OUR FORTIETH YEAR 1985 2025

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LIKE TO JOIN US?

HURON BRUCE NATURE MEETS THE 4TH TUESDAY OF FEB., MAR., APR., MAY** & JUNE, AND SEPT., OCT., & NOV., Pt. Clark Community Ctr. MEMBERSHIP IS NOMINAL. **EXECUTIVE CONTACT NUMBERS** (P. 2.) & MORE INFO INSIDE.

**<u>except May, Annual Dinner</u> at another venue.



WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT, CHRISTINE ROBERTS



Plus ça change...

I hope you're enjoying the Throwback Thursday posts as much as I am. For new(er) members, it's a chance to learn more about the people and initiatives that have shaped the club for four decades. For more established members, perhaps a pleasant reminder of friends and adventures.

As I read the newsletters I'm reminded of the French expression, 'Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.' First penned in 1849, it means 'the more things change, the more they stay the same.'

Essentially it means that while outward appearances may change, the fundamentals remain the same.

The club's name has changed to Huron Bruce Nature and we will soon have a new logo, but those are principally changes meant to modernize and refresh our identity. The underlying fundamentals: learning about nature through exploration of Lake Huron and Bruce County, excellent speakers on topics of interest, collaboration on projects with local environmental partners, sharing of knowledge, expertise and time by members and gathering to socialize and share a mutual love of the natural world, have not changed and will not change.

As we enter our fifth decade, we will gather Saturday, April 26th to remember and celebrate forty years of loving and learning about nature close to home and far afield. The executive invite you to share your thoughts and memories by filling out a comment slip that will be made into an anniversary album. The forms will be available at the membership table where you pick up and drop off your name tags. If you have a favourite photo to share, that would be a great addition to the album. ~ Christine

<u>UPCOMING MEETINGS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR</u>

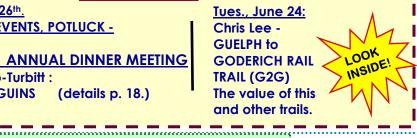
Full details inside.

Saturday, April 26th. ANNIVERSARY EVENTS, POTLUCK -

SEE PAGE 18. Tues., May 13th ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Sarah McComb-Turbitt:

WHALES to PENGUINS (details p. 18.) Tues., June 24: Chris Lee -**GUELPH to GODERICH RAIL** TRAIL (G2G) The value of this and other trails.



TITLE PHOTO: J. Pepper, Singing Sands waves.

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

H.B.N. EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONTACT NUMBERS:

President:

Christine Roberts 395-5008

Past President:

Lynn Johnston 528-2411

<u>Vice President</u>: VACANT

Secretary:

Brent Bowyer 357-1883

<u>Treasurer:</u>

Bob Simpson 519-955-4818

Memberships:

Barb Simpson 519-955-7306

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Jayne Miltenburg 529-3241 Jane Nielsen 525-8705

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Communications/ Publicity:

Christine Roberts 395-5008

Advertising:

wish to give.

Steve Pepper 226-396-5616 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

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Announcements!



<u>PLEASE NOTE: Website address and payment address will</u> change to reflect the club's new name. We will notify.

Meetings take place 7.00 PM 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:

<u>HBN has set up an e-mail account</u> 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.

June 1993

The beauty of the Bruce invites visitors

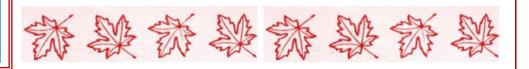
Club members were educated in the wonders of the Bruce Peninsula at the May 25th meeting. Martin and Kathy Parker, club members and F.O.N. representatives from Port Elgin, brought several F.O.N. brochures pertaining to the forthcoming outing up on the Bruce and related them to what we could expect to see. Martin gave a fascinating illustrated talk on the flora, fauna and fabulous scenery of the Bruce. "See the Bruce from other than highway 6"he said and then illustrated by taking us from Oliphant through Petrel Point, Black Creek, Crane Creek and

Dorcas Bay. Then from

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.

Tobermory down to Wiarton along that rugged coast, Martin demonstrated that he is "Mr. Bruce".

How many of us knew the extent of the orchids there; or of carnivorous plants; or that you could show the beauty of the Bruce with hundreds of slides up one shore and down the other without showing a single residence. The Parkers have spent much of their still young lives in the study and promotion of the Bruce, much to the credit of the F.O.N. and themselves.



~~~ <u>PAST MEETINGS:....</u>

~~~~

#### Tues., Sept. 24th: Caley Doran - Anishinaabe Interpretive Guide

#### **Christine Roberts**



**The Huron Fringe Field Naturalists launched their 40th season** of meetings, speakers and outings. Sept. 24, at the Point Clark Community Centre.

The club has enjoyed strong membership in recent years and welcomed a dozen new members. President Christine Roberts encouraged newcomers to take full advantage of learning and activity opportunities.

Prior to the guest presentation, finances were reviewed, details of future outings shared, and plans announced for a shoreline clean-up event in Kincardine, Oct. 6, at 1:30 p.m.

Speaker co-chairperson Jane Nielsen introduced Caley Doran, an Anishinaabe Interpretive Guide with the Cape Croker Park Anishinaabe Cultural Experiences program.

Doran has a deep connection to the land, to nature and to the history of First

Nations people, particularly in the Bruce Peninsula. In addition to his work at the park, he volunteers on several boards, monitors species at risk, and assists with local archeological digs.

Speaking directly and sometimes emotionally, he shared his personal perspective on truth and reconciliation, relating heart-wrenching accounts of his mother's childhood experiences in a residential school. He also commented on historical injustices suffered by his family and others at the hands of the government. These stories were difficult but important for members to hear to understand the impact of

history and to recognize and respect Indigenous peoples.

Doran invited club members to visit Cape Croker Park to camp, hike, participate in cultural activities, and learn about, and from, the land. He encouraged everyone to nurture a closer relationship with the earth and to actively advocate for nature.

Caley Doran, Anishinaabe Interpretive Guide with the Cape Croker Park Anishinaabe Cultural Experiences program, shares personal experiences and perspectives as a member of the Saugeen Ojibway First Nation, with Cathy Milne at the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists meeting. Photos by Christine Roberts



## October 22nd: Beth Gilhespy, Geology of the Bruce Escarpment. Time-travel on the Niagara Escarpment.

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#### **Christine Roberts**



At the October 22nd meeting, we time-traveled back to the geological origins of the Niagara Escarpment with Beth Gilhespy, Chief Executive Officer of the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy. She holds degrees in physical geography and geology and is an avid hiker and fossil collector who enjoys sharing her love of the geology of the Niagara Escarpment as a hike leader. Beth estimates she's led about 150 interpretive hikes on the Bruce Trail as a volunteer starting in 2003. For each outing she would prepare a handout with maps and text to describe interesting geological features. Eventually, she was encouraged to publish her fact sheets resulting in two volumes, Walking Through Time: Exploring Niagara Escarpment Geology in the Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Section and Walking Through

Time: Exploring Niagara Escarpment

Chief Executive Officer of the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, hiker, fossil hunter, geology lover and author Beth Gilhespy was the guest speaker for the Huron Fringe Field Naturalist meeting October 22nd in Point Clark. Christine Roberts photo

Geology in the Sydenham Bruce Trail Section.

(Continued...)

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

#### Continued: Beth Gilhespy, Geology of the Bruce Escarpment.

Each book explores the formation of the Niagara Escarpment through maps, photos and provides guidance for several geology hikes.

Gilhespy is a passionate and engaging speaker and we enjoyed her stories of adventure and misadventure while discovering the geological features of the Niagara Escarpment.

Members purchased books and enjoyed an impressive display of fossils. More information can be found at https://walkingthroughtime.ca/.

Concluding her presentation, Gilhespy spoke with pride about the work of the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy in purchasing and protecting environmentally sensitive tracts of land. One upcoming acquisition is at Greenock Swamp where the cerulean warbler has been seen, and her organization is actively fundraising to cover the purchase price. More information and information on how to donate can be found at https://escarpment.ca/about/campaigns/wild-futures-project.

We welcomed two new executive members to the board. By the end of the 2024/2025 season, Pat Ross-Smith will take over membership director duties from Barb Simpson, and Gloria Bond will assume responsibility for finances from treasurer Bob Simpson. (photos by Christine Roberts)



Presenter/author Beth Gilhespy displayed her books chronicling the geologic history of the Beaver Valley and Sydenham sections of the Bruce Trail.

Beth provided many samples of fossils found in rock formations on the Niagara Escarpment.



Beth Gilhespy signed copies of her books for members of the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists October 22nd.

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### Nov. 26th:

#### Erin Gouthro, forest bird study.

#### **Christine Roberts**



Ephemerals, Pollinators & Birds Forest Health Assessment Erin Gouthro

Erin Gouthro, Watershed Ecologist with the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA), made a return visit November 26<sup>th</sup> to report on a Forest Health Study.

Erin shared the results from the 2024 Forest Bird Monitoring Program, as part of the MVCA's watershed-wide health assessment of aquatic and terrestrial systems.

(continued...)



#### REMEMBER TO STOCK UP FOR SPRING BIRDFEEDING AT THESE SUPPLIERS OF ALL THINGS BIRD-RELATED!







https://riverlinenature.ca/

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

#### Continued....

#### Nov. 26th: Erin Gouthro: Declining forest health in Maitland River Watershed

#### **Christine Roberts**



Erin Gouthro shared the results from the 2024 Forest Bird Monitoring Programme. C. Roberts photo

Gouthro first presented to HFFN in March 2023 when she gave a comprehensive outline of the forest study including a comparison of pre-settlement tree species diversity versus the current distribution and an extensive examination of the effect of disturbances in particular invasive plants and insects such as the Emerald Ash Borer. Her second presentation concentrated on ephemerals, pollinators and birds.

Ephemeral plants are herbaceous species that complete their entire life cycle in a short period and then die back such as trilliums. They are the first plants to flower in spring and are adapted to thrive in the understory of forests. HFFN members were surprised to learn that ephemerals play an important role in forest regeneration because they provide necessary nutrients for saplings. They are also susceptible to destruction and are particularly threatened by invasive plants such as garlic mustard.

The next section looked at invertebrates, creatures without backbones, which comprise 95% of all animals. In this case, the focus was on insects, particularly pollinators.

We learned a great deal about the various species of native bees in Ontario, their social habits and life cycle. We also learned that the presence or absence of bees in a forest may be used as an indicator of forest health and guide restoration and management practices.

The final section of the report dealt with song birds and owls. Erin described the labour intensive protocol of volunteers recording nearly 3000 minutes of

bird song which were then listened to and identified by experts at Bird Canada. Erin described her time in the forest and interactions with the inhabitants with humour and in terms that revealed her deep affection for her study subjects. Her photos and graphics were informative and beautiful.





In other club business, James Turland promoted the 2024 Kincardine Christmas Bird Count December 19th and shared highlights of 2023's species counts and rare or unexpected sightings. To find a count and register to participate, go to <a href="https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/christmas-bird-count">https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/christmas-bird-count</a>.

#### **Photos by Christine Roberts**





Kim Armitage of the newly formed environmental group KEAN (Kincardine Environmental Action Network) talked to the group about tetrapacks – their composition, and efforts to recycle. Her group is trying to create a local depot system for recycling the ubiquitous packaging.



~~~ PAST MEETINGS....

February 26th, 2025:

Huron Bruce Nature members celebrate fellowship

Christine Roberts



Sixty members and guests of HBN enjoyed socializing and a hearty meal. Christine Roberts photo

Following a string of winter storms and many days of restricted travel, members were more than ready to end their social isolation. Sixty hardy souls battled the roads and blowing snow to gather at the Point Clark Community Centre Saturday, February 22nd for the annual potluck and photo contest.

The winners of the photo contest, themed "Life on the Fringes/Edge" were Christine Roberts and Anne Scanlon with images of butterflies, fungus and trees.



Kim Armitage and Andrew Evans of KEAN (Kincardine Environmental Action Network) explain their group's current and future initiatives. Christine Roberts photo

After the meal and voting, the assembly gave their attention to presenters Kim Armitage (also an HBN member) and Andrew Evans, both representatives of KEAN – Kincardine Environmental Action Network.

Together they highlighted the group's mission, current initiatives and future plans which revolve around environmental sustainability and community engagement.

Of particular interest are the Terracycle and Tetrapack recycling programs with drop off bins available at the Kincardine branch of the Bruce County Public Library and the Davidson Centre. Armitage reported that nearly 130 kg of tetrapacks have been collected and diverted from landfill in 2025, although she pointed out the programme is temporary since changes to recycling in Ontario come into effect in 2026.

KEAN can be contacted by email at: KincardineE-AN@gmail.com and information about programmes can be found on their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1111376524033543.

Theo Saxton, the young son of one KEAN member, provided packaged and labelled seeds from a wide selection of native wild-flowers. They generated a great deal of interest as members chose some to try in their home gardens.

Since the last regular meeting in November, the club has chosen a new name: Huron Bruce Nature (HBN), and is in the process of having a new logo designed which hopefully will be ready to unveil at the anniversary celebration April 26th.

Native plant seeds were made available to HBN members thanks to the hard work of Theo Saxton

Christine Roberts photo



~~~ PAST MEETINGS... ~~~

February 26th....



Jane Neilsen (left) and Susan Greco confer as the buffet table is filled. Brent Bowyer photo

2025 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Subject: Life on the fringe/edge.



A shot of some of the photos entered in the contest. Brent Bowyer photo



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Christine says -

I became a BIMBY Seeker last year. BIMBY - Butterflies in My BackYard - is a project on iNaturalist sponsored by the David Suzuki Foundation.

Seekers make observations of butterflies to add data for researchers on biodiversity.

I chased this Viceroy all around my yard one afternoon trying to get a clear shot but it was too skittish. It finally settled on a milkweed plant and I took several photos. I didn't see the caterpillar underneath until later when I uploaded the file from my camera to computer. What a lucky shot!

Anne Scanlon:

My photo was taken in Fernie, BC last September when we were hiking and exploring in Southern Alberta and BC.

~~~ PAST MEETINGS... ~~~

February 26th....



President Christine Roberts graced our crafts table at the meeting with three of her beautiful renditions of Nature.

Photo Brent Bowden



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MARCH MEETING REPORT: PAGE 14. 🗲

~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

Sun., Sept. 8th: Corn Roast, Lynn & Paul Zinn property

Christine Roberts



Another great 'welcome back' corn roast and potluck to kick off a new season of speakers and outings.

Although meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month, the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists have traditionally kicked off the new season with a corn roast and potluck supper early in September. Thirty-six members, friends and guests gathered at the recreational property of past-president Lynn Johnston and husband, Paul Zinn, Sunday, Sept. 8, for a communal feast.

Most took advantage of the sunny, crisp weather to enjoy a walk along the winding lane, through the woods and around the pond, and everyone enjoyed the chance to visit with friends or make new acquaintances.

Thank you, thank you to our hosts Lynn and Paul for their generous hospitality. We love your beautiful property and appreciate you sharing it with us. Thank you also to 'corn crew' Murray Jamieson, Brian

Penner and John Hill and, of course, to Bob Simpson for barbecuing the hot dogs. We couldn't do it without you. Photo Christine Roberts

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September Outing on the Peninsula with Sue Greco.

Susan Greco

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. We had 10 members participate. It was a great trip.

Shoreline clean-up at Station Beach, Sunday, October 6th.

Christine Roberts

A very successful community shoreline clean-up at Station Beach in Kincardine, organized by Andrew Evans and the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists, took place Sunday afternoon. Members of the local naturalists' club were joined by Kincardine Lions, students and members of the public. In total, 30 volunteers worked to remove plastic pieces, food wrappers, cigarette butts and other waste that pose risks to the environment and users of the beach. Approximately 50 pounds of garbage was removed. This event was supported by the Lake Huron Coastal Centre which loaned equipment for the clean-up, including buckets, work gloves and trash pick-up sticks. Many participants also completed tally cards to record the types and amounts of waste removed.

The strong community support was gratifying and it was inspiring to see young people pitching in to keep the beach and park healthy.

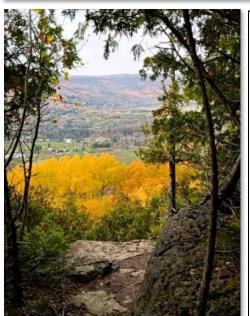
Fall Colour tour, Sunday, October 13th: Beaver Valley

Three Waterfalls, Preposterous Pumpkins, Old Baldy Lookout and miles of stunning forest views. (Rescheduled due to rain.) One photo is worth a thousand words.....here are several!





MAIDENHAIR FERN (left) is less frequently seen nowadays, due to habitat loss. over the past twenty years or so. It grows in moist deciduous forests. Uniquely shaped, It's one of the only ferns not grazed on by deer; it's quite toxic. Photo: Jane Nielsen



LEFT, top:

Adventurers pose for a shot at McGowan's Falls Photo: Jane Nielsen

LEFT:

Beautiful views abounded on this outing.

The Beaver Valley is well known for its abundance of autumn glory. Careful planning is essential to avoid rainy fall weather and ensure full colour has been reached.

Photo: Sue Greco Thank you, Sue!

RIGHT:

A great shot of Eugenia Falls in its autumn surroundings. Thanks to Jayne Miltenburg.



Fall Birding and Potluck, Oct. 26th:

James Turland:



Seven of the birders gather for a group shot of the annual Fall Bird Hike. Becky Grieveson photo.

On Saturday, October 26th, the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists held their annual Fall Bird Hike and Potluck. They met at a Bruce County birding hotspot, the Kincardine Lagoons. We arrived as a rainbow arced in the sky and then we weathered a five minute sleet storm. Because of the ash trees dvina off. some understory plants at the lagoons are flourishing, resulting in an abundance of wild grape and Virginia Creeper fruit that has attracted many birds. We had close-up views of both Ruby and Golden crowned Kinglets. Golden-crowned Kinglets are our second smallest bird, and have a special cold weather survival technique. Kinglets' feathers make up 8% of their body weight, which is similar to the weight of clothing worn by an arctic explorer. They huddle together during cold spells, allowing them to share body heat and reduce heat loss. We also

saw 10 different types of ducks, including Ruddy and Shoveler. A

few Bonaparte's Gulls entertained us by picking up small bits off the lagoons' surface. Bonaparte's have a complete black head in breeding plumage but this time of year have just a small dark dot behind the eye.

Huron Fringe Field Naturalists

Hike, Kincardine Lagoons: 27 species

Canada Goose 75 Northern Shoveler 10 Gadwall 1 Mallard 50 Green-winged Teal 12 Redhead 11 Ring-necked Duck 5 Lesser Scaup 15 Bufflehead 16 Hooded Merganser 6 **Ruddy Duck 8** Bonaparte's Gull 6 Ring-billed Gull 30 Red-bellied Woodpecker 1 Downy Woodpecker 1 Northern Flicker 1 American Crow 4 Black-capped Chickadee 12 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1** Golden-crowned Kinglet 3 European Starling 50 American Robin 12 House Finch 2 American Goldfinch 2 American Tree Sparrow 4 Dark-eyed Junco 5 Northern Cardinal 1

Bonaparte's nest in trees of the far north and generally are only seen here during migration. We spent two hours at the lagoons; then we ioined more HFFN members the Inverlyn Lake Estates Community Hall for a warming potluck lunch. At left is a complete list of birds seen at the lagoons.

> A smaller group enjoyed potluck dishes, and shared bird sightings and general chat. The Peppers joined birders James and Becky, the Jamiesons, Simpsons, Sue Greco and event organizer Linda Campbell for a good meal and plenty of chat and laughter. James then regaled us with a fascinating story or two about the demise of the

dinosaurs, their relationship with birds, and a very peculiar Amazonian bird named the Hoatzin. (Perhaps a topic for a later presentation, James?! ~ Ed.) Thanks to James and Becky who led the rather damp outing, which included downpours and hail, and to Linda for the organizing; also to the pot-luckers for the lovely food. ~ Jeni



Golden-crowned Kinglet Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons



Bonaparte's Gull **Photo Credit James Turland**



Jones Bluff, Sunday, Oct. 27th

Sue Greco Donna Murray



Sue's report: The weather disappointed those who signed up for the original date of this outing, however the rain date on Sunday the 27th did not. The day was a little cloudy with sunny intervals. Sticking to the original plan, the group of eight hikers had a picnic at Bluewater Beach in Wiarton and a stroll along the park shoreline where 5 swans were sighted across the bay, providing some after-lunch entertainment.

Heading out around beautiful Colpoy's Bay, we were afforded another Tundra Swan sighting before we took a short



unplanned visit, where the hike leader shared a newly discovered gem, picturesque Grebes Waterfall at the site of an early Grist Mill. The

afternoon's hike on Jones Bluff started off on a side trail to get us across to the Bruce trail, which then forms a horseshoe-shaped trail back to the car park where we started. A wonderful hike of forest and incredible views across the top of the Bluffs. **Sue Greco photos**

<u>Donna's report:</u> Attendees were Barb & Bob Simpson, Don & Brenda Jones, Mary Faubert, Shirley Vogan, Donna Murray and leader Susan Greco. The group set off from Kincardine Sobey's at 10:00 am. On to Southampton Tim's for bio break and possibly lunch pickup - or breakfast for some! Lunch at the picturesque old Train Station gazebo in Wiarton, tucked in close to the wall, as it was very windy/overcast. Bob spotted 5 Tundra Swans way across the other side of the water, along with many species of ducks, geese, gulls; a single loon was spotted swimming with the swans. Leaving Wiarton, we proceeded to Colpoys Bay Village to view a small waterfall that once was the site of an old grist mill (circa 1861). The commemorative stone benches relay the following story:

'In 1861 Ludwick Kribs built the first grist mill at Colpoy's Bay on the north side of Kribs Road bridge at the base of Frames Falls on Colpoys Creek. This mill saved settlers a trip to Owen Sound for flour. Later owned by John Wood. The Mill burnt down in 1890. By then Colpoy's Bay (pop 2000) had a General Store, the Forest



Home Motel, a Blacksmith shop, two churches, Whicher's Sawmill with 24 employees, a Post Office (1863), a Public School, and Bell's Hall for public meetings.'

We were fortunate in that a group of hikers, on their way to complete another 15 kms of the Bruce Trail by day's end, offered to take a group photo of all us on the bridge.

We went on to find the entrance to Jones Bluff Trail, via Cape Croker and Purple Valley Rd. There is a sign indicating the parking area and start of the trail, showing how the trail loops back, but also that there is a side trail that leads to the Bruce Trail, heading north towards Tobermory. We discovered this side trail quite by accident and the 'Y' in the trail became a 'U turn' back to the 'Y' where we should have continued on. Getting our steps in for sure! Sue was very good at pointing out the numerous plants or what was left of them. (Continued...)

Jones Bluff.....

She mentioned a plant called Agrimony which is said to have medicinal properties, as well as the following: Maidenhair Fern, Sensitive Fern, Doll's Eyes (aka White Baneberry - poisonous), Ladies' Tresses, and the fact



that bears like the beech trees to claw at. Also, there were healthy dark green bunches of Hepatica which will winter over and bloom in the spring. Spring Asters were also seen. While hiking here I noticed the lack of bird song, but to be fair there were 8 people walking the bush trail, under a beautiful array of colour beneath a wonderful canopy of fall trees, not all of which had completely lost their leaves. Judging by the amount of leaves carpeting the forest floor and covering the trail, the birds would've heard us from a mile away I'm sure. There were a few birds flitting here and there in the tiny cedars at the edge of the bluff and amongst the spruce trees as we wended along narrow paths between moss-covered rocks.

The views from atop the bluff to the bays below and the waves of colourful treetops were simply beautiful. To be able to just stand on rock that has been there for millennia, at the outer edge of the bluff, and take in the scent of the woods around you, the wind pushing across the water, seeing still, green fields below; and, for those brave enough to step carefully to the very edge and look down, an overwhelming feeling of being $\;
brack$ recharged and ready for anything!







Nearing the end of our hike, one had to look carefully to see the marked trail trees, as this section changed not only in elevation but direction as well. As afternoon began entering into the early stages of evening and with the temperature drop becoming noticeable - there was some discussion amongst the rear of the group about having recently attended a most delicious roast beef dinner with all of the trimmings. This spurred us all on

to the end looking forward to the comfort of a Tim's facility for a Bio break and liquid warmups.

P.S. I'm still waiting for a roast beef dinner by the way! Thanks, Sue, for another great outing! ~ Donna **Donna Murray photos**



As a member of Ontario Nature, HBN

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.

<u>Sunday, March 23: Cape Croker Anishinaabe Cultural Experience</u> Leader: Caley Doran (our September 2024 speaker)

Sue Greco



Nine people participated. Caley Doran, our guide, made our Anishinaabe Cultural Experience something to remember and reflect upon. We were greeted at a pavilion by the shoreline beneath Sydney Bay

beyond the rough camping area of the park. Caley introduced himself by using his Spirit Name, and his Clan (from where he received his knowledge), then asked us do the same, thinking how we would identify ourselves this way. Caley had a fire going in preparation for making Cedar Tea. We followed Caley to the water's edge to dip our hands in the water, acknowl-

edging this precious gift, then offered back a tobacco gift in return. We helped harvest enough Cedar for our tea, The tea was infused with maple syrup, a generous sample of which we were given, before drinking the delicious vitamin-packed cedar tea. Energized by the tea, we set off for a hike to the sugar bush, then on to the sugar shack, stopping often along the way, as opportunity arose, for Caley to share stories of his cultural traditions and ancestors, or tell us about the geology of the rocks and high bluffs, nature of the land and all creatures that habitat on the land, trees, plants, flowers all coexisting together.

We got to tour the sugar shack, which is actually way more than a shack, housing some very sophisticated equipment used in the making of Cape Croker's award winning maple syrups.

Four hours went all too fast. It was a great day for all. Thank You, Caley!









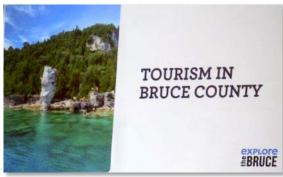


This was evidently one of our more interesting and instructive outings and despite the colder weather, kudos to the nine members braved the temperature to take part!

Thanks to our Outings Co-Ordinator SUSAN GRECO for these photos.

PAST MEETINGS, CONTINUED.....

<u>Huron Bruce Nature learns about promotion of area tourism</u> <u>Christine Roberts</u> - photos by Christine Roberts





Lauren Eby and Kathryn Bruce of the Economic Development Department of Bruce County presented an overview of the many ways they promote and support tourism in the area.

We welcomed Lauren Eby and Kathryn Bruce from the Economic Development Department March 25th to talk about tourism in Bruce County.

Lauren explained that the department focuses on tourism, agriculture and community development by supporting residents and businesses through various initiatives.

One such well-known program is Explore the Bruce which promotes Bruce County as a tourism destination.

With its beautiful shoreline, diverse ecological and geological features and numerous options for enjoying outdoor activities, Bruce County has long been an attractive vacation destination and hosted 2.9 million visitors in 2023.

However, some of the natural features are fragile and need to be managed carefully which is sometimes frustrating for visitors. The role of the of Eby's department is to promote sustainable tourism by promoting attractions throughout the county that are unique, innovative and encourage visitors to explore the entire area.

The Economic Development team collaborates with businesses and municipalities to promote activities, accommodations and services, provide visitor support, help develop new tourism experiences and collect and share data to aid in strategic planning.

They promote Bruce County tourism through a number of media channels with attractive photos and videos that inspire tourists to visit. HBN members enjoyed the promotional materials and delighted in recognizing familiar local businesses and

¹ attractions. ~



RIGHT: Lauren Eby helps HBN member Sally McCallum navigate the tourism website.

BELOW:

Steve Pepper and Donna Murray were available to help HBN members Jennet Cox and Anne Scanlon sign up for outings.

(See below)





*** IF YOU DID NOT ATTEND THIS MEETING***

Interest sign-up sheets were available for outings with Sue Greco, our Outings Co-Ordinator, and for the annual Bruce Peninsula Explorer. (May 20th - 23rd)

We will make these lists available at the April anniversary potluck meeting, but since this is such a busy event, if you are interested and couldn't sign up, please contact Sue for interest in hikes and flower walks, and Steve if you'd like to have information on the Bruce Explorer trip.



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











WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

HURON BRUCE NATURE EXTENDS A HEARTY WELCOME TO THOSE WHO ARE JOINING US.
WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL ENJOY OUR PRESENTATIONS AND REAP THE BENEFITS OF ALL OR ANY OF THE
WALKS OR HIKES YOU FANCY COMING ALONG ON! PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN TO US SO THAT WE
CAN DRAW YOU INTO OUR MIDST AND GET TO KNOW YOU!







CATHERINE HODGES has been walking quietly around her backyard, camera at the ready. It paid off with these great photos! Left to right, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk and a White-Breasted Nuthatch at her feeder.

Then she forwarded them at full size, which enabled them to be edited with larger subjects. Thanks, Catherine!









MARION FINK was captured late November volunteering for charity. Thanks, Steve P.! RIGHT: A well-fed specimen of Opposom captured at the Bowyer's!





Members' Page.

New to the group? This page is for you!

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 <u>limeysue2000@yahoo</u>.ca



Photographs always welcome; please send them in JPEG format, over 100 kbs, up to 1MB. Thanks!



🔷 FOLLOW MY LEADER 🗲



SOME OF OUR HIKES TAKE PLACE ON TRAILS WHICH HAVE INTERSECTING PATHS. Your hike leader has planned and timed the route using certain trails, so while you may be tempted to nip down a side alley, or forge ahead, we strongly advise participants against leaving the vicinity of the group. You can, (and some have) get lost along a side trail. In this situation nobody knows where you are - whether you've gone on ahead or taken a wrong turn. This can mean time spent looking for you and anyone who followed you, and keep in mind that cell service may not be available. It may grow dark before you're back at your car.

STAY FOUND. STAY WITH THE GROUP!



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!



TELL US WHERE TO GO!

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 I

"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!



Word to the Wise:



People sometimes call to ask the date of a Know of any good places to enjoy nature? Please I meeting. bring them to the attention of your HFFN

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

HBN 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 address for the e-transfer: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 ~~~

HBN 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 club's 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

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:

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|--------------------------------|--|
| | |
| Huron Fringe Field Naturalists | |

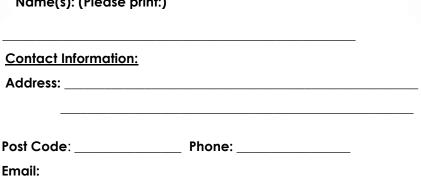
MEMBERSHIP FORM

new member application or renewal SEPTEMBER 2024 to SEPTEMBER 2025or CATCHUP?

Huron Bruce Nature, C/O Bob Simpson, 308, Lewis Rd., Kincardine N2Z 0A4

Payment can also be e-transferred to Huron Fringe Field

Name(s): (Please print:)



Cut out or scan this form.



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~~~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. May, Annual Dinner - another venue.

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.



SATURDAY, April 26th: - ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Our 40th anniversary celebration takes place near the end of Earth Week – Saturday, April 26th. This date replaces the normal meeting date of April 22nd. We've combined it with the City Nature Challenge and invite you to take part in a guided hike to make observations on iNaturalist. There are three locations: Geddes Park, Kincardine Lagoons and the trails at the Northline Extension. Following the outing we will convene at the Point Clark Community Centre between 11:30 and noon to enjoy another communal potluck. At 1 pm we will have an OPEN HOUSE with cake, a few speeches and you can browse displays. Please save the date on your calendars and stay tuned for more details. As usual please bring your own plate, cutlery and mug for the potluck.

Tuesday, May 13TH: ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Sarah McComb-Turbitt: WHALES to PENGUINS

Tickets for the ADM are now on sale. The date is Tuesday, May 13th at Camp Kintail. Arrival time is 6 pm with

the meal beginning between 6:15 and 6:30. Prices are \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Our guest speaker is Sarah McComb-Turbitt, a local artist and marine biologist. She will be talking about her work and experience with penguins and pilot whales. Sarah grew up in Chatsworth. In 2013, she moved to Halifax to study Marine Biology at Dalhousie University. In 2017, she moved to Vancouver to research gentoo penguins with the University of B.C. in the Falkland Islands. Now she lives near Owen Sound with her husband and children. Sarah is also an avid artist painting wildlife in nature. You can find her work at www.smccombturbitt.com

To pay for tickets, e-transfer <a href="https://https:

Tuesday, June 24:

Guelph to Goderich Rail Trail



Chris Lee will speak to the club about the value of trails, especially the G2G. The G2G Rail Trail is a 132 kilometre rail trail that runs from Goderich to Guelph.

"The G2G Rail Trail is all about bringing people together - whether it's connecting with nature and your community or enjoying a peaceful adventure".... Willow Hall, Executive Director, G2G Rail Trail Inc.

PLEASE NOTE:

Following the June meeting, there are no meetings until September, due to members and presenters alike being busy during the summer months. HBN reconvenes in September with the first meeting of its new season on the 4th Tuesday, Sept. 23rd, and with its ever-popular Annual Corn Roast. This will be notified in advance by email. Bring your dishes and a Chair!

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Welcome to our new advertisers, Commonplace Market grocer extraordinaire, flowery Wilder & Rain, and Lazy J Ranch with its Hive 'N Hoe Country Store!



Email: lazyj@bmts.com
Facebook: lazyjranch
Instagram: lazyjhoney

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"Sourcing food and products that have been grown, gathered and prepared by farmers, foragers and preservers in Bruce and Huron Counties - supplemented by the rest of Ontario."

Fresh fruit and veggies, locally raised meats, fish and eggs, preserves and canned items, sauces, snacks, drinks, coffees, teas, baking supplies, stone milled wheat, spices, seasonings, soups/chilies, frozen meals, fish, honey/jam/maple syrup, pet foods, sweet treats, juices, cheeses, pastries, less well known produce....

EMAIL: info@commonplacekincardine.ca INSTAGRAM: @commonplace.kincardine. FACEBOOK: commonplace market

AND MORE!



These new advertisers are looking forward to meeting you! Pop your head in and enjoy their ambience!

~~~ <u>UPCOMING OUTINGS</u> ~~~

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

Remember that hikes can differ in terrain and also in speed. For example, FLOWER WALKS tend to be slower as we enjoy the seasonal blooms along the trails, while HIKES can be brisker for those who like a good ramble. If you are one of the latter, a gentle walk with stops for flowers and plants may not be your forte.

THE SMALL PRINT:

On Your Feet! Many of our hikes are like a walk in the park....but not all! If you're thinking of lighter shoes for an outing, do check the announcements for a note on the expected terrain, or call the contact number. Bring your treaded hiking shoes or boots along....just in case!

OUTING CHECKLIST: cell phone, car phone charger, hat, water, binoculars, bird/plant/other guides, bug repellent, hiking stick, sunglasses, hanky, area map, snacks, thermos (in car), waist/backpack, boots for rough/wet terrain. In Spring and Fall: rain slicker, gloves, folding umbrella.



....AND DON'T FORGET THE DIRECTIONS TO THE HIKE!

~~~ UPCOMING OUTINGS ~~~



Susan Greco has a number of interesting outings planned for the spring.

The wildflower walks are dependent on what's blooming at any given moment and she is diligent in her scouting efforts. However, that means that those walks are often announced on short notice. If you're a wildflower enthusiast and wish to participate, it's a good idea to contact Sue now. She's building a contact list for pop-up flower walks.

Email her at limeysue2000@yahoo.ca.

If you're interested in helping preserve native habitat at Geddes Park in Kincardine, Michele Gade and the Kincardine Trails Assoc. are planning another schedule of garlic mustard pulls in April and May. All hands are welcome!

Another date to save is Saturday, May 10th. We will be hiking the trails at the George G Newton Nature Reserve and experiencing the trail improvements which were completed late last year. Marshall Byle is constructing more benches to be installed as part of our club's ongoing stewardship efforts. There are also trail clean up and garlic mustard pull work days scheduled for the mornings of May 2nd and 6th.

The entire week of April 21 to 27, Earth Week, is dedicated to first cleaning up Kincardine, and second exploring its biodiversity. I will post the schedule of cleanups and invite you to join me at Alps Park Thursday, April 24 from 4:30 to 6 pm. You are encouraged to bring your own gloves and bucket but the municipality will also provide gloves and bags. I will have a bin of gloves, bags, grabber sticks, hand sanitizer and a sharps container on hand.





REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN -BUT HURRY!

NOTE: This event is not hosted by Huron Bruce Nature. Registration is online.







THE ANNUAL BRUCE PENINSULA EXPLORER

.....Yes, it's in the works. Information and interest sign-up list will be available at the April meeting, or if you missed it, give us a call to be added to it, or email us at trek66.sp@gmail.com. Information will be sent by email, and will include accommodation info.

<u>DATES</u>: Tuesday, May 20th, to Thursday, May 22nd with an option to stay till the Friday. (Will not clash with the Birding Festival.)

The group will gather by the highway at Sobey's parking lot the morning of the 20th. Time to be announced, however we hope to be leaving a little later this year and taking a gentler route.

(If you have to cancel after arranging to join us, we ask that you let us know so that we won't be waiting at the meeting place.)

If you're new to HBN and thinking to join the trip, we'll be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thanks for your interest!

~ the Peppers