



THE HURON FRINGE
FIELD NATURALISTS'
FRINGE NOTES

* **SPRING 2011** *
* **WALKS,** *
* **MEETINGS** *
* **&** *
* **POTLUCKS** *
* **FREE FROM OUR** *
* **SPONSORS** *
* **THREE TIMES A YEAR** *

WE'RE ON THE WEB! Visit us at: www.huronstewardship.on.ca - enjoy Fringe Notes in colour!



President's Greetings

'After the good old Canadian winter we just had, spring will never be more welcomed than this year. I don't know about you, but I am ready to dance around the Maypole or see the sunrise at Stonehenge, or any other spring ritual to hasten the season along. I want to thank Greta (Thurber) for the five years she has given the Club as Member At Large in the executive. We appreciated your time, Greta.

The Club now has two positions that need to be filled: someone to take care of memberships, and a Member-At-Large to fill in when needed. The Executive meets just three times a year for a couple of hours to arrange outings and speakers. Please volunteer if you can!'

~ Catherine.



IN THIS ISSUE:

NEW MEMBERS.....2
CONTACT NUMBERS.....2
PAST OUTING REPORTS.....2
MEETING REPORTS.....2
MEMBERSHIP INFO.....4
MEMBERS' PAGE.....6 - 7
SPRING OUTINGS.....3 - 5
REGULAR MEETINGS.....5 - 6

Help Please!

We're still needing someone who can give a little time to keeping our Memberships list updated by adding in new members' names and contact numbers, noting who needs to renew their membership; to collect yearly dues, and maintain name tags. Our new Memberships person should be someone who has a computer if possible, and who attends meetings fairly regularly, although attending each meeting is not required. There is also a new opening for a Member At Large.

.....AND SPEAKING OF MEMBERSHIPS..... Please check your dates and make sure you are still one of us! Annual rates are \$20.00 Single and \$25 Family. General annual renewals - September.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - ADRIENNE MASON has asked us for help in identifying some of the species and flora that occupy several areas which the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network is hoping to make into small wetlands. Let's give these hard workers a hand....see write-up on the Member's Page, Page 6.

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 Spring issue.**

REGULAR MEETINGS—PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Full details inside.

March 22 - Alexis Burnett on Fungii and edible plants. An inspiring speaker!

April 26, 2011 - Annual General Meeting:
Dinner at the Anglican Church, Lucknow. **PICK UP TICKETS AT THE MARCH MEETING!**
(IF YOU'RE A NEW MEMBER, PLEASE CHECK THE DETAILS GIVEN INSIDE THIS ISSUE.)

May 24th, 2011 - Fred Jazback, 'Big Picture Birding', emphasis on Sparrows.

June 28th, 2011 - Shannon Woods will talk to us about 'Birds and Bees'.

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.

Secretary:

Pat Armstrong 396-5856.

Treasurer

Rhodora Doughty 396-4368.

Memberships:

(POSITION OPEN)

In the meantime, call: 395-5616

Speakers & Outings:

Tom Lobb 482-3342.

Joy Munn 395-3570.

Jim Armstrong 396-5856.

Newsletter Editor:

Jeni Pepper 395-5616.

Member-at-Large:

(POSITION OPEN)

Social Convenors:

Pat Armstrong 396-5856.

Elaine Holmes 396-7107.

Ontario Nature (FON) Rep:

Tom Lobb 482-3342.

Website Administrator/

Email reminders:

Steve Pepper 395-5616.

PRINTED BY: C. & I GRAPHICS,
936, Macdonald Ave, Kincardine
N2Z 1A1 (519) 396-2769

'In this sequestered nook how sweet
To sit upon my orchard-seat!
And birds and flowers once more to greet,
My last year's friends together.'
From The Green Linnet, by Wordsworth.

New Members ...

WELCOME to:

Bob and Elly Gallant, of Kincardine.

OUTING REPORTS**Wildlife Tracking with Alexis Burnett at The Ark, January 29th**

After a week's delay due to bad weather, 8 people were led on a Tracking Outing at the Ark by Alexis Burnett.

The soft knee deep snow made walking a challenge although those fitted with skis or snowshoes fared better. The weather was quite cold but after a while the sun came out and the weather improved.

Tracks seen included red squirrel, deer, fox or coyote (tracks were snowed in), and mice. Chickadees were heard.

When we arrived back at the house the wind had abated and the temperature had warmed up. We shared hot cider and stopped for lunch at this point.

It turned out to be a perfect day for this Outing.

~ Steve Pepper

Eagle Watch at Baie Du Dore, February 29th

This outing had to be put back a week due to unfavourable weather conditions. HFFN members have proven fairly weatherproof over the years, but the eagles would all have been sheltering!

The following Saturday netted 21 or 22 eagles, 12 swans and several deer. There were 8 eagles floating around in the sky, riding the thermals when we were leaving.

~ Jack.

MEETING REPORTS**2nd Annual Potluck and Photo Contest, February 22**

About thirty hungry HFFN members spread seven tablecloths on several tables, and tucked into almost as many dishes. A hearty plateful (or two...) and equally enthusiastic conversation were the order of the hour. When we had all had too much, we cleared away and enjoyed presentations by two members. Jayne Miltenburg had some amazing slides and narrative about her trip to Machu Picchu, Peru, an actual hands-on adventure that most of us will never be privileged to have.

Glen Holmes then entertained us with some of his slides 'that didn't make it' into the Photo Contest. Glen is quite modest with regards to his great photo's!

We then voted on the many lovely pictures which members had entered for the photo contest....a tough job, as all the photos were of excellent quality.

The winners were: No. 1, Catherine Hogg and a 4-way tie for second place by Jim and Pat Armstrong, Jack Campbell, Peter Edisbury and Glen Holmes.

~ The Peppers



CONDOR FINE BOOKS

REDUCE-REUSE-RECYCLE!

A good selection of....

Gardening
Astronomy
Outdoors
Geology
Geography
Flora
Fauna
Maps
Travel and more!



New, old, used, rare...just
like our customers

HOURS: 10 – 5 DAILY

Tim Wellstead
786 Queen St.
Kincardine, ON
N2Z 2Y2

Phone: 519-396-3323

Are you one of the members whose MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED?

A FEW PEOPLE ARE ONLY PAID UP UNTIL 2009.

September is renewal month. We hope that you will consider renewing your membership.

Mail to: **Huron Fringe Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 143, Kincardine, Ontario N2Z 2Y6**

By doing this you will help ensure having a continued roster of top quality speakers. See bottom of page 4 for details.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR PAYMENT RECORD. IF IT SAYS 2009 or 2010.....YOU'RE EXPIRED!

Those with expiry dates of **2011** are good till September. Our year now begins in September, not April. **New members or renewals can be accepted any time!**

... Thanks Folks!

Outings 2011...

(This information is good to September, so keep your Newsletter handy!)

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: cell phone, binoculars, camera, bird/plant/other book, bug repellent, sun lotion, 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.

Hullett Wildlife Area - Saturday, April 16, 2010 (Bring lunch)



Where:

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

Directions:

H.W.A. is 5 km north of Clinton on London Road, then turn east on Summerhill Road and go 4 km to the parking lot by the viewing stand. (Look for the HFFN sign!)

Contact: Tom Lobb 519-482-3342

Details: We should see swans, geese, several duck species, and other early migrants.

Bring binoculars, scopes, and a lunch. There is an outdoor washroom at Hullett that

we can use. Usually, the staff have the office complex open for us to have lunch, and to use the indoor facilities, especially if the weather isn't good.

Newton Reserve Clean-up - Early April

Date: TBA

Time: 10:00 am

Contact: Tom Lobb 519-482-3342

Details: The trails need their usual spring cleaning. Come out and help with clearing dead limbs and fallen trees, picking garbage, pruning, repairing signs etc. Bring a lunch.

We will pick a day in early April when the snow has melted and the weather is nice.

Directions:

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



The Ark Native Plants

Art Wiebe & Janice McKean
 Site 755, Bruce County Rd. 23
 RR#2, Tiverton, ON N0G 2T0
 519-396-7518 • 396-4971
 thearknativeplants.com
 theark@bmts.com

OUTINGS Continued...

Third Annual Spring Welcome Walk - Tiger Dunlop Heritage Trail, Goderich

Date: Thurs., May 5th.

Rain date: May 6th, 1 pm

Contact:

The Peppers, 395-5616

Come on out and enjoy some of the sights of Spring as we take the path out to Tiger Dunlop's 'tomb'. This is a pleasant and easy hour's walk. We should see and



hear some wildlife along the way and identify some Spring-budding trees and bushes while enjoying some of the panoramic views that may be seen through the trees. We are not aware of the presence of washrooms here, so perhaps a visit to Tim's afterwards! Meet 1 pm at the entrance to the Menesetung Bridge trail, Goderich. Turn west onto the North Harbour Rd off Hwy 21 just north of the Maitland River Bridge. Cross the tracks and park on the road edge overlooking the golf course.

Kincardine Lagoon, Saturday, May 14th 2011.

Contact: Jim Armstrong 519 396-5856

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

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



Bruce Peninsula Explorer and optional stay-over, Wednesday, May 25th - Friday, May 27th, 2011

Contact: The Peppers - 395-5616

Yes, there have been murmurings and enquires! The May meeting is Tuesday, so we have shifted our dates this year. There is an option to stay over **Wednesday and Thursday nights, and if you're free, to spend some time Friday** after packing up for the trip home. There will be the usual sign-up list at the meetings of March and April for those who would like to be kept informed; this 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. We will probably meet in Kincardine for a day's exploratory drive up the Peninsula, and stay at lodgings of our choice in scenic Tobermory harbour. There will be optional day hikes - usually a morning and/or afternoon outing - of varying terrain. We will endeavour to have 'rainy day' plans as far as is possible.

....And yes, there will be a Barbecue!



Rhodora on the rocks!



HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS

BOX 143, KINCARDINE, ON. N2Z 2Y6

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS: \$20 SINGLE, \$25

FAMILY (CAN BE PAID AT ANY TIME OF YEAR)

CONTACT STEVE PEPPER (AS BELOW)

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

The Chimney Sweep's "Stove Parlour"



and
Gallery



We display a pleasing mixture of quality wood stoves and fireplaces with limited edition art prints by some of Canada's best known artists.

368-5274

2 km. West of Tiverton on County Rd. 15

**Not Just Chimney Sweeps
Chimney Experts**

Looking at Summer into Fall.....

July: Butterfly Count

The NABA Butterfly count at MacGregor will be held on Saturday July 9th with a rain date of July 10th.

Sept 10: Corn Roast - Ben Miller Falls Reserve

This is in the works....TBA!

Oct 1: Fall Colour and Waterfall Tour

Meet in the Zehr's parking lot at 9am. Bring a lunch. Wear good walking shoes. We plan to drive to the Falls of Grey County including Indian, Jones, Inglis, Walter's, Eugenia, Hogg's and McGowan. More information at a later date.

~~ 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!



March Meeting:

Our speaker for the March meeting is Alexis Burnett (who spoke to us in the fall about animal tracks) In March he will talk about fungi and edible plants.

Annual General Meeting:

Dinner at the Anglican Church Hall in Lucknow April 26, 2011. Speaker: Telfer Wegg on 'Agriculture Around Us'. Door prizes and a raffle. Tickets will be on sale at meetings (\$15.00) Bring a big appetite and a small, nature-oriented item per person for our raffle table. See you there!

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.

OUTINGS, Continued....

Canoeing - Tuesday May 31st 2011

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

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.



Turtle and water lily,
Aaron Lake (Doughty)

June ? Kepplecroft, Skinner's Bluff and Malcolm 'Bluffs'?

TBA This outing will hopefully take place sometime in June, however at present still in the planning stage. It should be a great day - watch for an announcement at the May meeting or through other usual channels. **Lunch and hiking boots needed!**

Malcolm Bluffs is an area of over 1,000 square kilometers located about 20 kilometers near Purple Valley, east of Wiarton. With four kms on the Bruce Trail, it has some spectacular wilderness - lakeshore, productive wetlands, massive cliffs and majestic woods, and has recently been the subject of protective fund-raising. The second of three parcels of land can hopefully now be saved from logging and development.

Kepplecroft Gardens are located near Big Bay, well worth a visit. There is a \$3 donation asked as an entry fee. **Skinner's Bluff** gives a hearty hike through gentle, rocky woodlands to a magnificent overlook many feet high. Mark your calendar for June!



Maithel Lee Wilson
Sales Representative

ROYAL LEPAGE
Kincardine Real Estate
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED, BROKER

P.O. Box 1270, 821 Queen Street
Kincardine, Ontario N2Z 2Z4

Bus: (519) 396-3396 ext. 229

Fax: (519) 396-9109

Res: (519) 395-5086

E-Mail: maithel_wilson@hurontel.on.ca

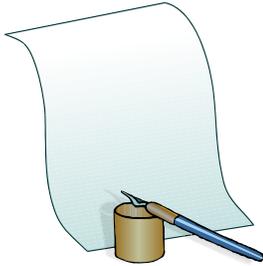
REGULAR MEETINGS, Continued....

Tuesday, May 24th, 2011:

Fred Jazback of Southampton will speak on 'Big Picture Birding', with the main emphasis on Sparrows. This is traditionally our plant sale night. Bring whatever non-invasive garden plants you would like to trade in for something else of interest! Don't forget to bring something to take home your new plants in.

Tuesday, June 28th, 2011:

Our speaker for this evening will be Shannon Woods, with her presentation on Bees and Birds.



Members' Page*



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

**Guests welcome!*



In Memoriam

It is with sadness we note the recent passing of a dear friend and fellow member, Ruth Walker.

With her late husband Geoff, Ruth was one of our very first members.

We know some of you will join us in remembering some great outings and meetings that Ruth attended.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Ruth's family at this time.



They're here!

Incoming Juncos made an appearance at feeders, looking none the worse for wear, round about March 13th and they were shortly followed by some rather daring Robins, who seemed willing to wait for quite a bit of snow to melt, meanwhile finding slim pickings on the sparse patches of bare ground.

It won't be long before we notice the breeding plumage of our 'regulars' at the feeder, and hear those Robins practicing their scales!

- Ed.

Adrienne Mason's presentation in June 2010 informed us about the fine work that Pine River Watershed Initiative Network (PRWIN) is doing in the Pine River watershed. At that time she mentioned the need for help from HFFN members, to identify the bird species and Herptiles in areas where PRWIN hopes to establish small wetlands. This data would help establish what species are in the area under study before the wetlands are established. If you can help in this worthy work, please contact Jim Armstrong, **396-5856**.

Congratulations.....

.....to all the talented photographers who put their pictures in our recent Photo Contest. Hard to choose between so many great shots!

We are inviting the winners to bring their winning entries along to the Annual General Meeting in April, so that we can have another look and perhaps get a photograph of them all holding their entries.

In the meantime.....keep those cameras busy!



KINCARDINE COUNTRY DEPOT

JIM HAMILTON
OWNER



315 HAMILTON LANE
KINCARDINE, ONTARIO
N2Z 1E2
countrydepot@tnt21.com



Phone: 519-396-3451
Fax: 519-396-3454

Members' Page... Continued

WHERE DO WE GO?



If you 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. Talk to any of the Executive at any meeting and we'll do the rest!



↑ What on earth were they doing at Ball's Bridge in October, 2008? Jack Campbell photo.



RiverLine Nature COMPANY

WILD BIRD & EQUINE SPECIALISTS

Torsion Treeless Saddles
Dr. Cook's Bitless Bridles
Lowest Prices on Bird Seed in
Huron County - **Guaranteed!**

36 Kingston St., Goderich 524-4272
www.feedthebirds.ca



Down Tools and Smile Please!
Last year's Newton Reserve work crew.



LEFT - HFFN on an outing on the Kilgour property during the 1980's.
ABOVE, Red-Headed and Red-Bellied Woodpeckers and Indigo Bunting
Enjoying the Pepper's hospitality!

Memory Lane



After the Hike - L. to R: Steve, Jeni, the Burgess girls, Geoff, Harvey, Joe & Crystal Burgess, Eileen, and Donna, taken at the Burgess', mid-1980's.



CARDINAL

Pet Valu

FORMERLY...



CARDINAL

Critter Cravings™

PET & WILD BIRD SUPPLIES

*Owned and operated by Pet Valu Canada Inc.



320 Durham Market South, Kincardine, ON N2Z 2A2

Tel/Fax: 519-396-9135

™ Trademark of Pet Valu Canada Inc.