

1985

OUR FORTIETH YEAR! 2025

THE HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS' FRINGE NOTES

FALL, 2024

ISSUES AVAILABLE FREE FROM OUR ADVERTISERS, SEE INSIDE.

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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.



WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT, CHRISTINE ROBERTS



Another summer has flown by with its attendant heat, humidity, starry nights, cool dips in the lake, ice cream, friends, family, flowers and bugs.

What's that? Not very buggy... or birdy?

Allow me to borrow a phrase from the movie, *Field of Dreams*: "If you build it he will come." Knowing that habitat loss is the greatest threat to biodiversity, in the past few years Jim and I have embraced gardening with native plants to create habitat for insects and birds. Our efforts have been rewarded with abundant wildlife crawling, buzzing, hopping and flitting among our perennials and shrubs.



Every day we marvel at the beauty and diversity of nature simply by stepping out the door. We built it and they came.

The HFFN team of executive and board of directors work hard to provide interesting experiences for members whether it is engaging speakers on appealing topics, walks and outings to suit a range of abilities and interests or the sharing of news and environmental issues. They built a great program and members came with last year's ranks swelling to nearly 150 strong.

In April 2025 the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists club will celebrate its 40th anniversary. As we move toward this happy milestone, let us continue to support education and conservation in our communities, province and nation. We all have a role to play no matter how small and I believe together we can build a better world.

Christine Roberts

UPCOMING MEETINGS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Full details inside.

First meeting of the new 2024/25 season at the Point Clark Community Centre, 7pm

Nov. 26th:

Sept. 24th: Caley Doran of Cape Croker: tourism, plant species, cultural practices.

Erin Gouthro of MVCA will report on the 2024 forest bird study.

Oct. 22nd: Beth Gilhespy, CEO of the BTC: Geology of the Bruce Peninsula.



TITLE PHOTO: J. Pepper, Tobermory sunset, 2024

PLEASE NOTE:
IF YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OR
EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES,
PLEASE NOTIFY THE EXECUTIVE.
OUR CONTACT DETAILS ARE BELOW.

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Jim Roberts 395-5008

Communications/ Publicity:

Christine Roberts 395-5008

Advertising:

Jackie Clements 396-3655

Website Administrator:

Steve Pepper 226-396-5616

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
>> Our Club Executive <<

is always ready to welcome new members with fresh thoughts and ideas! We meet three times a year over a meal. Incoming Executive members are given any help they may need for whatever assistance they may wish to give.

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Announcements!



PLEASE NOTE:

Our next meeting takes place 7.00 PM TUES., SEPTEMBER 24th at the Point Clark Community Centre, 344 Lake Range Drive (between Conc. 2 & Conc. 4.) Full meetings information is given elsewhere in this issue, and on Pg. 1.

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS INFORMATION:

HFFN has 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: hffn44.46@gmail.com

Please see the MEMBERSHIP FORM in this issue.



++++ ANTS ++++

Someone, who didn't have anything better to do, has estimated that there are 8,800 known species of ants in the world. The total population is 10 million billion individual ants (give or take a few thou) and they all together weigh about 10 billion pounds (ten percent, by weight, of all the land animals in the world). They are such a significant part of the world's fauna that if ants were somehow exter-

minated thousands of other species would become extinct; and most of the world's ecosystems would be dangerously destabilized.

There is no good arguing with the inevitable. The only argument available with an east wind is to put on your overcoat.

James Russell Lowell, 1819-91

DURING OUR 40th SEASON, articles found in newsletters of the 1980s and 1990s have been chosen to share with everyone. They were submitted by HFFN members of the time. ~ Ed.

SNIPPETS...

In winter, it's not unusual for birds to eat their fill, then hoard more food for later. Nuthatches stash sunflower seeds and beef suet in tree bark cracks, and woodpeckers store acorns, beechnuts and other seeds in the cracks of dead trees, utility poles and fence posts. Research indicates that they do remember where they hide their hoards.
~ HFFN Archives

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

## March meeting

### Report and photos: Christine Roberts

#### **We pack the house for coyote presentation:**

**HFFN guest speaker Dave Rankine details his study of the Two Bays Coyote Pack of Inverhuron March 26th.**



**ABOVE: Artist, teacher and citizen scientist Dave Rankine shared his passion for coyotes with the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists. One of dozens of photos of members of the Two Bays coyote pack taken by trail cameras in Inverhuron Provincial Park.**

**BELOW: HFFN member and top place winner of the February photo contest, Jeff Bathurst posed with his winning entry.**

**Photo: Christine Roberts.**



#### **The highly anticipated presentation on the coyotes of Inverhuron**

drew a crowd of 90 to the March 26th meeting.

Artist, teacher and passionate citizen scientist Dave Rankine delighted everyone with a wealth of photos and stories told with humour and deep affection for the Two Bays Pack.

He began by describing his 61 year relationship with Inverhuron Provincial Park that started at the age of three. His coyote study began in January 2020 and involved using trail cameras, visual and auditory observations and a crew of spotters to gather data. He has extensively documented the individuals and their behavior and has even postulated a theory to explain their movement.

We learned a great deal about the family-based social structure and how members act to support both young and older individuals. We enjoyed hearing about Dave's tireless efforts to gain the pack's tolerance and the personal encounters he's experienced with them. A lover of patterns, Dave used detailed data of



**Intricate dance: Dave Rankine (holding the microphone) uses volunteers to demonstrate the relation between the movement of the sun, moon and coyotes.**  
Christine Roberts photo.

coyote movement, compared it to weather conditions and the movement of the sun and moon to propose a theory showing the elegant and intricate way the animals are connected to their environment.

Many questions were asked as we gained a greater appreciation of this intelligent, playful but often maligned hunter. They also enjoyed many photos of other wildlife indigenous to the area.

#### **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 MEETINGS... ~~~~

March meeting...

Report and photos: Christine Roberts



A second short presentation followed introducing the City Nature Challenge project.

It's a friendly competition between cities worldwide to document the most species in a weekend using the app iNaturalist. I think most of us are reasonably familiar with this data collection and identification platform.

I signed us up for this event because I thought it might be a good way to promote enjoyment of nature in our area and encourage people to get outside and look more closely at the world around them. Begun in 2016 as a friendly competition between nature

lovers in San Francisco and Los Angeles, this annual community science event has grown to include over 500 cities in nearly 50 countries. The idea was to recruit HFFN members to station themselves at various places in the area (Kincardine lagoons, Penetangore Trails, Stoney Island, Inverhuron Prov. Park) and help people use iNaturalist to explore. Members participated by spending time outdoors exploring nature in the neighbourhoods and parks of Kincardine, Friday, April 26 to Monday, April 29th, making observations of plants and animals on the iNaturalist platform. The free app collects biodiversity data worldwide and is easy to use. Several HFFN volunteers led guided hikes in several parks Saturday and Sunday of the project.



April 23, 2024: Audrey Armstrong and Willie Waterton

The Huron Fringe Field Naturalists welcomed Audrey Armstrong and Willy Waterton to speak about their quest to find and document wild orchids, at the April 23 meeting.

Both members of the Owen Sound Field Naturalists (OSFN) club, this husband-and-wife team took on the challenge in 2021 of updating the OSFN guide to "Orchids in Bruce and Grey counties." Their two-year pursuit entailed nearly 7,000 kilometres of travel by car, foot, canoe and boat, 178 hours in the field, with more than 4,000 photographs taken.

Following hundreds of hours of editing and research, the end result is a magnificent guidebook filled with exquisite photos and detailed descriptions of each species and its habitat, updated Latin and common names, and more.

Taking turns, the couple delighted the audience with engaging stories of this pursuit of orchids in mundane locations, from roadside ditches in variable weather conditions to remote locations requiring arduous canoe treks and encounters with fearsome wildlife.

(continued...)



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

April 23, 2024....



The enthusiasm of our presenters was evident as they remembered times and places connected to their wonderful photographs. Shown below are some of the latter.

Orchids are highly-specialized and sensitive to their environment, requiring precise growing conditions. In describing threats to orchids, such as poaching and habitat loss due to development, Waterton also referred to climate change. Changes to rainfall and temperature patterns may make it more difficult for some orchid species to survive.

Huron Fringe Field Naturalists members were appreciative of the striking photos and anecdotal descriptions and were surprised to learn that Bruce and Grey counties are home to 49 of the 63 orchid species found in Canada.

Many members took advantage of the opportunity to acquire the new guidebook. It may also be ordered from the OSFN website:

[owensoundfieldnaturalists.ca/product/orchids-of-bruce-grey](http://owensoundfieldnaturalists.ca/product/orchids-of-bruce-grey).



As evidenced by these views, getting photos such as these took some close encounters with the ground in varied wildernesses. As well, the mapping and orientation out in these areas surely took some planning. Mention was made of wet areas, as well as the necessity to lower themselves to the level of their subjects, lying flat out to get the best possible angles.



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

Annual Dinner Meeting May 28, 2024 – Adam Shoalts

Christine Roberts

Our Annual Dinner Meeting was a roaring success with over 140 attendees enjoying a delicious meal prepared and served by the incomparable Camp Kintail staff followed by a truly awesome presentation by Canadian explorer Adam Shoalts.

Adam is a trained cartographer, archaeologist and historian but perhaps is best known for solo expeditions that have resulted in several bestselling books.

He began his presentation with some personal background tracing his interest in nature, exploring and canoeing from a young age through his formal education to his designation as Westaway Explorer in Residence for the Royal Canadian Geographic Society.

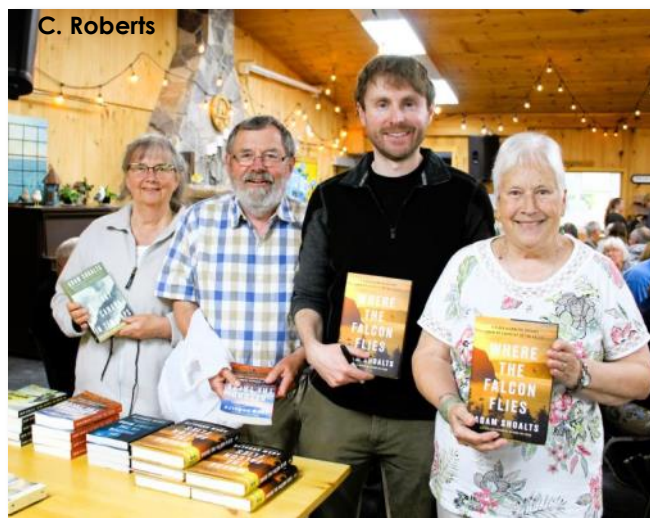
He continued by recounting the early parts of the expedition depicted in his 2023 book, *Where the Falcon Flies: A 3,400 Kilometre Odyssey From My Doorstep to the Arctic*. With humour and humility he described the many challenges of canoeing east from Long Point through the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River and north through Labrador and northern Quebec braving wild weather while navigating formidable natural and manmade obstacles, shipping lanes and the finding of places to camp in inhospitable terrain.

We were entranced by his tales of endurance punctuated with beautiful photos of landscapes and wildlife. His quick wit had us roaring with laughter throughout his talk.

Many in attendance were fans who were delighted to meet him in person and took the opportunity to have their books signed. Among his biggest supporters were HFFN Speaker Co-chairs Jayne Miltenburg and Jane Nielsen who worked to make the arrangements, along with ticket master Steve Pepper, which resulted in an outstanding event for a record crowd.



Organizers: Huron Fringe Field Naturalist Speaker Co-chairs Jayne Miltenburg (left) and Jane Nielsen (right) were responsible for organizing Adam Shoalts' appearance and all the arrangements with Camp Kintail resulting in an outstanding club event. (C Roberts photo)



Fans: HFFN members (left) Becky Grieveson, Bob Geddes and Rhodora Doughty (right) enjoyed meeting adventurer Adam Shoalts (2nd from right) and having him sign their copies of his various titles. (C Roberts photo)

SNIPPETS....

It's generally assumed that our Elm trees are no more, thanks to Dutch Elm Disease. But along our roadsides are some flat-crowned trees that are shaped like a vase or fountain, fan out from the ground, and have smaller, leafy branches almost from the ground up. My curiosity about these paid off when I discovered online that these are American Elms which survived because of their remote location, away from the disease. I now watch for and celebrate these survivors. There's a nice one on the Ripley road and another on Hwy 6 enroute to Tobermory (right); many more along farm fields by the roads. How many can you find? ~ Ed.



~~~ PAST MEETINGS... ~~~

**June 25 – Don Scallen – Salamanders**

**Christine Roberts**



C. Roberts

**We had a great turnout of 50 members** for our last regular meeting of the 2023/24 season. We enjoyed learning about salamanders with Don Scallen. He had wonderful photos to share and amazing information about the life cycles of these tiny amphibians. Don had a wealth of fascinating information and study results about the life cycles and vernal pool environments of these elusive creatures.

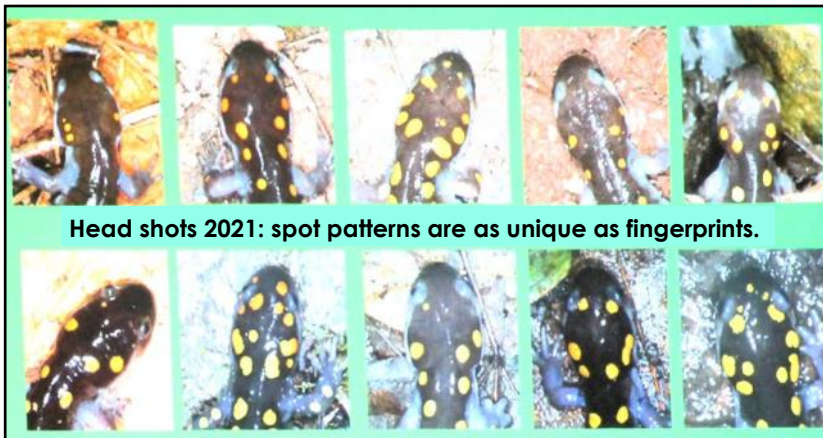
**Spotted Salamanders rise to the surface for air when actively breeding.**



**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!**



**Head shots 2021: spot patterns are as unique as fingerprints.**



**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!**

**GOODALL & HILLS**

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~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

March 7TH – Eagle Viewing, nr. Baie du Dore:



Photos and text via HFFN Facebook Page.

March 7th was a sunny but cool day and perfect for birding at Baie du Dore. Fourteen HFFNers enjoyed the enthusiasm and expertise of James Turland as we spied eagles, gulls and other birds.

March 24 Bognor Marsh Outing

Text and photos by Catherine Hodges



C. Roberts



C. Roberts

Animal tracks are well viewed on snow, and the light snow conditions were perfect Sunday March 24 for the HFFN Bognor Marsh outing. A group of 12 members set out by convoy to convene at naturalist Jeff Kinchin's family land south of Owen Sound, to be schooled on identifying animal and bird tracks.

Fresh tracks were visible almost immediately, and included coyote, deer, racoon, rabbit, martin, grouse, and various other birds.

Jeff imparted fascinating information including animal size and gait, signs of feeding habits, and print patterns.

The group enjoyed a lunch stop at historic Inglis Falls, where the scenic views, food and fellowship were enjoyed by all.



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

**April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Cape Croker, Earth Day outing**

**Photos and text by Jayne Miltenburg**



J. Miltenburg

**A wonderful group of Huron Fringe Field Naturalists** enjoyed an outing to Cape Croker Park, Neyaashiinigmiing, Ontario. Lenore Keeshig, our interpretive guide, led us on a two hour hike along the Snake Trail Boardwalk...Ginebek Miikaans: "The trail winds through mixed forest to the edges of an active beaver dam and lodge and along the shoreline of Sydney Bay."

We started at the Museum on the campground site which was originally an old stone house. Lenore showed us fossils etched in some of the stones on the outside, saying they were as old as the dinosaurs. The Museum held various artefacts, animal skulls and skins and information about Cape Croker Park. As we started our hike, various spring flowers were pointed out that were in bloom or showing fresh growth...Blue Cohosh, Crowsfoot, Spring Beauties, Trout Lily, Hepaticas and wild Leeks. A few Trilliums were just starting to bloom.

Lenore would stop every so often and give us some indigenous words of wisdom related to the natural world. At a balsam fir, she took a knife and gathered some of the sticky sap. It was good for insect bites, scratches and cuts. "Always honour by leaving tobacco or another gift if you take something." A Beech tree had claw marks on the trunk where a bear had climbed to eat the beech nuts. Along the boardwalk, by the beaver pond, three White Egrets were feeding. No beavers were seen, but we admired the boardwalk's two new lookouts. The one looked out over Sydney Bay, and the spring colours of the water and new growth on

the hillsides made for an idyllic view. We found a long, old log to sit upon for our lunch break. Lenore had brought along a thermos of ginger tea which we all got to sample. She said the best time to harvest Wild Ginger is the end of June. You dig up the rhizomes and let them dry (but only enough for what you need). Ginger tea was good for your digestion. We also got a small cup of Cape Croker's award winning maple syrup to sample. It was very sweet and tasty!

Towards the end of the hike, we stopped to notice a collection of feathers on the ground. It was likely the remnants of a grouse. Lenore said, "We leave the feathers there to honour Mother

Earth."

Back at the Museum, a group photo was taken and a few people asked Lenore more questions about Cape Croker. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the hike on such a lovely spring day. Some stopped at the camp office to purchase the maple syrup before heading back home.



J. Miltenburg



J. Miltenburg



J. Miltenburg



~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

April 26th – 29th – City Nature Challenge

Kincardine earns national recognition in City Nature Challenge 2024

Christine Roberts. Photo of Jim Roberts: C.Roberts



CNC Canadian Results: Kincardine earned national recognition for its participation in the 2024 City Nature Challenge.

The City Nature Challenge is an international, friendly competition to see who can make the most observations of nature, find the most species, and engage the most people, using biodiversity apps and platforms like iNaturalist.

Observations were made April 26 to 29 and the competition closed May 5th with the extra time allowed to upload and refine entries.

Persistently wet and windy weather likely dampened participation; however, during the four days of surveying, 19 people made 441 observations of 163 species of plants, animals, insects, fungi, birds and amphibians, with 18 observers and over 50 identifiers working diligently in the background verifying our observations. The most observed plant was the Trout Lily, the most observed insects were the Red Admiral butterfly and the Seven-spotted Lady Beetle, and the most observed bird was the Northern Flicker.

When the final results for Canada were tabulated, Kincardine earned an honorable mention for having the most observers per capita; a great result for a first time participant.

We hope to connect more with local citizenry to ensure even greater participation in the 2025 City Nature Challenge, which coincides with the club's 40th anniversary.

I learned a lot about running a nature challenge and have some ideas for expansion if we try again next year. I'd love to hear from participants about their experience: what they enjoyed, what was frustrating, if they learned anything new, and any ideas for improvement.



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

**May 14<sup>th</sup> – Birding with James Turland**

**Susan Greco, with thanks to the photographer.**

Thank you, James Turland, expert birder, and his super assistant, Becky, who is a spotter, technical helper, and a wealth of knowledge in her own right.

What could be better than a Tuesday morning on the Kincardine trails circling the Lagoon area, with James leading and sharing his vast knowledge of birds amidst a group of twelve avid birders with one or two novice backyard birders mixed in! James picked a day when the trails were just teeming with migratory birds. So many species of Warblers and many other fascinating and colourful species. To top it off, there were a couple of rare sightings made, causing quite the excitement amongst guests, group and other birders we encountered.



Canada Goose 12  
Wood Duck 1  
Mallard 3  
Lesser Scaup 2  
Ruddy Duck 2  
Chimney Swift 5  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1  
Killdeer 2  
Ring-billed Gull 8  
Green Heron 1  
Great Blue Heron 1  
Turkey Vulture 4  
Red-bellied Woodpecker 4  
Downy Woodpecker 2  
Hairy Woodpecker 1  
Northern Flicker 2  
Great Crested Flycatcher 2  
Eastern Kingbird 2  
Warbling Vireo 2  
Red-eyed Vireo 4  
Blue Jay 6  
American Crow 12  
Black-capped Chickadee 4  
Tree Swallow 8  
Barn Swallow 6  
European Starling 3  
Gray Catbird 4  
Olive-sided Flycatcher 1 \*\*

\*\*Well seen with scope. Had been at this same location for several days. Large flycatcher with olive grey sides giving it a vested look.

Hawking insects from high perch.

View this checklist online  
at [https://ebird.org/  
checklist/S174492214](https://ebird.org/checklist/S174492214)

Brown Thrasher 2  
Wood Thrush 2  
American Robin 6  
American Goldfinch 5  
White-crowned Sparrow 4  
White-throated Sparrow 2  
Song Sparrow 2  
Baltimore Oriole 8  
Red-winged Blackbird 12  
Brown-headed Cowbird 5  
Common Grackle 10  
Ovenbird 2  
Northern Waterthrush 2  
Black-and-white Warbler 1  
Tennessee Warbler 4  
American Redstart 6  
Cape May Warbler 10  
Northern Parula 6  
Magnolia Warbler 2  
Bay-breasted Warbler 4  
Blackburnian Warbler 5  
Yellow Warbler 3  
Chestnut-sided Warbler 3  
Yellow-rumped Warbler 12  
Black-throated Green  
Warbler 3  
Scarlet Tanager 3  
Northern Cardinal 2  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 4  
Indigo Bunting 1



Yellow rumped Warbler,  
Bob Taylor, HFFN Archive

**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/](https://ontarionature.org/about/nature-network/)

Interested parties can arrange there to be kept informed of the group's activities and nature news. ~ Ed.

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

MAY 21 – 22ND,

A note from Dwight Neufeld regarding this year's birdathon:

Hello Folks,

We did our Birdathon on May 21-22, 2024.

The weather started out windy and overcast but cleared for a few hours before the fog rolled in. Oh well. Our total count was 114 species. While not spectacular, was not bad for the conditions and much better than last year. Most waterfowl and shorebirds had already left for the north.

The most heartening aspect of the day was identifying a total of 19 warbler species. As good as any of our Birdathons in the past.

Thanks very much for your support. Yours in birding, Dwight Neufeld

The Annual Bruce Peninsula Explorer, May 21st, extended stay

J. Pepper

This year our group numbered around the 19 mark, with many repeat Explorers and some very welcome new ones. Leader for the convoy and trails was Donna Murray.

The group met as usual, at the Kincardine Sobey's parking lot and left for the trip at 8.30. The weather report predicted rain and a possible thunderstorm (naturally....) but in the event, the sky was a little overcast but the day stayed dry.

Picking up a lunch in Southampton, we first proceeded to Oliphant Fen, always of interest due to the variation in weather each year, when some fen plants may either shy away, or rejoice in, the wet, cold, hot or dry conditions. A slow meander always nets some good photo opportunities and this day was no exception. Below, left: Hairy Honeysuckle intrigued with its pink-edged, centrally jointed leaves; right, up-and-coming Tall White Bog Orchid. Right: along the Oliphant Boardwalk.



J. Pepper



J. Pepper



Pat Evans

Jacks-in-the-Pulpit and a Great White Egret were there as well to greet us.

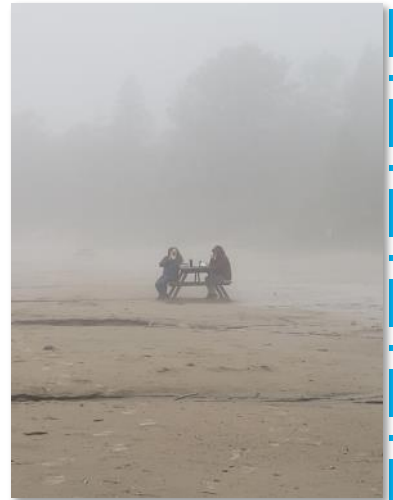
From Oliphant, we proceeded to a quiet road that runs alongside the Rankin River, known as the Rankin River Sky Access. On alighting from our vehicles we were almost bombarded with birdsong, prompting all of us with binoculars to step to one or the other roadside to see if we could find the source. One group walked to a spot a little further back along the road, where they looked for the river otters that have been seen there. The otters were not playing out that day, but there was plenty to see, including the beautiful sight of a Blue Heron gliding down to the water, Great White Egret, Canada Geese, various fish in the river, blooming lily pads and frogs, varied Finches, and many ferns. Red-winged Blackbirds were out in force as well, with their Konk-a-REE calls, and there were plants to discover just over the edge of the road.

Donna had driven the route the week before and had chosen us a lovely spot to have lunch. Black Creek Beach is only feet from the road, a broad expanse of sand in a natural area with several picnic tables and good washrooms. Donna had found it warm and pleasant when she checked it out the week before. As we carried our lunches over to the beach, I noticed a couple of small islets out in the lake that were playing tag with streaks of ghostly white mist. I decided to see if I could get a photo or two of the scene. I needn't have worried: as we settled with our lunches, the mist came hurrying to meet us,

Bruce Peninsula Explorer.... photos: J. Pepper

blanketing us all in its cool embrace while still allowing a freezing cold breeze to blow off the water. Jackets were zipped, hoods went up and we huddled together for warmth. Donna and her friend Susan had gone a little further along to leave more of the tables for the rest of us....they were half invisible over there. I don't think I've eaten a colder lunch....and as we finished up, it was also discovered that the washrooms were closed, so a rapid detour to a nearby gas station ensued.

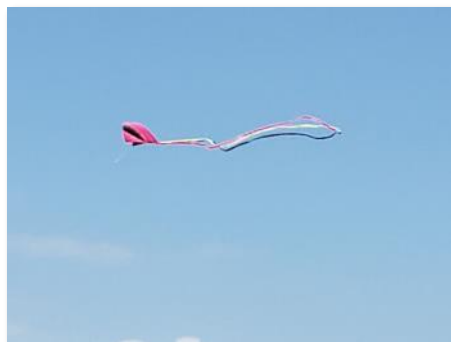
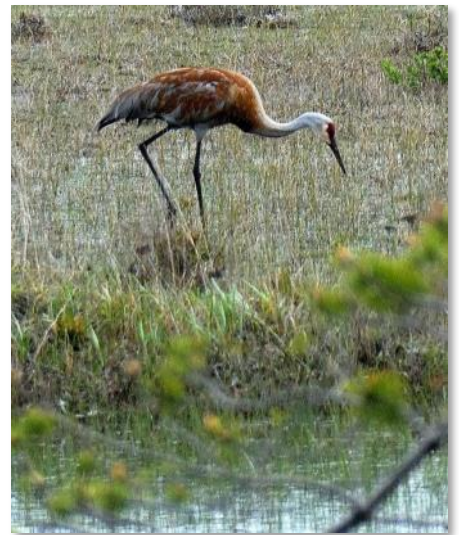
That was our last stop before Tobermory, so off we went, arriving at our various motel rooms about three. We got settled in and went for a group meal at the Pharos Restaurant at six pm. Donna then asked who wanted to go along the floating boardwalk along one side of the harbour, to see if they could see the local beaver. Last year they had a great sighting while the beaver was swimming quite close. Meantime myself and Steve took a drive along to the 15' X 15' deck at the far end, because it's a favourite place of mine. Once there, the sun was getting ready to start setting, it was still some way above the horizon over the lake, part hidden behind mist and/or clouds but was shining down onto a small hummocky island and made the scene look like something out of The Hobbit.



Looking over towards the open end of the harbour, there was the beaver, swimming towards the open lake; he swam right by us, at a distance, leaving a wake. When we got back and spoke to the group, they said they hadn't seen him. After relaxing for the evening we called it a night.

Day Two dawned with no adverse weather apparent.

The traditional outing for this morning is a usually breezy walk at Singing Sands, and this year the winds were brisk but much less strong than last year's trip. A pleasant boardwalk meander netted us a great view, with binoculars and cameras, of a Sandhill Crane which was foraging some distance away. A half hidden frog was spotted at the edge of the brook, and three Canada Geese were seen. The various plants such as Indian Paintbrush, Pitcher Plants and other hardy inhabitants of the rocky, sandy beach, were standing their ground against the ever-present breezes and the lovely scent of the Balsams along the brook was quite noticeable. Most of the group took the trail, but were seen by the rest coming back along the beach, as the trail had quite an area of water on it further along. Lunches were then enjoyed on the deck, with stiff winds trying to steal the very sandwiches from our hands and Steve's clamshell with salad taking off, resulting in a great catch of the open salad dressing dish by John and a flying pea pod kindly returned from across the deck.



A pleasant surprise in the form of some kite flying then commenced. Some of us watched, while several others tried their hand with varying results.

After this, most of the group went to Halfway Log Dump while the Peppers and Jim returned to the cabin to prepare

Bruce Peninsula Explorer....



Pat Evans

Susan expresses joy at Halfway Log Dump, and Pat found tiny treasures in a rock cleft (Bird's Eye Primrose).



Pat Evans

for the barbecue. Meantime the rest of the group hiked the Halfway Log Dump trail to explore the rocky beach. Many dragonflies were noted, and after the hike down the trail, two hardy people cooled off their feet in the cold turquoise waters!

After the requisite rock climb/clamber, the group took to the uphill trail back out to the parking lot looking forward to the repast they knew was coming back at camp! Everyone contributed to the potluck part, while the barbecuing was done on two grills by John, Steve and Jim.



S. Pepper

Day 3: - **Shining Rainbow Deer Reserve** gave the group many warblers, Ovenbird, Kinglet, Flicker, Common Yellowthroat, Tree Swallow; the group reported a Blue-headed Vireo. At least one person was using a bird ID app. This was a first sighting for the Explorer trip. A look at the Range Map turned up the fact that the species is defined as 'passing migrant' from just a few miles south of Tobermory, while the breeding range to the north, which is a massive area, stretches across the lake just to the very tip of the Peninsula.

The group then proceeded to the Bruce Alvar. Eight people stayed to take this walk, and were rewarded by the sight of many Red Admirals, Dragonflies, and a Massasauga Rattlesnake almost concealed in undergrowth. This latter sighting brought home to its viewers the necessity of watching where our feet - and hands - go!



D. Murray



D. Murray



D. Murray

Day 4 saw the remaining group waving so long as everyone set off home. Some had taken time to shop in the village, and four of us took a scenic route home, stopping to pick up lunch at the Country Market north of Wiarton, enjoying a rather chilly meal under the picnic shelter at Wiarton's old rail station, and then warming up with a special coffee at the coffee shop/art gallery in town.

Shall we do it again next year....?

☺ ~ Ed.

~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

**June 2nd: Greenock Swamp**

**Susan Greco**

NOTE: Although this was not a regular outing, it is well worth mentioning. Sue reported: Braving the Greenock swamp on the 2nd June, crazy or what! ....turned out well worth being viciously under attack by swarms of mosquitoes, finding exactly what I went to find and unexpected bonuses!



Finding a patch of Pink Pyrola was a thrilling bonus. Unique waxy nodding flowers with shiny almost heart shaped leaves at the very base of the flowers. Found white ones before; first time seeing these pink gems. Also known as Wintergreen.



Purposely went to search out this beauty. Dragon's-mouth/Swamp Pink (Arethus).

Tricky stepping off the floating dock; in a swamp that has swallowed several cattle and horses and carts, to capture this Orchid hiding amongst quite an array of plants and bush.

Sue also found Sensitive Fern, Royal Fern, and Bunchberry (below) The Ferns and these flora may be seen on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/83kNejPLum8qiKnB/?mibextid=qi2Omg>



**June 4th – Oliphant, Red Bay**

**Susan Greco**

**We had 10 members participate. It was a great trip.** Visiting Oliphant Fen boardwalk, picnicking at Red Bay Beach area, then on to Petrel Point, an Ontario Nature Conservation project, finishing up at Earth Bound Nursery. Amongst the flora:

White Large Bog Orchid - Absolutely stunning not quite in its full glory-smell divine. Just one plant in the exact same place as last year!

Pitcher Plant - Hard to photograph these out of this world flowers of the Pitcher Plant as they often tilt their heads down or in the wrong direction and..... they're also in the wet mushy bog.

Yellow Ladies' Slipper Orchid. Always a thrill to see!

(These above are shown on Facebook)

The Showy Ladies' Slipper...the name says it all. Just out, whilst others we saw today are still in bud, just about ready to pop. These are the biggest orchids size wise, I have taken pictures of some that have been waist high. (I am 5ft) these are not yet but will be taller when mature.



Sue Greco

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



July 9th – NABA Butterfly Count

The annual NABA event netted some beautiful photos of the butterflies seen. Bruce Edmunds and others have kindly shared these on the club's Facebook page.

July 13th – Hike, Naffel's Creek and Newton Reserve

HFFN had an opportunity to join the Maitland Trail Association for a hike of Naffel's Creek trails and the George G Newton Nature Reserve on Saturday, July 13th. Members met at Naffel's Creek 9am and after the hike there, they went on to the Newton Reserve. A catchup on the latter follows via a supplemental email. Here's an interesting article on some history of Naffel's Creek found in our Archives.

July 19th – Forest Walk: Southampton Beiner Bush & Ski Trail

(349 - 345 Con. Rd. 10, Port Elgin)

Susan Greco

Shirley Vogan and Susan Greco on the 19th of July set out to investigate the Beiner/Woodland trail. The trails are accessed on the west end of Concession 10 road on the south side; the trailhead is marked by the car park. There are washrooms here, also a Trail Map. There is trail access on the south side of the road as well as the north. We decided on checking out the south side main loop; this winds through the lovely woodlands, and eventually skirts the border line of Port Elgin where the last line of houses is encountered with an opening to enter the subdivision. At various points on the big loop trail there are branches that run off and back on again, some of which make up the ski trail system.

The main trail is made of fine gravel for walking; side branches are made up of grass and natural terrain. There were native wild flowers growing on the sides of the trail along with escapee flowers from nearby gardens, the walk is mainly level ground mixed here and there with minor hills. Strong evidence suggests that there had been a big variety of native spring flowers earlier.

Once back to the car park, we ventured across the road to check out the other side, but didn't go too far as time was running out and it was really hot, so when we came to the end of a branch-off trail that took us to private property, we turned back. So, we didn't make it to the end of the trail by any means to discover the north end, which shows up at the south end of Southampton, where there are options to come out on the streets that run close to the beach and Sand Dune walk into the town.

Back at the car park, on checking my watch we had walked 6 miles.

We will be back, and will invite again others to join us again to discover more. I'm imagining that this will be a beautiful Fall Walk later on and Spring for next year. So glad we checked it out!

The Ark Farm, July 31st.

Text and photos: Rosalie Zettler, Ann Scanlon, Susan Greco

What an amazing treasure on our local doorstep!

Located off Kincardine County Road 23 just 10 minutes north of Kincardine, fifteen participants gathered for a guided tour, by proud owners Janice McKean and Art Weibe, of this unique, eco-friendly, 110 acre property that stretches down to the shores of Lake Huron. Janice and Art are as natural as their land in sharing the story of their journey, restoring a one-time gravel pit into a paradise of nature! Trees, pasture, ponds, native plants, stream, horses and garden produce, trails and more.

**ROYAL ACORNS
AT NAFFTEL CREEK**

Oak trees in Nafftel Creek Conservation Area grew from acorns presented to district school children in 1939 to celebrate the visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Canada. For the HFFN group that saw them November 12, this was just one bit of information imparted by John Hindmarsh and wife Marion.

John told as he showed the course of the creek and its function of purifying water, the layout of the ski trails, the mammoth beech tree, the reforestation, the interaction of beavers and fish.

And the local history. How it got its name "Nafftel" from the man who purchased it from the Canada Company, how part of it, now heavily treed, had been under cultivation as recently as 60 years ago, log houses built over the years by Hindmarsh and the sites of others lost by fire or demolition.




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

**The Ark Farm.....**

**Photos: Rosalie Zettler, Ann Scanlon, Susan Greco**

This place is the one of the best example of what 'Good stewardship of creation' looks like!

This was my first visit to the farm; others had visited before over the years, some only last year, but had to come back again. One thing for sure, one visit is all you need, to know that you will be returning at some point in time to digest more of what the The Ark Farm has to offer. Thank You, Janice and Art!

**Susan**

Lar and I both appreciated how Janice and Art work with nature & the natural environments to understand the interrelationships in the ecosystem. I also liked Art's perspective of both the future planning and the legacies they have created for their property.

**Anne Scanlon**

I found Janice and Art fascinating to listen to. It opened my eyes literally to native plant growing and introduced me to all kinds of various plants and grasses that I had never heard of, such as Prairie Dock, which has big leaves with a tall flowering stalk. The Compass plant, which attracts pollinators and hummingbirds to these tall native plants, was another new to me.

**Rosalie Zettler**



Photos: Janice welcomes members; Art points out Vervain. Left, Clammy Ground Cherry. Monarch caterpillars were in evidence amongst this plethora of plants and grasses. A Ribbon Snake also put in an appearance.

**SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS PUBLICATION**

IF YOU HAVE A WRITE-UP, REPORT, OR PHOTO THAT YOU'D LIKE TO SUBMIT FOR AN ISSUE OF *FRINGE NOTES*, PLEASE SEND THEM TO THE EDITOR'S EMAIL ADDRESS:

BEECHLEA1LP(at)GMAIL(DOT COM)

KINDLY PUT THE NAME OF THE ARTICLE OR SUBJECT OF THE PHOTO IN THE SUBJECT LINE. INCLUDE THE DATE AND PLACE OF THE EVENT OR PHOTO IN THE EMAIL, AND THE NAME OF THE WRITER OR PHOTOGRAPHER. IT WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AND INCLUDED. PHOTOS NEED TO BE JPEG, BETWEEN 100 - 200 kbs IF EDITED FOR CONTENT; IF NOT EDITED, THEY MAY BE UP TO 2MBS IN ORDER TO EDIT.

THANKS! - THE EDITOR



~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

Mystery Tour – Wiaraton; Bird's Nest Garden Farm

Christine & Jim Roberts



Thursday, August 8th was a lovely day for an outing – warm, but not too warm, with a nice breeze.

The group of 15 travelled to Wiaraton to enjoy their lunch at the Bluewater Park and made brief stops at Colpoys Bay Lookout and Colpoys Bay Historical Village before heading to Bird's Nest Farm. Our host Peter Allemang met us at the end of the lane and gave us some historical and geographical background on the landforms and farming tradition of the area.

Over the course of a nearly two-hour tour, hosts Peter and wife Erin Gundy introduced us to their 20 year labour of love: a demonstration regenerative farm designed to explore various techniques to preserve and enhance soil fertility without the need for external inputs. Peter described how they optimize pasture land rotation with their grazing livestock to build up rather than deplete soil. He described how these techniques naturally sequester carbon.

Participants enjoyed the animals and beautiful natural setting. The gardens and grass-roofed house were of great interest and the lemonade in the shade was the perfect ending to a lovely day.



LEFT: Colpoys Bay Lookout: Jim and Christine Roberts, Jim Laliberte, Lloyd Holbrook (behind) Vy Waller (front), James Turland, Yvonne Bieman, Jorgen and Janice Hertzum-Larsen.

RIGHT: Colpoys Historical Village (S Greco): Jo-Anne Stanley, James Turland, Yvonne Bieman, Diane Clifford, Jane Nielsen.



Sue Greco captured this great view of Colpoys Falls, a minute away from Colpoys's Bay.



Welcome: (C Roberts) Peter Allemang welcomes HFFN members to Bird's Nest Farm.

~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

Mystery Tour .....



Vy R. Waller



Vy R. Waller

**FAR LEFT:**  
Green roof: Peter explained the pros and cons of living in a grass-roofed house.

**LEFT: Livestock:**  
Peter and his sheep and chickens.



C. Roberts

**Bird's Nest Farm Garden:**  
Erin explains her gardening methods and plants.

A Rocky Ramble, August 13th

J. Pepper

Photos: Christine Roberts



C. Roberts

**A fair number of members** gathered to meet with Bob Geddes for another geological foray on the beach. Bob's

knowledgeable fund of information on the many and varied rocks which are to be found on Lake Huron's shores has gained him an interested following.

This outing took place on the shoreline alongside Stoney Island Conservation Area between 2 and 4 pm.

Although the forecast was for rain, the outing went ahead, with participants leaning in to listen to Bab's words over the sound of waves and wind.

Many thanks to Bob for his fascinating hands-on lessons about all the various rocks.



C. Roberts



C. Roberts



# Members' Page...

## What Our Members are Doing!

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



### 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!

### WHERE WE'VE BEEN... WHAT WE'VE SEEN...



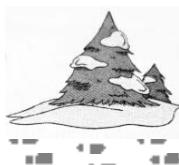
You don't have to go far to get busy with your camera - one of the perks of being a naturalist. Bob Simpson remarks, 'Every year we have been able to attract at least one Monarch Caterpillar. This year no exception.'



### ARE WE READY...?



Corrie Cooper was busy with her camera during the last cold season....here, she took the opportunity to capture some winter magic: a tree reflection in winter on Dickie's Creek, and hoarfrost on Black Walnut bark. A frosty-looking view on the Skerwink Trail, Bonavista, Nfld. Thanks so much, Corrie!



# Members' Page....

**New to the group?  
This page is for you!**

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

## OUTINGS INFORMATION:

Outings Co-Ordinator Susan Greco will email Christine on any pop-up outings during the seasons, 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.

Text or call Susan; 905 967 5094  
or email [limeysue2000@yahoo.ca](mailto:limeysue2000@yahoo.ca)

## **CAN YOU HELP?**

**YOUR CLUB NEEDS WILLING INDIVIDUALS TO ASSIST HFFN'S BOARD. SOME NOTES TO TAKE, SOME PHONE CALLS TO MAKE, THREE MEETINGS PER YEAR; NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY - WITH AN ADDED BONUS OF NEW FRIENDS AND SOME INTERESTING LOCAL NATURE INFORMATION.**

**APPLY: STEVE PEPPER, 226-396-5616**



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!



## "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!

## 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!**



# MEMBERSHIP PAGE

**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)

## 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.

## ~~~ MAKING YOUR PAYMENTS ~~~

HFFN requests that membership payments be made at regular meetings or by e-transfer. The Membership Co-Ordinator will not have paperwork along on outings or other gatherings and will not be able to properly process your membership payment and status.

*Thank you kindly!*

## ~~ MEMBERSHIPS: ~~

Welcome back old members, and a warm welcome to new ones. Over-18 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 2025 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:

\$10 per issue, call  
Steve Pepper, 226-396-5616

## ~~ JOIN US OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ~~

\*Note that our season runs from September to September.

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



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

new member application or  renewal

SEPTEMBER 2024 to SEPTEMBER 2025

....or CATCHUP?

Huron Fringe Field Naturalists,  
C/O Bob Simpson,  
308, Lewis Rd., Kincardine N2Z 0A4

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:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Post Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Cut out or scan this form.*

## ~ ~ ~ REGULAR MEETINGS ~ ~ ~

**Regular meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Point Clark Community Center, 344 Lake Range Drive, 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!**

**Arrival Time: 7. 00 pm.**



**Meeting: 7:20 pm.**



**Feed the Frog!**

**Beverages: 2.00; treats: free.**



**Tuesday, Sept. 24, 7 pm: Caley Doran – the impact of Cape Croker band on tourism**

**First meeting of the new 2024/25 season** at the Point Clark Community Centre. Guest speaker will be Caley Doran from Cape Croker. His topic will be the impact that the Cape Croker band is having on Tourism in the Bruce, and their plans for reaching beyond residents of Ontario. He will touch on plant species and Anishanabee cultural practices and will provide cedar tea for the attendees.

**Tuesday, Oct. 22nd, 7pm: (note, this is the 4th Tuesday, not the last in the month.)**

**Beth Gilhespy will share her vast knowledge** of The Bruce Trail, having been CEO of The Bruce Trail Conservancy where she brought greater awareness to the vast natural wonder of the escarpment. We look forward to her presentation sharing her extensive knowledge about this unique landform, The Niagara Escarpment and the ecosystem supporting it.

**Tuesday, Nov. 26th, 7 pm: Erin Gouthro, Watershed Ecologist with Maitland Valley Conservation Authority**, will share the results from the 2024 Forest Bird Monitoring Program, as part of the MVCA's watershed-wide health assessment of aquatic and terrestrial systems.

## ~ ~ ~ UPCOMING OUTINGS ~ ~ ~



**SUNDAY, September 8th: HFFN ANNUAL CORN ROAST AND POTLUCK.**

**We welcome everyone to our new season at this event.**

**Bring a potluck dish, your mug, cutlery and plate and a comfy lawn chair. Arrive at 1pm. Take a meander down the slope to the fish pond for a walk around and fish viewing, walk the woods or sit and visit, followed by the potluck about 4 pm. Always a popular event.**

### 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!**



**Directions:** From Holyrood, go 1 concession south on Bruce Rd 1, turn left. From Lucknow, go north on Bruce Rd 1 to the 3rd concession (Kairshea Ave), turn right.

Travel east 1.5 miles to property on the right in the 2nd block just before the pavement ends #659.

Watch for a little sign on the right!

### OUTINGS INFORMATION:

**Outings Co-Ordinator Susan Greco will email Christine on any pop-up outings during the seasons, 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.**

Text or call Susan; 905 967 5094  
or email [limeysue2000@yahoo.ca](mailto:limeysue2000@yahoo.ca)

## *NOTES and NEWS*



### **FEBRUARY POTLUCK AND PHOTO CONTEST: PHOTO SUBJECT, 'LIFE ON THE FRINGE'**



**Lake Huron Coastal Centre** has installed some beach clean-up stations including one at Station Beach in Kincardine. HFFN member Steve Pepper is stewarding this great new resource by keeping an eye on supplies and restocking.

We hope the public will use them to keep the beach cleaner and healthier this summer! It's located across from the Snack Shack.



### **Community outreach**

#### **Christine Roberts**



**Thanks for book 'Outside You Notice', Ripley Huron Community School.**

**As HFFN members**, we generally describe ourselves as a group of nature lovers who enjoy learning about and experiencing many aspects of nature through a variety of activities. During the 2023-2024 season, we had several opportunities to spread that interest and share some expertise with the wider community.

It started with donations of nature books to area public schools purchased with funds received through the generosity of members who donated paintings and a book for raffle. In the fall, six schools received a copy of "Nature's Best Hope (Young Readers Edition): How You Can Save the World in Your Own Yard". In the spring five schools received a copy of "Outside You Notice", a primary grade book celebrating the wonder and curiosity experienced in time spent outside.

The club organized and participated in the City Nature Challenge in late April and was represented at the Kincardine Tourism's "Always Welcome" event in early June:

**HFFN ambassadors Susan Greco and Rhodora Doughty** met Kincardine residents and visitors in Victoria Park for the tourism bureau's 'Always Welcome' event. About twenty information brochures were handed out. Thanks for being such great representatives!

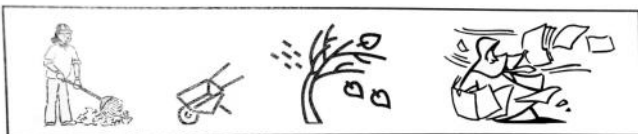
'Thanks to our president

Christine, Sue and I had a very informative display to set up in Victoria Park on June 1st for the Municipality of Kincardine's first (and hoped to be annual) Always Welcome event.

Several people stopped by our display to chat about HFFN.' – Rhodora

**Susan Greco, Michele Gade and I spent some time talking** to young people at the Kincardine Forest School about wildflowers, invasive and native plants in the spring. And James Turland regularly runs into the group while birding at the Kincardine Lagoons.

**Caitlin McIver of the Bruce County Public Library Kincardine Branch asked for help** with her Green Thumbs Garden Club in Geddes Park in July and August. Susan took the kids and some parents on a wildflower walk, I talked about native, non-native and invasive plants, James Turland led a birding walk and Bob Geddes did a rock talk. **Every encounter out in public is an opportunity to share our love and spark interest. I hope we have many more opportunities in the coming year.**



**HAPPY FALL!**

