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# THE HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS, FRINGE NOTES

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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

*'By all these lovely tokens  
September days are here,  
With summer's best of  
weather  
And autumn's best of cheer.'  
- September,  
Helen Hunt Jackson, 1830-*



## Greetings,

As we near the

end of August, its timely to reflect back on the spring/summer activities before turning our gaze to the fast-approaching autumn.

Once again, the Annual Bruce Peninsula Explorer event was hugely successful. The trip took place, as always, during the week right after the May Victoria Day weekend. Our delightful Donna Murray, aided by Dad Steve, organized and kept everything in line while ensuring that all participants enjoyed this annual undertaking.

The Annual Spring Welcome walk was held in May this year. Our members enjoyed a woodland walk followed by a tour of the pretty village of Bayfield, led by Tom Lobb and Bob Simpson.

In June, Kerry Jarvis of Southampton gave a presentation on *Our Marvelous Monarch Butterflies*. Imagine the challenge a Monarch faces making the journey in late September from Canada to the mountains of Mexico. The timing of the Monarchs arriving in Mexico coincides with, "Los Dias de Muertos" (Day of the Dead). I have butterfly weed in my garden to help provide nourishment for these intrepid travellers.



## UPCOMING EVENTS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Full details inside.

### MEETINGS:

**SEPTEMBER 26th:** Damien Mullin, Turtle talk  
**October 24th:** Dr. Janice Gilbert (see p. 18)  
**November 28th:** To Be Announced. Watch your email, or call for information.

### OUTINGS:

**October 3rd/4th:** Harrison Park  
**Late October:** Annual shoreline Birding Walk and Meal



TITLE PHOTO CREDITS: Weathered board, Cyprus Lake Park, Pepper; Mallard at Mermaid Cove, Bob Simpson

**PLEASE NOTE:**

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

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

**President:**

Gina D. Davis 519-440-0403

**Past President:**

Marion Fink 395-3701

**Vice-President:**

**VACANCY**

**Secretary:**

Jackie Clements 396-3655

**Treasurer:**

Onno Visser 395-3173

**Memberships:**

Barb Simpson 396-5486

**Outings:**

Tom Lobb 482-3342

*(1 Open position)*

**Speakers:**

Bob Simpson 396-5486

**Newsletter Editor:**

Jeni Pepper 395-5616

**Members-at-Large:**

Joy Munn 395-3570

**Social Convener:**

Linda Campbell 396-5144

**Ontario Nature (FON) Rep:**

Tom Lobb 482-3342

**Website Administrator:**

Steve Pepper 395-5616

**Communications:**

Christine Roberts 395-5008

**Publicity:**

Christine Roberts 395-5008

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new members with fresh  
thoughts and ideas! We meet  
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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....**

Speaking of butterflies, the 2017 MacGregor Point NABA butterfly count was held on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, conducted by Kathleen H. Chayer. Count results in this issue.



Not to be overlooked is the plight of our honey bees. Guy Anderson, a member of the Ontario Beekeepers Association and owner of Anderkin Foods and Hive 'N Hoe Country Store gave a sobering presentation on the challenges facing beekeepers as they build up, maintain and protect their colonies. This once thriving industry is facing a myriad of threats to the survival of bees.

The month of August offered some exciting outings. A birding outing at the West Perth Wetlands, in Mitchell, and the next day the Annual Turtle Hatching Release was scheduled at the Morrison Dam in Exeter. \*\*

Our annual September event, the Corn Roast, was held at the Johnston/Zinn estate on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Also on the day's agenda, members met Anne-Marie Benedict and Bob Taylor just north of Tiverton to caravan to Southampton to tour Butterfly Gardens of Saugeen Shores to help tag a few Monarchs with Kerry Jarvis.

Huron Fringe Field Naturalists members welcome all who are interested in the natural world around us. Why not consider becoming a member? In addition to our outings, we hold monthly meetings the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Pine River United Church, Concession 4 and Hwy 21, Huron Township. Coffee, Snacks and Interesting Topics. We'd love to see you.

*~ Gina D. Davis*

\*\* These outings have not as yet been reported. ~ Ed.

### **PAST MEETINGS:....**

#### **HFFN May 2017 meeting.**

Spring blossoms and a warm, sunny day put the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists in the mood to learn about bees during their May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Speaker Co-ordinator, Bob Simpson, introduced Guy Anderson of the Lazy J Honey Ranch and Hive 'N Hoe Country Store.

What began as a hobby over 26 years ago has developed into an award-winning beekeeping operation that is one of the top 10 largest in Ontario, managing 1500 colonies in South Bruce with hives on 66 area farms from Kingsbridge to Southampton. Honey and related products are sold at their own outlet, Hive 'N Hoe Country Store, in Kincardine, and distributed to over 25 other stores. In addition, beeswax is sold to LUSH, a cosmetics producer, and honey in bulk goes to eastern Canada, China and the United States.

Anderson unpacked his bee keeping tool kit with a sample hive box explaining the inner workings, its various parts, their function and how materials have changed over the years. For example, the frames that hang inside the box are now made of plastic for strength, durability and cost efficiency. He passed around samples of frames, bees wax, pollen balls and small containers used to transport queen bees commercially and demonstrated a smoker and hive scraper.

Throughout his talk, Guy entertained his audience with astonishing facts and anecdotes gathered over the course of his career as an apiarist. We learned about the life cycles of worker bees and drones, the environmental triggers that cause queen bees to be created or hives to swarm,



**Apiarist Guy Anderson demonstrates some of the tools of the beekeeper's trade.**

## PAST MEETINGS:....



How new queens are introduced to a population and how bees pass the winter months. HFFN members were amazed to learn that queen bees can lay up to 2,000 eggs per day.

A member of the Ontario Beekeepers Association, the Lazy J Honey Ranch works closely with researchers at the University of Guelph in areas of breeding and treatment and control of detrimental pests and diseases.

At this point Guy introduced some of the many challenges faced by beekeepers which include the disease Foul Brood, an infection of the brood chamber which results in the hive having to be destroyed. Mites are another serious problem as they prey on the bees and can introduce a deadly virus.

Neonicotinoids are a class of pesticide applied as a coating to seeds. During the mechanized planting process some of the coating may become airborne. When consumed by bees, they act as a neurological blocker which can change bee behaviours such as navigational skills and ability to communicate location of food sources. Exposure to this poison can also change the composition of the larval food causing bees to have shorter life spans. Although the term Neonicotinoid is familiar to most, Guy's explanation of the process and its impact on pollinators gave the audience a much better understanding of the problem.

In 2013, Anderson lost 62% of his bees with 785 hives lost at a cost of over \$300,000. This year his operation experienced an 18% die-off, which he attributes in part to improvements in the seed coating and a wet spring. Sympathetic to the plight of farmers trying to maximize yield, he acknowledged the difficulties in lobbying governments to change agricultural policies.

Throughout his seminar Guy fielded questions from members and was ultimately rescued by Donna Murray who thanked him for an engaging and informative presentation.

~ *Christine Roberts*

## Huron Fringe Field Naturalists

### Learn About Monarch Butterflies:

**The Huron Fringe Field Naturalists** concluded their 2017 winter/spring speaker series June 27th with an engaging presentation on Monarch butterflies featuring the beautiful photography of Kerry Jarvis of Southampton. Jarvis is a photographer, naturalist, author, presenter and avid gardener with a particular passion for Monarchs. Kerry began his presentation highlighting the difficult plight of this easily recognized butterfly through habitat loss due to deforestation and lack of milkweed plants resulting from agricultural and residential chemical use. Severe and unseasonal weather changes can also impact migration success. The serious decline of the Monarch Butterfly caused it to be named a Species of Special Concern in Canada in 2015. On the plus side however, milkweed, the only plant on which it lays its eggs, was de-listed from the Ontario Noxious Weed Act in 2014. Jarvis followed this good news with an interesting history of milkweed as an herbal remedy in the 1800s and an ingenious substitute for silk in wartime in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The butterfly's complete life cycle including mating, reproduction and metamorphosis from egg, caterpillar (larva), pupa (chrysalis) to butterfly was clearly explained and superbly photographically illustrated. HFFN members were shocked by the exceedingly poor survival rate of the larval stage (less than 1%) and were entranced by the example of caterpillars reared in a tub which Jarvis passed around. While most people know that several generations of Monarchs will live and die during the course of a summer, it was surprising to learn that the generation that migrates south can live for up to nine months.

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Before describing the migratory experience, Jarvis introduced butterfly tagging in which a small circle bearing a unique code is affixed to a hind wing, a website and email address allowing researchers to track the butterflies. In 2015, a Monarch tagged in Southampton was found in Mexico. Tagging takes place in the Southampton area in late summer or early fall as the final generation of adults prepare to journey south to the

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## PAST MEETINGS:....



wintering grounds.

The majority of Monarch butterflies overwinter in forested mountainous areas of Mexico on Oyamel Fir trees. A travel highlight for Kerry was a trip to Michoacan, Mexico, to explore winter roosting sites. His photo of the mountainous area clearly showed the devastating extent of deforestation with only a handful of small forest patches remaining.

Alarmed by the decline in Monarch populations, in 2014 Kerry Jarvis, Melitta Smole and Stew Nutt formed the community group *Butterfly Gardens of Saugeen Shores*. Their goal is to support butterflies and pollinators by changing public attitudes toward gardening with native plants and providing butterfly habitat. Gardens, called Pods, are spread along the Lake Huron shoreline in MacGregor Point Provincial Park, several locations in Southampton, the Saugeen Rail Trail and the Saugeen First Nation. Each garden is equipped with an identifying sign and is proudly tended by Pod Squad Ambassadors.

**For more information on Butterfly Gardens of Saugeen Shores and a list of ideal native plants for butterfly gardens, visit [www.butterflygardensofss.ca](http://www.butterflygardensofss.ca).**

At the end of his presentation Jarvis gave away three milkweed plants and offered cecropia moth eggs to interested audience members.

HFFN members asked questions throughout and appreciated the opportunity to learn about the life, the challenges and the opportunities to support this beautiful winged migrant.



~ Christine Roberts



Roberts Photo

Kerry Jarvis with Pod Squad Ambassadors and HFFN members Bob Taylor and Anne-Marie Benedict display the Butterfly Gardens of Saugeen Shores banner.

## PAST OUTINGS:

### 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!

(This issue: pg. XXXXX )



### Bayfield spring welcome walk

#### 'For Mothers and Others', May 17<sup>th</sup>:

Tom Lobb and Bob Simpson hosted this outing for about sixteen people in lovely Bayfield.

Tom and his sister Eleanor were waiting at the start of the Sawmill Trail for a pleasant meander through the woods, which was followed by a good lunch at the Renegade Diner & Gift Shop on Hwy 21 near the turnoff for Bayfield Village.

After lunch, Tom and Eleanor guided us around, while Bob and Barb took the others to the Woodland Trail, but while we were at the Porter Hill Seed Co., Bob called: they had got to the Woodland trail, but it had signs up, 'Closed - hunting.'! So we waited, and he and Barb and Gord Brocklebank, who was riding with them,



ENJOYING THE VIEW FROM PIONEER PARK

Eleanor, Tom, Gord, Barb, Jeni and Steve; photo: Bob Simpson



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**PAST OUTINGS..**

(Spring Welcome Walk, Continued...)

came back to us, and we all had about half an hour or forty enjoyable minutes in the Porter's garden and store. The store owner is very knowledgeable about his products. They have nesting Orioles there every year! Four pairs last year. The many different and innovative feeders outside were great to look at, and to watch the birds feeding on. In fact we spent almost as long outside on the patio.

Leaving there, we drove through the village to the little park (Pioneer Park) that overlooks the beach..... and went down the lonnnngggg flight of steps. From there to the Marina, for a slow driving tour; saw a large martin house with occupants (a cheeky Starling living in the Penthouse, preening and peering down with a 'nyaaah-nyaaah!' at the martins in their humbler apartments below....) From there, we went quite a way to see Windmill Lake Wake and Eco Park...it was closed until Victoria Day weekend!

Then home, all tired and happy, and ready for supper! ~ Jeni ☺

**Tom and Donna listed the following:**

Flora that we saw included Blue Cohosh, Early Meadow-rue, Wood Anemone, Toothwort, Bloodroot, Wild Geranium, Dame's Rocket, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Trout-lily, Columbine, Common Blue Violet, Dog Violet, Sycamore, Gooseberry, Currant, Ninebark, Honeysuckle, Winter Cress, Virgin's Bower, Virginia Creeper, Morning Glory Vine, Wild Cucumber, Wild Coffee, Wild Ginger, Marsh Marigold, Ostrich Fern, Common Morel, Coltsfoot (Dandelion lookalike), Wood Violet, Tiger Lily.

Fauna we saw or heard included Wild Turkey, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Mourning Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, Mallard, Canada Goose, Great-crested Flycatcher, House Wren, Blue Jay, Goldfinch, Red-winged Blackbird, and American Robin. The work of Beavers was noted.

Butterflies included Red Admiral, Common Sulphur, Tiger Swallowtail, American Lady, and a Skipper species. Waiting for Tom at home was a Monarch.



Sawmill sights; Murray Jamieson photo.



CANADAS WITH 9 GOSLINGS ON THE MAIRLAND, DONNA MURRAY



BELOW: SYCAMORE, DONNA MURRAY

THANKS TO BOB SIMPSON FOR THESE 2 VIEWS BELOW:

It was good to get back on the Sawmill Trail after a few years' interlude. Lots to see, including some poisonous Giant Hogweed looking very healthy!

BELOW: 'Hard tooth work', Donna Murray.



**SIGNS OF SPRING** were everywhere. This sizeable eggshell was found and tentatively identified as a Mallard egg. Mallard ducks were also seen on the river.



This rarely-seen **Common Morel** was pounced on. Barb Simpson displayed it for posterity.

SEE NEXT PAGE :



PAST OUTINGS...

Bayfield spring welcome walk.....



Jack-in-the Pulpit  
in all its glory -  
B. Simpson

HFFN Annual Bruce Peninsula Explorer: May 23rd - 27th

**Nineteen adventurers** met at Kincardine Sobey's to form a convoy up the Peninsula. First stop was not too far, the **Beiner Trail** system near Port Elgin. A pleasant easy walk and lots of interesting things to photograph! Your Editor liked this pretty bridge; Bob Simpson 'caught' this frog.



**Our second stop** was also a lunch stop, at **Sauble Falls** where due to the heavy Spring rains, the river was in full spate and a lovely sight to see. A misty rain was falling but did not dampen spirits. As we enjoyed our



These photos from Jeni's camera...Heron by Bob!



lunch, a Great Blue Heron flew across the river nearby; it landed in an evergreen across the river so that it could barely be seen. However, Bob managed to get a great picture with his magic camera and keen eye!

**Black Creek Provincial Park, North Bruce Peninsula** was our third stop. We left our vehicles and after a short walk stepped onto a wide, quite deserted beach. Walking a little distance we found a trail entrance.....



Lunch at Sauble Falls, 2017  
Bruce Peninsula Explorer

After exploring what the trail had to offer, we emerged onto the beach in time to see an eerie mist creeping from the water, which certainly made an interesting and rather charming walk back to our vehicles.



We then took a road along the shoreline and were delighted to spot waterfowl in a small area

**SEE NEXT PAGE :**



## PAST OUTINGS...

### Bruce Peninsula Explorer....

of beach with shrubs and grasses on it:



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There in the mist, along with this Egret was a Canada Goose family with a great many goslings....fourteen count!

Our sights then set on the long haul down Highway 6, we arrived in Tobermory with time to settle into our accommodations and relax for a time before heading over to the Princess Hotel for supper. About ten minutes to nine, some lucky die-hards, who had walked out onto the floating boardwalk and along to the deck at the far end, were rewarded by the welcome sight of one of Tobermory's beavers heading out from the harbour to wherever he or she lives.

....and on a rather interesting note: two people wearing FitBits reported our day's meander in steps: somewhere between 15,000 and 16,000!



### Day Two: Wednesday, May 24th

**Up and at 'em** was the watchword. After a good communal breakfast we made our way down Hwy 6 and managed to find the Bruce Nature Reserve (Catherine Wishart Alvar). The morning was pleasant, and great for a gentle woodsy walk. Flora at the Wishart Tract tends to adjust to seasonal weather, so it's usually a wait-and-see situation depending on whether the current season has been wet, dry or somewhere between. We stopped often to comment on Lakeside Daisies, Gaywings, Dwarf Lake Iris, Wild Columbine, mosses, lichens and ferns; this was also the first encounter in the area of a Massasauga Rattlesnake, which Donna discovered a couple of feet from the boardwalk. Being strung out in a single line on the boardwalk, some members wondered what the holdup was, but soon found out as word filtered back. A handsome Common Garter Snake also posed for photographs on our way back along the same path.



Lakeside Daisies, Ribbon Snake, Massasauga Rattlesnake, and Leopard Frog, photos by B. Simpson; Lake Iris, J. Pepper

**PAST OUTINGS....**

**Bruce Peninsula Explorer....**

**Next place on the agenda** for Day Two: the Horse Lake Trail.

This is another easy trail but before tackling it we enjoyed our packed lunches at the little picnic shelters near Head of Trails in Cyprus Lake Park. Our particular table was frequented by a mooching Red Squirrel. He didn't get much, but did pose for some endearing pictures right at our feet. Our friend Susan Miller took this photo and several others.



A pleasant walk along the Horse Lake Trail followed:

**ONNO VISSER  
TOOK THESE  
PICTURES**



....and just as we were looking forward to our barbecue, Donna mentioned that as it was going to rain next day....should we go to Little Cove now? The reply was in the affirmative for the majority so.....



The fascinating rock patterns coupled with the wave action of this clear water has an interesting effect and is rather enchanting to watch. Bob Simpson photographed members exploring along the shoreline . After a scramble along the newly-high waterline it was time to head back for a break - and our barbecue...



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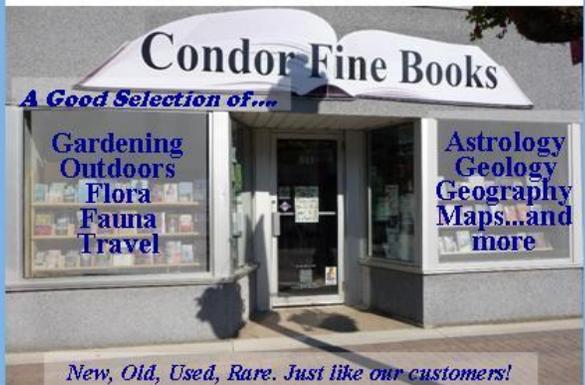
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**PAST OUTINGS...**

**Bruce Peninsula Explorer....**



**BUN BUTTERERS, BARBECUERS AND BEEF-ON-A-BUN EATERS GOT TOGETHER AT PEACOCK VILLA FOR A POTLUCK SUPPER AFTER THEIR MORNING AND AFTERNOON HIKES. PEPPER PHOTOS**



**THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR ALL THAT LOVELY FOOD!**



**The ability to walk** was sorely compromised after this light repast, but some hardier folks did take the traditional floating board-walk stroll. During the walk a couple of young fellows beckoned them over, asking, 'What's that in the water?' 'That' turned out to be the local beaver swimming

by. A further chat with the two young men revealed that they were on holiday from the UK. A rather long conversation resulted....much enjoyed by all.

**Day 3, Thursday, May 25th:**

**Today we bade 'so long'** to a few of our number. After our breakfast, it was noted that as the weather had become damp and blustery we might stay close to home; to that end we wrapped up, found our umbrellas, and betook ourselves over to the adjacent Parks Centre, which is not too far along the street behind the Princess Hotel. To warm up a little we went



into the building for a time, enjoyed the fifteen minute movie and had a look at the exhibits; then walked along the short, easy trail to Little Dunks' Bay. What a change from the normal view! The usually placid bay



was awash in whitecaps and waves; mist obscured the opposite shore nearby; a solitary loon out in the middle rose and fell with the water, periodically disappearing as he went into a trough.....

We nevertheless enjoyed our visit as some of us had never seen this area in such weather.

On our way back, our attention was drawn by Donna's





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## PAST OUTINGS...

### Bruce Peninsula Explorer....

discovery of a rare Calypso Orchid. This was duly reported to the Parks staff, and a member went out with Donna to see where it was. It was put on GPS, and a camera was to be put in place for the few days it would stay in bloom. Another staff member came over to thank us for being so vigilant. Hopefully the flower was left unseen by others until the plant went dormant. We also noted, and enquired about, the lack of yellow Ladyslippers along the way into the park, and the appearance of more than we remembered along the way to Little Dunks Bay! It turned out that the road allowance into the park had been increased and had enclosed quite a few Ladyslippers; so before the road was widened, the park staff had very gently removed them and replanted them in likely spots in the park. Staff were happy to report that most of them had thrived.

After a conversational lunch at the Leaside Restaurant we took to Highway 6 again, this time to Singing Sands. By now it had begun to rain steadily, but we were all dressed for it, and as HFFN's founder Joe Burgess would quip, 'Rain's nature!'

Pepper photo



Pitcher plants had been happy with the year's wet weather. It was early for Ram's Head Ladyslippers, but we did find this one drooping in the rain. Right: Polygala. Below: Fairy cups. Photos: Bob Simpson

We arrived at the area around 2 pm. Our intrepid Leader forged ahead along the Shoreline trail, which we found had a few large but navigable puddles and plenty to discover and show to each other. At the far end, we turned onto the shore. The water was quite high and in some spots we were forced to gently cross patches of alvar. Eventually, we arrived back at the car park, a little damper and thinking of supper. A glance at FitBit told us that we had walked around 11,430 rainy steps. We left the park at one minute to five.



After our rather soggy but happy trek, we returned to our accommodations to dry out and have a break, and then walked across to the popular Crow's Nest Pub. The past couple of years, we've been spending what is, usually, the last evening for some people, over there having a meal - mostly, the excellent pizza.



## PAST OUTINGS...

### **Bruce Peninsula Explorer....**



*Pizza Night, Crow's Nest Pub,  
Tobermory. 2017 Bruce Explorer*

#### **Day 4, Friday:**

The weather dawned clear and sunny so without more ado, it was off to Alvar Bay....where during the walk, Barb Simpson had a rather-too-close encounter with our second Massassauga Rattlesnake of this tour. An unruffled Bob was able to get some good photos of this healthy-looking specimen.

Along the trail to the Alvar everyone had been noticing the number of blow-downs, and many of these had amazingly shallow root systems.



Amazing how some of these trees had managed to stand up at all. The girls lined up for Bob's camera.

After this walk, we waved 'so long' to one of our number, and the Simpsons, Donna, Susan and Jeni went for lunch back in town. We then went to see what **Mermaid Cove** was all about....and found a tiny paradise awaiting us. Crystal clear water, tiny rock islands, wildflowers growing in rock 'plantpots', and in a bush, two sleepy Massasaugas, bringing our number to four for this one trip. All of us were enchanted by this tiny wonderland and vowed to return, despite the 'iffy' neighbours.



#### **Mermaid Cove:**

Donna checks out the peninsula; violets in pits and pots; a Mallard ventures close - Pepper photos. Bob spotted this busy Red Admiral perfectly set off by a white birch.



## PAST OUTINGS...

### Bruce Peninsula Explorer....

Everyone had now gone home except Donna, Susan and Jeni. But we really wished you were here when on our last day and last meander down the floating boardwalk.....



PEPPER PHOTO

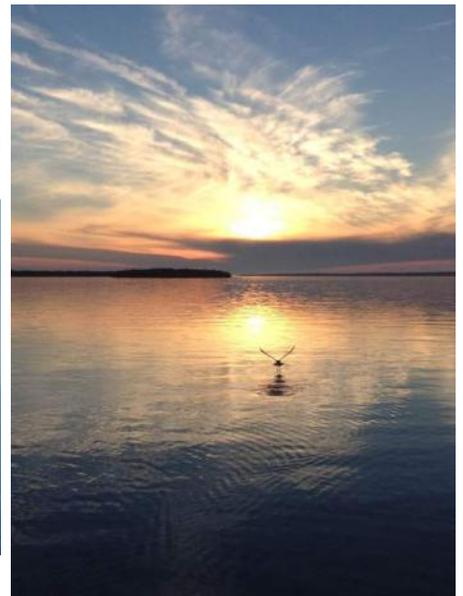


PEPPER PHOTO

The next photo did not come out as well...as we stood at the top of the steps leading to the water, the beaver headed straight for us and only turned away at the bottom step...so he was out of focus! He looked us right in the eye as he approached.

After this wonderful experience, we said that short of encountering a bear we couldn't have had a better last few hours of our trip. Susan took a marvellous video of a gull taking off from the sunset-lit water, as at right; this was probably her favourite of all the many photos she took.

Jeni went down one day to watch the Chi-Cheemaun come in and discovered a mist on the lake from which a ghost-like ship emerged.....



...and that was our trip this year. As we made our way home, we reflected on the events of the past few days...the words 'next year' were heard several times! Thank you all for joining us and making this yet another great Peninsula Explorer!

**One caveat for future trips:** the group closely encountered four rattlesnakes, which is two more than we personally have seen in the past ten years or so. These animals have taken advantage of the break they were given, and have begun reappearing both at the tip of the Peninsula and points further south. Along with the appearance of Black-Legged ticks, which carry Lyme Disease and other tick-transmitted illnesses, we feel it's imperative to make sure that everyone has rattlesnake and tick proof clothing *and footwear* for the trails. We aren't aware of how high/far a rattlesnake can strike, but we have heard residents speak of people bitten on their legs. For this reason, we ask you to seriously consider your risk, and perhaps in early Spring, take advantage of winter footwear sales. Wearing boots that cover your calves may not be much fun, but it is more fun than the alternative of a hospital visit or stay. If bitten by a rattlesnake, you need to stay calm and elevate the bite above your heart ....the latter would be very difficult if you were on a trail, and as park publications warn, cell phone reception is often not available out there. We suggest you also educate yourself on ticks, which are very small to begin with. After they bite, their bodies swell so that they can be more easily found....but it's too late then - you've been bitten. We want everyone to stay safe on these trips, so please keep this in mind.



....Having said all this.... 'When is the next trip?' we are often asked.

We schedule these dates as being during the week after the 24th of May holiday, (Victoria Day weekend) when the village is quieter and accommodation less expensive. Therefore, next year's holiday would probably be between May 22nd or 23 to May 25th.

**PAST OUTINGS...****2017 Huron Fringe Birding Festival:**

**This event took place** the weekend before and the weekend after the Bruce Peninsula Explorer. The 20th year saw 180 species of birds!

For a full account and some great photographs, check out the website at:

<https://huronfringefest.wordpress.com/2017/06/11/the-20th-huron-fringe-birding-festival-has-come-to-a-close/>

Next year's Birding Festival for this area will be May 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> & May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup> – Canoe/Kayak outing with Art Doughty**

PHOTOS: B. & B. SIMPSON

**Donna Murray and Tom report:**

**Seven people** participated this year. A vigorous paddle to the lunch area, but as it was windy, we continued down a small tributary. Egret, Eagle, Crane, beaver activity, and super-sized lily pads observed; (and 2 got stuck crossing an old beaver dam!) A much easier, quick return, and lunch back at the parking lot. Then rain hit! A successful trip all in all - even for a Newbie! (Beavers had the last laugh! ~ Ed.)

**NABA Butterfly Count - Sat., July 8th, MacGregor Provincial Park: Count Results****Butterflies**

European Skipper: 732  
Cabbage White: 587  
Northern Crescent: 281  
Clouded Sulphur: 6  
Great Spangled Fritillary: 8  
Monarch: 96  
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail: 60  
Red Admiral: 46  
Common Wood Nymph: 17  
Eyed Brown: 11  
Meadow Fritillary: 1  
Least Skipper: 4  
Summer Azure: 12  
Little Wood Satyr: 21

White Admiral: 43  
Northern Pearly Eye: 42  
Aphrodite Fritillary: 3  
Mourning Cloak: 1  
Viceroy: 19  
Orange Sulphur: 3  
Baltimore Checkerspot: 8  
Coral Hairstreak: 1  
Eastern Comma: 4  
Black Swallowtail: 1  
Question Mark: 2  
Common Ringlet: 6  
Pearl Crescent: 1

American Lady: 4  
Hobomok: 1  
Red-spotted Purple: 2  
Painted Lady: 3  
Tawny Edges Skipper: 1  
Bronze Copper: 1  
Acadian Hairstreak: 1  
Grey Comma: 2  
Appalachian Brown: 6  
Eastern Tailed Blue: 6  
Little Glassywing: 1  
Dorcus Copper: 2

**Larvae**

Monarch: 10  
Mourning Cloak: 1

**Eggs**

Monarch: 3



(Pepper photos)

**HFFN Kincardine Coastal Cleanup report**

**The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation (LHCCC)** partnered with HFFN and other local businesses and service groups to host a volunteer shoreline cleanup of Station Beach, Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Kincardine and area community came out in force in support of the event, including 10 HFFN members and many representatives of PROBUS. In total, nearly 150 participants of all ages sporting gloves, clipboards and garbage bags fanned out over the beach to remove 150 pounds of trash. Items collected and recorded on the tally cards included over 500 cigarette butts, 40 balloons and hundreds of various plastic items including water bottles, cutlery, toys and food wrappers.

After their hard work volunteers were treated to hot dogs supplied by Sobey's; prepared and served by the Kincardine & District Lions. Several participants took advantage of the opportunity to try out paddleboards supplied by West Shore Clothing and Surf Shoppe.

Many people also purchased \$5.00 raffle tickets for the stand-up paddleboard supplied by Bruce Power, with proceeds dedicated to supporting Lake Huron conservation programs. The winner will be drawn in September.

LHCCC and HFFN were overwhelmed by the public's response and are grateful to everyone who participated, particularly the sponsors mentioned above.

~ *Christine Roberts*

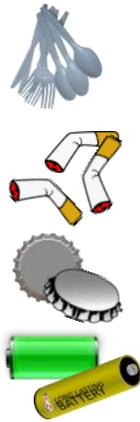
(Photos over...)

**PAST OUTINGS...**

**HFFN Kincardine Coastal Cleanup report**



Amazing array of beach rubbish! Roberts photo



Jim Roberts and Hannah Cann explore the haul. C. Roberts photo.

**MORAL OF THIS STORY: IF YOU DROP ANYTHING ON THE BEACH, SOMEONE WILL PICK IT UP!** -Ed.

**George G Newton Nature Reserve Annual Inspection**

Six HFFN members reported for inspection duty at the George G. Newton Nature Reserve, Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. The Annual Inspection is part of the stewardship agreement between Ontario Nature and Huron Fringe Field Naturalists. Its purpose is to collect data on the various features, activities and species occurring on the property. The information gathered is used by Ontario Nature to guide management

activities and help determine where maintenance is required.

Data collection sheets were provided for man-made features, natural features, signage, prohibited activities, state of trails and a species list. The work party moved through the reserve making written and photographic observations which will be entered into a spreadsheet and submitted to Ontario Nature.

In general, it was felt the majority of the trails were in good condition requiring only minor repairs to signage and some trimming. The new side trail to the pond has quickly become overgrown and will need attention.

*~ Christine Roberts*

**Christine had this to add:** 'Jim and I worked a few hours at the nature reserve [next] day. He dug out the big staircase and we trimmed the sections of the trail



PHOTO - BARB SIMPSON

that were really overgrown including the short side trail to the pond. He also re-hung some of the signs that had fallen. Jim also put all our comments and inspection data in the spreadsheets sent from Ontario Nature.'

**Petrel Point note:**

**Kirsten Dahl of Ontario Nature** sent out an email to HFFN President Gina Davis on June 1st, inviting the club to join others on a tour of the Petrel Point Nature Reserve. Mid-June is a good time to see orchids in bloom there and Kirsten wrote that it would be a great opportunity for Ontario Nature members who live nearby to see and learn about this wonderful area. Lunch was included and this outing was offered as a thanks for HFFN's support. We have toured this fascinating area during our Bruce Peninsula trips, but only in May, so this would probably have been an entirely different scene from what we have previously known. Catherine Hogg went along for this trip (anyone else who went, let us hear from you!) and reported, 'June 15th, Petrel Point, one tall white Bog Orchid, Showy Ladies' Slippers, not in bloom.' Catherine also noted that 'Ontario Nature successful petition to stop hunting of the Snapping Turtle'.



PHOTO: CLIP ART

Thank you, Catherine!

*~ Ed.*

## PAST OUTINGS...

### 2017 ANNUAL 'WELCOME BACK' CORN ROAST AND POTLUCK:

Once again we tender sincere thanks to our hosts, Lynne Johnstone and Paul Zinn. A tour of their wilderness property and pond, a hearty and filling Potluck and much catchup chatter and chat was enjoyed by about 26 people. A rare phenomenon occurred in which the Peppers were not able to attend due to bad colds, and it seems everyone was too busy walking, chatting and enjoying the feast to remember to take some photo's. For this we apologise, and hope that these memories of other years will suffice: however, if anyone did take photographs, perhaps they could be forwarded to Jeni to put into the Spring issue....for now, enjoy the memories! ~ Ed.



Left: a 2015 view; Above and right: a damp day in 2013; Steve, Tom and Jack plus corn; Kirk, Elaine and Glen warming up! (Photos, J. Pepper.)

### Butterfly Gardens and Tagging – Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>

To date, we have no input regarding this outing. If you went along, any input for the next issue would be much appreciated!

~ Ed.



### REPORT: FROM PRWIN'S FACEBOOK PAGE:

The WWF-Canada's Go Wild Community Grants (presented by TELUS) provided funding for 3,000 tree seedlings and amenities for volunteers at this year's 4H Conservation Club Planting on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>. This was the very first time PRWIN received funding from WWF-Canada! Their support and excitement for our 4H volunteer day was contagious, and even though the weather was cold and rainy, the 4H Conservation Club and volunteers from the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists (HFFN) showed up and completed the planting! A huge thank-you to our volunteers who made it happen, and a special shout-out to Valerie Gibson who helped Cathy Farrell cook and organize the lunch and brought her infamous butter tarts.

Remaining seedlings were both hand and Tree Tractor planted by PRWIN Directors and staff at specific projects sites funded by OCEF (Ontario Community Environment Fund) and Bruce Power! Look for our coverage on Facebook, [our new website](#), and Summer and Fall Enewsletters for updates on these exciting restoration projects.

Some tree seedling participants donated to our organization, and we could always use the financial help! If you would like to donate to our not-for-profit organization, or donate specifically to a Sponsorship Program Level, give us a call at 519-395-5538.

### ....and that was another little tail....

On our way up the Peninsula in May, this porcupine got caught with his bristles down...crossing the road just ahead of our vehicle. Donna's friend Susan managed a quick shot with her tablet, even though the flap refolded over the lens as she attempted the shot. Great, Susan!



**KINCARDINE COUNTRY DEPOT**

JIM HAMILTON  
OWNER



315 HAMILTON LANE  
KINCARDINE, ONTARIO  
N2Z 1E2  
countrydepot@tat21.com



Phone: 519-396-3451  
Fax: 519-396-3454



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

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



*\*Guests welcome!*

**THESE WONDERFUL PHOTOS** are courtesy of Jim and Christine Roberts, who have raised a total of 26 Monarch butterflies over the season. First butterfly hatching shown below. The 26th butterfly release is shown below at right. Great work done!



**We are forever celebrating** the joys of a new Spring. Barb Simpson is no exception; she captured great images of new Jacks-In-The-Pulpit:



**GOING AWAY SOMEWHERE!**



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!



# Members' Page....

...Continued

## MEMBERSHIP PAGE



**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!



### PAST ISSUES OF FRINGE NOTES...



IF FOR WHATEVER REASON YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACCESS THESE, THEY ARE HELD ONLINE ON OUR WEB PAGE, WHICH IS PART OF THE HURON STEWARDSHIP WEBSITE. HOWEVER, ONCE ON THE HFFN PAGE YOU WILL NEED TO USE THE LINK AT THE TOP TO GET THE RECENT ISSUES. THERE IS ANOTHER LINK TO THE RIGHT, HOWEVER IT GIVES ACCESS ONLY TO OLDER ISSUES AND NOT TO THE LATER ONES. ENJOY YOUR VISIT!

<http://hffn.huronstewardship.ca/>

WE APOLOGISE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE!

## MEMBERSHIP FORM



new member application or  renewal

SEPTEMBER 2017 to SEPTEMBER 2018

....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?**

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

*Thank you!*

### ~~ MEMBERSHIPS: ~~

Welcome back old members, and a warm welcome to new ones. Just a reminder that 2018/2019 memberships are due in September, \$20.00 per person, paid at any meeting or sent in the mail. Hope to see everyone very soon. Come out and enjoy the company, the outings and the speakers. Over-18 membership is \$20/person, due in September for the 2018/2019 year (form at left) Under 18's are free.

If there are any questions about membership or changes to your contact information, please contact me, Barb Simpson: 396-5486 or [bsimpsonbob@gmail.com](mailto:bsimpsonbob@gmail.com).

*Thanks .... Barb*

**ADVERTISING:**  
\$30 ANNUALLY, CONTACT EDITOR  
AT 395-5616, OR EMAIL:  
[TREK66@TNT21.COM](mailto:TREK66@TNT21.COM)

## ~ ~ ~ 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!**

**FEED THE FROG!**

**Social Time: 7.30 pm.**

**Meeting: 8:00 pm.**



**Beverages: 1.00; treats: free.**



### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

#### September 26th -



**Guest speaker Damien Mullin**, Laurentian University graduate student and Huron Stewardship Council researcher, will present field research concerning turtle behaviour, habitat and life cycle. Damien is a student at Laurentian University and is working on his Masters by doing turtle research. He has previously worked at Scales Nature Park at Orillia, the Algonquin Wildlife Station, and at Laurentian University on several species of Salamanders and Turtles. He tracked 3 different age groups after they were released last year to determine any differences in habits and long-term survival. He is keen on sharing his completed second season findings to us.

**Just in time for our turtle-themed September meeting, HFFN members can take advantage** of an exclusive "Brake for Turtles" magnet offer. For only \$4.00, your vehicle(s) can proudly display this handsome 4" square magnet complete with our logo. **With every purchase, \$3 will be donated to the building fund for the**



**Georgian Bay Turtle Hospital.** This non-profit organization is not yet ready to receive injured turtles although it is associated with Scales Nature Park in Orillia. Currently, injured turtles are treated at the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre in Peterborough. When operational, the new centre's catchment area is expected to be the Georgian Bay/Lake Huron watershed.

**Did you know** that seven out of eight of Ontario turtle species are currently at risk and most of these species can be found in the Georgian Bay/Lake Huron watershed? Road mortality is the most serious threat to turtles. People who have turtle or snake magnets on their vehicles report that they are frequent conversation-starters. By having these conversations and raising awareness of the public you can help to reduce this threat.

For those snake lovers among us, there will be a few "Brake for Snakes" magnets although not with the HFFN logo.

**Quantities are limited, so bring your toonies to the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting!**

Thanks are owed to Rachel White of the Huron Stewardship Council for her facilitation of this project.

*~ Christine Roberts*

#### October 24<sup>th</sup> -

**Dr. Janice Gilbert of the Ontario Phragmites Working Group (OPWG).**

This group is an organization of people working together to bring about reducing and managing invasive Phragmites in our province. OPWG wants to reduce threats to both the province's biodiversity and Species at Risk (SAR). To read more about this subject please look online, as there is ample information. (This text is drawn from the Mission Statement of OPWG.)

**November 28th: To Be Announced: The presentation for this meeting is still in the works. Watch your email!**



## UPCOMING OUTINGS



### Coming on an outing? Stay informed!

When planning to come along on a walk, or to a meeting, please check your email for any additional information before you leave home, in case the event has had to be cancelled or changed. 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, and a charged cell phone if you carry one.



### 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, 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!**

### Fall Colour Outing – Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 (rain date: Wednesday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>)

Join Christine and Jim Roberts at Harrison Park for a day of autumn hiking and exploration of streams, trails, gardens, waterfalls, forest and salmon in the heart of Owen Sound. Features of the park include swans and waterfowl, exotic birds, an arboretum, Weaver's Creek Falls, fish ladders and a network of trails of varying length and difficulty that link to the Bruce Trail and Inglis Falls. (If wet out, or hiking to Inglis....boots and walking stick!) There is ample parking, picnic and washroom facilities, a full service restaurant and take out counter. If you wish to eat in the Harrison Park Restaurant, reservations are required. In addition to the abundant natural beauty of this area, we will have the opportunity to witness the fall migration and spawning of Chinook salmon in the Sydenham River. Meeting place/time to be announced. **Contact numbers: p. 2.** **MEET: Pine River Church at 8:45 am to carpool, or at 10:30 am at the restaurant at Harrison Park.**

### OCTOBER 21st or 28th: Point Clark Shorebird watch and/or Potluck/Lunch:

**This outing is still in the works.** We usually meet around 9.30 am at the Point Clark Lighthouse, (early birders are often already there!) to walk the shoreline a ways, and after watching waterfowl out on the Lake, we get together for lunch. At present, lunch plans are pending but in the event a potluck is not possible, we will be looking into a group lunch at one of the Kincardine restaurants, possibly Boston Pizza.

Dress warmly with an eye to windy conditions and perhaps the odd raindrop or snowflake! Bring binoculars. Washroom facilities may or may not be available in the vicinity but an hour or maybe two on the beach is about the usual time before we decide we want to warm up and have lunch.

**Keep an eye out for email announcements regarding this always popular Fall get-together. If you can't receive email, please call either Steve or Christine (see contact numbers on p. 2).**

**ANY LATER OUTINGS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS ABOVE.**

### 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!



### HELP WANTED:

PLEASANT, WILLING INDIVIDUAL (OR TWO) TO

ASSIST SEVERAL OTHERS SAME; SOME NOTES TO TAKE, SOME PHONE CALLS TO MAKE, THREE BUSINESS LUNCHES PER YEAR; PAID IN GRATEFUL THANKS FROM SAID SEVERAL PLEASANT INDIVIDUALS AFOREMENTIONED WITH ADDED BONUS OF NEW FRIENDS AND SOME INTERESTING LOCAL AREA INFORMATION.

APPLY ANYTIME: STEVE PEPPER, 395-5616, TREK66@TNT21.COM

### Word to the Wise:

Several people have contacted us lately 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!**



NOTES OF INTEREST....

**Membership renewals ....**

MEMBERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR:

Barb Simpson, 396-5486.

Membership/renewal forms are included in this issue, or catch up with Barb at one of the 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 having 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 lunch meetings per year.

No great shakes!



**BEFORE YOU FINISH THIS ISSUE:**  
 ~~~~~  
**Just a heads-up...**  
**If you intend to renew your membership at the September meeting, remember to bring funds to do so, and if you want to also purchase a turtle car magnet or two, these are \$4.00 each. There is also a limited number of 'Brake for Snakes' magnets available, although without the HFFN logo.**



*FOR YOUR NOTES....*

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