



ENJOYING NATURE IN HURON-BRUCE



THE HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS, FRINGE NOTES

WE'RE ON THE WEB! Visit us at: <http://hffn.huronstewardship.ca/> (Groups) ENJOY FRINGE NOTES IN COLOUR!

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



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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.



WILD LEEK, SVCA. D. MURRAY photo

MAY-AUGUST,

2019...

WALKS,
MEETINGS &
POTLUCKS

~~~~~  
FREE FROM OUR  
SPONSORS  
THREE TIMES A  
YEAR!

## WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT, LYNN JOHNSTON:



Hi Folks,

I hope everyone had a nice Easter weekend. Easter is a time for spiritual renewal. I have been in a funk with this up and down weather and got a bad cold and cough that is going around. And it saddens me that the Ontario government is likely going to 'gut' Ontario's Endangered Species Act. Apparently, 'Open For Business' means that the inconvenience of protecting threatened or endangered species or plants or sensitive lands, will not be allowed

to interfere with developers or others' wishes to proceed with their business wishes or projects.

This past Easter Monday was glorious. It brought me spiritual renewal. I went to the 'Zinn Reserve' and went for a walk in the nature setting. I saw lots of new life, such as, lots of different birds have come back, are having young; and I heard lots of different bird calls, some of which I still do not recognize. I saw some butterflies flitting here and there. I saw that some of the fish are back in the pond; and we restocked the pond with trout. I saw some little garter snakes, a deer - even bugs and bees. I saw several species of wild flowers blooming on the ground and in the bush, and spring plants such as the snowdrops, crocus, iris, daffodils, and others coming to life. It was very heartening. April showers really do bring spring flowers! I am itching to get the plants and property cleaned up and organized again!

I am looking forward to the new season of regular meetings with speakers and programs and outdoor activities, seeing friends, members, old and new. Please review the newsletter for all of the details of activities that are planned and past ones too. There should be plenty of things for the nature lover to participate in....see you there!

- Lynn Johnston



## UPCOMING EVENTS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### OUTINGS:

- May - early June: Spring Wildflower Walk, TBA.
- Bruce Peninsula Explorer - May 21st - 24/25th
- HURON FRINGE BIRDING FESTIVAL**
- Sunday, June 9th: Canoe/Kayak outing
- AUGUST/SEPTEMBER OUTINGS - P. 10
- All outings will be emailed or published as they are finalized.

**Full details inside.**

### MEETINGS:

- May 28th:** Film, 'CALL OF THE FOREST'  
**NOTE: EARLY MEETING.**  
**SEE INSIDE FOR TIMES.**
- June 25th:** David Gascoigne, Diurnal Raptors
- FALL MEETING:** SEPT. 24th.



**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:**

|                                          |               |                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>President:</u></b>                 | Lynn Johnston | 528-2411                                                                          |
| <b><u>Past President:</u></b>            |               |  |
| <b><u>Vice-President:</u></b>            |               | VACANCY                                                                           |
| <b><u>Secretary:</u></b>                 |               | VACANCY                                                                           |
| <b><u>Treasurer :</u></b>                |               |                                                                                   |
| Onno Visser                              | 395-3173      |                                                                                   |
| <b><u>Memberships:</u></b>               |               |                                                                                   |
| Barb Simpson                             | 396-5486      |                                                                                   |
| <b><u>Outings:</u></b>                   |               |                                                                                   |
| Steve Pepper<br><i>(1 Open position)</i> | 395-5616      |                                                                                   |
| <b><u>Speakers:</u></b>                  |               |                                                                                   |
| Bob Simpson                              | 396-5486      |                                                                                   |
| <b><u>Newsletter Editor:</u></b>         |               |                                                                                   |
| Jeni Pepper                              | 395-5616      |                                                                                   |
| <b><u>Members-at-Large:</u></b>          |               |                                                                                   |
| Joy Munn                                 | 395-3570      |                                                                                   |
| Susan Greco                              | 396-7950      |                                                                                   |
| John Hill                                | 396-9738      |                                                                                   |
| Jayne Miltenburg                         | 529-3241      |                                                                                   |
| <b><u>Social Convenor:</u></b>           |               |                                                                                   |
| Linda Campbell                           | 396-5144      |                                                                                   |
| Rhodora Doughty                          | 396-4368      |                                                                                   |
| <b><u>Ontario Nature (FON) Rep:</u></b>  |               |                                                                                   |
| Jim Roberts                              |               |                                                                                   |
| <b><u>Website Administrator:</u></b>     |               |                                                                                   |
| Steve Pepper                             | 395-5616      |                                                                                   |
| <b><u>Communications:</u></b>            |               |                                                                                   |
| Christine Roberts                        | 395-5008      |                                                                                   |
| <b><u>Publicity:</u></b>                 |               |                                                                                   |
| 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:**



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336 Lambton St.,  
Kincardine, ON  
N2Z 1Y9  
(519) 396-2769

Announcements!

Find us on  
Facebook

### **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 (insert)**

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

**MAY 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, May 31 – June 3 See their ad in this issue.**  
The website is carrying this year's events, and the new preregistration date was **March 1**.

### **Bluebird Boxes:**



These were checked on **March 29<sup>th</sup>** by the Simpsons and the Peppers. Of 25 boxes, 17 had nests, however not all were bluebird nests. There were also some resident mice in two boxes who were still staying out of the cold. As per advice from Tom Lobb, the boxes will be re-examined sometime in late Spring for occupancy and to determine whether more boxes will be needed. A possible second Bluebird Nest Box Building Bee may be considered at a later date.

~ Ed.



### **PAST MEETINGS:**

#### **Annual Potluck and Photo Contest meeting, Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

After a wild February, we caught a break and managed to fit in the meeting between storm fronts.

Over 35 members attended the annual potluck lunch and photo contest. It goes without saying the meal was a feast! This year's photo theme was "Flights of Fancy" and entries featured primarily images of birds and butterflies.

The winners in the 4 X 6 category were Bruce Edmunds in first place and Brent Bowyer in second. Deb Willis placed first in the 5 X 7 category followed by Donna Butson. Winners received bamboo straws in travel cases and the all-important bragging rights. Winning images may be featured on club note cards.

Displays of hobbies included beautifully painted rocks by Liz Addison, unique woodcrafts by Brent Bowyer, paintings by Christine Roberts and a poster depicting duck husbandry by Donna Butson.

Susan Greco was the happy winner of the painting fundraiser involving a draw for one of two paintings donated by Christine. This raised \$150.

Thanks to all members for supporting the fundraiser and the photo contest.

**Next year's theme is 'Best of the Bruce'** and will feature members' best photographic images of Bruce County.

~ Christine Roberts

**PHOTOS NEXT PAGE....**

## PAST MEETINGS:

### Annual Potluck and Photo Contest con't:



Mary Coates, Pat Guay and Helen Hanson also enjoyed!

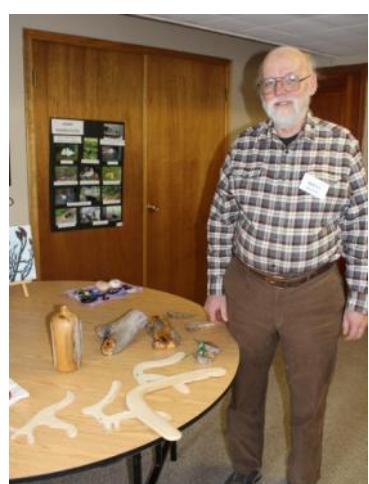
Margaret Visser, Ralph Bruce and friends enjoying a delicious meal .



**Rocks:**  
Liz Addison displays her beautifully detailed stones.



**Woodcrafts:** Brent Bowyer stands with his hand crafted boomerangs and other woodcrafts.



*Photos this page:  
Christine Roberts*



**Decisions:**

(l-r) Pat Guay, Helen Van der Glas, Mary Coates and Steve Pepper survey the photo contest entries.



**HOBBY  
RAISING DUCKS**

**COSTS: TIME & MUSCLE**  
**REWARDS: JOY & LAUGHTER**

LOVE BIRDS

FAVOURITE BREAKFAST: BUGS

BATH TIME

RELAXING AFTERNOON AT THE POND

LEAVE ME ALONE I'M BUSY

HOW MANY ARE THERE

NOTHING LIKE A REFRESHING SWIM

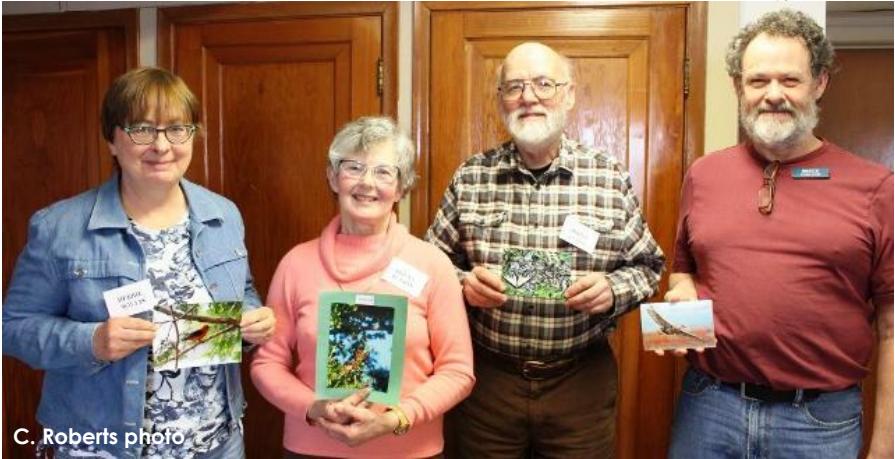
COME ON KIDS, THIS WAY

ALL OF YOU – LISTEN TO ME!

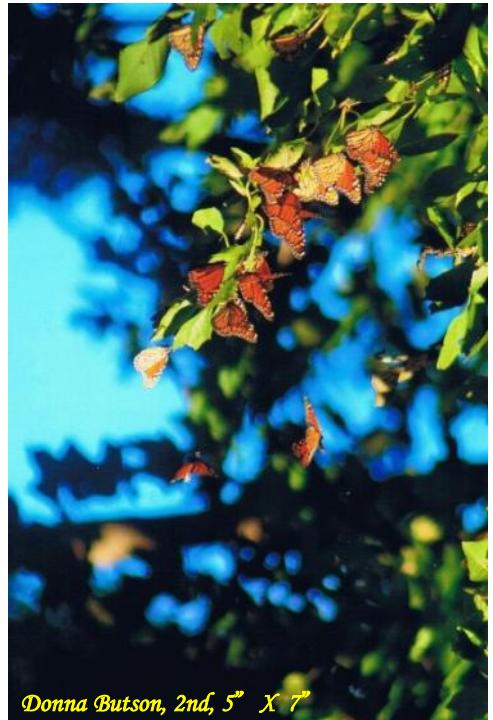
ALL IN THE FAMILY



Ducks: Donna Butson's photo essay on the fun of raising ducks.



**Winners: (l-r) HFFN photo contest winners:**



HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS! GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES  
ENHANCED BY STEADY HANDS PRODUCED THESE GREAT IMAGES.  
NEXT FEBRUARY WE INVITE YOU TO SEE WHAT 'THE BEST OF THE BRUCE'  
HAS HAD TO OFFER OUR LENSES. KEEP THOSE CAMERAS HANDY IN THE  
COMING MONTHS AND THROUGHOUT BRUCE COUNTY.  
GOOD LUCK!

Fundraiser: (l-r) Artist Christine Roberts presents winner Susan Greco with a painting. J. Roberts photo.



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:.... ~~~~

March 26, 2019 Report

Nearly 60 members and guests were taken on a wild ride in pursuit of storms by guest David T. Chapman Tuesday, March 26th. The self-taught professional photographer and speaker kept the packed house enthralled with his presentation featuring still photography and video of dramatic cloud formations, lightning, water spouts and tornadoes.



Mary-Ann Knowles talks with storm chaser David T. Chapman. Roberts photo

Throughout the seminar Chapman gave technical explanations of extreme weather phenomenon using stunning visuals to illustrate his point. His use of slow motion and time lapse photography allowed the audience to gain a better understanding of the processes at work as they experienced thunderstorms from early stages to crescendo to dissipation.

His rapid-fire lecture provided a great deal of scientific information that was interspersed with personal and often humorous anecdotes about the life of a storm chaser.

~ Christine Roberts

The Ark Farm

Vegetables & Native Plants



Art Wiebe & Janice McKean

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519-396-7518

thearknativeplants.com

theark@bmts.com

Huron Fringe Field Naturalists Annual Dinner Meeting, Tuesday, April 23rd

We enjoyed another terrific ADM at the Lucknow United Church Tuesday, April 23rd. Nearly 60 members and guests enjoyed a delicious buffet prepared by the church ladies in addition to draws for a variety of door prizes. An excellent meal was only the first part of a special get-together as we looked forward to a return visit from accomplished nature photographer Suzanne Southon with her presentation, 'In Search of the Spirit Bear'. Suzanne opened with a First Nations creation story of the Spirit Bear in which the Raven turns every tenth black bear white, and continued with the explanation that the Kermode Bear is a rare subspecies of the American black bear which lives in the Central and North Coast regions of British Columbia.

To the delight of her audience, she recounted her 2011 expedition in detail, with many photos of breath-taking scenery and anecdotes that illustrated the challenging travel, living and working conditions she faced in her quest to find the Spirit Bear in the remote Great Bear Rainforest of British Columbia.

It was communicated clearly from the outset that there were no guarantees of sightings. Along the route she encountered and photographed abundant wildlife including wolves, black and grizzly bears, elephant and harbour seals, eagles, hawks and humpback whales. Images of waterfalls, mountains, misty waterscapes and spectacular sunrises and sunsets also filled her cameras' memory cards.

In the end, Southon's tour group came in contact with several Kermode Bears and they spent many magical hours watching the bears patiently fish for salmon and interact with their black relatives. Many memorable images were taken and indelible memories created.

~ Christine Roberts



THESE PHOTOS: CHRISTINE ROBERTS

←
AWAITING
THE FEAST!

→
BUSY DAD
AND
DAUGH-
TER:
DONNA
MURRAY,
STEVE
PEPPER



PAST MEETINGS:....

Annual Dinner Meeting cont.:



A delicious dinner gets underway.

REDUCE ~ REUSE ~ RECYCLE

Condor Fine Books

A Good Selection of...

Gardening
Outdoors
Flora
Fauna
Travel

Astrology
Geology
Geography
Maps
...and more

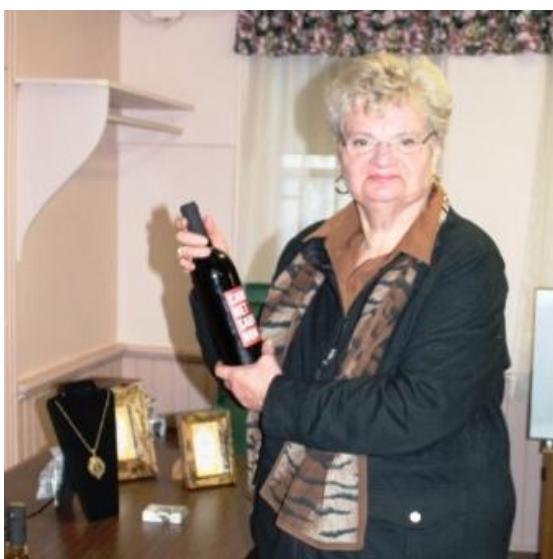
New, Old, Used, Rare, just like our customers!

Emily Walker
811 Queen St.,
Kincardine, ON. WEBSITE www.Condorfinebooks.ca
N2L 2Y2

HOURS:

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

WINTER: TUES - SAT 10 - 5



Ruth McKague displays her door prize.



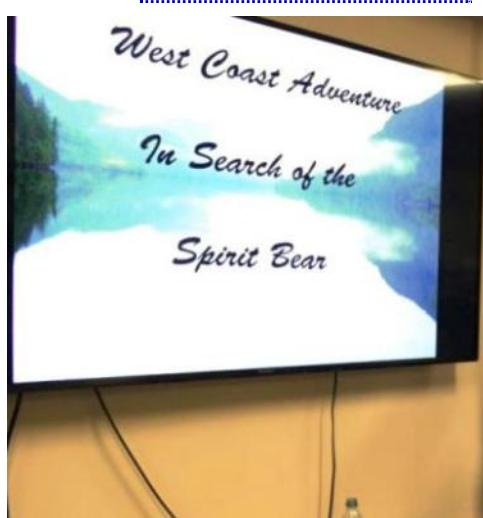
PHOTOGRAPHS THIS PAGE:
CHRISTINE ROBERTS



First door prize winner of the evening Peter Kirkpatrick claims his prize.



Presenter Suzanne Southon
C. Roberts Photo



Suzanne Southon talks to HFFN members Heather Keetch and Liz Addison after her presentation, "In Search of the Spirit Bear". C. Roberts Photo



PAST OUTINGS...

Ski-Hike at the Zinn's, Saturday, February 9th:

About 14-16 people met at Paul and Lynne's property for the winter ski-hike. A great day for walking (not snowshoeing); no wind. Those at the outing included Gail and Murray Jamieson, Lynn and Paul Zinn, Heather Keetch, Anne Melady and her son (guest), Jayne Miltenburg, Jane Nielsen and guest, Christine Roberts, Bob and Anne-Marie Taylor, Sylvia Stepnov, Barb and Bob Simpson. So glad everyone decided to come out. Ample reward for the effort was laid out for everybody's enjoyment on the table in the cabin!

~ *Barb Simpson; Ed.*



The outdoor chill was not enough to discourage warm friendships! Sylvia Stepnov enjoyed her walk and a nice chat with two like-minded ladies. Apologies for the lack of positive ID for the latter!



Bob Taylor, Jayne Miltenburg and Bob Simpson avail themselves of the plentiful offerings after the outdoor activities. President Lynn, Gayle Murray and another hiker enjoy a chat.



Owl Prowl with the Hills, Geddes Park, March 23rd

A large enthusiastic group of owl-prowlers met with the Hills at dusk. An easy path was followed, albeit crunchy with old snow in places as everyone tried to walk silently. John had a recording of different birds including owls, which he played at intervals; however if these were heard, it must have been by some very wise owls who had us sussed, as none of them deigned to show up to see who the 'intruders' were. Nevertheless, the novelty of being out in the woods at night and the eager expectation of hearing real owls made for some nocturnal fun. Many of the group also enjoyed a visit to Tim's for a warm-up and treat later. Many thanks to John and Helena for this evening's unique outing!

~ *Ed.*

**Heritage
Fire Co.**

www.heritagefirecompany.com
info@heritagefirecompany.com



Members' Page...

News for and from members...

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

*Guests welcome!



Christine Roberts shares this photo of President Lynn Johnston and Executive member Jayne Miltenburg, who represented HFFN at the Coastal Speakers Series evening at the Huron County Museum on February 7th.



A wander through the woodland wonderland of Inglis Falls netted Christine Roberts this fine example of Natures' head-turning example of bracket fungi helping to 'recycle' this large tree stump.

IF YOU FIND AN INJURED TURTLE, PLEASE CONTACT THE ONTARIO TURTLE CONSERVATION CENTRE AT: 705-741-5000, EVEN IF THE TURTLE IS DEAD. EGGS MAY BE RECOVERED. KEEP A NOTE OF THIS NUMBER IN YOUR VEHICLES!



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!



CLIPART



WANT A BETTER VIEW?

Fringe Notes will enlarge up to 150% on your screen when viewed in a PDF.

Most photos are still clear. Check for size options at the top of your PDF page. 150% usually fits well.

BEE AMAZED!
A Queen Bee will not lay eggs until the worker bees have built new cells or cleaned and polished existing cells!
If no new drones are needed, no cells are created or cleaned.
Sounds like a lot of work and not much pay!



BLAST FROM THE (NOT TOO DISTANT) PAST....

Ralph Knowles, Jim Armstrong, Tom Lobb, John Farrell, the late Linden Thurber, and Jack Campbell posed at lunchtime for Steve Pepper's camera at the 2010 Newton Reserve work bee.



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!

**KINCARDINE COUNTRY DEPOT
UPI GAS BAR**



Donna Bridge
Manager



315 HAMILTON LANE
KINCARDINE, ONTARIO N2Z1E2
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kincountrydepot@gmail.com

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



777 Queen Street, P.O. Box 1270
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Cell: 519-525-3306
Bus: 519-396-3396 ext. 229
Fax: 519-396-9109
malthele.wilson@hurontel.on.ca
www.royalepageexchange.com



~ ~ ~ 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



Beverages: 1.00; treats: free.



CLIPART

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



CLIPART

Tuesday, May 28th: (No conflict with Bruce Peninsula trip.) **EARLY MEETING.**

For the May meeting, a Screening of the award winning documentary--
Call of the Forest.

We will enter the woods with Diana Beresford Kroeger and receive new insight from this truly remarkable lady. Information about this film is available online.

**The meeting will need to start earlier to accommodate the length of the film.
Social time at 7:15, the meeting at 7:45 and the film at 8 pm.**



CLIPART

Tuesday, June 25th:

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.

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AT THAT POINT! SEE INSERT.

NO MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST...SEE YOU ON SEPTEMBER 24TH.

IN THE MEANTIME....KEEP YOUR CAMERA BUSY WHENEVER YOU'RE 'UP THE BRUCE'!

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!

Tuesday, May 21st - Friday, May 24th, option for 25th:

Bruce Peninsula Explorer - Donna Murray; the Peppers.

Tour up the Bruce Peninsula to Tobermory 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. All activities are optional, as is length of stay. Last minute? Contact Steve, 395-5616, book your room, meet us at the appointed time and place, or arrange to meet us in Tobermory any day,

May 24th - May 27th & May 30th - June 2nd:

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, and the new preregistration date was **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 1st and 2nd of June**. By then Sue will have 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

Sunday, June 9th:

Canoe/Kayak outing – Contact/location: TBD

Some extra kayaks and rides are available if interested.

August 20th or 21st - Christine Roberts will lead an outing to the **Butterfly Gardens of Saugeen Shores in Southampton**, mid-afternoon. We will end at the Walker House Pub for dinner.

Fall Tour: Bruce Botanical Food Gardens tour – date TBD

Annual HFFN Corn Roast/potluck Sunday, September 15 at the Zinn property. This ever-popular event will be finalized in the next issue, due out before the first meeting of the Fall season. Directions will be sent out by email in advance. See you there!

One of Canada's Premier
Birding and Nature Festivals

Huron Fringe Birding Festival



**May 24 - May 27
& May 30 - June 2, 2019**

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  

OTHER OUTINGS:

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

GEOFF AND RUTH WALKER, PAST MEMBERS



Being a member of HFFN has had more than the obvious perks; one of these has been meeting and getting to know some very interesting fellow members. Foremost amongst these are past members Geoff and Ruth Walker, who were quite the amazing people. We were not the only ones to think so; everyone who knew them agreed.

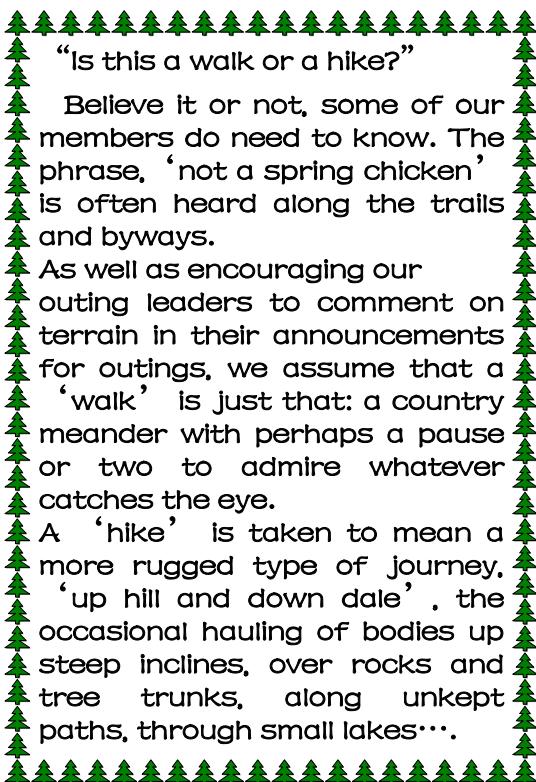
Our first encounter was with Geoff, back in 1985. Maybe a dozen new naturalists had just been on our first outing with club founders Joe and Crystal Burgess, and we had been invited to partake of our packed lunches at their small cabin in Point Clark. We sat on the front deck and got busy with new friendships and sandwiches. Just as the cookies, fruit, cake and what-have-you had been demolished and most of our juice, coffee or tea had been consumed, into our now-sated group popped Geoff with a large jar of pickled eggs, which after introductions, he proceeded to enthusiastically offer around, all the while extolling the virtues of same. In the face of such happy generosity, few of us ventured a 'No thank you', so the pickled eggs went down as 'extra dessert'.

We soon also made the acquaintance of Ruth, a native of Saskatchewan we believe, who came along to many of the outings, and before long we were invited to their unusual but simple home, 'Loon Lookout', which was, as Geoff instructed us, 'a mile north of Kingsbridge at the old schoolhouse, and down to the lake'.

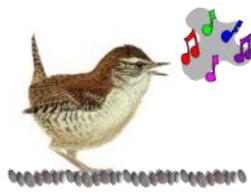
Retired from work in the Toronto area, Geoff had purchased land on top of the bluff and built a tiny cottage to begin with; this was used as a getaway until retirement, when the house was built a short distance away. Single storey, with a glass-walled walkout basement overlooking the lake and a deck above, it was built using rocks which had been dug out of the adjoining farm fields. A few dozen feet across the back lawn was the steep path down the bluff. To the north side was created a perennial garden, raised beds edged with more rocks,

and walkways meandering through; all of the plants seemed to thrive and Ruth delighted in finding unusual shrubs, flowers and decorative items to place there. A small windmill was erected near to the side of the house and its struts used to hang several bird feeders, which were always busy and viewable from the bedroom windows.

There was no power to the house. Geoff made his own power which was supplemented with golf cart batteries, and with careful use it served very well. A cast iron kitchen woodstove was their heat source in winter and a place to cook, and a small microwave oven provided backup. This modest dwelling housed pots of plants in all stages of development – Ruth was an indoor gardener too – and the speciality was orchids, of which there were quite a few large pots, and the African violets that Ruth loved. Also in the home was Ruth's studio, as she was an accomplished artist, and the couple both collected fossils wherever they found them, whether in a store or on their walks. We have seen Geoff, too, pick up rocks almost as big as a person's head on HFFN outings and carry them home. On one occasion, he got lost from the group carrying two such rocks, and made his own way home. Amongst items they displayed were included pottery and unusual home decor findings. Ruth was always on the lookout for cuttings she could grow, and she would often bestow cuttings of the resulting plants on her friends, whether house plants or wild. Along the south wall of the house was created a peculiar long, narrow greenhouse, dug to basement level and roofed with glass just above ground; if Ruth found a frog or toad, it would have the run of this moist shelter. She loved bulbs, and one spring during one of the many potlucks HFFN members enjoyed there, a long, wide bed of tulips of all kinds and colours – at least one hundred – was discovered along the edge of the greenhouse roof. When it was praised to the skies, Ruth modestly replied, 'Well, thank you! I bought all the bulbs that were left over at the end of the season and Geoff planted them in a snowstorm!' The front of the house wasn't left out – it had all kinds of lovely mature shade plants in rectangular beds either side of the door. Little wonder we heard Ruth say that people had been coming to see her garden, and that she didn't know all of them; and she had had a busload arrive at least once. The couple were also keen and experienced mushroom hunters and small baskets of various fungi – sometimes including edible lichens – were set out to be admired. A large, very friendly ginger cat named Amberley often sunned himself on one of the several rustic benches along the garden paths; a waggy-tailed Golden Retriever whose name escapes me enjoyed the serendipity of the property for many years, and at one point, Ruth kept poultry – a few grouse chicks were spied running around, and several brown and white chickens clucked and fussed under the strict eye of their king, a gorgeous Leghorn named, peculiarly, Scheezichs, whose antics caused Ruth some head shaking and tongue-tutting. She had put out various small dishes for the poultry food, only to say later, 'When my friend came to visit one day she was just horrified, she said I was using cranberry glass and Clarice Cliff pottery for my hens. Those were my mother's and I had no idea what they were.' She later admitted that most of her mother's dishes and glass had been sold for a few cents. Some time in the late 1990's, a friend helped add a second storey to the flat-roofed home, and here Ruth was in her element; with windows all around she had the artist's studio of her dreams and filled it prolifically, not just with her paintings of flowers, animals and the surrounding vistas she loved, but with the pottery, curios and fossils they both enjoyed. Gone they may be, but this wonderful couple left some great memories amongst those who were fortunate enough to know them. ~ Ed.



LOOSE NOTES...



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!



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



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 CALENDARI



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 (ontarionation.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 **705-744-5000**

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



Photo Contest rules:

Each February the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists holds 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.

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://ontarionation.org/about/nature-network/> Interested parties can arrange there to be kept informed of the group's activities and nature news.

~ Ed.

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 two reminders before being dropped from our lists.

PLEASE MAKE A DATED NOTE OF YOUR PAYMENTS.

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:

hurnonnaturalist@hurontel.on.ca

~~ MEMBERSHIPS: ~~

As our season is almost over we welcome all our new members and hope everyone will come out to our few (May and June) remaining meetings. Come out and enjoy the company and the speakers.

Memberships for the 2019/2020 year are due in September. Dues are \$25 per person; under 18 is free. (new/ renewal membership form at right.) You can also pay by e-transfer.

Those who haven't renewed their membership by Dec. 2019 will be notified twice before being taken off the membership list. (in Feb. 2020).

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 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:

hurnonnaturalist@hurontel.on.ca

Name(s): (Please print):

Contact Information:

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone No: _____

E-Mail: _____

Cut out or scan this form.



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 2019 to SEPTEMBER 2020

....or CATCHUP?

