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2026



2025

# HURON BRUCE NATURE'S FRINGE NOTES

Fall/Winter reports, 2025/ '26

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### LIKE TO JOIN US?

HURON BRUCE NATURE MEETS 7 PM, THE 4TH TUESDAY OF FEB., MAR., APR.,\*\* MAY & JUNE, AND SEPT., OCT., & NOV., Pt. Clark Community Centre.\*\*

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

\*\*except April, Annual Dinner



SNOWY OWL, JACK CAMPBELL, Jan. 2013

### WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT, CHRISTINE ROBERTS



#### President's Report, FALL & WINTER 2025/ 2026

##### Greetings!

We've had a great start to the new season with three terrific presentations at well attended meetings and a good variety of outings both near and far. We've learned about changing fish ecology; wetlands ecology, mythology and history; and intensive organic farming. We've also had a good number of new members join and hope they're taking advantage of opportunities to learn and explore. The spiffy new logo is being proudly displayed on

tuques, caps and shirts and we raised just over \$200 on the sale of fabric gift bags to purchase environmentally-themed books for our 6 local schools.

This year has seen a significant change in the people on the board and I'm very happy to have a successor in Catherine Hodges who is working diligently to learn the ropes and familiarize herself with Ontario Nature and all the ways they support us and vice versa. As much as I've enjoyed leading the club, it's good to have new people take a turn and bring new ideas and perspectives.

On that note... Jane Nielsen and Jayne Miltenburg have been a wonderfully effective and complementary team booking speakers for our meetings.

However, after 3 years, Jane is stepping down to enjoy different adventures.

Jayne will stay on but prefers to have a partner. If you're interested in learning more about this position, please contact myself or Jayne (see the executive listing ( next page).

(CONTINUED...)

### UPCOMING MEETINGS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

➔ 4th Tuesday of the month. Full details inside.

**February:** Potluck, photo contest:

'Nature in my Backyard' (Info inside)

NOTE: this will be a LUNCHTIME event.

**MARCH:** Mike Ward, Attracting Butterflies to your garden

**APRIL:** Annual Dinner – Adam Shoalts, author and adventurer. (This is a TICKET EVENT. SOLD OUT.)

**MAY:** Brian Folmer, native perennials

**JUNE:** Rob Wray, Owen Sound FN: Beautiful photography.

FULL DETAILS: P. 22

(NO MEETINGS JULY/AUGUST)

LOOK INSIDE!

TITLE PHOTO: Snowy trees, J. Pepper

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

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**President's Comments continued.....**

**H.B.N. EXECUTIVE MEMBERS  
AND CONTACT NUMBERS:**

**President:**

Christine Roberts 395-5008

**Past President:**

Lynn Johnston 528-2411

**Vice President:**

Catherine Hodges  
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Brent Bowyer 357-1883

**Treasurer:** G. Bond (519) 396-7940

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(647) 234-0547

**Outings:**

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**Speakers:**

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Jane Nielsen 525-8705

**Newsletter Editor:**

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**Members-at-Large:**

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**Refreshments co-ordinators:**

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**Ontario Nature Rep:**

Jim Roberts 395-5008

**Communications/Publicity:**

Christine Roberts 395-5008

**Advertising:**

Steve Pepper 226-396-5616

**Website Administrator:**

Yvonne Bieman 519-389-8129



**>> Our Club Executive <<**

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

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(519) 396-3811

[www.kincardineprinting.com](http://www.kincardineprinting.com)

Jane is ending her term with a bang in the form of a return presentation by our favourite Canadian adventurer, Adam Shoalts. He will be our speaker at the Annual Dinner Meeting at Camp Kintail, April 28, 2026.

I hope everyone has stayed safe and healthy this crazy winter. I'm looking forward to a good turnout for the February potluck and photo contest at 11:30 am Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Point Clark Community Centre. Please see details for the event on page 22.

- Christine



**Announcements!**

**PLEASE NOTE: Website address and payment address have changed to reflect the club's new name.**

**Meetings** take place 7.00 PM at the Point Clark Community Centre, 344 Lake Range Drive (between Conc. 2 & Conc. 4.) except April. Full meetings information is given elsewhere in this issue, and on Pg. 1.

**MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS INFORMATION:**

**HBN has 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 Pat Ross-Smith, our Membership Co-ordinator, at any meeting.

The new address for the e-transfer is: [hbn2025business@gmail.com](mailto:hbn2025business@gmail.com)

**Please see the MEMBERSHIP FORM in this issue.**

**PAST MEETINGS:....**

**September 2025:**

**Changing ecology of Lake Huron fish communities - Arunas Liskaukas.**

**Christine Roberts**

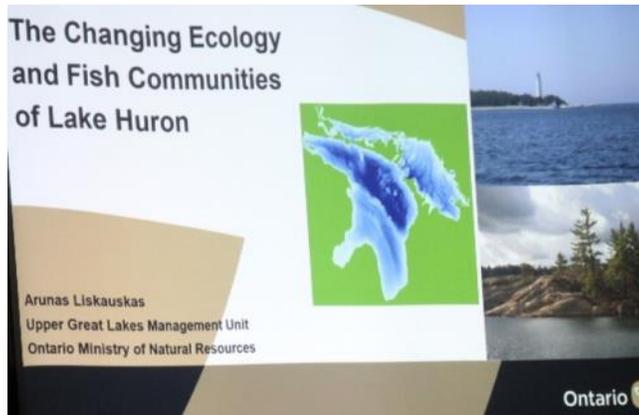
**The first meeting of the 2025-2026 season** went swimmingly with an excellent presentation on the changing ecology of Lake Huron fish communities by Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Management Biologist Arunas Liskaukas. Nearing retirement after a 35 year 'dream' career researching and working with fish, this passionate scientist gave an overview of the historic and current fish communities, (OVER)



**Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Management Biologist Arunas Liskaukas gave a fascinating and very well received presentation.**

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

**Changing ecology of Lake Huron fish communities....**



**The titlepage of MNR Management Biologist Arunas Liskaukas' presentation to Huron Bruce Nature, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
Christine Roberts**



**HBN members learned about historic fish species, causes of their decline and the current state of Lake Huron fish populations from Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Management Biologist Arunas Liskaukas.  
Christine Roberts**

the invasive species that threaten populations and highlighted a few of the significant species such as Whitefish, Walleye and Lake Trout.

Liskaukas explained that Lake Huron is a very diverse habitat due to the variety of depths, resulting in a diverse fish population.

The offshore or deeper areas have changed most over the past century or more due to overfishing and invasive species such as lamprey and the decline of a critical food source, diporeia, a tiny shrimp-like creature with high nutritional value.

Invasive mussel species, zebra and more recently quagga, are re-engineering the ecosystems of the Great Lakes. These mollusks filter nutrients from the water and lock it in their bodies. Unfortunately, fish don't eat them and the chain of energy exchange is broken. "All Too Clear" is a TVO documentary that uses underwater drones to explore the problem. Liskaukas featured footage from



**The lamprey is a frightening and effective predator of larger fish species in the Great Lakes.  
Christine Roberts**

the series and highly recommended it to HBN members. Lake Huron has experienced a major change in ecology in the past 20 years, with an 80% decline in prey fish and a corresponding decline in predator fish. Liskaukas detailed the problems faced by several important fish species, the research and management strategies that have been employed and the relative success and future

prospects. The presentation was detailed with a great deal of supporting data and the delivery was enthusiastic, thoughtful, frequently light-hearted and impassioned. HBN members asked interesting questions, many of which revealed ethical and philosophical dilemmas.

**Prior to the presentation,** Christine Roberts welcomed new and returning members. She introduced the board including new treasurer Gloria Bond, new membership convenor Pat Ross-Smith and new members-at-large Yvonne Bieman and Anne Scanlon. She thanked all board members for their dedication to their duties and paid particular tribute to Barb and Bob Simpson, who leave the executive after more than ten years of service, as well as Rhodora Doughty and Joan McLaughlin, who have stepped down as members-at-large.

At the request of Ontario Nature, HBN members continued to oppose Bill 5 and its weakening of environmental protections for endangered species and rare and critical habitats. A petition was distributed and members were encouraged to contact their MPP, Lisa Thompson, to urge her government to repeal the contentious legislation.

HBN members approved donations to the Goderich to Guelph (G2G) Rail Trail to improve signage and to Ontario Nature to support expansion of the Sauble Dunes Nature Reserve.



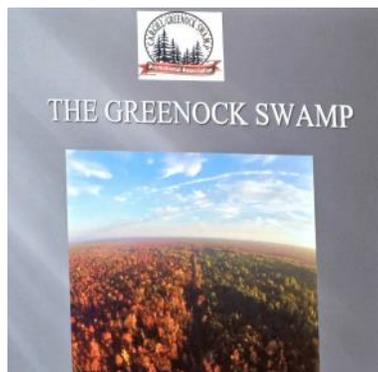
**WANT A BETTER VIEW?**

**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.**

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

**October 28th: Shannon Woods, Greenock Swamp Wetlands....**

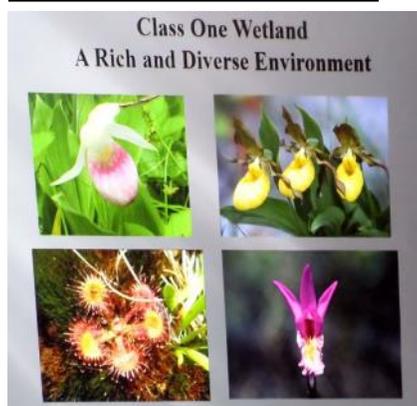
**Catherine Hodges.**



**A massive, 20,000 acre Class One wetland: title screen of the great presentation by Shannon Wood. C. Roberts photo**



**Shannon Wood proved very popular after her engaging talk; there were many questions from members. J. Pepper photo**



**22 species of Orchid, Round-Leafed Sundew, and 8 species of hawk, amongst other species, call Greenock Swamp home. C. Roberts photo.**

**Guest speaker Shannon Woods** presented the fascinating story of Greenock Swamp to over sixty members and guests who attended the Huron Bruce Nature October meeting. Shannon became very familiar with this vast tract of local wetland during her long career in conservation, working for the both the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources. Through a combination of engaging historical anecdotes and scientific findings, Shannon recounted a story of natural ecology and human industry.

At approximately 20,000 acres in size, Greenock swamp is the largest forested wetland in southern Ontario, and is part of the Teeswater River watershed. Its history goes back to the mid 1800's when early surveyors identified the value of the white pine growing within, and efforts to harvest the lumber began in 1879. It was the business acumen of lumber baron Henry Cargill that brought great prosperity to the area between the years 1880-1900. In its heyday, the mills and factories Cargill built employed over 300 men. Cargill, considered a kind benefactor, built housing for his workers, a general store, school, churches, and his own impressive red brick residence. His workers completed many amazing works of engineering including the building of two hand dug canals (which lowered the water levels of the swamp by about a metre), a railroad, and a network of corduroy roads.

The size, age, and utility of the original stand of white pine trees harvested during these years cannot be understated. A recent finding of a submerged pine, found in water, dated the Greenock tree to 800 years. The height of the current tallest white pine in Ontario, found in Arnprior, is 154 feet. Highly sought after for ship masts due to their strength and straightness, 4500 ship masts were sent to England in the mid 1850's. To the Iroquois, the tree is a symbol of peace. Perhaps because it provided the lumber for the building of Toronto, white pine was declared the "Tree of Ontario" in 1984. Even its needles are beneficial, containing five times more vitamin C than lemons.

Shannon recounted how over time the lumber trade declined until by the 1920's the swamp served as a spot for illegal bootleggers to operate their stills. By the 1950's the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority began purchasing wetlands as they became available. Today the Greenock Swamp is home to 22 species of orchids, over 100 species of birds, many reptiles and amphibians, and more than 25 mammals. While the core of the wetland is protected, the edges are threatened by farming activity and tiling. Efforts continue by conservancy groups to purchase lands so that this unique ecosystem can continue its valuable function – holding water during high flows, but also releasing water during periods of drought. The threat of Bill 5 to Ontario's environment dimmed, as we listened to the present day efforts by Shannon to keep the history and biodiversity of this Class 1 Wetland safe for the future. Shannon continues to promote, educate and entertain through the recently established Greenock Swamp and Cargill promotional committee. The group offers four tremendously popular swamp tours, a visitor's center and museum, book store, and café. More information and many engaging photos are available on her **Facebook page – Cargill and the Greenock, Swamp or 12489252 Canada Association.**



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

**November 25th: Huron Bruce Nature Welcomes Market Gardener Tamara McMullen**

Catherine Hodges



**Tamara McMullen of Firmly Rooted Farm gave a lively and interesting presentation. J. Pepper photo**

Even with winter weather poised to descend upon Lake Huron, fresh vegetables are still available thanks to a local certified organic farm. Tamara McMullen of Huron County-based Firmly Rooted Farm brought crates of fresh root vegetables to the Point Clark Community Centre on November 25, for a regular meeting of the Nature Club. Tamara, a self-described plant geek since childhood, shared her passion and enthusiasm for growing organic, nutrient-dense food with amazing flavour, to a rapt audience of about seventy Club members.

McMullen and her partner Brian Wiley established their farm in 2013, but began their journey years earlier when they met at the University of Guelph's landscape architecture programme. They discovered in each other a mutual love of food, the physical world, and feeding community. After graduation and through a training program at Everdale teaching farm, Tamara and Brian were introduced to dozens of small-scale farmers successfully providing community with nutritious food, and decided that they could do so too.

McMullen currently feeds 200 families a week on three and a half acres grown intensively, and sustainably on their farm located in Belgrave. She shared many of their farming practices, including the use of 'hoop houses', structures that allow the farm to produce salad greens and root vegetables for three and a half seasons. Soil health is of utmost importance to their approach, and they use a variety of methods

to keep it healthy - nutrient testing, seed meals from natural sources, reduced tillage, crop rotation, and using compost mulch feature among them.

McMullen touched on their pest management strategies to control harmful insects, but which include fostering beneficial ones as well. The farm is planted with hedgerows full of native trees, shrubs and plants which attract, house, and feed beneficial insects. Their biodiversity strategy even includes a dug pond and mini forest. The resultant habitat on the postage stamp size land is full of honey bees, hundreds of frogs, salamanders, toads, nesting turtles, and birds. Firmly Rooted is an oasis of diversity in a landscape of surrounding monoculture.

After the presentation, HBN members purchased fresh, vibrantly colored vegetables grown on this productive, healthy farm.



**A cornucopia of Firmly Rooted Farm's fresh herbs and vegetables on display at the November HBN Club meeting. J. Pepper photo**



**LEFT: Members Susan Miller and Steve Pepper purchase fresh vegetables provided by and grown on Firmly Rooted Farm. C. Hodges photo**

**RIGHT: The display included produce bag and shirt plus some colourful veggies. C. Hodges photo**



**Member Jane Nielsen and President Christine Roberts enjoy taking their pick. J. Pepper photo**

~~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~~

**NABA 2025 Butterfly count, July 5th**

Christine Roberts



This Northern Azure paused long enough for a shot. C. Roberts photo

The NABA (North American Butterfly Association) butterfly count is similar to the Christmas bird count in many ways. From the naba.org website: "...The North American Butterfly Association has run the Butterfly Count Program in the United States, Canada, and Mexico since 1993. Each of the approximately 450 annual counts consists of a compilation of all butterflies observed at sites within a 15-mile diameter count circle in a one-day period. The annually published reports provide a tremendous amount of information about the geographical distribution and relative population sizes of the species counted. Comparisons of the results across years can be used to monitor changes in butterfly populations and study the effects of weather and habitat change on North American butterflies."

In our area the count site is centered on MacGregor Point Provincial Park and is divided into seven zones which are assigned to teams of observers. The count takes place from 10 am to 3:30 pm and participants bring a lunch. At 4:00, everyone returns to the Visitor Centre to submit their tally sheet and return materials. If photos have been taken, this is a good time to have park staff help with identification. Participation in the count requires no previous experience or expertise. Everyone is provided with a map, tally sheet and reference guide for identification. It's recommended to bring a camera and binoculars.

Newcomers often spend their day with park staff combing the trails within the boundaries of the park. They enjoy the opportunity to learn from experienced observers. The rest of us drive around in our cars counting, stopping, walking, taking photos, checking iNaturalist and guide books, chasing, guessing...

The 2025 NABA butterfly count took place on a very warm Saturday, July 5th. The most observed butterfly was the Cabbage White with a count of 2,350. In total 2,893 observations were made, comprising 45 different species of butterflies and 35 'unknown' species.



This coming summer, the organizers intend to start much earlier - 7am, and end the day around 2pm. This will shift most of the survey time to when the butterflies have been more active, as the intense afternoon heat is driving them into cover. It's hoped the shift in start time will yield better results on the survey and make the day more enjoyable for volunteers out in the field.

Jim and I have participated three times and are far from expert or even competent. However, every year our observation skills improve and the knowledge we gain enhances our enjoyment and appreciation of butterflies in our surroundings.



Coral Hairstreak rests on a Milkweed leaf. C. Roberts photo

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~~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~~

**July 19<sup>th</sup>: HBN, KEAN, Lions: Beach cleanup and BBQ**

**Christine Roberts**



**Jim Laliberte prepares to head out on the beach.**

**C. Roberts photo**

**Kincardine and area community members showed their love for the Lake Huron shoreline** and support of the Lake Huron Coastal Centre (LHCC) at the clean-up of Station Beach Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.

Huron Bruce Nature partnered with the Coastal Centre and several local groups including KEAN (Kincardine Environmental Action Network), the Kincardine & District Lions, Sobeyes and the Municipality of Kincardine for this event. Volunteers from the nature club assisted with promotion, set up, registration, distribution of materials and collection.

Sixty-eight volunteers (at least 16 from the club) armed with work gloves, buckets and grabber sticks fanned out over the beach and surrounding parkland to collect trash.

Items collected and recorded on the tally cards ranged from beverage containers, bottle caps, food wrappers, packaging materials, pieces of metal and wood to tiny fragments of foam and plastic. The most numerous by far were cigarette butts (2,119) which are

non-biodegradable and pose a great threat to the environment, leaching toxic chemicals that end up in the water, poisoning fish or wildlife that mistake them for food. As volunteers returned, LHCC staff assisted in sorting collected materials into various receptacles for trash,

recyclables, microplastics and cigarette butts. KEAN took the cigarette waste for recycling through Terracycle. At the end of the event, each category of waste was weighed and recorded before being removed by municipal workers. In total, 74.7 pounds of garbage was removed. After their hard work, volunteers were rewarded with a BBQ lunch, with food supplied by the Kincardine Sobeyes and prepared and served by the Kincardine and District Lions.

The Coastal Centre has been busy in the Kincardine area this summer. The week of July 7 – 11 twelve young people volunteered their time to learn about coastal ecosystems and conservation. They gained new skills and hands-on experience with dune restoration, invasive species removal and shoreline surveys.

Huron Bruce Nature supported this program with a donation of \$300.00.



**Huron Bruce Nature members Steve Pepper and Catherine Hodges registered and gave instructions to volunteers.**

**C. Roberts photo**



**Picking: Linda Campbell picks up debris on Station Beach July 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**C. Roberts photo**

LHCC and their event partners are grateful to everyone who participated in or sponsored the clean-up. For more information about the work of LHCC and other events, follow them on social media: Facebook@coastalcentre, visit the website: [www.lakehuron.ca](http://www.lakehuron.ca) or subscribe to their online newsletter. (CONTINUED...)



**KEAN/ HBN member Kim Armitage sorts the garbage she removed from the beach.**

**C. Roberts photo**



~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

**HBN, KEAN, Lions: Beach cleanup and BBQ....**



**GOOD JOB!**

Standing with 74 pounds of trash collected from Station Beach in just a few hours are (left) Evan Skinn LHCC Environmental Technician and Meredith Watson, LHCC Program Coordinator.

Christine Roberts photo.

**GOODALL  
& HILLS**  
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Lions: (left) Paul Kozma, Neil Geoghegan, Kathy Kozma, Larry Bannerman, Joyce Van Santan (Listowel Lions Club), Danny Chau, Warren Cox, Rob Poyner, Nancy Brash, Jennet Cox, Meredith Watson (Lake Huron Coastal Centre).  
C. Roberts photo

Other Kincardine Lions working on beach and missing from photo: Peter Morris, Pat Nolan, Cathy Nolan.



Sue Greco



**August 18<sup>th</sup>: Geddes Rock Tour: 'Every Pebble Tells a Story'**

**Christine Roberts**



Christine Roberts

**Bob Geddes once again brought his knowledge** and love of geology to explore stony Lorne Beach August 18<sup>th</sup>. The gracious and popular outing leader was joined by 26 members, guests and local residents.

Bob provided a handout, "Simplified Geology of Ontario", with a map showing the different geologic regions or "provinces" and an explanation of the types of rocks and formations found in each. He also brought his sample box to reinforce his teaching with visual examples.

He explained that the native rocks of our region come mainly from marine sediments and are much younger than other parts of Ontario.

Generally they're not as interesting from a mineral standpoint but contain the most fossils.

We next walked the beach trying to remember what we'd just heard and asking Bob about interesting stones. He stopped at several large boulders to talk about differential weathering and to point out garnets in gneiss and to highlight examples of pudding stone, tillite, pegmatite and feldspar.

It was a beautiful day in a beautiful setting and we are grateful to Bob for so generously sharing his passion and expertise.

~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

**Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>: Corn Roast**

Christine Roberts



The clouds on the horizon were dark and the wind off the lake brisk, but the rain held off just long enough Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> for thirty members to enjoy their potluck supper; the club's traditional welcome to a new season.

The group gathered behind hostess Pat Leonard's beautiful lake-front home in Point Clark out of the wind to enjoy hot dogs, corn and a wonderful selection of side dishes and desserts. The hot drinks were particularly appreciated this year.

Thank you to the Peppers for set-up and grilling; to Donna Murray for serving; Murray Jamieson and John Hill for cooking the corn and everyone who helped by shucking corn, and who brought food for the buffet table. A special thank you to Pat Leonard for offering her home and yard for the event; it's a beautiful spot!



**WE'LL LET THESE PHOTOS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES!**



   
**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 at meetings to join or renew.  
**Done!**

**Blast from the Past...2012**



September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012... twelve members sat down at Falls Reserve, Goderich. The meal ended with a heavy downpour, thunder, and a race for our cars. A huge rainbow on our way home.

**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!**

~~~ *PAST OUTINGS...* ~~~

**Tripping Bruce Peninsula Outing, September 11th 2026**

Susan Greco



**Left to Right: Lois Hunter, Sharon Billing, Lori Patten, Jim Laliberte, Linda Snyder, Yvonne Bieman, Silvia Berg, Mary Faubert, Brent Bowyer, Jennifer Bedford, Bonnie Wiatr. S. Greco photo. Missing - Sue Greco, (photographer,) Fran McQuail.**

**Thirteen enthusiastic participants took off from Kincardine** to discover, or rediscover, a few of the hidden gems in the Bruce Peninsula. It was a jam-packed day. The first destination, we spent two and half hours or so and timed it to arrive to eat our prepacked lunches. Once through Owen Sound, we took the route via Keppel Mountain, which afforded us spectacular scenery with the fall colours in full glory. Though this may have been a slight diversion off the planned route, which was supposed to be on the shore road, it was not regretted, as I for one hadn't been that way before; besides which, it took us almost to the gate of Keppel Croft Gardens, where we were expected. Our hosts at Keppel Croft, at Big Bay Point, Dawn and Bill Loney, greeted us warmly, and seemed just as excited as us that we were there, probably due to their ill health at the beginning of the season and uncertainty whether they could be ready at all, and if so, when, with so much early spring work having to be delayed. Dawn walked and talked us through, with complete history on the creation of their dream gardens, right on to their delightful patio, awaiting us with tables and umbrellas set ready for our picnic.

The weather cooperated on this day, selected for the rain date; it was perfect, and though we could have spent longer relaxing in this perfect spot, we were at the same time eager to explore this award-winning piece of heaven, with trails through, countless themed garden spaces, ponds, arbours, rockeries, ground-laid tiled sundials created after ancient ones of different traditions,

and many, many more unique and quirky surprises, one of those being a Keppel Henge!

Most surprising is the quaint, serendipitous, eco friendly, well-decorated and award winning Outdoor Loo! Adding to that, perhaps the most-photographed!

Upon leaving Keppel Croft, just around the corner we stopped for Homemade Ice cream at the Big Bay General store, well known to many who venture that way.

Next up was Bruce's Caves, though a challenge due to the not-too-short walk in from the car park. Upon reaching the dramatic spot, not everyone could navigate a thorough exploration, climbing the big rocks and boulders, but nonetheless a not-to-miss experience. My hat off to everyone completing the walk in and out; with several managing to combat the obstacles to get a good look around.

Time still on our side, we went further north into the Bruce to have a ramble around the ruins of the Corran estate and climbed down Spirit Rock's legendary spiral staircase to the shoreline of Warton Bay - not for the faint hearted, but with another point or two for those who did. We spent about an hour at the ruins there, leisurely exploring. Here was the point for some to find their own way home; for those who wanted one more accomplishment before leaving was the Spirit Rock trail that does a loop around the top of the escarpment back through the forest to the carpark.

We all agree an adjustment should be made in the estimated length of this trail, cited on the trail board at the beginning.

This was a memorable trip. Anyone, after reading this in the club's newsletter, prepared and orchestrated by the amazing Editor, and who feels inquisitive enough to want to give it a go, talk to Sue. If there's enough interest, I would be happy to arrange it again, for newcomers or those who would like to repeat the trip.

**(Continued....)**



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~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

**Tripping Bruce Peninsula Outing.....**

**(Photos by Sue Greco and Brent Bowyer:)**

*Keppel Croft Gardens*



**Brent Bowyer**

Arrival.  
 Left, the entry gate.  
 Right:   
 Host Dawn in pale green in middle, Left to right Fran McQuail, Jim Laliberte, Lois Hunter, Sylvia Berg, Linda Snyder, Brent Bowyer, Sharon Billing, Bonnie Wiatr, Lori Patten, Jennifer Bedford, Yvonne Bieman, Missing: Sue (Picture taker), Mary Faubert.



**Susan Greco**



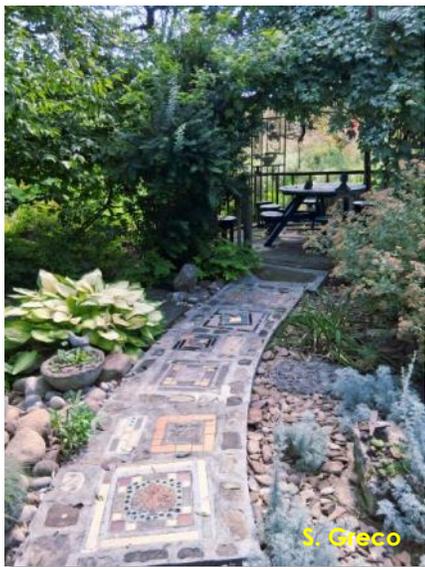
**S. Greco**



**S. Greco**



**S. Greco**



**S. Greco**



**S. Greco**



**Sundial, Yvonne Bieman**

A more photogenic place would be challenging to find, and as well as marvelling over the amount and variety of this wonderful endeavour, one has to ponder on the amazing amount of work that has been accomplished by the Loneys.

~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

Some of the trippers enjoying a shady Kepple Croft luncheon.



Brent Bowyer

'We hear ice cream calling...'  
Big Bay General Store is hard to miss!

Yvonne Bieman commented, 'After lunch at Kepple Croft Gardens, we made a stop at the general store down the road. There many of the group enjoyed homemade ice cream. Everyone always has room for ice cream!'



Pepper photo (archive)

S. Greco



One of the many 'sights to behold' at Kepple Croft is the magical Outdoor Loo, which is decorated creatively inside and out. A visit before you leave is smilingly advised!

NEXT STOP -  
BRUCE'S CAVES nr.  
Wiarton. →

BRUCE'S CAVES

Pepper photo (archive)



Pepper photo (archive)

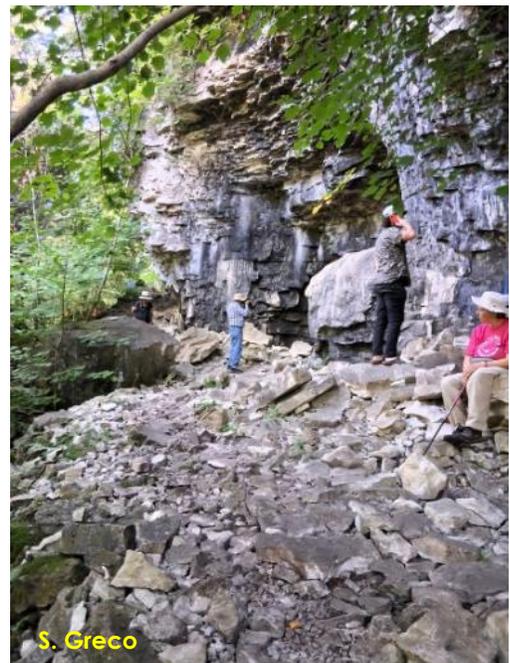
The magic of Bruce's Caves lies not only in the rock formation but along the rocky path, where many types of flora and fauna can be seen. Some very tiny plants can be observed hiding in the shadow of larger ones. Small flowers and mosses abound as well as ferns. The path is rugged and needs to be watched, so progress can be slow but fascinating, as one pauses to look at this wonderful display alongside. (These two archive photos from the 2011 Bruce Peninsula Explorer.) -Ed.

SEE  
NEXT  
PAGE...

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!



S. Greco

~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

## BRUCE'S CAVES...



S. Greco



S. Greco

Plenty of opportunities for exploring are available including a narrow passageway joining two areas. Good footwear is a must here, and a flashlight is useful to read graffiti and check for sheltering rattlesnakes! Lori Patten and Bonnie Wiatr demonstrate suitable rock clambering shoes and boots.

## Spirit Rock and The Corran



Yvonne Bieman

Yvonne Bieman had a good photo opportunity as our adventurers tackled the famous spiral staircase at Spirit Rock. This stair supports two people at once and leads from the shore of the clear water of Colpoys' Bay up the cliff to the ruins of The Corran and other ruins. The area is very slippery!



Yvonne Bieman

The home of Alexander McNeil, The Corran became his home in 1881 and was a very beautiful house full of carvings, tapestries and books. The land was manicured with flower gardens and trees.

It was purchased by the Conservation Authority in the 1960s, but was destroyed by vandals who burnt it in 1976.

Now a pleasant walk and meander, with hiking nearby. You may need boots even in warmer seasons.

There is a great video on the staircase and ruins, posted by 'Random Andrew' on YouTube, with permission to share 'where appropriate'.

Photo shows one side of the ruins; there is a signboard at the site with a photo of the house as it stood.

As a member of Ontario Nature, HBN 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, HBN, 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.

**Yvonne adds:** 'Four of us did an extra hike at Spirit Rock. It took longer than we anticipated but we enjoyed walking and observing the flora and fauna along the way.'

**Thank you to our wonderful Outings Co-Ordinator, Sue, who never fails to find the trails, views, and wildflowers to enchant and educate us!**

~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

**Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> – Tour of Brent and Carol Bowyer’s property, Tamarack Place**

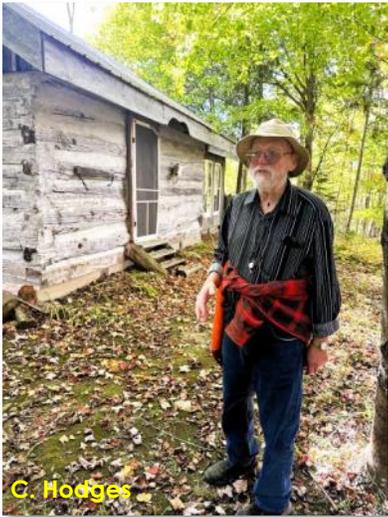
Catherine Hodges

Thursday, Oct 2 dawned a pristine fall day for the eight members who joined Brent Bowyer and his son Christopher, for a guided tour of his unique 50 acre property located near Wingham. Over the next two hours Brent shared the story of his (and Carol’s) journey, building his home and outbuildings, as well as his knowledge of the ecosystem in the bog and woods that comprise the property.

We set off at a leisurely pace, crossing a meadow bordered by wetland, climbed up an esker that took us through a hardwood bush, and finally entered a "quaking bog", where we lingered to discover Labrador Tea (a wetland plant in the genus *Rhododendron*) and abundant carnivorous pitcher plants. A quaking bog is a thick, spongy mat of vegetation, typically mosses and shrubs, which float on a body of water or over very wet peat, causing the ground to bounce or 'quake' when walked on. Brent made sure we experienced the sensation of walking on a giant waterbed by jumping up and down to ensure lots of movement!

Another unique highlight of the outing was a visit to a log cabin Brent painstakingly rebuilt from a derelict pioneer homestead. It was astonishing to contemplate that some of the large logs used in the construction would have been growing in Bruce County in the late 1700's. The cabin is kitted out with interesting pioneer era artefacts handed down in his family.

A leisurely lunch followed in the couple's warm, light-filled kitchen. Thank you, Brent and Carol!



C. Hodges



Pat Ross-Smith



C. Hodges



Pat Ross-Smith

An enjoyable discovery of Brent and Carol Bowyer’s Tamarack Place. Far right, Pat Leonard stands on the quaking bog.



Pat Ross-Smith



C. Hodges

Left, the innovative tree house; centre, inside the cabin with its interesting history.



Pat Ross-Smith

Brent's pebble and shell collection graces a wall of the cabin.

~~~ *PAST OUTINGS...* ~~~

**Tour of Folmer's Botanical Gardens, Oct. 4th**

Christine Roberts



**The fall tour of Folmer's Botanical Gardens** felt more like summer than autumn with temperatures nearing 30C for 18 members and 2 guests.

This property is the largest privately owned botanical garden in Southwestern Ontario and contains rare Carolinian and diverse native plant species, beautiful natural features, extensive plantings and construction projects. Owner Brian Folmer has been developing the gardens, garden centre and landscaping business on the 108 acre former farm for nearly three decades. Where he once had to "sneak" native plants into his clients' projects, he now sees a real interest on the part of the average gardener in improving biodiversity by adding native plants to home landscaping.

As we toured the grounds he pointed out many native and "nativar" plant species: native plants that have been bred to make them more appealing to gardeners for traits such as height or flower colour.

Erin Gouthro, Watershed Ecologist of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority has made two presentations to us in the past few years, most recently in November 2024 when she continued reporting on forest health in Huron County but concentrated on birds, bats and pollinators.

Erin has been using Folmer's Botanical Gardens to study and survey populations of bumblebees. She hopes to use the data as a baseline for further research. She is passionate about invertebrates and feels they can be used to assess ecosystem health since they comprise 50% of animal species.

She described the bumblebee life cycle and showed models of coloration markings. She also encouraged us to join conservation projects such as Bumblebee Watch ([www.bumblebeewatch.org](http://www.bumblebeewatch.org))

Despite the lateness of the season, there was lots of colour, blooms and bees and even a few Monarchs. As we toured, Erin kept an eye out for insect activity and caught a few bees for us to observe up close. She speaks about her subjects with great fondness calling them "the boys", "the girls" and "adorable".

We enjoyed the exploration and learned a lot about native trees and plants to attract pollinators. Brian gave a special discount for those on the tour and many members went home with new plants to add to their gardens. Many of us brought our lunch and found peaceful, shady places to enjoy them. Brian was ready to continue the tour in the afternoon but the heat was too much and most people returned home.

Thank you to Brian Folmer and Erin Gouthro for sharing their expertise and passion with us. Brian will be our guest speaker in May, so perhaps a return spring tour is in order....



**Newton Reserve News:**

Christine Roberts

**October 24/26 George G Newton Nature Reserve work bees.**

**As part of stewardship of the nature reserve**, the club monitors and attempts to control invasive plant species. Each spring a work party is organized to pull garlic mustard and each fall similar plans are made to remove European, aka Common, Buckthorn.

This highly invasive plant grows as a shrub or small tree. It forms dense thickets that crowd out native plant species. It also discourages competition by altering soil chemistry thereby decreasing biodiversity.

The dark berries are eaten and the seeds spread by birds although the nutritional value is low. Buckthorn is easy to spot in the fall since it stays green and retains its leaves long after native trees and plants have shed their foliage.

**(continued...)**

~~~ *PAST OUTINGS...* ~~~

If the ground is wet, small to medium-sized shrubs can be pulled out roots and all by extractigators – heavy duty weed pullers.

This year the Ontario Nature Reserves management team was successful in obtaining a grant for the invasive removal work from the Invasive Species Centre and Ontario Wildlife Federation. This allowed for the purchase of additional extractigators, the rental of portable washroom facilities and the purchase of native shrubs and trees to fill the cleared space.

Despite the wet weather on Friday, October 24th, 11 people shouldered extractigators and hand saws and trekked into the nature reserve in search of buckthorn. The crew was dedicated and very efficient clearing approximately 1500 square feet in less than 3 hours.

Small shrubs were pulled, the dirt shaken off the roots and then either piled on fallen logs or suspended from tree branches. It's important for the roots to thoroughly dry to deter regrowth. Large trees were sawn and the trunks marked with paint for later chemical treatment.

**Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> – Newton Reserve Planting Party!**

**Christine Roberts**

Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> was a beautiful day for planting! Fourteen people came to plant over 60 native trees and shrubs purchased from Folmer's Garden Centre filling in the areas cleared on Friday.

Thank you to everyone who came out to assist in the work: long time members, new members and soon-to-be members and to the Ontario Nature Reserves team for finding funding, planning and supporting our work.

Future plans include the installation of a boot brush at the entrance along with new signage featuring a trail map, more directional signs and some educational placards.



**Into the woods: Getting ready to go on the hunt for buckthorn are (left-right) Gloria Bond, Cheryl Murray, Marcus Maddelena (behind), Catherine Hodges, Dave Carson, Brent Bowyer, Jim Roberts, Pat Ross-Smith, Bill Hodges and Amelia Lloyd. C. Roberts photo**



**Marcus Maddelena explains how Buckthorn was introduced into Ontario. C. Roberts photo**



**Dave and his trophy Buckthorn! C. Roberts photo**



**Sunlit bench: One of the benches installed this year to commemorate the club's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary is awash with light and colour on a bright October morning. C. Roberts photo**



**Ann Scanlon (left) and Brent Bowyer get to work along with the group. C. Roberts photo.**



**ECO-WARRIORS ALL!**

~~~ *PAST OUTINGS...* ~~~

**Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, pop-up hike with Sue:**

**Sue Greco. Photos provided by Sue.**



**Sue, Cathy Cooper and Alison Hooper check out the guide notices at the Stapleton Tract. Photo, Yvonne Bieman, via S. Greco**

**Only four on the Hike, but we enjoyed.....** we did two trails, the Maitland Conservation Stapleton tract; the other trail was closed...but did see another, great one, on south Huron Kinloss Avenue on our way back. Stapleton Tract (1.5 miles, 40 minutes) Hwy 86, 6 minute's drive from Whitechurch, on Whitechurch Street, first right on Kinloss Ave. (South Kinloss Ave tract is also off Kinloss Ave.) South Kinloss Road turns left and becomes Turnberry-Kinloss Road before the Tract.



Alison found a puff ball. We found two other fresh ones; unfortunately they'd been thrown at a tree and were in bits. Spending time at the pond, fascinated with the Autumn Meadow dragonflies.... A small yellow autumn butterfly stopped to chat, and a dragonfly enjoyed a rest on the new hat, which we thought a good promotional photo!



**The Stapleton Tract is on the Maitland Conservation Authority property and has proven to provide a good range of flora and fauna even on HBN's first venture.**



**Puffballs are usually a surprise find....good catch, Alison!**



**The pond at the Stapleton Tract has plenty to present to nature lovers. The Autumn Meadow dragonfly is numerous here.**

**SNAKE IDENTIFICATION:**  
Non-Venomous vs. Venomous

| NON-VENOMOUS           | VENOMOUS                |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <br>ROUND PUPIL        | <br>VERTICAL SLIT PUPIL |
| <br>NARROW HEAD        | <br>TRIANGULAR HEAD     |
| <br>SMOOTH SCALES      | <br>KEELED SCALES       |
| <br>IRREGULAR PATTERNS | <br>GEOMETRIC PATTERNS  |
| <br>LONG, TAPERED TAIL | <br>SHORT, BLUNT TAIL   |

**Recently posted on Facebook with no credit, this snake ID guide simplifies the subject. Snakes are often come upon unawares, and since we tend to automatically focus on faces, perhaps the shape of the pupil or the head of a reptile is the quickest way to determine how far you should leap away!**



# Members' Page....

## What Our Members are Doing!

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



*WHERE WE'VE BEEN...WHAT WE'VE SEEN...  
....and other things in between!*



**HURON BRUCE NATURE WAS STARTED IN 1985 BY PEOPLE WHO ENJOYED GOING OUT IN NATURE AND FINDING NEAT THINGS!** That, along with conservation and environmental issues, is what we still enjoy today. So, if you're out and about and discover something that stops you in your tracks....take a picture before you travel on, and send it to us here at Fringe Notes:- [beechleajlp@gmail.com](mailto:beechleajlp@gmail.com) making sure your name and where you found your 'neat thing' are included!

*Thanks - Editor*



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

HURON BRUCE NATURE EXTENDS 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!



**Catherine Hodges walks on the shoreline, and took time to find out about the wreckage of the boiler on Boiler Beach:**

The water levels on Lake Huron are so low this year, more of the Erie Belle boiler is exposed than has been in years. It's impossible to miss this local landmark on a beach walk, and the story of its demise is intriguing. In November 1883, several powerful storms hit the east shore of Lake Huron during a two week period, resulting in numerous stranded ships. The Erie Belle was sent to rescue the J N Carter, loaded with timber, which overshot the harbour and blew ashore two miles south of the town. Initially the Erie Belle was unable to budge the stranded schooner. Sometime during the rescue attempt a boiler on the rescue tug overheated, and four crewmen died in the ensuing explosion. The boiler remains a lasting memorial to Lake Huron sailors, now almost entirely free of the shifting sands that have enveloped it for over a century. The J N Carter was finally released the following summer, according to online sources.



## Photo contest Photo contest Photo contest

**SUBJECT FOR 2026: 'NATURE IN MY BACKYARD'.**

Contest takes place at the February LUNCH meeting and Potluck. Each member may enter 2 prints sized 4X6". The content must be Canadian, and the prints may include some editing to enhance the image, but must remain photo-realistic. Photos do not need to be mounted. Please write your name on the back. Each member attending the February meeting has 3 votes to determine a first, second and third place winner. Winners will be photographed with winning entries. If willing and able to share with the newsletter editor, their photos are included in the next newsletter. Send photos to: [beechleajlp@gmail.com](mailto:beechleajlp@gmail.com) noting your name and where the photo was taken.

**YOUR PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE:**  
Send photos to:  
[beechleajlp@gmail.com](mailto:beechleajlp@gmail.com)  
including your name and the  
story of the photo. Thanks!

# Members' Page...2. ↷

CONTINUED ON P. 23, TOP RIGHT...

Both Catherine and President Christine have been watching their bird feeders through the fall months, as evidenced by these great photos....



C. Hodges



C. Hodges



C. Hodges

Who doesn't enjoy seeing gentle Mourning Doves, hearing the songs of the Wrens, and the bright surprise of a Downy (or Hairy) Woodpecker? Not long now till Spring comes and we can be out and about spotting all 'our' birds! Below: Male Cardinal and Hydrangea, female Cardinal, Nuthatch, and a perky pair of Tufted Titmice caught on Christine's camera.

Our enterprising President, Christine Roberts, when not otherwise engaged, has admitted to 'crouching down at my window' to get some lovely candid shots of birds enjoying the offerings outside. We all do it, Christine!



C. Roberts



C. Roberts



C. Roberts

Meanwhile, the HBN Executive have been busy....



C. Roberts

Dianne Clifford checks out the nature-oriented children's books.



C. Roberts

Clothing and hat sales were brisk in November. As well, Christine provided lovely cloth Christmas gift bags (left) for sale by donation to fund purchases of nature-themed children's books.



C. Roberts



# Members' Page....

New to the group?  
This page is for you!



Photographs always welcome;  
please send them in JPEG  
format, over 100 kbs, up to  
1MB. Thanks!

## OUTINGS INFORMATION:

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.

Text or call Susan; 905 967 5094  
or email [limeysue2000@yahoo.ca](mailto:limeysue2000@yahoo.ca)

## **FOLLOW MY LEADER**

SOME OF OUR HIKES TAKE PLACE ON TRAILS WHICH HAVE INTERSECTING PATHS. Your hike leader has planned and timed the route using certain trails, so while you may be tempted to nip down a side alley, or forge ahead, we strongly advise participants against leaving the vicinity of the group. You can, (and some have) get lost along a side trail. In this situation nobody knows where you are - whether you've gone on ahead or taken a wrong turn. This can mean time spent looking for you and anyone who followed you, and keep in mind that cell service may not be available. It may grow dark before you're back at your car.

**STAY FOUND. STAY WITH THE GROUP!**



Wear your HBN 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!



## "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!

## 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!



## 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!**



## MEMBERSHIP PAGE

**HBN 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 Pat Ross-Smith, our Membership Co-ordinator, at any meeting. The address for the e-transfer: [hbn2025business@gmail.com](mailto:hbn2025business@gmail.com)

### Membership renewals ....

#### MEMBERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR:

**Pat Ross-Smith, (647) 234-0547**

Membership/renewal forms are included in each issue, or catch up with Pat at one of the meetings. *Renewals are generally made in September, as that is the start of our season.*

Those who have missed renewals will receive one reminder before being dropped from our lists.

### ~~~ MAKING YOUR PAYMENTS ~~~

HBN requests that membership payments be made at regular meetings or by e-transfer. The Membership Co-Ordinator will not have paperwork along on outings or other gatherings and will not be able to properly process your membership payment and status.

*Thank you kindly!*

### ~~ MEMBERSHIPS: ~~

Welcome back old members, and a warm welcome to new ones. Over-18 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 club's year are due in September and before February.

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

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL OF YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION GOES TO:**

**Pat Ross-Smith,**  
**Membership Co-Ordinator,**

**at:**  
**prossmith@yahoo.ca,**  
**(647) 234-0547**

**OR at a meeting.**

*Thanks .... Pat*

### ADVERTISING:

**\$10 per issue, call**  
**Steve Pepper, 226-396-5616**

### ~~ 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.



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

new member application  or renewal

SEPTEMBER 2025 to SEPTEMBER 2026

....or CATCHUP?

Please mail completed form with payment to:

Huron Bruce Nature,  
C/O: G. Bond, 659 Abbey Road,  
Kincardine, Ontario N2Z 1P4

Payment can also be e-transferred to Huron Bruce Nature  
at: [hbn2025business@gmail.com](mailto:hbn2025business@gmail.com)

Name(s): (Please print:)

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information:

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Cut out or scan this form.*

## ~ ~ ~ REGULAR MEETINGS ~ ~ ~

**Regular meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Point Clark Community Center, 344 Lake Range Drive, during the months of February to June and September to November.**

February meeting is a potluck and photo contest/hobby display at 11:30 am. April, Annual Dinner - another venue.

**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!**

Arrival Time: 7. 00 pm.



Feed the Frog!

Beverages: 2.00; treats: free.

Meeting: 7:15 pm.



### **FALL/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 HALL.**

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

**Please note that all regular meetings are held on the FOURTH Tuesday of the month.**

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

**February 24th, 2026:** Our first meeting of the new year is a lunchtime potluck, hobby display and photo contest. Bring a casserole, salad or dessert and your dishes, napkin and cutlery. The theme of the 2026 photo contest is NIMBY: Nature in My Back Yard. Photos from your own premises.

Thanks to a donation of native plant seeds by Tim Broughton, we added a winter sowing workshop to the February meeting. The club will provide instruction, seeds and materials. To participate, bring plastic containers: 2 L soda bottles; milk, vinegar, juice or water jugs; clamshell lettuce or BBQ chicken containers.

All should be transparent or opaque to allow light in. Prep the containers by poking drainage holes in the bottom and a few holes in the top to allow precipitation to enter. **See the Membership Page for details on how to enter your photos.**

**March 24th, 2026:** Mike Ward from Clinton. "Attracting Butterflies to the Garden". Explore the role of specific plants in attracting butterflies to your garden, including host and nectar plants. Mike has been a gardener his entire life, but only started gardening for butterflies in 2016. He works full time but still finds time to spend in his garden or helping others create and build theirs. On Facebook he goes by Milkweed Madhouse and has been helping Monarch butterflies and other pollinators by educating to plant more native species.



**April 28th, 2026:** ADM - Adam Shoalts will speak on his new book *Vanished Beyond the Map: the mystery of Hubert Darrell, an explorer who was lost.* This is a ticket event and sold out: there is a waiting list for cancellations.



**May 26th, 2026:** Brian Folmer, who has a native plants nursery near Walkerton, will talk about native perennials. Brian started his career by doing yardwork for neighbours and now runs a 28-acre property which is the largest privately owned botanical garden in Southwestern Ontario.



**June 23rd, 2026:** Rob Wray from Owen Sound Field Naturalists club. He is a nature photographer and has lovely photos on his Facebook page.



These new advertisers are looking forward to meeting you! Pop your head in and enjoy their ambience!

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**Members' Page...**

Catherine Hodges and Jen Bedford were out skiing at Stony Island this past January 22nd. Lots of coyote tracks!



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AND MORE!

EMAIL: [info@commonplacekincardine.ca](mailto:info@commonplacekincardine.ca)  
INSTAGRAM: @commonplace.kincardine.  
FACEBOOK: commonplace market

~~~ UPCOMING OUTINGS ~~~

OUTINGS INFORMATION:

Outings Co-Ordinator Susan Greco will email 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.

Text or call Susan; 905 967 5094  
or email [limeysue2000@yahoo.ca](mailto:limeysue2000@yahoo.ca)

Remember that hikes can differ in terrain and also in speed. For example, FLOWER WALKS tend to be slower as we enjoy the seasonal blooms along the trails, while HIKES can be brisker for those who like a good ramble. If you are one of the latter, a gentle walk with stops for flowers and plants may not be your forte.

**NOTE:** Keep an eye on your Inbox for pop-up walks, hikes and work parties. We advise having a map.

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!**



-(Archive Photo  
C. Hodges)

SUNDAY MARCH 8th : HBN Winter Event

ANIMAL TRACKS IN THE SNOW

with expert animal tracker Jeff Kinchin on his Bognor Property.  
Limit: 15 Cost \$15 pp

Who Made Those Tracks & Why?

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

This enriching tracking tutorial will teach you to observe and recognize nature's clues. Jeff will lead you on this interpretive late winter tracking hike. Snowshoes may be needed due to deep snow this winter.

**Please RSVP Susan 905 967 5094 by text or email [lieysue2000@yahoo.ca](mailto:lieysue2000@yahoo.ca)**

This in 2024 was a very popular event so will fill up fast!

Don't delay in registering.

Closer to the event there will be details of departure and other pertinent info.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>: JAMES TURLAND is leading us on a WINTER BIRDING HIKE



(Archive photo,  
R. Doughty)

We'll be looking for eagles and other winter finds in and around Baie du Dore.

Details and more info to follow – Save the date!

*Insight:*

*Eagles will stay in the area to take advantage of the warm waters surrounding the power plant and may be seen fishing from Baie du Dore shores.*

- Ed.