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THE HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS FRINGE NOTES

SPRING, 2018...
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MEETINGS &
POTLUCKS
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~ Since 1985 ~

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT, GINA DALKIN-DAVIS:

*To everything there is a season; and a time for every matter under heaven....*  
Ecclesiastes, C.3, Verses 1-8



The moments of new beginnings are a gift that we as naturalists look forward to with anticipation. Responding to Spring's siren call, we grab our binoculars, don our wellies and launch into our search for those early signs that the deadly grip of winter has given way to soft caresses of a spring breeze. We're eagerly on the lookout for those tell-tale lines

of maple syrup pots, the first green shoots of the earliest plants to poke their dainty heads out of last year's autumn detritus. Like voyeurs we spy on courtships, the erotica of the avian world. As our friend Jim says, the birds are all sexed up! Jim's observation is on the money. Our annual dinner speaker was David Gascoigne whose topic was 'Sex and the Single Bird'. Which reminds me to say, hopefully you've cleaned out your bird boxes in anticipation of new tenants.

We also welcome several new HFFN members to our club. We hope that you enjoy the 2018 roster of activities. Put on your walking shoes or boots and take full advantage of the expert guides among our members who always walk the walk and talk the talk.

Speaking of someone who knows what he is talking about, in March, our guest speaker was the Bat expert, Allan Kempert. Allan talked about bat behavior, myth busters - 'true or false'; shared some amazing & fun facts about bats and the benefits of bats. He also enlightened us about when to safely evict bats.

I started this letter with a quote from the Book of Ecclesiastes. This wonderful prose also reminds us that there is a time for things to end. So, it is now time for me to step down as President. I've enjoyed my tenure. As with all successful endeavours, the impossible is only possible with helping hands. Our Club has an extraordinarily devoted Executive without whom we wouldn't be nearly as successful.



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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., AT PINE RIVER UNITED CHURCH, HWY 21.\*\***  
MEMBERSHIP IS NOMINAL.  
(EXECUTIVE CONTACT NUMBERS & MORE INFO INSIDE, P. 2.)

\*\*except April, Annual Dinner at another venue.



JAMES TURLAND PHOTO

## UPCOMING EVENTS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Full details inside.*

### MEETINGS:

**May 15th (one week early)**  
**Paul Austin on Nuclear Waste storage**  
**Tuesday, June 26th: Jory Mullen on**  
**Ontario's Reptile & Amphibian Atlas**  
**(next meeting: September.)**

### OUTINGS:

**Canoe-Kayak, TBA**  
**Huron Fringe**  
**Birding Festival**  
**Bruce Peninsula Explorer**



**TITLE PHOTO CREDIT:** Rope, Parks Visitor Centre, Tobermory ~ 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:

Lynn Johnston 528-2411

Past President:

Gina D. Davis 519-440-0403

Vice-President:Secretary:

VACANCY

Treasurer:

Onno Visser 395-3173

Memberships:

Barb Simpson 396-5486

Outings:

Tom Lobb 482-3342

(1 Open position)

Speakers:

Bob Simpson 396-5486

Newsletter Editor:

Jeni Pepper 395-5616

Members-at-Large:

Joy Munn 395-3570

Social Convener:

Linda Campbell 396-5144

Rhodora Doughty 396-4368

Ontario Nature (FON) Rep:

Jim Roberts

Website Administrator:

Steve Pepper 395-5616

Communications:

Christine Roberts 395-5008

Publicity:

Christine Roberts 395-5008

### >> Our Club Executive <<

is always ready to welcome new members with fresh thoughts and ideas! We meet three times a year over a meal 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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### President's comments....

I know that you are going to love in-coming President, Lynn Johnston. A highly capable woman, fun loving and a lover of nature, Lynn opens her country place each September and hosts our annual Corn Roast. Please be sure to identify yourself and greet Lynn at the next meeting.



**Our Facebook page is underutilized!** Please check it out as a place to share those great sightings, ask questions, post your photos, get in touch with other like-minded folks, and look at the photographs others have shared.

Bookmark that site!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Huron-Naturalists/1654123064825494>

Copy and paste this address to your Browser.

See you there! **Happy Spring!**

~ *Gina D. Davis*



### PAST MEETINGS:....

#### February 27th: Photo Contest, Potluck

#### **HFFN Potluck and Photo Contest 2018**

The theme of this year's photo contest was "Winter Wonderland" but on this beautiful day we were left wondering where winter went.

Nearly 40 members gathered to share good food, good company and beautiful photography. The voting format was changed this year to make the ballot anonymous and seemed to work well. As usual, it was a difficult decision with many striking images. In the end perennial favourite Glen Holmes tied for first with Jeni Pepper in

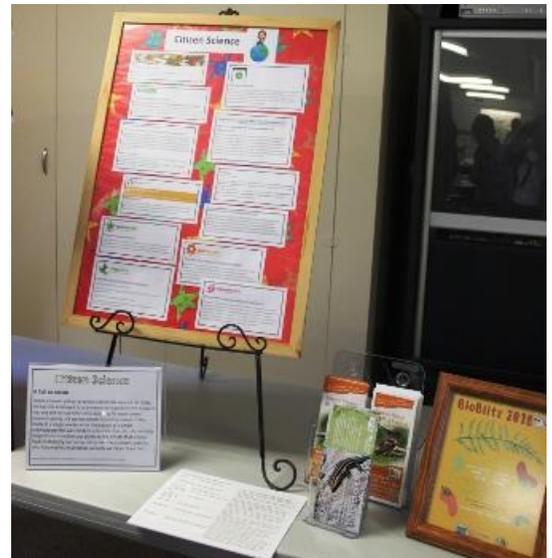


Members of the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists enjoy a delicious lunch. Roberts photo

the 5 X 7 group. Jeni also took first in 4 X 6 with Jayne Miltenburg placing second.

In addition to the photo contest, members brought examples of nature-related interests which this year included Christine's paintings, Donna Butson's precipitation data gathering and Jim's water fowl skeleton.

Citizen Science was a secondary theme at this year's event with a display of programs and apps to suit the many and varied interests of naturalists.



Citizen Science has plenty of creative ideas and activities. Roberts photo

***PAST MEETINGS:....***

**Tineasha Brenot, Coastal Technician** with the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation (LHCCC), was also on hand to talk to HFFN members about the centre's many programs and to invite everyone to attend the Coastal Speaker Series. In the business portion of the meeting Bob Simpson and Tom Lobb gave updates about past and future outings, Onno Visser commented on recent equipment purchases and the state of the club's finances and Gina congratulated Jeni Pepper on the publication of another spectacular newsletter. In all aspects, a very successful meeting!

**(Winning photos, next page)**

**Text & Photos this page ~ *Christine Roberts***



Coastal Technician, Tineasha Brenot, talks with HFFN members Donna Butson, Jayne Miltenburg and Ruth McKague.



Pat Guay and Mary Coates discuss the merits of Winter Wonderland photos.



Bob Simpson, Gina and Walter Davis make difficult choices for the photo contest.



Donna Murray peruses the photo display.

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**HOURS:**

**SUMMER:** MON - SAT 10 - 5, SUN. 11 - 4  
(OPEN FOR PIPE BAND)

**WINTER:** TUES - SAT 10 - 5

→  
Smiles from members of your HFFN Executive and one guest, at the March 2018 Executive Meeting in Lucknow.



**FEBRUARY POTLUCK & PHOTO CONTEST: WINNING PHOTOGRAPHS**



Jeni Pepper, Jayne Miltenburg and Glen Holmes display their winning photographs.

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1st Prize, 4" X 6", 'Winter Wait', female Cardinal in a snowy Yew, J. Pepper.



Jayne Miltenburg's lovely winter wonderland, 2nd prize 4" X 6"



Left: Jeni's 5" X 7" of a snow-bedecked Weeping Birch came in as a draw with Glen's lovely picture at right.

*Good work from all of our entrants!*



A vigilant Glen Holmes caught this frosty, colourful Viburnum to bring him a draw for First Prize in the 5" X 7" category.

## *PAST MEETINGS:....*

### March 27th: Allan Kempert, Bat expert



Kempert's traveling companions, Livy and Dougie, juvenile Big Brown Bats. Kempert photo

A record crowd packed the basement of the church for an entertaining presentation on "The Truth about Bats", March 27<sup>th</sup>. Guest speaker Allan Kempert of Hanover is the enterprising founder of BatGuy.org, a business that specializes in bat proofing, humane eviction, bat houses and education. Allan's interest in the nocturnal aerialists began in 2000 when he built a new home near a wetland and erected bat houses in the hope they would control annoying insects. He began making bat houses to sell and in short order was in demand for bat removal from homes, cottages and churches.

Kempert has tremendous respect and affection for bats and stresses that he removes them humanely by installing exit tubes that allow bats to leave a structure but not re-enter. He also avoids bat evictions during the winter hibernation period and

from late May to July when the pups are nursing and most vulnerable.

Allan shared many interesting photos and facts about bat species worldwide before zoning in on the 8 native Ontario species. He amazed, and dismayed, us with the photo of a Philippine Flying Fox Bat sporting a 6 foot wingspan.

He stressed that despite their bad reputation, bats are beneficial to agriculture for natural pest control with the side benefit of producing excellent fertilizer. All Canadian bats are insectivores that forage twice a day in an area as large as 3 to 4 kilometres.

Threats to bats include wind turbine mortality, with research and regulations in place trying to mitigate the death toll. A major threat is White-nose Syndrome, a cold-loving fungus that infects the skin of the muzzle, ears and wings of hibernating bats.

Some common myths about bats were busted or confirmed, and the lecture concluded with instructions on how to build and install a simple bat house.

Allan entertained the assembly with his quick wit and dry humour and ultimately everyone gained a much greater understanding and appreciation of bats.



Allan Kempert, "the Bat Guy", talks with Helena Hill about bat sightings and identification. Roberts photos I & r.



New members Abby and Brenda Collins with Allan Kempert

## 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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PAST MEETINGS:....

March 27th, cont. ~

In the preceding business portion of the meeting, we welcomed four new members, AND discussed details of the April ADM and upcoming April outings. Jim Roberts reported on his recent visit to the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre in Peterborough and advised members how to deal with injured turtles. (below)



~ *Christine Roberts*

Turtle hospital - Jim Roberts



**Turtle Power!**

It's that time of year when turtles are on the move. Do you know what to do if you see a turtle on the road? What do you do if the turtle is injured?

For starters, read the information provided by the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation. To support turtle trauma care in our area, buy and display an HFFN "Brake for Turtles" magnet on your vehicle. They cost \$4 each of which \$3 will be donated to the building fund for the Georgian Bay Turtle Hospital near Orillia.

**I attended a 1 day turtle trauma workshop** in March at the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre in Peterborough. Its website states: "The Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre (home of Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre) is a registered charity whose goal is to protect and conserve Ontario's native turtles and the habitat in which they live. We accomplish this by operating a turtle hospital that treats, rehabilitates, and releases injured turtles, by performing extensive research in the field to further conservation initiatives, and by running a comprehensive education and outreach program."

The centre has been in operation since 2009 and in 2017 it admitted 920 injured turtles from across Ontario with an 80+% survival rate.

Why is it important?

Globally, turtles are threatened with extinction. In Ontario the two main threats are habitat loss and road kills. Most turtle species in Ontario live in southern Ontario; where the cars are.

Statistically, a female may need to lay up to 1500 eggs in order to produce one individual that will reach sexual maturity.

Losing even a few sexually mature individuals per year can doom a population over time. Alternatively, saving an injured turtle has a huge beneficial impact on a population.

**Don't assume an injured turtle can't be saved.** That was a key take-away from my visit. Turtles can survive horrific injuries. Their ability to recover far exceeds other animals. They can even regenerate a severed spinal cord. Turtles are really, really tough!

**Don't assume the turtle is dead.** Even the vet at the trauma center said that she often can't tell if a turtle is dead, and because of this they have a policy to wait 24 hours before concluding a turtle has died.

Even if the turtle has died the centre may be interested in recovering the body, as eggs within the body are viable for up to 24 hours.

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**HOW TO HELP AN INJURED TURTLE**

- Contact the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre, home of the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre. They treat and release injured turtles and have a network of volunteer "Turtle Taxi" drivers.
- Place the turtle in a dry, secure container with air holes, and keep it in the shade.
- Do not give the turtle any food or water.
- Try to limit handling, and wash your hands afterwards.
- Note the location where the turtle was found and report the sighting to the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas (ontarionature.org/atlas).
- Even if the turtle is dead report it to the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre. Eggs may be recovered.

*If you find an injured turtle contact the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre at 705-741-5000*

What do you do if you find an injured turtle? Regardless of the condition, place the turtle in a plastic tub with a lid, on a dry towel if possible. Don't put the turtle in water or even wet it down. A turtle's lungs are located directly underneath the shell. Since the most common injury is a cracked shell, the lungs are exposed and may be perforated. Exposing the turtle to water could drown it. Call the Turtle Trauma center 24/7 **(705-741-5000)**. They have a voice mail system and will call back to make arrangements to get the turtle to the trauma center. They have a network of over 100 volunteer drivers located across the province. They usually can arrange to pick up the turtle within 24 hours.



~ *Jim Roberts*

**NEXT PAGE:**

PAST MEETINGS..

TURTLE HOSPITAL....photos by Jim Roberts.



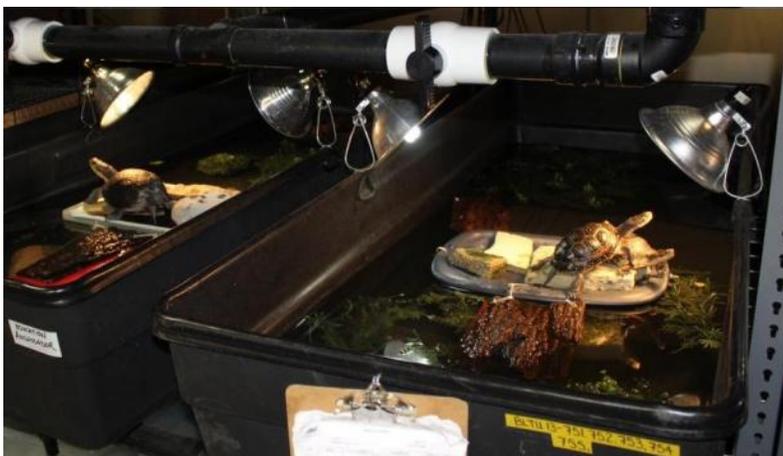
Tanks for larger snapping turtle patients.



Hatchlings: Baby painted turtles.



Recovery: Note the damage to the shell and the 2 pins attached by crazy glue holding the pieces together while the turtle heals.



Larger turtles recovering in tanks.

**BE A TURTLE CROSSING GUARD**

- Watch for turtles when driving between May and September.
- Always move turtles in the direction they are travelling.
- You can pick up most turtles by the sides of their shell. Never grab a turtle by its tail.
- Snapping Turtles can be grasped by their shell above their hind legs and moved like a wheelbarrow, or they can be carried like a tray of drinks, with your hand supporting them underneath. You can also place them on a car mat and drag the mat across the road.
- Note the location and report the sighting to the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas ([ontarionature.org/atlas](http://ontarionature.org/atlas)).
- Do not risk your own safety.
- If the turtle is injured call the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre (705-741-5000)

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**\*\* MAKE A NOTE of the number to call should you come across a turtle in need of help. Keep a copy in your vehicle(s) where you're much more likely to need it.**



SEE NEXT PAGE :



## *PAST MEETINGS...*

### HFFN Annual Dinner Meeting, April 24, 2018



**Fifty members and guests of HFFN gather at the Lucknow United Church April 24<sup>th</sup> for the Annual Dinner Meeting.**

**The Annual Dinner Meeting** is always an enjoyable social time with fifty members and guests gathering at the Lucknow United Church April 24<sup>th</sup> for a catered meal, gift exchange and nature-related presentation.

Vice-President Lynn Johnston chaired the meeting with brief business items including an update on the Bruce Explorer Trip by Steve Pepper and the introduction by Jayne Miltenburg of a silent auction fundraising initiative in support of the new digital projector. \*\*

This year's ADM will long be remembered for David Gascoigne's lecture titled, "Sex and the Single Bird". We expected to have fun with the topic but were not prepared to be entertained by what amounted to a stand-up routine on ornithological reproduction.

David Gascoigne's passion for birds began at an early age and has taken him all over the world in their pursuit. His distinguished service in conservation, monitoring, research and volunteering was recognized with the 2018 Waterloo Region Nature's Conservation Award.

Gascoigne described the mating systems of birds as belonging to 7 categories: monogamy, serial/seasonal monogamy, brood parasitism, bigamy, polygyny, lek mating and polyandry. The humour derived from his comical comparisons of human versus bird morality particularly as it applied to the perks and disadvantages for males and females within each mating system.

For each category he provided a description of the reproductive benefits along with examples of species practising that mating system, some of which were familiar and others that were more exotic. His stories revealed amazing reproductive adaptations to ensure maximum advantage on the part of both males and females.

Sprinkled throughout his presentation were fascinating anecdotes of conservation efforts both historical and current. At the end of the presentation Gascoigne elaborated on his monitoring of the endangered Barn Swallow detailing research methods and current findings.

Audience engagement was very high and members clearly would enjoy more time with this speaker.

Gascoigne shares his travels and photos at <https://travelswithbirds.blogspot.ca/> .

\*\* See following page.



**Guest speaker David Gascoigne (left) is thanked for his entertaining presentation by HFFN member Marshall Byle.**



**HFFN President Gina Dalkin-Davis (left) with 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lynn Johnston.**



**TEXT AND PHOTOS THIS PAGE: C. ROBERTS**

**PROJECTOR/STAND PURCHASE:**

HFFN recently purchased a new and more compatible projector for use with our speakers. We sincerely thank DONNA BUTSON, DONNA MURRAY and ONNO VISSER for thoughtfully contributing towards the cost. The Club has already enjoyed presentations with the new projector.

Thanks to Bob Simpson and Steve Pepper for sourcing this new item. A new projector stand has also recently been added to our equipment.

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As an idea to help raise funds for our new digital projector, the club will host a silent auction at a fall meeting. If you have any talents you could gift or would like to donate an item, they would be greatly appreciated. Eg. Baking, preserves, craft item, garden or nature item, gift certificates from local businesses, etc.

Contact either Jayne Miltenburg ( [jayne\\_miltenburg@hotmail.com](mailto:jayne_miltenburg@hotmail.com)) 519-529-3241 or Christine Roberts ([roberts@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:roberts@hurontel.on.ca)).

~~~~~  
PAST OUTINGS...

Eagle/Owl outing: Bob Taylor , Feb. 10th

The winter outing in search of birds this year started out with much better weather than the cold windy day we ventured out last year. Fifteen of us armed with our walkie-talkies got into a motorcade and headed down the 6th of Bruce to Baie du Dore to check out the eagles. The group included Ralph and Mary-Ann Knowles, Bob and Barb Simpson, Jack and Lynda Campbell, Ono and Margie Visser, Ron and Gabi Croft, Jim and Christine Roberts, Steve Pepper and Anne-Marie and I. One Snowy owl gave us a nice view from a hydro pole on highway 21 but there was too much traffic to safely get out of our cars for a closer look.

Although the weather was better than last year there was still a lot of ice in the bay and just enough heat waves to make seeing the eagles a bit of a challenge. Using our spotting scopes the group did manage to see Bald eagles, Great Black-backed gulls, Common mergansers, Mallards and Mute Swans. Heat waves kept us from identifying some of the other ducks that were there. One juvenile Bald eagle flew to a tree with a fish it had caught and treated us to a good view as it had its breakfast. Christine and Jim tried a bit of off-roading but with some assistance they were back on the road and we were soon off again in search of Snowy owls.



(This photo was Taken by Jack Campbell, 2013. Photos from this year's trip were not as clear.)

Membership renewals....**MEMBERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR:**

Barb Simpson, 396-5486.

Membership/renewal forms are included in this issue, or catch up with Barb at one of the meetings.

As always, we encourage members to lend us their help and ideas - you can always approach the Executive with your thoughts, and we look forward to having new Executive Members, or Members-at-Large. New members have the support and help of all the Executive. Executive terms run two years, or longer if you like....we hold two or three meetings over a meal, per year. No great shakes!



PAST OUTINGS...

Eagle/Owl outing....

On our tour of the 8th of Bruce we saw another 4 Snowy Owls and another Northern Shrike. One of the owls gave everyone a great view as it sat up in a tree staring down as many of the group snapped photos. The 6th of Bruce provided another 4 Snowy owls and another Northern shrike seen by a few. A few Snow Buntings were along the roadside but it was difficult for everyone to see them as they moved along while we drove.



After seeing many Snowy owls and Bald Eagles we headed back to Inverhuron to have lunch at our place and chat about what the day had provided. Despite dire weather forecasts the day turned out reasonably calm and the eagles and owls did turn up for our viewing. When visibility is good you can normally see about 30 Bald Eagles in Baie du Dore, so it's a great place for eagle viewing in the winter. Hopefully next year will be even better with clear weather for good views of all the birds!

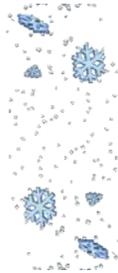
~ *Bob Taylor*

Ski/Snowshoe outing at the Zinn's, Feb. 17th.

Saturday, Feb. 17th was a great day for a winter walk in the woods at Lynn Johnston and Paul Zinn's idyllic rural property north of Lucknow. Seven members skied, snowshoed and walked, enjoying each other's company and the abundant evidence of wildlife in the tracks in the snow and the calls in the trees. The chickadees were interested in the feed offered in outstretched hands but somewhat skittish about landing. After a vigorous walk the group enjoyed a bounty of snacks in the Zinn's cabin.



Sue Greco and Barb Simpson ready to go!
Simpson photo.



Barb Simpson and hostess Lynn Johnston.
Roberts photo



Barb Simpson and Christine Roberts inspect fresh woodpecker holes
Roberts photo

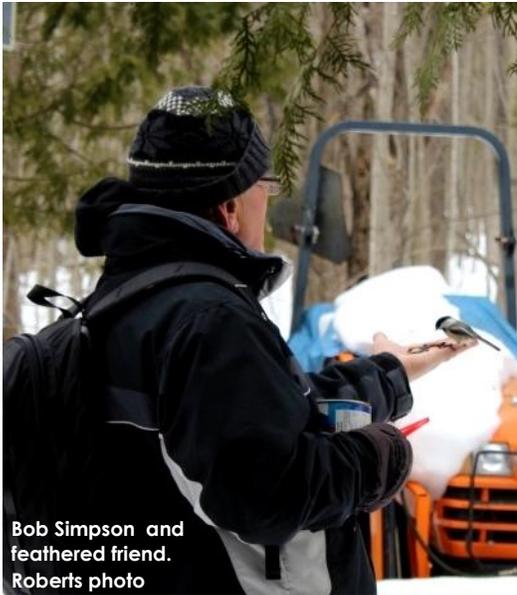


Linda Somerville and Susan Greco.
Roberts photo



PAST OUTINGS...

Ski/Snowshoe ...



Bob Simpson and feathered friend.
Roberts photo

Goderich Shoreline Clean-up, April 21st:

Several local nature and conservationist groups in the Goderich area organized the 3rd annual Goderich Shoreline Clean-up Saturday, April 21st. Several HFFN members were among the 175 volunteers who collected **1,072 lbs of garbage** from the main



The first group of volunteers gathers at the Menesefung Bridge to clean up the Maitland riverbanks. Roberts photo.

beach and Maitland River.

Before being divided into recyclables and trash, all items were categorized and tallied on a special card provided by The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, a national conservation initiative of the Vancouver Aquarium and WWF-Canada that provides Canadians the opportunity to take action in their communities wherever water meets land.

George G Newton Nature Reserve Annual Spring Clean-up, April 27th:

After inclement weather forced a rescheduling, HFFN members Gayle and Murray Jamieson, Donna Butson, Steve Pepper, Bob Simpson and Jim and Christine Roberts hit the trails with saws and pruning tools in hand Friday, April 27th. Murray cut a few trees that had fallen across the paths and many small branches and saplings were cleared. By and large however, the trails were in good shape and little trash was



Huron Stewardship Coordinator Rachel White takes the tally for HFFN members Christine Roberts and Bob Simpson as they empty their buckets of trash. Roberts photo.



Donna Butson, Murray and Gayle Jamieson,
Roberts photo

found inside the reserve or along the road. It turned out to be lovely day and higher than expected temperatures allowed the crew to enjoy lunch on Donna's deck admiring her ducks and property. Donna generously provided soups and coffee while Christine brought along some cookies.



Jim and Christine Roberts, Bob Simpson, Steve Pepper,
Roberts photo

PAST OUTINGS...

Waterfall Tour, May 1st.

Sixteen HFFN members met leaders Onno and Margie Visser at Kincardine Sobey's, and headed for the Greenock Swamp Lookout at Schmidt Lake. Once there, we were met by Shannon, a representative from Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, and she gave a quick talk about the swamp and the immediate area.

Greenock Swamp encompasses 20,000 acres and is the largest wetland in Ontario. Great White Pine was logged extensively from this area. (*The Lookout is a stop on the *Explore the Bruce* Passport 2018). I asked Shannon about the Chepstow Inn and she said it is run as a B&B (there are bus tours available to the Lookout; the ticket includes a meal at the Chepstow Inn. Next one is June 9th). She said that you can view the beautiful rooms, that have been redone by the current owner, online.

From the Greenock Swamp we proceeded to → Cargill to view the dam at the community center and use the facilities (*this was another stop on the *Explore*

Murray Jamieson took this group photo



These photos: Donna Murray



Hogg's Falls



John Hill checks out the board

the Bruce Passport but marked as Pinkerton General Store).

We then went to Markdale to enjoy a lovely meal at Stevens Restaurant (our tables had been reserved). They specialize in BBQ Chicken and Ribs.

After our meal, we headed to Hogg's Falls where parts of the trail were still icy/muddy but the group managed alright. The falls here are significant as far as water flow, considering the size of the little stream leading up to them.

The weather co-operated very nicely all day, with a high of 28 at one point! Group photos were taken by Bob Simpson and Murray Jamieson.



PAST OUTINGS...

Waterfall tour....



Lovely
EUGENIA FALLS,
Left, right and
lower left.

(D. Murray photos)



After meet-
ing back in the
parking lot,
some of the group parted ways to take the 10 minute 'loop
drive' through the Beaver Valley and then back to Durham to
view
McGowan
Falls. →



On the way
back towards
Durham, a
few members
of the group
were

fortunate to see a pair of eagles soaring above.
A pleasant day was had by all. Thanks, Margie and Onno!

~ Donna Murray

TELL US WHERE TO GO!

Know of any good places to
enjoy nature?

Please bring them to the
attention of your HFFN Ex-
ecutive. 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!



Inverlea Farm

Naturally Raised, Grass Fed, Murray Grey Beef

Doug, Linda & Richard Peebles 519-368-7286
Tiverton, Ontario info@inverleafarm.ca • www.inverleafarm.ca



PAST ISSUES OF FRINGE NOTES...

IF FOR WHATEVER REASON YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACCESS THESE, THEY ARE
HELD ONLINE ON OUR WEB PAGE, WHICH IS PART OF THE HURON STEWARDSHIP
WEBSITE. HOWEVER, ONCE ON THE HFFN PAGE YOU WILL NEED TO USE THE
LINK AT THE TOP TO GET THE RECENT ISSUES. THERE IS ANOTHER LINK TO THE RIGHT, HOWEVER IT
GIVES ACCESS ONLY TO OLDER ISSUES AND NOT TO THE LATER ONES. ENJOY YOUR VISIT!

<http://hffn.huronstewardship.ca/>

WE APOLOGISE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE!

MEMBERSHIP PAGE





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 YOU FANCY COMING ALONG ON!
 PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN TO US SO THAT
 WE CAN DRAW YOU INTO OUR MIDST AND GET TO KNOW YOU!




MEMBERSHIPS

As the season winds down, I want to wish everyone a wonderful summer. Our membership now stands at 92. We all want to welcome our new members and hope to see everyone in the fall. Our last meeting is in June. Our new year starts on September 25th, when all memberships are due. A date for all of us to mark on our calendar.

*Barb Simpson
Membership*

~~ MEMBERSHIPS: ~~

Welcome back old members, and a warm welcome to new ones. Over-18 2018/2019 dues are \$20.00 per person. Under 18's are free. (form at right)

Come out and enjoy the company, the outings and the speakers.

Memberships for the 2018/2019 year are due in September.

If there are any questions about membership or changes to your contact information, please contact me,

Barb Simpson: 396-5486
or bsimpsonbob@gmail.com.

Thanks Barb

ADVERTISING:

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM



new member application or renewal

SEPTEMBER 2018 to SEPTEMBER 2019

....or CATCHUP?

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: _____



Members' Page.... What Our Members are Doing!

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



**Guests welcome!*

**Spring had already arrived.....perhaps!
On March 5th, Bob Taylor wrote:**



'[Ann-Marie and I] had our first Song sparrow in the yard today and saw our first Tundra Swans over at Baie du Dore today along with our first Red-winged

Blackbird, Common Grackle and Killdeer. Lots of firsts today! In one small area that we call "the Robin field" there were at least 23 robins hopping around but being very quiet.'

Donna Murray discovered some wildlife along local roads.

This Snowy Owl was looking down on the world from a hydro pole on Hwy 86 a little while ago; and the Snapping Turtle was going someplace across the 10th Concession of Huron Township about 50 yards west of the Ripley Road late afternoon on April 24th. The Owl was duly photographed, and Donna's Dad Steve came out and helped the Snapper along a little.

Bob and Barb Simpson have been somewhat unwilling hosts to what is probably the same Black Bear that was featured on the front of the Kincardine News on April 12th.....Bob has had some repairs to make. Here are Bob's photos of the suspect's tracks!



Donna Murray photo



Donna Murray photo



Donna Murray photo

**A SMALL ANNOUNCEMENT....
KEEP YOUR CAMERA OUT AND READY FOR ACTION THROUGH THE SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL SEASON. THE NEXT PHOTO CONTEST (FEBRUARY, 2019) WILL BE LOOKING AT...**

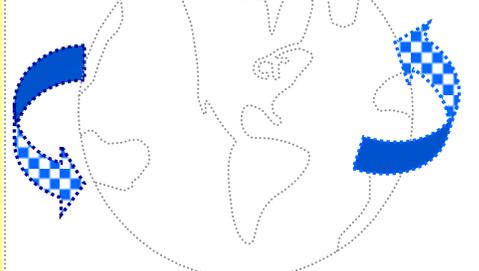
'FLIGHTS OF



FANCY'...

THINGS WITH WINGS!

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!



NOTES OF INTEREST...

HFFN Out and About – Lake Huron Coastal Speaker Series

LAKE HURON

Coastal Speaker Series



HFFN's display and representatives were on hand for 2 of the 3 coastal speaker events sponsored by the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation: March 1st in Kincardine and March 6th in Goderich.

Each evening open house featured displays by various local conservation and environmental groups, refreshments and three short presentations all intended to spread awareness of and highlight aspects of the Coastal Action Plan. At least a dozen HFFN members came to the Kincardine Marriot March 1st.

Mark Warkentin, Dark Sky Committee Chair of the Bruce

Peninsula Biosphere Association described the many biological impacts of light pollution and potential negative effects on plants, bats, insects, birds and humans. He offered suggestions to improve lighting and light pollution at home and highlighted the activities of the Bayside Astronomy Club.

Emily Martin, Project Coordinator for the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network (PRWIN), addressed the problem of the loss of Ash trees and the impact on shoreline ecology. She outlined her organization's replacement tree program.

Tineasha Brenot, Coastal Technician with the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation (LHCCC), spoke passionately about the invasive species, Phragmites; it's negative impact on coastal wetlands and the work being done at Brucedale to remove the reed and restore the natural habitat.

The second event was held March 6th at the Huron County Museum. Again, HFFN members demonstrated their interest in environmental issues with 6 members in attendance and the welcome addition of several new members!

Rachel White, Huron Stewardship Council Coordinator, emphasized the great diversity of species and habitats found in the Lower Maitland River. She entertained the crowd with dramatic photos and descriptions of the many diversionary tactics of a recent discovery, the Eastern Hog-nosed Snake.

Patrick Donnelly, co-founder of LHCCC, Coastal Science and Stewardship Advisor and LHCCC Board member, used stories from the Lake Huron coast to illustrate the reasons and processes behind shoreline changes. Hannah Cann, LHCCC Coastal Stewardship Coordinator, spoke about coastal forests; their traditional uses, environmental benefits and threats to their endurance. She concluded with advice for preservation. Both open house events were well attended with good audience engagement as people asked questions and shared personal observations and opinions. HFFN representatives appreciated the opportunity for public interaction and connected with many people interested in nature-related activities.



Marsh Monitoring Program Training Session



April is such a busy month; Spring is sprung (most years), colour and activity are returning to our yards, gardens and feeders and we're getting outside more. It's also the month in which Earth Day is celebrated and what better time to make a renewed commitment to stewardship of our planet?

In the spirit of Citizen Science, along with approximately 2 dozen members of the public, 6 HFFN members: Abby Collins, Adele Kaminski, Janice and Art Wiebe and Jim and I participated in a Marsh Monitoring Program Volunteer Orientation and Training workshop at the Bruce Power Visitor Centre, Saturday, April 7th.

Led by Dr. Doug Tozer, Ontario Program Scientist with Bird Studies Canada, the 4.5 hour session began with a broad introduction to the Marsh Monitoring Program; what it is, how it's done and what it's good for, before zeroing in on the specifics of the monitoring protocols and a look at the target bird and frog species. The Marsh Monitoring Program is a Canadian volunteer citizen science program for bird research and education which encompasses about 40 programs nationally with approximately 50,000 participants.

NOTES OF INTEREST...

There are many elements of a marsh ecosystem that can be monitored such as fish and water quality but they require costly equipment and a high level of knowledge to scrutinize. Conversely, birds and frogs are primarily located near shorelines, there are fewer species to track and most can be detected by sound. Additionally, birds and frogs provide a good barometer of the health of wetlands as they are sensitive to urban development and pollution.

The main objectives of the program are to assess populations of birds and frogs at various scales from individual marshes to the Great Lakes Basin, investigate links between birds, frogs and habitat, and use the data to contribute to conservation management and increase awareness of the importance of wetlands. Another overriding objective is to encourage people, particularly young people, to become engaged in the protection of wetlands.

The afternoon portion of the workshop was taken with the specifics of target species, observation protocols and completion of survey forms. Each volunteer is provided with handbooks and educational materials to help them learn to identify birds and frogs by sight and sound. The program requires relatively small amounts of time and only 2 to 3 survey visits per year.

The session was sponsored by Bird Studies Canada and the Kincardine Shoreline Environmental Working Group, with support from Environment and Climate Change Canada, who are working to expand the Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program in the Kincardine area.

~ *Christine Roberts*



BLUEBIRD HOUSE INSTALLATION: March 5th:

It was a cold and windy day (but not as bad as the following day when we got a fair accumulation of snowfall!) when Barb and Bob, Jim and Onno and Steve and Jeni retraced our route of last year and installed 21 new bluebird boxes along Concession 2 and part of Concession 4 before we ran out of boxes. We will definitely need some more to be built and erected in the future.

Bob had the attachment points pre-drilled and fitted with screws so the job was completed in about 1 1/2 hours, which was just as well considering the air temperature was around 0 degrees.

At the same time all the existing boxes were checked and cleaned ready for new occupants this Spring, which, latest snowfall notwithstanding, we *assumed* shouldn't be too far off.

~ *Steve Pepper*



Barb Simpson photo

Right:
Bob Simpson offers a found nest for close examination.
Left:
Jim Roberts and Bob Simpson secure a new nest box to a farm post.

Below:
Many hands made light work!



J. Pepper photo



J. Pepper photo

NOTE: Donna Murray reports noticing bluebirds in one of these nest boxes in early May.



J. Pepper photo



Barb Simpson photo

UPCOMING MEETINGS:



Word to the Wise:



Several people have contacted us lately to ask the date of a meeting. Perhaps it's worth reiterating that our meetings always take place on the *fourth* Tuesday of the months February through June and September through November, unless you are notified otherwise.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



HELP WANTED:



PLEASANT, WILLING INDIVIDUAL (OR TWO) TO ASSIST SEVERAL OTHERS SAME; SOME NOTES TO TAKE, SOME PHONE CALLS TO MAKE, THREE BUSINESS LUNCHES PER YEAR; PAID IN GRATEFUL THANKS FROM SAID SEVERAL PLEASANT INDIVIDUALS AFOREMENTIONED WITH ADDED BONUS OF NEW FRIENDS AND SOME INTERESTING LOCAL AREA INFORMATION.
APPLY ANYTIME: STEVE PEPPER, 395-5616

~ ~ ~ REGULAR MEETINGS ~ ~ ~

Regular meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Pine River United Church on Hwy 21 at Concession 4, Huron Twp., 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

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.



Meeting: 8:00 pm

Feed the Frog!

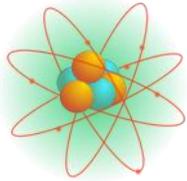


Beverages: 1.00; treats: free.



Update from your Speaker Chair-- May through October 2018

Arranging for speakers for the remainder of 2018 program continues.



May 15th Meeting —

Paul Austin and a Geoscience Team Member From Nuclear Waste Management Organization -

NWMO - will bring us up to date on the initiative to store fuel bundles underground.

Communities in our area have shown an interest in being a Host Community. Join us for the latest updates.



June 26th Meeting -



Jory Mullen, a Lead Species at Risk Technician with Huron Stewardship Council will give a presentation on Ontario Nature's Reptile and Amphibian Atlas. Ontario Nature is looking to expand the reach of the Atlas across Ontario.

For more information, Google -- *Ontario Reptile & Amphibian Atlas Programme*



July/August. No meetings. We enjoy summer holidays.



September/October Meetings - Speakers have not been finalized, however I have made contact with a representative from **Bruce Botanical Food Gardens** and received a positive response. Nan Grant, President BCFG has offered to give us a presentation.

I have also contacted **Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory (BPBO)** and have a commitment from Anne Range, a member of the Observatory, to give a presentation on their organization. I would like to point out that HFFN are also a Member of BPBO.

For more information on BCFG, and BPBO I suggest you Google their respective Organization.

Finally, thanks to all HFFN Members who throw suggestions for speakers in my direction. Much appreciated.

~ *Bob Simpson—Speaker Chair*

UPCOMING OUTINGS

Coming on an outing? Stay informed!

When planning to come along on a walk, or to a meeting, please check your email for any additional information before you leave home, in case the event has had to be cancelled or changed. 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, and a charged cell phone if you carry one.



THE SMALL PRINT:

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, car phone charger, 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, folding umbrella.

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

....We had hoped to have a birding adventure for Saturday, May 12th to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day; however, our intrepid leaders are off bird watching in various locations far, far away from Kincardine.

2018 Annual Bruce Peninsula Explorer - May 22nd, 23rd, 24th and/or 25th:

Information has now gone out to those who signed the interest sheet. If you suddenly find you can join us....please let us know via email, [trek66\(at\)tnt21.com](mailto:trek66(at)tnt21.com) or phone (see contact list - Steve & Jeni). We'll get the information to you and know to expect you at the start point. Remember also, however, that if you would like just a day or two within the dates above, you're just as welcome, *in which case please use email to notify us of your arrival.* If staying over, please make sure you have accommodation in the village.

The HURON FRINGE BIRDING FESTIVAL is being held around this time, as follows:

Huron Fringe Birding Festival

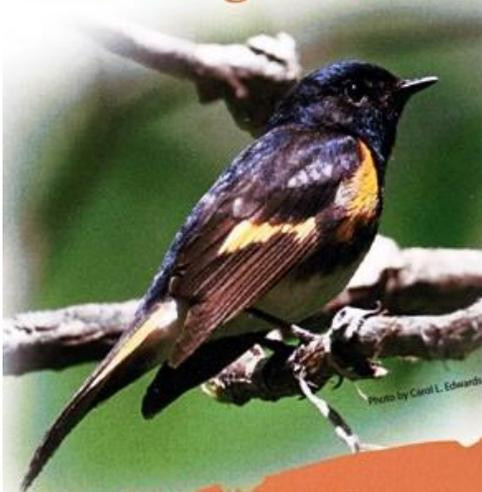


Photo by Carol L. Edwards

May 25 - May 28
& May 31 - June 3, 2018

Festival Headquarters
MacGregor Point Provincial Park

1593 Bruce Road 33, R.R.1
Port Elgin, ON Canada N0H 2C5

huronfringebirdfest@gmail.com

www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca



MacGregor Point Provincial Park is located along the beautiful Lake Huron shoreline at the base of Ontario's famous Bruce Peninsula. The Festival offers excursions from the Lake to the forests, fields and wetlands of this bird and botany rich area.

Highlights:

- **Birds** - 245 species have been recorded during the 20 years of the Festival.
- **Events** - the Festival offers an incredible 80 events to choose from.
- **Variety** - events include birding, botany, photography, geology, archaeology and more.
- **Leaders** - our terrific slate of leaders are well-known experts from around the province; a number are also popular international guides.
- **Banquet** - the Festival banquet offers an exceptional and entertaining keynote speaker each year.
- **Evenings** - presentations on a variety of natural history topics are offered every evening.
- **Family Friendly** - each weekend offers a number of events geared to children.
- **Accommodations** - camp in the Park or stay in nearby towns.
- **Food** - breakfasts and BBQ lunches are offered daily in the Park.
- **Join Us** - for a single event, a day, a weekend or a full Festival package.



May 26, 2018

The Listless Lister: The Addiction of Birding and How I Overcame it with Michael Runtz

Many birders are addicted to adding new ticks to their lifetime species list. During his highly visual presentation, Michael will detail the transition of a fanatical lister to someone who now enjoys birds and all other living organisms in more pacified ways.

Noteworthy Comments

"Great birding! The Bruce Peninsula has the most wonderful diversity of nesting bird species in southern Ontario." Mark Peck, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto

"Who would have thought that there would be the chance of seeing up to 20 species at risk during the Festival. I'm impressed!" MB, Wasaga Beach

"I have attended for over 10 years and always have a great time!" SH, Toronto

On-line registration begins February 1, 2018

The schedule of events will be available for viewing on January 15, 2018. Visit www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca
To contact the Registrar: huronfringebirdfest@gmail.com



The Huron Fringe Birding Festival is presented by the Huron Fringe Birding Festival Committee of the Friends of MacGregor Point Park and MacGregor Point Provincial Park. Bruce Power, Eagle Optics and Ontario Power Generation are Corporate sponsors of this event.
Printed in Canada 2017 / 10,000

~~ CANOE/KAYAK WITH ART ~~

UNDER CONSIDERATION, AND IF IT IS A GO, WE WILL ANNOUNCE EITHER AT THE MAY MEETING OR VIA EMAIL.

MacGregor Point BioBlitz 2018

JUNE 9TH, 10 AM - JUNE 10TH, 10 AM

Hosted by the Friends of MacGregor Point Park.

From the Park's Facebook page:
Help MacGregor Point celebrate Ontario Parks' 125th anniversary by contributing to the ecological legacy of the park. Participants will complete a biological 'blitz' survey of MacGregor Point over a 24-hour period to collect data on what species can be found here in this unique complex of ecosystems. This information is extremely beneficial to our records and future projects. Surveying shifts and teams will be assigned based on experience and expertise. Stay tuned for more details on workshops and guest naturalists!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Please contact fompp@bmts.com if you would like more information.