

# ENJOYING NATURE IN HURON-BRUCE



FALL & WINTER 2019/2020... WALKS, MEETINGS & POTLUCKS  
**FREE FROM OUR ADVERTISERS (SEE INSIDE)**

# THE HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS' FRINGE NOTES

ENJOY FRINGE NOTES IN COLOUR! Visit us at: <http://hffn.huronstewardship.ca/> (Groups)  
 OUR FACEBOOK PAGE IS CHANGING....WATCH THIS SPACE...



## FROM OUR PRESIDENT, LYNN JOHNSTON:

Hello Nature Lovers,

I am enjoying the (dog) days of summer and I hope you are too. It's great to have nice warm days, lots of sunlight, warm rains. Glorious! It's great to see the abundant plants, flowers, butterflies, birds and bees (and yes, other bugs) and the critters moving about that are so prevalent in our little paradise of Southwestern Ontario.



The summer is so fleeting that I hope everyone is stopping to 'smell the roses' as they say. We certainly have had lots of events to attend, if so wished - the butterfly count at McGregor Point, Bruce Botanical Food Gardens in Ripley, Executive Meeting, Kincardine Shore Cleanup, Butterfly Gardens and Fairy Lake followed by dinner in Southampton, and Monarch Tagging, again at Perkins Park in Southampton.

You could walk your dog outside, go to local provincial parks, stroll or swim at local beaches, attend local summer festivals such as in Kincardine, Goderich; attend small town Reunions such as Teeswater; canoeing, kayaking on local rivers or lakes, bicycling, walking outdoors. I hope that each of you have had an opportunity to get some rest and relaxation outdoors and enjoyed nature.

I used to take nature for granted that it would always be there to enjoy when I had time to do so. I also always believed that everyone loves and appreciates nature as I do. I am dead wrong. I have come to realize that our environment is degrading with plastics being found everywhere even the 'pristine' arctic. We need to take steps and actions to preserve it. We are stewards of the Earth.

Luckily, there is an election coming up in the fall, in October. We can ask of politicians what environmental protection policies they are planning and make our views known to them. The Ontario Nature website has seven questions to put to politicians so we can know what their policy proposals are so we can vote intelligently, and if it's a priority, to vote for those who will act as responsible stewards of the Earth. I urge you to go to the Ontario Nature Website to find those questions and put them to good use. We often feel helpless to know whether we can make a difference to help the environment. Yes, we can!

(see next page...)

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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, P. 2.) \*\*except April, Annual Dinner at another venue.



DRAGONFLY ON WATERLILY, LONDON. Photo: Paul S. Anderson.

## UPCOMING EVENTS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### OUTINGS:

Full details inside.

### MEETINGS:

**CORN ROAST/POTLUCK; SUN., SEPT. 15th**

**GODERICH GROVES; SUN., OCT. 20th**

**FALL SHORE BIRDING/POTLUCK; SUN., OCT. 27th**

Outings are emailed or published as they are finalized.

**SEPT. 24th MEETING:** Bob Barnett: Escarpment Biosphere Reserve

**OCTOBER 22nd MEETING:** Kerry Jarvis Photography

**NOVEMBER 26th MEETING:** Club Member Night



TITLE PHOTO CREDIT: Paul S. Anderson, WATERLILIES, SPRINGBANK GARDENS, LONDON.

PLEASE NOTE:  
IF YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OR  
EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES,  
PLEASE NOTIFY THE EXECUTIVE.  
OUR CONTACT DETAILS ARE BELOW.

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

<u>President:</u>	Lynn Johnston	528-2411
<u>Past President:</u>		
<u>Vice-President:</u>	VACANCY	
<u>Secretary:</u>	VACANCY	
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Onno Visser	395-3173
<u>Memberships:</u>	Barb Simpson	396-5486
<u>Outings:</u>	Steve Pepper	395-5616
	(1 Open position)	
<u>Speakers:</u>	Bob Simpson	396-5486
<u>Newsletter Editor:</u>	Jeni Pepper	395-5616
<u>Members-at-Large:</u>	Joy Munn	395-3570
	Susan Greco	396-7950
	John Hill	396-9738
	Jayne Miltenburg	529-3241
<u>Social Convenors:</u>	Rhodora Doughty	396-4368
	(1 Open position)	
<u>Ontario Nature (FON) Rep:</u>	Jim Roberts	
<u>Website Administrator:</u>	Steve Pepper	395-5616
<u>Communications:</u>	Christine Roberts	395-5008
<u>Publicity:</u>	Christine Roberts	395-5008

### >> Our Club Executive <<

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

### **FRINGE NOTES** PRINTED BY:



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Kincardine, ON  
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### FROM OUR PRESIDENT...CONT.:

It has also come to my attention that there are so many people who have never been exposed to nature at all. For example, many who live in a city do not get an opportunity to experience the thrill of a country walk, see butterflies, beautiful birds, animals both small and large. And, when they do have an opportunity to do so, are afraid of nature, feel that certain animals should be immediately eradicated because they are dangerous, a nuisance, ugly, scary, or because they think it's funny to do so.

We, in our Club, have so many opportunities to interact with nature and have great speakers to learn more about nature and are in a unique position to share our love of nature and the information that we are learning. I talk to as many people as I can about our experiences, encourage them to come to a meeting or maybe even join. People tend to help preserve what they get to know, ie: the panda and elephants at the Toronto Zoo, the orcas in British Columbia, and the great right whale etc. People rallied to save these as they got to know about them. We can make a difference on an individual to individual basis.

We have a great upcoming fall, the Corn Roast, we are hosting, Ontario Nature on September 21<sup>st</sup> - come on out and see what it's all about at the Pine River Church.

Our meetings commence on September 24<sup>th</sup> along with membership renewals. Our Executive is working hard to provide our club with great outings, great speakers and great experiences, and great social interactions. Thank you, Executive. Come on out and enjoy. Life is short! Bring a friend too!  
~ Lynne



### Announcements!

# Happy New (HFFN) Year!

*It's that time again...*

*HFFN's new season begins in SEPTEMBER.*

*Time to update your membership for another year.*



DON'T  
FORGET!

*Thanks folks!*

### MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS INFORMATION:

HFFN recently set up an e-mail account for the club, to be used for paying membership dues by e-transfer, so that payments will go directly into the account. The membership form has been altered accordingly.

Payment by cheque is also accepted, or you can make cash payments to Barb Simpson, our Membership Co-ordinator, at any meeting.

The new address for the e-transfer is: [huronnaturalist@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:huronnaturalist@hurontel.on.ca)

**Please see the MEMBERSHIP FORM**

John Hill is donating a beautiful framed print of Ruffed Grouse to be raffled as a fundraiser. Outside dimensions are - 32 1/2" x 27". Tickets will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5. They will be available at the corn roast and again at the Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> meeting with the draw to be made Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you, John!

### PHOTO CONTEST (February meeting):

If you know where you can get a beautiful photograph of a Bruce County landscape or geological formation.... our next contest is 'Best of the Bruce', under these two subjects only. Please see p. 16 (back page).

**KINCARDINE COUNTRY DEPOT**  
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 Donna Bridge  
 Manager

UPI ENERGY

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 519-396-7518  
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 theark@bmts.com

### PAST MEETINGS:

#### May 28, 2019 Meeting

Christine Roberts



**This meeting was a departure** from the usual format. Instead of a guest speaker, a movie was presented: 'Call of the Forest: The Forgotten Wisdom of Trees'. In this film, Irish-Canadian botanist and author Diana Beresford-Kroeger extols the remarkable chemical properties, spiritual and health benefits of spending time in forests. Beresford-Kroeger takes us on a journey to ancient forests of Japan, northern California and our own boreal forest. She also introduces us to scientists who are trying to replant, restore and protect the

world's last great forests.

While most people think of trees in the context of carbon capture, this film reveals the complex chemistry of aerosols that boost immune systems and are potential sources of new medicines including anti-cancer and antibiotics. We also learn of the invisible chain of relationships and how forests influence marine life through the transfer of nutrients.

Although a long presentation, members enjoyed the beautiful photography and surprising new revelations about health benefits through this advocacy documentary.

In other Club business, Margie Visser introduced the fundraising draw for a framed print donated by AGM speaker, Suzanne Southon. Susan Greco reported on the 4 successful flower hikes she led earlier in the month, and Donna Murray outlined the many activities and destinations of the Bruce Explorer trip.



#### June 25, 2019 Meeting

Christine Roberts

**Back by popular demand**, HFFN welcomed distinguished conservationist, educator, researcher and volunteer David Gascoigne for a presentation on diurnal raptors.

Lynn Johnston welcomed another great crowd of approximately 55 people with several guests including a visitor from Texas.

Steve Pepper reported on a very successful and well-attended canoe/kayak outing June 9<sup>th</sup> and Catherine Hogg reported on the Ontario Nature Annual Gathering which she attended the first weekend of June in Hamilton. She commented on the high quality of the speakers and was very impressed with the Hamilton Naturalist Club's environmental programs.

Steve introduced David Gascoigne who began his talk with the basics of raptors: the special adaptations of feet and bills for catching different prey, different flight adaptations and how their amazing visual acuity is achieved.

American raptors from turkey vultures to red-tailed hawks, eagles, osprey, kestrels and snowy owls.

(over...)



HFFN member John Hill (left) thanks David Gascoigne for his entertaining and enlightening presentation on raptors.

## PAST MEETINGS cont.:

### June 25th cont.:

We learned many fascinating facts such as the incredibly high speeds attained by peregrine falcons, the historical legacy of pesticide use and effects on raptor reproduction and how a kestrel keeps its head still while it hovers over a field.

A highly energetic and humorous speaker, David's delivery elicited frequent roars of laughter from the audience. Appealing to the kid within us all he also delighted in highlighting the most disgusting habits of turkey vultures such as the use of projectile vomiting as a defense mechanism.

All humour aside, Gascoigne ended his lecture with an impassioned plea for everyone to care about and protect raptors. It's natural for people who feed and enjoy watching smaller birds to feel antipathy for birds that prey on them. However, he noted that raptors keep populations in check and the size and health of a raptor population is an indicator of the overall health of an ecosystem.

Before adjoining for the summer, the winning ticket for Suzanne Southon's framed Cedar Waxwing print was drawn and the winner was... a delighted Liz Addison.

**(Meeting photos by Christine)**



**Pictured is one-winged rescue Turkey Vulture, 'Socrates', who visited us in 2012. Pepper photo**



**Liz Addison admires her new framed photo of a Cedar Waxwing donated by ADM speaker Suzanne Southon.**



## PAST OUTINGS...

### **Sue Greco Spring Flower Walks: April 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Susan led walks in Pt. Clark and Stoney Island, May 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Photos and text by John Hill**

Five members turned up to join Susan on her 'Wild Flower Walk' through Stoney Island. The weather was grand, Susan's knowledge was excellent and the walk was great. No bugs, no rain, plenty of sun and plants and lots of salamanders.



#### **STONEY ISLAND**

John kept his camera handy and obtained some good shots.

**Far left:** Sue discusses the properties of wildflowers with Helena Hill and other interested flower searchers.

**Lower Left:** Wild Daphne is a rather rare but always welcome find.

**Below:** A Blue Spotted Salamander found itself demonstrating its kind on the friendly palm of John Hill.



**Our Facebook page is CHANGING! Details coming soon.**

Please check it out as a place to share those great sightings, ask questions, post your photos, get in touch with other like-minded folks, and look at the photographs others have shared. Watch for the new information in your Inbox.

## PAST OUTINGS...

### Newton Tract work party: Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

Steve Pepper



**The day started out wet, windy and cold.** After a number of us met at the Pine River Church it was decided for safety's sake to postpone the work party. It was suggested we try again the next Friday. However, because Murray and Gayle were unavailable on that day, and Murray had brought his chain saw, they decided to make a run to Newton after all, as it looked like the weather might clear. It was ultimately decided that to be on the safe side, the rest should go too. So Murray and Gayle took the scenic route through Benmiller, while Bob, Barb and Steve went through Goderich and all met at the Newton Reserve.

The 5 of us did some cutting and clearing. The trail was wet and muddy in places but altogether not too bad. Shortly before we got back to the road, we ran into Jack and Linda Campbell, who had stopped by as well. While fairly protected from the wind in the bush, back out on the side of the road it was still cold and windy so at that point everyone headed for home! The day didn't go exactly according to initial plans, but it wound up working OK!



### HFFN ANNUAL BRUCE PENINSULA EXPLORER:

May 21<sup>st</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> 2019 J. Pepper

#### Day 1 - May 21<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday:

Once again a lovely day for the run up the beautiful Bruce Peninsula. After leaving our meeting point in Kincardine, our destination for a trail walk and lunch was the previously undiscovered Greystone Trails, a 430 acre tract of unspoilt land with 16 kms of trails through varied landscapes. This wonderful endeavour has been created by Susan and Tony Crutcher, who live on the property and have five beautiful cabins to rent. There are six ponds - one of them a beaver pond - and well managed dogs are welcome. This is a private nature reserve and managed forest, free to use for trail walking, snowshoeing and skiing. There are five rest areas with privies, and maps are available at the start of each trail. Trails are 10 ft. wide, and the terrain is moderate...once you get up The Hill! (This latter was an experience in itself. Suffice it to say, the reserve is located at the top of the bluff....) We were met by our welcoming hostess Susan, who then drove many of us cheerfully to the top. We walked an easy trail with an abundance of flora (see inserts) which were pounced on with delight by our Susan Greco, who was in her element. Lunch was also ferried with us and we were delighted to see our lunch spot, which is a small observatory and picnic shelter with a fire pit. Many birds were seen in the young trees and their voices ever-present.

After a filling lunch during which many of us enjoyed a chat with our hostess, some of us, who had imagined we would be able to descend The Hill, began to wonder whether it would be wise, and were just as cheerfully ferried back down in Susan's SUV. The reserve does have a golf cart for this purpose, but the SUV was used for our larger group.



(Pepper photos)



Susan G. pointed out some floral treasures, amongst which, Toothwort, Hepatica, Bird Eye Primrose.

#### WILDFLOWER LIST

Coltsfoot  
Hepatica  
Bearberry  
Trout Lily  
Toothwort  
White Trillium  
Red Trillium  
Solomon's Seal  
False Solomon's Seal  
Starry Solomon's Seal  
Sarsaparilla  
Common Blue Violets  
Common Yellow Violets  
Columbine  
Indian Paintbrush  
Spring Beauty  
Blue Cohosh  
Wild Lily of the Valley  
Wild Ginger



**PENINSULA EXPLORER....****PAST OUTINGS...****Day 1 cont.:**

We were then given a tour of the couple's greenhouse, which at that time was a glory of multicoloured pansies.

Leaving Greystone Trails, we then headed for Big Bay. All adventurers need sustenance; this we had anticipated and had arranged with the popular Big Bay Store as we had done in previous years - they arranged to be open on a normally closed day so that we could indulge in their famous home made ice cream. A sign above the counter told the story:

19,530 cones served last year; 1,195 sold so far in 2019 up to May. Our group added to the number!

Cooled off and replete, we then drove a little way around the bluff for a peek at Colpoy's Bay over the wall. From there we had a straight drive to our Tobermory



lodgings where as usual we had a great meal at the Princess Hotel followed by a meander along the floating harbour boardwalk for some of us who, when we reached the deck across from the ferry mooring, were amazed to see that the lake level had risen even more than last year, and was now covering three of the steps up to deck



level. Just a few years ago, the divers had walked several feet from the bottom of these steps to enter the water via a little rocky path. We later heard that the water has risen even further since May.

**Day 2: Wednesday, May 22nd :**

After breakfast we headed to Shining Rainbow Deer Nature Reserve, where we found the recently planted Hill's Thistles coming on well, and even

noticed some in the walkway to the trail. Off we went along the narrow boardwalk, only to discover it was under water for some of its length; about half the people were bootless or had left them in the car; some went back to get them,

while others went with Steve along the road for a walk at the much drier Alvar Bay. While there, a number of birds were heard, without, however, spotting some of them. A few drops of rain fell, but eventually petered out.

For those who stayed, Shining Rainbow Reserve offered up Grass pink, Hills Thistle, Wild Columbine, Indian Paintbrush and one garter snake, quickly photographed by Onno. Several geese were seen flying into the other end of the lake.

Meeting up with the rest at Shining Rainbow entrance, we split up into small groups for lunch in town, then off to the much-loved Mermaid Cove. High water precluded most shoreline meanders, but a way was found through the bush to the little rock peninsula. We were eventually driven away by the cold wind. Driving then to the Parks Canada Visitor Centre for a climb up the Lookout Tower and a short walk to normally calm Little Dunk's Bay, we discovered amazingly choppy waves coming in due to the uncharacteristically high water. Everyone then went back to Peacock Villa's Cabin 7 for the BBQ; great chats, good burgers, and a nice potluck, but COLD! We broke up when we were all getting too chilled....there were rumours of a few games of Sequence in No. 7. Too cold for the harbour walk this evening!

**Day 3 - Thursday, May 23rd**

Having elected to have breakfast at the window-walled Leeside this morning, members were bemused to notice a rather thick mist creeping in from the Lake, which obscured sight of the adjacent harbour across the Ferry parking lot. Nonetheless - we had plans, so it was off to Singing Sands. Arriving there - no lake to be seen!



**PENINSULA EXPLORER....****PAST OUTINGS...****Day 3 cont.:**

A magical mystery tour along the boardwalk and back via the beach. High water inundated the picnic tables there! Most people had not visited the site since the reconstruction in 2017/18 so it was a case of discovering the new setup.

THE LAKE SHOULD BE HERE SOMEPLACE...



LOST IN THE MISTS...MEMBERS ON THE BOARDWALK AND LATER, ART AND RHODORA EMERGING FROM THE DEPTHS...



Despite the inclement weather we still enjoyed seeing the flora that had emerged including Bird's Eye Primrose, Marsh Marigold, and some large Pitcher Plants, very happy in the dampness. The famed Ram's Head Orchids had sensibly held back and had either no blooms or tiny buds.

On entry to Singing Sands there is a building comprising washrooms, a large patio deck with lunch tables and chairs, and an upper deck with star charts on a 'planisphere drum': Lunch was taken to Halfway Log Dump picnic area, where a huge digger was thumping away at the bedrock. A walk down the trail was very pleasant, since the sun had now come out. Susan Greco pointed out Wild Sarsaparilla, amongst more familiar flora, but all of the wildflowers seem to have held back this year, probably due to the cooler spring. Several Red Admiral butterflies were seen however, and a very friendly chipmunk or red squirrel kept Donna company through the mossy, boulder-strewn glen behind the beach. Two Dwarf Lake Iris were found by the car park, and a mosey at Crane River picnic area yielded White Trillium. Some of our members left for home during the day, while those still with us enjoyed the Pizza and Beer Night at the Crow's Nest in town. Everyone chose their own preference from the menu, despite the name of the event!



That evening about nine pm saw a small group of us back at Singing Sands enjoying the fantastic view of the night skies. One 24-hour park pass allowed for these three outings. Permission was asked and given for the group to return to Singing Sands after dark. Donna reports: 'On our astronomy evening, six bundled-up souls travelled to Singing Sands, which was alive with the sounds of hundreds of frogs and a flyover of ducks/geese in and out of the area. As full darkness fell, Steve was able to identify the following stars, planets and constellations: Canis Minor, Castor and Pollux (the Twins) followed by Mars, The Big Dipper, The Little Dipper, the outline of the Summer Triangle - Deneb, Vega and Altair. Procyon, Sirius, Jupiter, Orion and Betelgeuse.'

**Day 4 - Friday, May 24th:**

There were still several of us left, so Donna proposed a mosey out to Little Cove, to enjoy the cobble beach and clear calm waters of this small bay. The group had some enjoyable meanders – photos taken – the trail in behind the beach a haven of dappled shade in amongst mossy boulders. Most of the group hiked up a short rough track to view rock formations not easily accessible from the shore. A 2 ½" thick tree was found to have some tiny fungus up its trunk, closely resembling 'baby' bracket fungus! In the afternoon, there was a walk at William Henry Marsh that yielded views of an Eagle nest and two young ones which made the puddle-jumping well worth the trek. After this, those of

us who were left arranged to have supper at the Tobermory Brewery to put a good finish on the 2019 trip.

This year's trip was orchestrated entirely by Donna Murray, who had things underway well ahead of time and had most of it sorted before help could be offered! A big thanks from your parents, Donna! Also thanks to those of you who have come along with us, walked for miles in sun and rain, gotten wet or baked, tripped over roots and rocks and frozen at some of the barbecues....never a word of complaint from these intrepid adventurers! Thank you! Without you all it wouldn't be the fun it is. (Pepper photos) (More photos over...)

~ Ed.

PAST OUTINGS...

PENINSULA EXPLORER....

Day 4 cont.:



TOP R. & L.: John and Helena, Little Cove; Donna, Marilyn, Helena & Susan returning from rock formations at Little Cove.



Photos: J. Pepper, D. Murray left centre, Onno Visser lower right.



L: Early Saxifrage found at the C, Wishart Alvar by Susan Miller on the way home; Centre: Bird's Eye Primrose out to welcome us, Singing Sands; Far Right: the mini fungus dwarfed by a dime, Little Cove.



Left: the iconic sunset view from our first evening's walk along the floating boardwalk; below, Onno's group photo on the way up the Peninsula; with our friend Willie, Warton.



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*Membership Forms in our Issues...*

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

## PAST OUTINGS...



### Note on plants from the Peninsula trip:

#### **Susan Greco notes:**

*Bluets and Pitcher Plants* found exclusively on Tobermory walks here and there, but mostly on the Half-way Log Dump Walk along with many of the species in the list from Greystone, p. 5.

**Photos:** left, Pitcher Plant bloom; Right, Liver-Lobed Hepatica with its three-lobed leaves.



Donna, Susan and Marilyn stayed in their cabin until Monday, and on the way home did some more exploring with the following results: Dwarf Lake Iris, Lakeside Daisy, the aforementioned Early Saxifrage, and one Garter Snake sunning itself, at Catherine Wishart Alvar on the way home.

**Note:** The local beaver didn't let us down, and was seen one evening chuntering about the harbour. ~ Ed.



### Canoe/kayak Outing to Arran Lake on June 9, 2019

Steve Pepper



**Our outing to Arran Lake this year** was attended by our largest group ever, as we had 2 canoes and 8 kayaks for a total of 13 people. Many of the group were attending for the first time. Special thanks to Barb and Bob and Murray for the use of their spare kayaks this year as well as to Dave Pepper for the loan of his 3 person canoe.

The weather was perfect again temperature wise and quite sunny with very little wind. Our group was ably led again across the lake and up river by Art Doughty. We saw lots of birds including red wing blackbirds and kingbirds and, even though we didn't see them, we are pretty sure we heard Sandhill

Cranes. Also some turtles sunning on the rocks.

After returning to our launch point we stopped for lunch before loading our vehicles and heading for home. Thanks again to everyone for making this outing a great success.



### Huron Fringe Field Naturalists Tour Bruce Botanical Food Gardens, July 24<sup>th</sup>

Christine Roberts

Bruce Botanical Food Gardens (BBFG) garden co-ordinator, Ingrid Wypkema, welcomed over thirty members of the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists (HFFN) for a tour of the Ripley property July 24<sup>th</sup>. A professed lifelong environmentalist, Wypkema was pleased to guide the group through the community gardens which focus on growing rare, endangered, heirloom and world food plants using sustainable and clean organic methods.

Referring to the gardens as an "oasis" attracting a variety of wildlife and pollinators, Wypkema shared stories of nesting birds, ducks, turtles, snakes and butterflies with the naturalist group. HFFN members enjoyed the tranquility of the grounds and marveled at the assortment of plant life and abundance of available produce. Highlights of new initiatives include trees planted as the first phase of a future food forest which will feature nut and fruit trees as well as fruit-bearing shrubs.

Members were also intrigued by the description of the Ruth Stout gardening method- a new planting procedure for potatoes which is less labour intensive, and Square Foot gardening – a simple but productive method of growing vegetables in small spaces.

Following the more structured portion of the tour, participants dispersed throughout the gardens to pick cherries and multiple varieties of raspberries, currants and lettuce.

**An example of a Square Foot garden.**



**PAST OUTINGS...**

Members of the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists pose in the Bruce Botanical Food Gardens with garden co-ordinator Ingrid Wypkema (front row, fourth from left).



**A**

**WANT A BETTER VIEW?**

Fringe Notes will enlarge up to 150% on your screen when viewed in a PDF.  
 Most photos are still clear.  
 Check for size options at the top of your PDF page. 150% usually fits well.

**Kincardine Coastal Clean-up 2019**

**Christine Roberts**

**HFFN members once again showed their support** of the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation (LHCCC) at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Kincardine shoreline clean-up at Station Beach Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. The Coastal Centre partnered with several groups besides HFFN including the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA), the Kincardine Rotary Club, the Kincardine & District Lions, Sobeys and the RBC for this event. In addition, 20 staff from 7ACRES helped collect waste.

Huron Fringe Field Naturalists arrived early to assist with set up then helped with distribution of materials, collection, sorting and weighing of garbage and packing up.

Over 80 participants armed with work gloves, buckets and grabber sticks fanned out over the beach and surrounding parkland to collect 197 pounds of trash and were rewarded with a BBQ lunch supplied by Sobeys and prepared by the Kincardine Lions.

Thanks to Steve Pepper, John and Helena Hill, Jim Laliberte, Joan Stadelmann, Barb Stuart, Richard Emmerton and Christine and Jim Roberts for being great representatives of HFFN.

**Photos: C. Roberts**



John Hill prepares the welcome sign.



↑ Clean-up volunteers Barb Stuart, Richard Emmerton, Joan Stadelmann, and (far right) Jim Laliberte, Steve Pepper, and Helena Hill are ready to hit the beach.

**CENTRE:** Samantha Ventura, LHCCC Coastal Restoration Technician, and Jim Roberts sort collected trash into garbage, recyclables, micro plastics and cigarette butts.

**FAR RIGHT:** Standing with 197 pounds of trash collected from Station Beach in just a few hours are (left) Jo-Anne Harbinson, SVCA Manager, Water Resources and Stewardship Services; Alora Sweeney, LHCCC Coastal Stewardship Assistant; Erinn Lawrie, LHCCC Executive Director; and Jim Roberts, HFFN member and LHCCC director.



PHOTO: ERINN LAWRIE, LHCCC



**PAST OUTINGS...**

**Tour of Butterfly Gardens of Saugeen Shores**

**Christine Roberts**



**Fifteen members made the short migration** to Southampton August 20<sup>th</sup> for a tour of the Butterfly Gardens of Saugeen Shores.

Beginning in the gardens at Rotary Perkins Park, we admired the plantings and numerous inhabitants flitting from bloom to bloom. The Monarch lifecycle mural afforded the perfect photo opportunity.

Next were the garden "pods" at and adjacent to the Bruce County Museum and a stroll around Fairy Lake. Some members were not aware of the walking trail around the pond and were pleasantly surprised by the beautiful natural setting located in the centre of town. In recent years it has been enhanced by extensive plantings of native species, marvellous tree stump carvings and pollinator garden pod S9 which includes over 30 species of native plants and fruit bearing shrubs. We took many photos of butterflies, bumblebees and dragonflies while working collaboratively to identify the plant species.

The last leg of the tour involved a walk with some tricky footing along the shore from the flagpole at the end of High Street to Pioneer Park along the Captain Spence Path to view another 6 pollinator gardens.

A beautiful sunny day and a leisurely outing was capped by dinner at The Walker House where we enjoyed comparing and identifying photos of butterflies taken during the tour.



Posing with the butterfly mural: (left to right) Jim Roberts, Peter Kirkpatrick, Linda Campbell and John Hill.



HFFN outing participants: (left to right): Ralph and Jane Bruce, Jim Roberts, Peter and May Kirkpatrick, Steve Pepper, John Hill, Linda Campbell, Donna Murray (front), Helena Hill, Jeni Pepper, Jim Laliberte, Susan Greco and Jack Campbell.

**HATCHING BUTTERFLIES - DON'T BE TEMPTED TO HELP!**



A LIKE-MINDED FRIEND HAS INFORMED US THAT 'HELPING' A BUTTERFLY OUT OF ITS COCOON CAN BE FATAL FOR THE BUTTERFLY. Although their emergence looks like a struggle, they need to go through it to help strengthen themselves for flight. By all means observe....just don't touch.

This hatching was one of several hatched and photographed by Ralph and Mary Ann Knowles.



THIS LOCAL SEEMED TO TAKE A SOMEWHAT DIM VIEW OF OUR INTEREST! Pepper photo





# Members' Page...

*News for and from members...*

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

*\*Guests welcome!*







CLIPART

**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!*





**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!





CLIPART





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**Malthee Lee Wilson**  
Sales Representative  
B.A., M.S. in Ed.



One study found that 8.22% of Albino birds are robins. That's still only one in 30,000 in North America.



Most Albino robins are part-Albino. Part-Albino birds live longer than full Albinos.

**FROM WEBSITE JOURNEY NORTH AMERICAN ROBIN.**



A helping hand from Jim, 2014

C. Roberts

**IF YOU FIND AN INJURED TURTLE, PLEASE CONTACT THE ONTARIO TURTLE CONSERVATION CENTRE AT: 705-741-5000. EVEN IF THE TURTLE IS DEAD, EGGS MAY BE RECOVERED. KEEP A NOTE OF THIS NUMBER IN YOUR VEHICLES!**

**On the afternoon of June 29<sup>th</sup> alone,** Jim and Christine Roberts picked up a dead snapping turtle, helped another cross the road, watched a painted turtle lay eggs on the shoulder and sadly passed 4 smashed turtles, all in a short stretch of highway 21 between Allenford and Southampton. 'We actually left Jim by the roadside while he watched over a little painted turtle laying eggs on the shoulder of hwy 21. We went for dinner in Southampton and returned for him when she had finished. Immediately south of her location we passed several smashed turtles on the road – so sad!!'

# MEMBERSHIP PAGE

## Membership renewals ....

### MEMBERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR:

Barb Simpson, 396-5486.

Membership/renewal forms are included in each issue, or catch up with Barb at one of the meetings. Renewals are generally made in September.

Those who have missed renewals will receive two reminders before being dropped from our lists.

**PLEASE MAKE A DATED NOTE OF YOUR PAYMENTS.**

HFFN has now set up an e-mail account for the Club, to be used for paying membership dues by e-transfer, so that payments will go directly into the account. The membership form has been altered accordingly.

Payment by cheque is also accepted, or you can make cash payments to Barb Simpson, our Membership Co-ordinator, at any meeting. The new address for the e-transfer is:

[huronnaturalist@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:huronnaturalist@hurontel.on.ca)

## ~~ MEMBERSHIPS: ~~

We welcome all our new

members to the new season and hope everyone will come out to our next series of meetings and presentations. Come out and enjoy the company and the speakers.

Memberships for the 2020 year are due now, in September. Dues are \$25 per person; under 18 is free. (new/ renewal membership form at right.) You can also pay by e-transfer.

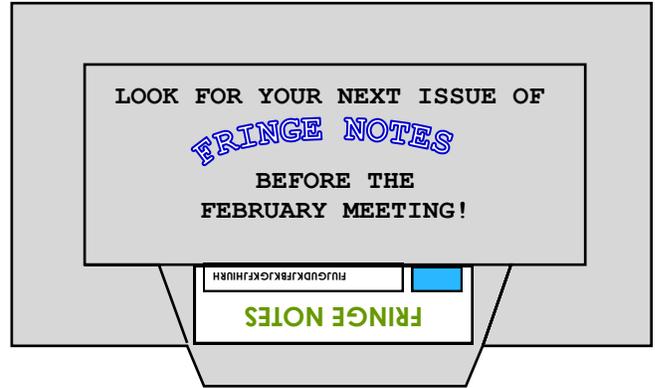
Those who haven't renewed their membership by Dec. 2019 will be notified twice before being taken off the membership list. (in Feb. 2020).

~~~~~  
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)**



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

new member application or  renewal  
 SEPTEMBER 2019 to SEPTEMBER 2020   
 ....or CATCHUP?

**Membership Cost:** \$25.00 per person. Youths 18 or under are free.  
 Please mail completed form with payment to:

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

Payment can also be e-transferred to Huron Fringe Field Naturalists at:  
[huronnaturalist@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:huronnaturalist@hurontel.on.ca)

**Name(s):** (Please print:)

\_\_\_\_\_

### Contact Information:

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

*Cut out or scan this form.*

Where did you hear about us? Friend \_\_ Newspaper \_\_ Internet \_\_  
 Newsletter \_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_



## ~ ~ ~ REGULAR MEETINGS ~ ~ ~

Regular meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Pine River United Church on Hwy 21 at Concession 4, Huron Twp., 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

Meetings are cancelled in event of bad weather - you are advised to check the status of a meeting before leaving home.

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

Social Time: 7. 30 pm.



Meeting: 8:00 pm



Feed the Frog!  
Beverages: 1.00; treats: free.

#### WEATHER CAUTION:

BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR A MEETING, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT IT IS NOT CANCELLED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER. 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.

#### Tuesday, September 24th: Robert (Bob) Barnett



**Bob will speak to us about the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy.**

The Conservancy is a non-profit organization. Their Mission is to create nature reserves allowing for sustainable, low impact recreation.

To date the Conservancy has protected over 162 Nature Reserves with over 13,000 acres of land.

Join us to hear Bob's update and learn about current activities in our area.

#### Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>: Kerry Jarvis



**Kerry will once again join us to give a presentation on Photo Tips & a Nature Presentation** (reptiles, Amphibians, insects, plants etc.) Kerry is an accomplished photographer who enjoys exploring the world through the lens of a camera. Here is your chance to ask questions about taking photos with your camera, be it an iphone, SLR, etc.

#### Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>: Club Member Night.



**Each year I would like to have our talented members** make presentations to our club. For our November meeting Janice Larson & Jorgen Hertzum-Larson, will update us on their experience viewing Monarch Butterflies in Mexico. A second speaker for the night is still being confirmed.

~ Speaker Chair Bob Simpson

#### DECEMBER THROUGH JANUARY: NO MEETINGS DUE TO THE CHANCE OF POOR TRAVEL CONDITIONS.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25<sup>th</sup> is our next, much anticipated meeting with potluck and **\*\*Photo Contest.**

**NOTE THAT THIS MEETING TAKES PLACE AT NOON - Pine River Church, lower level.** Please bring your potluck dish, plate, mug and cutlery. Beverages are supplied.

**\*\*Photo Contest information is on Page 16 (back page).**



**PLEASE NOTE:** Our FACEBOOK page is changing to new ownership. Look for details coming soon from Christine Roberts.

## 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, hat, water, binoculars, bird/plant/other guides, bug repellent, hiking stick, sunglasses, hanky, area map, snacks, thermos (in car), waist/backpack, boots for rough/wet terrain. In Spring and Fall: rain slicker, gloves, folding umbrella.

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

### Sunday, Sept. 15th: HFFN Annual Corn Roast and Potluck

Once again Lynn Johnston and Paul Zinn are generously hosting this first event of the new HFFN season. We will tour their property, followed by the meal (and socializing). Members are asked to bring lawn chairs, plates/cutlery, cups and a contribution to the potluck such as a dessert or salad. Corn, wieners and buns will be provided. This is also a great opportunity to invite a friend or neighbour to come along and learn more about the club, its members and their interests. Terrain is easy for walking. (Directions to the property were sent out via email to members on Sept. 1st. If not sure about the location, be sure to bring the directions with you. There will be a marker at the end of the lane.)



### Goderich Groves (behind Goderich Cemetery)

Sunday, Oct. 20th, 2019

#### **CARPPOOLING: 9:15, PINE RIVER CHURCH**

**Meet:** At 10:00 a.m. at the Cemetery entrance.

**Details:** Join us for a walk through the trails and reforested areas between the cemetery and the Maitland River valley. This area was flattened by the Goderich tornado and has had a lot of recovery work done.

**Leader:** Martin Quinn

**Contact:** Steve Pepper 395-5616

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

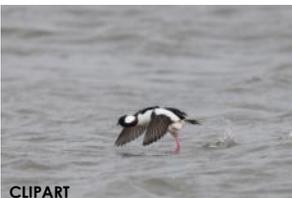
**Terrain:** Moderate difficulty; some ups and downs. Wear treaded footwear.

**Washrooms:** Area is adjacent to Walmart, Canadian Tire, Tim's.



D. MURRAY PHOTO

### Sunday, Oct. 27th: Annual Fall Beach Birding



Come out and join us as we tour locations around Kincardine and Point Clark for sightings of migrating waterfowl. More details to follow when/if potluck location is arranged.

This is always a popular and well-attended event. Usual locations: Kincardine Sewage Lagoons, Point Clark Lighthouse, and Kincardine shoreline areas.

If you can help with the potluck, please contact Steve Pepper (see p. 2).

### January - Eagle Watch

Bob Taylor and Anne-Marie Benedict have agreed to lead this Outing again followed by a warm up visit to their place in Inverhuron for a bagged lunch. More details to follow when they become available closer to the time.

**Meet:** Car Pool from Sobey's Kincardine. Time TBD.

**Details:** Bob and Anne Marie will lead us on an Eagle Watch and Snowy Owl Search near Baie du Dore and surrounding Concession roads after which we will visit their place in Inverhuron for a bagged lunch and warm up. Should be a great Outing as always, with level terrain.

**Directions:** Will be confirmed and sent out via email before the event.



**OTHER OUTINGS:**  
**New**  
**(or changed/**  
**cancelled) outings,**  
**WE WILL NOTIFY BY**  
**EMAIL.**  
**Please verify details**  
**before leaving for**  
**an outing.**

“Is this a walk or a hike?”

Believe it or not, some of our members do need to know. The phrase, ‘not a spring chicken’ is often heard along the trails and byways.

As well as encouraging our outing leaders to comment on terrain in their announcements for outings, we assume that a ‘walk’ is just that: a country meander with perhaps a pause or two to admire whatever catches the eye.

A ‘hike’ is taken to mean a more rugged type of journey, ‘up hill and down dale’, the occasional hauling of bodies up steep inclines, over rocks and tree trunks, along unkept paths, through small lakes...

**LOOSE NOTES...**



**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. Talk to any of the Executive at any meeting, or use the Contact numbers on page 2...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

A SMALL ANNOUNCEMENT.... KEEP YOUR CAMERA BUSY THROUGH THE SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL SEASON. THE NEXT PHOTO CONTEST (FEBRUARY, 2020) WILL BE LOOKING AT...

**‘THE BEST OF THE BRUCE’**

**TWO SUBJECTS ONLY:**

GEOLOGIC FORMATIONS OR LANDSCAPES in BRUCE COUNTY

**Photo Contest rules:**

Each February the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists holds a photo contest for members.

Each person may enter 2 prints in each of 2 sizes: 4X6 and 5X7. The content must be Bruce County, and no prints retouched.

Each member attending the February meeting has 4 votes: 2 in each size category.

Winners receive a small prize and bragging rights. If willing and able to share with the newsletter editor, Jeni Pepper, their photos are included in the Spring-Summer HFFN newsletter.



**HOW TO HELP AN INJURED TURTLE**

- Contact the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre, home of the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre. They treat and release injured turtles and have a network of volunteer "TurtleTaxi" drivers.
- Place the turtle in a dry, secure container with air holes, and keep it in the shade.
- Do not give the turtle any food or water.
- Try to limit handling, and wash your hands afterwards.
- Note the location where the turtle was found and report the sighting to the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas ([ontarionature.org/atlas](http://ontarionature.org/atlas)).
- Even if the turtle is dead report it to the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre. Eggs may be recovered.

If you find an injured turtle contact the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre at 705-741-5000



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!**



**As a member of Ontario Nature, HFFN** has access to a wider range of information about ongoing nature and environment issues. Members of our group are entitled to attend the Spring and Fall Regional Meetings, enjoy lunch provided by the hosting club, and often take tours of one of the host club's nature areas.

Club Presidents and Ontario Nature representatives will attend these meetings and may be accompanied by several interested club members. An RSVP is required, but otherwise just a knowledge of the meeting date is all that is needed. Host clubs include the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory, Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Ltd., Friends of McGregor Point, Friends of Sauble Beach, Nature Guelph, HFFN, Owen Sound Field Naturalists, Rankin Resource Group, Saugeen Nature, Stratford Field Naturalists, Sunfish Lake Association, Upper Credit Field Naturalists, and Waterloo Region Nature.

The website is:

<https://ontarionature.org/about/nature-network/> Interested parties can arrange there to be kept informed of the group's activities and nature news. ~ Ed.