



FringeNotes

September, 2007

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



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SUPPLEMENT

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www.huronstewardship.on.ca



President's Message

By Maithel Lee Wilson

Welcome back to another year of activities! We are a most active group of nature loving individuals. Please share your stories with us at our meetings or in the newsletter. Thank you for your input and suggestions on initiatives, outings and speakers. The club is what it is today because of you, the membership.

A special welcome to our new members. Please feel free to ask questions and share your ideas with us. We always have a variety of outings and a high calibre of speakers lined up for you. Where can you get a year's worth of 'entertainment' for as little as \$12?

Jack Campbell's leadership as President has been appreciated the last four years. We are pleased he will continue to serve on the executive this year, too. As well, a heartfelt thanks to Linda Campbell for helping to share the load. Your commitment and dedication to the club has not gone unnoticed.

Wendy Hogenbirk has served on the executive for several years. Before I took over as treasurer 3 years ago, Wendy was both the treasurer and the newsletter publisher. On behalf of the club, thank you for all the hours you have volunteered. You will be missed on the executive but we look forward to seeing you at the meetings and outings.

New faces on the executive this year are Jeni and Steve Pepper, Rhodora Doughty and Greta Thurber. The membership thanks you for volunteering!

In closing, a quote from one of my favourite environmentalists:
"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder...he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in."
-from *The Sense of Wonder* (1956) by Rachel Carson.





HFFN Executive

President:
Maithel Lee Wilson
395-5086

Past President:
J. Campbell

Vice-President: VACANT

Secretary:
Jayne Miltenburg
529-3241

Treasurer
Rhodora Doughty
396-4368

Membership:
Dennis Donnelly
396-8265

Speakers & Outings:
Tom Lobb 482-3342
Joy Munn 291-2846
Jim Armstrong 395-0907

Newsletter:
S. & J. Pepper 395-5616

~~~~~

*Social Conveners:*  
Pat Armstrong 396-5856  
Elaine Holmes 396-7107

*FON Rep:*  
Tom Lobb 482-3342

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

*Advertising:*  
Elaine Holmes 396-7107

~~~~~

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

OUTING REPORTS



CABOT HEAD WORK BEE

Wednesday, May 09/07

Eight HFFN men (Pat Bowden, Don Cass, Guy Murray, Bob Helesic, John Gamble, Art Doughty, Jack Campbell, and Dennis Donnelly) gathered at 7:00 am at Sobey's parking lot to travel to Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory at Cabot Head. The people there had provided a listing of over 20 items for repair, change and up-date to their facility.

The viewing stand was torn apart and rebuilt in short order; some other miscellaneous items were completed, but then things started to come undone. The 220 volt wall heater had no English instructions; the new electrical light fixture had no electrical box to mount it; the bath tub caulking could not be found, and so it went. After a late lunch, it started to teem down rain. At this point we decided to call it a day and hope that next time we would have better luck.



- Dennis Donnelly



KINCARDINE LAGOON OUTING

May 19, 2007

A group of nine took advantage of the warm morning, May 19th, to tour the Lagoon in search of migrating (and local) birds. The search started slowly (shortly after 9:00) and improved as time passed. During the three - hour walk, the group spotted and identified 31 species. These included 9 species of Warblers, 3 species of Vireos, Scarlet Tanager, Rufous-sided Towhee and Ruddy Duck.

One of the walkers succeeded in feeding the Chickadees from her hand. Everyone had a good time and considered the outing a success.

- Glen Holmes

CANOEING ISAAC LAKE

Wednesday June 6, 2007

Seven HFFN Club members drove to Isaac Lake on Wednesday June 6th, and with two canoes and two kayaks, put in at the south end of the lake. The weather was clear, cool and sunny. There were no bugs bothering us as we paddled north along the main channel of the Rankin River which connects Sky Lake, Isaac Lake and Boat Lake before emptying into lake Huron at Sauble Falls.

The purpose of our trip was to observe wild life, enjoy the peacefulness of the area and maybe improve our paddling skills. We experienced all of these without any upsets into the warm water,

(CONT...)

(CONT...)

...but did have a few sore muscles the next day.

The Marsh Wren was very vocal as we paddled along and occasionally would show itself by flying up just above the reeds to have a look at us. The Black Terns were concerned about us being so close that they attempted to dive at us but not too aggressively. Common Terns and Caspian Terns were also actively hunting for food as we continued north. A great Blue Heron was also sighted as well as many Cormorants, Gulls and Red-winged Blackbirds.

By noon we were ready for a stretch and so we landed at a wooded area where we had lunch.

On our return, we observed some Painted Turtles sunning themselves on a log. A pair of Osprey was actively hunting the waters and put on a neat show of how to fish successfully. One of them went into a dive from about 100 feet in the air and came out of the water with a nice fish about 10 inches long.

By mid-afternoon, we arrived back to our cars and then some of us made a side trip on the way home to Sauble Beach where we were fortunate to see the only known pair of breeding Piping Plovers in Ontario.

- Ralph Knowles



THE PIPING PLOVER

.....and its rare appearance on the shores of Lake Huron

The Piping Plover was listed as endangered in 1985 by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. At this time, only 17 breeding pairs of the Great Lakes subspecies remained. The appearance of one pair of plovers in Sauble Beach signifies the success of a U.S. conservation program, which now boasts 55 pairs. It also represents the importance of Sauble Beach as critical habitat for these and other rare species. Presently, this is the only known breeding pair in Ontario.

An **endangered** species is one that is under immediate threat of extinction; an **extirpated** species is one that is extinct from a particular area that it used to inhabit.

The birder who catches a glimpse of the Piping Plover is a lucky one! This short, stocky shorebird is found on wide open sand or among very sparse vegetation. Even so, it is remarkably cryptic and often mistaken for the Killdeer or Semipalmated Plover. Some identifying features include:

- The "dry sand" coloured back (as opposed to the "wet sand" of the Killdeer and Semipalmated Plover)
- A single, black neck and brow band.
- Orange legs and black-tipped, orange beak.

Efforts are being made to protect this pair of Piping Plovers and any eggs and young they may produce. Daily monitoring of the roped-off area by volunteers and educating the beach visitors is an important task in protecting this endangered species.

When nesting, adult Piping Plovers will try to distract predators by feigning a broken wing. This pair now has a wire fence around the nest site to provide additional protection while nesting. The major threats facing Piping Plovers are predators such as raccoons and gulls as well as human disturbance and development.

Early August will send the plovers flying south to their winter home in the Gulf of Mexico.

Update August 2, 2007

The pair of Piping Plovers found at Sauble Beach by a 13 year old boy and his mother in mid May, are the first ones to inhabit the shores of the Great Lakes since 1977. [cont'd...]

These birds which were banded in Michigan are the result of their ongoing program to introduce them back into the area. They came across the lake this spring, mated and 4 eggs were laid in a small depression in the sand at the base of the sand dunes along the beach. In order to protect these rare birds, an army of volunteers were assembled and from the time the eggs were laid, these Guardians monitored every move of the adults and eventually the chicks. Since this is a very popular beach area for summer, people had to be controlled from interfering with the movement of the birds during their feeding and free roaming along the beach. Over 100 people were involved with this great effort and included The Canadian Wildlife Services, Ministry of Natural Resources, Friends of Sauble Beach, Bruce Birding Club, local cottagers and three levels of government. Three chicks survived and with the help from their parents and the Guardians, endured the ongoing threats from a local fox, a hungry rat, many Ring-billed Gull encounters, Merlin attacks and human interference.

By the end of July, the chicks were airborne and within a day or two had disappeared. These birds will winter in the Caribbean and hopefully will return next spring. – Ralph Knowles

OUTINGS and EXCURSIONS

[Corn Roast - 2:30, Saturday, September 8, 2007](#)



When: 2:30 p.m.

Where: The Ark (Art Wiebe & Janice McKean's)

Contact: Tom Lobb 482-3342 Jim Armstrong 396-5896

Details: Join us for good food and fellowship as we get together after our summer break.

We will tour the Ark, maybe have a hike, and follow with a potluck meal.

Corn, hotdogs, and cold drinks provided. Bring a salad or dessert, and utensils. Chairs would be a good idea.

Directions:

From the intersection of Broadway and Queen in downtown Kincardine (downtown Tim Horton's) go north on the B Line (Bruce County Road 23) for approx. 8 Kms. Just past Lorne Beach Road the county road curves to the east. Watch for "The Ark" on your left (Lake Side) about half way around the first bend.

[Greenock Swamp Outing, meet 10 am, Sept 22, 2007](#)

When: Sept 22nd 2007

Meet: Kincardine Zehrs parking lot, 10 am.

Outing: [Bring a lunch and view the Greenock Swamp from Saugeen Valley Conservation Area's new viewing stand. Then walk the Canal Road to see Schmidt and Bester lakes. The Greenock Swamp area is being developed by the SVCA and it will be interesting to see their progress. Walking should be easy, but there are no public washrooms nearby Greenock Swamp. Meet 10 am, Sept 22, 07](#)



**Walk the Trails of Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Headquarters-
meet 9: 30 a.m., Saturday October 13, 2007**

Where: SVCA headquarters Conservation Area, 4 km south of Hanover following Grey Road 10 and west on Concession #18.

When: We will meet in the Kincardine Zehr's parking lot at 9:30am.

Contact: Jim Armstrong 396-5856

Details: Come and walk some or all 4 trails at SVCA Headquarters. This beautiful site contains numerous easy walking trails incorporating a variety of habitats, including upland forest, fen, and lowland cedar. Trails are 1.4km to 2.9km. The trails are looped so you are never very far from the start. There is a display of birds and deer along the walk. There are washrooms and a picnic area so bring your lunch. Those interested can check SVCA's web site at www.scva.on.ca



**Point Clark Birding and Barbecue,
9 a.m., Saturday, October 20th, 2007**



When: 9:00 a.m.

Where: Point Clark Lighthouse

Contact: Lee Wilson 519-395-5086
836 Wilson Avenue, Point Clark

Details: Traditionally, the real avid birders meet at the lighthouse, rain or shine, and eventually head back to the President's house for a BBQ. If you do not have the time or desire to do that, just join us for lunch!

BITS 'n BOBS

....pickin's, snippets and queries, et al....

Welcome! This is a wee corner for bits of news, members' queries, tips, ideas and what-have-you. Send your (BRIEF) snippets to the Editor via email – Trek66@tnt21.com or 395-5616. They will be published as space allows, and you are invited to share your knowledge to answer queries from other member



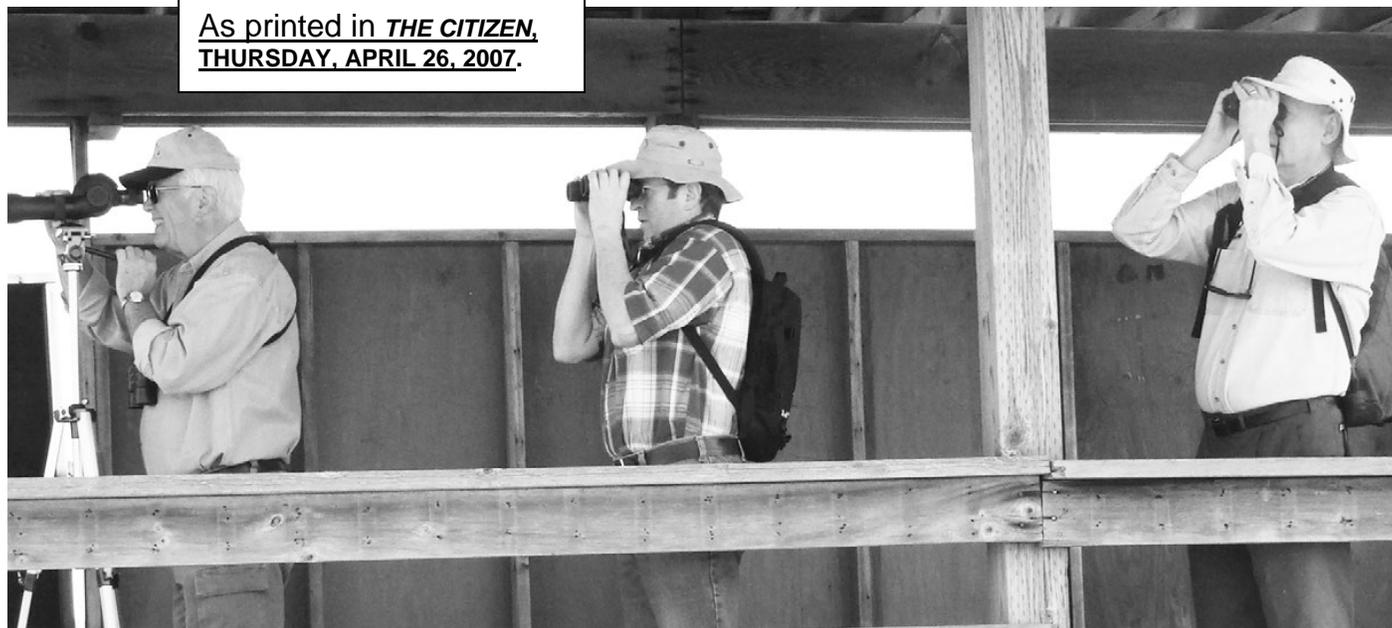
Topics can include anything nature-oriented: gardening, birdy subjects, your trips, and neat things you found! So let's hear from you, our members....this is your Club and your Newsletter!

~~~~~  
**QUERY:** Can anyone remember what it is that you are supposed to put 'a pinch of' in the bottom of birdhouses, to prevent mites getting at the fledglings?

**TIP:** If you have a dry bit of garden in full sun, with indifferent soil and where you always forget to water....try Lavender! Mine seems to grow regardless, and is now over ten years old. It shades its own roots and always smells heavenly, which also reminds me to water it at times!

**COMMENT:** We have been delighted to host a pair of Great Crested Flycatchers in our backyard for the past three or four springs, in an old nesting box whose entry was enlarged by squirrels.

As printed in *THE CITIZEN*,  
THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2007.



**Gazing** They came from near and relatively far to check out the birds at the Hullett Marsh's Waterfowl Day on Saturday. From left: Linden Thurber, John Farrell and Art Doughty of the Kincardine-Ripley area have a birds-eye view from the observation deck. (Vicky Bremner photo)

**By Scot Russell,  
Outreach Co-ordinator**

The skies over the Hullett Marsh were full of ducks, geese and swans as 20-25 people from the Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge, Woodstock, London, Central Huron and surrounding area gathered there Saturday, April 21, for Waterfowl Day 2007.

Some of the guests were members of the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists and McIlwraith Field Naturalists.

We enjoyed the beautiful sunshine and mid-20 degree weather with a showing of 38 bird species counted, including the following 13 species of duck: wood duck, mallard, northern pintail, American wigeon, northern shoveler, blue and green-winged teal, greater and lesser scaup, ring-necked duck, bufflehead, plus hooded and common merganser.

Other highlights of the day included a calling male eastern towhee perched conspicuously at

the top of a tree for all to see. Hundreds of late tundra swans both on the water and in the air, and Greater Yellowlegs were also encountered on the guided tour offered by the Friends of Hullett.

Further species of note included: pied-billed grebe, Canada goose, turkey vulture, redtailed hawk, ring-billed gull, mourning dove, red-bellied woodpecker, northern flicker, american crow, tree swallow, blackcapped chickadee, American robin, cedar waxwing, northern cardinal, chipping sparrow, song sparrow, swamp sparrow, slate-coloured junco, red-winged blackbird, common grackle, brown-headed cowbird, American goldfinch, and a perched, stoic and photogenic great blue heron.

In addition to bird life, wood frogs and spring peepers were heard calling, leopard frogs were seen hopping, a painted turtle basking, garter snake slithering and muskrat swimming.

The Friends of Hullett appreciate

all those who came out to enjoy the day, the ducks and the wildlife with us at Waterfowl Day 2007.

We look forward to hearing about additional sightings not recorded on our list.

Other species of note this week at Hullett Marsh included doublecrested cormorant, sandhill crane, wild turkey, gadwall, common goldeneye, eastern meadowlark, brown creeper, American coot and rusty blackbird.

The Spring Ephemerals Walk is April 28. The Owl Prowl is May 5, Canoe Day is May 12. The Songbirds tour is May 26.

For details, visit our homepage at [www.hullettmarsh.org](http://www.hullettmarsh.org) or see your local newspaper.

For more information about the Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area, call 519-482-7011 or e-mail [outreach@hullettmarsh.org](mailto:outreach@hullettmarsh.org)



## REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Pine River United Church on Hwy 21.

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

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



### September 25, 2007

**Speaker:** Carol Christianson, a retired University Professor from Clinton, Ontario, will do a talk and slide-show.

**Topic:** "The Arctic" (including Greenland)

### October 23, 2007

**Speaker:** Dr. Gordon McBean of the University Of Western Ontario, will bring us up to date on Global Warming.

**Topic:** "Are you getting warm?"



### November 27, 2007

**Speaker:** Leslie MacDonald from the Nature Conservancy in Guelph.

**Topic:** What the Conservancy does. Leslie will also give us ideas for "Outings and things to do."  
This is also our Christmas meeting.



### ARE YOU STILL WITH US??

**To verify your HFFN membership expiry date**, check your mailing label. You will see beside your name either a '07' or '08' which denotes when you are paid up until, i.e. April 07, April 08.  
The membership year runs from May 1 to April 30.

We hope that you will consider renewing your membership. Mail to: Huron Fringe Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 143, Kincardine, Ontario N2Z 2Y6

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

GARY TRACK  
owner/chef

*Watercress*  
B I S T R O

829 Queen Street, Kincardine ON, N2Z 2Y2  
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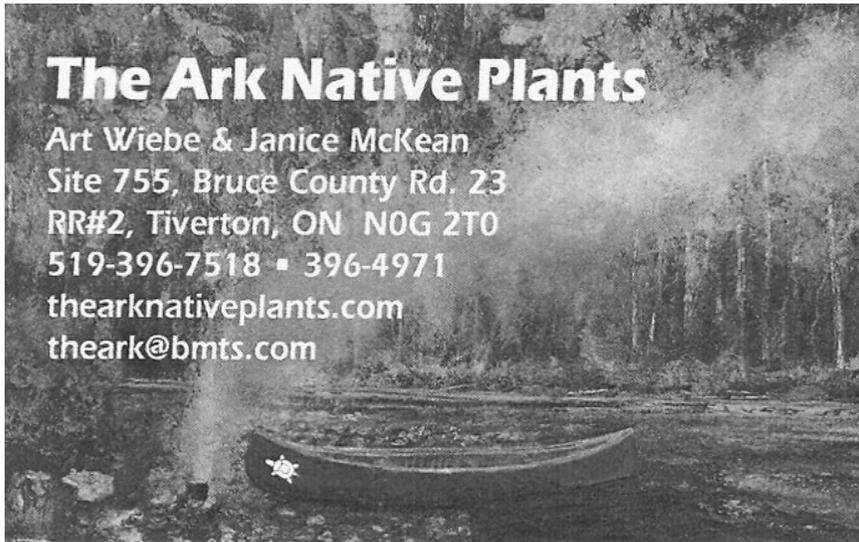
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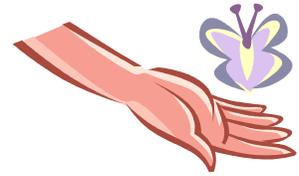


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**MacGregor Point Provincial Park**  
**NABA Butterfly Count**

On July 07, the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Butterfly Count was held. The weather was perfect for the Count but lack of volunteers resulted in a lower number of species sighted.

Like every year, the results are totally dependant on the weather that occurred earlier in the spring, the amount of rain we received, and the temperature.

The total number of species found was 35 which is well below average (last year we had 49). The total number of butterflies counted was 5479 which would be about average.

The following is a list of the different species found and their numbers:

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Northern Pearly Eye -1      | European Skipper - 3575         |
| Aphrodite Fritillary – 7    | Cabbage White - 611             |
| Mourning Cloak – 5          | Northern Crescent - 143         |
| Viceroy – 12                | Clouded Sulphur - 425           |
| Orange Sulphur -16          | Great Spangled Fritillary - 72  |
| Baltimore Checkerspot – 10  | Monarch - 209                   |
| Long Dash Skipper – 2       | Canadian Tiger Swallowtail - 17 |
| Eastern Comma – 4           | Red Admiral - 112               |
| Black Swallowtail – 1       | Common Wood Nymph - 124         |
| Question Mark – 8           | Eyed Brown - 24                 |
| Pearl Crescent – 14         | Meadow Fritillary - 2           |
| American Lady – 6           | Summure Azure - 6               |
| Hobomok – 6                 | Little Wood Satyr - 8           |
| Northern Broken Dash – 3    | White Admiral - 22              |
| Red-Spotted Purple – 3      | Northern Pearly Eye- 1          |
| Painted Lady – 1            | Aphrodite Fritillary - 7        |
| Milbert's Tortoiseshell – 5 | Mourning Cloak - 5              |
| Acadian Hairstreak – 14     | Dion Skipper – 3                |
| Eastern Tailed Blue – 7     | Angelwing Species - 1           |
| Viceroy – 12                |                                 |

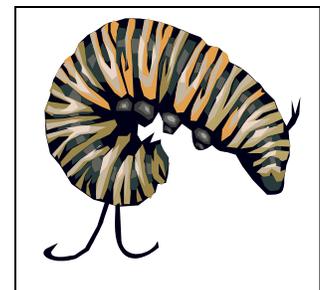


TYPES OF LARVAE SEEN:

Monarch : 43  
Giant Swallowtail: 2

TYPES OF EGGS FOUND:

Monarch: 10



## **ABOUT THE HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS...**

Box 143, Kincardine, Ontario N2Z 2Y6

[www.huronstewardship.on.ca](http://www.huronstewardship.on.ca)



### **HISTORY:**

First formed by Joe and Crystal Burgess in 1985, with an original membership of about 6 people. The Club has grown to about 170 members in the intervening years. Members generally live along the Lake Huron shoreline area, ranging from the Bayfield area in the South to the Tiverton – Inverhuron area in the North, and inland to include the Lucknow and Clinton areas.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To preserve wildlife and its natural habitat.
2. To promote a public interest in, and knowledge of, the natural history of the area, for a better understanding of the value of our natural heritage.
3. To promote, encourage and co-operate with organizations and individuals having similar interests and objectives.

### **PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES:**

1. Encouraging Bluebird population by building and maintaining Bluebird houses and teaching schoolchildren about same.
2. Assisting F.O. N. (Federation of Ontario Nature) with re-establishment of native trees and shrubs in the G. G. Newton Reserve (Goderich area).
3. Assisting with the Kincardine Annual Christmas Bird Count and MacGregor Point Provincial Park NABA\* Butterfly Count (July) .

\* *North American Butterfly Association*

4. Habitat improvement and protection of nest sites for Wood Turtle conservation in the Lower Maitland Watershed.