



# Fringe Notes

**MARCH, 2008**

*HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS, Box 143, Kincardine ON. N2Z 2Y6*  
~~ Founded 1985 ~~



**New Members**  
Don Rintoul  
of Kincardine  
David Haynes  
of Kincardine  
**WELCOME!**

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**We're on the Web!**  
**SEE US AT:**  
[www.huronstewardship.on.ca](http://www.huronstewardship.on.ca)

**President's message....**  
Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate in November and January. The good news is that Spring is just around the corner. Joy will reschedule those speakers for another meeting.  
Thanks to those who braved the weather for the Christmas Bird Count and to Ralph Knowles for organizing and collating the results. Most interesting! Please see the insert/ attachment.  
The Executive has organized a busy Spring for you. We appreciate any input you may have. Enjoy! Happy Easter!  
- Maithel Lee



**Bird Studies Canada: Thanks to Barbara and Dwight Neufeld**  
  
Over 80 clubs across Canada raised \$215,000 in 2007. From January to August 2007, \$1,048.05 was raised by participants designating Huron Fringe Field Naturalists. Of this amount, \$262.01 was returned to us as our organization's share of the proceeds. Special thanks to Barbara and Dwight Neufeld, once again, for participating and raising money for our mutual benefit. The HFFN executive has used this Birdathon proceeds in 2 ways. \$150 is being donated to Cabot Head, once again (a yearly donation). Another \$150 is being donated to the publication of a brochure titled "The Bruce Trail at Dyer's Bay" to be distributed at the Bruce Peninsula Birding Observatory; a request by Janice McKean.

**UNIVERSITY of GUELPH ARBORETUM:**  
**The Arboretum's Seasonal Program** Spring & Summer 2008 can be downloaded at [www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum](http://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum) The Arboretum spans 408 acres (8.2 k. signed trails) and admission is free.



**MacGregor Point Provincial Park**  
We are fortunate to have several Provincial Parks in our area. MacGregor is open to the public all year and has an active program. This year they are planning:  
1 - **The Huron Fringe Birding Festival** May 24 to June 1  
2 - On June 14 the **Friends Annual General Meeting** with Chris Hughes as guest speaker.  
3 - **The butterfly count** will be July 12<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of July 13<sup>th</sup>.  
4 - **Wild for the Arts Festival** September 20 and 21.  
5 - **RV'ing Year Round** workshop- October 24 and 25.  
Check them out at: [www.friendsofmacgregor.org](http://www.friendsofmacgregor.org)



**Ontario Parks (M.N.R. announces the release of the approved vegetation management plan for Inverhuron Provincial Park.**  
Copies of the approved vegetation plan may be viewed at the Ontario Parks website at: [www.OntarioParks.com/planning](http://www.OntarioParks.com/planning) or are available from : Norah Toth, Natural Heritage Education Specialist, MacGregor Point Provincial Park, RR 1, Port Elgin, ON. N0H 2C5  
**Tel:** (519) 389-6231 **FAX:** (519) 389-9057 **E-mail:** [norah.toth@ontario.ca](mailto:norah.toth@ontario.ca)

*What would the world be,  
once bereft  
Of wet and wildness?  
Let them be left,  
O let them be left,  
wildness and wet;  
Long live the weeds and  
the wilderness yet.*  
- Gerard Manley Hopkins



## HFFN Executive

**President:**  
Maithel Lee Wilson 395-5086

**Past President:**  
J. Campbell

**Vice-President:** OPEN

**Secretary:**  
Jayne Miltenburg 529-3241

**Treasurer**  
Rhodora Doughty 396-4368

**Membership:**  
Dennis Donnelly 396-8265

**Speakers & Outings:**  
Tom Lobb 482-3342  
Joy Munn 395-3570  
Jim Armstrong 396-5856

**Newsletter:**  
Jeni Pepper 395-5616

**Member-at-Large:**  
Greta Thurber 395-4144

~~~~~  
**Social Convenors:**  
Pat Armstrong 396-5856  
Elaine Holmes 396-7107

**Ontario Nature (FON) Rep:**  
Tom Lobb 482-3342

**Website Administrator/  
Email reminders:**  
Steve Pepper 395-5616

**Advertising:**  
Elaine Holmes 396-7107

~~~~~  
Fringe Notes is published  
three times a year for  
members of HFFN.  
Membership is \$12/ year for  
single and \$18/ year for  
family.



## OUTING REPORTS

### EAGLE WATCH- Saturday February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008

Ten members enjoyed a sunny but brisk afternoon looking for eagles. Although not as successful as previous years we did see four or five out on the ice at Baie Du Dore. In the trees where the eagles usually are was one Red Tail Hawk. There were lots of deer by the Bruce Power enclosure. Wild turkeys were also spotted. It was great to be out in the sun. -Jim



### Stewardship Workshop

On Tuesday February 26th, 2008 at our monthly meeting we were presented with a workshop using the Huron County Landowner Stewardship Guide. The Stewardship Guide was developed by: Huron County, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, Maitland River regional partners, Friends of the Bayfield River, Huron Stewardship Council, Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation and the University of Guelph. ([www.huronstewardship.on.ca](http://www.huronstewardship.on.ca)). Mary Ellen Foran provided us with a comprehensive Stewardship Guide that gave us important environmental tools to evaluate our property in order to make small changes that have a big impact. We are looking forward to the follow-up telephone call regarding our own personal action plan, and to receiving either a free bur oak or white pine.  
-Maithel Lee

## Upcoming OUTINGS and EXCURSIONS

### Swans at the Lambton Museum- Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup>. 2008

**Contact:** Jim Armstrong 519-396-5856 or Tom Lobb 519-482-3342  
**When:** Carpool from the Pine River United Church at 9:00 am or the Suncoast Mall, Goderich at 9:45 am.

**Details:** This is a good opportunity to see Tundra Swans as they migrate north. We will tour by car along the flooded fields of the old Thedford Bog south of Grand Bend. The Museum will be open with its interesting displays and exhibits. There are washrooms in the Museum. Bring a lunch. There usually are drinks to be purchased. There is a fee for the Museum. \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for children.



### Hullett Wildlife Area - Saturday, March 29, 2008

**Where:** Meet at the viewing stand on the West side of the waterfowl sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. Those from the North may wish to carpool from Pine River Church at 9:00 am.

**Directions:** HWA is 5 km North of Clinton on Hwy. 4, then turn East on Summerhill Road and go 4 km to the parking lot of the viewing stand. **(Watch for the HFFN sign.)**

**Leader:** Tom Lobb 519-482-3342

**Details:** We should see swans, geese, several duck species, and other early migrants. Bring binoculars, scopes, and a lunch. **If the weather is poor (or the ponds still frozen) we will reschedule for Saturday, April 12.** (Events cont. p. 3...)



**Point Clark Lighthouse and Museum Tour and Shoreline Walk**  
**Saturday April 5, 1:00 pm**

Our club is hosting the Ontario Nature Great Lakes West Regional Meeting. Tom and Maithel Lee will be there, representing our club. After the meeting, we have organized a tour of the lighthouse and museum for our guests. We are opening the tour to our HFFN membership. Tom and I will bring our guests to the lighthouse at the conclusion of our meeting. Hope to see you there.

**Group leader:** Jack Campbell  
**Contact:** Maithel Lee Wilson 519-395-5086

**Kincardine Lagoon, Saturday May 17, 2008, 9:00 am.**

**Where:** Meet at Highway Variety on Queen Street Kincardine and leave there for the lagoons.  
**Contact:** Glen Holmes 396-7107 or Jim Armstrong 396-5856  
**Details:** Glen will lead us on this always-popular outing to the sewage lagoons and the old railway trail. It is an easy and casual walk. There are no washrooms along the trail. You may want to bring some birdseed, as the birds are always willing for a close encounter when there is food available.



**Canoe at Isaac Lake, Tuesday June 3rd, 2008, 9:00 a.m.**

**Contact:** Art Doughty 396-4368 or Linden Thurber 519-395-4144  
**When:** Meet at Kincardine Zehr's parking lot, 9:00am.  
**Details:** We need to know who wants to go, on what has become an annual Event, and who is bringing a canoe along on this outing to observe shore and marsh birds.



**Geocache Hike, Saturday, June 14, 2008, 10:00 a.m.**

**Where:** Meet at the parking lot at the intersection of **Huron Road** (Hwy 8) and **Sharpe's Creek Line** at Holmesville at **10:00 am**.  
**Leader:** Tom Lobb (519-482-3342)  
**Details:** We will hike the Lobb nature trails along the Maitland River and attempt to locate a hidden treasure box using GPS. After a picnic lunch, we will hike the nature trail at the Lobb golf course (Woodlands Links) where a Geocache box is also hidden.  
**Notes:** Trails are easy walking. Bring bug spray.  
Washrooms and refreshments available at the golf course.



**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. Bring your treaded hiking shoes or boots along...just in case!  
**OUTING CHECKLIST:** binoculars, bird/plant/other book, bug repellent, hat, water, hiking stick, sunglasses, hanky, area map, snacks, thermos (in car), waist/backpack, boots for rough/wet terrain. In Spring and Fall: rain slicker, gloves.



**~ ~ ~ REGULAR MEETINGS ~ ~ ~** (next page...)  
*Regular meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Pine River United Church on Hwy 21.*  
Social Time: 7. 30 pm ~~~~~ Meeting: 8:00 pm  
**LUG-A-MUG ... BRING YOUR OWN MUG TO THE MEETING!**



March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Donald Kirk

**Southern Brazil – National Parks and Natural History** Donald recently visited Southern Brazil, an area with an amazing diversity of landscapes and ecosystems, including the Atlantic Coastal Rain Forest or "Mata Atlantica", one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. Don's visual journey will take us from Rio to the nearby coastal mountain rain forests, outstanding national parks, cerrado (savanna) habitats of the interior, waterfalls such as the world famous Iquacu Falls, as well as the Pantanal, one of the largest inland wetlands in the world.



**WRIST WATCH DONATIONS FOR THE AMAZON, PERU (MARCH MEETING)**

Linda Lownds says: If you have any old wrist watches that you no longer need/use ... please bring them to the March meeting of the Fringe Naturalists. They will be given a good home and cherished. I will take any watches collected to the Amazon on the May trip to donate them to folks in Iquitos. Batteries can be purchased there very inexpensively, so do not worry if the watch is not operational. Wrist watches are an ideal item to take to give to folks in town and they are easy to transport. Most people cannot afford them but a watch certainly is a useful item for those living in the city. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!



**Tuesday April 22, 2008 – Annual General Meeting, 7:00 p.m.**

**Venue: St. Peter's Anglican Church Hall, Lucknow**

**Roast Beef Dinner** catered by the St. Peter's Church Ladies

**Speaker:** Dr. Alan Watson from the University of Guelph

**Topic:** 'Motmots, Manakins and Scarlet Ibis'; Flora and Fauna of Trinidad and Tobago

**Bring:** 1. an inexpensive, nature-related gift per person attending, for the gift exchange.

2. any watches for Linda Lownds to take to the Amazon (see enclosed write-up, above)

**Draw Prizes: Tickets: \$2 each or 3 for \$5.** Thanks to Linda Lownds, once again, for bringing a few items back from the Amazon.

**Cost:** Even though the price of the meal has increased by \$2, we will keep the price at **\$15**. Tickets will be available at the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting or call/email Maithel Lee to reserve your ticket(s). 395-5086

**Directions:** Coming from Amberley to Lucknow, turn left just past the arena onto Stauffer St. (Bruce Rd. #1). Turn right onto Wheeler; left onto Outram St.; left on Hamilton St. The Hall is behind the church (592 Outram St.) on Hamilton St.



**Bio of PROFESSOR ALAN WATSON, DIRECTOR**

**As** a faculty member in the Department of Environmental Biology, Dr. Watson lectures about nature interpretation, Fisheries and Wildlife Management and Forestry and Conservation. He is an Affiliate Teaching Faculty member of the Oceanographic Centre at Nova Southeastern University in Florida where he teaches two on-line Environmental Education graduate courses and a graduate course in Coastal Zone Interpretation.

- research interests include the behavioural ecology of harbour porpoises and the distribution and abundance of Ontario's trees
- supervises the Ontario Tree Atlas Project and Elm Recovery Project based at The Arboretum
- involved in sustainable tourism from both the practitioner and researcher sides
  - led whale and seabird tours of the north shore of the St. Lawrence, 'eco-tours' in Costa Rica and Nevis, West Indies
  - led birdwatching tours in southern Ontario during the spring migration
  - led nature tours to **Trinidad and Tobago** and the Magdalen Islands. He has concerns about the influence of tourism in the West Indies, and has been an advisor with the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society's development of an eco-tourism strategy.
- received the Richards Education Award from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists in recognition of an of of an exceptional contribution in natural history education.



**REGULAR MEETINGS, Cont.**

**May 27, 2008**

>>> **PLANT SALE!** <<<

**Professor Erica Andrews speaks to us on 'Whales'**

Erica shares her experiences for the last 18 summers as a volunteer assisting with whale research off Brier Island in the Bay of Fundy.

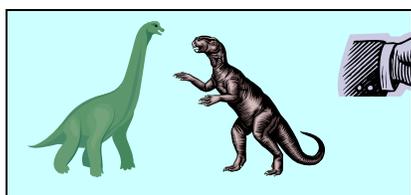


**Plant sale:** We would appreciate your donation to the plant sale. Items we suggest are:

- Vegetable garden seedlings
- Perennials
- Indoor plants
- Gently used garden tools
- Garden magazines



Contact Wendy Hogenbirk 396-8759 or Maitheil Lee 395-5086



**Is your Membership 'Extinct'?**

**To verify your HFFN membership expiry date**, check your mailing label. You will see beside your name either a '08' or '09' which denotes when you are paid up until, i.e. April 08, April 09. The membership year runs from May 1 to April 30.

We hope that you will consider renewing your membership. Mail to:

**Huron Fringe Field Naturalists,  
P.O. Box 143, Kincardine, Ontario N2Z 2Y6**

By doing this you will help ensure having a continued roster of top quality speakers. Other clubs have increased their dues by quite a lot, so if you could help recruit new members it would help keep dues low. Thanks to all for your continued support of your club.



Eagle Watch watcher (Holmes)

**BITS 'n BOBS....pickin's, snippets and queries, et al....**



**A HARDY CREW:** These intrepid HFFN members had a cold but sunny day out at Baie Du Dore on February 23 for the 2008 Eagle Watch. *Photo: Glen Holmes.*



**SIGHTINGS**

\*We have a reported sighting of a Common Redpoll.

**Also seen:**

\* Canada Geese - in January, inland, during a break in the bad weather; and also a flock of about seventy geese aloft over fields near Hwy 21 between Pt. Clark and Kincardine.

\* Large flock of Starlings, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, Hwy 21 N. of Goderich, a small tree 2/3 covered in birds and many more in gravel under the tree.

\* This winter, we (Peppers) tied nylon 'string' from the bottoms of our hanging feeders to their posts, prior to the forecasted high winds; these helped prevent feeders from swinging and damage, and also helped birds to feed, as the feeders were then more stable in the winds.

