

Enjoying Nature in Huron-Bruce!

SPRING into
SUMMER, 2015...
WALKS, MEETINGS
&
POTLUCKS
~~~~~  
**FREE**  
FROM OUR  
SPONSORS  
THREE TIMES A  
YEAR



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HUNGRY MOUSE UNDER  
OUR FEEDER, FEBRUARY.

## LIKE TO JOIN US?

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



From our PRESIDENT,  
Gina Dalkin-Davis

As I write this, the sky is turning that heavenly spring blue, birds are at my feeders and the snow is rapidly melting away. Spring is definitely on its way to Huron and Bruce Counties.

The weather refused to cooperate in February and in March as those outings were either cancelled or were disrupted due to poor conditions. The highly anticipated Eagle Watch was cancelled.



On March 4<sup>th</sup> Janice McKean and Art Wiebe welcomed us to their home, "The Ark Farm". The popular **Evening Owl**

**Prowl** was severely curtailed as blizzard conditions prevented many members from making the hike into the woods to spot any owls. The potluck itself was an h'owl'ing success with delicacies and libation for all. And, to top it all, those of us who remained behind in the warmth of the Ark sauntered down memory lane with Tom Lobb as he shared stories accompanied by slides highlighting rambles along the banks of the Maitland and adjoining wetlands. We enjoyed photos of wildflowers both common and rare.

On a more upbeat note, the weather cooperated so we were able to hold the February meeting. Jack and Linda Campbell had a short video that everyone enjoyed, about the volcanic eruption on Iceland in 2010.



(PLEASE TURN THE PAGE.....)

## SPRING-SUMMER EVENTS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Full details inside.

### MEETINGS:

- March** : Adrienne Mason, Pine River Watershed Initiative Network - their successes and history.  
**April** : Steve Irvine, extraordinary Nature Photography...Our first Annual Dinner in our **new venue!**  
**May** : Marlene Wynnyk, Sea Buckthorn Orchard / Healing Centre.  
...**Spring Welcome Walk** and overnight **Bruce Peninsula tour**  
**June** : scheduled speakers: Members share their nature destinations for our perusal  
...Canoe/Kayak with HFFN's group of adventurous paddlers! & MORE...

### OUTINGS:

TITLE PHOTO CREDIT: Flowering cherry, Inglis Falls Arboretum (Pepper)

LOOK  
INSIDE!

**PLEASE NOTE:**

IF YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OR  
EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES,  
PLEASE NOTIFY THE EXECUTIVE.

OUR CONTACT DETAILS ARE BELOW.

### **H.F.F.N. EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONTACT NUMBERS:**

**President:**

Gina D. Davis 519-440-0403

**Past President:**

Marion Fink 395-395-3701

**Vice-President:**

(Open position)

**Secretary:**

Jackie Clements 396-3655

**Treasurer:**

Rhodora Doughty 396-4368

**Memberships:**

Kirk McNaughton 395-5711

**Outings:**

Tom Lobb 482-3342

(1 Open position)

**Speakers:**

Bob Simpson 396-5486

Margie Visser 395-3173

**Newsletter Editor:**

Jeni Pepper 395-5616

**Member-at-Large:**

Linda Somerville 395-3603

**Social Convenors:**

Barb McNaughton, 395-5711

Linda Campbell, 395-5144

**Ontario Nature (FON) Rep:**

Tom Lobb 482-3342

**Website Administrator/**

**Email reminder(volunteer):**

Steve Pepper 395-5616

**Advertising:**

Elaine Holmes 396-7107

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

### ***FRINGE NOTES***

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Kincardine.

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

The day's excitement, though, was the Photo contest. Jim and Christine Roberts did a great job with this. Many beautifully composed photos of Autumn's glory in colour were submitted. The judges had a hard time choosing a winner.

Looking over last fall's newsletter, I'm awed by the number and scope of activities that we have lined up for Spring and Summer 2015.

During March, residents and visitors to the North Lambton area, just south of Grand Bend, had been on alert for the return of the **Tundra Swans**. Could spring be far behind?



The beginning of spring is always associated with the '**return of the Swans**' to local farm fields. They swoop by the thousands onto the Thedford Bog attracted by the melting waters of spring and the remnants of the prior year's corn crop. They feed and rest as they make their way from their wintering grounds on Chesapeake Bay in Delaware to their breeding grounds in the Canadian Arctic, a journey of over 6500 km. (4000 miles). In a good

year, there will be 15,000 individual birds resting on the Thedford Bog. Several of our members enjoyed the sight.

On **March 24<sup>th</sup>**, we welcomed guest speaker Adrienne Mason. Ms. Mason presented her report on **the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network**. This worthy cause has been ongoing for the last 14 years.

At this writing, we are hoping that the weather cooperates in the month of **April** so that we can put together a work party to assess what needs to be done at the **Newton Reserve**. The nature trail winds through an old pine plantation and the remnants of the farm's orchards. Trails and steps can be quite slippery so work is definitely needed. I'm especially excited about this commitment as it is just 'outside my door', not too far from where I live.

Our **Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> in Lucknow**. This year, we will be meeting at the Lucknow United Church located on Hwy 86 (Campbell St.) Our guest speaker will be the very talented photographer Steve Irvine, from the



Warton area. Photographer and potter, Steve has found a unique way to unite his creative passions. We're excited about this gifted photographer's presentation. Steve's also a very superb potter. I have one or two of his pieces.

Also, early in the month of **May** a Spring Sailing adventure on board the **MS Chi-cheemaun** may be just what you are looking for. Make your own arrangements and plan to arrive early at the appointed meeting place.

The month of **May** looks like a very busy month with lots to offer.

**Kincardine Lagoons, Spring Welcome Walk, the Annual Bruce Peninsula Explorer** are all on the Calendar. See details in following pages. The **Huron Fringe Birding Festival** takes place at MacGregor Point Provincial Park on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>.  
(PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE.....)



### President's Comments, cont.

Also on Tuesday, **May 26<sup>th</sup>** Marlene Wynnyk will be on board with a presentation on her Sea Buckthorn orchards located near Teeswater. The **Healing Arc's Golden Orchard** lies on beautiful, rolling, Bruce County farmland just north of Wingham Ontario .

**Ontario Nature** has announced the date of the annual AGM. Interested parties to gather on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the wonderful rare ECO Centre, Blair Road, Cambridge. The early schedule for **A Day on the Grand** offers Bird Banding demonstrations, a special presentation by Grant Linney, guided nature hikes and tours, the 84<sup>th</sup> AGM and Conservation awards. Registration and fees information available through Lyndsey Martin at [lyndseym@ontarionature.org](mailto:lyndseym@ontarionature.org). or [www.ontarionature.org](http://www.ontarionature.org).



Whew! That's quite a calendar. It gives us a lot of opportunity to learn about our surroundings.

Friendships are built in common cause. Our HFFN Club is a dynamic force for nature in Huron and Bruce counties. To continue to be at the forefront, we must carry on building our membership base. I encourage all current members to invite interested parties to our meetings. The quality of our speakers and topics are a strong draw for those interested in nature in Huron Bruce. Whether year round residents or cottagers, our interest in the ecological dynamism of our neighbourhood, the Lake Huron shoreline and the surrounding nature preserves brings us together. Why not have fun at a potluck and learn together. Kirk McNaughton is our Membership director. Kirk will be happy to answer most questions about membership.

~ *Gina*



### PAST OUTINGS

#### Eagle Watch, February 14th

...unfortunately had to be cancelled. Member James Turland, having been out for a look, reported that the lake was frozen so far out that the eagles were having to go further from shore to find their open water to fish in, resulting in a sighting much diminished by distance. As well, a check on the weather for the time of the outing was distinctly discouraging...the wind chill was forecast to be around -30C. Standing on a wind-blown viewing platform at those temperatures, looking at specks in the distance, was deemed too much for even dedicated birders.

~ Ed.

#### Owl Prowl and Potluck at the Ark, March 4th:

#### **EVENING OWL PROWL AND POTLUCK AT THE ARK, or IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT....by Gina D. Davis**

**Wednesday March 4th began** as a beautiful day full of sunshine, promising spring-like weather. Our group, as evidenced by the good turnout, anticipated sighting owls as we contemplated the prowling through the woods at The Ark, Janice and Art's property located just north of Kincardine.



At the appointed hour a very convivial crowd gathered in the living room for drinks and potluck. Janice's dining room table groaned under the weight of numerous casseroles, salads, stews, cakes, cookies and pies as Club members presented their contributions to the potluck dinner. Plates brimming with delicacies, we tucked into salad, bean chili, chicken and other nourishments. Of course, the mains were followed by scrumptious desserts. The pies especially were 'to die for'.



Meanwhile, in the kitchen a lively discussion concerning revelations of recent scientific studies on the benefits of coffee, wine, sugars, salts and other pleasurable condiments or libations that make life so enjoyable. As each of us held forth on the good, the bad and the ugly of our favourite culinary vice we sipped our wine: one glass or two (3 for men... how unfair!), nibbled on those wicked desserts and slurped our deep roasted, caffeinated coffees. (next page...)



← AN EFFORT TO REPRODUCE THE TWENTY-PLUS PAIRS OF ASSORTED FOOTWEAR WHICH WERE PLACED IN ART AND JANICE'S FOYER THAT EVENING.....NOT TO MENTION SCARVES, SWEATERS, SOCKS, MITTS, HATS, COATS.....A TRUE MELANGE! ADD TWENTY-SOME PEOPLE ALL HUNTING THEIR STUFF.....REALLY LOTS OF FUN!

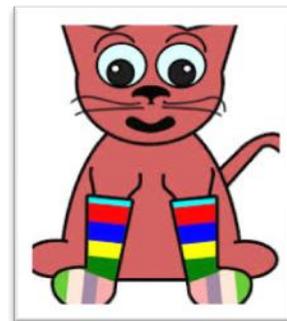
**PAST OUTINGS....cont.**

It was not easy going! Lacking snowshoes or cross country skis, our intrepid president, Gina was the first to sink up to her nether regions in deep snow and then to fall on her face into the snow. Jeni soon followed, a victim of giggles. These two wise girls know when to get going... back to a warm house! Meanwhile, back in the warmth of the living room, Tom Lobb had set up a very enjoyable, informative slide show. Those who were wise enough to forego the Owl Prowl were treated to the best show of flora and fauna, compliments of Tom and late long-time member Harvey Wightman: a highly talented photographer of regional wild flowers along the Maitland River, local farms and nature preserves. Slides were arranged to follow the time of year. Bloodroot appearing as early as March heralds Spring's arrival; Nodding Trilliums and the relatively rare Green Dragon greet early Summer while Lady Slipper Orchids and their relatives prepare to greet the mid-summer season. Yellow Pond Lilies brashly announce Summer's sunny days. Closed Gentians of Late summer direct us anticipate the Autumn months. Fall flowers such as the Cardinal Flower or the Milkweed recently returned from solitary confinement confirm the lateness of the season and late Fall when Purple Asters portent the coming of winter.



Meanwhile, near 8 pm our crestfallen Owl Prowlers returned to the warm of the Ark. The wise old owl had called it a day, flown off in search of an unwise mouse and having had his fill, returned to his perch hidden among the branches of the woodland where silence reigned.

And the weather ... it turned ugly. All Club members returned home safe and sound. And, tucked into warmth of their beds our resolute Huron Fringe Field Naturalists dreamed of sighting in their binoculars the nocturnal Saw-whet Owl or, perhaps, hear the "hoo, hoo-hoo, HOO HOO" of a Great Horned Owl in Art's woods. A hearty 'Thank you!' to Art and Janice for their warm hospitality. Everyone had a wonderful time!



One mystery remains: "Where are Rhodora's socks?"

*- Gina*

**The Ark Farm**  
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thearknativeplants.com  
theark@bmts.com

**Membership Forms in our Issues...**

These will now be included in each issue for your convenience. Fill out, add your dues, and mail or hand in to join or renew. Done!




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SHARP EYED READERS WILL NOTE THE SMALL DIRECTIONAL SIGN BOTTOM RIGHT....A FAMILIAR PREDICAMENT TO NATURALISTS. FOUND AT THE ARCHES, PORTLAND CREEK, N.I. ~ ED.



## Meeting Reports

### February Potluck, Hobby Demo and Photo Contest

**Due to weather chaos** on the usual day, with dreadful driving conditions, cars in ditches and general mayhem, culminating in the closure of Hwy 21 yet again, this event had to be rescheduled for the following Friday, but was a resounding success in spite of weather, people down with the latest virus, and others relaxing in sunnier climes. About twenty people arrived with their aromatic dishes, some of them with examples of their hobbies and all with warm smiles.

As usual, the food was to be shared at about twelve thirty. At twelve fifteen, a glance over to the kitchen made the writer wonder whether this dinner was to consist of a platter of dinner buns and four desserts, but by half past most of the other people had arrived and swelled the offerings to almost overwhelming proportions. At about one pm we sat down with loaded plates and tucked in. Two visits to the main course bar were the thing to do if you wanted some of everything...and the same with the desserts. There was not too much left of anything.



After our meal, we settled to the hard task of choosing our favourite photo's, beautifully displayed by Christine Roberts, ably helped by Jim, who also had an interesting display for the hobby table.



There were many lovely entries for the Photo Contest, and choices were not easy to make. Christine's display board for the 4" X 6" prints was a glow of autumn glory, and space had to be found for some on the other board, which had four 5" X 7" entries, plus an amusing photo of a cross bird which fell down a woodstove chimney and was glaring from the firebox, awaiting rescue.

#### 4" X 6" ENTRIES



**TWO MORE  
4" x 6"  
ENTRIES**



**...AND A BIRD IN ONE!**

## Meeting Reports cont.

### February Potluck, Cont...

The Hobby Demonstration was undeniably one of the best the Club has ever had. Many thanks to those who graced our tables with their work. Jim Roberts brought along 'Gary', his Snapping Turtle skeleton, to be pored over; Valerie Gibson brought along a nice collection of antique deer; Helen Vanderglas displayed her beautiful needlework; Catherine Hogg brought along her photo album, much enjoyed and envied at, and Art Doughty, Murray Jamieson and Jack Campbell had a fine collection of nature and caricature carvings, several of which have won awards.

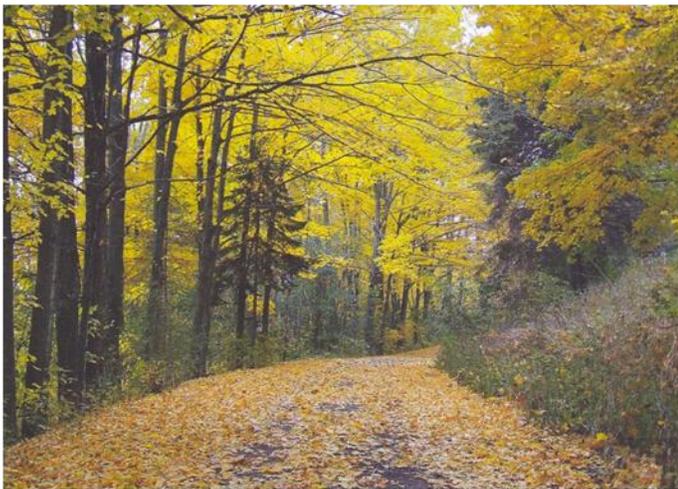
### PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

**WINNERS ALL:** Came the time to award prizes for everyone's favourite photographs. Much humming and hawing and finally making one's checkmarks against the numbers produced many checks against many numbers, but the winners of the 4" X 6" category, shown below, were:

(1<sup>st</sup>) **Glen Holmes** for his autumn country road and (2<sup>nd</sup>) **Onno Visser** for his colourful fall forest shot.



For the 5" X 7", Glen again took the prizes with the popular favourites, below:  
A leafy forest scene and a great shot of an unblemished Oak leaf.



Glen then announced that he did not want to snafu all the prizes, so he suggested that a third prize be awarded, and the winner of this was a delighted **Marion Fink**, who had taken some lovely shots of the Saugeen River as viewed from the Amphitheatre at Southampton

(NEXT PAGE PLEASE...)

## Meeting Reports, Cont: PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



MARION'S LOVELY SHOT, 3rd PRIZE.

...So another great February meeting, and we were sorry to have some members miss this one. A new subject for next year's Photo Contest will soon be announced, however, and everyone can have another go! Thank you all for your great participation in this event, whether food, photos or your hobby.

Congratulations to our 2015 winners!

~ Ed.



### Tuesday, March 24th: Adrienne Mason and PRWIN, by Jackie Clements:

The meeting on Tuesday was excellent, and very encouraging. It seems that the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network has accomplished quite a lot in the 10 years since its inception. Adrienne told us that 70% of the world's fresh water is contained in the Great Lakes of North America. Therefore caring for the watersheds which feed the lakes is crucial. Our own Pine River Watershed empties into Lake Huron and has been subjected to deforestation and drainage for agriculture throughout the past 150 years, resulting in considerable depletion of topsoil, wetlands and wild life, and deterioration of quality of the water entering the lake. The PRWIN has been working with the co-operation of local farmers to alleviate these negative effects and restore some of the natural balance to the area. Planting trees in close proximity to streams and the river, and preventing cattle from standing directly in the streams to drink, results in less nutrient pollution of the water flowing to the lake. The construction of WASCObS both improves water quality and helps farmers, by reducing soil erosion on their land. A WASCOb is a **water and sediment control basin** in the form of a berm, designed to hold back water for 24hrs., to allow heavy soil particles to settle out and remain on the land. It is estimated that the two completed WASCOb projects in the Pine River watershed will keep 100 tons of topsoil on the land and out of the lake. This situation benefits everyone and contributes to a sustainable future for our planet. 🍃

~ Jackie



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WILD  
CUCUMBER  
AT BAYFIELD  
RIVER  
SAWMILL  
TRAIL,  
FALL 2010  
(PEPPER)



WILD  
CUCUMBER  
POD, BAY-  
FIELD, FALL  
2010  
(PEPPER)



SPRING  
AZURE  
BUTTERFLY,  
B. TAYLOR,  
JUNE 2014



## 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:

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

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

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

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

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

Remember to bring a map or directions with you.



### NEWTON RESERVE WORK PARTY

**When:** Wednesday, April 22, **RAIN DATE:** Thursday, April 23.

**Contact:** Tom Lobb

**Meet:** 10:00 a.m. at the reserve.

For those unfamiliar with Newton, you may wish to carpool at Pine River Church, 9:15.

**Details:** Come out for Earth Day at the reserve to help clean up garbage, fallen branches, etc.

Bring gloves, pruners, garbage bags, and a bagged lunch. Once work is finished, we will make the short drive to President Gina's for refreshments.

**Directions:** The reserve is at the intersection of Kitchigami Road and Porters Hill Line, south-east of Goderich. Park along Kitchigami Road, just east of the intersection.

**(Note:** There are no washrooms at the reserve.)



### CHI-CHEEMAUN SPRING CRUISE, OWEN SOUND TO TOBERMORY:

Due to ice conditions on Georgian Bay, the 2015 ferry season will begin on Tuesday, May 5, not Friday, May 1 as planned.

The delay also means that the Annual Spring Cruise between Owen Sound and Tobermory will take place on Monday, May 4. All customers who have pre-purchased tickets for the Cruise will be contacted.

OSTC apologizes for any inconvenience the change may cause for our customers.

\$49.75 for bus and cruise; \$10.25 for on-board buffet.

Call 1-800-265-3163 or Skype 1-800-265-3163 FREE to reserve.

### KINCARDINE LAGOONS NATURE HIKE with the Bruce Birding Club, Wednesday May 6th

**All are welcome** to join in this hike at Kincardine Lagoons May 6th. Some Birders have traded in the long drive and crowds of early May at Point Pelee for the peace of Kincardine Lagoons. If you are lucky enough to coincide your hike day here with a bird fallout you will be amazed. All levels of the forest, from canopy to floor are alive with the song and color of migrant birds. The abundant bugs hatching from the lagoons fuels the birds' flights farther north. In recent years between 70 and 80 different species have been seen on the best mornings. Orioles, Tanagers, Buntings and Warblers bring the forest to life. But birds are unpredictable and in the blink of an eye they could be all gone.

This is an easy hike over flat trails. If you plan to stay for the day bring a lunch or skip out for something.



**UPCOMING OUTINGS....****KINCARDINE LAGOONS NATURE HIKE** CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

1. **When** - Wednesday May 6th at 9:00 AM
2. **Where** - Bruce Avenue Soccer Parking Lot 1, Kincardine (same parking as Dog Park and Legion Ball Diamond)

**If you are really keen, meet at 7:00 AM, same place.** You know the old adage 'The early bird gets the worm.' If you arrive and there is no one at the parking area, find us by calling on two way radio. 11-22 is the band used by birders.

~ James Turland



Cape May Warbler at Kincardine Lagoons

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OWNER



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Fax: 519-396-3454

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13th-- SPRING WELCOME WALK**

**Contact: Steve Pepper, (see pg.2)**

**Meet: Kincardine Sobey's, 1pm, west edge of parking lot.**

We'd like to have a mosey around one of the Kincardine trails...which one will depend on our pre-walk explorations to determine terrain/ease of traverse.



Wear your walking brogues or sneakers for this one - but bring boots, in case. A hiking stick if you feel the need. Come and savour the heart-lifting Spring with like-minded friends. Woodland walk on easy paths or boardwalks. We will endeavour to be reasonably near washrooms!! Birding/wildflower/tree ID books and binoculars are always useful. Maybe we'll find some Skunk Cabbage, like the one at right, to wrinkle our noses over! Skunk Cabbage is a very interesting plant. You can read all about it on the Ontario Wildflowers website. At least that is smell-free!

Join some of us at Tim's (next to Sobey's) before we wend our ways home. Cancelled if the weather is nasty!

**2015 ANNUAL BRUCE PENINSULA EXPLORER - Tues., May 19th - Thurs., May 21st or Fri., May 22nd.**

**Contact: the Peppers, (see pg. 2)**

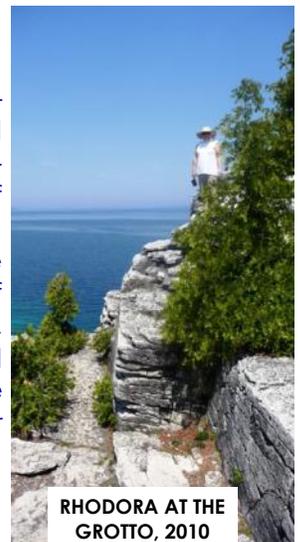
Our May meeting isn't until the 26th this year which gives us another chance at a longer stay if you like, and leaving the weekend free for the start of the nearby Birding Festival on the 22nd. If you are a 'regular' or a 'second timer' we welcome you again - if you're new to this, you may like to go online and read about our past trips in the fall Newsletters to get an idea. (Website address is on the front of every edition of this newsletter.)



RAM'S HEAD LADYSLIPPER

I think we can speak for everyone when we say, Bring along your love of Nature, your curiosity, spirit of adventure, and an umbrella! For more details, add your name to the list at meetings....we will send information via email or phone.....no obligation if you sign the list.

(continued....)



RHODORA AT THE GROTTO, 2010

**UPCOMING OUTINGS**...CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**BRUCE EXPLORER...**

Basically...meet at Sobey's in Kincardine for a day's sightseeing trip up the Bruce Peninsula, a stay in Tobermory, the pretty harbour village at 'the tip of the Bruce', and day trips out and around this very special area. Barbecue and potluck one of the days at the motel. There is a good grocery store in the harbour. Meals are usually as a group, lunches are often picnics. Walking terrain varies, but often easy...we're not all spring chickens! Maps and itineraries are provided, and car pooling/room and cabin sharing can be arranged between participants. All activities are optional, respective of ability... and how tired you are! More information can be had at Tobermory's newly designed website, [www.http://tobermory.com/](http://tobermory.com/)



LUNCH AT SINGING SANDS, MAY 2010

**International Biodiversity Day will be observed on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015.**

The HFBF operates as a volunteer committee of The Friends of MacGregor Point Park, a non-profit organization attached to MacGregor Point Provincial Park, and a member agency of Ontario Nature. We are well positioned geographically to hold a birding and nature festival. Our headquarters, MacGregor Point Provincial Park, is located on the Lake Huron shoreline and provides ideal habitat for birds and uncommon wildflowers. We are on the border of southern and northern Ontario and have one of the most diverse habitats in the province. The Bruce Peninsula is rich with flora and fauna and is right at our doorstep. This area is recognized to have the most variety of orchids and butterflies in the province, and has been reported to have the most nesting song bird species in southern Ontario. The Lake Huron shoreline and the Bruce are true gems. For more information, please check our link at: <http://friendsofmacgregor.org/page/huron-fringe-birding-festival> - Liz Addison for Fred Jazvac.

## Huron Fringe

### Birding Festival

May 22 - May 31, 2015



One of North America's  
Premier Birding &  
Nature Festivals!

Program available January 15, 2015  
 Online registration from February 1, 2015  
[www.friendsofmacgregor.org](http://www.friendsofmacgregor.org)  
[birdfest@rogers.com](mailto:birdfest@rogers.com) or 519-389-6231  
 MacGregor Point Provincial Park • Port Elgin, ON.

**Canoe/Kayak with Art Doughty - TBA**

Probable date: first week of June.

Local canoe outing to look for birds, plants and possibly animals. Leave Kincardine about 9:00 am and return middle to late afternoon. Canoers and kayakers welcome, but little experience required. One experienced person per canoe is helpful!

Pack a meal for shore lunch.

Have been to Arran Lake these last few years, but wind has been a problem.

Will look for alternate area to explore, or use alternate access to Arran Lake.

**Sunday, June 14 - Behind Goderich Cemetery**

**Meet:** At 1:30 p.m. at the Cemetery entrance.

**Leader:** Tom Lobb 519-482-3342

**Directions:** The cemetery is on highway 8 just east of Goderich.

**Details:** Celebrate 'Canadian Rivers Day' by joining us for a walk through the trails and reforested areas between the cemetery and the Maitland River valley. This area was flattened by the tornado and has had a lot of recovery work done. Time permitting, we will also check out the spectacular Colborne Riverside Park. **Contact Steve Pepper for carpooling details. See pp. 2.**

**NABA Butterfly Count**

**Date:** July 04, 2015 to July 04, 2015

**Location:** Visitor Centre

**Description:**

A group of dedicated volunteers in this fun-filled citizen science project!

Participants will identify and count butterflies of MacGregor Point and surrounding areas. Registration is at 9:00am with groups leaving at 10:00am. Cost is \$5/person. To register as a volunteer, please contact Kathleen Chayer at 519-389-6232 (skype: 519-389-6232)

**UPCOMING OUTINGS....CONTINUED**

**August - West Perth Wetlands**

**Date and Time:** TBA

**Leader:** Tom Lobb 519-482-3342

**Details:** The West Perth Wetlands in Mitchell are former lagoons that are managed to attract late summer migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. We will hopefully join Nature Stratford in their annual outing here. Rare shorebirds, such as godwits and phalaropes may be there at that time.



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**Members' Page...**

*What Our Members are Doing!*

~~ ANNUAL MEETING AND BEEF DINNER ~~

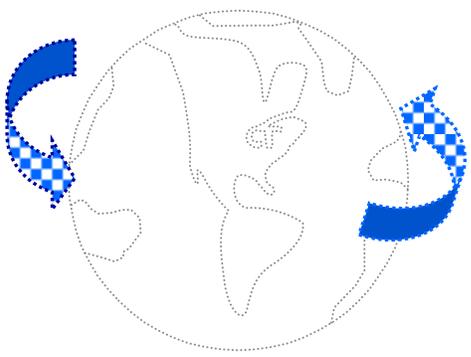
Just a reminder that our next AGM is at the LUCKNOW UNITED CHURCH...any leftover tickets may be offered for friends and family of members, so check with Steve if you would like any.

Regretfully, we can give no refunds on any ticket cancellations during the last week before this event.

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



**GOING AWAY SOMEWHERE!**



Wear your HFFN clothing anywhere in the world, get a photo of yourself in it with a nice background, and send it to the Peppers.... we'll publish it!



**CORRECTION!! DID YOU NOTICE?**

Ten lashes with a wet noodle for your editor-in-a-rush, who, last issue, got this announcement bass-ackwards. Only Marion Fink noticed the slip and queried it....Juncos leave us in the Spring, and return before the snow....below, with apologies, is the amended remark about that:

KEEP an eye out for the farewell of our sprightly wee Juncos...their fair-weather farewell is one of the harbingers of Spring in the bird world as we welcome Spring arrivals.

Spring 2007 saw this Red-Headed Woodpecker enjoying winter suet. He was shortly bombed by our resident swallows!  
~ Ed.



**YES! WE HAVE A**



**SUBJECT FOR THE NEXT PHOTO CONTEST, SO DIG OUT THOSE CAMERAS....**

**TAKE THEM WITH YOU ON YOUR SUMMER OUTINGS... OUR CHALLENGE THIS YEAR:**

**THE BEAUTY AND WONDER OF**



**...ITS COLOURS, MOODS, REFLECTIONS, MOVEMENT, BEAUTY AND VARIETY... IN ANY NATURAL SETTING, WHETHER SCENIC OR UP-CLOSE. GOOD LUCK!**

**(AND....DON'T FALL IN!)**



A GREAT PHOTO OPPORTUNITY AT THE PEPPER'S, SPRING 2007. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER SHARES FOOD WITH AN INDIGO BUNTING.

## ~ ~ ~ REGULAR MEETINGS ~ ~ ~

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

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

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

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

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



Social Time: 7.30 pm.

FEED THE FROG!

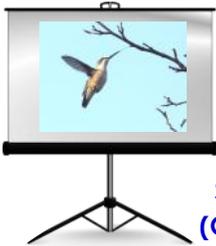


Meeting: 8:00 pm.



Beverages: 1.00, treats: free.

#### APRIL 28th- Annual General Meeting & Beef Dinner, Lucknow United Church, 7pm.



At every AGM the Speakers Committee has made available a special after-dinner speaker for members. This year is no different.

We are very happy to announce that Steve Irvine from the Warton Area (Georgian Bluffs) will give a one hour presentation that will cover different approaches to nature photography---from macro and pinhole photography to deep space astrophotography and time lapse photography. In order to find out what each method is you will have to attend our AGM.

Steve is a very special artist. His specialties include clay and photography. Steve's work in clay and photography has been published in books and magazines, throughout the world. Steve has also received awards from the Ontario Crafts Council, Ontario Clay and Glass Association and the Government of Ontario. We look forward to Steve's Presentation and look forward to your attendance at this year's AGM. ~ Speakers Committee

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#### GUIDELINES FOR GIFT RAFFLE :

If participating in our ticket raffle, please bring a small, new, nature-oriented gift PER TICKET for the prize table: small plants, bird feeding or gardening related items, etc. Gently-used nature books are welcome.

#### Lucknow United Church Hall - DIRECTIONS

Lucknow United Church, 505 Campbell Street, Lucknow, ON (corner of Campbell and Havelock )  
(Campbell St. is the main street.)

#### Tues., May 26th: Sea Buckthorn: The Miracle Orchard

Marlene Wynnyk is the speaker for the May 26 meeting.

Marlene owns and operates a huge orchard of sea buckthorn trees near Teeswater which produces orange berries in July and August. Marlene is inspirational in her love for these amazing berries and the healing qualities they provide for our health and skin care. She uses the berries for juice, jams, a spicy jelly, soaps and lotions.



#### Tuesday, June 23: Places to visit this summer!



For the June 23 meeting, some members of our group will present photos and description of a place in Ontario which we might like to visit this summer. Any member who would like to share an environmental destination in a five to ten minute presentation, please e-mail Margie at [mvisser@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:mvisser@hurontel.on.ca)

UPCOMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE - something to look forward to....

our Speakers Committee has been busy finding these gems for us:

Tues., September 22: Brian Salt of the Salthaven sanctuary for injured animals will make a presentation.

Tues., October 27: Monique Aarts will speak on improving habitat for endangered reptiles in Huron County.

~~ More information in your Fall issue! See you there! ~~

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!**



**HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS  
EXTEND A HEARTY WELCOME TO THOSE  
WHO ARE JOINING US.**

**WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL ENJOY OUR  
PRESENTATIONS AND REAP THE  
BENEFITS OF ALL OR ANY OF THE WALKS OR HIKES  
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YOURSELF KNOWN TO US SO THAT WE CAN DRAW  
YOU INTO OUR MIDST AND GET TO KNOW YOU!**



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**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

new member application or  renewal

**CURRENT YEAR ...**

**SEPTEMBER 2014 to SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Membership Cost:** \$20.00 per person. Youths 18 or less are free.

Please mail completed form with payment to:

**Huron Fringe Field Naturalists**

Box 143 Kincardine, Ontario N2Z 2Y6

(Please print:)

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

Contact Information:

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

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please tell us....where did you hear of our group?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**~~ MEMBERSHIPS: ~~**

There are still a few members from last year who have not yet paid their dues for our 2014/2015 (September 2014 to September 2015) club year. Hopefully these members intend to retain their membership. Hence it would be appreciated if their payment could now be made by mail (see form at left). The fee structure for 2014/2015 is a straight \$20 per person, with all under 18 years of age being free.

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

If you have any questions about your membership status, or changes to your contact information, please contact Kirk McNaughton at 519-395-5711 or [kirkmcnaughton@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:kirkmcnaughton@hurontel.on.ca).

*Thanks .... Kirk*

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*Thank you!*