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Since 1985



Fringe Notes

WINTER, 2009



HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS, Box 143, Kincardine ON. N2Z 2Y6
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The HFFN EXECUTIVE
extends
its
Warmest Good
Wishes
to everyone at this
Season!



We're on the Web! SEE US AT:
www.huronstewardship.on.ca

From the president:

November, 2009

Greetings of the season! Congratulations to our club, now 25 years old!

This is HFFN's 25th year, and in celebration, the Executive is planning on holding a pot luck luncheon at the church at noon, on our regular meeting date in February. Keep this in mind and *watch for Steve's e-mails* to remind us. Mark your calendar! If you have a few memories of earlier days in the Club, or a memory or two of outings you've enjoyed, or things you've done or seen, please email them to our Newsletter editor, (address below, left) or put them on paper and bring them to our meeting. Perhaps we could put them all together and create a history of HFFN.

Linda and I attended Ontario Nature's regional Fall Meeting at the Guelph Lake Nature Centre. Six clubs reported on their activities. After lunch, which was graciously provided by the Guelph club, Joe Crowley, the 'snake charmer' of Ontario Nature, spoke on the work being done for the Ontario Herpetofaunal Atlas [reptiles & amphibians]. This guy loves snakes!

We then were given a tour of the dam that formed Guelph Lake. The lady who is President of the Guelph club works for Grand River Conservation Authority. She took us down inside the dam to show us how the dam is used in helping to control flooding. It is one of six such dams. There is also a small hydro-electric turbine, producing enough power for 46 homes.

We will **not** be having a meeting in January again this year. *Please check your e-mail up to the last minute before you leave to make sure whether winter meetings are on or not, and if you still have concerns, CALL BEFORE YOU GO.* My number is 519-395-5144, or call anyone else on the executive. **If Highway 21 is closed, so is the meeting.**

The Club will need a new **President** starting in September *if the Club is to continue!* I do hope someone will show interest, as it has been a wonderful opportunity to learn of the many different areas of nature that surround us. *Please think about helping out, in any capacity at all. Until the next time, Jack.*

REGULAR MEETINGS – PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR! -- Full details inside.

NOVEMBER - Dr. John Reaume. Topic is Dragonflies and Damselflies.

January – NO MEETING.

FEBRUARY – * **NOON** * PRESENTATION by GLEN HOLMES, and POTLUCK!

MARCH – Cindy Carpenter – Hummingbirds - details in Spring issue.....

APRIL - David Pearce for the Annual Meeting; topic: Polar Bears.



Of Note...



**NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS: Next issue: MARCH (Spring Issue)
Cutoff date for all articles: FEBRUARY 20th, 2010 – thank you!**

If you have any new and seasonal nature pictures for the Kincardine News, please contact Rachel at kincardinesports@bowesnet.com. She would be happy to publish them!

FEBRUARY HAS ONLY 28 DAYS IN 2010. Feb. & March Meetings are on the 23rd!

OUR 25th ANNIVERSARY !!

We cordially invite you to share your favourite (or amusing) memories of past Club outings for our Spring issue. Send them to the Editor at:
BEECHLEA@TNT21.com

**PLEASE NOTE:**

If your ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER or EMAIL ADDRESS changes, PLEASE NOTIFY THE EXECUTIVE. Our contact details are below.

President:
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Past President:
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Joy Munn 395-3570
Jim Armstrong 396-5856

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Elaine Holmes 396-7107

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

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Email reminders:**
Steve Pepper 395-5616

Advertising:
Elaine Holmes 396-7107

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

PAST OUTINGS**Corn Roast, Saturday September 12th 2009**

A good turnout of members enjoyed an early fall afternoon at Art and Janice's ARK. After meeting with members, and we were sure all had arrived, we worked up an appetite with a long walk around the fields of The Ark. We were led by Art and Janice, who pointed out how the natural flora is thriving and returning to their land. Then it was pot luck time with Tom's corn, hotdogs, and the salads and goodies brought by the members. Once again we thank our hosts for a very enjoyable afternoon. - Jim Armstrong

Kincardine Trails, Saturday September 19th 2009

A dozen members explored the trails of Kincardine starting at the Geddes Park. Even with trail maps provided by the Tourist Information Centre we had an interesting time deciding where we were and where we were going. The day was excellent for walking. We went at our own pace, and some went different routes, but all managed to find their way back to the parking lot. Several adventurous walkers found an old rope swing that they just had to try out. The confusion continued, as we didn't all end up at the same coffee shop. We will be better organised the next time, for this walk is well worth repeating. - Jim Armstrong

**Bayfield Trail**

On Thurs., October 1, a vivacious group of hikers met in Bayfield to be guided by our own knowledgeable Tom Lobb. The trail follows the south side of the Bayfield River, starting and ending at Clan Gregor Square. The trees that are long-standing are Ash & Butternut, which are showing signs of weakness from disease. The rugged trail, with varied elevations, was 4.5 km. long & a lot of work had been done by people – putting in steps & bridges. Since Catherine wasn't in attendance, Joan had to take an overwhelming amount of mental notes to answer all of Catherine's questions! (Here are Joan's observations – Ed.):

'What a variety of trail conditions; lots of ups and downs, even a flat open area; boardwalk, and twisting steps in a deep gully. We learned the name of the weed Tall White Lettuce, which my daughter wanted identified, and Tom was kept busy naming many kinds of Goldenrod, Asters, and Red and White Doll's Eyes, as well as a great variety of ferns, such as Bulblet Fern. A Wild Turkey flew by, and I saw the biggest Witch Hazel I had ever seen, which was just starting to bloom and had dried up seed pods from last year's bloom. A great walk....Thank you, Tom!' - Joan Dougherty.

(Tom adds that he saw Wild Turkeys in a tree, and a Monarch butterfly. – Ed.)
Can you imagine all the calories that we used up? Don't you wish that you had joined us?! - Linda Campbell.

Point Clark Birding and Barbecue, Saturday, Oct. 17th

For the first time for several years, enthusiastic birders had excellent weather to observe birds. Several members arrived at the lighthouse from 9 a.m. onwards. Species seen are listed on next page by Linden. At noon, 27 members arrived at Jack and Linda Campbell's and Jack did a great job barbecuing hamburgers and hot dogs. There was a wonderful selection of salads and desserts supplied by those attending, and the amounts were



Birding and Barbecue Continued....

certainly more than adequate. After lunch we were entertained by Jeni's English relative who is a very competent magician. It was impossible to see how he performed these tricks. However he was gracious enough to reveal how one trick is done, but only Marion Donnelly and John Gamble were able to do it satisfactorily. We thank Jack And Linda for being such gracious hosts, and for such an enjoyable day.

- Joy Munn.



Some of the birders bracing themselves against the gusty winds – the sun was shining, though. Jeni's cousin and her hubby, visiting from Lancashire, knew what to do to keep warm!
S. Pepper photo

Following is the list of sightings for the Annual Beach Birding and Potluck:

Purple Finch, Goldfinch, White Throated Sparrow, Blue Jay, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Redhead, Common Merganser, Red-Throated Loon, Double-Crested Cormorant, Bufflehead, Franklin Gull, Herring Gull, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose
- Linden Thurber.

"Preconceived notions are the locks on the doors to wisdom."
- Merry Browne



Smiling helps keep you warm too!!
J. Pepper Photo



'Hmmm! How did he do that?!!'
Catherine and Ruth being mystified – along with everyone else – as Brian Maxwell brings British magic to members after the delicious potluck. Pepper photo.



On Your Feet! Many of our hikes are like a walk in the park...but not all! If you're thinking of lighter shoes for an outing, do check the announcements for a note on the expected terrain, or call the contact number. Bring your treaded hiking shoes or boots along...just in case!
OUTING CHECKLIST: cell phone, binoculars, bird/plant/other book, bug repellent, hat, water, hiking stick, sunglasses, hanky, area map, snacks, thermos (in car), waist/backpack, boots for rough/wet terrain. In Spring and Fall: rain slicker, gloves.





WINTER WEATHER CAUTION: BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR A MEETING, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT IT IS NOT CANCELLED! WE WILL EMAIL UP TO THE LAST MINUTE....IF NOT ONLINE, PLEASE CALL ANY MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE. THERE MAY BE NOBODY AT THE CHURCH.

"IF HIGHWAY 21 IS CLOSED....THE MEETING IS CANCELLED."



UPCOMING OUTINGS -
Put these on your calendar:



2009 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - Monday, December 28th.

DETAILS:

The Kincardine CBC will held Dec. 28th starting at about 8 am. Anyone interested in helping out should contact Ralph Knowles at least a week in advance of the count, so that he can assign them to a team. Come on out! If you don't know all the birds, you'll be teamed with someone who does – just count!

Quitting time is about 4:30 pm. and summation of results/compilation of numbers will be at a local restaurant in Kincardine where participants will eat and drink.

- Ralph Knowles

CONTACT: remak@bmts.com or phone: **519-396-5580**



WINTER WALK – Tuesday, January 26th 2010

Meet: 1:00 pm. As this will be a **weather dependent walk** we won't decide until about a week before and **an e-mail will be sent**. Those interested can phone the contact for information.

Contact: Armstrong. 519-396-5856



EAGLE WATCH - Saturday February 20th 2010

Meet: 1:00pm at Zehr's parking lot in Kincardine.

Details: Join the group to see Bald Eagles and other birds along the Lake Range Road and the lakeshore near the Bruce Power Plant. Each year we see more and more eagles. It is nice to witness their return to our area.



Swans at the Lambton Museum - Some time in mid-March.

Details: Yes! We are thinking Spring already. The Tundra Swans may be back before our March Newsletter. So this is just a heads-up. This is always a great viewing outing, but when depends on the swans. In early March keep watching the web-site www.returnoftheswans.com to pick the best viewing day. We will car pool from the Pine River Church parking lot and the Sun Coast Mall in Goderich. We will tour by car beside the flooded fields of the Thedford Bog south of Grand Bend. There are washrooms at the Lambton Museum. Bring a lunch. There are usually drinks to be purchased in the museum and the 2009 fee was \$5 for adults; \$3 for seniors and \$3 for children I'll have a notice sent out when we can pick a good day.

Contact: Jim Armstrong 519-396-5856





~ ~ ~ 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!



Mark your calendar!



NOVEMBER 24th, 2009.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE NIGHT!

Our November speaker is Dr. John Reaume of Mount Forest, who spoke to us about warblers in 2002. Dr. Reaume will give his presentation on Dragonflies and Damselflies.



February 23, 2010 – Members' Night: POTLUCK LUNCH AT NOON.



February is our Member's Meeting, so bring your nature-oriented pictures, collections, etc. to share.

Longstanding HFFN member Glen Holmes will do a presentation which is sure to include some great photography!

PLEASE MAKE SURE MEETING IS NOT CANCELLED BEFORE SETTING OUT!



March 23 is in the works..... Cindy Carpenter has agreed to do her presentation on Hummingbirds. Details in the Spring issue of *Fringe Notes*.

A look forward to our ANNUAL MEETING – APRIL 2010

We hope to have a presentation on Polar Bears and Climate change, by David Pearce of Canadian Parks and Wilderness



The November Meeting Report.

The speaker for this Meeting was Eric Williams of Tiverton. Eric is an experienced paddler of large six- and eight-man canoes, and to mark the 200th anniversary of David Thompson's birth, Eric led a large brigade of paddlers to retrace the journey. David Thompson's great map is still at the far end of the route, at Fort William, Ontario. Surveyors now with all their modern equipment are amazed at the accuracy of this map. Eric led our group visually and verbally through this journey. His commemorative paddle began at Rocky Mountain Lodge in Alberta and ended at Fort William. We were introduced to places and people along the way, and also some of the weather they endured (ice five feet thick at the side of the river in Alberta, and deep, slippery mud at some of the portages). One canoe was from Cumberland House First Nations, and when the brigade visited there, the community carved a track up over a cliff in order for them to reach the community. Eric wore an outfit that the early fur traders would have worn. He ended his presentation with a video that really gave us the feeling of traveling down these waterways with the brigade. It was an interesting and informative evening.

-- Submitted by Joy Munn.

If you would like to advertise on this page, please contact Elaine Holmes at 396-7107

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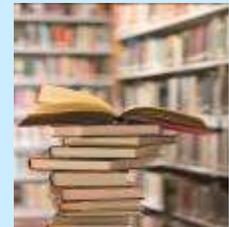
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