



THE HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS' FRINGE NOTES

WINTER INTO
SPRING, 2023...

WALKS,
MEETINGS &
POTLUCKS

FREE FROM OUR
SPONSORS
THREE TIMES A
YEAR!

ENJOY FRINGE NOTES IN COLOUR! Visit us at: <http://hffn.huronstewardship.ca/> (Groups)



Huron Fringe Field Naturalists

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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., MEMBERSHIP IS NOMINAL. EXECUTIVE CONTACT NUMBERS (P. 2.) & MORE INFO INSIDE.

** except May, Annual Dinner at another venue.



Photo: Point Clark Trilliums, J. Pepper

WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT, CHRISTINE ROBERTS

After the long winter rest, the club is poised to embark on a busy spring and summer season of outings, meetings and activities.

You may have noticed a decidedly activist leaning on my part in recent months - in the opinion section of local news outlets and at the potluck in February. Recently I was reading the HFFN constitution and was struck by how the aims and objectives of the club written many years ago are so appropriate to this point in time. They are:

"...to encourage the preservation of wildlife and its natural habitat; to promote a public interest in, and knowledge of, the natural history of the area, for a better understanding of the value of our heritage in nature; to promote, encourage and cooperate with organizations and individuals having similar interests and objectives; to consider matters of environmental concern."

I take these aims and objectives to heart and hope you'll join me in putting them into action.

Sylvia Berg and I are working on advocacy actions with advice and support from Doug McCallum, Janice McKean and Art Wiebe. Our goal is to maintain public awareness of the destructive policies of the current provincial government with regards to the environment.

Our first activity was a letter campaign using postcards to send powerful individual messages to Lisa Thompson, our Huron-Bruce MPP. Many participants completed these messages at the February meeting. At the March meeting we invited members to send messages to the federal environment minister, Steven Guilbeault, requesting intervention in Greenbelt development.

In late March we sent a letter to the Kincardine Municipal Council congratulating them on their early response to Bill 23 and inviting them to



UPCOMING MEETINGS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Full details inside.

APRIL 25th: Jenna McGuire, Native Plants of Bruce County

TUES., MAY 16: Annual Dinner Meeting:
Speaker: Owen Bjorgan, from Niagara on the Lake.

Topic: Thru-hiking the Bruce Trail, 885 km., 37 days.
SEE INSIDE FOR TICKET INFORMATION AND VENUE.

TUES., JUNE 27TH:
Sydney Shepherd,
Ont. Piping Plover
Programme.




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PAST MEETINGS:....

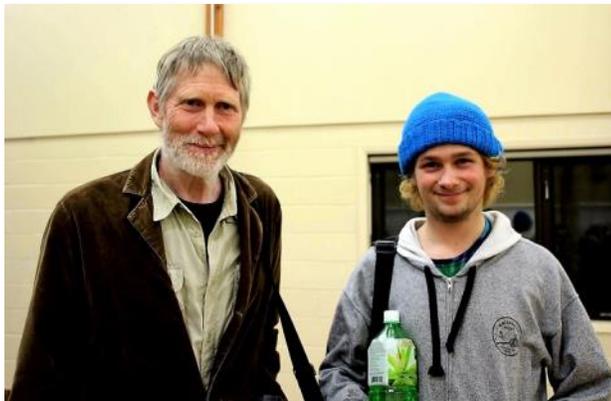
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November 22nd meeting**Christine Roberts**

Kiah's Big Year: Local birder enthusiast Kiah Jasper presents photos and stories from his big year.

Fifty-three members attended the final 2022 meeting which was all about birds. Our own James Turland is the Kincardine compiler for the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). His presentation on the CBC began with an explanation of the background circumstances that led to the first count Christmas Day 1900. Prior to 1900, when hunting was a common activity, hunters would form teams and engage in a competition to kill the most birds and animals in one day. Frank Chapman, an ornithologist and member of the Audubon Society, proposed replacing the wholesale slaughter with a Christmas Bird Census. The first year 25 counts were held in two countries (Canada and the United States) by 27 participants. One hundred twenty-three years

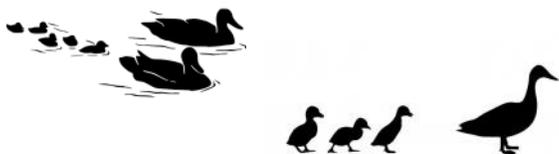
later, over 70,000 volunteers in 20 countries in nearly 2500 locations participate in the count and contribute vast amounts of data which is used to assess the health of bird populations and guide conservation efforts. (The 2022 Kincardine count took place December 15 with teams of volunteer birders covering a 24 kilometre circle.) Homeowners are encouraged to count birds at their feeders and record the species and numbers. James then introduced the guest speaker, Kiah Jasper, a young Bruce County birder sensation whose presentation was much-anticipated by HFFN members. Kiah was having a 'big year' - a personal challenge to identify as many bird species as possible in Ontario in one calendar year. He has been spectacularly successful breaking the previous Ontario record of 346 species in early October, and surpassing it to currently hold a record of 356. Along the way he travelled over 80,000 kilometers, visited every county in the province and even ventured briefly on foot into Nunavut. His presentation was replete with beautiful photos of birds and landscapes. His storytelling skills are almost good as his photography and bird identification as he recounted tales of sleeping in subzero conditions and the trials and tribulations of chasing elusive avian subjects. We marveled at his passion and enjoyed learning about the extensive planning and strategies employed to maximize sightings based on knowledge of migratory routes, timing, preferred conditions and weather patterns. The bird-centric meeting ended with James sharing tips for making suet and a door prize draw sent three lucky HFFN members home with suet cakes for their feeders.



HFFN member and birder James Turland (left) introduced guest speaker Kiah Jasper at the November 22nd Huron Fringe Field Naturalist meeting.



Record breaker: Kiah Jasper identified his 347th species October 10th, 2022, in the company of previous record holder, Jeremy Bensette. Photos this page: Christine Roberts

**WANT A BETTER VIEW?**

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

FEBRUARY 28TH, 2023:

~~~~ PAST MEETINGS.... ~~~~

**HFFN enjoys fine food and photography**

**Christine Roberts**

**How wonderful to return to the tradition** of good food, good company and great photography! That was the sentiment of fifty members and guests as they gathered February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Point Clark Community Centre for the traditional winter potluck lunch and photo contest; the first in several years.

The competition featured striking images of birds, butterflies and landscapes in different seasons and in different parts of Canada. Each member in attendance cast three votes for their favourite prints. The winners were (in order of placement): Bruce Edmunds, Ingrid Wypkema and Anne Scanlon and each received a gift bag of assorted local food products.

The photo contest received an update to its rules this year thanks to the research and suggestions of Liz Addison. The changes acknowledged the ready availability of photo-editing features found on cell phones, tablets and computers.

To assist the less technically-savvy photographers in the group, Liz provided a mini-workshop highlighting the tools to adjust exposure, brightness and contrast among others.

Another traditional feature of the HFFN February potluck meeting, the sharing of nature-related hobbies, resulted in some remarkable displays. This year Carol Bowyer brought examples of weaving and dot paintings, an Australian aboriginal art form; Helena Hill displayed numerous brilliantly coloured and intricately crafted wall hangings; and Liz Addison exhibited stones hand painted with birds and beautiful butterfly photos mounted on tiles. Photographs are featured on our Facebook page.

Christine urged the members to advocate for nature by writing a note on a postcard to MPP Lisa Thompson to express concerns regarding policies that allow for destruction of sensitive habitat and to support organizations that specialize in environmental conservation. She indicated that HFFN would be organizing a rally for the environment in April and assisting the Coastal Centre with shoreline cleanups in the summer.

Susan Greco invited members to a winter hike and outlined a number of proposed walks and a series of botanical bio-blitzes at the George G Newton Nature Reserve to catalogue plant species in the coming months.

Following an overwhelming show of support, it was decided to relocate the next few meetings to the Point Clark Community Centre, 344 Lake Range Drive, Point Clark, and to reinstate social time before the meeting. Valerie Gibson requested volunteers to make coffee and tea for meetings in March, April and June. (cont. next page)



**(ABOVE)**  
Liz Addison presents a workshop designed to familiarize HFFN members with some photo-editing tools. (Photo: Brent Bowyer)



**(RIGHT:)**  
Helena Hill, (left) Carol Bowyer and Liz Addison stand with samples of their lovely nature-related hobbies. Featured on our Facebook page! (Photos: Christine Roberts)

~~~~ PAST MEETINGS... ~~~~

FEBRUARY 28TH..... Before adjourning the meeting, Roberts thanked the organizing team of Valerie Gibson, Jane Neilsen, Jayne Miltenburg and helpers for their outstanding efforts to organize and run the lunch and photo contest. The winning photos are as follows:



BRUCE EDMUNDS won first place with this great shot of a handsome Northern Parula.



BRUCE EDMUNDS tied himself for first place with this active view of Bald Eagles trying their luck for fish at Baie du D'Or.

Subjects for this year's Photo Contest were any Canadian Nature photograph taken during the lockdowns. These entries give evidence that many of us found solace in Nature, getting out and about with their binoculars and cameras during the difficult times.

Thank you to all of our entrants for sharing the nature they encountered.



INGRID WYPKEMA captured these fluttery beauties in her Point Clark garden, making a blaze of colour delightful to see and placing her second in the Contest.



ANN SCANLON took a third with this remarkable shot of a California Quail which seemed very willing to be photographed! Taken in a natural area while hiking in Kelowna, B.C.

CONGRATULATIONS!

~~~ PAST MEETINGS... ~~~

FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>....



Jayne Miltenburg (left) organizes photos while Shirley Vogan posts her entries. (Photo: Christine Roberts)



PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS: Happy winners Bruce Edmunds, Ann Scanlon and Ingrid Wypkema. (Photo: Christine Roberts)



HFFN members enjoy a sumptuous communal meal February 28th in Point Clark. (Photo: Christine Roberts)



HFFN President Christine Roberts addresses members and guests at the meeting. (Photo: Brent Bowyer)



**March 28 - Forest Health in the Maitland River Watershed**

**Christine Roberts**



**Erin Gouthro, Watershed Ecologist with the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority**, brought her passion, humour and extensive research dataset as well as her co-op student, Eden Babbitt, to the March 28 meeting. Gouthro likens a forest to "a bank of environmental capital" that provides essential services such as cooling, carbon capture and a biodiversity hub for plants and animals. Since 2021 she's worked intensively to examine the health of forests in the Maitland River watershed and to build on the previous landmark study completed in 2000. Her study area includes several hundred plots of public and private land



~~~ *PAST MEETINGS...* ~~~

March 28Forest Health....



in a geographically extensive area stretching from Harriston in North Wellington County to Wingham and Listowel in Perth County and Goderich in Huron County where the river empties into Lake Huron.

The focus of work in 2021 and 2022 was a vegetative study. In 2023 her emphasis will be on fauna, specifically: owls, frogs, pollinators and forest birds. Ultimately, she hopes her dataset will be used to build better forest management plans.

Gouthro's presentation included a great deal of data in the form of charts and graphs intermingled with lovely photos of flora and fauna.

Some highlights included an interesting comparison of pre-settlement tree species diversity versus the current distribution, and an extensive examination of the effect of disturbances, in particular invasive plants and insects such as the Emerald Ash Borer. In general, trends in forest health indicate increased threats from invasive insects, plants and diseases. No one was surprised to learn that forests are declining in virtually all metrics of study.

Gouthro is aided in her work by Eden Babbitt, a grade 11 student from Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton who is enrolled in the Genesis Program, a hands-on environmental course.

Following the presentation Christine Roberts and Sylvia Berg updated members on plans for an environmental rally Saturday, April 15th from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm in Kincardine in a show of support for the preservation of farms and forests. Kincardine Mayor Ken Craig and Yoga instructor, businessman and nature enthusiast Eric Cunliffe, were invited to offer public comments.

Donna Murray, chief organizer of the Bruce Peninsula Explorer Trip, continued to collect names of interested members and provided photos and information from past expeditions. (See note next page:)

Details of the dinner meeting in May and future outings were shared.

John Hill proposed a process to consider choosing a new name and logo design for the group.

'Feed the frog' was back with hot drinks available for a donation of a toonie, prepared by Valerie Gibson and James Turland.



←
Erin and Eden:
(left) Maitland
Valley
Conservation
Authority
Watershed
Ecologist Erin
Gouthro and
Sacred Heart High
School co-op
student Eden
Babbitt



Carole Bowyer talks to Sacred Heart High School co-op student Eden Babbitt about her experiences.



These photos:
Christine Roberts.

Jim Roberts questions MVCA Ecologist Erin Gouthro about the fate of Ash trees and what species will succeed them.



~~~ PAST MEETINGS... ~~~

March 28 ....



**Bruce Peninsula Explorer Trip: Donna Murray (seated) talks to Susan Greco about plans for the trip while Lois Hunter (left) adds her name to the list of interested members. (C. Roberts photo)**

**The HFFN ANNUAL  
BRUCE PENINSULA EXPLORER**

**INTEREST SIGN-UP\* FOR SEVERAL DAYS' STAY WITH THE GROUP IN TOBERMORY AT THE TIP OF THE BRUCE PENINSULA.**

\*Signing this sheet indicates your interest in receiving more information.

Please print your name, address, and contact information (email, phone).

This year's trip begins on **Tuesday, May 23rd** (after the long weekend) **with an option** to stay any number of nights until Saturday morning, May 27th.

Accommodation information, what to bring, and details of the day's trip up the Peninsula will be sent closer to the time to those who sign.

Briefly, the group leaves Kincardine the morning of the start date and travels

together, stopping at points of interest enroute and taking a picnic lunch. Supper is arranged for those who wish at the Princess Hotel's Pharos Restaurant. The following days will include walks or hikes to some of the beauty spots and places of interest. Breakfast is usually as a group, but optional. A potluck supper and perhaps a pizza night for those staying two or three nights. Please note that some of us will be taking the 'gentler routes'! If you would like to join them for a less active experience, please make yourself known.

The trip will be hosted and led by Donna Murray and Steve and Jeni Pepper. Any enquiries between now and the trip may be sent to the Peppers: [trek66.sp\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:trek66.sp(at)gmail.com) or 226-396-5616



~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

Wednesday, November 9th - Inverhuron

Susan Greco - all photos by Sue Greco



What a lovely day for a hike and exploration of Inverhuron!

The group set off from the main gate, and headed onto the chain trail, following the old farm side trail, along the Little Saugeen River through a mix of cedar and hardwood forest, passing by the mightiest 400 year old White Cedar tree that survived the days of aggressive tree cutting right across the Niagara Escarpment. The White Cedar is known as the Tree of Life by First Nations peoples, who used it in so many ways to sustain their everyday living and survival.

The walkers left the chain trail at the park office and headed towards the lake, then followed the river crossing the bridge to the south side of the park, where they caught the River Trail. A great 3 hour afternoon walk!

KINCARDINE COUNTRY DEPOT
UPI GAS BAR



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KINCARDINE, ONTARIO N2Z1E2
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kincountrydepot@gmail.com

Donna Bridge
Manager





307 BROADWAY ST
KINCARDINE, ONTARIO
PHONE: 519-396-3303
kincardinecountrydepot.ca

~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

November 9th - Inverhuron....



Walkers at Inverhuron on their exploratory hike. (photos: S. Greco)

**Note:**

When out and about on trails it's always a good idea to take a photo of the trail map if one is provided.

Stopping to tie a shoelace, admire a flower, check on a bird, or take a photo can leave a hiker wondering where the group went! Diverging paths can be a challenge and one that has been experienced a few times by your Editor (stopping to take photos is usually the cause!) Maps are also usually available on web pages for the area walks. Even a screen photo from home is useful.

Internet isn't always available out there. As well, it helps when those in the group check for laggards!



**MARCH 4TH, 2023: Winter Walk**

Susan Greco



A small group of nature lovers met at a beautiful 50-acre wooded property off Karishea Sideroad in Kinloss Township, where we were welcomed by Lynn and Paul to their lovely haven and sanctuary.

The day was perfect, with dry driving conditions, surprisingly great snow conditions (as in Kincardine, apparently we had rain overnight into early morning.)

Walking was the chosen mode of travelling for this outing, though snowshoeing or skiing would have been more than okay. Paul had the lane plowed well enough for us to travel down its centre to their cosy cabin, and beyond, around the pond.

We had great entertainment as we walked along, filling the birds' feeding stations. The Chickadees along with White- and Red-breasted Nuthatches immediately showed up to see what was on offer, delighting us with great friendliness, landing on hands or containers filled with seed. Blue Jays were making sure they were heard, in order not to miss out on a feed. Deer tracks and other, smaller animals' prints were here and there, criss-crossing over the laneway and into the trees after visiting their allotted area of feeding.

It was a lovely afternoon spent in the solace of woods filled with a beautiful mix of hardwood trees and smattering of cedars and pine; a treat for the soul. After the well-enjoyed leisurely walk down through the middle and around the pond, we were welcomed into the cabin for snacks and hot chocolate offered to us by our generous and gracious hosts, along with lively conversation and fellowship.

Huge Thanks to Lynn and Paul for sharing!





~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

April 12th, Inverhuron's River Trail

Susan Greco



On the 12th of April a group of ten set out on a spring day that felt a lot more like summer, with a temperature of 25 degrees celcius, to walk the River Trail in Inverhuron Provincial Park.

It was a day to saunter, enjoying the warmth and lovely scenery along the way. This trail starts out beside the inland sand dunes which make up a huge majority of the south end of the park. The trail follows the Little Sauble River that snakes its way to the lake through a forest of mixed hardwoods. The park has a great and varied history incorporating a long history of First Nations, settlers, logging, milling and farming, which is told through interpretive boards along the way. A beautiful afternoon wound up crossing the river to walk through the dunes down to Inverhuron's prized stretch of glorious sand beach and lakefront.



Some people met up at the entrance to the trail. We were in the early part of the trail, and decided to take the group picture under the magnificent 400 year old white cedar that had survived the logging era.
Photos: Sue Greco
Group shots: Rachel Thompson and friend Peggy.



Right: Spring ferns and mosses → making their annual comeback.
 Photo: Susan Greco



Left: the extensive dune system is very evident along the lakeshore
 Photos: Susan Greco



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We are on Facebook and Instagram!



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

Photographs always welcome; please send them in JPEG format, over 100 kbs and under 200 kbs....thanks!



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!

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!



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.



Membership Forms in our Issues...

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



Helen Watson
owner

36 Kingston Street
Goderich, Ontario
N7A 3K1

Toll Free: 855-524-4272
Local: 519-524-4272
info@feedthebirds.ca
www.feedthebirds.ca



Wear your HFFN clothing anywhere in the world, get a photo of yourself in it with a nice background, and send it to the Peppers.... we'll publish it!



Members' Page....



Photographs always welcome; please send them in JPEG format, over 100 kbs and under 200 kbs....thanks!

"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.

Alternatively, 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....

Happy trails!



This gorgeous photo of Liver-lobed Hepatica was taken on April 13th at Blair's Grove, near Point Clark ... and Daphne, smelling very heavenly near Kincardine, by Susan Greco. Great shots, Sue!

Susan Greco



Susan Greco



NEW VENDORS WANTED!

OUR ADVERTISERS ARE LOCAL VENDORS WHO HELP SUPPORT THE PRINTING OF THIS NEWSLETTER BY ADVERTISING WITH US. REMEMBER TO CHECK THEM OUT AND GIVE THEM OUR SUPPORT IN RETURN!



Word to the Wise:



People sometimes call 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!



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, 226-396-5616

UPCOMING MEETINGS:



4TH TUESDAY, 7.

Tuesday, April 25:



Native Plants of Bruce County

Speaker: Jenna McGuire. Jenna is the Culture Keeper of the Historic Saugeen Métis at Southampton. Her presentation will focus on edible native plants of Bruce County.



Annual Dinner Meeting: Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Camp Kintail, 85153 Bluewater Hwy. (Hwy 21, just south of Kintail)

Speaker: Owen Bjorgan, from Niagara on the Lake.

Topic: Thru-hiking the Bruce Trail, 885 km., 37 days.

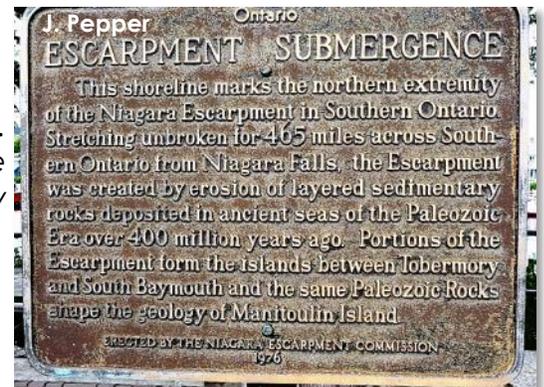
"...a story accounting the beautiful and harrowing solo expedition on Canada's oldest and longest marked hiking trail. The scenery of Southern Ontario will definitely surprise you, the stories will make you wince, and the heartwarming community effort to support this hike will inspire."

6:15 pm. arrival

6:30 pm. Roast Beef dinner

7:30 pm-9:30 pm: speaker presentation, door prizes

Ticket information: Still available at the April meeting: \$30.00 per person, or from Steve Pepper, (see contact list p. 2)



June 27th, 2023



Speaker: Sydney Shepherd

Ontario Piping Plover Program Technician, Birds Canada

"Piping Plovers returned to Ontario after a 30 year absence and in 2023 we will be celebrating their 17th breeding season back on our beaches! Join Sydney Shepherd of the Ontario Piping Plover Conservation Program to find out how you can help this charismatic shorebird and ensure we celebrate many more breeding seasons to come!"



September 26, 2023

Speaker: Dale Mathies, Goderich Nature photographer



October 24, 2023

Speaker: Alyssa Bourassa

Coastal Stewardship Technician, Lake Huron Coastal Centre

Alyssa will discuss her education and outreach for her plastic pollution reduction program and update us on the general work of the Lake Huron Coastal Centre.

Of
Note...

SNIPPETS...

GARLIC MUSTARD...pull before the flowering ends, when plants are strong enough to pull without breaking off. Be sneaky. Pull any weed sideways, to defeat their evenly spread root system.

OUTINGS:

Outings Co-Ordinator Susan Greco will email Christine on any pop-up outings during the seasons, so keep an eye on that Inbox!

Changed/cancelled) outings, WE WILL NOTIFY BY EMAIL, so check for changes before setting out.

Please verify details before leaving for an outing.

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!

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.

OUTINGS IN GENERAL:

New (or changed/ cancelled) outings, WE WILL NOTIFY BY EMAIL.

Please verify details before leaving for an outing.

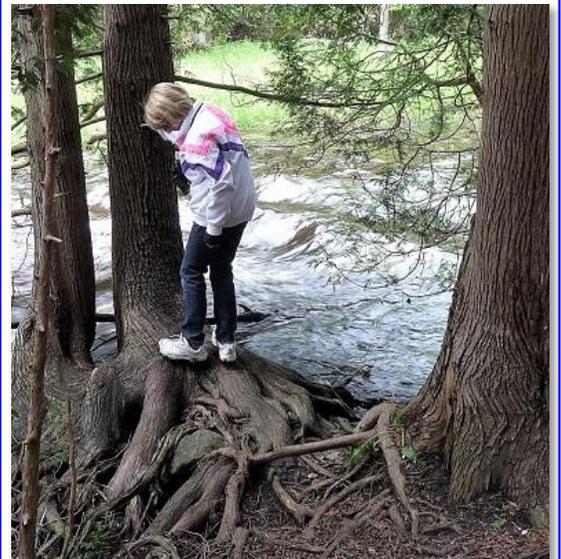
NOTE TO SELF:

"MEETINGS ON THE 4TH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH" DOES NOT ALWAYS MEAN THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH. SOME MONTHS HAVE FIVE!

REMEMBER TO COUNT THE TUESDAYS!

Blast from the Past:

Barb Simpson enjoys some exploring on the 2011 Bruce Explorer at Jones Falls. (Pepper)



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MEMBERSHIP PAGE

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: hffn44.46@gmail.com

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 one reminder before being dropped from our lists.

GOODALL & HILLS

BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

LYNN A. JOHNSTON, B.A.(HONS.), LL.B.

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N0G 2W0

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Fax: 519-357-1741

Lucknow: Ph: 519-528-2070 Fax: 519-528-3523

~~ MEMBERSHIPS: ~~

Welcome back old members, and a warm welcome to new ones. Over-18 2023/2024 annual dues are \$25.00 per person. Under 18's are free. (New/renewal membership form at right.)

Come out and enjoy the company, the outings and the speakers.

Memberships for the 2023/2024 year are due in September and before February.

Those who have not renewed by the end of February will be sent one reminder before being dropped from our membership list.

If there are any questions about membership or changes to your contact information, please contact me.

Barb Simpson: 396 5486
or bsimpsonbob@gmail.com

Thanks Barb

ADVERTISING:

\$30 ANNUALLY, call
Jackie Clements,
519-396-3655

~~ JOIN US OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ~~

*Note that our season runs from September to September.

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



MEMBERSHIP FORM

new member application or renewal

SEPTEMBER 2022 to SEPTEMBER 2023

....or CATCHUP?

Huron Fringe Field Naturalists,
C/O Bob Simpson,
308, Lewis Rd., Kincardine N2Z 0A4

Payment can also be e-transferred to Huron Fringe Field
Naturalists at: hffn44.46@gmail.com

Name(s): (Please print:)

Contact Information:

Address: _____

Post Code: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Cut out or scan this form.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS IF YOU ARE ABLE TO JOIN US FOR THESE ACTIVITIES:

George G Newton Nature Reserve work dates:

Friday, April 21 – 10 am – noon

Friday, May 5

We will be spending a lot of time at the reserve this spring...

The first few visits will be to clean/maintain the trails and pull the invasive garlic mustard plant. The Nature Reserve Management staff have asked us to update the species checklist so each visit will have a cataloguing component as we try to identify the various trees, shrubs and wildflowers as they emerge and any insects, butterflies, birds and mammals we can confidently identify.

In early May we will be planting 100 seedlings. We won't know the date until the trees are delivered to the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network and then transferred to us.

Throughout the spring, summer and fall we will return to catalogue plants and to conduct a vernal pool study.

THE FULL COMPLEMENT OF ACTIVITY DATES FOLLOWS:

Friday, April 21 – 10 am – noon – George G Newton Nature Reserve - Invasive Species removal, trail maintenance and plant species identification (April 28 rain date)

Tuesday, April 25 – 7:15 pm – 9:30 pm – HFFN April meeting, Guest Jenna McGuire, Executive Director for the Historic Saugeen Métis in Southampton: Historic Saugeen Métis Traditional Plant Use

Saturday, April 29 – 10 am – Kincardine Naturalization Projects – Tree planting in Savage Park, Kincardine

Friday, May 5 – George G Newton Nature Reserve – Wildflower Walk and Cataloguing

Saturday, May 6 - 10 am – Kincardine Naturalization Projects – Tree planting in Savage Park, Kincardine

Tuesday, May 16 – ADM at Camp Kintail – 6:15 – 9:30 pm

The meal will be roast beef with Yorkshire pudding and all the traditional side dishes. The cost is \$30 per person. Reserve your place early – Steve Pepper will accept payment starting at the meeting March 28. Members may also e-transfer to the club bank account: hfn44.46@gmail.com

Tuesday, May 23 – Thursday/Friday May 25/26 – Bruce Peninsula Explorer Trip

(Sign-up sheets and information at the April meeting)

Tuesday, June 27 – 7:15 – 9:30 pm - Sydney Shepherd, Ontario Piping Plover Program Technician, Birds Canada

Saturday, July 15 – Shoreline Cleanup event in Kincardine - a partnership with the Lake Huron Coastal Centre

Sunday, August 20 - Shoreline Cleanup event in Point Clark - a partnership with the Lake Huron Coastal Centre

April 15th Greenbelt Rally

Christine Roberts

The rally in support of farms, forests and wetlands was blessed with a sunny, warm day. Forty dedicated supporters; a dozen HFFN members and assorted nature enthusiasts and farmers from near and far (Sarnia, Stratford, Goderich, Chesley and Fergus) gathered at the Davidson Centre in Kincardine.

Armed with signs and enthusiasm, the protesters walked east on Durham Street to Highway 21 and took up stations on all four corners of the busy intersection. They were encouraged by support from many passing motorists who honked and waved.

After forty minutes and amid interesting conversations, the group made its way back to the park, thankful for some shady shelter.

The first speaker, Kincardine Mayor Kenneth Craig spoke of the challenges of Bill 23 from a municipal perspective and the current positive housing situation in Kincardine. The second, Eric Cunliffe, founder of Shakti Rhythm Yoga Studio, encouraged us to protect the sacred places in nature that help us feel centred and to not allow greed to destroy them, because they are irreplaceable. The third speaker, Tony McQuail, a well-known organic farmer, related the many concerns he has for the future his grandchildren will inherit.

Spring is always seen a time of renewal and hope, and the week before Earth Day seemed a good time to recommit to protecting the environment and living things that have no voice of their own. Additionally, the timing of the rally was to show the public and government that the issue had not been forgotten over the winter. It was hoped participants would draw strength and new resolve by spending time with similarly passionate people.

In my address, I urged people not to lose hope but to continue contacting their MPPs, continue talking to friends and family about the issue, continue attending rallies and continue to raise their voices for a healthy future for Ontario.



TOP:
Setting out, forty supporters had a great day for the rally.

TOP RIGHT:
Mayor Kenneth Craig gives his view of Bill 23 from a municipal perspective.

RIGHT:
Members of HFFN were amongst those listening to the speeches.

