



ENJOYING NATURE IN HURON-BRUCE



THE HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS' FRINGE NOTES

**FALL INTO WINTER
2022...
WALKS,
MEETINGS &
POTLUCKS**

~~~~~  
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## WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT, CHRISTINE ROBERTS



I am excited and more than a little intimidated to be writing my first Fringe Notes message as your President. But first, a little background...

I have always enjoyed spending time outside from my earliest days of rural living in Delaware Township to exploring the Escarpment in the Niagara Region in my teens to seeking out hiking trails in all the places I've lived since. I retired from teaching elementary school French in 2011 and moved to Blair's Grove with my husband, Jim, to make our cottage a permanent home. We love the lake, the dark skies, the wildlife and the quiet. By early 2014 we were settled enough to seek involvement with nature-loving people and a Google search yielded the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists club contact information.

Steve Pepper replied to our query to invite us to the February potluck that same day!

I've been involved on the Board in some form since 2015 and have had the privilege to work and become friends with some truly amazing people. Their knowledge-sharing and dedication to nature have enriched my understanding in countless ways and inspires me to work hard to be a worthy steward of this organization for the next few years. This year has seen several changes on the Board and Executive and I wish to acknowledge the service of past President Lynn Johnston, past Treasurer Onno Visser, retired Secretary and Member-at-large Jackie Clements, now handling our advertising. Thank you to former Speaker Chair Bob Simpson who has taken over as Treasurer and passed the binder to Jayne Miltenburg and Jane Neilsen. Welcome to Jane N. and thanks to Jayne M. for taking on a new role. Susan Greco continues to organize and lead an impressive slate of outings and Barb Simpson keeps all the membership payments and information in order. Thank you.

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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., MEMBERSHIP IS NOMINAL. EXECUTIVE CONTACT NUMBERS (P. 2.) & MORE INFO INSIDE.**

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



Photo: Bob Taylor, SNOW BUNTING, Fall Birding, 2016.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Full details inside.

February 28th:  
PHOTO CONTEST and  
POTLUCK (LUNCHTIME)  
At RIPLEY ARENA,  
11.30 am.  
See P. 16.

March 28th, 2023:  
Gardening for Wildlife, Christine Roberts  
April 25th:  
Native Plants of Bruce County,  
Jenna McGuire



TITLE PHOTO CREDIT: Singing Sands driftwood, 2019, J. Pepper



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

September 27 meeting

Christine Roberts



Title page of Bluewater Astronomical Society's presentation to the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists Tuesday, September 27.

The wet weather didn't dampen the spirits of the 45 members and 1 guest who came out September 27th for a presentation on the importance of preserving dark skies.

The meeting began with an introduction of current executive and board members and a thank you to past president Lynn Johnston and past treasurer Onno Visser for their many years of service. Several new members were in attendance and were introduced as well.

Susan Greco reported on past and future outings, Ontario Nature news was shared, Valerie Gibson introduced the theme of the next photo contest, 'Photographer's Choice: your best Nature photo of the past 2 years' and Steve Pepper

promoted ordering of club apparel.

Speaker co-chair Jane Neilsen introduced Bluewater Astronomical Society (BWAS) president, Devin Glew of Kincardine and Sue MacLaughlan of Hamilton who made a compelling case for the need to preserve the night skies using startling illustrations of light pollution from satellite images, sky glow maps and photographs.

After explaining the 4 types of light pollution, they highlighted the negative effects on wildlife, human health, safety, energy costs and heritage. Glew and MacLaughlan also provided a list of solutions to reduce pollution through simple lighting changes and encouraged members to engage with their communities and neighbours to find solutions.

They showed *Losing the Dark* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dd82jazfFlo>, a 6 minute video highlighting the problems and solutions of light pollution. The International Dark Sky Association website <https://www.darksky.org/> has a great deal of information about the effects of light pollution and ways to change lighting at home and in the community. If you're interested in seeing the sky glow in our area, go to <https://www.lightpollutionmap.info/#zoom=2.00&lat=43.6300&lon=-45.3519&layers=BOFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFF> and use the buttons in the upper left corner to zoom in on Bruce County.

The original plan for the meeting was to have several telescopes set up in the side yard of the community centre for viewing after the presentation but the overcast skies precluded this. However, members were invited to attend a viewing event in Kincardine the following week (cancelled: cloudy).

The Bluewater Astronomical Society has been promoting the enjoyment of star gazing for over 30 years for members and Bruce County schoolchildren. They operate the ES Fox Observatory at the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre near Oliphant and members actively advocate for dark skies in the Grey Bruce area. Their website,

<https://bluewaterastronomy.com/>,



HFFN speaker co-chair Jane Neilsen (centre) stands with Devin Glew and Sue MacLaughlin, Bluewater Astronomical Society presenters.

Photos this page: Christine Roberts

~~~~ *PAST MEETINGS....* ~~~~

## October 25th: Green Goderich

Christine Roberts



**Rhea Seeger presented an introduction to Green Goderich, a grassroots environmental action group.**  
C. Roberts photo

**We wrapped up a busy month** with a meeting focused on environmental advocacy.

Inspired by the Bluewater Astronomical Society's dark skies presentation in September, members are voicing concerns over proposed changes to the Kincardine downtown lighting through letters to the editor and direct outreach to the Municipality of Kincardine staff.

Guest speaker Rhea Seeger continued the advocacy theme introducing the club to Green Goderich, a community-based environmental action group created in 2019 to advocate and educate on climate change, plastics pollution and other environmental issues.

Green Goderich is very active with community outreach through surveys, social media, information booths at public events and public presentations. They've hosted two global climate strikes and

organized a candidates' environmental debate in the last federal election.

Seeger, a well-known Huron County gardener, writer, artist and environmental activist, provided some general tips to reduce individual climate impact such as mindfulness of packaging waste when shopping, eating less meat and more local products. More household and travel tips were shared, as well as highlights of Green Goderich tree planting projects. More information about the group can be found on their website:

<https://www.greengoderich.com/>

Doug McCallum, recipient of the 2022 OPG Environmental Award, appropriately followed the main presentation with a description of his activist journey: his key motivators, successes and the often frustrating process of engaging with local government. His public outreach efforts include the active Facebook page, Kincardinians Concerned For Our Trees, and the newly formed naturalization group, Kincardine Naturalization Projects with a Facebook page and website: [kincardinetrees.com](http://kincardinetrees.com).

Susan Greco presented highlights of four October outings: a hike at Camp Kintail, a beach walk with geologist Bob Geddes, exploration of the Malcolm Bluffs and a chilly fall birding expedition in Kincardine. With the cold weather moving in, Sue hopes for at least one more outing; a return to Inverhuron.

Christine Roberts reported on the invasive species work event at the George G. Newton Nature Reserve and encouraged members to visit the club's new Facebook page:

<https://>

[www.facebook.comHuronFringeFieldNaturalists/](https://www.facebook.com/HuronFringeFieldNaturalists/)

to enjoy photos of outings and updates from related organizations.

Brent Bowyer with wife Carol and friend Rob Johnston, set up a sale table featuring one-of-a-kind wood crafts created with locally sourced woods with part of the proceeds going to support the club.

We are all eager to meet November's guest speaker, Kiah Jasper, a young but very accomplished Bruce County birder and holder of a new Ontario birding record – 347 sightings!



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

October 25th:



HFFN member Brent Bowyer (left), with Rob Johnston and Carol Bowyer, brought a collection of unique wood craft designs to sell with part of the proceeds supporting the club.

C. Roberts photos



~~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~~

CORN ROAST, SEPT. 10<sup>TH</sup>

Christine Roberts



Photos: Right, C. Roberts  
Below: J. Pepper



**We welcomed nearly 40** new and returning members to a new season of meetings and outings with the popular, annual, relaxed social event September 10th in Roberts' pleasantly sunny backyard. 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.

~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

Rural Rootz, September 16th

M. Visser



Pepper photo

On Friday, September 16, 2022, a group of eleven HFFN members travelled to Rural Rootz, just northwest of Warton. On the way, we stopped at Oliphant to walk along the boardwalk through the fen. There were many wildflower species to see including Fringed Gentian and Ladies Tresses.

When we arrived at Rural Rootz, we were greeted by Dee and Tom who own the property and who told us a bit about the history. They have spent decades making, adding and adjusting the many gardens including two labyrinth gardens and a raised vegetable garden.

Along with the gardens are stone walls, bridges, running water and statues. Tom shared stories about many of the flowers and plants. Both Dee and Tom are very knowledgeable about all the plants and happy to explain to visitors all there is to see.

We enjoyed our lunches sitting outside under the trees watching the birds. After lunch, we chose our own walk with some of us going to the beaver pond, others taking the trail through the escarpment with caves and mossy rocks and others walking through the gardens for a better look at all the plants.

Rural Rootz is a great place to visit and there is a variety of things to see. Thank you to Susan for planning this outing.



C. Roberts



photos



M. Visser

Ladies Tresses



photos

Fringed Gentian

ALONG with the usual items one brings on these outings, your sense of wonder should certainly come along on tours of Rural Rootz!

Check them and their hours out at

<https://www.ruralrootz.com/>

[MORE PHOTOS](#) ----->



C. Roberts photo

~~~ *PAST OUTINGS...* ~~~

**Rural Rootz....**



Moss-covered rock outcrops and small bluffs are a feature of this property. Careful footing and supportive non-slip footwear are the order of the day here. Tom also hands out hiking sticks to visitors if they prefer.



**Camp Kintail with Sue Greco, OCT. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Christine Roberts**

After the very enjoyable dinner meeting at Camp Kintail in May, we were happy to return to explore the 24 acre property on the shores of Lake Huron. Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> was a lovely mild, sunny day and 34 eager HFFN members gathered at the main lodge. The 4 km network of trails started off easily enough following the perimeter of the camp but soon became more difficult as we descended the bluff to the beach. Hikers took advantage of the many benches to rest and enjoy the tranquil surroundings.



We regrouped on the beach, then continued on, but you know the saying; 'What goes up must come down.' Well, we had come down but now had to go back up! The return trip involved many steep slopes and sets of stairs, but again, benches and rest areas were abundant and the setting was spectacular.

Many thanks to the members who assisted the less agile during the outing by supporting through the steeper sections or by just hanging back and keeping them company. At the end of the hike, after working up an



appetite, many people stayed for Sunday dinner at MacDonald Lodge. Thanks to Sue Greco for a new place to hike.

~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

MALCOLM BLUFF, OCT. 5th

Jane Neilson



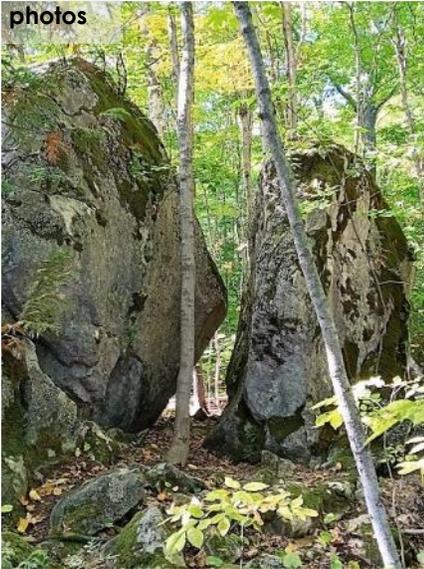
S. Greco

On Oct 5th, twelve hikers joined Sue Greco at Malcolm Bluffs just north of Wiarton. It was a perfect Fall day for a hike along the coast of Georgian Bay. The air was clear, the sky was blue and the water like glass.

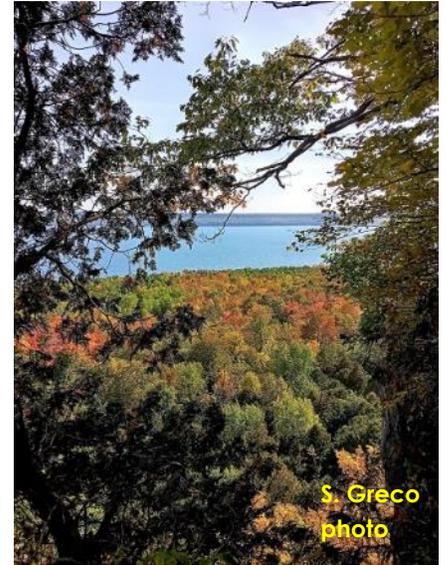
The hike was 4 km along the high western cliffs overlooking Georgian Bay. There were lots of spots to capture a great photo of some of the islands of Georgian Bay.

This area known as Malcolm Bluffs in the Purple Valley area of the Bruce Trail is a protected area of 233 hectares bequeathed to Nature Ontario. It is comprised of wetlands, native plants and ferns, forests and the dramatic rock escarpment. The rock in this area is called Gneiss. The main characteristic of this rock is its apparent layering of dark and light rock.

photos



J. Neilson-
photo



S. Greco
photo



S. Greco
photo

GLORIOUS VIEWS are there for the (photo) taking when atop Malcolm Bluff, However, since the woodland extends to the very brink of the cliff, caution is required as seen in the two middle left views.

Clefts in the rock give way to nothing but fresh air, as Susan Greco and Jane Nielson carefully discovered. Jane asks, 'Do you see what I see?' - a view down to the ground far below.

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.

~~~ *PAST OUTINGS...* ~~~

**BOB GEDDES' 2<sup>nd</sup> rock walk, Oct. 11th**

Heather Keetch

...*"a lovely meandering walk on the beach from the North side of the harbour along the side of Lovers Lane."* - Sue Greco

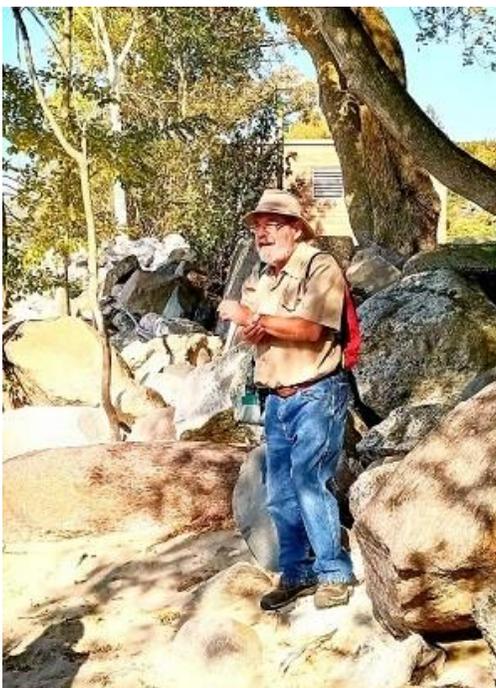


Kincardine's well-known 'pudding stone', Walker House. Photo: H. Keetch



Sixteen HFFN members met at Dunsmoor Park in Kincardine to stroll along the beach for a geology tour with geologist Bob Geddes. He explained that the beaches in midwestern Ontario were formed about 500 to 370 million years ago and consist of Paleozoic rock which is primarily sedimentary, thus having the ability to contain many fossils. Our enthusiastic members scrambled and selected many examples of Rugos corals and trilobites which have been preserved within the pebbles of the sedimentary limestone and dolostone; the difference being that dolostone contains more magnesium than limestone. Quartz is the most common of minerals found in every class of rock; we realized we were walking on grains of quartz, also known as sand. Other pebbles mottled with various shades of brown were identified as pieces of chert and jasper. We then noticed a section of sand that was sprinkled with darker sand. Bob brought out his home made magnet stick and lightly swept the darker particles of this patch of sand with his stick. He explained the clinging particles contained magnetite which is a type of naturally occurring iron oxide derived from lava fragments. Among the boulders on shore were a few, smaller, smooth, bluish rocks which caught our curiosity. These were identified as volcanic rock. Various boulders and rocks of granite, gneiss, and sandstone with flecks of flint and garnets were pointed out after which some members departed, with upcoming supper time being the reason. We ended our geology tour with the remaining members taking a stroll with Bob over to the huge 'Paddy Stone' on display in front of the Paddy Walker House. Bob explained that this huge boulder resembling a pudding is a rounded, weather-worn quartzite conglomerate likely to have arrived by a glacier or ice flow. Because it looks like a pudding.....even geologists use the term 'pudding stone.'

All members in attendance enjoyed the rock ramble on this glorious sunny afternoon.



Above left: Members of HFFN apply themselves to 'Stones on the Beach' on a beautiful sunny day, perfectly lit for spotting those 'special' pebbles and rocks amongst the shingle. Photo: H. Keetch

Left: Geologist Bob Geddes kindly led the group for a second time in a different location after the club's first rock outing generated great interest. Who doesn't love finding interesting pebbles? Photo: Sue Greco



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~~~ *PAST OUTINGS...* ~~~

FALL BIRDING, OCT. 15th – social cancelled – James Turland

Christine Roberts



James Turland, Linda Campbell and Susan Greco in the woods near the Kincardine Lagoons. Photo: C. Roberts

Come, Little Leaves

By George Cooper

“Come, little leaves,” said the wind one day,
“Come o’er the meadow with me and play;
Put on your dresses of red and gold,
For summer is gone and the days grow cold.”



October is that unpredictable month when we find ourselves caught between summer and winter; when you’re working in short sleeves on Tuesday and digging out your winter coat on Friday. It’s also a spectacularly beautiful month when Nature gives us her last burst of energy in the colours of the leaves and berries and the plumage of migrating birds as everything winds down for the long sleep of winter.

After several blustery, wet days and an unfavorable forecast, the entire fall birding event was in doubt. However, James Turland was ready to lead regardless of atmospheric conditions so we went ahead but cancelled the al fresco social afterward at the Peppers’.

In total six people spent over 2 hours on the trails in the vicinity of the Kincardine Lagoons and Inverlyn Estates, walking and watching and learning from each other. The conversation was wide-ranging, from foraging edibles (with tasting of wild grapes and elderberries), to discussion and identification of interesting plant species, especially invasives, and philosophical musings on the benefits of time spent in Nature (with particular emphasis on children). Naturally, there was constant vigilance for birds throughout .

The trails were colourful and peaceful and mercifully sheltered from the cold wind. The woods were alive with bird song and barely-glimpsed movement. With James’ and Becky’s practiced eyes and guidance we were rewarded with sightings of a variety of songbirds and waterfowl on the ponds.

Songbirds: Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, Chickadee, various Sparrows, Hawk (Sharp-shinned or Rough-legged?), Crow .

Waterfowl: Canada Goose, Scaup, Wood Duck, Redhead, Mallard, Merganser, Bonaparte’s Gull (?).

The group returned to the Bruce Ave. parking lot chilled but happy to have spent time outdoors with like-minded nature-lovers and grateful for the sharing of expertise by James and Becky.

Linda Campbell added:- Yellow rumped warblers still around. Chickadees, kinglets, vireos, Bonaparte Gull, Mallards, Wood Duck, Scaup, not sure about Shoveler. Mushrooms, elderberries, lots & lots of grapes on vines. Windy but no rain on our outing, all were dressed for the weather.

Below right: The Diehards: James Turland, Susan Greco, Becky Grievson, Murray Jamieson, Linda Campbell and Christine Roberts at the Lagoons. Photo: J. Turland



Membership Forms in our Issues...

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



~~~ PAST OUTINGS ~~~

Fall Birding....



Above: Just one of many discussions on birds, plants and nature in general during the course of the outing.  
Centre: Murray Jamieson, Becky Grievesson, Susan Greco and James Turland at the Kincardine Lagoons.  
Photos: C. Roberts

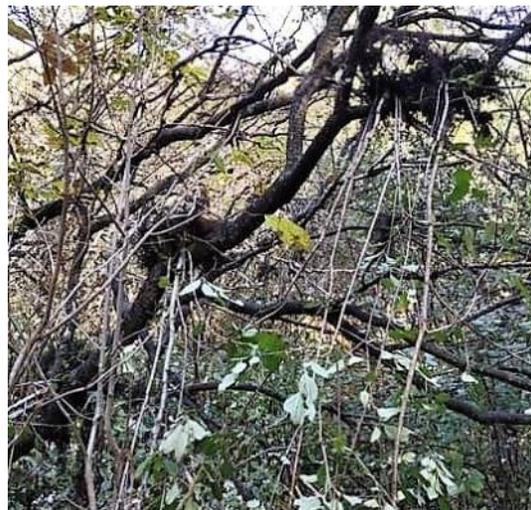
James harvests some wild grapes for the group to sample.

Newton Reserve Cleanup, October 15th

**Christine Roberts**

The previous week's rain really softened the ground making the invasive species removal, namely Common Buckthorn, much easier!! Donna and Christine were able to pull many small saplings out by hand and Donald did a great job yanking out the larger ones with the Extractigator (see photo below). A great start, but only a drop in the proverbial bucket, so on October 29th, Jim and Christine Roberts went back to tackle more Buckthorn. So, as Christine pointed out, if you're on the trails and spot small bushes hanging upside down on tree branches, that's the Buckthorn drying out!

Christine had these photos to share:



Welcome to our new advertiser, Susie Stoeckli with the Kincardine Farmers Market. New vendors welcome! You can contact Susie at: [susie.stoekli@gmail.com](mailto:susie.stoekli@gmail.com)

Left: A hardworking Donna Butson and Donald Andrew with Extractigator.  
Centre: Buckthorn hung on tree branches to dry out.





# Members' Page...

## What Our Members are Doing!

Photographs always welcome; please send them in JPEG format, over 100 kbs and under 200 kbs....thanks!



**Jim Roberts** has been doing some interesting research and work on bats. Since we have recently had Bat Week, this information Jim has put together is of especially timely interest.

### Citizen Science Bat Monitoring Projects

#### Jim Roberts

As a group of naturalists, I'm sure that many of you have an interest in bats. You may have a bat house, or a colony of bats living within a structure on your property, or you just enjoy the sight of bats flying as you sit in your backyard at dusk.

#### Ontario's bats

There are eight species of bats native to Ontario:

1. Eastern Red Bat,
2. Hoary Bat,
3. Silver Haired Bat,
4. Big Brown Bat (often lives in human structures).

There are four other species that are classified as endangered:

1. Little Brown Bat (often lives in human structures),
2. Tricoloured Bat,
3. Eastern Small Footed Myotis,
4. Northern Long-eared Myotis.

All of Ontario's bats eat insects, so during winter they hibernate, most often in caves. Around here the escarpment is a popular hibernation location. Bats emerge from hibernation in March and then travel to the summer feeding grounds. They return to their hibernation spots from October to November. The bats that live in my bat box arrive in early March and leave in mid-November – like clockwork.

#### Threats

There are many threats to Ontario's bats. They include:

- habitat loss (including the impacts of artificial lights at night), white nose syndrome (a fungus that attaches to their skin, disrupting hibernation, causing the bat to use up its fat stores),
- rapid climate change, and,
- wind turbines.

#### Citizen Science

A great deal is unknown about Ontario's bats. They are distributed widely across the province. It isn't practical for the small number of scientists who study bats to visit all of Ontario's bat habitat. As a result, researchers have set up a number of citizen science projects. I participate in three of these projects. There may be more.

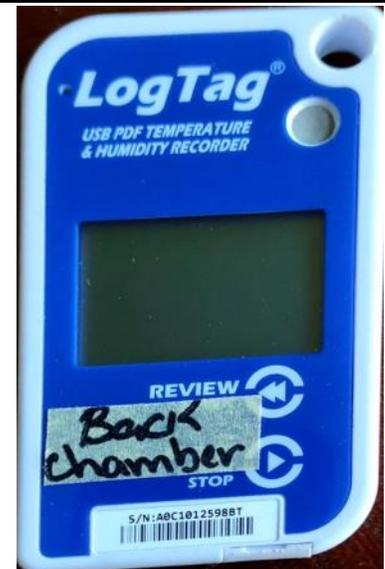
##### 1. Neighbourhood Bat Watch

- Run by the Quebec Centre for Biodiversity > [batwatch.ca](http://batwatch.ca)
- A very easy project to participate in. You need only your eyes.
- The goal of the project is identify the locations where bats reside during the summer. You can register these locations within the project's web site. Occasionally, (maybe once month) you just sit outside, just after dusk, and record the number of bats that you see. 



Photos: Roberts

The bat house installed at the Roberts', and the data logger (see info next page) recording humidity and temperature.



# Members' Page....



Photographs always welcome; please send them in JPEG format, over 100 kbs and under 200 kbs....thanks!

## Citizen Science, Jim Roberts, continued

### 2. Canadian Bat Box Project

- Run by Nature Manitoba and The Canadian Wildlife Federation  
⇒ [naturemanitoba.ca/news-articles/canadian-bat-box-project](http://naturemanitoba.ca/news-articles/canadian-bat-box-project)
- The goal is to study bat box environmental conditions in order to better understand bat box design and bat box locations preferred by bats
- You can register with the project to have a data logger sent to you. The logger is installed in one or more of your bat houses. The logger records temperature and humidity. It is installed in March and returned in November.
- You can go one step further, by collecting a few bat poop samples for DNA analysis. The easiest way to do that is to place a wooden board on the ground below the house and gather what falls. Through this project I learned that the Big Brown Bat resides in my bat houses.

### 3. Native Bat Conservation Program

- Run by the Toronto Zoo  
⇒ [torontozoo.com](http://torontozoo.com)
- You can register with the project to have an ultrasonic recording device placed on your property for 3 or 4 days. Bat calls are recorded on a SD card and returned to the Zoo. Since each bat species has a unique call, the bats on your property can be identified. I was shocked to learn that 6 of the 8 Ontario species inhabit my property. This project began last year (2021) and several HFFN members besides myself are participants: Janice McKean and Art Wiebe, Janice Gibson and Jayne Miltenburg.

## Photo Contest...

YES, we are having one.  
New information about this February event is on the next page. Check out your photos taken in the past two years. Good luck!

**Our Susan Greco** has been a regular visitor to Oliphant Fen and its surroundings. This year in August, a wild plant was discovered that needed identifying, so Christine Roberts took a photo. It was noted that the plant was past its best bloom. Its name was on the tip of Sue's tongue but proving elusive! In September, she returned with a friend and was able to name the plant. Here it is below.

## 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!



## Word to the Wise:



People sometimes call 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!**



**RATTLESNAKE ROOT**

# Members' Page....



## 2023 PHOTO CONTEST



**A FEW CHANGES have been made to this annual event** to help make it more approachable and friendly, especially to those less familiar with it.

First, though - you don't have to be an experienced or avid photographer to enter - we all enjoy seeing photos that other members have taken, so don't be shy! Remember that you are likely the only person who took a picture of that particular bit of Nature. If your photo looks great, please come share it!

The contest will be run by Valerie Gibson, Jane Neilson, and Christine Roberts, who has this to say:

### HFFN Photo Contest

We're looking forward to the resumption of this long-standing HFFN tradition in February 2023. In the intervening years (!) we've taken time to reconsider some of the rules and procedures and have updated them to better reflect modern technical capabilities.

The theme, '**Photographer's Choice: Your best pandemic nature photo**', is deliberately broad and meant to reflect the reality that during the social restrictions of pandemic life, many people spent more time outside enjoying nature.

The key restriction of this theme is we ask that you submit only photos taken in 2020 or later. With the closing of borders and difficulty of travel, the Canadian content requirement is not likely to be a factor. 😊

Here are the new rules:

- ◇ Each member may enter 2 prints sized 4X6".
- ◇ The content must be Canadian.
- ◇ Images may include some editing such as cropping and light adjustments (i.e. brightness, contrast, exposure).
- ◇ Photos do not need to be mounted. **Please include photographer's name on the back.**
- ◇ Each member attending the February meeting has 3 votes to determine a first, second and third place winner.
- ◇ 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 subsequent HFFN newsletter. Please ensure you include a return address for your photo.

*Inverlea Farm*

*Naturally Raised, Grass Fed, Murray Grey Beef*

Doug, Linda & Richard Peebles  
Tiverton, Ontario

519-368-7286  
info@inverleafarm.ca • www.inverleafarm.ca

**Surprise visit: a passing flock of Evening Grosbeaks snacking at Pepper's.**



# 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:  
[hffn44.46@gmail.com](mailto:hffn44.46@gmail.com)

## ~~ 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 at right.)

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, 519-396-3655**



## 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 HIKE\$ 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 2022 to SEPTEMBER 2023

....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: [hffn44.46@gmail.com](mailto:hffn44.46@gmail.com)

Name(s): (Please print:)

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information:

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

*Cut out or scan this form.*

# GOODALL & HILLS

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Wingham, Ontario  
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Tel: 519-357-1990

Fax: 519-357-1741

Lucknow: Ph: 519-528-2070 Fax: 519-528-3523



## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

2023!

### 4TH TUESDAY, 7.30 START, RIPLEY ARENA

**Tuesday, February 28th :**

#### Potluck and photo contest\*\*

**11:30 am** at the Ripley-Huron Community Centre  
Bring mug, dishes, cutlery, napkin and food to share.  
Liz Addison will demystify and explain some photo editing  
features of cell phones and tablets.

\*\* Photo contest information:  
Please see Page 14.

**Tuesday, March 28th:**

#### Gardening for Wildlife – Christine Roberts

Learn about the elements of wildlife-friendly gardening  
and how easy it is to add them to your home's landscape.

**Tuesday, April 25:**

#### Native Plants of Bruce County - Jenna McGuire.

Jenna is the Culture Keeper of the Historic Saugeen Métis  
at Southampton. Her presentation will focus on edible  
native plants of Bruce County.

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

When planning to come along on a walk, or to a meet-  
ing, 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.



### "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.

Alternatively, 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....

Happy trails!

### OUTINGS:

Outings Co-Ordinator Susan Greco will  
email Christine on any pop-up outings  
during the pre- and post- Christmas  
months, so keep an eye on that Inbox!

Changed/cancelled) outings, WE WILL NOTIFY BY  
EMAIL, so check for changes before setting out.

Please verify details before  
leaving for an outing.

### 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!**



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info@feedthebirds.ca

**Blast from the Past:** Donna Murray, Helen Vanderglas, Linda Campbell, Catherine Hogg, Linda Somerville, Barb Kirkpatrick, and Marion Donnelly cool off at Halfway Log Dump on a blistering hot day during the Bruce Explorer.



**NOTE TO SELF:**  
"MEETINGS ON THE 4TH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH" DOES NOT ALWAYS MEAN THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH. SOME MONTHS HAVE FIVE!  
REMEMBER TO COUNT THE TUESDAYS!



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!



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.

#### OUTINGS IN GENERAL:

**New (or changed/ cancelled) outings, WE WILL NOTIFY BY EMAIL.**

**Please verify details before leaving for an outing.**

#### 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.**

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



#### **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, 226-396-5616**