

2014 Bruce Peninsula Explorer.....



Heather waves from the bluff after the scramble to the top.....



.....and, 'What goes up....' A helping hand back to terra firma.

All this scrambling around had brought on our appetites, so without more ado we piled back into our vehicles and headed back North as far as Cyprus Lake Park, stopping at the Head of Trails within the park, where we paused at the little picnic shelters to enjoy our lunch. Most members then hiked out to the Grotto, where another good scramble was enjoyed. Two enterprising ladies and one dog elected to return to Tobermory village, where the panting pup was ensconced in the cabin, while said ladies hied themselves over to the Sweet Shop for sinful Lime Yogurt cones and a good rest in the sun. Everyone else returned happy and tired some time later, and after resting up we enjoyed our Barbecue out in the open – after two consecutive rainy years' feasts in the motel's large shed! However at about seven pm the sun suddenly went behind clouds, causing equally sudden shivers amongst our number and subsequent dashes for blankets and jackets. As if we didn't know better, some of us then went for a walk along the floating boardwalk....and froze. It made our accommodations all that much cosier!

Day 3 – Thursday, May 22nd. Still walkin'!

We found we were still able to move a little after our hikes of the previous day, so without more ado we set off straight after breakfast to visit a favourite location, Singing Sands. We were momentarily dismayed (after morning coffees!) to find that the washrooms had been closed so that new ones could be built. However, we still had a good walk: we enjoyed the fauna and flora to be seen from the Boardwalk before striking off into the woods. Along our way we encountered a large, partially-melted but still respectable snowdrift; deep meltwater flooded the path around it. We left the trail there, of necessity, and turned towards the shore for an exploratory meander before heading out.

Several people had planned to leave for home from here, and we bade them a cheery farewell before heading back to have lunch in the village. The Leaside afforded five of us a good lunch and lively conversation, after which we returned on foot to the park so that we could take the pleasant walk out to Dunk's Bay, followed by a scramble on the rocks at Big Tub Lighthouse. After that we felt justified in a visit to the Crow's Nest Pub where we made short work of their excellent, cheesy pizza. Understandably followed by a short stagger back to our digs.

The following morning, the remaining five of us wended our individual ways home, replete.

See you next year, guys!

~ The Peppers



Anyone with a childlike sense of wonder should not miss The scenery and meanders to be had in the rock-strewn Woodlands behind the boulder beach at Halfway Log Dump. J. Pepper photo.



Once again members of the HFFN stand on the impressive Bluffs overlooking the Grotto in Cyprus Lake Park just south of Tobermory village and harbour. Bob Taylor photo.



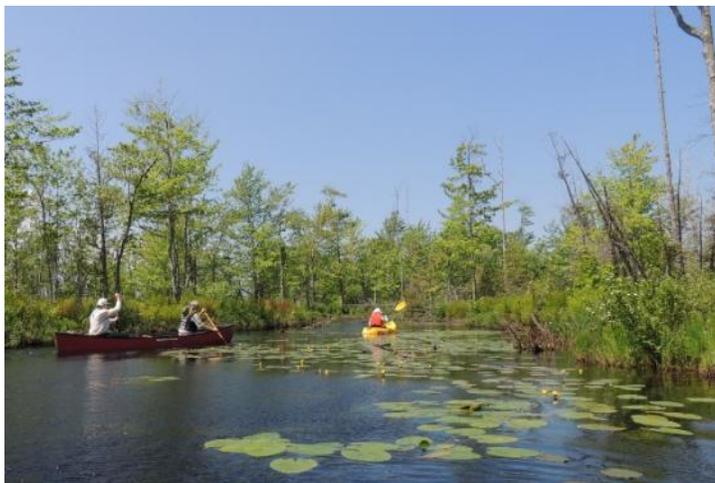
L-R:
Adventurers at Halfway Dump. (Pepper)
Russell on the Titanic at the Dump. (Taylor)
Bob Taylor got a good shot of this slithery
guy!!

June 4th – Canoe -Kayak, Arran Lake

Four kayaks and one canoe set out for a three-hour tour (more or less!) led by Art Doughty in his canoe who was assisted (again, more or less :-)) by this writer. We had a great paddle and saw a group of about five Sandhill cranes, at least two of which were observed quite closely, in addition to numerous other sightings. You don't realize how large these birds are until you get to see them up close.



After touring the interesting backwaters and channels feeding the lake, we then stopped for a well deserved lunch break and rest at the 'Hilton', a small grassy area with a trailer. During this time the wind started strengthening fairly quickly, so we set out to cross the lake and get back to the car park. While the trip across wasn't too bad, by the time we got around the headland and were paddling directly into the wind, it turned out to be quite a workout. Needless to say, everyone was a bit damper and a lot more tired than when we started out. However, all in all it was a great day for a paddle on



Arran Lake. Thanks again to Art for leading this Outing, and we are already looking forward to the next one! ~ Steve Pepper
Bob Taylor, whose pictures these are, had these comments:

'Here are a few of the photos from the Tuesday adventure. Unfortunately I didn't have the camera out during the return trip to get a few of the expressions during the battle with the 20 mph wind. It looks like such a nice calm peaceful day for a cruise on the water in all the photos. Even one photo I took while we were having lunch didn't capture the excitement ahead of us as the waves weren't very large at all.'

17th Annual Huron Fringe Birding Festival, May 23-26th and May 29th - June 1st.

The McGregor Point Park's 'Spotted Turtle' newsletter reported a great success with no fewer than 104 new participants, which brought the numbers up to 259. The weather co-operated fully for all of the 80 events. 43 leaders participated. A record-breaking 187 species of birds were spotted during the Festival and these included a late-migrating Orange-Crowned Warbler and a rare Connecticut Warbler. As well, a new plant, Ground Pine or Yellow Bugle, (*Aiuga Charnaepitys*) was found and recorded, the first recorded sighting of this non-native species in Canada. Participants explored the park and learned about many things including trees, shrubs, butterflies, bees, birds, plants, photography, geology and geomorphology, astronomy, important bird areas, and e-Bird.

Auburn Area Tour June 28

A large and enthusiastic group of members met at Manchester Riverside Park, just south of Auburn, for an afternoon tour of the area. This outing was to have been held last fall, but was cancelled due to stormy weather. Heat and mosquitoes were the scourges on this day, but otherwise it was very nice.

We started with a look at the remains of an old dam and grist mill which operated from 1850 to 1965. A copy of the book 'The Power of the Maitland' provided some interesting information and old pictures of the dam and mill. Then it was on to the scenic Maitland Block road and a stop at the former Goderich to Guelph railway. There is a plan being developed to turn the railway into a hiking trail. We walked from the road to the river, and saw many interesting plants, butterflies and birds. Continuing on Maitland Block, we passed over Blyth Brook where one of the Nature Conservancy's Queensnake research sites is located. A pamphlet on the snakes was handed out.

Next stop was the historic Ball's Bridge. This old iron bridge has a fascinating history, and a plaque and pamphlet gave us some of that. Down the road were the 'Little Lakes', where we saw many waterlilies in bloom, along with frogs, dragonflies and birds. From here we wound our way around the hills of Colborne Township... beautiful around Thanksgiving but also nice on an afternoon in June.

We soon arrived at Saratoga Swamp where we found our target, the all-white Showy Ladies'-slipper. Both the white and pink forms were in bloom, although some were already fading. I'm sure there were better specimens around, but the photographers in the group were grateful to get some pics and only go a few steps off the road.

Our final stop was down Pinery Line to the Robertson Tract and a try for the rare Tawny Emperor. This area is the farthest north in Ontario this butterfly has been recorded, with Point Pelee, Rondeau, and Long Point being its usual range. One individual gave us a quick look as it buzzed by high overhead. It was then back to Riverside for a group photo and goodbyes. I hope that I was able to introduce the group to some new areas and interesting finds in a place that I have been enjoying for many years.

Tom



CONGRATULATIONS TO TOM LOBB ON HIS VOLUNTEERISM AWARD!

On June 21st, Ontario Nature awarded Tom the Ontario Nature Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions to the organization.

Tom has been involved with wood turtle monitoring for at least 10 years, helping to promote a population increase for this endangered species.

He has also done surveys of the endangered Queen snake in the Maitland River area, as well as rare plant surveys.

Tom also acts as co-coordinator for trail maintenance and clean up at the G.G. Newton Reserve south of Goderich.

Congratulations, Tom, on a well-deserved award!



Happy wanderers, taken by B. Fera.



White Harebells? These caused puzzlement! J. Larsen



Our members with cameras had a field day. Here are four more by Janice Larsen. Thanks, Janice!



Auburn Tour....



The endangered Snowy Ladies' Slipper,
B. Fera



Northern Bluet Damselfly, B.



Showy Ladies' Slipper, J. Larsen

MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR GREAT PHOTOGRAPHERS, WHO SENT MORE PHOTOS THAN WE COULD SHAKE A STICK AT! MOST OF THESE WERE SENT AROUND VIA EMAIL TO EVERYONE ONLINE, BUT THEY ARE ALL WORTH ANOTHER LOOK. THANKS ALSO TO TOM LOBB WHO ORGANISED THIS OUTING SO WELL. ~ ED.

2014 NABA BUTTERFLY COUNT RESULTS: Saturday, July 5th.

MacGregor Point 2014

- European Skipper - 3533
- Cabbage White - 175
- Northern Crescent - 377**
- Clouded Sulfur - 47
- Great Spangled Fritillary - 18
- Monarch - 51
- Canadian Tiger Swallowtail - 24
- Eastern Tiger Swallowtail - 13
- Red Admiral - 6
- Common Wood Nymph - 1
- Eyed Brown - 39
- Meadow Fritillary - 1
- Summer Azure - 30
- Little Wood Satyr - 29
- White Admiral - 28
- Northern Pearly Eye - 1

- Aphrodite Fritillary - 7
- Mourning Cloak - 10
- Viceroy - 11
- Orange Sulphur - 1
- Baltimore Checkerspot - 4
- Long Dash Skipper - 8
- Eastern Comma - 7
- Question Mark - 5
- Common Ringlet - 29
- Pearl Crescent - 15
- American Lady - 2
- Hobomok - 7
- Northern Broken Dash - 1
- Red-Spotted Purple - 8
- Tawny Edged Skipper - 7
- Milbert's Tortoiseshell - 1
- Acadian Hairstreak - 1
- Appalachian Brown - 2



NORTHERN CRESCENTS, FROM BONNIE'S CAMERA ON THE AUBURN TOUR

~~ MEMBERSHIPS: ~~
Thanks to all who have paid their Membership Fees for the 2015 season.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE –

2014/2015 YEAR

Our new Huron Fringe Field Naturalists year has now started (September 2014 to August 2015). Membership dues remain at \$20 per person (free for all under 18 years of age.) Prompt payment greatly helps our record keeping, and will be much appreciated! Payment can be made by mail (to: Huron Fringe Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 143, Kincardine, Ontario N2Z 2Y6), or at the meetings.

Thanks Kirk

ADVERTISING: \$30 ANNUALLY, CONTACT EDITOR AT 395-5616, OR EMAIL: TREK66@TNT21.COM

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**Corn Roast/ Potluck at Zinn/Johnson property,
Saturday, September 6th**

As these pictures will demonstrate...this year we had great weather for our Corn Roast and Potluck. Some car-pooled from Pine River Church. We also welcomed a few people who had not been to this event before. A great turnout of people, and we were able to set our chairs outside. Our first meander was to the Pond, where Paul threw food to the Rainbow Trout, which threw up the water as they fed. Some little fishes also tried to eat the food, but it was too big for them! Around the Pond edge, Glen spotted a snake which slid away very quickly. Water lilies looked lovely and the walk around the Pond was interesting as always, with all kinds of flowering tall weeds such as Joe Pye weed and Goldenrod competing for space. Some went up the viewing tower as well. After a time most people went on a woodland walk before Tom arrived with the corn. There was plenty of food including pre-meal snacks to be passed around! Some went on the prowl with cameras, resulting in some good pictures. The corn finally ready, we all agreed how tender and sweet it was and the food that went with it was equally great. Lynn and Paul did us proud with special coffees and tea, and there were sweet treats to enjoy and a draw for a lovely basket of goodies. A very big Thank You to our hosts for a lovely day enjoyed by all in such a beautiful setting.

~ Ed.



Left: Bob Taylor captured most of us around the Pond and along with Glen Holmes got a good picture of this Great Swallowtail.

Below: Patience paid off for Bob who got this shot of one of the elusive Rainbow Trout.

Paul and Lynne out for a walk with most of us, a lovely sunny walk in the woods, and a good chat (B. Taylor, J. Pepper respectively)



Glen Holmes



Not forgetting the two cutest ones, who also enjoyed the get-together and Samantha also got to enjoy the buttery corn!



OUTING REPORTS.....

Homefront Acres Apple Orchard and Market, Tues., Sept. 9th.

About 15 or 16 members made it out to Gail and Roger Farrell's apple orchard at Homefront Acres (established in 1990) on a warm afternoon recently where Gail and Roger showed us their apple orchard operation. After an interesting tour with many questions asked, we were treated to a variety of apple slices to compare taste. Their orchard has about 18 varieties of apples to harvest. Many members left loaded up with apples, jams and pies from their market.

We are also fortunate to have Gail and Roger as our October meeting speakers this year. I'm sure that it will be another great evening. Thanks again to Gail and Roger for an interesting tour and sampling.



Views: Gail Farrell (far left) starts the tour; apples and apple products in the store; hearing about apple varieties; apples abound despite the year's weather; and Roger Farrell explains pruning on young trees. **Below, left:** The reward of hard labour!



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!

PAST MEETINGS:**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Tues., April 22nd**

Astronomer John Hlynialuk entranced us all with his wonderful photography of the night skies as seen from a remote region of Chile. The brightness and clarity of the stars seen from this location was amazing and John's narration was so interesting. As well, we enjoyed our roast beef dinner provided by the good ladies of St. Peter's Anglican Church in Lucknow. A door prize raffle followed and we all went home more knowledgeable, well-fed and with a small gift.

Tuesday, May 27th: Dr. Alan Morgan's fascinating talk and slide show entitled, '*In the Footsteps of Darwin and the Wake of the Beagle*' provided us not only with history in the making but also a few amusing anecdotes about situations encountered by the adventurers on their hunt for specimens in the jungles and forests. (When your hands are full of as-yet-unknown insects, how do you carry any more? Maybe in your mouth?) The presentation certainly brought character and colour to the historic voyages of Darwin and his fellow adventurers.

Tuesday, June 24th: An evening unexpectedly brightened by member Bob Taylor and wife Anne-Marie after it was discovered that our scheduled speaker wasn't able to be with us; instead we were treated to a great presentation on activities at the recent Huron Fringe Birding Festival, held yearly at MacGregor Point Provincial Park on the first two weekends after the May 24th weekend. Bob and Anne-Marie spent two weekends there and enjoyed or discovered many more interesting events, as well as the birding. (See Page 12 for the report.) Bob accompanied his talk with some great photographs....very modestly done, but without a doubt he saved our evening for us! Thanks so much, Bob!

~ ~ ~ REGULAR MEETINGS ~ ~ ~

Regular meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month, at the Pine River United Church,

Hwy 21 at the 4th Concession of Huron Township

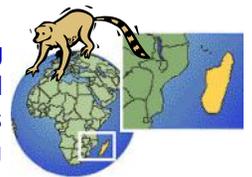
Social Time: 7. 30 pm ~~~~~ Meeting: 8:00 pm

LUG-A-MUG ... BRING YOUR OWN MUG TO THE MEETING!

Beverages.....\$1.00 Treats.....free

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

SEPTEMBER 23rd Meeting - scheduled speaker: Kyle Horner: '**An Island Apart. The stunning and bizarre life of Madagascar**'. Kyle is a wildlife photographer, naturalist and birder based in Southern Ontario. Besides presentations, he offers tours, workshops, and field trips. He has several presentations which look to be of great interest and has a beautiful website, a blog and Facebook page. His website is at: <http://www.kylehorner.com/>

**OCTOBER 28th Meeting** :

Roger and Gail Farrell will come and tell us about growing apples on their farm, a follow-up to our visit in September.

There is more to apples than meets the eye!

**NOVEMBER 25th Meeting:** Karen Alexander of the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation.

Karen is the Outreach and Education Co-ordinator for the Coastal Centre and will speak to us on the Evolution of the Great Lakes, as well as the Health of the Lake. This organization is working for the preservation of our coastline by means of research, education, community programmes, and campaigns such as their recent one, 'No Butts On The Beach!' The group also worked with Environment Canada and the Town of Goderich to study the impact of the Goderich Tornado and factors which led up to it.

To find out more about this organization, visit their web page at: <http://www.lakehuron.ca/>



UPCOMING OUTINGS:

Thursday, September 25th: BRUCE BOTANICAL GARDENS, RIPLEY, 1:00 PM

Location: 62 Park Street, Ripley

Contact: Steve Pepper

Car pool at Pine River Church at 12:40 p.m. if you wish or drive directly to the BBFG in Ripley for 1:00. There we will be met by Lynne Taylor, the President and CEO who will lead us on a tour of the BBFG.

Saturday, October 4th at 10:00 a.m. - OUTING AT NEWTON RESERVE AND/OR HOLMES WALK

We will meet at the Newton Reserve at 10:00 on Saturday October 4th and do a cleanup till roughly noon and stop for a lunch break. After lunch we will continue on to Bruce Holmes' property down the road and tour some trails through his pine plantation and woods, so **if you're not available for the cleanup, join us with a packed lunch about 12:30, and come for a walk afterwards.**

Wear appropriate gear for a work party and don't forget your lunch!

Saturday, October 18th:

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.

Fun to come -

We reconvene for the annual potluck and photo contest in February!

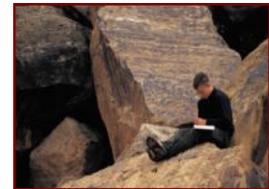
The date for the February meeting will be Tuesday Feb. 24th. Information about the Photo Contest: back page.



Members' Page*

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

**Guests welcome!*



GOING AWAY SOMEWHERE?
Wear your new 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!

Look where we've been!
These adventuring members sent the following great photos of themselves wearing their HFFN clothing....now where will YOU send us one from?



Bob Taylor submitted these views of himself and Anne-Marie - left, with HFFN members at Half-way Log Dump on this year's Bruce Peninsula Explorer - right, Anne-Marie in a pothole....on the way home from Tobermory:
'We stopped by Lions Head on the way home to get in one of the "Explore the Bruce" stops at the Lion's Head Potholes. This photo is one of Anne-Marie in one of the potholes sporting her new Fringe hoodie.' Thanks, Bob and Anne-Marie!



Members' Page Cont...



Rhodora forwarded these views of herself, taken by Art, on the left at Cape Spear and centre, she seems to demonstrate that one doesn't have to be wearing one's HFFN clothing to do this sort of thing!

With your Editor on the lookout over Dunk's Bay, accessed via the Parks Centre in Tobermory.

2015 Photo Contest...



Get those cameras out and ready...it won't be long before you can take some photos of the next year's subject....'FALL TREES'. Not a difficult thing to find when we are into our first days of Fall.

We will judge unretouched photos sized both 4" X 6" and 5" X 7". Bring some of each to the February meeting and enter. Winners will have a chance to get their photos shown in Fringe Notes in all their autumn glory! Prizes will be given. Don't be shy!



For Your Notes.....

Handwriting lines for notes.

Blast from the Past....



^ Autumn colour in November, 2005, Seneca Street, Point Clark >



^ Trip to the Saugeen Rail Trail, end of September, 2010.