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HURON BRUCE NATURE'S FRINGE NOTES

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2025

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LIKE TO JOIN US?

HURON BRUCE NATURE MEETS 7 PM, THE 4TH TUESDAY OF FEB., MAR., APR.,** MAY & JUNE, AND SEPT., OCT., & NOV., Pt. Clark Community Centre.

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

**except April, Annual Dinner

LAKESIDE DAISY,
S. MILLER



WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT, CHRISTINE ROBERTS



"Life is what you make it."

This is a popular saying that emphasizes the idea that individuals can have a significant impact on their own happiness and fulfillment. It's been attributed to several notable individuals including Eleanor Roosevelt who used it to encourage others to take control of their lives and strive for positive outcomes, even amidst challenging circumstances.

The past few months have certainly been challenging. When both provincial and federal governments passed legislation designed to dismantle democratic safeguards, bypass

environmental protections, ignore Indigenous rights and override laws in order to steamroll ahead on economic development, I felt hopeless.

With portions of Wasaga Beach Provincial Park under threat of development and even David Suzuki giving up trying to influence politicians, it's a dark time for conservation.

However, this summer I planted three more public pollinator gardens and I had many uplifting encounters with people and nature, which reminded me that all is not lost and hope is worth hanging on to.

I choose to continue working in the service of the environment in whatever capacity I can.

And I would like to suggest to you, our new and returning Huron Bruce Nature members, that the club is what you make it.

(CONTINUED...)

UPCOMING MEETINGS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Full details inside.

Oct. 28th –

Shannon Woods will talk about the great Greenock Swamp.

Nov. 25th –

Tamara from Firmly Rooted Farm talks about grow operation and distribution of vegetables in the area.

2026:

Feb. 24th - POTLUCK, PHOTO CONTEST, 'Nature in my Backyard' (Info inside)

NOTE: this will be a LUNCHTIME event.

LOOK
INSIDE!

TITLE PHOTO: B. Simpson, geological composite rock.

Please see the MEMBERSHIP FORM in this issue.

President's comments, cont.

APPRECIATION SECTION:

As we begin our 41st season with a new name and logo, I want to recognize and thank the members of the board who make all the learning and experiencing possible. Jane Neilsen and Jayne Miltenburg have organized another slate of fascinating topics and speakers; Susan Greco has numerous exciting outings organized; Catherine Hodges makes us feel welcome and happy with drinks and snacks; Steve and Jeni Pepper continue to look after club clothing, the website, the Bruce Peninsula Explorer Trip and, if you're reading this, format and edit our incomparable newsletter. Brent Bowyer somehow makes sense of our conversations and reports during board meetings with his excellent notes; Jim and I work hard on conservation efforts at the George G Newton Nature Reserve and I spend lots of time on the computer sending notices and sharing information from Ontario Nature. Who have I missed? Oh yes, our other power couple, Barb and Bob Simpson. The Simpsons have been fixtures on the board since 2015. According to my research, Bob joined first sharing duties booking speakers, then moved to organizing outings in 2016, back to speakers and finally took over as treasurer in the fall of 2022 until July 2025. Barb has been keeping the membership information, payments and name tags organized since the fall of 2015. Please join me in thanking them both for their dedication to the club and the professionalism they brought to their respective roles. (See Members' Page.)

Taking over Barb's membership portfolio is Pat Ross-Smith., left. She's been shadowing Barb for several months and will be the welcoming smile you meet inside the auditorium doors as you search for your name tag.



Gloria Bond, right, takes over finances from Bob. She's done a great job navigating the often frustrating process of changeover at the bank and, as far as I know, she's still smiling. Welcome, Pat and Gloria, and thank you for taking on these all-important roles.



Welcome also to new members-at-large, Anne Scanlon and Yvonne Bieman. They bring a genuine love of nature and good ideas to our group. We thank Joan McLaughlin and Rhodora Doughty for their valuable service as they step down from the board. As I mentioned earlier, life is what you make it, so together, let's make the Huron Bruce Nature 2025-2026 season the best yet.

- Christine.

Huron Bruce Nature's new logo

Christine Roberts



It's been a very busy anniversary year for Huron Bruce Nature, with great effort taken to celebrate and honour the history of the organization and the people who've shaped its direction. As the end of our season approached, we turned our attention to the future and that included a new logo.

Some members may be wondering about the importance of a logo.

Logos establish an identity that people easily recognize. If it's well designed, it can help create an emotional connection with the brand.

And importantly, a logo can contribute to the perception of a brand's professionalism and credibility.

The new Huron Bruce Nature logo was designed by Erin Norsworthy, a graphic designer who is inspired by nature and has created designs for area groups such as Maitland Conservation, the Town of Goderich and the Menesetung Bridge Association.

The design elements of the HBN logo show the sun setting behind a band representing the water of Lake Huron and bulrushes rising from the shore with a bird in flight. The arc of the sun intersecting with the rushes forms the H of Huron and the top wing of the bird and the right side of the sun's arc suggest the B of Bruce. Thus, the logo connects the group with the land, the lake and wildlife. I hope you enjoy our new design and, when clothing becomes available, will wear it proudly into our next decade.

- Christine

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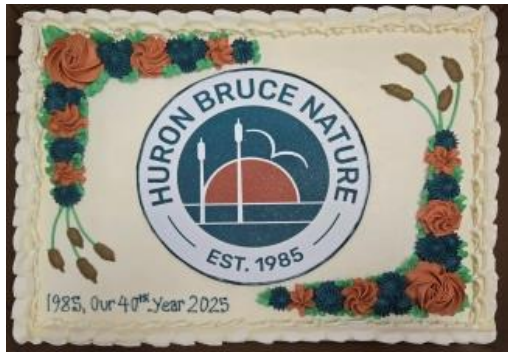
NEW CLUB CLOTHING:

Plans are underway to provide tee shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts and hats with the new logo. If you would like to order, please contact Steve Pepper at trek66.sp@gmail.com or 226 - 396-5616. Wait times for clothing orders can vary depending on time of order and supply availability for our clothing company.

~~~~~

**PAST MEETINGS:....**

~~~~~

APRIL, 26th: 40th ANNIVERSARY POTLUCK AND PRESENTATION BY MARCUS MADDELINA**Christine Roberts****Anniversary Cake Extraordinaire! C. Roberts**

After much planning and months of Throwback Thursday newsletter teasers, the big day finally arrived.

Forty years after Joe and Crystal Burgess organized the first meeting of the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists in Point Clark, the club gathered for one of its famous potluck feasts and a program of speakers and displays.

The celebration April 26th was the proverbial icing on the anniversary cake, capping a busy Earth Week that included the installation of new benches at the George G Newton Nature Reserve April 22, clean-up of Alps Park in Kincardine April 24 and leading

participation in the international City Nature Challenge April 25 to 28. Three public hikes were led by HBN guides Saturday morning: James

Turland looked for migratory birds at the Kincardine

Lagoons; Susan Greco sought out wildflowers on the North Line Extension Trails, and Michele Gade provided a tour of the trails at Geddes Park.

HBN members gathered at the Point Clark Community Centre following the walks, to enjoy a communal meal accompanied by a slide show of club photos through the years.

Jeni Pepper worked her editing magic to compile a photo album for the occasion, while Donna Murray provided a great visual display of the history of Bruce Peninsula Explorer Trips with photos, information and a map of the Bruce Peninsula marked with pins to show every place the club has explored.

Christine Roberts made a scrapbook of the media reports and photos from meetings going back to 2016 and gathered some historical information and photos to show the history of stewardship of the George G. Newton Nature Reserve.

Marcus Maddalena, Nature Reserves Manager for Ontario Nature, was the guest speaker. He inspired the

group with tales of conservation successes at nature reserves throughout the province. He emphasized the role of nature clubs to engage in advocacy with local municipal governments which, in turn, can put pressure on the provincial government.

Donna Murray created a display of the Bruce Peninsula Explorer Trip which included photos, information and a map showing every place on the peninsula explored by the group. Photo: Christine Roberts.



The second speaker was Steve Pepper with writing assistance from Jeni. The Peppers are the club's only original members and between them, have served in nearly every position on the board and executive and continue to support the operation as newsletter editor and co-organizers of the three day Bruce Peninsula Explorer Trip in May in addition to a variety of other roles.

Steve entertained the assembly with a hike down memory lane of past adventures involving mishaps and wildlife encounters.

Jeni and Steve were presented with a plaque recognizing their extraordinary contributions, which will be attached to one of the new benches recently installed at the George G Newton Nature Reserve. They were then

invited to cut the anniversary cake featuring the new logo.

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

**40th ANNIVERSARY POTLUCK AND PRESENTATION ...**



**LEFT:** Gloria Bond (L.) and Linda Campbell enjoy the bountiful array of food.



**RIGHT:** Our 40th Anniversary cake, ably arranged by Catherine Hodges, along with equally amazing cupcakes. C. Roberts photos.

**CENTRE:** Steve Pepper regales the members with tales of a few mishaps from earlier days in the Club.

**LEFT:** Marcus Maddalena, Nature Reserves Manager for Ontario Nature, inspires us with reports of successful conservation efforts at nature reserves around the province.

C. Roberts photos.



**BRENT BOWYER** caught Patricia Ross-Smith, Jane Nielsen, and Steve Pepper working at the service table. Thank you to all of the Board for their work.



**LIZ DADSON** photographed nine members of the Board for posterity. Left to right: Jane Nielsen, Susan Greco, Steve Pepper, Jayne Miltenburg, President Christine Roberts, Brent Bowyer, Rhodora Doughty, Catherine Hodges, Jeni Pepper.



President Christine Roberts, aided by her Board, was able to pull off an anniversary surprise for the Peppers in the form of a plaque thanking Steve and Jeni for their 40 year participation in varied aspects of Board membership. The plaque was later installed on a bench at the Newton Reserve. (see P. 6.) C. Roberts photos.



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

40th ANNIVERSARY POTLUCK AND PRESENTATION ...
Continued....



The bench plaque was installed on a bench in the Newton Reserve shortly after the Anniversary event. C. Roberts photo.



Rhodora Doughty quietly gathered signatures for the Peppers' Thank You card. Here, with James Turland. Brent Bowyer photo.



Members had a chance to check out the displays before the meal began. Here Christine's media collection gave a good account. Brent Bowyer photo.

A very successful and well-planned 40th Anniversary event with lots to do, see and hear, and a great and bountiful meal to boot. Thanks to all of the Board members for all their contributions and to our members for their awesome tables of food!



May 13th: annual dinner meeting: Sarah MacComb-Turbitt.



This dinner gathering was held at Camp Kintail (photo below - J. Pepper) where members partook of a hearty full-course meal prior to a great presentation. The presentation was a mix of science and wonderful videos on the U. of BC intensive study of Falklands Islands Gentoo Penguins. The videos were very well done and close up - as the Penguins are not shy!

Sarah also smilingly described the birds as being individuals. When handled, their reactions on being released ranged through them hooting at their captors, having a little shake, or looking at the people as if to say, "Why would you want to do a thing like that?!" Some stuck around to watch the rest of the proceedings. Some amazing observations were made that demonstrated how many kilometers the Penguins will travel.

(continued...)



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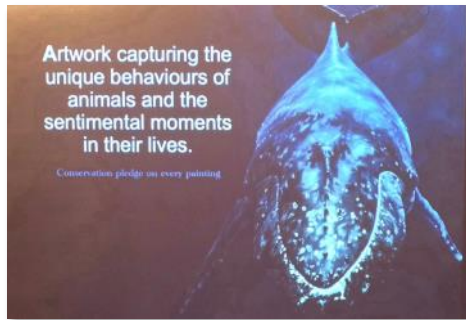
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~~~~ PAST MEETINGS... ~~~~

Annual Dinner Meeting, Continued...



Sarah is also a wildlife artist based in Owent Sound. J. Pepper photo.



Jayne Miltenburg thanks the Speaker on behalf of the Club. J. Pepper photo.

General health was studied in an effort to discover how that affected lung capacity and diving ability: length and depth of dive, and satellite transponders were used to map distances - some of which were amazing. Sarah said that Penguins can swim at 36 kph (22 mph). These birds can raise two chicks a year. There's a little more science info here: <https://oceans.ubc.ca/tag/falkland-islands/>

As everyone left, we stood outside with Sarah and her Mom, and they stood and chatted for 15 minutes or more...Sarah was saying that the Penguins have fleas....so while handling them, she was seeing several fleas on her wrist! As well, sometimes the birds had to be tucked under the arm....

Sarah also told us about WPC: <https://wildlifepreservation.ca/> and encouraged us to look online.

After her well-deserved round of applause, she was thanked by Jayne Miltenburg. Thanks to Jayne and Jane Nielsen who booked this speaker.

The picture raffle made \$130. The famous painting was won by Peter Kirkpatrick, who had bought tickets not expecting to win!

The painting has changed hands since then, so....

J. Pepper



Our hosts at Camp Kintail once again did us proud with the marvellous array of food, of which everyone took full advantage. Friendships renewed and new ones began! Another great ADM.



June 24th: G2G Rail Trail presentation

Christine Roberts

HBN completed its 2024-25 speaker series with an introduction to the G2G Rail Trail (Goderich to Guelph) June 24<sup>th</sup> by Chris Lee.

Lee is a resident of Huron County who grew up in the Walton area hearing the Canadian Pacific railway trains running from Goderich to Guelph. The original line was completed in 1907 but was decommissioned in 1988. The land was bought by the provincial government and the rail ties and bridges were removed. Access to the rail trail was piecemeal for the first decade as

individuals cared for some sections but many areas were closed. Eventually some larger municipalities along the route leased sections of the trail for recreational use.

The Goderich to Guelph Rail Trail was incorporated in 2013 as a non-profit charity formed to encourage public engagement and fundraise for projects to complete the 132 kilometer corridor. Lee was assigned the role of board vice chair and chair of the trail advisory committee. **(Continued)**



**ABOVE:** Guest speaker Chris Lee stands with the G2G Rail Trail banner.

**LEFT:** Speaker co-chairs (left) Jane Nielsen and Jayne Miltenburg speak with presenter Chris Lee following his presentation. Christine Roberts photos.

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

G2G Rail Trail presentation, cont.



The title page of Chris Lee's presentation with a map of the trail. J. Pepper photo.

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With tremendous support from local clubs and volunteers the trail was officially completed in 2021 and the entire surface groomed with stone dust. It is now part of a network of intersecting trails including the Trans Canada Trail.

Lee's presentation highlighted the many benefits of the trailway with particular emphasis on enhancement of quality of life through recreation and exercise, building connections between urban and rural populations and strengthening of historical and cultural ties.

There are many environmental benefits, as rewilding of the almost 1,000 acre track has greatly increased biodiversity and provides not only a valuable connective corridor for wildlife but also an inclusive space for humans seeking a low carbon transportation/recreation experience.

Although few in the audience were familiar with the G2G Trail, data from 2023 proved its popularity as over 250,000 users made over 600,000 visits. More information can be found at, <https://www.g2grailtrail.com/>.

Lee encouraged HBN members to explore the trail and get involved in stewardship and maintenance.



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

**APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>; 3 GUIDED WALKS FOR EARTH WEEK.**

**City Nature Challenge 2025**

**Christine Roberts**



It's this simple:  
Jim Roberts demonstrates the fun  
for this nevertheless important event:  
Go to Nature, point and shoot.  
Christine Roberts photo.

**The City Nature Challenge is an international, friendly competition** to see who can make the most observations of nature, identify the most species, and engage the most people using bio-diversity apps and platforms such as iNaturalist. Observations were made April 25-28 and the competition closed May 4 with the extra time used to upload and refine entries.

Huron Bruce Nature organized the event as the culminating activity of Earth Week which included daily, organized clean-ups in Kincardine led by KEAN (Kincardine Environmental Action Network) and the Municipality of Kincardine parks and recreation department. HBN led a clean-up of Alps Park April 24<sup>th</sup>. HBN members Susan Greco, Michele Gade and James Turland led guided hikes of area parks and trails Saturday morning, April 26.

Participation was good despite the chilly weather. During the four days of surveying, 20 people made 407 observations of 177 species of plants, animals, insects, fungi, birds and amphibians. The most observed plant was Garlic Mustard and the most observed animal was the Common Garter Snake.

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(continued)

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

### City Nature Challenge 2025....

The event produced a snapshot of bio-diversity in the Kincardine area and, hopefully, encouraged participants to explore and learn more about local nature. When the final results for Canada were tabulated, Kincardine earned an honourable mention for having the most observers per capita for the second year running.

We look forward to next year and hope for even greater participation in the 2026 City Nature Challenge.



#### LEFT:

Not even the sneakiest or smallest wildlife escaped Christine's sharp eyes on this year's City Nature Challenge.



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**ABOVE LEFT:** Susan Greco (second from left) led a group to explore wildflowers in the Northline Extension Trail network; photo by Jim Roberts.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** James Turland (centre) led a bird-focused walk around the Kincardine lagoons; photo by Becky Grieveson.

**RIGHT:** Michele Gade (right) reconnoitred the trails in Geddes Park; photo by Christine Roberts.



Membership Forms in our Issues...

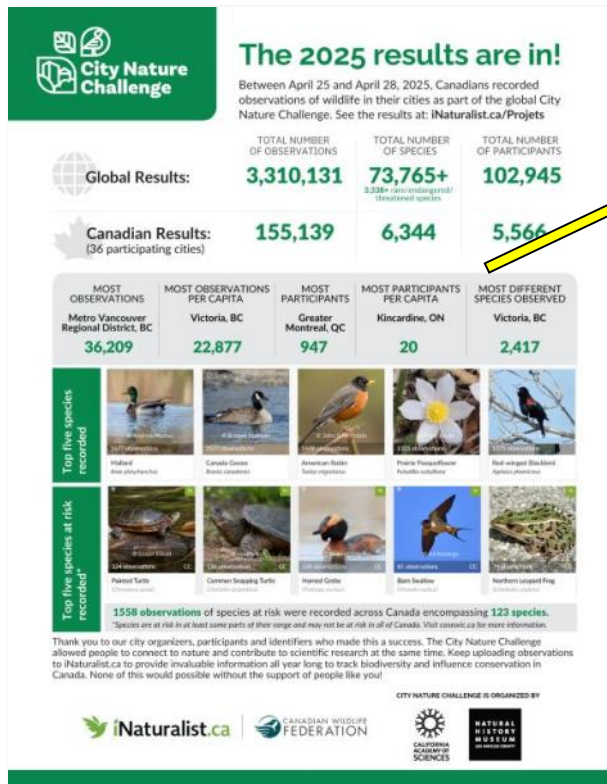
These are included in each issue for your convenience. Fill out, add your dues, and mail, email or hand in at meetings to join or renew.

Done!



~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

City Nature Challenge 2025....



City Nature Challenge 2025 Canadian highlights (provided by Canadian Wildlife Federation)

George G Newton Nature Reserve

Christine Roberts

Records from Ontario Nature archives show that the Osbaldeston family donated the land in 1982 to Ontario Nature (then the Federation of Ontario Naturalists) with the stipulation it be managed as a nature reserve. The Huron Fringe Field Naturalists began stewardship in the mid-1990s with Tom Lobb and Robert Budd leading the development of a trail network.

Plantings of native wildflowers, trees and shrubs took place over several years with large planting projects undertaken in 1998 and 2003.

The club carries out an annual inspection every spring. We look for hazards such as fallen trees blocking trails, the general condition of the trails including misuse such as

trash or damage by recreational vehicles and we make note of plant and animal species found on the property.

We also work on invasive species removal, specifically Garlic Mustard and European Buckthorn.

Garlic Mustard is pulled or mown in the spring before it flowers and goes to seed. It's probably impossible to eradicate this widespread plant but consistent removal in targeted areas over the past 5 or 6 years appears to be making an impact as there were few mature plants in evidence May 2nd and 10th. Unfortunately, we can't claim victory as there is a massive seed bank in the soil requiring continued vigilance. I'm sure when we return next year there will be a big crop to pull.

European Buckthorn is best dealt with in the late fall after most deciduous trees and shrubs have dropped their leaves. Buckthorn retains its greenery much longer, making it easier to identify.

A heavy-duty weed puller removes saplings, which are hung up in the branches of nearby trees to dry out. Ideally the larger trees are cut down and treated with chemical to deter regrowth.

The George G Newton Nature Reserve is only one of 26 reserves managed by Ontario Nature. Every winter the nature reserves management team applies for grants to fund projects on their properties. This year they were successful in obtaining funding for trail improvements, signage and buckthorn removal.

In late fall 2024, professional trail developer Zane Davies rerouted three sections of the White Pine Loop to make them more accessible and safe.

Saturday, May 10th, Ontario Nature and Huron Bruce Nature hosted a trail opening event with 31 members of



the club and public in attendance. Nature Reserves Manager Marcus Maddalena led a guided tour of the property focussing on the history of the area by settlers and subsequent reforestation efforts. Susan Greco led a second group on a wildflower walk around the main trail loop and down to the creek. She shared information on traditional medicinal uses of various plants.

Thirty-one members of the club and public attended the trail opening event co-hosted by Ontario Nature and Huron Bruce Nature. C. Roberts photo.

Continued....

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

**George G Newton Nature Reserve....**

In a separate successful funding grant, this fall more buckthorn will be removed and larger trees treated chemically. The opened space will be filled with several varieties of native shrubs. That work is planned for October; see lower section of Upcoming Outings.

It is also hoped that new signage will be installed this fall to include a trail map at the entrance, at trail intersections, and a few educational placards detailing the history of the site.

The final piece of nature reserve news is the sharing of a new commercial software tool that has been adopted by Ontario Nature, and provided to its reserve stewards. The package is called Landscape.

Stewards use the tool to document all activities within Ontario Nature properties, including those at the George G Newton Reserve. Stewards use a mobile app to document their visits to the reserve in real time, as 'events'. Typical events include periodic site visits, invasive species removal work parties, plantings, nature walks and bio-blitzes. The tool allows stewards to gather valuable information about the current state of the reserve in great detail, through the use of geo-located photographs, commentaries, and hikes logged with GPS path tracking. The range of information gathered can include things like trail safety issues, anthropogenic activity and invasive species hotspot locations.

When coupled with iNaturalist's George G. Newton project, we all can contribute to the creation of an extremely detailed and exhaustive inventory of species and create biodiversity assessments and trend lines that Ontario Nature scientists can use to track the natural history and predictions for the future evolution of the property. Ontario Nature can use all of this information as a basis for strategic planning, including grant applications.



Four new benches were installed April 22<sup>nd</sup> – (left, seated) Marshall Byle, Jim Roberts, Brent Bowyer; (left, standing) Allison Hooper, Christine Roberts (photo by Murray Jamieson)

**BELOW: Blast from the past: HFFN work crew at George G. Newton Reserve in 2010. A continual commitment over the years.**



May 10th, Wildflower Walkers led by Sue Greco (seated, second from left) The rest on Jeni and Steve's bench. C. Roberts photo.



← Treasures like these Jacks-in-the Pulpit are to be discovered at the Reserve. Photo, Barb Simpson



Catherine Hodges and Linda Campbell, with broad smiles, graced the new bench April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Credit to the photographer.

~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

Earth Week: Alps Park cleanup April 24th:



Thank you to everyone who helped clean up the park! We had an impressive turnout of thirteen members and a friend. Christine Roberts photos.



EARTH DAY WORK DAY:

Plenty of jobs big and small to do at the Newton Reserve, from bench building to repainting trail blazes. Christine Roberts wields a paint brush while Murray Jamieson, Jim Roberts and Marshall Byle build benches.



BELOW:

MAY 7th: Bluebird box day.

Thanks to Jim and Christine Roberts who shared bluebird box duty with the Peppers. Several Mouse families (probably cousins) were somewhat surprised and discombobulated but were allowed to stay till the wee ones (below) were grown to take their place in the food chain.

Pepper photos.

WHAT ARE THESE PEOPLE DOING IN THE DITCHES AND BUSH??

Bluebird box cleanup, May 7th. J. Pepper



LEFT: Trusty Recording Secretary, pen at the ready, shivers in the winds howling through the open rear door. Sympathetically photographed by C. Roberts.

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

**2025 Bruce Peninsula Explorer, May 20th - 23rd.**

**J. Pepper**



**Red Trillium, S. Miller**

**Susan Greco kindly took care of the Bruce Explorer route this year.** Sue took us to Oliphant Fen boardwalk so that we could see what was growing, but this year there was not much in the way of wildflowers or orchids, probably due to the colder Spring. We did see the plants starting to appear, and the day was sunny, if a little cool. Sue decided to skip the Petrel Point boardwalk as we were running out of time, so she then took us to Cape Croker. Sue has been there many times, so she knows the woodland trails, and also she knew that there is a screened picnic pavilion where we could have our lunch, after which we went on the short Snake Trail, which has a beaver pond and lodge, and is partially boardwalked. The people who live there have also started building small holiday cabins. These are very nice, just one bedroom and open living area with kitchen, but well equipped and built, all wood, and air conditioning. They are set on a calm inlet of Georgian Bay, across from the bluff which is in the distance, and

would be a lovely place to stay.

We arrived in Tobermory at about quarter to six, and had fifteen minutes to carry our bags into our rooms and then to get our meal. This year we went a la carte rather than having a group meal. It was very convivial, and we also had every breakfast together, and with a smaller group we could all speak to everyone instead of just a few sitting nearby. We had some good laughs.

It was supposed to rain the second day, but was okay in the morning, so we went to Singing Sands as we usually do, enjoying the sun and brisk breezes along the boardwalk.

A Sandhill Crane was spotted, not too distant. In the afternoon, the Peppers went back to their cottage to get ready for the barbecue, while everyone else took the road to the rough downhill trail that leads to Halfway Log Dump. While they were there, the weather cooled and by the time they got back, about four, it was spitting rain, so it was decided to have the barbecue in the cottage. Sue had left to go back home, as she couldn't stay, so there were eight of us in the cottage and Steve and Murray got the hamburgers done okay; it wasn't raining hard for them out on the deck, but was cold and windy.

The Peppers were not able to book the usual cabin this year; this was the first time in about 30 years that we had not been able to book 'our' cabin! So Steve had to pull some magic, and rented Sis's Cottage, which is next but one to Bruce Anchor motel, where most of the members were booked in, so very close, but when we arrived, we found it had three bedrooms: the owners (Bruce Anchor) had added a bedroom, but not updated their website. Daughter Donna stayed in the one bedroom. The cottage was well equipped. The Bruce Anchor barbecues however, are charcoal, not propane gas. There is a good barbecue area behind the motel, available on a first-come basis.

We all had a good feed with the potluck, and sat afterwards having a good chinwag. Usually we're sitting outside shivering a bit till it goes dark, but it was nice being inside, and everyone was seated.

It was definitely raining and looked set for the day on the third day, but Donna wanted to go to Little Cove, at the end of a trail we know, as the lake level is very low this year, and when that happens you can see rock formations caused by the swirling currents. So Pat Ross-Smith volunteered to go with her; they got toggled up against the rain, and off they went, and were gone for two hours or more. When they returned, they knocked on the door, came in and said, 'We need a cuppa please!' They looked a bit like drowned rats going by the state of their hair, but assured us that they were dry underneath, so there again they had had a good hike and then a good chat with us over their cuppas. Meanwhile, some of the rest of the group had been enjoying

**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, HBN, Owen Sound Field Naturalists, Rankin Resource Group, Saugeen Nature, Stratford Field Naturalists, Sunfish Lake Association, Upper Credit Field Naturalists, and Waterloo Region Nature.

The website is:

**<https://ontarionature.org/about/nature-network/>**

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

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

2025 Bruce Peninsula Explorer...

the shops, dodging the raindrops, and shortly after Donna and Pat left, we had Susan Miller and her mother Lucy knocking at our door and needing a cuppa! After another good chat, all of the group got together, and went to the Crowsnest Pub in the harbour for the great pizza.

It was our last night, and we had not had a game of Sequence, which we usually do, so Donna and Steve set up the game and were teaching Pat, who won her very first game and then won her second!

Next morning, it was breakfast and Goodbyes, and everyone set off home; the Peppers stopped in at the usual places, the huge Handicraft House Canadian craft barn, and the farm market and bakery just north of Wiarton, where they picked up sausage rolls and spinach and feta turnovers, then went to sit in the car looking out at the bay in Wiarton while munching on lunch...it was raining still.

And so another Explorer ended, a little different in number of explorers and barbecue location, but just as enjoyable. The people who could not make it were definitely missed, so...maybe next time.... ~ Ed.



Jeni & Steve Pepper, Susan Miller, Donna Murray, Susan Greco and Lucy Miller after their walk at Oliphant. Photo: Pat Ross-Smith.



Cape Croker's Snake Trail, top, and a local - Green Frog. S. Miller photos.



CENTRE:
Left, the Beaver Lodge, Cape Croker Snake Trail.
Right: One of the amazing vistas to be seen, Cape Croker.

Photos:
S. Miller



LEFT: Snake Trail viewing platform. Donna, Sue Greco, Lucy Miller.
RIGHT: Susan and Lucy Miller, Singing Sands Entrance. (Taken on Susan's phone.)



PAST OUTINGS, CONTINUED.....

2025 Bruce Peninsula Explorer...

DAY TWO



Susan Greco, Pat Ross-Smith, Donna Murray, Lucy Miller and Steve Pepper on the Singing Sands boardwalk. S. Miller photo.



Susan Miller was lucky enough to catch this Sandhill Crane taking off at Singing Sands.

Sandhill Cranes (left) are a species of North America and Siberia. They have a distinctive red crest. They stand up to 1.2 metres tall and have a two metre wingspan, slightly smaller than their cousins, the Whooping Cranes. They don't bend to hunt over water but stretch their necks to see. Their habitat is open wetlands, damp meadows, and bogs. All Sandhill Cranes in Canada are migratory, wintering in the southern US. These Cranes are prehistoric birds.
- from various online sources.
.....

BELOW: The afternoon of Day Two. Halfway Log Dump has always been a very popular place with Bruce Explorers, with some amazing views to take in and rocks to clamber on.



ABOVE: Pat Ross-Smith, Lucy Miller, Susan Greco and Donna Murray. CENTRE: Lucy made it down the rocky trail on one of her first hikes. Good job, Lucy! RIGHT: Susan on the rocks! S. Miller photos.



DAY THREE



Two damp ladies nevertheless had a great mosey around on Day Three while the more conservative group members took in the great stores in Tobermory Harbour. Right: Donna Murray on a very slippery shoreline before deciding to try a walk on groomed trails elsewhere. Left: Pat Ross-Smith at Shining Rainbow Deer Nature Preserve. Photos - 2 ladies.



Fringed Polygala: Charming flowers in small clusters if you have sharp eyes! S. Miller.

Susan Miller caught these two examples of lichen along the paths. The central one appears to be Usnea Lichen.



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

2025 Bruce Peninsula Explorer...



End of Day Three: The group felt justified in a visit to the Crow's Nest. Enjoying their pizza: From left, Gayle Jamieson, Lucy Miller, Susan Miller, Donna Murray, Pat Ross-Smith, Jeni and Steve Pepper and Murray Jamieson. Another tradition honoured. Photo by our waitress!



Y o u n g Trout Lily; Violets at home in a rock cleft; Calypso Orchid, and tiny Maidenhair Ferns hiding amongst moss. S. Miller.



May 27: Birding at Kincardine Lagoons with James Turland

Foreword: Christine Roberts



James shares his extensive knowledge and passion for birds. Jane Nielsen photo.

**Huron Bruce Nature is indeed fortunate** to have members like James Turland who generously share their time and knowledge with others. Despite the fact that he led several outings during the Huron Fringe Birding Festival, James shepherded fourteen birding enthusiasts on a lovely tour of the Kincardine Lagoons May 27<sup>th</sup>. James and son Simon really delivered the goods on this outing. We enjoyed sightings of many species, and several very accommodatingly, such as a Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak hung around for photos. The cedar waxwings were particularly plentiful and entertained us as they rustled in the bushes next to the trail. The bridge lookout never disappoints in the spring with sightings of many species of warblers. We always enjoy learning from James' extensive understanding of birds and plants and once again participants came away with more knowledge and appreciation for the unique birding hotspot in our own backyard.

HBN Spring Migrant Walk

**Leaders: James and Simon Turland**

**We couldn't have asked for a better day for the HBN Spring Migrant Walk.** The trees were bursting with colour—tanagers, orioles, warblers, and buntings moved through the canopy, many of them singing enthusiastically just metres from where we stood. It was the kind of day that reminds birders why spring migration is so thrilling.

**(Continued...)**

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

HBN Spring Migrant Walk...



Ann Scanlon caught this great shot of a Scarlet Tanager.



← Catherine Hodges got a shot of our interested birders on the bridge.

BELOW: Birders line up for a group photo by Christine Roberts.

In total, we recorded 52 species—most seen, but some only heard. Notably, species like The Northern Waterthrush was detected by calls alone, as typical of the species it was hidden low in the swamp. Among the highlights were five species of flycatchers: Olive-sided Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe and Least Flycatcher. A particularly showy male Scarlet Tanager stole the spotlight as he darted mid-air for insects, flaunting his brilliant plumage right in front of us. The Olive-sided Flycatcher, true to form, repeatedly returned to the same perch after aerial foraging. Cedar Waxwings seen feasting on blooms were abundant, The songs of Chestnut-sided Warblers and American Redstarts rang out, staking claims to breeding territory.



A lone Green Heron blessed us with a picturesque pose atop a snag. The walk officially began at 8:30 AM, but the day started earlier for some.

I took the opportunity to scout the rail trail by bike. The late-leaving walnut trees in the dunes provided exceptional visibility compared to the already leafy canopy nearby. It made ideal conditions for spotting migrants. Migration can be quiet, but often we're treated to full-on musical performances, even from birds just passing through. While some birders relish the dawn chorus, others find peace in quieter moments—like watching the woodcock's aerial display at twilight. All in all it was a wonderful morning of birding.

Thanks to all who came out.

Cheers, James.

June 12th: Maher Brothers Fern Walk. Patricia Leonard



Thank you so much, Susan, for 'discovering' and organizing our HBN outing to the Maher Homestead this week. The sun shone down, the birds sang and chipmunks ran about as we were graciously welcomed to the Maher's extended family century home and farm. Brothers Claire and Brian enthusiastically took us on tours of the extensive fern gardens, (cultivated over many years by their father Nels Maher,) pond areas, the Saugeen River and historical and new tree plantings, demonstrating their intensive efforts to return the land to its pre-farming and 2009 post-tornado state. At every turn on the many trails we learned about the animals, trees and birds and how Mother Nature helps and hinders their efforts. Mostly we were overwhelmed at the brothers' efforts to help Mother Nature, but also the many heartwarming loving references to their parents, grandparents, and extended family and how all this work is to honour their legacy.

Maidenhair Fern, Susan Greco photo

(continued...)

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

**Maher Brothers Fern Walk**

And if all that wasn't enough, we were treated to bottomless glasses of elderberry wine, a buffet of gourmet fiddleheads, charcuterie, delicious home-made desserts, and door prizes!

All in all, it was a wonderful day with the Maher/Weir family, providing us a substantial Eden of respite, enthusiasm, hard work and respect for education and Mother Nature in our ever-worrisome world condition. The family members we met can truly be proud. A huge thank you the Maher Brothers and family!

**Donna Murray kept a record of birds and butterflies encountered:**

American Redstart  
Blue Jay  
Mourning Warbler  
Indigo Bunting  
Orchard Oriole  
Baltimore Oriole  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Northern Cardinal  
Song Sparrow  
Ovenbird  
Red-Eyed Vireo  
Rose-Breasted Grosbeak  
Magnolia Warbler  
Eastern Towhee

Great Crested Flycatcher  
Common Yellowthroat  
Cedar Waxing  
Whitebreasted Nuthatch  
American Goldfinch  
Robin  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Common Grackle  
Canada Goose  
Black-Capped Chickadee  
Blue Azure Butterfly  
Painted Lady Butterfly



This wonderful walk took in not only the great variety of ferns but provided ample photo opportunities. Here, Susan Greco did justice to the lily-filled pond with its Blue Flag.

Elsewhere there was blossom being enjoyed by varied pollinators, as Gloria Bond found along the way. (below.)



**Attendees on the Maher Fern Walk:**

Patricia Evans  
Patricia Leonard  
Sally McCallum  
Gloria Bond  
B. & B. Simpson  
Jane Nielsen  
Jayne Miltenburg  
Cathy Cooper  
Shirley Vogan  
Annette Schielke  
Yvonne Bieman  
Donna Murray



Yvonne Bieman's sharp eyes and fast shutter caught some wonders.

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

Maher Fern Walk...

Brian Maher kindly followed up the day's outing with some wonderful photos of Showy Ladyslippers which had not been in bloom on the day. Truly awesome!



July 2nd Outing to Oliphant Fen and Petrel Point:

Yvonne and Lloyd Holbrook kindly compiled a list of plants seen:

Lobelia
Harebell
Wood Lily } 
Showy Ladyslipper
Grass Pink Orchid
Ladies' Tresses Orchid
Birdsfoot Trefoil
Yarrow
Meadow Rue
Tall white Bog Orchid



Great shots from Yvonne Bieman and Huron Bruce Nature's intrepid Outings Co-Ordinator, Susan Greco, who needs no excuse to head north for a look at what special wildflowers and plants might be seen at Oliphant Fen and Petrel Point.

No matter what the season - as long as it's not covered in snow - these wonderful fens are sure to have something or other to see and marvel at or to check on the photo ID boards.

Below, Sue has supplied photos of the Tall White Bog Orchid which is usually shy about a May appearance on our way to Tobermory for the Bruce Explorer.



Pitcher Plant vying with Grass Pinks to catch dinner. Good catch, Yvonne.



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

**Oliphant Fen and Petrel Point...**

This charming Grass Pink Orchid, caught by Yvonne. Great shot!



*Yvonne Bieman*

**Inverhuron River Trail, August 27th**

**Susan Greco**

We had a perfect morning for hiking the River Trail. Observing plants now gone to seed and the upcoming fall wildflowers beginning... a reminder that it would soon be September. Stepping off the River Trail, crossing over the bridge to sand dunes and beach, my hopes of seeing my new flower discovery to show my fellow walkers was rewarded. There it was on either side of the trail before the bridge: the Meadow (or Sandbog) Death Camas. Stunning, but as the name suggests can be deadly if mistaken for Blue Camas, which has identical onion-like bulbs which are perfectly edible and sought by foragers.

**Below: DEATH CAMAS**

Death Camas plants are found in much of western North America. All parts of the plant are toxic. Even bees can be fatally poisoned by the nectar, apart from one species - the Death Camas Miner Bee.

**Do not touch!**



**Below: Picture at the Dunes:**

Jaquie Clements. Yvonne and Dan Bieman (back), Rhodora Doughty, Shirley Vogan. Susan Greco photo.



Bob Simpson's photos of a Snapper sunning on the beach, and a Painted Turtle that Bob kindly relocated from his driveway to the lake at Inverlyn Lakes Estates.





# 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 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!



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



HURON FRINGE NATURE WAS STARTED IN 1985 BY PEOPLE WHO ENJOYED GOING OUT IN NATURE AND FINDING NEAT THINGS! That, along with conservation and environmental issues, is what we still enjoy today. So, if you're out and about and discover something that stops you in your tracks....take a picture before you travel on, and send it to us here at Fringe Notes:- [beechleajlp@gmail.com](mailto:beechleajlp@gmail.com) making sure your name and where you found your 'neat thing' are included!

*Thanks - Editor*

THANK YOU  
TO BARB AND BOB SIMPSON,  
FOR YOUR EXEMPLARY SER-  
VICE TO HURON FRINGE  
FIELD NATURALISTS AND  
HURON BRUCE NATURE,  
SINCE 2015.



YOUR PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE:  
Send photos to:  
[beechleajlp@gmail.com](mailto:beechleajlp@gmail.com)  
including your name and the  
story of the photo. Thanks!

## Photo contest Photo contest Photo contest Photo contest

SUBJECT FOR 2025: 'NATURE IN MY BACKYARD'.



Contest takes place at the February LUNCH meeting and Potluck. Each member may enter 2 prints sized 4X6".

The content must be Canadian, and the prints may include some editing to enhance the image, but must remain photo-realistic. Photos do not need to be mounted. Please write your name on the back. Each member attending the February meeting has 3 votes to determine a first, second and third place winner. Winners will be photographed with winning entries. If willing and able to share with the newsletter editor, their photos are included in the next newsletter. Send photos to: [beechleajlp@gmail.com](mailto:beechleajlp@gmail.com) noting your name and where the photo was taken.



At least two of our members enjoyed the Kincardine Garden Tour this past while. Pat Ross-Smith and Linda Campbell had a lovely walk on that quite hot day.



# 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 [limeysue2000@yahoo.ca](mailto:limeysue2000@yahoo.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!



## "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

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 Pat Ross-Smith, our Membership Co-ordinator, at any meeting. The address for the e-transfer: [hbn2025business@gmail.com](mailto:hbn2025business@gmail.com)

### Membership renewals ....

**MEMBERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR:**  
**Pat Ross-Smith, (647) 234-0547**

Membership/renewal forms are included in each issue, or catch up with Pat at one of the meetings. *Renewals are generally made in September, as that is the start of our season.*

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, Pat Ross-Smith,  
(647) 234-0547

*Thanks .... Pat*

### 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 2025 to SEPTEMBER 2026

....or CATCHUP? ☐

Huron Bruce Nature,  
C/O: G. Bond, 659 Abbey Road,  
Kincardine, Ontario N2Z 1P4

Payment can also be e-transferred to Huron Bruce Nature  
at: [hbn2025business@gmail.com](mailto:hbn2025business@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. April, 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: 7:15 pm.



Feed the Frog!  
Beverages: 2.00; treats: free.



### **FALL/WINTER WEATHER CAUTION:**

BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR A MEETING, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT IT IS NOT CANCELLED! WE WILL EMAIL UP TO THE LAST MINUTE.... IF NOT ONLINE, PLEASE CALL ANY MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE. THERE MAY BE NOBODY AT THE HALL.

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

Please note that all regular meetings are held on the FOURTH Tuesday of the month.

Tuesday, Oct.28<sup>th</sup>: Shannon Wood will do a talk on the Greenock Swamp. Ontario's largest forested wetland, Greenock Swamp stretches across 20,000 acres of wilderness.



Tuesday, Nov.25<sup>th</sup>: Tamara from Firmly Rooted Farm in North Huron. They grow vegetables & berries on their 7 acre farm. They supply organic vegetables to locals through weekly food boxes, and provide a number of local restaurants with their 40 different veggies. [firmlyrooted.ca](http://firmlyrooted.ca) is their website.



2026:



February 2026:

Our first meeting of the new year is a lunchtime potluck, hobby display and photo contest. Details will be emailed closer to the time.

Bring a casserole, salad or dessert and your dishes, napkin and cutlery. The theme of the 2026 photo contest is **NIMBY: Nature in My Back Yard**. Explore nature close to home this year.

See the Membership Page for details on how to enter your photos.



2015 Photo Contest entries

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, and with its ever-popular Annual Corn Roast. This will be notified in advance by email. Bring your dishes and a chair!

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



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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....

AND MORE!

EMAIL: [info@commonplacekincardine.ca](mailto:info@commonplacekincardine.ca)

INSTAGRAM: [@commonplace.kincardine](https://www.instagram.com/commonplace.kincardine).

FACEBOOK: [commonplace market](https://www.facebook.com/commonplace.kincardine)



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

### ~~~ UPCOMING OUTINGS ~~~

#### 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)

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 ~~~

### Oct. 2nd - Bowyer property tour



**HBN exec. member Brent Bowyer** has invited us to join him on a tour of his unique forested property in the Maitland Valley area/headwaters of the Teeswater River. Brent and wife Carol see a variety of wildlife passing through regularly: deer, raccoons, groundhogs, sandhill cranes and many songbirds, and (very occasionally) opossums, mink, fishers, and wandering cattle from a neighbour's farm. Red-backed salamanders can often be found under a rock or rotted log. They never quite know what they can expect to see next and when!

On the tour we will get to stand on a quaking bog with carnivorous sundew and pitcher plants, and there is a possibility we may find puffballs, and what else...? Well come along and see! Bring a packed lunch to enjoy in a pioneer log cabin, or outside, as weather dictates, halfway through our tour!

**Meet:** at Sobeys 9.30 a.m. if you're in Kincardine; if you are in closer proximity to Brent's, then arrive there at 10.30 am. Brent's address is **39245 Turnberry Culross Rd. West** (GPS sometimes sends people to the east side of hwy. 4) Google a map yourself or one will be sent closer to the time.

**RSVP:** Please let me know your interest to come. Sue 905 967 5094 text or call email [limeysue2000@yahoo.ca](mailto:limeysue2000@yahoo.ca)

**Dress for weather, sturdy waterproof footwear, walking sticks/poles, long pants and bug spray.**

### Saturday, October 4th: Guided tour of Folmer's Landscaping, Botanical Gardens and Garden Centre. (rain date, Oct. 5th)

**This is a rare opportunity to experience** the largest privately owned botanical gardens in Southwestern Ontario. Owner Brian Folmer and Maitland Valley Conservation Authority Watershed (MVCA) Ecologist Erin Gouthro will take us on a guided tour of this incredible property containing rare Carolinian and diverse native plant species, beautiful natural features, extensive plantings and construction projects.

**Time:** 10:30 am to afternoon (Sunday rain date 1:00 pm)

**Location:** 2668 Hwy 9, Walkerton

To carpool, meet at Sobey's parking lot in Kincardine at 9:45 am.

**Bring:** A lunch and water bottle

**Cost\*\*:** \$11 members, \$17 non-members (\*Please note a slight change in pricing. I didn't realize HST would be charged)

**Wear:** Sturdy shoes, dress for the weather, bring walking poles

**RSVP to Christine Roberts, [christineroberts153@gmail.com](mailto:christineroberts153@gmail.com), 519-395-5008 (home), 226-939-0202 (cell)**

### SAVE THE DATES:

**Invasive species removal** (European Buckthorn) at George G Newton Nature Reserve: Manual removal of small trees with extractors



Work crew, Newton Reserve,  
April 2017, C. Roberts photo.

**Friday, October 24,** 10 am to early afternoon. Some cutting of small trees with hand saws may take place. Ontario Nature staff may work with chain saws to cut down larger specimens. Bring a lunch. A porta potty will be on site.

### Sunday, October 26,

10 am to early afternoon. Ontario Nature staff will treat stumps chemically while we fill in cleared areas with native shrubs and trees. Bring a lunch. More details will follow.

**NOTE: Keep an eye on your Inbox for pop-up walks, hikes and work parties.**