl from a viewing stand but as the birds were quite a way off and we were facing the wind it was difficult to discern types. We then carpooled and backtracked to the Pintail Pool

for viewing before heading off to Kinburn to view a Heronry to the north. While the heron nests were easy to pick out of the trees we didn't see any herons at this time.

We then continued on to the HWA office and stopped for a break and picnic lunch after which the group continued on to Front Road along the southern boundary of the HWA.

During the tour some of the waterfowl sighted were Pintail, Shoveler, Mallard, American Widgeon, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Red-head, Ring-neck, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser. Also seen: Red tailed Hawks, Turkey Vultures. A Bald Eagle could be seen sitting on its nest way in the distance,

but we were unable to get closer as the road was blocked off to prevent disturbance. In a small wooded pond, we crossed a floating boardwalk out to a duck blind and saw 3 Canada Geese nesting on large mossy mounds at the base of Silver Maple trees. Trumpeter Swans had been seen at the marsh that week and may stay for the summer.

As the day progressed and the sun stayed out, the temperature warmed up nicely as we finally seemed to be getting some Spring-like weather after a long winter. Thanks to Tom for leading this Outing and to everyone who came out to participate. ~ Steve





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PAST OUTINGS....

**G.G. Newton Reserve Cleanup Outing on April 20th, 2016**

Five members met up with Tom at 10:00 on a sunny mild day for our Annual Cleanup outing at the Newton Reserve. The weather was a lot more cooperative this year than it had been in the previous few years.

For about an hour and a half we cleared brush and cut up and removed some trees that had fallen during the winter and were blocking the trail paths.

Finishing about 11:30 the group stopped for a lunch break and during that time a member of the local model airplane flying club dropped by to do some flying. After a chat over lunch we watched him demonstrate some manoeuvres with his plane before we headed back to work



It only took us about another half hour to clean up the roadside of any garbage that had been left since the last cleanup. There was the usual mix of bottles, glass and plastic and paper cups etc. The highlight find was an old waffle maker that had seen better days. We finished up and headed for home about 2:00 leaving the Reserve looking a lot better than when we started. Thanks to the members who attended the cleanup this year. ~ Steve



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**PHOTOS FROM THE GREAT LAKES WEST REGIONAL MEETING, MAY 7th.**



Erin Dolmage of the MVCA



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**GREAT LAKES WEST  
REGIONAL MEETING, MAY  
7th, Cont....**

From all accounts, the snacks and lunch were very well received. We have thanks to send to those who worked hard to provide! Some very tasty soup and sandwiches were heartily welcomed, as were a cheese platter and cookies. Sincere thanks to all who otherwise participated. A great day!  
~ Ed.



**~~ 2016 -2017 MEMBERSHIPS: ~~**

A MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM is included in this Newsletter to be sent with payment and to advise of any change of contact information. Note also that this form can be used for new members; it is always timely to suggest that anyone you know who is interested in joining send in the form with remuneration.

There are still a few members from last year who have not yet paid their dues for our 2015/2016 (September 2015 to September 2016) club year. Hopefully these members intend to retain their membership. Hence it would be appreciated if their payment could now be made by mail. The fee structure for 2015/2016 is a straight \$20 per person, with all under 18 years of age being free.

If you have any questions about your membership status, or changes to your contact information, please contact Barb Simpson at 519-396-5486 or [bsimpsonbob@gmail.com](mailto:bsimpsonbob@gmail.com)

*Thanks .... Barb*

**ADVERTISING: \$30 ANNUALLY, CONTACT EDITOR AT 395-5616, OR EMAIL: TREK66@TNT21.COM**

|                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Huron Fringe Field Naturalists</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MEMBERSHIP FORM</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBER APPLICATION    or    <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CURRENT YEAR ... SEPTEMBER 2015 to SEPTEMBER 2016*</b></p> <p><small>* Mid-season memberships will apply for one year, to be renewed at that time.</small></p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Membership Cost:**

\$20.00 per year per person. Youths 18 or under are free.

Please mail completed form with payment to: Huron Fringe Field Naturalists, Box 143, Kincardine, Ontario N2Z 2Y6

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Your membership in H.F.F.N. includes this publication. Please indicate: Email  or Hard Copy

# Members' Page....

## What Our Members are Doing!



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



A PLETHORA OF PILEATEDS!  
 'Try to move me from my feeder!'  
 Bob Simpson sent this great view of a Pileated Woodpecker enjoying the feeder he made. Late winter '16.



B. SIMPSON



M. COATES

....and back in January, Mary Coates had a lovely close encounter....she commented:

*'Look who was watching me quilt! It's not too often that we see a Pileated Woodpecker. It must be sizing up some kind of bugs beside the window. For a while it was at the suet feeder. Maybe it knew that I wanted a close up of it. Maggie (our puppy) wasn't sure what to think but Gracie (our kitten) was at the window wondering how it is possible that a bird can be so big and so close.'* Thanks, Mary! What a view!



DOUG BROWN

← DOUG AND BOBBI BROWN MAY HAVE MOVED AWAY, but still keep an eye out for good wildlife shots. Here's one of several Black Crowned Night Herons caught by Doug as it preened itself in a tall backyard tree.

BOB SIMPSON says he and Barb can't keep up with the Orioles' demand for citrus treats. These beauties have now arrived on our shores, so listen for their distinctive calls as they go about their nesting and raising of young ones. →



BOB SIMPSON



BOB SIMPSON



J. PEPPER

**On Butterflies** – when emerging from the cocoon, time is required before full emergence to allow the fluid in the butterfly's body to flow into its wings. It may appear that the butterfly is stuck. However, the struggle of the butterfly against the constriction of the cocoon, and the effort to emerge through the tiny opening, is nature's way of forcing the fluid into the wings of the butterfly. It will then be ready for flight as soon as it emerges. If the butterfly is released too soon from its cocoon, it will not be able to fly. So....if you find a 'stuck' butterfly....let Nature do the work!

~ Ed.

**FEBRUARY:**  
 PHOTO CONTEST TIME!

## ROCKS AND RIDGES

This year's contest subject will be:

**IN ANY NATURAL CANADIAN SETTING, WHETHER SCENIC OR UP-CLOSE.**

UP TO TWO PRINTS EACH OF  
 4" x 6" or 5" x 7"

Dig out those cameras, but....  
 Please photograph safely!





**UPCOMING OUTINGS:****HURON FRINGE BIRDING FESTIVAL, May 27<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> & May June 2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Huron Fringe Birding Festival Registration Active Feb 1, 2016 to May 21, 2016

Posted with the permission of Ont. birds coordinator.



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**The Huron Fringe Birding Festival** takes place on two, 4 day weekends, running from May 27 to May 30, and from June 2 to June 5. There is also a Family Weekend, aimed at 5 to 10 year olds on the second weekend.

Almost two thirds of our attendees are returning, experienced birders that come each year; some make this an annual destination which provides them with an entertaining nature holiday. Some of our hike leaders are recognized throughout the province for their expertise and their contributions to nature. To keep you front and center, we keep our bird hikes limited to 20 and our botany hike to 12. Registration starts online on February 1 at 12:01 a.m.. Some of our most popular hikes are filled within 24 hours. Our prices are quite economical because we have some generous corporate sponsors to make us a festival bargain.

The festival is centered out of MacGregor Point Provincial Park, near the town of Port Elgin in Bruce County, an area that has Lake Huron creating a bird corridor pushing migrants right through the park. We are more than a

birding festival, embracing nature in many of its aspects and other things related to them. Tapping into nature in our area is rewarding because the Bruce Peninsula offers the most varieties of orchid and butterfly species, an incredible diversity of flora and fauna, and probably the most nesting songbird species in Southern Ontario. We have been ranked yearly as being in the top 100 festivals in Ontario, and after checking out our program on the website below, you will see why we, in our biased way, think we rank with the best, in North America.

**For the complete program**, including the Family weekend, and prices, check out the following websites:  
<<http://www.huronfringefest.wordpress.com/>>

**For camping or for yurts** at MacGregor Point Provincial Park, please check:

<<https://reservations.ontarioparks.com/Home.aspx>>

**For local food, accommodation etc.** found, in nearby Port Elgin, please check:

<<http://www.visitportelgin.ca/search-accomodation.php?subCategory=59&button=Search+No>>

Our volunteer committee is looking forward to meeting you.

**Take care, Fred Jazvac**

**THE ANNUAL BRUCE PENINSULA EXPLORER: MAY 24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>:**

**MEET- 9 AM, KINCARDINE SOBEY'S.**  
**NOTE: Please either bring, or, pick up a lunch beforehand.**

An astounding number of around thirty people will be having a look around the Peninsula with us this year. We are truly humbled by the interest and willingness of these hardy souls who for the past few years have walked the Bruce with us, rain or shine. Welcome to those who will be doing this for the first time and, we hope, not the last. A partial report will duly follow in the next issue.....thanks again!



We also extend grateful thanks to our daughter, Donna Murray, who knows why!

~ *The Peppers*

(We are sending out last minute information to those joining us, so keep an eye on your incoming email, especially on the morning before we leave. Please RSVP, briefly, so we know who received them.)



## UPCOMING OUTINGS cont.:

### SPRING WELCOME WALK:

J. PEPPER



It's that time of year again! But not quite....  
**Due to inclement May weather, we have elected to have this walk in June.**

This year's walk will be in the environs of Kincardine. We'll take in some woods, the Peace Garden, the riverside and Harbour, and the Kincardine Beach Boardwalk and gardens. (Maybe bring a hooded jacket to cut any off-lake breezes.) A not-too-bad slope or two and a flight of graduated steps. Lots of washrooms!

**Meet: SATURDAY, JUNE 4th, 1:30 pm.**, Geddes Park trail head parking lot. Geddes park is at the south end of Kincardine on the main street. Coming from the south, make a quick right turn just off the north end of the Queen Street bridge.

For a peek at the Peace Garden, Google 'Kincardine Labyrinth' and enjoy the lovely website. If you wish, make a small donation to help support the work of these volunteers.

**NOTE: We will have a ride back to Geddes Park for anyone who wants.**

**You are invited to join us at Tim's after the walk, of course!**



**RAIN DATE** - next day, if weather permits.....

### CANOE/KAYAK WITH ART - JUNE 7<sup>th</sup> (Rain Date - JUNE 9th)



2014 CRUISE

#### **Meet:**

Sobey's parking lot at nine am.  
Local canoe outing to look for birds, plants and possibly animals.  
Leave Kincardine about 9:00 am and return middle to late afternoon.  
Canoers and kayakers welcome but little experience required. One per canoe is helpful!  
Pack a meal for shore lunch.

**CONTACT: Art Doughty: 396-4368**



### Riverbend Hike, June 11th

**On June 11<sup>th</sup>, Brenda Gallagher, a wetland plant ecologist,** will lead a joint walk with Lower Maitland Nature Conservancy and Nature Canada at the "Black Hole", adjacent to the Morris Tract, between Benmiller and Saltford. This piece of land is a new acquisition.

**When:** Saturday, June 11th, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

**Where:** NCC's Riverbend Property on the Maitland River between Benmiller and Saltford.

**What:** Joint outing with Lower Maitland Stewardship Group. Learn about the interesting species along the river on a hike guided by biologist Brenda Gallagher.

**Contact:** Steve Pepper, [trek66@tnt21.com](mailto:trek66@tnt21.com)

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR DIRECTIONS AND FURTHER INFO:**



**UPCOMING OUTINGS, CONT.:****Riverbend Hike, June 11th, continued....**

**Directions:** Turn off County Road 31 south of Saltford onto Black Hole Road (at Jenkins Auto Wreckers) and park at the end of the road at the top of the big hill.

**Notes:** Be prepared for biting critters. Bring a lunch and we will eat at the beach in Goderich... or join Brenda and Rachel White at the Goderich Grill for lunch.

**NABA - BUTTERFLY COUNT**

The NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION is holding its annual BUTTERFLY COUNT on

**JULY 9th** at the Visitor Centre. Join other volunteers to identify and count butterflies of Mac-

Gregor Point and surrounding areas. NOTE: Rain Date - July 10th.

Registration: 9.00 am with groups leaving at 10:00. Cost: \$5.00/person.

To REGISTER as a volunteer: contact KATHLEEN CHAYER at 519-389-6232.

**Healthy Parks, Healthy People: Possible outing, July 15th.**

On July 15, entrance to all Ontario Provincial Parks for Day Use is free. Your outings committee continues to monitor MacGregor Point Provincial Park Web Site to see if the programs offered would be suitable for a group outing. Please stay tuned. When details are known an email will be sent out to establish if members are interested.

Contact: Bob Simpson, 395-5486

**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 guides, 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.

**AND DON'T FORGET THE DIRECTIONS TO THE HIKE!**

**WEST PERTH WETLANDS – AUGUST, TBA**

A possible outing to the West Perth Wetlands in August with Bruce Birders. BB's will be going there at least once in August, but no dates set as yet.

**Where:** West Perth Wetlands (Mitchell)

**When:** August (date to be determined)

**Contact:** Ralph Knowles [remak@bmts.com](mailto:remak@bmts.com)

**Description:** We will join the Bruce Birders in Mitchell to view shorebirds, waterfowl, and other early migrants in the lagoons there. It is one of the best areas in Ontario to view these species and there will be experts there with scopes. Lunch to follow in one of Mitchell's lovely parks.

**Exact date will depend on weather, scouting reports, etc.**

**~ ~ ~ REGULAR MEETINGS ~ ~ ~**

*Regular meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Pine River United Church on Hwy 21, during the months of February to June and September to November.*

*February meeting is a potluck and photo contest/hobby display at 12:30 pm;*

*April meeting is our Annual General Meeting, held at the Lucknow United Church, 7pm.*

*Meetings are cancelled in event of bad weather - you are advised to check the status of a meeting before leaving home.*

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

Social Time: 7.30 pm.

FEED THE FROG!



Beverages: 1.00; treats: free.

Meeting: 8:00 pm.



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**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

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**Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>:** The meeting on May 24 will not have a speaker, as many members will be on the Bruce Peninsula trip. Members who come to the meeting in May are encouraged to bring about 10 of their photos on a USB drive to show. Other items to share and promote discussion could be a recent article in the paper or a book. This meeting will provide opportunities for discussion.

**Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**



Our speaker is Jim Roberts, one of our members. Jim's topic is - **An Introduction to 'Backyard' Astrophotography.**



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'Over the past two decades a revolution has occurred within the field of amateur astrophotography. It is no overstatement to assert that today's motivated backyard amateur can achieve results on par with those previously only attainable from professional grade observatories. The revolution is being driven by advances in technology, specifically, the availability of inexpensive, high quality, digital cameras, combined with fast computers, running powerful image enhancement software. In this talk I will present an overview of the equipment and the techniques required to create images from night sky objects. I will conclude with a survey of some of my best images, beginning with our solar system neighbourhood and moving outward to distant galaxies.'

~ Jim

**Coming on an outing? Stay informed!**

When planning to come along on a walk, or to a meeting, **please check your email before you leave home for any additional information, or in case the event has had to be cancelled. We do try to have rain dates for walks, but cannot always arrange these in time for publication. If in doubt....suss it out!** Remember to bring a map or directions with you.

**Tuesday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>: John Van den Broeck**



John is a Management Biologist with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry from Northwestern Ontario (Manitoba-Minnesota border area). He will be providing a presentation on topics of resource management and biodiversity for his area of responsibility.

Participants will be surprised to hear about similarities and stark contrasts

between this area and Southern Ontario as a result of a sharp eco-regional transition from the adjacent prairie influences to boreal forest; leading to among the highest biodiverse geographies in the north. A landscape with typical boreal species, moose, bear, wolves, but also rare prairie mammals, American badger, grey fox, and Franklin ground squirrels.



John will start at glacial retreat, reconstruct the landscape and conclude with the unique species assemblages that resulted. The presentation will be spiced with examples of outdoor recreation activities, possibly perceived as adventurous, that may help to explain the passion for the area described.

**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 everyone can enjoy them. Call Tom at 482-3342. Or talk to any of the Executive at any meeting..... we'll do the rest!*



**HELP WANTED:**



PLEASANT, WILLING INDIVIDUAL (OR TWO) TO ASSIST SEVERAL OTHERS SAME; SOME NOTES TO TAKE, SOME PHONE CALLS TO MAKE, THREE BUSINESS LUNCHES PER YEAR, PAID IN GRATEFUL THANKS FROM SAID SEVERAL PLEASANT INDIVIDUALS AFOREMENTIONED WITH ADDED BONUS OF NEW FRIENDS AND SOME INTERESTING LOCAL AREA INFORMATION.

APPLY: STEVE PEPPER, 395-5616, TREK66@TNT21.COM



**PAST ISSUES OF FRINGE NOTES:**



IF FOR WHATEVER REASON YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACCESS THESE, THEY ARE HELD ONLINE ON OUR WEB PAGE, WHICH IS PART OF THE HURON STEWARDSHIP WEBSITE. HOWEVER, ONCE ON THE HFFN PAGE YOU WILL NEED TO USE THE LINK AT THE TOP TO GET THE RECENT ISSUES. THERE IS ANOTHER LINK TO THE RIGHT, HOWEVER IT GIVES ACCESS ONLY TO OLDER ISSUES AND NOT TO THE LATER ONES. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME ISSUES WITH THE WEB PAGE OF LATE, BUT EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE... WE APOLOGISE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE!

~~ Please bring any Mistakes to the Attention of the PROOFREADER. ~~