



Enjoying Nature in Huron-Bruce!



THE HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS' FRINGE NOTES

SPRING – SUMMER
2014
WALKS,
MEETINGS
&
POTLUCKS

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*FROM THE
PRESIDENT...*

Well, Happy Spring to one and all. To our Snow

Birds, welcome back home to Ontario. We hope that at least you gave a thought to us 'tough'

Canadians here in Ontario this winter....we survived !! We're glad that you are back home and ready to enjoy Spring and Summer. Although at the time of writing, we still have a lot of snow in places around our home in Point Clark...We have lots of trees that shade and keep the snow a tad longer than out in the open, though I do see some brave daffodils poking their heads up through the snow heralding the coming of warmer weather. Oh the flowers will be such a welcome sight after weeks and weeks of 'white stuff' being the only thing visible when looking out our windows. The birds are singing so joyously these days and that is a treat, once again to hear their songs. Speaking of songs, again I am singing the song of becoming involved in your Huron Fringe Field Naturalists organization. Ask any of your Executive if they feel that they have a hard job, and I don't think anyone of us would say that....but it does take commitment on a personal level to maintain an organization such as ours that is enjoyed by such a number of people genuinely interested in Nature. If you feel that you would like to join our Executive, just let any one of us know of your interest. That's the business end of my note...Amen!

I wish each and everyone a most enjoyable Spring and summer doing whatever tickles your fancy. Outdoor activities are such a bonus to living in our Nature-rich environment. When out walking, biking or just driving in your car, take time to enjoy the sights and sounds of Nature around you. Mother Nature is there to be enjoyed by one and all. Make sure you get your fair share of her bounties.

Until next time...drive safe and remember....Never drive faster than 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.

LATE SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Full details inside.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22nd: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER

MAY: Spring Welcome Walk and Bruce Peninsula Explorer - SEE INSIDE!

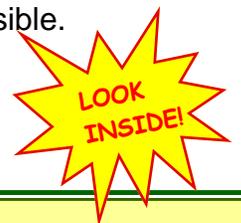
UPCOMING:

Cleanup at the Newton Reserve will take place when possible.

Art Doughty will once again lead a canoe trip in **June**.

Tom Lobb will lead a walk in Auburn on **June 28th**.

July 5th will be the annual butterfly count.



FRONT PAGE PHOTO CREDIT: TRILLIUMS, LION'S HEAD TRAIL, 2013 (Pepper)

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:

Marion Fink 395-395-3701.

Past President:

Jack Campbell, 395-5144

Vice-President:

Gina D. Davis 519-440-0403

Secretary:

Jackie Clements 396-3655.

Treasurer :

Rhodora Doughy 396-4368.

Memberships:

Kirk McNaughton 395-5711.

Speakers & Outings:

Tom Lobb 482-3342.

Joy Munn 395-3570.

Newsletter Editor:

Jeni Pepper 395-5616.

Member-at-Large:

Linda Somerville 395- 3603 .

Social Convenors:

Barb McNaughton,
Linda Campbell

Ontario Nature (FON) Rep:

Tom Lobb 482-3342.

Website Administrator/

Email reminders:
Steve Pepper 395-5616.

Advertising:

Elaine Holmes 396-7107.

H. F. F. N. CLOTHING HAS ARRIVED!



Our HFFN Executive is pleased to announce the arrival of your HFFN caps, tee shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies. Most of the orders have already been picked up or delivered...if you have not yet received yours, it will be made available at the Annual General Meeting (April 22nd) and any still in our possession by the May meeting will be brought along for you, or you can arrange pickup by contacting Steve Pepper (395-5616). *For an interesting idea about this clothing, please turn to our Members' Page!*



Our cold weather and some spring outings unfortunately were mostly put paid to this year, hopefully just a one-off joke from Mother Nature!

Some people did get out to see the incoming Swans and other water birds down by the Lambton Museum, and there were a few odd days of good sightings, from all accounts. However, some of the days, even the birds decided not to bother! This report came from

Donna Murray:

About 200 tundra swans were at the Thedford Bog (Lambton Heritage Museum) on March 20th. The numbers then declined somewhat to around 100 as of March 22nd. Swans were reported in the Alymer area as well.

This picture from a previous year was taken by Jack Campbell.

**Sightings....**

The first Robins were noticed around the time of our March meeting. They must have been surprised at all the snow still on the ground. However, in mid-April the Juncos are still very much in evidence, despite the subsequent arrival of Grackles and Turkey Vultures. Wrens are singing again!

**FRINGE NOTES**

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← Checker Lilies (Fritillaria) are a recurring delight when planted in a woodland setting. In this patch, all but six are planted. Always a great pleasure to see as they come up in late Spring. - Ed.

PAST MEETINGS:

TUES., Feb. 22nd: Photo Contest and Potluck Lunch

As Glen might say, 'Here we are eating again!' A wonderful repast was enjoyed by many members, including some very welcome newcomers. This is always a great time to get together as it's our first meeting of the new year, and gives people a chance to greet each other and catch up after the long break. Here we often are pleased to see some members who come in from the further reaches of our membership.



Likewise, our Photo Contest gives us some views of places people have visited over the last while. This year's Contest subject was 'Lakes' and the entries were all so lovely, as well as being plentiful.



Not an easy task to make one's choice. Finally the results were announced and were as follows:

4 X 6, 1st Prize: Marion Fink.

2nd Prize: Marion Fink.

Marion had been to the shore at sunset and taken some lovely views, seen on the next page.

Jim Armstrong's 5 X 7" print of Boyle Lake in Alberta won first prize in its section.

Jim later sent me the whole beautiful panoramic shot

that he had taken, which is well worth inclusion in these pages.

2nd Prize 5 X 7 was won by Donna Murray for her great shot of Norris Point, Bonne Bay, Gros Morne National Park, NL. - Ed.



PAST MEETINGS Cont.:

2014 Photo Contest Winners:



PAST MEETINGS Cont.:

The Storm Chaser - George Kourounis, March 25th



We were very fortunate to have, for our March meeting, George Kourounis, the storm chaser who you may have seen on 'Angry Planet'. George has been all over the world investigating hurricanes, tornadoes, storms and natural phenomena of all kinds - some of the storms on record for size and ferocity - as well as camping next to a live volcano, just feet from a crater of fresh lava ("We just tried to find the softest rocks...") and exploring incredible cave structures in Mexico, not to mention traversing a rope bridge over a boiling lake in Dominica, West Indies and boating on a very acidic lake in Indonesia. From heat resistant suits for volcano investigations to 'cooler suits' with supplied breathing apparatus for cave exploration, George has managed to access many different - and

dangerous - parts of the world during his travels. He even donned a tux and took his then fiancé up a volcano in order to get married, and has photographs to prove it!

He held us spellbound with his many amazing stories and personable, easy manner, and made us wonder what he did for excitement on his 'days off'. All in all a fantastic speaker and explorer. What a guy!



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MAYAPPLE, SPRING WELCOME WALK, GODERICH, 2010 (Pepper)

The Monarch

Monarch caterpillars eat only milkweed, which contains a poison the larvae retain in their bodies as they turn into butterflies. The poison does not affect the insect but makes most birds sick, thus protecting the butterflies. The butterflies mass at Point Pelee, the southernmost point in Ontario, before migrating to Mexico for the winter. ~ Parks Canada

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Join us for this eight-day Birding and Nature Festival held annually on the first two weekends after the May Victoria Day long Weekend.

Morning activities are filled with guided hikes concentrating not only on birds but wildflowers, butterflies and insects, in and outside the park. Afternoons feature additional hikes, workshops on bird identification and nature photography, plus other natural interests.



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~~ MEMBERSHIPS: ~~

Thanks to all who have paid their Membership Fees for the 2014 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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS: \$20 per person; 18 & under: free.

(CAN BE PAID AT ANY TIME OF YEAR) CONTACT:
KIRK MCNAUGHTON, 395-5711

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

~ ~ ~ REGULAR MEETINGS ~ ~ ~

Regular meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month, at the Pine River United Church,

Hwy 21 at the 4th Concession of Huron Township

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

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

Beverages.....\$1.00 Treats.....free



UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Tuesday, April 22nd (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER),

Dinner at St. Peters Anglican Church Hall in Lucknow , 7 - 8 pm.

Gift raffle - If participating in our ticket raffle, please bring a small, new, nature-oriented gift **PER TICKET** for the prize table.

Our Speaker will be Astronomer John Hlynialuk. He is an Astronomer from Owen Sound and his topic is 'The Southern Skies of Chile'. John has visited us before with a great presentation and will be welcomed with interest for the AGM.

John is a retired Science teacher who became interested in Astronomy after trying to view an eclipse in Gaspé, Quebec in 1970. The event was not visible due to clouds, but he persevered with the interest, and began night viewing. He found he enjoyed photographing the sky - the moon, constellations, Northern Lights, and planetary alignments. He was subsequently part of the founding Group of the Bruce Astronomical Society which has been encouraging public interest in Astronomy for the past couple of decades. John also enjoys landscape photography, hiking, geology, wildlife, canoeing and other outdoor pursuits.



St. Peters Anglican Church Hall - DIRECTIONS

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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS Cont.:**MEETINGS INFORMATION: Our next meeting dates are:**

Tuesday, May 27th, and Tuesday, June 24th:
regular meetings. **TBA**

July and August: no meetings.

We reconvene September to November.

UPCOMING OUTINGS - dates for some of these will be announced via email due to the late snow cover which has rendered some trails temporarily unwalkable.

Cleanup at the Newton Reserve will take place when possible in Spring.

Kincardine Lagoons - May 7th.

What - Birding Walk

Time - 8:30 am

Place - Meet Kincardine McDonald's, Hwy 21

This will be in conjunction with a birding walk by the Bruce Birding Club. Member James Turland will be our host for this walk. Always a pleasant outing. Bring binoculars, camera, spotting scope if you have one. Organise yourselves and bird the sewage lagoons. Great birds will happen!

**Spring Welcome Walk - Sun., May 11th**

Plans are afoot to take another hike at the McLaughlin-Morrison tract in Exeter. Join us for lunch at Exeter Tim's around noon, and we will proceed from there to the parking lot at the Tract around 1 pm. May be some soft ground. Bring a snack and binoculars, camera if you wish. This is a longer hike; washroom is at the far end, if it is open!

Contact: The Peppers, 395-5616, trek66@tnt21.com


**May 20th - 22nd or 23rd, 2014:
Bruce Peninsula Explorer**

Spend a day enroute up the beautiful Bruce Peninsula exploring some of the many natural sites; stay over in Tobermory 2-3 nights. (Option to stay an extra night.)

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.

2/3 nights' accommodation and breakfasts/picnic lunches/suppers, with HFFN friends if desired. A potluck/barbecue on our last evening. Details will be in the works. Car pooling is possible.

Contact: The Peppers, 395-5616, Trek66@tnt21.com

If interested, leave name, phone number and email - we will send you ongoing information. No obligation.



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BAILLIE BIRDATHON AT THE KINCARDINE LAGOONS
CATHERINE HOGG will accept any donation on behalf of the club for the Baillie Birdathon. The H.F.F.N. will receive 25% of all money collected. *See above for information on the Kincardine Lagoon Outing.*

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!



UPCOMING OUTINGS CONT.:**June - Canoeing/Kayaking**

Date: 4th June, rain date possibly the 11th if someone else can lead. Come and join this popular annual event. Bring your canoe/kayak, lunch, binoculars and a camera.

We will announce further details via email.

Contact (in early June): Art Doughty – 396-4368



53 South Street
Goderich ON
N7A 3L4

519-612-1034

email: nsewon@gmail.com

Auburn Area - Snowy Slippers and Tawny Emperors

When : Saturday, June 28th, 1 to 4 pm, Tom Lobb contact, 482-3342.

Where : Meet at Manchester Riverside Park just south of Auburn on Base Line (Huron County Rd 8).

Details : Meet at the shelter at Riverside Park at 1:00 pm. We will tour/hike the area around Auburn. Highlights should include an old dam & mill site, Maitland Block, part of the proposed Guelph to Goderich rail trail, a Queen snake research site, Ball's Bridge, Little Lakes, Saratoga Swamp, and Robertson Tract. **Notes :** Wear hiking boots - bring rubber boots for possible wet 100-ft. sortie into Saratoga Swamp. Bring cameras - I hope to see Snowy Ladies'-Slippers and Tawny Emperors!

No washrooms, but there is a family restaurant at the east side of Auburn on Blyth Road.



BALL'S BRIDGE: The easterly extension of the Maitland Trail along the Colborne Concession Road crosses the Maitland River on the historic Ball's Bridge. This iron structure was recently given a reprieve from demolition, and is to be preserved as a trail crossing at this beautiful area of the river.

ROBERTSON TRACT: This vast area of reforested trail extends east of the Heron Line to the Auburn Bridge. Along this section of the trail is a great mixture of hardwood and pine stands. The trail for the most part in this area follows the river bank, and fire lines which are cut through the forest make the area particularly attractive during the cross country ski season. Description: flat, straight, semi-sheltered, blazed with Maitland Trail markers, river views.

SARATOGA SWAMP

(County Forest / Maitland Valley Conservation Authority). Directions -from Carlow, proceed north on County Road #1, through Nile and turn right at first sideroad north of Nile -follow road past one intersection and go to top of hill -park on roadside at top, by County Forest sign. Description -hilly, sheltered, scenic, not marked, mixed coniferous and deciduous areas - some challenging sections.

**2014 NABA BUTTERFLY COUNT:**

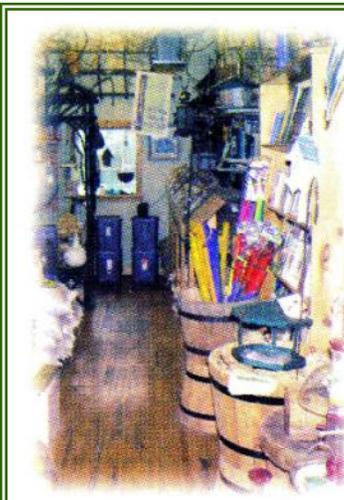
Saturday, July 5, 2014. Port Elgin. Location: MacGregor Point Provincial Park, 1593 Bruce RD 33. For more information: Friends of Macgregor Point Park website or: Phone: (519) 389-6232

**BEAR SEEN IN POINT CLARK....**

...A Woolly one, that is! Found on a road when all around was snow. We deposited him by the base of a tree where snow had melted. - Ed

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. Always bring your treaded hiking shoes or boots along....just in case!

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

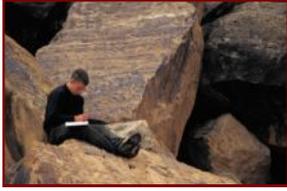


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Members' Page*



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

**Guests welcome!*

WELCOME TO New Members

*Guy and Bonnie Fera of Goderich,
Carol Helfenstein of Kincardine,*

&

Margie and Onno Visser of Kincardine.



Behind The Lens....

*Members using eyes and cameras.....
and phones, as the case may be!*



*New member Bonnie Fera has provided us
with some of her great shots of local deni-
zensthank you kindly, Bonnie!*



For Your Notes.....
