



Enjoying Nature in Huron-Bruce!



THE HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS FRINGE NOTES

WINTER-SPRING
2013
WALKS,
MEETINGS
&
POTLUCKS

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From the President...

Greetings for 2013! Hope this newsletter finds you Healthy and Happy. Since taking over as your President of the HFFN, I have had

quite a learning curve.

What I have learned as President:

- 1 - We have a number of talented, knowledgeable and committed members who are only too glad to share their expertise.*
- 2 - Each monthly meeting we are welcoming new members, so our organization is growing...slowly, but it is growing!*
- 3 - We have great speakers at each meeting (except our February meeting, when we get to enjoy the best potluck meal, and see who wins the photo contest, which to my surprise I won last year...A little humble pie...)*
- 4 - Every HFFN event includes food; and what a good way to renew old friendships and foster new ones.*

Oh yes... and as my last comment, we are still looking for someone to come on board as Vice President (it's lonely being President without having a 'Vice' in the same corner.)

Drive safe, and remember, 'Only drive as fast as your Guardian Angel can Fly'
.....Marion

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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.

WINTER/EARLY SPRING EVENTS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Full details inside.

FEBRUARY: 16TH: EAGLE WATCH, BAIE DU DORE. James Turland will lead, 396-3659

26TH: REGULAR MEETING – Members' day; potluck at noon, hobby/crafts exhibit, Photo Contest (Canadian content, nature, 5 X 7, 4 X 6)

MARCH: 26TH: REGULAR MEETING - Saugeen Conservation Authority talk on Forest Conservation and tree diseases.

(INDEPENDENT) Return of the swans, (watch Lambton Museum web page for date.)

APRIL: 23RD – AGM, Lucknow, GEORGE KOUROUNIS, STORM CHASER!

MAY: SPRING WELCOME WALK - Come with us to enjoy spring's fresh greens!

22 – 23: BRUCE PENINSULA EXPLORER – hoping to find volunteer (s) for Day 1. See inside!

JUNE: 28TH: REGULAR MEETING: TBA

5TH: CANOE/KAYAK, ARRAN LAKE, ART DOUGHTY – (June 6th rain date.)

25TH: REGULAR MEETING - We welcome Bill Andrews again. Sure to be a good one!

FRONT PAGE PHOTO CREDIT: GLEASON BROOK FALLS, 2011 Bruce Explorer - DONNA MURRAY.

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:**

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Catherine Hogg 529-7748.

Vice-President:

(VACANCY)

Secretary:

Jackie Clements 396-3655.

Treasurer :

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**FRINGE NOTES**

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PAST OUTINGS**Corn Roast, Falls Reserve Conservation Area, Sat., Sept. 8th.**

An enthusiastically windy – and later, wet – start to our fall season of outings, but carried out equally enthusiastically all the same by the thirteen HFFN members who made it out. Tom led a walk through the grounds for most of us, while some stayed behind to husk the corn (and change into long pants!) Tables were carried out into the warm sunshine and spread with colourful cloths

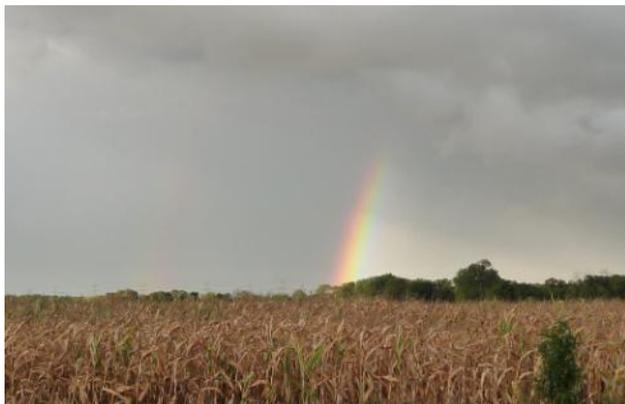
to hold the feast. A good selection of salads and cold meats complemented Tom's mouthwatering corn, with toothsome desserts following after in abundance.....after-dinner conversation, however, was cut a little short by the appearance of some very dark clouds over the river which advanced quickly overhead in order to drop their load of hard rain, so the last few minutes of the event were moved hurriedly back under the cover of the shelter. Arrangements were made with sundry brollies and raincoats to



ferry everything back across the grass to the vehicles before we said our 'So Longs' and drove away. However the day was not yet complete, as a massive, thick rainbow appeared, which reached from the road in



front high across the sky to have its other end seen through the driver's side window. Several of us stopped to marvel and take photographs....the colours were vivid and the indigo fading to violet could also be discerned. A lovely end to the day!



PAST OUTINGS, CONTINUED.....

Zinn/Johnson Property, Sat., September 22/12



**DAMP BUT SMILING, L. TO R.: Heather, Joan, Lynn (our hostess)
Catherine, Marion, Linda, James, Paul (our host), Jim and Jack.
Below: A lovely pond view. (Pepper photos)**



Ten members made the short trek to Paul and Lynn's retreat on a damp windy day. After getting suitably attired for the weather, Paul and Lynn led us on a tour of their property.

First stop was a stocked pond where Paul fed the many rainbow and brown trout, bass and perch. He and Lynn also explained the function of the small windmill which they installed, which is used to aerate the pond.

We continued along on two of their numerous trails, Boomer's Trail, (named after their Cairn terrier, Boomer) and Pheasant Hill.

Both were

gentle walks which took us through various types of both broadleaf and coniferous forest.

After our walk, we headed back to the cabin where Lynn had prepared a lovely lunch which we all enjoyed and where we had a



chance to visit and exchange stories. Everyone present had a great time, and all expressed a wish to come back again sometime to Paul and Lynn's wonderful hideaway. Maybe a Spring excursion? Thanks again, Lynn and Paul, for hosting us! ~ Steve

(Also see article on Members' Pages....)

Malcolm Bluffs Outing

On October 13, eleven HFFN members travelled to the Malcolm Shores Nature Reserve just north of Warton. This property is located on the Niagara Escarpment on the north shore of Colpoy's Bay. It is made up of 423 hectares and includes 4 kilometers of undeveloped Great Lakes shingle beach shoreline, as well as an unbroken expanse of forested land. The Bruce Trail crosses the property running along the top of the escarpment. The views from the trail looking out across Georgian Bay are spectacular.

The Malcolm Bluff Shores property has an amazing physical diversity with over 110 meters of elevation change from the beach to the highest point at the top of the escarpment. Six distinct geologic formations can be observed as can wetlands, forests, talus slopes and vertical cliffs.

Wildlife is abundant and contains a wide variety of woodland birds including Peregrine Falcons and many warbler species. Black Bears have also been observed here. Rare fern species can be found here as well.

Protection of the prized property is currently taking place by a partnership with the Bruce Trail Conservancy and Ontario nature.

Led by Ralph Knowles, the group of hikers travelled the upper trail, which is part of the Bruce Trail System, in the morning. We then drove down to the lower trail head, where we had lunch. A 40 minute hike along an old logging trail took us to almost the end of the property and then for those with enough energy took a side trail down to the shore. At this time a light rain and gustier winds began. We then headed back to our cars. A good number of plants were identified for the group as we pooled our expertise in this area. ~ R. Knowles

Point Clark Fall Migration and Potluck

A small group of HFF Naturalists met by the lighthouse at 9:30 on Saturday, Oct. 20th for the annual Point Clark Fall Migration Outing. Much delight was taken in the fact the rain just stopped and allowed us to enjoy being outdoors. It was noted that the water is as low as anyone can ever remember. According to official charts Lake Huron is almost at the same level as its all time low in 1964. What has normally been a gravel shoal island to the south of the Lighthouse could easily be walked to. A number of interesting birds were seen. (Cont....)

PT. CLARK FALL MIGRATION....

Red-throated Loons and Horned Grebes were diving just at about binocular limits. Point Clark is one Ontario staging area for Red-throated Loons and they can reliably be seen this time of year. Many sparrows were moving through and finding weed seeds in the harbour area. The Juncos and Tree Sparrows observed heralded the arrival of winter. A lone Snow Goose and one rare Ross's Goose shared the sky with a small flock of Canada Geese. On their second flyby they almost stalled in front of us and the diminutive size and smaller beak of the Ross's Goose could be seen. Sanderlings (sandpipers) were on the sand beach to the north doing their clockwork antics. One Greater Yellowlegs treated us with some real close-up views as it searched the mud flats in what used to be a water-filled harbor. Flocks of Mergansers seemed to be all flying by in a southerly direction. After the walkabout, we headed to Linda Somerville's. In total, 15 members were graciously welcomed by Linda for the potluck lunch. She had the table set and the hot drinks brewing. The potluck items meshed together very well with a great selection of veggies, salads, beans and sweets. Linda has a beautiful cottage renovated into a year-round home. The beach view was enjoyed by all from the open concept living area. There was no business conducted this day; however, there was some entertainment by Steve Pepper and Linda's energetic Border Collie, Maggie.

On a return visit to the lighthouse after lunch, I was happy to add a few more birds to the day's list. The most surprising of these was a Peregrine Falcon that was flushed from the boulder berm of the harbour.

Following is a complete list of the 39 birds seen during the Point Clark Outing:

~ James Turland

Snow Goose	Greater Yellowlegs
Ross's Goose	Sanderling
Canada Goose	Ring-billed Gull
American Black Duck	Herring Gull
Mallard	Mourning Dove
Green-winged Teal	Downy Woodpecker
Greater/Lesser Scaup	Merlin
White-winged Scoter	Peregrine Falcon
Common Merganser	Blue Jay
Red-breasted Merganser	American Crow
Red-throated Loon	Horned Lark
Common Loon	Black-capped Chickadee
Horned Grebe	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Great Blue Heron	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Red-tailed Hawk	Hermit Thrush
Killdeer	American Robin
	Dark-eyed Junco
	Brown-headed Cowbird
	American Goldfinch



< Left:
Marion Fink,
Gord Brocklebank,
Heather Keetch and
James Turland brave
the damp harbour!



Maggie met friends!



Greater Yellowlegs, Point Clark Harbour - J. Turland photo; Warm-up and good company at Linda's - Pepper photo



ONTARIO NATURE GREAT LAKES WEST REGIONAL MEETING

This took place on Sat. Nov. 3rd, hosted by our club at Kincardine United Church. This proved to be a good venue for a successful meeting attended by 23 people. After the meeting and lunch, James Turland led a very enjoyable nature hike. The next meeting will be held in Guelph.

PAST OUTINGS....Con't.

Ski/Hike and Potluck at The Ark:

(This outing was announced via email.)



Seven members attended and had a good snowy trek; plenty of animal tracks were seen along the trail, but their owners stayed hidden. Plenty of food was put away after the walk! Thanks to Janice and Art for enjoyment of their lovely property.

~J.Campbell

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PAST MEETINGS:



Our October speaker was Jean Iron from Toronto, who has been making annual trips out to James Bay to help study and count shorebirds such as Red Knots, Marbled Godwits, and others, in an effort to protect the birds by finding out about them and their habitat – what they need to eat – and where they go for the winter. It was initially assumed that all the birds would fly south to Florida. However, when tiny satellite transmitters were put on some of the birds, it was discovered that the birds were flying much further than that, in order to winter on the West Coast – in Mexico! They fatten themselves up for the flight while they are still at their breeding grounds in James Bay. These birds fly thousands of kilometers a day. They were tracked at their stops for the night, and there were only three or four stops all the way. One species actually flies the distance nonstop. Different coloured tags are used for the birds' legs, depending on where they were when they were tagged – for example, some of them were tagged in Argentina.

The trip out to James Bay, added Jean, is very expensive – there are no roads going there – you have to take specialized flying craft – helicopters. These can only carry so much, so it's amazing that out there in the northern wilderness, there is a compound of four fair-sized houses for the scientists and students who spend time up there – two outhouses, and a perimeter fence to keep out the polar bears and black bears. All the building materials and furnishings brought in by helicopter.

Jean told us that she has taken this trip for several years, and never once has any bear been aggressive – she says they are just curious, wanting to see what the people are doing. When they have their cubs, they bring them too! She showed us some beautiful pictures of the bears. However, every person must carry a powerful rifle – in case – as it was discovered that the compound had been built smack in the middle of a 'polar bear road', and in the season when the bears leave the ice and come back on the land, they are going by back and forth – someone must stand on the roof and shout, "Okay, everybody in...the bears are coming!" The caution is as much for the sake of the bears as the people.

We were also shown interesting pictures of some of the wildlife – a very cute Arctic Stoat in a summer coat of grey with big, round, dark ears rimmed in white, black nose surrounded by white, each toe rimmed in white, and the tail black fading to grey at the end with white hairs here and there at the tip – the picture was taken of the Stoat on the doorstep, peering in, as they are very friendly fellows. The coat, of course, changes with the season. The Arctic foxes, and birds too, are so different from here in Ontario.

On the shore, the students take mud samples to find out what the shorebirds eat, and when the tide goes out they and the scientists study the hundreds of birds that come in to feed on the sea bottom. The desire is to make this area a huge reserve....to prevent inroads by companies onto the lands. Some of these birds are endangered, and all of them need this feeding ground.

Jean is a retired teacher from North Wales, UK. Her talk was very cohesive and interesting, and laid out in more of a story form.

She has a website – Google 'Jean Iron, James Bay' and go down past the articles about ironing patches on jeans! Beautiful bird photo's taken over each trip, and other areas of her interest, and she has included photographs of some perennials in her garden on one page.

A very absorbing and educational evening! ~ Ed.



**KINCARDINE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT,
THURSDAY DECEMBER 20th, 2012**

~ James Turland

Christmas Bird Counts began over a century ago when 27 conservationists in 25 localities, led by scientist and writer Frank Chapman, changed the course of ornithological history. On Christmas Day in 1900, this small group posed an alternative to the "side hunt," a Christmas day activity in which teams competed to see who could shoot the most birds and small mammals. Instead, Chapman proposed that they identify, count, and record all the birds they saw, founding what is now considered to be the world's most significant citizen-based conservation effort.

Each individual count is performed in a "count circle" with a diameter of 24 kilometres. Participants are divided up into small parties and search assigned areas.

Last year, 62,000 volunteers in 2,215 locations counted 61 million birds. This is a record level of participation. In Canada, almost 12,000 participants in 394 counts found 3.3 million birds. In Grey and Bruce Counties there are eight counts, including Walkerton, Tobermory, Saugeen Shores and Kincardine.

On December 20th, twenty-six binocular-toting volunteers participated in one of the quietest Kincardine CBC's ever. It was not the worst of days weather wise, but birds were very elusive. All time lows were recorded for several bird species. Normally over a hundred Mourning Doves are seen but this year only four got counted. Bluejays also set a new all time low. One participant sort of summed up the day by stating that after searching all day he hadn't even seen a single chickadee. Even though there were not large numbers of birds, a great diversity was found. The 59 different species found this year rivals the all time high of 60.

A few dedicated participants started the day very early, owling in the dark. They were rewarded with observations of Great Horned and Screech Owls. Later in the day two Snowy Owls were found just north and east of Pine River. Because the wind was out of the east, lake watches were sheltered and productive. Point

Clark is a known staging area for Red-throated Loons in fall, and because of the lack of ice two were seen lingering there. The five Common Loons found ties the old record.

#	Species	#	Species
10	Snow Goose	4	Great Black-backed Gull
1	Cackling Goose	119	Rock Pigeon
1910	Canada Goose	4	Mourning Dove
1	Gadwall	5	Eastern Screech-owl
26	American Black Duck	2	Great Horned Owl
614	Mallard	2	Snowy Owl
140	Redhead	2	Red-bellied Woodpecker
2	Lesser Scaup	16	Downy Woodpecker
3	White-winged Scoter	3	Hairy Woodpecker
3	Long-tailed Duck	2	Northern Shrike
125	Bufflehead	12	Blue Jay
206	Common Goldeneye	298	American Crow
8	Hooded Merganser	257	Black-capped Chickadee
89	Common Merganser	10	Red-breasted Nuthatch
63	Red-breasted Merganser	26	White-breasted Nuthatch
110	Wild Turkey	1	Winter Wren
2	Red-throated Loon	2419	European Starling
6	Common Loon	41	Bohemian Waxwing
4	Horned Grebe	176	Snow Bunting
2	Red-necked Grebe	13	American Tree Sparrow
8	Bald Eagle	1	Song Sparrow
1	Northern Harrier	87	Dark-eyed Junco
5	Cooper's Hawk	16	Northern Cardinal
4	Red-tailed Hawk	24	House Finch
3	Rough-legged Hawk	9	White-winged Crossbill
2	American Kestrel	199	Common Redpoll
1	Sabine's Gull	124	American Goldfinch
24	Bonaparte's Gull	75	House Sparrow
238	Ring-billed Gull		
1162	Herring Gull	59	Total # Species
4	Glaucous Gull	8783	Total # Individuals

(Cont.....)

KINCARDINE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT.....

This was the most open count ever, the only snow being the little piles behind the arenas scraped off the ice rinks. The weather issue to deal with was mostly wind. There was a small burst of snow and freezing rain in the morning and then the rain did not start in earnest till 3:00. Despite the low bird numbers, participant morale was high and the wrap-up and meal at the Pine River Church was well attended. This gathering at the end of the day gives participants a chance to socialize and share their sightings. I guess in the big scheme, having some slow count years makes it easier to appreciate the others. There is no up without the down.



More information about the count and other birds of Bruce County can be found on the web by Googling Bruce Birding Club.

The count areas are numbered from north to south, with all having a section of shoreline;

- 1. Kincardine, Bervie**
- 2. Landfill and Lagoons, Aintree and Boiler beach**
- 3. Ripley and the Pine River**
- 4. Point Clark and Eighteen Mile Creek**

Thanks to all those who have made this count a success in the past.

~ James Turland

Some birds of interest that were seen last fall, and where:

- > Three Red-necked Phalaropes at the Ripley Lagoons. (BELOW)
- > White-winged Scoters and a Marbled Godwit at Miramichi Bay.
- > Horned grebes along the Lake Huron shoreline.
- > Surf Scoter at Horton Point.
- > Lots of Sand Hill Cranes in the Elsinore/Hepworth area.

Fall is a great time of the year to be on the lookout for unusual species that have wandered off their normal migration paths. The orange in this Golden-Crowned Kinglet's blaze signifies it is a male. If you look around every corner expecting to see something there, you might be surprised how often there is! Cheers, James



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◀ SOON TO SEE (LEFT): We'll soon be out admiring the spring flowers!
Yellow Ladieslips, Singing Sands, Trilliums, Pt. Clark. - Ed.

~~ MEMBERSHIPS: ~~

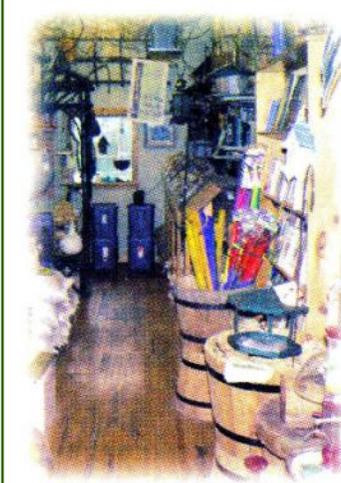
Thanks to all who have paid their Membership Fees for the 2013 season. These are due each SEPTEMBER, so if you're not paid up, please see the information below....we will be collecting membership dues at the meetings.

Thanks, folks!

HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS,
BOX 143, KINCARDINE, ON. N2Z 2Y6

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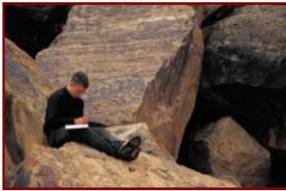


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Photographs always welcome; please send them in JPEG format, over 100 kbs and under 500 kbs....thanks!

**Guests welcome!*



MAKE A NOTE!

Wormhole science....or, "Home sweet burrow"...

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As club members made ready to leave the Zinn-Johnson property after our fall walk, a very observant (and curious!) Lynn directed our attention to several tiny circles of gravel, some garnished with small sticks, which till then we hadn't noticed, in the driveway area at our feet. Lynn had been wondering 'who' or 'what' on earth could have been making these miniature constructions.

James Turland decided to look into it, and later emailed the Editor with his findings:
'A possible creator of the twig and stone collections that Lynn was so curious about. I found pictures on the internet by Googling 'worm burrows', and they look very similar. I suspect the culprit is a night crawler. Appears they make these collections at the entrances to their permanent burrows. Cheers, James.'

Perhaps more attention needs to be paid to our friends underfoot....the writer was not previously aware that worms had 'permanent' and 'temporary' burrows!

~ Ed.



Members' Page...

What Our Members are Doing...

We had the following email from **JACKIE CLEMENTS**, shortly before she returned from a winter break:

(January) - At the moment I am still in Calgary, where I have been spending Christmas and the holiday period with family. On December 31st, I was lucky enough to have a trip to the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary in Calgary on a beautiful sunny day. Red Polls were in abundance, and we also saw a few magpies and a Downy Woodpecker. Taking in seed is forbidden, but even without that incentive, several Chickadees and Nuthatches were willing to fly down and perch on our outstretched hands, which was lovely. A certain stretch of the Bow River in that area stays open and ice free, and it was full of Canada Geese and several ducks. Most of the ducks were Mallards, but we also saw a few Canvasbacks and one Goldeneye. The highlight of the visit was sighting a juvenile eagle, which turned out to be a Golden Eagle, an unusual winter bird in this area. Several members of the Calgary Field Naturalists had reported seeing it in the area, and we were lucky too!



Thanks, Jackie!



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Pine River Initiative Network (PRWIN)

HFFN has supported the Pine River Initiative Network (PRWIN) for many years and I thought members of HFFN might like to know what PRWIN accomplished in the year 2012. We planted many thousands of trees and built several kilometers of fencing as we have in the past years. This year marked a milestone for PRWIN as we developed three wetlands in the Pine River watershed, and it is one of these I wish to highlight.

A few years ago the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) through a committee of environmental professionals, called the Lake Huron Southeast Shores Working Group, designated the Pine River Watershed as a priority watershed for immediate action. PRWIN produced and published in the spring of 2012 an Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the Pine River Watershed. In PRWIN's five focus areas we included the further development of our Education and Outreach Program. PRWIN has been very fortunate to have the McLarty family allow us to use one of their properties to develop the McLarty Environmental Study Area.

(Cont...)

PINE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE NETWORK.....



Look for the sign as you drive into Ripley from Highway #21. A trail has been constructed through the property and this year with the help of funds received from the Bruce County Clean Water Funding, MOE, and The Eco Action Program we have completed the construction of a wetland.

One problem in the Pine River Watershed is the fact that rain water rapidly travels through the river to the lake. Developing these small wetlands will help hold the water on the land longer. This will reduce soil erosion and give the land longer to absorb nutrients before the water reaches the lake.

The McLarty property has been used in our education outreach program with the students from the area. It is hoped that in the near future we can establish an inventory of

bird numbers and species, along with animals and plants.

This is an area where the members of HFFN could help by walking the trail and identifying the flora and fauna to see how the biodiversity of species changes over time.



As you drive the concessions and side roads in the Pine River Watershed, keep a lookout for our signs located at many of our completed projects. You can also visit our website at:

www.pineriverwatershed.ca
for the latest updates and links to other websites.

~ Jim Armstrong,
Chairperson, PRWIN



The Ingenuity of Bird Feeders

.....Those of us who feed the birds, that is. We've all learned to be creative about discouraging other wildlife, keeping the seed dry, and getting those all-important photographs. However, some of us are still experimenting on new ways to get every last bit of old seed out before refilling. The writer is no exception. A clean (free!) paint stir stick works well for reaching deep into feeders, or scraping seed off seed catchers; a popsicle stick is handy for getting snow out from seed ports; but the weirdest thing is a flat metal bristle from your local council's street sweeper! These are just right for getting things out of small cracks and spaces, including drains and vacuum cleaner brush bristles as well as bird feeder nooks. Look for them on the street after the sweeper's been by - clean them with steel wool to remove rust and there you go! Get one for every room!!

~ Ed.



Maithel Lee Wilson
Sales Representative

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In Memoriam

Regretfully we must announce the recent passing of long-time HFFN member Larry Smith. Larry was an active member for many years, starting in the 1980's. He was an avid bird feeder and gardener and had led HFFN members on several outings, including one of the earlier Bruce Peninsula trips.

Larry had not been an active member for a few years, but nevertheless will be missed by friends here.

~ ~ ~ REGULAR MEETINGS ~ ~ ~

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

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

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

WINTER WEATHER CAUTION:

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

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26th, 2013:

Member's Meeting: Photo Contest, hobby demo & potluck!



Pot Luck Lunch, 12:30 pm. Share your favourite dish....wrap it well to keep hot! Please bring your own plates, mugs and cutlery to simplify cleanup.

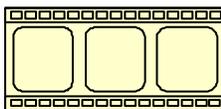
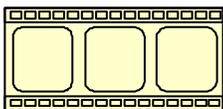
Bring along your nature-oriented collections, or an example of your hobby. We would love to see these.

Photo Contest: 'Canadian Nature', (unframed, 5"x7" or 4"x6") No 'photoshop' work on the pictures please! First and second prizes will be awarded in each size.

PHOTO CONTEST INSTRUCTIONS:

Please bring your entries to the table, list your name and photo title on the clipboard. Members will vote by placing a check mark against the numbers on a sheet.

If you would like a winning entry to appear in the next issue of this publication, please make it available to the contest staff (or to the Editor - a loan or email).



KINCARDINE COUNTRY DEPOT



JIM HAMILTON

OWNER

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KINCARDINE, ONTARIO
N2Z 1E2
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Phone: 519-396-3451

Fax: 519-396-3454

Tuesday, March 26th, 2013:

The speaker for this meeting will be Donna from Saugeen Conservation. Her topic will be 'Forest Conservation and Tree Diseases.' This will be of interest to anyone who has trees on their property.



Tuesday, April 23rd, – AGM, Lucknow:

Speaker: George Korounis, Storm Chaser.

Dinner at the Anglican Church Hall in Lucknow, 7 - 8 pm, April 23, 2013. Door prizes and a raffle. Tickets will be on sale at meetings.

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.

Regular Meetings, cont. :

Tuesday, May 28th2013

No speaker is definitely set, but is in the works. This will be announced as soon as we have someone!

Tuesday, June 25th2013

A longtime favourite of HFFN, and not with us for some time, Bill Andrews has been invited for this meeting. Bill is Professor Emeritus of Environmental Science at the University of Toronto, and very active in the pursuit of everything Nature oriented. An author of over forty books dealing with science and the environment, he is also involved with restoration ecology, naturalization, landscaping for nature, and woodlot management, amongst others. He conducts field trips and does many presentations to a wide range of groups. A wonderful guy to listen to, he is sure to have some great stories and an interesting evening for us!

 ~ ~ *THANK YOU* ~ ~
The Executive of HFFN would like to extend a sincere Thank You to Art Wiebe and Janice McKean. They have extended warm welcomes at The Ark Bed and Breakfast to many of our speakers who have had to come from more distant areas. Much appreciated, Janice and Art!

UPCOMING OUTINGS: FEBRUARY TO JUNE 2013



On Your Feet! Many of our hikes are like a walk in the park....but not all! If you're thinking of lighter shoes for an outing, do check the announcements for a note on the expected terrain, or call the contact number. Bring your treaded hiking shoes or boots along....just in case!
OUTING CHECKLIST: cell phone, binoculars, bird/plant/other book, bug repellent, hat, water, hiking stick, sunglasses, hanky, area map, snacks, thermos (in car), waist/backpack, boots for rough/wet terrain. In Spring and Fall: rain slicker, gloves.



**Saturday, February 16th,
 Eagles at Baie Du Dore
 1 pm at Zehr's, Kincardine**

Come out and see the beautiful Bald Eagles as they feed in the warm waters around the power plant. Dress warmly for the viewing stand. Bring good binoculars and a flask of coffee!
 Contact: James Turland, 396-3659

Return of the Swans - March:

This is an independent outing, popular with some of our members. The Swans return to their summer home via a staging area near the Lambton Museum (8 kilometers south of Grand Bend). Here they rest after their 4000 mile trip from the Canadian Arctic. Other waterfowl also use the area. Monitor the Lambton Museum Website for times and directions:
<http://www.lclmg.org/lclmg/default.aspx?tabid=130>

Return of the Swans Festival: Daily March 9 to March 31, 2013 10am to 5pm Lambton Heritage Museum 519-243-2600 For updates regarding swan numbers click on "Migration Report". There is a great write-up on this web page.



The Chimney Challenge
 'When you need service....
 We're up to the challenge!'



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 RR 2, Tiverton, ON N0G 2T0 (2 km west of Tiverton)
 Phone 519 368-5274 Fax 519 368-5626

May: Spring Welcome Walk:

Join the Peppers for a mosey and enjoy the Spring! Date and location to be announced.



Upcoming Outings, cont.

May 22 - 24: Bruce Peninsula Explorer:

Spend a day enroute up the Peninsula exploring some of the many natural sites; stay over in Tobermory until the morning of May 24th (Friday).

This trip entails:

Nature tour of the Bruce Peninsula enroute to Tobermory; walks and hikes in and around the village; optional free time to explore by yourself.

Two nights' accommodation and breakfasts/picnic lunches/suppers with HFFN friends if desired. A potluck/barbecue on our last evening! Details are in the works. Car pooling is possible.

PLEASE NOTE: We are still hoping to find a leader for the first day. Give us a call!



SMILE PLEASE! Praying Mantis joined us for lunch, Singing Sands, Sept. 2012.

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!

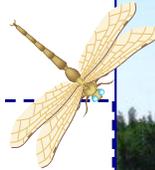
Wed, June 5th: Canoe/Kayak, Arran Lake

Leader: Art Doughty – 396-4368

(Thursday, June 6th rain date.)

Come and join this popular annual event.

Bring your canoe/kayak, lunch and a camera.



ARE YOU RENEWED?

It is now time to renew memberships for the 2012-2013 season (September 2012 to September 2013)!

Note that 2012-2013 Fees remain unchanged at \$20 for singles, but are increasing to a more realistic \$35 for couples; this to help cover the ever-increasing costs of getting the great speakers we have been having for our meetings!

Please pay Kirk McNaughton 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Kirk McNaughton at 519-395-5711 or email at:

kirkmcnaughton@hurontel.on.ca



Happy Trails!

