



Contingency issue



ENJOYING NATURE IN HURON-BRUCE

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Title background: Singing Sands brook (Pepper photo)

SPRING & SUMMER

2022

OUTINGS, MEETINGS
& POTLUCKS

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

### A Note From...your Editor!

July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

*(You'll find the usual greeting from our soon to be past President, Lynn Johnston, on the next page.)*

*As work was ongoing for the Spring issue, some deviltry or other crept in overnight... a week or so ago on Friday, Publisher refused to open for me. When it did consent to be opened, seventeen pages of the issue, a month in the making, were gone. We saw that there was nothing that we could do ourselves to remedy the loss, so we called in a very good computer tech, who kindly arrived on Sunday morning with no complaint.*

*An hour later, he had to concede that 'the issue is not on the hard drive,' and hazarded a guess that Publisher had crashed. This despite the fact that the programme was set to save work every ten minutes.*

*Not to be outdone by faulty technology I sat back down and produced this rather smaller contingency issue.*

*Although some of the news is late, it is all there, thanks to my newsletter files and many searches through my email and photo files.*

*My desire was to be able to still give members the articles and photos that were going into the lost issue. That I have done, (warts and all...) however without some of the usual features - which hopefully will be back with the next issue.*

*So enjoy the read and the photos; these are the work of those who sent their write-ups and pictures for inclusion, and I think you'll agree that they are well worth being presented here.*

*Enjoy the rest of summer and our beautiful nature. See you in September....unless I see you first! ~ J.P.*

**Note:** Contact information & Memberships, last page.  
Upcoming meetings/outings: bottom of P. 18.

# HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS' *FRINGE NOTES*

## Words from our President:



Hello all,

Since spring arrived, the time seems to be flying by. We enjoyed the best of both worlds. We got to go outdoors and enjoy nature and nature events, have our meetings again and got to attend Webinars from other groups. What could be better? I went to stores to purchase my outdoor plants and flowers. Since taking a couple of Webinars on pollinators for the bees, bugs and butterflies and for the birds, I am a lot more conscious of buying those pollinator plants and seeds to help them out. I hope you are too. It's so great to get out and about even though the pesky mosquitoes and black flies are about!

We have had a few meetings now - we saw a movie on polar bears and our ADM was wonderful - the food, the draws, the speaker on her research on Belugas, and her involvement with Indigenous peoples, and of course, you. It was so nice to get to talk to everyone there.

We have had a number of outings. We have had a working session or two at the Newton Reserve where we installed a tribute to Tom Lobb. You will hear more about these in this newsletter, I am sure.

The birds were coming back. I saw a lot of different birds than I usually do, but not as many birds as I usually do this time of year. I don't know if this is related to climate change, the bird flu, current weather patterns of cold and hot, or whether it's just the seed change in what I put out (or not) for the birds. However, it really brightens my day when I see any and all birds flying about. (Except maybe those darned grackles. No, even them.)

I have not seen many turtles, frogs, snakes, butterflies, dragonflies, bees or bugs either. Or heard as many frogs. However, I have not been out and about that much. I need to take more time away from the office! We have seen lots of deer out and about.

I look forward to another season of the Huron Fringe Field Naturalist activities. My presidency is coming to an end, having been extended and you will have a new president as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. It been a great and fun experience. Thanks for your patience during my growing pains and if you are thinking about volunteering for this organization, don't hesitate in doing it. It's so worthwhile. The people are friendly and the cause is worthwhile—it's all about the animals, the plants, the environment that we deeply care about and want to protect. What could be better than that? There is no better time and no more pressing time than now. I will see you out and about.

Your President, Lynn A. Johnston *Spring, 2022*

## OUTING AND MEETING REPORTS

### PAST MEETINGS:

#### November 2021 meeting

##### Christine Roberts

HFFN members enjoyed another interesting and informative presentation with approximately 50 people in attendance November 24<sup>th</sup>.

Originally scheduled for a presentation at the March 2020 meeting, the club was happy to welcome Forests Ontario Forestry Operations Co-ordinator Hayley Murray.

With headquarters in Barrie, this non-profit charity was founded in 2007 and is based on the pillars of tree planting, forest stewardship and awareness and forest education. Working with the federal government, sponsors and landowners, Forests Ontario has planted 36 million trees to date.

The group raises awareness of the importance of trees through community engagement such as tree planting events and reaches young people through the development of curriculum from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and even post graduate.

Given the worsening climate crisis and coming shortly after the conclusion of the COP26 Climate Conference in Scotland, the topic of reforestation was very timely and well received.

Susan Greco generously donated a beautiful Christmas planter which was won by Helena Hill and earned \$125.00 for the club.



😊 Thank you: HFFN board member Jayne Miltenburg thanks Hayley Murray for her presentation.

Planter winner: Susan Greco and draw winner Helena Hill with Susan's lovely Christmas planter.



~~~~~

March 22nd, 2022

Christine Roberts



A quick survey of members in February indicated an overwhelming willingness and desire to return to in-person meetings. However, guest speakers don't drop out of the sky like snowflakes so Speaker Convenor, Bob Simpson, arranged to view the first half of "Kingdom of the Polar Bears", an award-winning documentary which follows a mother polar bear and her two cubs through their first year as she introduces them to the world and teaches survival skills. The spectacular photography juxtaposed footage of

polar bears in the wild hunting and dealing with the challenges of climate change with heartwarming scenes of a mother caring for her babies in the den and playing in the snow. This first episode ended with them beginning the trek to the hunting grounds. The second installment will be shown at the April meeting.

Two new members were welcomed in March; Shirley Vogan and Cathy Cooper both from Kincardine. Outings Convenor Susan Greco outlined the many guided walks being planned for the spring and early summer. Susan, with help from Steve Pepper, fielded questions and gauged interest in a 2022 Bruce Peninsula Explorer trip and were very encouraged by the strong response. Steve, Jeni, and daughter Donna Murray although unable to attend, will assist Susan in planning the annual expedition.

Member-at-large Jayne Miltenburg announced the details of the 2022 Annual Dinner Meeting and Christine Roberts announced an invasive species removal workshop at the George G Newton Nature Reserve April 21st.

Secretary Brent Bowyer generously donated 2 walking sticks for a raffle and raised \$90 for the club. The winners were Heather Keetch and Murray Jamieson.

Photos: C. Roberts



Brent Bowyer sells raffle tickets for the draw



Steve Pepper talks to Peter Kirkpatrick about the Bruce Peninsula Explorer



Winners of the walking sticks: Heather Keetch and Murray Jamieson



April 26 meeting

Christine Roberts

We reconvened April 26 to watch the second half of the excellent film, *Kingdom of the Polar Bears*. The documentary didn't try to sugar coat the precarious existence of these magnificent predators but, surprisingly, it ended with some positivity noting some evidence the polar bears are trying to adapt to the climate crisis by finding alternate sources of food.

Reports on the clean-up at the George G Newton Nature Reserve were received and future outings and invasive species removal dates were communicated as well as details for the May ADM.

New members at the April meeting: Malcolm and Jennifer McKenzie.



ADM, May 17th, 2022

Christine Roberts

In yet another sign of life returning somewhat to "normal", the Annual Dinner Meeting was held May 17 at Camp Kintail.

Fifty-five members enjoyed the opportunity to socialize, share a meal and listen to a presentation by Dr. Sonja Ostertag of Owen Sound.

Dr. Ostertag outlined the interesting and varied educational journey that first led her to the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) to study the health of Beluga whales but over time changed to the study of human health and the risks of food insecurity in the north.

She explained how the animals of the Arctic are viewed differently by the indigenous peoples as essential sources of food, clothing and culture. Her initial research on beluga focused on contaminants in the environment and their effect on the health of the whales. Now she seeks to understand how environmental changes may impact the people and their health.

Dr. Ostertag delighted us with stories and photos of her time living in the ISR. She places a high value on the relationships she's built over years of doing research and sharing knowledge in the northern communities and relishes the time she spends there. There were many questions at the conclusion of her presentation and HFFN members were able to examine some exquisite examples of art and clothing.

Between courses and before the presentation, Steve Pepper presided over the drawing of names for door prizes donated by the HFFN board. The choice was varied and interesting (and often alcoholic 😊) and there were many happy winners.



HFFN gathering: HFFN members gathered at Camp Kintail May 17. These two Photos: J. Pepper

PHOTOS BELOW:
C. ROBERTS



Door prizes: Doug McCallum (right) chooses a door prize while Steve Pepper prepares to choose another winner.



Dr. Sonja Ostertag poses with some examples of art and clothing brought from the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

Dr. Ostertag talks to Mary-Ann Knowles and May Kirkpatrick.

June 28th 2022 meeting

Christine Roberts

The final in-person meeting of the 2021-2022 season was held Tuesday, June 28th in Ripley. After receiving directors' reports on Ontario Nature news and past and future outings, the guest speaker was introduced by her uncle, Steve Pepper.

Marina Wintemute, a lifelong Bruce County resident and a nurse of 30 years, presented "Experience the North", a series of photographs and commentary designed to introduce the club to living and working as a nurse in northern indigenous communities in Manitoba and Ontario.

She is employed by the federal government through Indigenous Services Canada to provide and improve access to services to First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples.

The photos focused on Cross Lake, a First Nation community of approximately 8,000 Cree which she considers representative of an average community. It is situated over 500 km by air north of Winnipeg and over 100 km by air south of Thompson.



Her photos took the audience through the many legs and many different aircraft used in the long journey north to a look around town at the businesses and services, the homes of the inhabitants, her workplace at the medical centre, an indigenous festival and beautiful landscapes.

Marina stated that an important aspect of her work, one that drew her to seek the challenge of remote nursing, is being permitted to provide a wider range of services and perform more procedures than is typical of nursing in southern urban medical environments. The chance to broaden her nursing skills in addition to making a difference for people with less access to quality health care has motivated her to work under very demanding conditions for seven years.

The audience was very interested in her work and had a seemingly endless supply of questions.



Marina Wintemute with her Uncle Steve Pepper. (C. Roberts photo)

PAST OUTINGS

March, 2022 hike – Sue Greco



As we gathered at the designated meeting place for a departure of 2 pm the skies looked somewhat threatening and the local weather report wasn't too promising. However, for the first HFFN walk of 2022 no one was going to be deterred by a bit of rain. Eager to get going, a nice group of eight sent off for Inverhuron Prov. Park. We entered by the main gate for this hike to do the Mallory Farm side trail off the chain trail. This takes a nice sweep through a lovely mixed hardwood forest where remnants of the Mallory farm can be seen. As we walked along, the sun broke through, dispelling all thoughts of rain. The snow and ice was receding nicely, giving a good passage in the middle of the trail to walk, without out fear of taking a nasty tumble

on the ice. We were welcomed (or warned) by a tremendously loud lone Coyote howl coming from the cedars at the edge of the hardwoods very close to where we were, stopping us in our tracks for a few minutes. The side trail looped back to the chain trail, which we followed to the park office and from there headed down to the sand dunes and the main beach. The sun by this time was really feeling good, so here we chatted awhile, enjoying our good fortune before turning around to head back to our cars at the park gate.

A very satisfying afternoon 2 hr. plus walk was enjoyed by all.

April 22, 2022 G.G. Newton Work Outing

Christine Roberts



Roberts photo

A pleasant and sunny day of about 8 degrees greeted 16 members for a work party at the Newton Reserve. While Jim dug holes for the new sign installation, others cleared any deadfall and branches across the trails.

Murray and his chain saw were able to clear the bigger items as well as taking out some of the buckthorn bushes. Extractigators on loan from Ontario Nature were used to remove smaller buckthorn bushes. An extractigator is a heavy duty weed puller that pulls out the entire root ball. Some garlic mustard clearing was also done.

The new sign looks great as the old one was long past needing replacement.

After about 2 hours we finished and were invited back to Donna Butson's property near the Reserve where we had our lunch on her back deck along with tea, coffee, cookies, muffins and baked beans supplied by Donna, which were appreciated by all.

Thanks to everyone who assisted at the Reserve and a special thanks to Donna for hosting our after-work party lunch.



M. Visser photo

Above: Steve and Onno remove the old Newton Reserve sign.
Centre: Onno wields the Extractigator!



Roberts photo



M. Visser photo

Murray and Steve making sense of the tangles.

PAST OUTINGS cont.

May 2nd: Greenock Swamp Spring Awakening Walk - Susan Greco



Photo courtesy Sue Greco

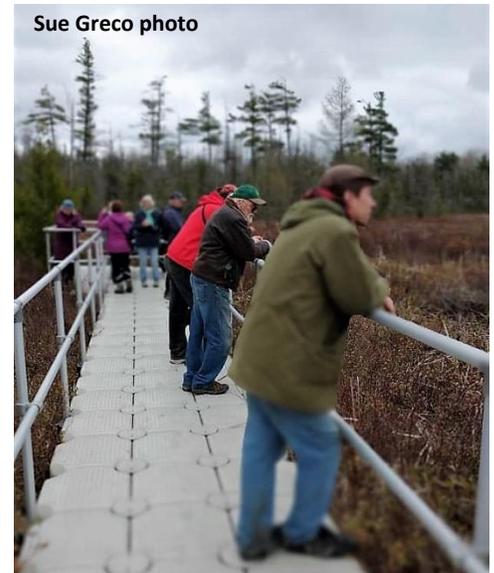
Nineteen eager participants descended on the Greenock Swamp for a 'spring discovery' walk, finding many signs that after the long winter months, spring was beginning to emerge.

The group of walkers was a great mix of folks with varying interests. The walkers set off to first check out the small lake from the trail head, then skirted the edge of the field to the floating dock area, where the fascinating Pitcher Plants were making an appearance in the bog surrounding the dock. There were bird songs to be heard, providing bird enthusiasts in the group an

opportunity to test their skills at identifying these happy creatures that had put down in this huge area, renowned as one of the most important wetlands in Southern Ontario for the many species of migratory birds, with Saugeen Conservation Authority owning a good 50% of the land within the core section.

From the floating dock, the group chose a loop off the main trail to meander along, finding the first crop of spring flowers poking their way through, including Blue Cohosh, Trilliums, Pepperwort also known as Toothwort, Yellow Dog Tooth Violets/Trout Lilies, many Violet types, Sarsaparilla, Wild Leeks in abundance, and many very interesting fungi freshly emerging on fallen trees. Beautiful walk on a day that turned out to be perfectly lovely.

If you have never been to the Greenock Swamp, give it a visit in all seasons This unique wetland has a lot to offer, with great trails to walk or snowshoe. This Conservation Area is definitely a gem.



Sue Greco photo

Stoney Island Ramble - May 19th, Sue Greco

Another short notice pop up walk, headed to Stoney Island to find another progression of wildflowers close to Kincardine. This conservation area is under the auspices of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority. Each year, new finds are added to the growing list of species growing there.

Eight flower fiends like myself showed up to wander in this very pretty woodland area, with nice easy walking trails that, in the winter, are either snowshoeing trails or ski trails. Not all is totally flat here, having a lovely rise with ravines which slope down to a lower level. Wooden bridges cross over streams trickling down from the ravines as they make their way down to the lake. There are trail options to follow, with loops mostly all ending up at shoreline, where there is a stunning cobble beach. On the north side at the beach trail, there is a slight bluff area where there are two lovely lookout spots, amazing for photo shots. Different seasons open up a different scene at Stoney Island and can take on an altogether different look when walking the trails here, all very pleasing and providing a new adventure on every visit, no fear of getting lost here as trail signs are very well posted.

PAST OUTINGS cont.

This adventure though was all about the flowers, and here is a list of a few of our finds on our mid May Walk.

In order: Foam Flower, Star Flower, Gay Wings/Fringed Polygala, Jack in the Pulpit, Clintonia, Columbine, False Solomon's Seal. Also, not photographed: Wild Ginger, Solomon's Seal.



D. Murray photo



B. Simpson photo



With two exceptions, these photos:
Susan Greco.



Initially identified as Toothwort, however perhaps not. Input is invited! - Ed.

PAST OUTINGS cont.

BRUCE PENINSULA EXPLORER May 24th - 26th, 2022

Sue Greco/ Steve & Jeni Pepper

After a three-year hiatus the trip was Back! Great Interest was shown right from the first stage of putting out the sign up sheet; for those thinking they may be interested. Much to our surprise 25 people signed up from the get go, resulting in 22 trippers by the final deadline to register as committed trippers. On the Itinerary for the first day up, five stops were on the plan. This proved a little ambitious on my part but then enthusiasm is something I am never short of!

Tuesday May 24th: Discovering the West Coast Shoreline

Day 1 STOP 1: Southampton Dunes and Shoreline

Sue Greco

Once gathered and welcomed at Sobeys parking lot, the starting point of this year's trip, with a copy of the itinerary in hand, we headed to our first destination.

Travelling north we came into Port Elgin where we turned off to join Miramichi Bay Rd., which when nearing Southampton becomes Huron St. Turning off onto Beach St., immediately a parking lot appears, where we parked, as here the sand dune trails begin. The sun was out and with all doubts of rain dismissed, the group soon discovered the great conservation efforts put into preserving the sensitive and precious ecosystem committed to their care. The paved trail, which all of us walked, was a most pleasant start to the day as the warmth of the sun filtered through. Some of us took off with great gusto to walk on past the flagpole to the harbour; others meandered along enjoying the views of Chantry Island Lighthouse, the backyard gardens of cottages on the opposite side, and enjoying the birdsong, as well as reading well-placed sign boards with information about the dunes, and an occasional break on the benches, well supplied along the route. Timing was perfect as there were few people about, but for a scattering of dog walkers and cyclists, the latter who dismounted on encountering any pedestrian on the trail.

After leaving this area, a few stopped at Tim Horton's to pick up lunch, before heading up to the First Nations Territory of the Saugeen.

STOP 2: Saugeen First Nations Amphitheatre.

Sue Greco Photos: B. Simpson



This was the lunch stop at the site of the church and well-known Amphitheatre and terraced gardens, under construction at the moment, but with special permission we were welcomed in to view their building and hear about the ambitious job of restoring this most interesting site, taken on by the band members under the Employment Centre's leadership as an initiative to promote

community pride. We were greeted and given a tour by Jennifer Kewageshig, manager of the Employment Centre. Jennifer is such a motivative woman, whose inspiration was very much in evidence. She went above and beyond, sharing with us the history of the site, which predates any building here, as it has been the site of their ancestral fishing grounds for as far back as memory can go. They now remain on a very minute portion of their original land, which at one time sustained, and was the whole livelihood of, everyone in their community; when taking from the land was a gift and a privilege, and caretaking was taken seriously.

PAST OUTINGS cont.

Jennifer spent way more time with us than expected, sharing so much history with us, along with the tour and explanation of the revitalization of this site. This truly is a place to visit if you have never been, to find out more about our neighbourhood Indigenous siblings. Watch out for news of upcoming tours or activities associated with this project. Hopefully it will soon be reopening, along with the new addition of a wedding pavilion. Curious now!



After a quick top-up of cheaper gas at Rootes Gas Bar on the Reserve, we took off to -

Stop 3 - 4: Oliphant and the Fishing Islands.

Sue Greco Photos: Sue Greco



Stopping here to take in the never-tiring view of the Islands and then visit the hugely important fenland area of this area of Lake Huron.

A place of utopia for many bird species, particularly for the water bird varieties for feeding, migratory stop-over, and nesting for some. It is a haven for Orchids and other wonderful flowers. Unfortunately, our timing this year was little early due to weather patterns causing the plants and flowers to be a little behind by a couple of weeks. We did see the Pitcher Plant making a brave entry, some Bluets emerging, the Tall White Bog Orchids just poking through, and Bird Eye Primroses...all giving hope and inspiration to



visit at a later date, not to say the boardwalk wasn't enjoyed as we trekked at a record pace along the circle, looping back to our cars.

We made a contingency bio-break at the pleasant little Red Bay Beach area, where a different lookout to the Fishing Islands was afforded.

Stop 5: Black Creek Provincial Park Sue Greco

Last stop before Tobermory. Zipping across Red Bay Road to Highway 6 at Ferndale, we travelled back west again on Stokes Bay Road to find Black Creek Provincial Park.

PAST OUTINGS cont.

Surprisingly, not one Provincial Park sign can be found on the roadside anywhere to indicate where this is located, until you have reached it, by which time we had made two or three turn-arounds and a change of lead car! In a couple of notes found in different guidebooks it was said to be 'a well-guarded secret', 'a hidden gem where locals enjoy....' That was proven to be true. A 707-acre woodland fronted by a lovely totally sand beach off of which a few small trails run, is the sum of this Park! By the time we got there, the day was heating up and a swim would have been heaven, save for the fact that it must have been the only day when three bus-loads of students from a nearby school had just been dropped off, as it was the day chosen to test their students' swimming abilities; otherwise we would have been enjoying the beach in solitude. Short on time, we had enough minutes to walk the beach and test a trail out before boarding our cars and setting our sails non-stop for Tobermory. Arriving in Tobermory around 5.45 p.m., we had ample time to check into our lodgings before a convivial dinner at the Princess Hotel's Pharos Restaurant, where we were all looking forward to enjoying some well-cooked food.



Day 2: Wednesday morning, May 25th: Singing Sands

J. Pepper



As usual, the second day, the people who usually come on the trip wanted to go to Singing Sands, a lovely, quiet bay that opens off a large fen and woodland with trails. When the wind blows, the sands on the large crescent shaped beach 'sing'. The Fen has all sorts of unusual flora such as Pitcher Plants and Sundews, which both catch and ingest insects, as well as rare orchids and Dwarf Lake Iris, Sand Cherries and Indian Paintbrush; in fall there's wild Blue Gentian, while the whole flattish dune area is covered with Grass of Parnassus, which is actually a five-inch tall, five-petaled white flower that grows in bunches, with delicate green stripes along each petal. When the wind blows, the ground seems to move, there are so many.

Visitors now have to stay on a network of recently built four foot high, six-foot-wide fenced boardwalks that reach over the Fen, a decision by the Parks people to enable wildlife and plants to thrive without having boardwalks on the ground. At the end of one boardwalk is a gravel trail that follows the shoreline through the woods, and most people walk back along the beach, which is

PAST OUTINGS cont.

completely natural with rock outcrops and wildflowers blooming...some of them in rock crevices and holes which is rather charming. The wind is usually constant here. Sandhill Cranes can often be heard and there is plenty of amphibian life in the little murmuring brook that runs into the lake from the Fen.



Singing Sands, the scene of many HFFN tours, has created its own popularity with members.

Left:
Dwarf Lake Iris from another trip, found by the car park.
(Pepper photos)



Left:
The heady scent of Balsam Poplar was in the air as we walked.

Right:
Ubiquitous Bird Eye Primroses seem to pop up in all sorts of cracks and crevices.
(Pepper photos)



We had taken our lunches with us, and sat at the new picnic area on a large deck, and then after lunch the rest of the group went to another 'must visit' place, Halfway Log Dump. The Peppers returned to their cabin to prepare for the barbecue.

PAST OUTINGS cont.

Day 2 Afternoon, Wednesday 25th: Halfway Log Dump

Sue Greco



After a lovely picnic at Singing Sands, and with the rain holding off, we headed out a little further south down hwy. 6, making a turn into Emmett Lake Road on the Georgian Bay side of the Peninsula, to have a walk and to discover the beauty of this rocky and amazing shoreline. The place is named so due to being

where loggers would send the cut logs over the bluff into the lake to tow away to the area's sawmills.

After a couple of kilometres on a gravel road we found the car park, which has picnic tables and washrooms. A trail slopes down through woods to the Lake, where we enjoyed the cobble beach, rocky natural cliffs to climb, flowers growing out of the cracks of the rock, turquoise/blue waters, crevices and caves and boulders in astounding formations on the shore, and in the woods behind the beach. This place is an adventure on every visit, which no one seems to tire of. Everyone did their own thing here and paced themselves, once through the trail to the shoreline, soaking up the invigorating ions wafting off the water, along with slowly gaining an appetite for the evening B.B.Q hosted by the Peppers. Great afternoon!

Flower finds growing in the rock crevices: Bird Eye Primrose, Lakeside Daisy, Violets and Columbine.



Far Left: Lakeside Daisies

Left: Charmingly finding a home in limestone rock 'pots', violets.
(Photos from other years – Pepper)

Day 2 Evening, Wednesday May 25th

Steve Pepper

Well, we now know that Peacock Villa cabin 8 can seat 13 people with some standing room... in a pinch. After setting up on the cabin's picnic table, the showers finally arrived about 5:00 in time for our hamburg BBQ and potluck. Everything was hurriedly brought back inside and deck chairs borrowed from unoccupied nearby cabins to set up inside. Although the showers were intermittent, most people crowded into the cabin kitchen to stay warm and dry while a number of members took to



Pepper photo

PAST OUTINGS cont.

the BBQ's. Fortunately, although asked by the motel's new owners to supply our own charcoal, we were still able to use the propane BBQ's that the former owners provided, as we might not have had as much success using charcoal.

There were snacks and plenty of desserts to go with the burgers, and the gathering continued on until about 8:30 or so. A great opportunity to catch up with our club friends! By the time it ended the weather had cleared a bit, although the temperature had definitely dropped a few degrees. Thanks to everyone who came, and a special thanks to the (damp) volunteer chefs.

Day 3 Thursday Morning May 26th; Mermaid Cove

Steve Pepper



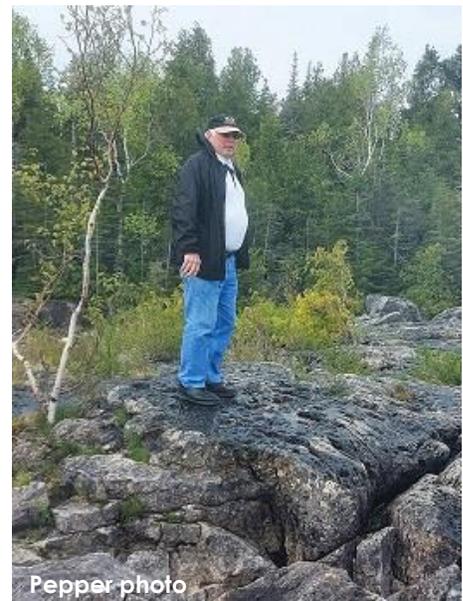
Pepper photo

Thursday morning after breakfast at the Pharos restaurant, 13 members gathered at Peacock Villa to set off for the short drive to Mermaid Cove. The previous night's rain had made the area a bit slippery in spots but at least the rain had stopped and the temperature was slightly warmer. Numerous photos were taken of the picturesque area before a number of our group headed out for the journey home. A few had made plans to stay over for one more night.

All in all, it was another successful Bruce Explorer trip, our first since 2019 so it was good to get back to our familiar haunts again. Thanks again to Susan for leading our group this year and here's to looking forward to a trip next year.



Pepper photo



Pepper photo

The six remaining 'hard core' trippers spent the extra day enjoying the village, and enjoyed the traditional 'beer and pizza' meal at the Crow's Nest Pub while exchanging thoughts and ideas on past and present HFFN subjects, after which it was homeward bound. The Peppers stopped off for some gift shopping at the Handicraft House barn, on the east side of Hwy 6 a few kilometres out of Wiarton, and then made a quick stop at the former Solway's Farm Market to pick up some very nice sausage rolls and spinach turnovers, which made a great quick lunch at the old Wiarton railway station on the shore. And so endeth another Bruce Peninsula mosey!

PAST OUTINGS cont.

Stones on the Beach walk, June 21st:

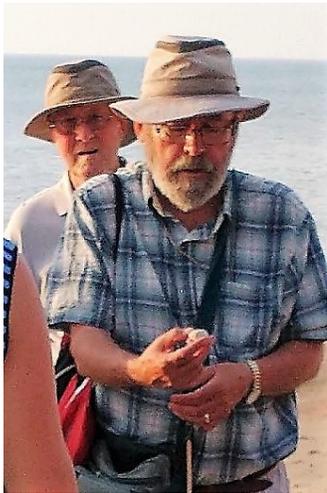
Heather Keetch

Around 40 members of the HFFN club met at the bottom of the Huron Kinloss 10th concession on the beach for a geology tour with geologist Bob Geddes on Tuesday June 21st. Bob explained that our beach walk was located primarily amongst Paleozoic Rock, which is only 500 to 370 million years old, in comparison to the Pre-Cambrian Rock which is between 1 and 3.2 billion years old and located in the Pre-Cambrian Shield much further north of us. He then explained that rock types are classified into 3 main groups, which are: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. Igneous rock is formed from extrusive surface lava or intrusive lava, also known as magma, which has solidified quickly. Plutonic rocks cool and solidify much more slowly. All this determines the grain formation and uniformity of texture.

We walked over and amongst granite, gneiss, sandstone, marble and limestone. Many members picked up rock samples and Bob helped identify them. Amongst them were horn and honey comb corals and others with fossil imprints. One very unique rock sample contained a polished, reddish, brown spot which Bob identified as jasper, which belongs to the silica quartz group and was revered as sacred in biblical times.

We ended our walk at the huge white boulder in the photo which is pegmatite, displaying its coarse crystals within the quartz.

At this point in time, the sun started to set so some of us departed, while Bob and other members continued their return walk, selecting and identifying more rock samples.



This event fell on National Indigenous Day. Fitting that our president Lynn began the walk by quoting the Land Acknowledgement.

Susan then shared the sacred importance of rocks to our Indigenous siblings and neighbours, who see them as the Grandfathers and ancestors; the knowledge keepers.



Our appreciation to Bob Geddes for his time and contribution to our knowledge, and to Heather Keetch, who took some great photos.

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!



THOSE WHO WALKED WITH US...

Tom Lobb Memorial Plaque – J. Pepper



We were shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden passing of naturalist extraordinaire Tom Lobb, who passed away January 7th, 2020. A long-time member of the club, Tom's contributions were many and varied but with a special interest in herpetology. His conservation efforts in this area will precede him into the future. Tom had many friends in the Club as well and was a source of information for those who asked that famous question, 'What is this?' Tom has inspired interest among us in snakes, turtles, and other amphibians. Plans for a memorial bench for Tom have now been realised. In May, members installed this plaque on the first bench on the trail at the Newton Reserve, where Tom's interest was always keen.



THOSE WHO WALKED WITH US...

Maithel Lee Wilson



Maithel Lee Wilson, long-time member and past President, sadly passed away on Tuesday, April 26, 2022. Maithel, of Point Clark, was President from 2007 - 2009. Although her real estate work often meant she missed outings and meetings, she attended whenever she could, and was one of the many members who have enjoyed the Bruce Explorer trips. Maithel enjoyed walks on the beach and was to be seen almost every evening on the Point Clark shoreline with her lovely Golden Retrievers.

While President, Maithel Lee it was who inveigled your present newsletter editor to take up the post! As neighbour, friend and fellow tramper of trails, she is much missed.



John (Jack) Campbell



Well-known in the HFFN, and twice past President of same, John (Jack) Campbell passed away July 10th.

He was a lover of travel above all and enjoyed very many outings with us, particularly 'up the Bruce'. Here he's shown on the bluff above the Grotto in Bruce Peninsula National Park.

Jack, as we knew him, before he retired had farmed near Amberley for 26 years. He was a member of quite a few groups and boards including the Ripley Agricultural Society, the Pine River Cheese factory, the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network, the Ontario Wheat Board, Hurontel, and the Pine River Church, as well as HFFN.

Jack served as President for a term before Maithel Lee Wilson took over the post; when Maithel retired, Jack stepped in again as interim President in order to prevent HFFN from disbanding. He served a year from fall, 2010, until the club had the good fortune to have Catherine Hogg step up for the position. He will be well remembered and missed.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

As your speaker chair I continue to try and schedule speakers for our monthly meetings. I am pleased to announce that for our September meeting the Bluewater Astronomical Society (BAS) will be presenting at our meeting, followed by a viewing of the night sky (conditions permitting) The BAS is a non profit organization that strives to promote basic and advanced astronomical knowledge among its members, and promote astronomy interest in the general public. An Astronomy Presentation was requested by one of our members. Look forward to seeing you at the meeting. September 27th, Ripley Arena,

Bob Simpson, Speaker Chair.

****UPCOMING OUTINGS: ****

SEPTEMBER CORN ROAST: Tentative plans for Sept. 10th at the Robert's. TBA closer to the date. Sue Greco, our Outings Co-Ordinator, will announce pop-up outings as and when the situation is promising!

Stop Press!

G. Newton Reserve Introductory Tour, July 11th - Christine Roberts



Five HFFN members gathered at the George G Newton Nature Reserve Monday, July 11th to meet Ontario Nature Ecologist Melissa Thomas and her co-worker, Alyssa Stevens, for an introductory tour. Throughout the hike stewards Jim and Christine indicated the main features of the reserve and highlighted recent additions such as signage, new benches and invasive species removal. They also discussed challenges of removing invasive species and asked for assistance to map the trails and produce a sign. It was an informative walk and we all learned some new plant and tree species and tips on identifying and removing unwanted species.

(Left to right) Alyssa Stevens, Melissa Thomas, Jackie Clements, Jim Roberts, Steve Pepper, Donna Butson

Melissa and Alyssa planned to work the remainder of the 11th and return the next day to replace old or missing trail direction signs and remove invasive species such as buckthorn and garlic mustard.



 **HELP NEEDED:** 

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, 226-396-5616

We presently need someone to take over Bob Simpson's position. Bob has decided to change over to Treasurer, as he has finished his two-year term as Speaker Chair.

If you can lend a hand for a while, please let us know (number at left). All of our volunteers are given any help needed as they begin. Many enjoy and stay with us!

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

President:

Christine Roberts 395-5008

Past President:

Lynn Johnston 528-2411

Vice-President: VACANCY

Secretary:

Brent Bowyer 357-1883

Treasurer :

Bob Simpson 396-5486

Memberships:

Barb Simpson 396-5486

Outings:

Susan Greco 396-7950

Speakers:

Bob Simpson 396-5486

Newsletter Editor:

Jeni Pepper 396-5616

Social Convenor:

Valerie Gibson 395-0749

Ontario Nature (FON) Rep:

Jim Roberts 395-5008

Website Administrator:

Steve Pepper 226-396-5616

Communications/ Publicity:

Christine Roberts 395-5008

Advertising:

Jackie Clements 396-3655

Members-at-Large:

Steve Pepper 226-396-5616

John Hill 396-9738

Jayne Miltenburg 529-3241

Jackie Clements 396-3655

Joan McLaughlin 396-1532

>> 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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PLEASE NOTIFY THE EXECUTIVE.
OUR CONTACT DETAILS ARE AT LEFT.

~~ MEMBERSHIPS: ~~

Welcome back old members, and a warm welcome to new ones. Over-18 2022/2023 annual dues are \$25.00 per person. Under 18's are free. (New/renewal membership form below.)

Come out and enjoy the company, the outings and the speakers. Memberships for the 2022/2023 year are due in September and before February.

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, call
Jackie Clements,
396-3655**



MEMBERSHIP FORM

New member application or renewal
SEPTEMBER 2021 to SEPTEMBER 2022
....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

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

Contact Information:

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone No: _____

E-Mail: _____

Cut out or scan this form.