



## Enjoying Nature in Huron-Bruce!



# THE HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS' FRINGE NOTES

FALL into  
WINTER, 2015...  
WALKS, MEETINGS  
&  
POTLUCKS  
~~~~~  
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### LIKE TO JOIN US?

**HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS MEETS THE 4TH TUESDAY OF FEB., MAR., APR., MAY & JUNE, AND SEPT., OCT., & NOV., AT PINE RIVER UNITED CHURCH, HWY 21\*\*. MEMBERSHIP IS NOMINAL. (EXECUTIVE CONTACT NUMBERS & MORE INFO INSIDE.)**  
\*\*except April, Annual Dinner at another venue.



From our **PRESIDENT**,  
**Gina Dalkin-Davis**

Chill is in the air today. Trees are turning gold, orange and scarlet; yellow fronds

of Goldenrod and purple Asters wave as I obey the tyrannical *FitBit®* and do my daily 10,000 steps. The air is heavy with the scent of clover in the fields along the road.



I couldn't help but notice the low numbers in butterflies this year. Our member Tom Lobb confirms this. He attended this year's **Butterfly Count**. Although many volunteers had turned out for this event, Tom reported that the actual count was very low. I've counted less than a dozen Monarchs visiting my back yard to feed among the Joe Pye Weed. (Photos courtesy of Wikipedia.org)



Mother Nature has twisted the hues of late summer into skeins of autumn gold. But really, nature's weaver started this seasonal change



back in August. Brilliantly punctuating the landscape, the bright orange berries of the Sea Buckthorn trees contributed to our Huron County summer's golden threads. Then, on our trip to **Golden Orchard on August 25<sup>th</sup>** we caught the first glimpses of the fall season. Nestled just north of Whitechurch in the rolling hills of North Huron, the **Sea Buckthorn Farm** presented Huron Fringe members with a delightful couple of hours learning about the many beneficial properties of Sea Buckthorn berries. To learn about the healing properties of Sea Buckthorn, Golden Orchard's website is [www.thehealingarc.com](http://www.thehealingarc.com). ▶▶▶

### UPCOMING EVENTS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Full details inside.

#### MEETINGS:

Sept. 22: Brian Salt, *Wildlife Rehabilitation*  
Oct. 27: Monique Aarts, *Species at Risk*  
Nov. 24: Rachel White, *The Maitland River*

#### OUTINGS:

October 4th: Goderich Cemetery  
Oct. 17th: Birding & Potluck, Pt. Clark

TITLE PHOTO CREDIT: Child choosing his pumpkin, Port Elgin farm market, J. Pepper



## PLEASE NOTE:

IF YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OR  
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OUR CONTACT DETAILS ARE BELOW.

### H.F.F.N. EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONTACT NUMBERS:

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Marion Fink 395-3701

Vice-President:

(Open position)

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Jackie Clements 396-3655

Treasurer:

Rhodora Doughty 396-4368

Memberships:

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Outings:

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(1 Open position)

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Bob Simpson 396-5486

Margie Visser 395-3173

Newsletter Editor:

Jeni Pepper 395-5616

Member-at-Large:

(1 Open position)

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Email reminder (volunteer):

Steve Pepper 395-5616

Advertising:

Elaine Holmes 396-7107

>> *Our Club Executive is always ready to welcome new members with fresh thoughts and ideas! We meet three times a year over lunch, and new Executive members are given any help they may need for whatever assistance they may wish to give. <<*

### **FRINGE NOTES**

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### President's Comments, Cont.:



By the time these notes go to press we will have enjoyed our annual **Corn Roast** at the Zinn property. This outing is a very popular, much-looked-forward-to event. Following rambles along the woodland trails we gather to enjoy the fragrant and flavourful corn, courtesy of Tom Lobb. Of course, the table groans under the weight of various tasty pot luck offerings...

Looking forward, we have a number of interesting events lined up. **Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>** is the date of the annual Point Clark bird count followed by a pot luck lunch.

Our Speaker Co-ordinators Margie Visser and Bob Simpson have a great autumn and winter line up. Kicking off our monthly meeting on **September 22<sup>nd</sup>**, **Brian Salt** of the Salthaven wildlife rescue centre in Mount Brydges will be our guest speaker. Then on October 20<sup>th</sup>, **Monique Aarts of Grand Bend** will speak on reptiles. **Rachel White of Huron Stewardship Council** will be speaking about the Maitland River and 'The oasis in our back yard'. That's on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

Let me tell you about our new Huron Fringe Field Naturalist initiative. We're on Facebook. Look us up at "**Huron Naturalists**".

~ Gina



Members of the  
Huron Fringe Field  
Naturalists (and  
three new friends!)  
visiting the Golden  
Orchard, August  
2015



\*\*\*\*\*

This Great Blue Heron was seen and captured by Onno Visser as it scanned the waters at the Inverlyn Lakes subdivision, Kincardine. Standing at 39 - 52", these birds have a 70" wingspan and most fly south in the winter. Remaining birds often perish in severe winters. Feeds on fish, frogs, small mammals, reptiles and the odd bird. Nests usually in trees, sometimes on the ground or in reed beds. They fly with their necks folded, unlike Sandhill Cranes, which stretch their necks to fly.



## PAST MEETINGS:

### Annual Dinner Meeting, Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup>

**This year's ADM** was held at a new venue -- Lucknow United Church.



Approximately 63 members and guests enjoyed an excellent dinner consisting of Roast beef and Turkey with all the trimmings, and this was followed by awesome desserts.

Thank you to the United Church members for serving such a great meal.

Our guest speaker for the evening was



Steve Irvine. Steve's fascinating presentation covered his many approaches to Nature Photography. Steve's slide presentation included slides showing his digital photos taken by his pin hole photography cameras, night photography shots, photos of fireflies in a jar, and photography in general. Steve also outlined how he and a friend constructed the Keppel Henge In a sheep pasture for their Millennium Project.

Steve is a true artist and members of the HFFN were very fortunate and grateful to Steve for a very interesting presentation.

The evening concluded with a door prize raffle. Everyone went home feeling entertained, very well fed and with a small gift.

~ *Bob Simpson*



### May 26<sup>th</sup>: Marlene Wynnyk, Sea Buckthorn

**On Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup>** our guest speakers were Marlene Wynnick and Rodger Shankland, who run a Sea Buckthorn orchard near Teeswater, Ontario. They have 18 acres which they have been cultivating for 13 years. Sea Buckthorn is a nitrogen-fixing shrub which is not native to Canada, but was imported from Russia and thrives in the Ontario climate, with its harsh winters. In fact, it is the only citrus that will grow in this climate. Lovely orange berries grow in clusters, similar to grapes. They are highly nutritious, rich in vitamin C, carotenoids, fatty acids and antioxidant phytochemicals. Since the berries do not contain sugar they are not eaten by birds, and the thorny nature of the leaves discourages deer. However, the shrubs are favoured as a nesting place by finches and robins. The berries are made into juice, jams and jellies, and the leaves may also be eaten, or drunk as tea. Soaps and skin care products are also made from Sea Buckthorn oil. All of these products are available for sale at the orchard operated by Marlene and Rodger, who also invite visitors to come and pick their own berries during the harvest month of August. The HFFN club also visited the orchard on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

~ *Jackie Clements*

### Tuesday, June 23: Members' Presentations

**The June meeting** combined three speakers, all members of our Huron Fringe group. Marshall Byle started the evening with an interesting talk of bird communication and tips to get the most out of your birdwatching by listening for bird sounds. Then he showed a variety of bird photographs, some from here in Bruce County and some which he took in Florida.

Next was Onno Visser who gave a presentation on photographing the night sky. He illustrated, with photos, how Venus, Jupiter and the moon each night appeared to be moving closer together and by the end of June they almost lined up one behind the other. He also showed photos of an Aurora Borealis, meteors (falling stars) and some of the summer constellations.

Then Bob Taylor explained the differences among types of cameras such as older styles, a variety of "point and shoot" cameras and more expensive ones with advanced lenses. Each camera is good for certain types of photographs so buying the camera for your needs is important. Bob showed a variety of photos to illustrate the many camera types. Thanks to all!

~ *Margie Visser*



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## PAST OUTINGS

**Kincardine Lagoons, May 6th** Leader: James Turland

**A perfect weather day** made this a pleasurable outing. With the combined Bruce Birding Club and Huron Fringe Field Naturalists there were 32 participants. Birds were elusive but prime birding season had definitely started as we saw 9 warbler species. By the time you get 32 people snaked out on the trail the lead is seeing different birds than the tail and many birds were seen by one end or the other. Some memorable birds were

a Black-throated blue Warbler, two flyover Sandhill Cranes, and five distant diving Horned Grebes. A pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers gave some precious looks as they were setting up housekeeping in a nesting hole. We spent the morning hiking the trails near the lagoons. Most folks pulled out at lunch time but a few lingered on into the afternoon when a trip to Lake Huron added a few species. We finished in my backyard where the flowers stole the show. Thanks to Ralph and Mary Anne Knowles for helping guide and keeping the list. Following are some photos from Bob Taylor showing some typical warbler poses and how often they are obscured by branches.

|                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Canada Goose               | Blue Jay                     |
| Wood Duck                  | American Crow                |
| Mallard                    | Tree Swallow                 |
| Green-winged Teal          | Barn Swallow                 |
| Lesser Scaup               | Black-capped Chickadee       |
| Bufflehead                 | White-breasted Nuthatch      |
| Common Goldeneye           | Brown Creeper                |
| Common Merganser           | House Wren                   |
| Red-breasted Merganser     | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher        |
| Horned Grebe               | Ruby-crowned Kinglet         |
| Double-crested Cormorant   | Wood Thrush                  |
| Turkey Vulture             | American Robin               |
| Sandhill Crane             | European Starling            |
| Killdeer                   | Northern Waterthrush         |
| Ring-billed Gull           | Black-and-white Warbler      |
| Herring Gull               | Nashville Warbler            |
| Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) | Common Yellowthroat          |
| Mourning Dove              | Yellow Warbler               |
| Belted Kingfisher          | Black-throated Blue Warbler  |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker     | Palm Warbler                 |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker   | Pine Warbler                 |
| Downy Woodpecker           | Yellow-rumped Warbler        |
| Northern Flicker           | Black-throated Green Warbler |
| Great Crested Flycatcher   | Chipping Sparrow             |
| Eastern Kingbird           | Field Sparrow                |
| Blue-headed Vireo          | Savannah Sparrow             |
| Warbling Vireo             | Song Sparrow                 |
| Red-eyed Vireo             | White-throated Sparrow       |



**PINE WARBLER - B. Taylor**



**PALM WARBLER - B. Taylor**

## Membership Forms in our Issues...

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

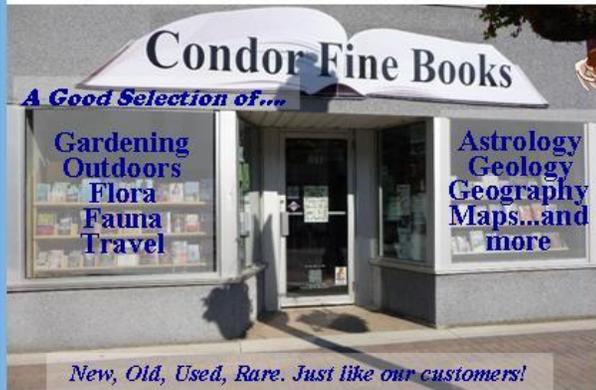


~ Cheers, James



**BLACK THROATED BLUE WARBLER  
- B. Taylor**

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**PAST OUTINGS...**



**NEWTON RESERVE WASHOUT -**

Once again we have had to put this project on hold till Spring. When we have a date, we'll send out a notice!

§

**SPRING WELCOME WALK, MAY 13TH:**

Just four members explored part of one of the Kincardine trails. The circular section of the Blue Trail (on the Kincardine Trails map) that connects with the North Line off Highway 21 was our chosen route. New member Ray Reid came along for his first ramble; Joan Stadelmann also carpooled with Ray, Jeni and Steve for the outing, and a pleasant time was had by all. An extra little bit of walking was done by Joan and Steve when Joan suddenly missed her sunglasses...they were not found immediately. But while the hunt was on, the others had time to look about nearby, and take some photos!

The trail wound around and went up hill, down dale and over the brook, making for some interesting rambling. Wet weather had formed a few softer patches, easily avoided.

Spring green was plentiful, with patches of ferns and Meadow Rue, some Toothworts, the odd Trillium and Yellow Trout Lily; the trees stretching above were leafing out in bright greens, and we saw some handsome bracket fungi. Birdsong echoed through the treetops, although the birds chose to stay high for the most part. Our route took us over a couple of small bridges which stretched over a small tributary of the Penetangore River, which empties into Kincardine Harbour and (the writer just learned) is 12,000 years old. After the woods, the Peppers adjourned to Tim's with Ray for some good conversation before going home. (On reaching home, the Peppers discovered Joan's missing sunglasses on the rear passenger step of their vehicle! So the 'extra' walk was for nothing.) Photos follow. ~ Ed.

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A relatively flat trail entry belied the varied terrain on this small circular section of Kincardine's 'Blue Trail'.

Some flora and fungii, next page.



PAST OUTINGS...Spring Welcome Walk, photos:

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**TOOTHWORT WAS IN BUD....**both these plants seem to come under the heading of Large Toothwort, despite their differences.

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**A LOVELY, GLOSSY NEW JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT....**not quite ready to address the world

**BELOW: Various fungi...**

could an artist do any better with this interesting mix of colours and textures?



~ J. Pepper

Annual Bruce Peninsula Explorer - Tuesday, May 19th

**This year's trip** turned out to be sunny, a nice change from the rain on previous years, but with a brisk wind getting down our necks and under our hats, we found ourselves hunting up warmer clothing from our bags. Nevertheless, the wind kept the bugs down and kept us cool on our hikes.

We were gratified to have a total of 28 people on this trip....eleven vehicles!

As always, we made the trip during the week after the Victoria Day weekend. Some of the places we visit don't open their washrooms till the long weekend, and the week after we are there is usually the Bruce Peninsula Orchid Festival, so we always choose the week between. If you plan to go next year, you may like to keep this in mind. (Note that the long weekend sometimes falls early or late!) Leaving Sobey's in Kincardine by 9 am, we picked up lunch in Southampton and continued north to Bognor Marsh, where we walked the boardwalk to view the surrounding wetland

### Bruce Peninsula Explorer continued...

Amongst the flora found over the years are squirrel corn, hepatica, jack-in-the-pulpit, violets, blue cohosh, wild columbine, trout lily, wood anemone, and coltsfoot. Swallow nesting boxes have been provided and are evidently in use. We used the large picnic shelter to have our lunch before we left.

From Bognor, we went on to the Kemble Mountain Trail which is a picturesque and charming woodland with many interesting plants, rock formations and pretty scenery somewhat reminiscent of *Lord Of The Rings* scenery. All was fresh and green, with sunlight slanting through newly leaved trees, and ferns and other plants coming up along the path. Rocks of all sizes were scattered around and



most were covered in springy, dark green mosses and new ferns. This was just over an hour's walk.

Leaving this area our route took us onto Big Bay Road and to the wonderful vista that greets drivers as they top the hill and look down the long hilly road to the lands below as they meet the lake at Big Bay.

However, this year another sight awaited us....as we topped the rise we had to suddenly slow down....our eleven vehicles surprised a porcupine who had chosen at that moment to amble across

the normally quiet road just over the brow of the hill. He stopped and peered short-sightedly at us, then seemed to realize where he was....he picked up his quills and his feet and (with many porcupiney exclamations, we're sure) got himself off the road and into the ditch, looked back as if to say, "Lordy!" and



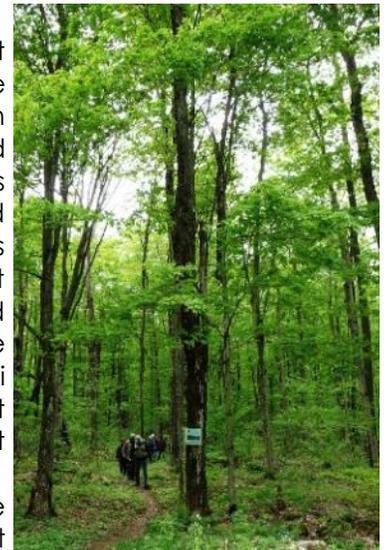
lumbered off as fast as he could to parts distant. Jeni managed to snap a picture just as it was dawning on him what had

happened. Mishap averted, we went on our way, stopping at the bottom of the long hill to

crowd into the Big Bay Store. It is usually closed on Tuesdays, but having some experience (and disappointed appetites)

with this, we had phoned ahead and the lovely lady and her son opened the store for us. Well

worth it for all parties! We admired the paint job on the store, and checked out the swallow nests of the eave of the adjoining house before we left.



## Bruce Peninsula Explorer continued...



◀ Frilly daffodils outside Big Bay Store; resident swallows under eaves.



Next stop was very close....we went to explore the wonderful gardens created by Dawn and Bill Loney, who bought what is now known as Keppelcroft Gardens in 1972, all unknowing that they had bought a tract of land with three inches of topsoil sitting on several yards of gravel. Dawn told us that when looking for a property, they had bought the cheapest tract of land that was the last property listed in the catalogue....nobody else wanted it. Their sheer hard work and dedication has produced a wonderful result. A lovely website gives testimony of just a few of the things to be seen and enjoyed at Keppelcroft. Not to be missed is their beautiful newly-renovated Outhouse ....no, really!



The large areas of garden that are not beautifully and imaginatively landscaped have had to be dug free of gravel in order to fill the holes with soil and put trees, shrubs, bushes and plants in. Truly a work of dedication. However, much better than gardening in tin cans, which was what Dawn and Bill did when living in Alaska. Some very innovative creations are in place for the more imaginative gardeners who visit. For example, alongside natural rock paving stones, we discovered cement pavers with metal trivets of all shapes incorporated into them. As well, this is the site of the Keppelhenge and Analemma project shown us by Steve Irvine at the last Annual Dinner, and there is a nature trail leading to a hardwood arboretum. A modest donation is requested and we're sure everyone found the experience well worth a few dollars. If you'd like to go, please check their times of opening, and let them know if you are going on a 'closed' day – they are usually out in the garden and ready to chat, but like to know if you're coming.



## Bruce Peninsula Explorer...

We arrived in Tobermory before 6 pm and were soon checked in and enjoying our supper at the Princess Hotel. After the meal, a few people braved the bitter wind and lashing waves to walk the floating boardwalk to the diver's deck, while most stayed warm in their respective rooms and cabins.

Breakfast together overlooking Little Tub Harbour on Wednesday morning, and then we went to pick up a lunch and food for our potluck at the local grocery store. We packed ourselves and our lunches into our vehicles and drove about an hour south, turning back north along the Georgian Bay shore to the Cabot Head Light-station, where we spent a sunny afternoon exploring. Quite a lot has been accomplished here since HFFN last visited. Some enjoyed an easy walk to Wingfield Basin while the rest had a peep from the top of the light-house and explored the charming, well-stocked



## Cabot Head Provincial Nature Reserve

Everything about this location is spectacular – the nearly round, remarkably protected cove of Wingfield Basin, and around it, four magnificent bluffs that rise over 100 metres above Georgian Bay. The bluffs are topped by the erosion-resistant dolostone rock of the Amabel Formation, the caprock of the Niagara Escarpment.

The bluffs were shaped by a geological event called the catastrophic sub-glacial meltwater pulse. Near the end of the ice age, water trapped under the ice was suddenly released in northern Ontario. It sped across what is now Georgian Bay

from northeast to southwest. Heavily laden with sediment, the fast-moving water blasted out potholes and many other unusual, previously inexplicable rock formations on both sides of Georgian Bay.

The four bluffs overlook a broad shore terrace marked by a series of cobble beach ridges that were deposited as lake levels went down. One of these ridges forms the two arms around the mouth of Wingfield Basin.



museum in the rooms below. After lunch the groups changed places. Shoreline walks and gift shop visits were enjoyed also. The Peppers were last to leave and so unfortunately were the only ones to spot the resident black bear in Johnson's Field off Hwy 6. The bear, not much more than a bear-shaped dot in the distance, was



browsing at the south end of the field but after a few minutes suddenly took off and ran to the other side of the field, which delighted the watchers in the vehicle on the side of the highway. A few pictures have been taken!

Our barbecue and potluck followed traditional HFFN grubfests, with large burgers accompanied by wine and soft drinks, pre-meal chips, veggies and dip and cheese curds, along with a table full of salads of all kinds, and a belly-bloating array of desserts...bumbleberry and lemon meringue pie, chocolate brownies, home baked chocolate chip cookies, and several kinds of tarts.... enjoyed in the warm ambience of a lovely cabin rented by the Campbells and McNaughtons. Thanks, guys!

Surprisingly, many of the diners elected to go for a post-dinner stroll. We took the floating boardwalk to the Diver's Deck where we found a much reduced wave action and lower water than the previous evening; however the water still covered a small,



rocky area jutting about 15 or 20 feet from the shoreline, which in previous years had been walk-



able. Later information revealed the lake level to be the highest in some decades. It was still too cold to stand for any length of time and the group had a quick look before walking back to warm rooms and a quiet night's sleep.

### Bruce Peninsula Explorer...

Thursday dawned somewhat warmer. After our convivial breakfast, we elected to have a walk at Alvar Bay and then take lunch to Singing Sands, always a favourite place to enjoy. Several people had to bid us farewell for the present, and made their ways south. The rest picked up a lunch and drove a short distance along Hwy 6 where we turned off onto one of the long shore roads and eventually wound up at Alvar Bay, which Tom informed us was one of the butterfly count spots. We had a pleasant, sheltered, woodsy walk which led to a rock-paved shoreline and view of the bay. A very rustic, cement-chinked log cabin was examined enroute. Some of us wondered what the history was for the one-room 'house'. Birds were heard all around us, and we noted a preponderance of fallen trees which had blown down due to the shallow, rock-filled soil. Near the shore, we noticed wavelike stretches of rock that we were traversing....almost like huge ripples, at an angle to the shoreline, possibly the result of glacial movements.

Making our way back along the path, a slender, handsome green snake made itself known to Jeni, who just managed to avoid stepping on it. Tom, having pounced on it, held it up for us to see and pronounced it to be a Smooth Green Snake, which is one not often seen. Russell, who is familiar with snakes, later mentioned that he had seen a snake that he described as being a fairly light brown colour with no markings; he had not been able to identify it. Further studies in our nature books did not enlighten us, so the jury is still out on that one.

Arriving sometime later at Singing Sands, we found the same bright sunshine and dug out our lunches. However, mist was rising off the shallower water, and



an icy wind blew onshore. A few hardy souls braved the chill winds to use a couple of picnic tables, but most chose to shelter behind their parked vehicles to eat lunch. An easy amble down the boardwalk gave evidence of a longer winter and cool spring....plenty of small fish were in evidence, however the resident Pitcher Plants, although present, were smaller than usual. Pale pink Bird Eye Primrose, however, greeted us

cheerily, and we found some Sundews, but the Indian Paintbrush had put out only very few small flowers. Along the trail that runs behind the beach, we found two or three puddles (read 'small lakes') and mud. Two big bullfrogs held reign in the small pond along the east side. Tom expressed disappointment at not finding anything but the emerging leaves of Ram's Head Orchids. Finally, we arrived at a non-negotiable body of water, and had to make our way back to the nearest path leading to the shore. From there we made our way back along the rocks and sand to our vehicles....there were rumours of pizza at the Crow's Nest back in Tobermory at suppertime, and these murmurs and suspicions did prove to be correct! A few people stayed longer after supper, and listened to the musician that came in, while the rest piled into a few cars and went to have a scramble on

the rocks at Big Tub Lighthouse, a last chance to do a bit of walking as a group. Next morning, a very much reduced company gathered for a hearty breakfast before setting off on their trip back south. A few expressed an intent to visit places of interest on their way so we were pleased to wish them an interesting trip back. From all reports, a good time was had by everyone and as Donna later phrased it, 'each and every one of you made it the great trip we had!'



Right: Bob S. and Murray,  
Cabot Head Light;  
Far Right: Murray, Bob T. and  
Ann-Marie enjoy a lake view  
lunch at Cabot Head



~ Ed .

**PAST OUTINGS...**

**Canoe and Kayak with Art Doughty, June 9th - Photos: Barb Simpson.**

Five paddlers assembled at Sobey's for our annual float this year, including two newcomers. The weather was a bit cool early on in the morning but otherwise quite pleasant.

We put in at Arran Lake and had a leisurely paddle up the lake and river and got back our usual lunch spot about 12:30.

The paddle back was a lot easier this year as we didn't have near as much head wind to contend with. We got back to the parking lot about 3:00 and by 3:30 were loaded up and on our way home. Just in time as it turned out, as we ran into a bit of rain on the way. By the time we reached Tim's in Port Elgin, however, the sky had cleared again. All in all, another great trip. Sightings included Herons, Blackbirds, Sandhill Cranes and even a few Leopard Frogs and Painted Turtles.



A Blue Heron checks out the action. BELOW: Some of the paddling may have been a little steep....(sorry Barb!)



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▶▶ **Outing to the the Goderich Cemetery had been shelved due to weather. It's now rescheduled....see Upcoming Outings!** ◀◀  
~~~~~

**Reptiles at Risk Outing at Hullett on July 19, 2015**

Eleven members plus about the same number of the general public were met by Jory Mullen of the Huron Stewardship Council and Kelsey and Adam from Scales Nature Park near Orillia. Coffee was served and we received a PowerPoint presentation on Reptiles At Risk in Ontario. As Kelsey went over the PowerPoint presentation, Adam handled the reptiles that were being discussed and allowed everyone a close-up view for pictures. The whole workshop lasted from 10:30 a.m. to about 2:00 p.m.

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## PAST OUTINGS....

### Reptiles at Risk.....

About 11:30 we stopped for a BBQ of veggie burgers, juices and cookies. After that, the presentation continued for about a further half hour at which time all the animals, both snake and turtles were available for handling. The list included a Garter Snake, Ribbon Snake, Northern Water Snake, Milk Snake, Hog-nosed Snake, Eastern Fox Snake, Painted Turtle, Musk Turtle, Spotted Turtle, Eastern Box Turtle, Map Turtle, Spiny Soft-shelled Turtle and Snapping turtle. This was a great workshop put on by the Scales Nature Park and was very helpful in showing the differences among the many species.

There was no cost involved to attend and it was a great learning experience. I highly recommend attending one of these workshops if you ever get the chance.

~ Steve

~~~~~

### West Perth Wetlands, joint outing with the Bruce Birding Club, August 19th:

Here below are the birding results that Fred Jazvac sent out. We saw a Purple Martin (5 species of swallows) and a Herring Gull, so the list is not exact. With 19 people spread out searching for birds, they did well to come up with this list. Twelve species of shorebirds is impressive, and they were expecting more over the rest of the summer. We will have to do this again next year, but arrange it much earlier so that we get a better turn out. ~ Tom. Thanks also to Ralph Knowles who sent this information out to Tom:

### BBC Outing, Wednesday, August 19, 2015 - Results

#### **Trip Leader: Eric Jeffery**

Participants: Eric Jeffery, Fred Jazvac, James Turland, Ralph Knowles, Carole Lupton, Norma Nanni, Alfred Raab, Arlene Richards, Judith Buxton, Doug and BJ Martin, Judy Wyatt, Bob and Anne Marie Taylor, Dennis Montgomery, Anne Melady, Harold Schulz, Tom Lobb, Scott Taylor, (19)

Thank you, Eric Jeffery for once more, competently taking us through the West Perth Wetlands. We shared our day with a pleasant group of Kincardine field naturalists. We saw a total of 52 species of birds which for this time of year and the limited habitats we traversed is an excellent number. Exeter improved our duck totals and repeated some of the birds we saw at Mitchell. However, we did see at least 6 species of Baird's Sandpiper at Exeter. Previous to this, we were very pleased to see only one of these hard to find birds at Mitchell. The weather was very warm but the stiff winds kept us cooler than the temperatures would normally allow.

**Places visited:** 1) West Perth Wetlands (Mitchell Lagoons) 2) Exeter Sewage Lagoons

- Canada Goose (CANG)
- Mute Swan (MUSW) - Kiwanis Park
- Wood Duck (WODU)
- Gadwall (GADW)
- American Wigeon (AMWI)
- American Black Duck (ABDU)
- Mallard (MALL)
- Blue-winged Teal (BWTE) - Exeter
- Northern Shoveler (NOSH) - Exeter
- Green-winged Teal (GWTE)
- Redhead (REDH) - Exeter
- Ruddy Duck (RUDU) - Exeter
- Double-crested Cormorant (DCCO) - Exeter
- Great Blue Heron (GBHE)
- Green Heron (GRHE)
- Turkey Vulture (TUVU)
- Bald Eagle (BAEA)
- Red-tailed Hawk (RTHA)
- Sora (SORA)
- Semipalmated Plover (SEPL)
- Killdeer (KILL)
- Spotted Sandpiper (SPSA)
- Solitary Sandpiper (SOSA)
- Greater Yellowlegs (GRYE)
- Lesser Yellowlegs (LEYE)
- Stilt Sandpiper (STSA)
- Baird's Sandpiper (BASA)
- Least Sandpiper (LESA)
- Pectoral Sandpiper (PESA)
- Semipalmated Sandpiper (SESA)
- Wilson's Snipe (WISN)
- Ring-billed Gull (RBGU)
- Rock Pigeon (ROPI)
- Mourning Dove (MODO)
- Chimney Swift (CHSW)
- American Kestrel (AMKE)
- American Crow (AMCR)
- Common Raven (CORA)
- Tree Swallow (TRES)
- Bank Swallow (BANS)
- Cliff Swallow (CLSW)
- Barn Swallow (BARS)
- American Robin (AMRO)
- European Starling (EUST)
- Cedar Waxwing (CEDW)
- Savannah Sparrow (SAVS)
- Song Sparrow (SOSP)
- Bobolink (BOBO)
- Red-winged Blackbird (RWBL)
- Common Grackle (COGR)
- American Goldfinch (AMGO)
- House Sparrow (HOSP)

**52 species seen**  
**Any errors or omissions,**  
**please contact sender.**

### Butterfly Count, July 4



The weather was perfect for this year's MacGregor Point butterfly count. Under warm temperatures, sunny skies, and a light breeze, 22 volunteers left the Visitor's Centre at 10:00 am to search their designated area for butterflies. Most of the group returned by 4:30 to enjoy refreshments and to tally the results. A total of 40 different kinds of butterflies were seen, which isn't bad. Individual numbers, however, were another story. Most species were well down from the numbers we are used to seeing. Monarchs, for example, had a shocking total of just 12 individuals! This from 22 people searching all day in a 15 km circle of mostly ideal habitat! I had read a report that said that due to the extremely hot and dry conditions in the South-Central United States, **70%** of the migrating Monarchs last fall died there and never even made it to Mexico! This has been happening for several years, and Global Warming is apparently to blame. There were a few other species with fewer than 10 individuals counted, and the long winter and relatively wet and cool spring may have affected them. Highlights included a Silver-bordered Fritillary found by Ralph and Maryann Knowles, 2 Leonard's Skippers, and 5 Milbert's Tortoiseshells. Next year's count is **Saturday, July 2**. See you there!



~ Tom

## PAST OUTINGS...

### Golden Orchard/Healing Arc Sea Buckthorn Farm, Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>

About fourteen members came out on a very cloudy day and were rewarded by an almost complete absence of rain. We were met and welcomed by owners Marlene Wynn and Rodger Shankland. Rodger then walked us over to where the orchard starts and cutting some berry



-laden twigs, passed them around so that we could all have our eight berries – a day's Vitamin C!

Most of us were exclaiming about the clustered berries that weighed down the branches of these relatively small trees. Their trunks just four or five inches thick and under fifteen feet tall, they were heavily laden, with clustered berry bunches hugging their branches and twigs.



These trees take two or three years to produce berries, the berries being produced by the females, 100 days after being wind-pollinated from the adjacent male trees. As good as these berries are, they are not popularly eaten by birds, as there is no sugar in them. However, small species of birds like to nest in the trees, due to the thorny nature of the branches which protect nests from predators. (In fact when Rodger removed the crown of a small tree in their garden to encourage growth on the branches, there was a nest in the crown. It was about five inches wide, with an inch-wide wall, an inch and a half or two inches deep and neatly woven of many fine, dry grasses.)

Cultivation of these trees is labour-intensive. Pickers place baskets around their waist or neck, while some are able to sit straddled on benches at smaller trees with their basket in front of them on the bench. Groups of people sitting together picking berries from the cut branch ends were reminiscent of old-time pea shelling on front porches, or of knitting groups, with an air of relaxed concentration and camaraderie.

Marlene brought in a large pot of welcome hot berry tea, maple syrup or honey to sweeten it, produce to taste, and skin creams to try. Some of us went further back on the property to admire the lovely views and take home a picture or three. Wending our way home we reflected how lucky we'd been with the weather, as we drove through a couple of heavy squalls. Six of us gathered at the Lake Range Family Restaurant for a nice lunch and great visit. The sun finally came out a couple of hours after that!

~ Ed.



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**Annual Corn Roast and Potluck, Sept. 12th**



**This event was announced only over the internet.** More than 20 people gathered on a breezy, sunny Saturday at the Zinn's property. A convivial group enjoyed again the warm cosiness of Lynn and Paul's cabin, enjoyed feeding their seemingly voracious Rainbow Trout, re-established connections with like-minded friends and had a good meander through the lovely woods. Tom had plenty of fresh, melt-in-the-mouth Peaches and Cream corn to husk, cook and share, and along with it, the variety of foods on the table made for a real feast. These pictures say it all! Many thanks to our gracious hosts once again, and to Tom for his bounty of corn and for doing the cooking. A great outing!



LEFT: Hard to miss - this beautiful bloom growing by the Zinn's pond. It's Great Lobelia, which Tom identified and described as relatively common in such wet areas. Probably a first for some of us though.

**A DUCKY STORY**

This enterprising mama duck decided to play it safe....she built this lovely downy nest under a prickly holly bush beneath the front window of a friends' house at Kincardine's Inverlyn Lake Estates. Now that's real luxury! Eight eggs.



## 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.

Call Tom at 482-3342. Or talk to any of the Executive at any meeting..... we'll do the rest!

## UPCOMING OUTINGS:

**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, binoculars, bird/plant/other guides, 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.

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

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

When planning to come along on a walk, or to a meeting, **please check your email** before you leave home for any additional information, or in case the event has had to be cancelled. We do try to have rain dates for walks, but cannot always arrange these in time for publication. If in doubt....suss it out!

Remember to bring a map or directions with you.



### October 4th: Behind Goderich Cemetery



**Meet:** At 1:30 p.m. at the Cemetery entrance.

**Details:** Join us for a walk through the trails and reforested areas between the cemetery and the Maitland River valley. This area was flattened by the tornado and has had a lot of recovery work done. Time permitting, we will also check out the spectacular Colborne Riverside Park. There should be some fall colour on this trip as well.

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

**Directions:** The cemetery is on highway 8 just east of Goderich.

### Saturday, October 17th: ANNUAL BEACH BIRDING WALK, Pt. Clark - and/or potluck lunch afterwards.



Meet at the Point Clark Lighthouse area between 8:30 - 10:30 (some people are early birders!)

We will look for migrating waterfowl out on the lake from different points along the nearby shore. Bring binoculars or spotting scope, notebook, warm windproof clothing (it has rained/snowed at this event!) some candies or a flask of hot beverage....we will drop off your casserole or treats at Linda's for our potluck lunch. We will go in a convoy for lunch. Washrooms may or may not be available at the beach. If you don't wish to do the birding - bring a casserole or sweet along and meet us about 11 am near the Lighthouse. **Rain date of October 24th.**

### Looking ahead:

**We have this note, however we recommend you confirm this date nearer the time.**

▶▶ **Saugeen Shores Christmas Bird Count Jan 2, 2015 @ 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM.** ◀◀

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**



### NOTES IN GENERAL:

★ **September membership renewals** are with us....our new MEMBERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR is Barb Simpson, **396-5486**. Membership/renewal forms are included in this issue, or catch up with Barb at one of the Fall meetings.

★ As always, we encourage members to lend us their help and ideas - you can always approach the Executive with your thoughts, and we look forward to seeing new Executive Members, or Members-at-large. New members have the support and help of all the Executive. Executive terms run two years, or longer if you like....we hold two or three meetings per year. No great shakes!

## ~ ~ ~ REGULAR MEETINGS ~ ~ ~

Regular meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Pine River United Church on Hwy 21, 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 meeting is our Annual General Meeting, held at the Lucknow United Church, 7pm.

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!



Social Time: 7.30 pm.

FEED THE FROG!



Meeting: 8:00 pm.

Beverages: 1.00; treats: free.



### Tuesday, September 22: Brian Salt, SALTHAVEN Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre

Salthaven Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre is committed to the care and rehabilitation of sick, and injured, orphaned or otherwise compromised wildlife. Their goal is to return healthy animals to their natural habitat.

We are fortunate to have Brian Salt the founder and Director of the SALTHAVEN Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre (located in Mt. Bridges ON) for our speaker at the September 22 meeting. Brian's presentation will include a slide presentation and introduction of some of his wildlife ambassadors that cannot be returned to the wild.

Salthaven is volunteer operated and relies upon donations of funding and supplies to help local wildlife.

We look forward to seeing you and your questions at this very special presentation. For more information about Salthaven --Google [salthaven.org](http://salthaven.org)

*Bob Simpson, Speakers' Committee*

### Tuesday, October 27:

**Come hear Monique Aarts**, Species at Risk Technician, talk about two endangered reptile species found in Huron County: the Queensnake and the Wood Turtle. Learn about the threats these species face as well as some of the ongoing research and recovery efforts related to these species. *Margie Visser, Speakers' Comm.*

### Tuesday, November 24:

**Rachel White** is the Stewardship Coordinator for the Huron Stewardship Council. She has prepared a presentation called "The Maitland River – an Oasis in Our Backyard." Rachel will discuss the river and the plant and animal life that surrounds it.

*Margie Visser, Speakers' Comm.*

## Members' Page... What Our Members are Doing!

Photographs always welcome; please send them in JPEG format, over 100 kbs and under 500 kbs....thanks!

## GOING AWAY SOMEWHERE!



YES! WE HAVE A  
SUBJECT FOR THE NEXT PHOTO  
CONTEST, SO DIG OUT THOSE  
CAMERAS....



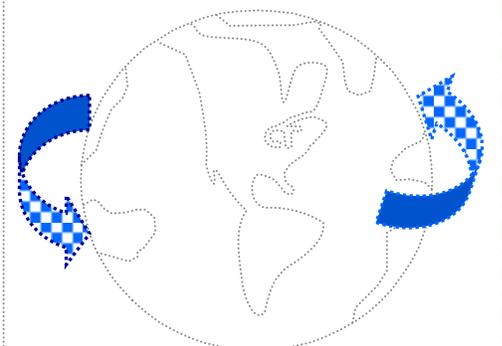
Take them with you on your (Canadian) outings ....  
Our challenge NEXT FEBRUARY:

**THE BEAUTY AND WONDER OF**



...ITS COLOURS, MOODS,  
REFLECTIONS, MOVEMENT, BEAUTY  
AND VARIETY...IN ANY NATURAL  
SETTING, WHETHER SCENIC OR  
UP-CLOSE.  
Good luck!

(AND....DON'T FALL IN!)



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!



**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!**



**HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS  
EXTEND A HEARTY WELCOME TO THOSE  
WHO ARE JOINING US.**

**WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL ENJOY OUR  
PRESENTATIONS AND REAP THE  
BENEFITS OF ALL OR ANY OF THE WALKS OR HIKES  
YOU FANCY COMING ALONG ON! PLEASE MAKE  
YOURSELF KNOWN TO US SO THAT WE CAN DRAW  
YOU INTO OUR MIDST AND GET TO KNOW YOU!**



This lovely country scene was taken on August 25th by Onno Visser at the Golden Orchard farm. Thank you to Onno who came to your editor's rescue when her camera battery conked out! Marlene Wynnyk explained that the apple tree is about 75 years old, and they are trying to save it. It was hung with large, juicy-looking green apples. ~ Ed.



**MEMBERSHIP FORM**



new member application or  renewal

SEPTEMBER 2015 to SEPTEMBER 2016

....or CATCHUP?

**Membership Cost:** \$20.00 per person. Youths 18 or less are free.

Please mail completed form with payment to:

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

(Please print:)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information:

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

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

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

**Please tell us....where did you hear of our group?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**~~ MEMBERSHIPS: ~~**

The fee structure for 2015/2016 is a straight \$20 per person, with all under 18 years of age being free.

An application form is included at left to accompany payment and to advise of any change of contact information. Note also that this form can be used for new members; it is always timely to suggest that anyone you know who is interested in joining send in the form with payment and join us!

There are still a few members from last year who have not yet paid their dues for our 2014/2015 (September 2014 to September 2015) club year. Hopefully these members intend to retain their membership. Hence it would be appreciated if their payment could now be made (see form at left).

If you have any questions about your membership, or changes to your contact information, please contact Barb Simpson at 396-5486 or: bsimpsonbob@gmail.com

*Thanks .... Barb*

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*Thank you!*