



# ENJOYING NATURE IN HURON-BRUCE



# THE HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS' FRINGE NOTES

WINTER, 2019...  
WALKS,  
MEETINGS &  
POTLUCKS

~~~~~  
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## WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT, LYNN JOHNSTON:



Hi Folks,

It's the dead of winter. It's deadly cold. I keep thinking,

Why was I put on this Earth with all of this natural beauty? Why here, in Southwestern Ontario?

While we live here, we also have the benefit of technology and travel to learn about all of the wild

creatures and nature all over the world. While technology can be ever increasing and creeping which can make our lives more beneficial, comfortable, and convenient, it also has the power of destruction and to diminish our environment and thus, our lives. Many man- (and woman!) -made things also contribute to green house gases and global temperature increases. Because of the warming, many animal species all over the globe are facing extinction. Many of the scientists agree that we are in another mass extinction phase in the history of our planet. It saddens me. As naturalists we can make a difference on an individual level and as a group, we can reach out to other naturalist, organizations, scientists, etc. who also love and appreciate the natural world and want to protect it and its animals.



We do have a reason to be here at this time in the history of the world. We can learn as much as we can about nature and its issues and problems and how we can solve them. We are doing that through getting knowledgeable speakers to speak to us at meetings, our outings, our involvement in Ontario Nature, signing petitions and as individuals on our own. We can impart our knowledge and love/appreciation of other creatures and nature to others, young and old, by talking about nature, inviting them to our club, to join and participate and to keep looking outward to learn more every day, to advocate for nature of its threatened status or to support other organizations who can do the advocacy when we ourselves cannot.

See next page....



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'Our Founder, Joe Burgess'

### 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.



Kincardine Sunset, 2013. Pepper

## UPCOMING EVENTS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Full details inside.

### OUTINGS:

- Mid-March - Owl Prowl, Geddes Park.
  - May - Spring Welcome Walk? TBA via email
  - May - early June: Spring Wildflower Walk, TBA.
  - Bruce Peninsula Explorer - May 21st - 24/25th
- All outings will be emailed or published as they are finalized.

### MEETINGS:

- Tues., February 26th: Annual Potluck lunch & Photo Contest, noon.
- Tues., March 26th: David T. Chapman, Storm Chaser
- April 23: ANNUAL DINNER MTG.



TITLE PHOTO CREDIT: Snowy beech branches. 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:

|                                  |                                                                                   |          |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <u>President:</u>                | Lynn Johnston                                                                     | 528-2411 |
| <u>Past President:</u>           |  |          |
| <u>Vice-President:</u>           | VACANCY                                                                           |          |
| <u>Secretary:</u>                | VACANCY                                                                           |          |
| <u>Treasurer:</u>                | Onno Visser                                                                       | 395-3173 |
| <u>Memberships:</u>              | Barb Simpson                                                                      | 396-5486 |
| <u>Outings:</u>                  | Steve Pepper                                                                      | 395-5616 |
|                                  | (1 Open position)                                                                 |          |
| <u>Speakers:</u>                 | Bob Simpson                                                                       | 396-5486 |
| <u>Newsletter Editor:</u>        | Jeni Pepper                                                                       | 395-5616 |
| <u>Members-at-Large:</u>         | Joy Munn                                                                          | 395-3570 |
|                                  | Susan Greco                                                                       | 396-7950 |
|                                  | John Hill                                                                         | 396-9738 |
|                                  | Jayne Miltenburg                                                                  | 529-3241 |
| <u>Social Convenor:</u>          | Linda Campbell                                                                    | 396-5144 |
|                                  | Rhodora Doughty                                                                   | 396-4368 |
| <u>Ontario Nature (FON) Rep:</u> | Jim Roberts                                                                       |          |
| <u>Website Administrator:</u>    | Steve Pepper                                                                      | 395-5616 |
| <u>Communications:</u>           | Christine Roberts                                                                 | 395-5008 |
| <u>Publicity:</u>                | 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. New Executive members are given any help they may need for whatever assistance they may wish to give. <<

### **FRINGE NOTES** PRINTED BY:



336 Lambton St.,  
Kincardine, ON  
N2Z 1Y9  
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### President's comments....



**We can do our own personal part** to conserve, recycle reuse and reduce where we can.

Our attitudes and actions can and will make a big difference. It's easy to lament and feel hopeless about winter, the weather, the state of the environment, etc. DON'T DO THAT!

We have an answer to why we are here in Southwestern Ontario in this period in history. Be an active member of the HFFN. Mention it. When people ask *What is that?* Tell them proudly, and ask them to come out and try it out. Lets impart our enthusiasm, knowledge and action to help nature and its creatures. It's fun too! It's part of why I continue to get up on a bleary, cold, overcast grey day in the dead of winter in Southwestern Ontario!

P.S. We have some bunnies living outside around our house with the birds that we feed and our dog. One is a wild brown one and the other is a white domestic bunny that got loose from a neighbour's cage. They are so funny and amazing to watch as they live their lives, oblivious to us ( as long as they don't think we will harm them).

Nature is all around and can bring out the child in all of us! They are important too!

I look forward to our new year with all of you.

See you soon! ~ *Lynn Johnston*



### Announcements!



### MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS, NEW INFORMATION:

**HFFN has now set up an e-mail account** for the club, to be used for paying membership dues by e-transfer, so that payments will go directly into the account. The membership form has been altered accordingly.

Payment by cheque is also accepted, or you can make cash payments to Barb Simpson, our Membership Co-ordinator, at any meeting.

The new address for the e-transfer is: [huronnaturalist@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:huronnaturalist@hurontel.on.ca)

**Please see the MEMBERSHIP FORM on Page 12.**

### HURON FRINGE BIRDING FESTIVAL:

**MAY 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, May 31 – June 3** See their ad in this and the next issue.

The website is carrying this year's events right now, and the new preregistration date is **March 1** instead of February 1.

**Bluebird Boxes:** will be examined sometime in the Spring for occupancy and to determine whether more boxes will be needed.

A little bluebird box history:



**HFFN first built bluebird boxes** in the first year or so of its beginnings. Geoff Walker arranged the first 'Bluebird Box Building Bee' in a borrowed barn; a total of 34 boxes were completed in an afternoon by a host of willing sawers and hammerers. Some of these boxes were found to be still in place along Concession 6 of Huron Kinloss in 2018, and one or two had been used this year. Pictured are Eileen (?) with Jeni and a pile of boxes!

**Photo: Geoff Walker**





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! Copy and paste this address to your Browser.

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

~~~~ PAST MEETINGS:.... ~~~~

### **September 25th, 2018: Nan Grant, Bruce Botanical Food Gardens, Ripley.**

The HFFN new season launched with a well-attended first meeting. Over 50 new and returning members and guests gathered Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> to socialize and learn about the Bruce Botanical Food Gardens (BBFG). President Lynn Johnston invited new members to introduce themselves before continuing with sightings, reports and outings updates.

Christine announced that memorial donations for Gina Dakin-Davis, totalling \$350, have been set aside with the intention of sponsoring a youth to Ontario Nature's Youth Summit in September 2019.

Jeni Pepper shared new "Brake for Snakes/Turtles/Salamanders/Frogs" vehicle magnets she acquired at the Bruce Peninsula National Park during a recent stay in Tobermory.

Bob Simpson, Steve Pepper and Margie Visser reported on upcoming outings to NWMO's Interim Used Fuel Storage Facility, Fall Birding and Potluck and Fall Colours Walk, respectively.

Bob welcomed Nan Grant, Chair of the Board of the Bruce Botanical Food Gardens, who brought infectious enthusiasm to her overview of the facility; its inception, development, core mandates, partnerships and future initiatives.

This innovative non-profit organization specializes in growing and displaying rare, very rare, endangered, heirloom and world food plants using sustainable and clean organic methods. Approximately 250 varieties and 10,000 plants are grown each year.

Nan began her presentation with a slide show of images taken by new garden co-ordinator, Ingrid Wypkema, which included plants, volunteers (human and otherwise), visitors (human and otherwise), and the many



Chair of Bruce Botanical Food Gardens Nan Grant talks with HFFN member Jean Kennedy following her presentation.



THE LEARNING CHAIR, BRUCE BOTANICAL FOOD GARDENS

Photos L. & R:  
Christine Roberts



HFFN members (l-r) Barb Simpson, Jeni Pepper and Bob Simpson try Golden Currant Tomatoes while BBFG Chair, Nan Grant, unveils an Aunt Mollie's Ground Cherry following her presentation.

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## PAST MEETINGS:....

### September Meeting, cont.

Chief among the garden's mandates are education and addressing food insecurity. Many workshops are offered and programs provided to a variety of groups with a focus on both cooking and youth. She described the gardens as a "living marketplace" where visitors are encouraged to wander, taste and harvest in exchange for donations.

The gardens are an increasingly well-known agri-tourism destination with ever evolving and expanding partnerships. Grant highlighted the work of Fanshawe College landscape students, cancer research at the University of Windsor using BBFG-sourced dandelion roots and budding relationships with local chefs and breweries.

Grant entertained us with tales of resident birds and visiting turtles and concluded with tasting samples of Golden Currant Tomatoes (a heritage plant with a 100 year pedigree), Aunt Mollie's Ground Cherries (a member of the tomato family), Sage, Thyme, Parsley and Soup Celery.

Nan stressed that developing and maintaining the gardens is hard work, involving a great deal of trial and error with no guarantee of success at the end of the growing season. This year was particularly difficult following multiple break-ins and the loss of seed stock.

~ *Christine Roberts*

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**HOURS:**

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

**WINTER:      TUES - SAT 10 - 5**



Far left:  
HFFN members Jeni Pepper and Bob Simpson investigating the samples provided by Nan Grant.

Left:  
HFFN members (l-r) Helen Vander Glas, Valerie Gibson, Heather Keetch, new member Donald Andrew and Jean Kennedy sample herbs and heirloom tomatoes provided by Nan Grant of the Bruce Botanical Food Gardens.

Photos: Christine Roberts

### October 23rd : Huron Fringe Field Naturalists October Members' Meeting

**Donna Butson on weather monitoring; Bob Taylor and Ann-Marie Benedict on birding.**

**Another great turnout** with about 45 members and visitors filling the basement of the church.

James Turland reported on the fall birding and potluck outing October 20<sup>th</sup> which included the excitement of spotting a Harris's Sparrow, a rare occurrence in Bruce County for a bird generally found in central and northern Canada. Reports on upcoming events, Ontario Nature initiatives and the Fall Colour Walk at the Labyrinth Gardens in Kincardine October 12<sup>th</sup> were also received.

Two separate presentations were provided by members Donna Butson and Anne-Marie Benedict and Bob Taylor.

Butson, after a long nursing career in London, loves retired life along the Lake Huron coast close to the family cottage, on the 14 acre property she shares with her ducks, cat, dog and an assortment of wildlife neighbours. She credits her father with teaching her early on to recognize the signs of approaching storms so the CoCoRaHS volunteer weather observation program was a perfect fit.

The acronym CoCoRaHS stands for Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network ([www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org)). It was started 20 years ago in Colorado and uses over 20,000 volunteers in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands and the Bahamas to measure and map precipitation and record the data in real time for education and research applications worldwide.



## PAST MEETINGS...

Donna displayed and demonstrated the use of the standardized gauge used to measure both rain and snowfall. She described additional methods to measure snow accumulation and hail.

Now in her third year of weather monitoring, she praised the flexibility of the program, the ease of reporting and the satisfaction of using her cumulative data to make year-to-year comparisons which she provided for the audience in chart form.

Next up were **Anne-Marie Benedict and Bob Taylor** to talk about birding in Bruce County against a backdrop of beautiful photos.

Anne-Marie chronicled their evolution from nature-lovers to passionate birders who spend time looking for birds daily and will identify more than 230 different species in a year. She described their hobby as a treasure hunt with each season having its own particular 'treasures'.

This couple enjoy a good-natured rivalry and complement each other's strengths well. They enthused about the camaraderie of the birding community and the use of data collection applications such as eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)) to identify, record, share and keep track of sightings. Their slideshow ran the gamut of bird species from gulls to eagles, ducks, sparrows, warblers and owls.

Some were permanent residents, others seasonal and some just passing through on migration but nearly all were photographed in Bruce County. Audience members marvelled not just at the beauty of the images but at the knowledge of the Taylors as they highlighted differences between mature and immature birds, male and female and seasonal colour changes.

HFFN members never cease to be amazed by the expertise of fellow nature-lovers and are grateful to member-speakers Donna Butson and Anne-Marie Benedict and Bob Taylor for their informative and colourful presentations.

Write-up and photos: ~ *Christine Roberts*



(L) HFFN member Joan Stadelmann discusses the CoCoRaHS rain gauge with presenter Donna Butson.

(R) HFFN member and presenter Donna Butson displays the CoCoRaHS precipitation gauge while members survey her data charts.

(Below) Bob Taylor and Ann-Marie Benedict, happy to share their favourite pastime.



### November 27th 2018: Ann Range, Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory



**Undaunted by the chill winds**, nearly 50 members welcomed Ann Range to speak about migration monitoring and other programs of the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory (BPBO).

Ann is a recently retired teacher with extensive involvement in environmental and outdoor education and a lifelong passion for nature and birds. She has served on the board of BPBO and Saugeen Field Naturalists for many years and lives near Wiarton on a farm dedicated to promoting and preserving bird habitat.

Also known as the Cabot Head Research Station, the observatory is located at the eastern tip of the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula within the boundaries of the Cabot Head Provincial

Nature Reserve. At the northern end of the UNESCO Niagara Escarpment Biosphere region, in the last remaining stretch of contiguous forest, it is situated on an important migratory path for songbirds traveling north to boreal forests for summer breeding. Over 300 species of birds have been observed and recorded and at least 175 species breed on the Peninsula.

The research station, comprised of 2 cottages purchased in 1998, has been in operation since the early 2000s and is run by a station scientist, Dr. Stephane Menu, a board of directors and volunteers.

Its main focus is migration monitoring of passerines (songbirds) in the spring from mid-April to early June, and in the fall from mid-August to the end of October. Over the course of 6 hours beginning before sunrise volunteers make frequent checks of nets set up in the forest. Captured birds are extracted, bagged and taken to the lab for banding and recording of biometric measurements before being released.

Other daily routines include a timed observation census of birds in the area and recording and sharing of data with the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network, a network of 25 monitoring stations nationwide.

## *PAST MEETINGS...*

### November Meeting Cont.:

BPBO has also supported the Motus monitoring program by helping to attach transmitters to various bird species such as the Swainson's thrush. The BPBO receives some funding for research projects but relies heavily on volunteers, membership and donations to operate, maintain and upgrade the facilities. Visit <http://bpbo.ca/> to read Dr. Menu's blogs and yearly reports or to learn more about volunteer opportunities, facility rentals and programs.

As a club, we support the work of the BPBO through membership and a donation. Members enjoy reading the regular blog posts during spring and fall migratory operations. We appreciated Ann Range's engaging and passionate address.

In other club business; 4 new members were welcomed, the recent Great Lakes West Ontario Nature regional meeting was reported on, magnetic name tags were introduced and dates were shared for outings scheduled in the new year.

Photo and write-up:~ *Christine Roberts*



HFFN member Marshall Byle thanks Ann Range for her engaging presentation on the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory.

## *PAST OUTINGS...*

### Annual Corn Roast and Potluck, September 9th:



**Cooler temperatures and the threat of rain** did not dampen enthusiasm for the HFFN annual corn roast and potluck supper. Thirty-three members and guests gathered at the recreational property of President Lynn Johnston and her husband Paul Zinn, Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Arriving in the early afternoon, the nature lovers enjoyed feeding the fish in the pond and walking the many trails that intersect the property. The Zinns have lovingly created a haven for birds, pollinators, mammals and many other species of animals and plants and generously host the club for outings in fall and winter.

A basket of special treats was put up as a prize by our hosts, and triumphantly carried off at the end of the day.

Over a meal of fresh corn, hot dogs and a bounty of shared dishes, the group took pleasure in catching up with friends and comparing field notes on summer experiences.

Warmest thanks once again to our generous host and hostess!

Photos and write-up: ~ *Christine Roberts*



CUPART



## PAST OUTINGS...

### Fall Colour Walk, Geddes Park, Friday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, Vissers:



On Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> HFFN members gathered at Geddes Park for the annual Fall Colour Walk. Fifteen members followed the Kincardine Trail, crossing bridges and exploring what Fall has to offer. The rain held off and the weather was a mix of cloud and sun. Afterwards we went to the Scougall Gallery for a snack and a chat.

Write-up and photos: ~ *Margie and Onno Visser*



THIS PHOTO:  
BOB SIMPSON



### MAPS AND INFORMATION ON THESE TRAILS ARE AVAILABLE FROM:

The Welcome Centre (#1802 Hwy 21) Kincardine. (Trail map is also posted at the Geddes Park parking lot.) Also usually available at: the Davidson Centre (Kincardine Community Centre) at entry. Located at 600 Durham Street just west of Hwy 21. AS THESE TRAILS CAN BE CONFUSING INITIALLY, IT'S RECOMMENDED TO HAVE A MAP ALONG WITH YOU.

~ *Ed.*

Colourful Sumac and Shelf Fungi gave photo opportunities, while the Penetangore River was awash with fall leaves and coloured reflections from overhanging trees.



We seem to have a penchant for posing on bridges! Thanks to Onno for this view, which was taken after some tricky (and possibly damp) maneuvers on a riverbank full of chest-high weeds!



Hikers posing by the circular garden which surrounds the statue in the popular Labyrinth Peace Garden, which distinguishes Kincardine's Geddes Environmental Park. This Labyrinth is in the 'chalice' design. The special Entrance Stone was designed by Betty Conlin and is engraved with birds and vines surrounding the words, 'Walk for Peace'. The winding pathways are wheelchair accessible. A number of web pages are available to read about and see pictures of the Peace Garden, including the website created by the creators and caretakers of the Labyrinth, Friends of the Labyrinth Peace Garden. A magnificent effort by caring volunteers!



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## PAST OUTINGS...

### BRUCE POWER: NWMO Tour, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>



Photo: Cherie Leslie, NWMO

A small group of our members had the opportunity to tour with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. We started with an eye-opening lesson on security for those who have never entered the BNPD site. Forgive me for not remembering all the names, but we were given informative talks by a number of people, ranging through security, physics, geology, legal, and ethics involving long term nuclear waste storage. Of course, the organization's purpose is to promote a Deep Geological Repository (DGR) type facility based on scientific study; they were quite open to hearing opposing views.

The tour started at the site for the proposed DGR facility on the Bruce Power site, designed for low and intermediate level

waste, showing current storage and processing; quite an operation.

Then we got an up-close encounter in the current dry storage warehouse holding over 2000 stainless steel containers, each holding 380 spent fuel bundles. These containers, lined with concrete, weigh about 40 tons each. In case you're wondering, we could walk through with no measurable radiation uptake.

Next, they took us to where the drilling core samples are stored; 5 km of cores, and gave us a scientific explanation of why they would choose a site and what level to situate a DGR. The bottom of Lake Huron is 200m deep and they are proposing to be 600m down. The temperature 600m (1,950ft) down is 20C, just a nice temperature to work in. Thanks to NWMO representatives Paul Austin and Cherie Leslie for leading the tour and

to Bob Simpson for setting this up for the HFFN members.

~ *Marshall Byle*

Ralph & Mary-Ann Knowles, Murray and Gayle Jamieson, James Turland



THESE PHOTOS: CHRISTINE ROBERTS

### Beach Birding and Potluck, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, Roberts hosting.

**2018's October outing** started at the Kincardine Lagoons.

Right away, Sharp-shinned Hawks appeared; they did the typical 'flap flap flap' and the glide of accipiters. With favourable weather and lighting, numerous species of waterfowl were observed on the lagoons. Palm and Orange-crowned Warblers were seen mixed in with many Kinglets along the forest edge. At Point Clark, sparrows were in abundance and many flocks flew up as we drove past. In the surf at the lighthouse we saw Red-throated Loons and Horned Grebes. You had to be quick because the loons were actively diving and spent very little time on the surface. We arrived at the Roberts' home and dropped off our potluck dishes. Blair's Grove Trails can be accessed through their back yard and so we went for a hike. The mix of oak and pine forest is fairly unique in this area. Several Hermit Thrushes were seen hunting on the ground and we heard the 'tsee tsee' of Kinglets. While scanning through a small bunch of Chickadees, a Tufted Titmouse was spotted. This species is occasionally found in Bruce County, mainly visiting bird feeders, but its real home is the Carolinian forests to the south. We were almost back at the Robert's when we found the best bird of the day! A Harris's Sparrow was seen mixed in with an assortment of sparrows. It only gave us a quick view and disappeared into a bush. We searched around for the next half hour with no luck, so we went inside where the



Wayne Fink, Susan Greco, Brenda and Abby Collins

feast was about to start. A great selection of dishes was enjoyed. As we were eating, a call came out that the Harris's Sparrow was now in the Roberts' back yard! Everyone got perfect views as the sparrow foraged on the lawn right outside the window. Harris's Sparrows nest in the high arctic and migrate through the prairies. Every ten years or so we get a sighting in Bruce County. The bird probably picked the best yard in Bruce County to appear in on this day with so many avid nature lovers to admire it. Thanks so much to the Roberts for hosting this year's October Potluck.

Cheers, *James Turland* →

## PAST OUTINGS...

### Beach Birding and Potluck...

Photo: Abby Collins



### 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. Talk to any of the  
Executive at any  
meeting, or use the Contact  
numbers on page 2...we'll  
do the rest!



### Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019: Eagle, Snowy and Raptor hike

An eager group of 18 of the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists met in Tiverton to start out on a hike in search of raptors and other feathered friends. The day was cold but very sunny with just a light breeze and the perfect day to see a few birds.

Our first stop was actually before we got to Baie du Dore as a pair of Red-tailed hawks posed for us in a tree fairly close to the road. These adult hawks were very fluffed up trying to keep warm in the -10 degree weather. We then proceeded to Baie du Dore to check out the birds and although the distant views were hampered by the heat waves (water and air temperature quite different) we managed to get good views of 9 Bald eagles and 10 other species of birds including Mute swans, Red-tailed hawk, Herring and Great Black-backed gulls as well as several duck species.

On we went along County road 33 where one part of the group had a closer view of a Bald eagle while the others saw a Northern shrike perched on a branch watching for lunch. Unfortunately the shrike didn't stick around for good views by everyone, as it went to another viewing perch.

We headed east on concession 12 and soon got a sighting of our first Snowy owl of the day. It was the first of five that we saw on our drive along the concessions of Bruce Township. Three were very white males and 2 were barred females or juveniles. Concession 8 was the busy one as we got to see a Golden eagle flying away with its prize of a rabbit hanging from its talons. While we were trying to get better views of the Golden Eagle with the scopes we also saw Bald eagles sitting in the trees in the same area and distant Red-Tailed hawks in the trees behind where one of the Snowy owls had flown close to. Lots of action on that road. The last Snowy was seen on the 6th concession and as time was ticking away we headed for home. Many of the group decided to have their lunch at our place so we chatted about the morning as we warmed up and enjoyed the sun streaming in through the windows. It was a nice sunny day and although only 20 species showed up to be seen by most of the group we enjoyed the great views of the target birds.....the raptors and Snowy owls of a Bruce County winter.

~ Bob Taylor

Left, below: hardy souls, all! Photo: O. Visser



Bob Taylor's lens got this gorgeous Snowy. →



PAST OUTINGS...

Eagle, Snowy and Raptor hike...



←  
 Bob Taylor had his camera at the ready and on the go and the birds were seemingly set to be photographed. Shrikes (left) are known for using thorns on trees to secure prey before eating it, as their feet have no curved claws to hold it as does a raptor. (right) Looks like the cold wind bothers even these hardy Red-Tailed Hawks!



←  
 Meantime, Margie and Onno Visser were fortunate enough to capture another great view of a Red-Tailed Hawk.

**WANT A BETTER VIEW?**  
 Fringe Notes will enlarge to 150% on your screen when viewed in a PDF. Most photos are still clear. Check for size options at the top of the PDF page.

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

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





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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!** 



**As a member of Ontario Nature, HFFN** has access to a wider range of information about ongoing nature and environment issues. Members of our group are entitled to attend the Spring and Fall Regional Meetings, enjoy lunch provided by the hosting club, and often take tours of one of the host club's nature areas. Club Presidents and Ontario Nature representatives will attend these meetings and may be accompanied by several interested club members. An RSVP is required, but otherwise just a knowledge of the meeting date is all that is needed. Host clubs include the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory, Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Ltd., Friends of McGregor Point, Friends of Sauble Beach, Nature Guelph, HFFN, Owen Sound Field Naturalists, Rankin Resource Group, Saugeen Nature, Stratford Field Naturalists, Sunfish Lake Association, Upper Credit Field Naturalists, and Waterloo Region Nature.

The website is:  
<https://ontarionature.org/about/nature-network/> Interested parties can arrange there to be kept informed of the group's activities and nature news.

~ Ed.



# 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!*



Mary Ann Knowles submitted photos of the magical emergence of Monarchs last fall....  
'Mid to late August, we gathered some of the baby caterpillars and put them in a jar with a lid and holes in it. Ralph added new milk weed leaves every day.' Great shots, Mary-Ann!



*It bears repeating....we were told that if you're new to hatching these beauties, don't succumb to the temptation to help them out of their cocoons. They need to have this struggle to strengthen their bodies and wings. Butterflies that have had help will be weaker and may not even survive.*

~ Ed.



**MEET SPIKE!**

This little fella was spotted by Linda Somerville in the Bruce Botanical Food Gardens and chauffeured to the pond where it is hoped s/he will grow up strong.



Christine Roberts submitted this fluffy image and explains, "Jim and I expressed our thankfulness for pollinators by collecting milkweed pods at Backus Woods near Port Rowan Friday, Oct. 5th for the Nature Conservancy of Canada."  
(Was it a sneezy day, Christine?!)



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# MEMBERSHIP PAGE

## Membership renewals ....

### MEMBERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR:

Barb Simpson, 396-5486.

Membership/renewal forms are included in each issue, or catch up with Barb at one of the meetings. Renewals are generally made in September.

Those who have missed renewals will receive one reminder before being dropped from our lists.

HFFN has now set up an e-mail account for the Club, to be used for paying membership dues by e-transfer, so that payments will go directly into the account. The membership form has been altered accordingly. Payment by cheque is also accepted, or you can make cash payments to Barb Simpson, our Membership Co-ordinator, at any meeting.

The new address for the e-transfer is:  
[huronnaturalist@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:huronnaturalist@hurontel.on.ca)

## ~~ MEMBERSHIPS: ~~

Welcome back old members, and a warm welcome to new ones. Over-18 2018/2019 dues are \$25.00 per person. Under 18's are free. (New/renewal membership form at right.)

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

Memberships for the 2019/2020 year are due in September.

~~~~~  
 Those who have not renewed by the end of February will be sent one reminder before being dropped from our membership list.

~~~~~  
 If there are any questions about membership or changes to your contact information, please contact me,  
 Barb Simpson: 396-5486  
 or [bsimpsonbob@gmail.com](mailto:bsimpsonbob@gmail.com)

*Thanks .... Barb*

### ADVERTISING:

\$30 ANNUALLY, CONTACT EDITOR  
 AT 395-5616, OR EMAIL:  
[TRK66@TNT21.COM](mailto:TRK66@TNT21.COM)



## 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!



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

new member application or  renewal

SEPTEMBER 2018 to SEPTEMBER 2019

....or CATCHUP?

**Membership Cost:** \$25.00 per person. Youths 18 or under are free.  
 Please mail completed form with payment to:

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

Payment can also be e-transferred to Huron Fringe Field Naturalists at: [huronnaturalist@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:huronnaturalist@hurontel.on.ca)

Name(s): **(Please print):**

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information:

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

*Cut out or scan this form.*

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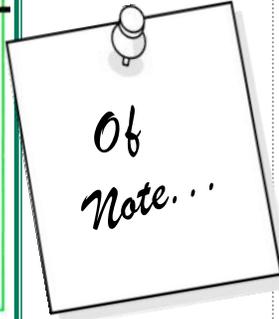
Donna Bridge  
 Manager

**UPI ENERGY**

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 PHONE: 519-396-3451  
 kincountrydepot@gmail.com



307 BROADWAY ST  
 KINCARDINE, ONTARIO  
 PHONE: 519-396-3303  
 kincardineupi@hotmail.com




**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!



**WINTER WEATHER CAUTION:**

BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR A MEETING, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT IT IS NOT CANCELLED! WE WILL EMAIL UP TO THE LAST MINUTE....IF NOT ONLINE, PLEASE CALL ANY MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE. THERE MAY BE NOBODY AT THE CHURCH.

**"IF HIGHWAY 21 IS CLOSED....THE MEETING IS CANCELLED."**

~ ~ ~ **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.**

**February 26<sup>th</sup>: 12 NOON, Annual Potluck & Photo Contest:**

**Subject: 'Flights of Fancy' – anything that flies.**

The next HFFN meeting takes place Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm at the Pine River United Church and is a potluck lunch. Bring your plate, mug, napkin, cutlery and something yummy to share.

This is also our annual photo contest with the theme "Flights of Fancy". Be prepared for some spectacular images and stiff competition.

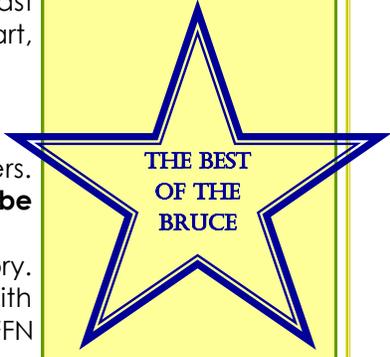
In addition, everyone is invited to share their nature-related interests and hobbies. Past meetings have featured wood carvings, paintings and needlework, collections of art, cameras and figurines, skeletons, weather data and more.

**HFFN Photo Contest rules:**

Each February the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists hold a photo contest for members. **Each person may enter 2 prints in each of 2 sizes: 4X6 and 5X7. The content must be Canadian and the prints unretouched.**

Each member attending the February meeting has 4 votes: 2 in each size category. Winners receive a small prize and bragging rights. If willing and able to share with the newsletter editor, Jeni Pepper, their photos are included in the Spring-Summer HFFN newsletter.

A SMALL ANNOUNCEMENT....  
 KEEP YOUR CAMERA BUSY THROUGH THE SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL SEASON. THE NEXT PHOTO CONTEST (FEBRUARY, 2020) WILL BE LOOKING AT...



**THE BEST OF THE BRUCE**

~ ~ ~ REGULAR MEETINGS ~ ~ ~

### Speakers Update, 2019

Your speaker chair Bob Simpson has been busy searching and arranging for speakers. We look forward to you joining us for these presentations.

~ *Bob Simpson*



#### Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>:

For our March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting we will welcome David T Chapman, a professional photographer and storm chaser from Ontario. David has been chasing and photographing storms all through Ontario. He will share his experiences and photos with us.

#### Tuesday, April 23: Annual Dinner Meeting.



April is our annual dinner meeting. Margie Visser has arranged for Suzanne Southon to once again give a presentation to the group. Two years ago, she spoke on birds of the Arctic. At our dinner meeting this April her presentation is, 'Spirit Bear of the Great Bear Rainforest in B.C.'

Two meats, full dinner and dessert, tickets are \$25 per person, available at the March meeting or can be reserved. Due to the arrangements with the hosts, we can offer no refund. It has been agreed to forego the gift exchange this year; instead, we'll have door prizes.

#### Directions to the dinner venue:

#### Lucknow United Church Hall

505 Campbell Street, Lucknow. (corner of Campbell and Havelock ) on the main street.



#### Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>: (No conflict with Bruce Peninsula trip.)

For the May meeting, I am trying to arrange for a Screening of the award winning documentary--*Call of the Forest*. More to follow when confirmed.

#### Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>:



David Gascoigne will give his presentation "Diurnal Raptors" As you may recall, David entertained us at last year's Annual Dinner Meeting with his presentation 'Sex and the Single Bird'. David is an awesome speaker and will entertain us this year with photos and facts about our birds of prey.

**NO MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST...SEE YOU ON SEPTEMBER 24TH. REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AT THAT POINT! SEE PAGE 12.**

## 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, hat, water, binoculars, bird/plant/other guides, bug repellent, 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!**



## UPCOMING OUTINGS

### Mid-March: Owl Prowl, the third week of March- John Hill, 396-9738



Either Thursday 21st or Saturday 23rd (rain/snow date).  
A dusk-to-dark event in Geddes Park; warm-up cuppa and chat at Tim's after. Bring a good flashlight.  
Meet at 7:30 at the Geddes Park parking lot.  
The terrain on the Owl Prowl will be very flat and gentle.  
We will need a volunteer light-bearer to bring up the rear!  
(Please remember - no LED lights shining in owl eyes!)

### May:



**Chi-Cheemaun's Annual Spring Cruise** will take place on **Thursday, May 2nd, 2019**. Tickets are available for purchase, cost is \$70, cruise from Owen Sound to Tobermory 11am - 4:30, includes buffet lunch.  
Book early if you really want to go!

### Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> - Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, option for Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>:

#### **Bruce Peninsula Explorer - Donna Murray; the Peppers.**

Can we do it again? Tour up the Bruce Peninsula for great walks and hikes in this beautiful World Biosphere Reserve. Great company, lovely surroundings, local wildlife, flora, sunset walks, BBQ/potluck, pizza night, and the odd rattlesnake. Hopefully the harbour Beaver will be around. A sign-up sheet will be made available at meetings prior.

### May 25 - May 28 & May 31 - June 3:

#### **HURON FRINGE BIRDING FESTIVAL**

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. Special events include a banquet with a special guest speaker. Evening highlights include illustrated programs featuring excellent presenters and night hikes.

The schedule of events is now available online at:

<http://friendsofmacgregor.org/page/huron-fringe-birding-festival>

The website is carrying this year's events right now, and the new preregistration date is **March 1** instead of February 1.

### Late May/early June: Spring Welcome Walk; Sue Greco, 396-7950

We will go for May 29, 30, 31 or possibly weekend, which will be 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of June. By then Sue will have had had opportunity to find the best area for the place bearing the most concentrated flower finds.  
TBA, or call Sue for info a day or two ahead: 396-7950

#### 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

#### OTHER OUTINGS:

New (or changed/cancelled) outings, WE WILL NOTIFY BY EMAIL.  
Please verify details before leaving for an outing.

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## Huron Fringe Birding Festival

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& May 31 - June 3, 2018

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Port Elgin, ON Canada N0H 2C5  
huronfringebirdfest@gmail.com

www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca

“Is this a walk or a hike?”  
Believe it or not, some of our members do need to know. The phrase, ‘not a spring chicken’ is often heard along the trails and byways. As well as encouraging our outing leaders to comment on terrain in their announcements for outings, we assume that a ‘walk’ is just that: a country meander with perhaps a pause or two to admire whatever catches the eye. A ‘hike’ is taken to mean a more rugged type of journey, ‘up hill and down dale’, the occasional hauling of bodies up steep inclines, over rocks and tree trunks, along unkept paths, through small lakes....

**Our Communications and Publicity person, Christine Roberts, will be hoping to feature some of HFFN's past and present members in future issues of Fringe Notes. Who better to highlight in this first article than our founder?**

### Memories of.....Joe Burgess, HFFN founder



Crystal, Joe and their children on a Nature walk, circa 1980s.  
Pepper photo

As a few of our longest-standing members will know, and some of you will have guessed, this photo from HFFN's first few outings is of our founders, Joe and Crystal Burgess, then of Point Clark. They had recently moved to the area, bringing with them their log cabin building business and their fondness for nature of all kinds. In the spring of 1985, the word went out that there was to be a meeting at Pine River Church in the hopes of setting up a local nature club. Surely Joe, standing as founder and first President that evening in front of everyone, must have been pleased and honoured to have had 45 interested people waiting to hear what he had to say! The very first outing was to view a heronry in Lucknow, watching the birds build nests in a line of trees across the farm fields.

Soon we were all enjoying the bountiful nature around us and learning about what we saw. Not just about flora and fauna, but also about geology, history, ecology, and swamps! We seemed to visit quite a few swamps and wetlands, and learned the locations of many different species and their ecosystems.

Joe led us on wonderful after-dark Owl-Prowls, when we carried recordings of owls to play, tempting the territorial curiosity of live owls in the area which would fly over to see what was going on. We would carry flashlights to spotlight them, much to their surprise. We went out in winter, and we went out in the rain....as Joe laughingly said, "Why not? Rain's nature!" It

was always fun, and educational. Joe and Crystal moved away several years later, leaving behind this wonderful legacy which is now ours.

One of many jaunts out and about with Joe was an outing to a bog, (possibly Langside Bog, near Lucknow,) where we hoped to encounter various flora, mosses and birds indigenous to bogs in general. Ruth Walker and another lady had said that they would love to find some wild cranberries.

For some reason or another, two other lady members were offered, and accepted, a ride to the area, generously offered by Joe; but he had not mentioned that he was leaving his vehicle at a friend's house, and the friend, Syd, was going to drive the rest of the way. However, it was all the same to the ladies, so at Syd's house – situated along a number of gravel roads – everyone clambered into Syd's small car – perhaps it was a Datsun – and off they went. Presently the ladies in the back became aware, due to encroachings of dense clouds of dust about their heads, that the car was without its rear window. Nevertheless, Syd drove expertly over the gravel at a good speed, chatting the while to Joe, who sat next to him. Suddenly the brakes were firmly applied....the vehicle skidded almost to a halt on the gravel....the dust cloud caught up with the car, smoking out the back seat and mixing quite happily with the exhaust fumes...and Joe exclaimed gently, "You don't brake for *butterflies*, Syd."

Duly arriving at the bog, members found themselves a little unsurely following along as Joe, more used to hopping from grass tussock to grass tussock, progressed across the black, sucking mess, turning to point out safe places to step as he went. Syd followed a little way back, very warily, and generous with a helping hand when someone needed one. Presently, delighted exclamations were heard as Ruth and her friend were shown some wild cranberries, and Ruth took a small sprig from which she was probably hoping to garner seeds for her own growing. Syd gallantly offered to help carry the berry sprig as they made their way back to firm ground, but found himself suddenly up to his hips in the black muck as his foot slipped off a tussock. As everyone watched, he managed to put one foot up onto a tussock and lift himself – berries held aloft – out of the bog and back to dry land, commenting as he did so that his wallet had kept him afloat.

~ J. Pepper

**Joe, if you are reading this sometime, someplace, thank you! And hope you enjoyed the read.**