



Fringe Notes

September, 2008

HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS, Box 143, Kincardine ON. N2Z 2Y6

~~ Founded 1985 ~~



New Members

**Janet Cunningham
of Kincardine
WELCOME!**

Individual Highlights:

President's Message:	1
Of Note....	1
Outing Reports:	2 - 4
Outings & Excursions:	4-5
Regular Meetings:	5-6
Bits 'n Bobs,	
Member List:	6
Butterfly Count:	7
Sponsors:	8
<u>Insert:</u> HFFN REVIEWED CONSTITUTION	

We're on the Web!

SEE US AT:

www.huronstewardship.on.ca

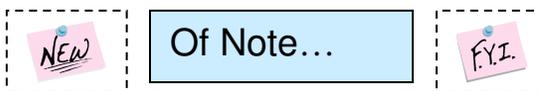
Did you know that the Indigo Bunting is not really that beautiful blue? The colour only shows in bright light; it is a peculiarity of the dark coloured feathers.

President's message.... President's Message.....

By the time you receive this newsletter September will be upon us. Please share your outdoor activities with us at the Annual Corn Roast.

1. A SPECIAL thanks to Jayne Miltenburg who has served as secretary for several (7) years.
2. Welcome to Janet Cunningham from Kincardine, our newest member.
3. Included in this newsletter is the updated Constitution which the membership will vote on at our September Meeting (#9). The changes that the executive has approved are some grammatical errors, but most importantly that the club year run from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31 as opposed to May 1 to April 30. (#5) As a result, some of the other dates needed to be changed to coincide with that proposal.
4. At the General Meeting it was suggested that we have a June meeting if we have several cancelled meetings as we did last year. The executive discussed and will consider this if we have time to include this in the March Newsletter.
5. The Executive decided that if the speaker has cancelled there will not be a meeting. Greta Thurber and Maithel Lee will compose a 'phone tree'. Assistance with this would be appreciated. 'More hands make lighter work'!
6. We are looking for people to serve on the Executive....or the Club is going to fold by May 31st, 2009. We have executive positions to fill. The rest of us are carrying the load, and we are burning out. Help!!
For instance....we need a Secretary...someone to take the minutes - this could be shared between two people - at our Executive Meetings, three times a year. Minutes then need to be typed up and emailed to the Executive.
7. Our current Directors of Speakers and Outings would appreciate some new input.

- Maithel Lee



NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS: Next issue: DEC. 1st.
Cutoff date for all articles: NOVEMBER 15th.

An Excerpt from Ontario Nature - Press Release on Boreal Announcement - Clare Mitchell.

July 15th was an exciting day for conservation in Ontario and across the Boreal Forest. The Ontario government announced it will implement measures to protect the province's northern boreal region. The announcement delivers on important election promises and will result in the protection of at least 50 percent of this biodiverse region from industrial development.

The announcement includes key elements such as: the initiation of land use planning across the entire region; a threshold of 50 percent of the region to be safeguarded from industrial development; consultation with First Nations and accommodation of their interests prior to any new forestry or mining projects proceeding; and the reform of Ontario's antiquated Mining Act.

Thank you for your continued commitment to protecting and conserving Ontario's nature - we can't do it without you. Thanks. **Clare**

STOP PRESS! Saugeen Field Naturalists have an inside (tent) booth at the IPM in Teeswater, & need volunteers to help man it. For details please contact Minerva Cook at mzcook@sympatico.ca Shifts between 9 - 5, Sept. 16th - 20th.



OUTING REPORTS

NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS: Next issue: DEC. 1st.
Cutoff date for all articles: NOVEMBER 15th.

HFFN Executive

President:

Maithel Lee Wilson 395-5086

Past President:

J. Campbell
 – Nominating Committee

Vice-President: OPEN

Secretary: OPEN

Treasurer

Rhodora Doughty 396-4368

Memberships:

Dennis Donnelly 395-0682

Speakers & Outings:

Tom Lobb 482-3342

Joy Munn 395-3570

Jim Armstrong 396-5856

Newsletter Editor:

Jeni Pepper 395-5616

Member-at-Large:

Greta Thurber 395-4144

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

Advertising:

Elaine Holmes 396-7107

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

### Hullett Wildlife Area April 12



The threat of rain kept most members away on this cool spring day. However, waterfowl and other early migrants showed up as expected. Birds seen included Pintail, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Wigeon, Black Duck, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Canada Goose, Cormorant, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Song Sparrow, Blue Jay, Meadowlark, Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Pied-billed Grebe, Lesser Yellowlegs, Killdeer, Tree Swallow, Crow, Sandhill Crane, and Tree Sparrow. A female Northern Harrier plunged into the grass right in front of me and then flew off with a large mouse in its claws!

I would like to thank HWA staff who came out and opened the Visitors' Centre for us for our lunch stop.

– Tom Lobb

### Kincardine Lagoon, Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.



In spite of the weather on Saturday morning the 17<sup>th</sup>, 11 brave souls headed to the lagoon to check out the bird population. The weather actually cleared toward 10 o'clock, and the sun shone brightly, making identification of the sightings much easier. The group identified a total of 29, of which 11 were Warbler species. After a successful two hours the group headed to coffee and a warm spot to visit, then off to other pursuits. What had started as a potential washout, turned into a successful outing.

Some of the birds of interest were: Palm Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Brown Thrasher, Magnolia Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Black & White Warbler, American Redstart, Chestnut Sided Warbler, Bay Breasted Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Phoebe, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black Throated Green Warbler, Yellow Rump Warbler, Eastern Kingbird, Rose Breasted Grosbeak.

–Glen Holmes

### Tuesday June 3, 2008, Canoeing at Arran Lake

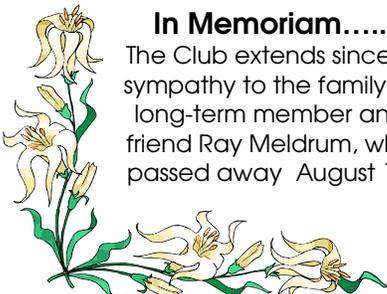


An Introduction---to a new lake, and to me!

Hi. My name is Jack Poulin. Many of you know me already. I've lived in Kincardine for 20 years. I have been a canoeist for some time and have dabbled in nature and the myriad interests it provokes for just as long. I cannot recall a single canoe trip where I didn't see something amazing or learn something new. When John Farrell asked me to join him and the Huron Fringe Naturalists for a canoe trip to Arran Lake, one of the few lakes in Bruce and Grey counties I haven't been on, I jumped at the chance. (Being retired opened up my schedule to the point where I could go canoeing just about any time I like.) (cont....)

### **In Memoriam.....**

The Club extends sincere sympathy to the family of long-term member and friend Ray Meldrum, who passed away August 1<sup>st</sup>.





### Arran Lake Cont...

We gathered, all 4 of us, at the Zehr's parking lot at 9:00AM and soon discovered that 4 were to be the total commitment. We all piled into my trusty old Ford truck and off we went. We had the great good fortune of having Ray Galbraith with us. He grew up and farmed in the area around Arran Lake, so finding the lake was easy, and Ray added much colour to the farms and farmers we passed along the way. By the way, it's 55.8 kms to Arran Lake from my driveway. Not far for such a nice spot.

The day was overcast but mild, with no appreciable breeze. First thing I noticed when we arrived at the nice neat little public access area, were the "cottages." These days, this means mega dollar buildings and docks with more lumber than my house! However, a quick look at the map I have, and off we went, in a southerly direction. Fully 2/3's of the lake is a bog, the perfect place for me, and there were no cottages. We began seeing birds right away, so out came the binoculars and bird books. Paul and Ray had gone ahead of us, while John and I clung to the shore. Many of the wild shrubs are now in bloom. Farms are snuggled into the hills around the lake and the whole ambience is one of peace and quiet, with many little inlets and bays to explore. Red-winged black birds, cow birds, and grackles proliferate, but there were others too. Warblers, such as the brilliant Yellow Warbler, Cedar Waxwings, and a Baltimore oriole were spotted. We saw 4 night herons too, but couldn't get close enough to identify them well. They were about the size of a crow, but flew with the traditional crook in the neck a heron has. Their legs were pale yellow or light green.

The lake bottom is pure loon doo-doo and I imagine in the summer the level would make the route we took impassible. We saw a pair of loons also. Just before we broke for lunch, at a place on the west side where there is an old farmer's road that comes down to the lake, John and I heard a squawking duck making quite a fuss. As we paddled along near the shore the duck, a female mallard came out of the weeds and straight at us, rushing within about 10 feet of the canoe. This surprised both of us. As we watched her, a huge hawk, I think a female red tailed, lifted out of the shrubs on shore near where the duck was and headed for a tree, with a red winged blackbird pecking away at her skull. She lighted for a few seconds and then left the scene, leaving John and I flabbergasted by the entire goings on. With the hawk gone, our attention returned to the duck. She was still squawking away and quite upset with us. We noticed one of her wing had pinfeathers sticking up haphazardly. Could she have been the hawk's attempt at lunch? Could she have been defending her nest? Did the hawk eat the ducklings? It's like a soap opera! I guess we'll never know. We put ashore about 100 yards north from there and in a short time, the mallard went by us on the wing, but her flight seemed to be laboured, I thought.

We continued on, having travelled clockwise from the starting point. The wind was starting to pick up a bit and the birds seemed to disappear. We had noticed several old and broken down duck (goose?) blinds all around the boggy end of the lake. This place must be quite noisy in the fall. Eventually we came to a resort and trailer park and caught up with Paul and Ray. We talked to one of the local summer residents and then headed back to our starting point on the east side of the lake, loaded the canoes and headed home, neglecting the northern end of the lake. Perhaps on another trip we'll see it. That is where the outlet of the lake is. We were back in Zehr's parking lot by 3:30. It was a great, relaxing, perfect day!

I think that if you have a day to waste and it's not too late into the summer, Arran Lake is a great place to see nature at her best. Oh, there are fish in the lake too. We saw several roll on the surface and saw a large one, possible a pike, near the shore, and added bonus. If anyone would like to accompany me there, I could be convinced to go again. Call or email me at [pouli@tnt21.com](mailto:pouli@tnt21.com). Maybe we could get to know each other.



- Jack Poulin

### Trail Walk Along the Maitland (Geocache Hike) June 14<sup>th</sup>

On a day that didn't look too promising weatherwise, it turned into a day of New Adventures.

Only two of us met Tom Lobb at Holmesville. Since no one else appeared, we started on our day. There is a lot of history at the start of the trail, as an old pottery factory used to be in this location.

The owner of the land keeps a well-groomed walk available to a picnic area beside the river. Tom had his G.P.S. along, as this would be part of the fun. After about 1/2 hour of walking among ferns & plants of a Carolinian Forest found along the Maitland, we did find the cache, (cont...)





### Geocache Hike...cont.

under some tree roots. We signed our names in a book & hid it again for the next tracker...

We continued on, as Tom had been told of Eagles nesting in a tree on the other side of the river. After another 1/2 hr. the nest was spotted; we waited & watched for some activity in the nest... sure enough, we did spot 2 young Eagles standing & extending their wings in getting ready to leave home in a week or so.

Coming back on another trail, we did find more plants only found in a Carolinian Environment. Sighted & took pictures of the largest Butterfly that we have in Canada - Swallowtail.

To finish our day we then drove to where the nesting areas for Wood Turtles are fenced. Why they would climb up a 30ft. embankment to lay their eggs I guess only the Turtle knows??!

Thanks to Tom for a most informative day.

- Jack Campbell



Photography: Jack Campbell.

## Upcoming OUTINGS and EXCURSIONS



**On Your Feet!** Many of our hikes are like a walk in the park....but not all! If you're thinking of lighter shoes for an outing, do check the announcements for a note on the expected terrain. Bring your treaded hiking shoes or boots along....just in case!

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



### Corn Roast - September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Where:** The Ark (Art Wiebe & Janice McKean's)

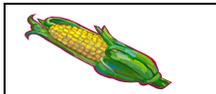
**Contact:** Tom Lobb 482-3342 or Jim Armstrong 396-5896

**Details:** Join us for good food and fellowship as we get together after our summer break. We will tour the Ark, maybe have a hike, and follow with a potluck meal. Corn, hotdogs, and cold drinks provided. Bring a salad or dessert, and utensils. Chairs would be a good idea.

**Directions:**

From the intersection of Broadway and Queen in downtown Kincardine (downtown Tim Horton's) go north on the B Line (Bruce County Road 23) for approx. 8 Kms. Just past Lorne Beach Road the county road curves to the east. Watch for "The Ark" on your left (Lake side) about half way around the first bend.





**Walk the Trails of Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Headquarters**  
**Meet: 9:30 a.m., Saturday October 4, 2008**



**Where:** SVCA headquarters Conservation Area, 4 km south of Hanover, following Grey Road 10 and west on Concession #18.  
**When:** We will meet in the Kincardine Zehr's parking lot at 9:30am.  
**Contact:** Jim Armstrong 396-5856  
**Details:** Come and walk some or all 4 trails at SVCA Headquarters. This beautiful site contains numerous easy walking trails incorporating a variety of habitats, including upland forest, fen, and lowland cedar. Trails are 1.4km to 2.9km. The trails are looped so you are never very far from the start. There is a display of birds and deer along the walk. There are washrooms and a picnic area so bring your lunch. Those interested can check SVCA's web site at: [www.scva.on.ca](http://www.scva.on.ca)

**Ball's Bridge Reopening and Goderich area hiking on the Maitland Trail**  
**Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

(FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,  
 PLEASE CALL TOM LOBB at 519-482-3248 or check your email)



**Point Clark Birding and Barbecue,**  
**9 a.m., Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**When:** 9:00 a.m.

**Where:** Point Clark Lighthouse

**Contact:** Lee Wilson 519-395-5086 for details.

**Details:** Traditionally, the real avid birders meet at the lighthouse, rain or shine, and eventually head back to the President's house for a pot luck BBQ (hamburgers supplied by Lee). If you do not have the time or desire to do that, just join us for lunch!



**the time or desire to do that, just join us for lunch!**

**NOTE on cancellation of meetings – 'No speaker, no meeting.'**

**~ ~ ~ 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!**

**The Kincardine News, Cable 6, or Joy Munn (519-395-3570) will have up-to-date details closer to these dates.**

**September 23** (Please note that the *speaker has been changed* for the email copy, due to availability issues)...

**Speaker** will be STUART NUTT of McGregor Point Provincial Park, who will talk to us about the Piping Plover.





## REGULAR MEETINGS, Cont.

**October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Donald Kirk**

**Southern Brazil – National Parks and Natural History** Donald recently visited Southern Brazil, an area with an amazing diversity of landscapes and ecosystems, including the Atlantic Coastal Rain Forest or "Mata Atlantica", one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. Don's visual journey will take us from Rio to the nearby coastal mountain rain forests, outstanding national parks, cerrado (savanna) habitats of the interior, waterfalls such as the world famous Iquacu Falls, as well as the Pantanal, one of the largest inland wetlands in the world.

**November 25, 2008**

**Speaker:** John Gerrath from the Nature Conservancy in Guelph.

**Topic:** What the Conservancy does. John will also give us ideas for 'Outings and things to do'.

**Has your Membership Expired?**

We hope that you will consider renewing your membership. Mail to:

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

By doing this you will help ensure having a continued roster of top quality speakers. Other clubs have increased their dues by quite a lot, so if you could help recruit new members it would help keep dues low. Thanks to all for your continued support of your club.

**HFFN****Paid for Sept. 2008/2009 as of July 11, 2008**

| First                | Last         | First            | Last       |
|----------------------|--------------|------------------|------------|
| STEVEN               | BOWERS       | LINDA            | LOWNDS     |
| JACK & LINDA         | CAMPBELL     | DOUG             | MCCALLUM   |
| JOHN F               | CARD         | BARBARA & SHARON | MCKENZIE   |
| STANLEY & JACQUELINE | CLEMENTS     | Marilyn          | Meldrum    |
| Janet                | Cunningham   | MARION           | MOSOLF     |
| DENNIS & MARION      | DONNELLY     | DON & JOY        | MUNN       |
| JOAN                 | DOUGHERTY    | LUCILE           | MYERS      |
| LUCILLE              | FISCHER      | FREDA & LENARD   | REIS       |
| RAY & LOIS           | GALBRAITH    | Joan & Vic       | Sobczuk    |
| BERT & WENDY         | HOGENBIRK    | JOAN             | STADELMANN |
| CATHERINE            | HOGG         | MURIEL           | TURNER     |
| JIM & BARBARA        | HOLLINGWORTH | DR. J. MICHAEL   | WATTS      |
| CHARLIE & LORNA      | ISAACS       | JAMES            | WHALING    |
| DOROTHY              | KINGS        | MAITHEL LEE      | WILSON     |
| RALPH & MARY-ANNE    | KNOWLES      | Ron & Ruth       | Witt       |
|                      |              | DAVID & SHEILA   | YALDEN     |

*That old joke again....*

A keen naturalist, out for a woodland meander in his comfortable old hiking clothes, arrived at a road running through the trees, where he spotted a furry corpse on the centre line and went over to see what it was.

Just as he bent over for a closer look, a car pulled up sharply and a man leaned out, and, urged on by his wife in the passenger seat, he held out a ten-dollar bill and said to the hiker, "You don't have to do that! Take this and go get something to eat!"

**BITS 'n BOBS....pickin's, snippets and queries, et al....**

A rather interesting sighting near our home in Point Clark: while walking our dog we spotted a part-albino robin about fifteen feet away. It had white feathers in patches on the back and tail. It was definitely a robin. Hopefully we'll get another, better sighting sometime.

It's been a source of wonder to your editor for the past couple of years how the large black ants somehow know that we put large Bay leaves in our kitchen around where they were appearing.....after weeks of failed ant traps, scrubbing invisible trails away and downright murder, the ants now respect the (two year old) Bay leaves as they would a signed treaty. Hmmm...

Watching a couple of House Sparrows enjoying a dust bath in very little dust one day in town, we wondered whether it might be interesting to put out a 'dust bath' as well as a 'splish-splash' bath!





**MacGregor Point Provincial Park**  
July 12, 2008  
NABA Count

European Skipper 2951  
 Cabbage White 907  
 Northern Crescent 63  
 Clouded Sulphur 6  
 Great Spangled Fritillary 40  
 Monarch 84  
 Canadian Tiger Swallowtail 38  
 Red Admiral 1  
 Common Wood Nymph 54  
 Eyed Brown 21  
 Meadow Fritillary 3  
 Summer Azure 3  
 Little Wood Satyr 11  
 White Admiral 17  
 Northern Pearly Eye 27  
 Aphrodite Fritillary 5  
 Mourning Cloak 10  
 Viceroy 23

Baltimore Checkerspot 5  
 Long Dash Skipper 1  
 Coral Hairstreak 1  
 Eastern Comma 5  
 Black Swallowtail 2  
 Question Mark 2  
 Pearl Crescent 17  
 Crossline Skipper 1  
 Hobomok 1  
 Northern Brocken Dash 1  
 Painted Lady 2  
 Peck's Skipper 1  
 Milbert's Tortioseshell 8  
 Striped Hairstreak 3  
 Acadian Hairstreak 14  
 Appalachian Brown 4  
 Eastern Tailed Blue 13  
 Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 3

Total butterflies counted----4348  
 Total species counted-----36

- **Thanks to Ralph Knowles.**

Photo Corner – some views of trips 'up the Bruce'.



Above are views in and around Tobermory: Parks Visitor Centre entry, ancient cedar display, Big Tub Light, and a ferny grotto along the Harbour Boardwalk.



GARY TRACK  
owner/chef

*Watercress*  
B I S T R O

829 Queen Street, Kincardine ON, N2Z 2Y2  
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Hours:

MON – FRI: 8:30 – 3:30  
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