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HURON BRUCE NATURE'S FRINGE NOTES

Spring/Summer
reports,
2026

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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



Northern Saw-Whet, Pt. Clark,
April, 2012, Kirk McNaughton photo

WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT, CATHERINE HODGES



President's Report, SPRING/SUMMER, 2026

Welcome back members and friends of Huron Bruce Nature Club!

Stepping into the role of President of the HBN Club feels a little like joining a well-worn trail at a familiar bend. Many capable and dedicated leaders have walked this path before me, leaving clear footprints of wisdom, enthusiasm, and steady guidance. I truly stand on the shoulders of these predecessors, grateful for the remarkable 40+ year foundation they built. Their work has shaped this club into the vibrant, welcoming gathering place it is today.

As I begin this new season, my intention is simple: to be a steady hand on the wheel. What I hope to provide—is continuity, and a commitment to the values that have always defined us. I will work to support our programs, encourage participation, and ensure that our meetings, outings, and shared discoveries continue to inspire both long-time members and newcomers.

I look forward to the seasons ahead—the birds we'll spot, the trails we'll walk, the speakers who will broaden our understanding, and the friendships that will deepen along the way. With your support, I will do my best to guide our club with steadiness, and a shared sense of wonder for the world just outside our doors.

The longevity of this Club comes from the teamwork and dedication of our Board Members, who show up month after month, year after year, with reliability that often goes unspoken but never unnoticed. Their commitment—quiet, consistent, and deeply rooted—has kept our meetings running smoothly,

(CONTINUED...)

UPCOMING MEETINGS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sept. 22 – Jeannine Kralt – Saunter Nature

Oct. 26 – Helmi Hess- Loggerhead shrike & wildlife preservation

Nov. 24 – Members' night - hobby display

Feb. 23 2027 – annual lunch potluck 11:30-2 :

- Marcus Maddelina on Sauble Dunes
- Table for display of hobbies of members.
- Photo Contest, 'Creatures Great & Small'
- Christine has a display on winter sowing.

March 23-Jeremy Shute – Adventuring in your back yard

April 27 annual dinner meeting – Sandy Nelson – travel photos

May 25 – Sandy C, Owls, Raptors

June 22 – AGM- speaker TBD

FULL DETAILS: P. 28

LOOK
INSIDE!

TITLE PHOTO: Fall in Springbank Park, London, P. S. Anderson

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

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

President:

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Christine Roberts 395-5008

Vice President:

Yvonne Bieman 519-389-8129

Secretary:

Brent Bowyer 357-1883

Treasurer: G. Bond (519) 396-7940

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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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President's Comments continued.....

our events welcoming, and our shared mission of conservation, education, and exploration, alive. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of them for the time, energy, and care they invest in this club. Their steady presence is the backbone of everything we do, and I am grateful to walk this path alongside such devoted colleagues.

We have a terrific line up of speakers and outings to look forward to for the fall/winter of 2026/27, be sure to take advantage of opportunities to learn, explore, and connect!

Membership Co-Ordinator Pat Ross Smith, is available at each meeting, to welcome you to our Club. Paid memberships are the best thing you can do to help the Club meet expenses and provide valuable speakers.



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

Please see the MEMBERSHIP FORM in this issue.

PAST MEETINGS:....

February 24th, 2026:

First Midwinter Meeting for the Huron Bruce Nature Club

Catherine Hodges



Outside, the Point Clark Community Centre looked like a scene from Disney's Frozen, but inside tables were loaded with warm casseroles contributed by about 60 Huron Bruce Nature members for their first meeting of 2026.

Following a hearty potluck lunch and friendly chatter, retired teacher Tim Broughton gave a workshop on 'winter sowing', with a focus on seeding native plants. Winter sowing is an easy, low-cost, and sustainable method of starting seeds outdoors during winter (typically December–February) in small, covered, transparent containers. (OVER...)

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

(cont.)



Tim Broughton brought dozens of native plant seeds from his own garden, to the HBN potluck lunch on February 24. C.Hodges photo

These small containers act as 'mini-greenhouses' that provide natural cold stratification, allowing seeds to germinate on their own schedule in spring, while protecting them from pests, resulting in vigorous, pre-hardened seedlings. Broughton grows about 200 native species in his garden, with an emphasis on natives sourced from Bruce Grey. He brought with him dozens of packets of seeds collected from his garden, for members to take home and sow. Broughton enjoys sharing his knowledge of plants and the seeds, and encouraged members to 'plant something and see if it comes up'.

Following the presentation, Outings Convener Susan Greco shared plans for future day trips, Vice President Catherine Hodges announced a first-ever cycling excursion, and Past President Steve Pepper shared information on the City Nature Challenge.

This year's Challenge was held April 24-27, and is an international, friendly competition to see who can make the most observations of nature and identify the most species, using apps and platforms such as iNaturalist. The HBN had planned guided hikes April 25 and 26.

Finally, winners of the annual photo contest were announced, with Bruce Edmonds winning first for his photo of a screech owl, and Brent Bowyer winning second for a garter snake and frog. Christine Roberts placed third with a photo of two Tufted Titmice enjoying the bird bath.



Left: HBN members were interested to discover the types of wildflower seeds provided.

Photo: Jim Roberts

Right: HBN members Michele Geddes, Jeni Pepper, and Dan Bieman sort through native plant seeds after the HBN potluck lunch. They were provided by speaker Tim Broughton and are ready for winter sowing. Photo: Catherine Hodges



Brent Bowyer photo

**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.

SEE NEXT PAGE.....



## PHOTO CONTEST, cont.:

Voting: Jayne Miltenburg and Steve Pepper stand by the photo boards at the Photo Contest. Thanks to sharp eyed members for their interesting contributions!



➡ Photo Contest winners Bruce Edmonds (left) and Brent Bowyer (right) with their photos of a screech owl and garter snake. C. Hodges photo.

## PAST MEETINGS:....

**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!

  
**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. Or use our E-TRANSFER for more convenience.... see Membership Page.

Done!

## Photographers....

Keep your cameras and phones handy for next February's Photo Contest!

Subject:

'Creatures Great & Small'.



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We are on Facebook and Instagram!

## Huron Bruce Nature learns How to Attract Butterflies to the Garden, March 24th:

### Catherine Hodges

**March feels like a turning point.** The first day of spring had officially clocked in, and every few hours of warm sun made gardening inch closer and closer. While it was tempting to grab a spade and begin digging, winter wasn't quite done yet. It was, however, a good time to start planning for more biodiversity in the garden, using native plants that attract butterflies. Clinton resident and gardening enthusiast Mike Ward brought an informative presentation to the HBN Club, based on over ten years of experience in his own urban garden. He now shares his knowledge with local garden clubs, neighbours, and outdoor education groups.

Ward's journey began simply by observing the life cycle of butterflies on plants in his yard, which birthed a desire in him to help them thrive and successfully migrate. Monarch butterflies for example,

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

Continued....



Mike Ward's enthusiasm for Monarch butterflies is immediately noted in his striking jacket and hat!

Below: Mike stands with Dan Bieman holding his display board of the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly.
C. Hodges photos.

migrate up to 5,000 kms from North American breeding grounds to central Mexican forests. Providing them with energy through intentional planting of nectar rich, native plants became a passion for Ward, and his presentation focused on optimal plant specimen choices.

In a 2016 photo, Ward's garden consisted of shrubs and grass, and was dominated by a deep shade Norway Maple. There were few to no butterflies or bees to be seen, and he set about transforming the space starting with removal of 6 truckloads of plants. By carefully selecting nectar plants to attract, and host plants for growth, Ward's garden was transformed into rich habitat for a colorful range of butterflies like the black, giant, and spicebush Swallowtail, American Lady, and Monarch. The unique needs of Monarchs and their long migration are of particular interest because the caterpillars rely solely on the milkweed plant for their food source. Ward provided practical suggestions on the best varieties of milkweed to plant in local gardens to ensure a critical food source for these beautiful creatures.

Butterflies prefer groupings of flowers, with shrubs or trees nearby to provide shelter from excessive heat and wind. A 'puddling' area is a spot in which they can sip moisture from the ground. Because butterflies are attracted to many drought tolerant, native perennial wildflowers, a butterfly garden offers a great, low maintenance alternative to traditional gardens.

Follow Mike Ward on his Facebook page,

<https://www.facebook.com/MilkweedMadhouse-Waystation14070>



Friend Rob Nurse caught this great shot of a Monarch on wildflowers in Sarnia, early August.



In other Club news, Christine Roberts provided a tutorial on how to use the iNaturalist app, in preparation for this year's City Nature Challenge. iNaturalist is a website and app where people around the world share their nature sightings and observations, building a global database that supports scientific research. Contributors are known as citizen scientists. The HBN planned guided hikes April 25 and 26. See 'Outings'.

Monarch caterpillars on Milkweed plants are easy to spot. This one was found on a tour of The Ark, Tiverton, in 2024. Credit to the photographer.



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

**APRIL 28TH: Huron Bruce Nature Club's Annual Dinner Meeting:**

**Canadian Explorer Adam Shoalts visits Camp Kintail**

**Catherine Hodges**



**Modern day explorers of Canadian wilderness are unique and rare,** especially if they travel solo. A notable example is geographer and author Adam Shoalts, who has carved a unique place in Canadian exploration.

For the second time in three years, members, friends and family of the Huron Bruce Nature Club attended a sold-out dinner presentation with Shoalts as the speaker. The event was held the evening of April 28th at rustic Camp Kintail, where a delicious dinner and dessert were served up by the exceptional Camp staff.

Shoalts began his presentation with some personal background information. He holds a PhD from McMaster University, and is the Westaway Explorer-in-Residence for the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Shoalts recounted how his fascination with discovery began in childhood, where his family home near the woods opened a world of inquiry into foraging for edible plants and mushrooms, and learning other survival skills. His father's hand-built cedar strip canoes introduced him to the skills of woodworking and paddling.

With energy and humor, Shoalts next recounted two epic canoe journeys across the Canadian Arctic that he undertook several years ago. He spoke of his love of the wild: freedom, wildlife encounters, discovery of historic camp remnants, and the scents and vistas of the remote Canadian wilderness. He vividly described adversities like enduring overwhelming numbers of mosquitoes and blackflies, surprise tumbles through white water, and nail-biting bear encounters. During these journeys he poured over maps daily to stay on course, and thought about accounts, log books, and records of past trappers and travelers he had read. Thus commenced the story of a prospector named Hubert Darrell, who disappeared mysteriously in the Arctic in 1910. Shoalts became intrigued with solving the mystery of what happened to Darrell, and began planning for his next expedition.

During his lifetime Darrell was a prospector in the Klondike Gold Rush, but later became renowned for his skill as an expert guide, and for his exceptional stamina in traversing thousands of kilometres alone and on foot. He left behind a trail of hand-drawn maps, journals and letters. Shoalts used these clues to retrace Darrell's routes through the wilderness, searching for cabin ruins and any other traces of habitation. Shoalts combined his own legendary expedition skills with historical research to finally arrive at a bend in the river, where he comes to a discovery about the fate of Hubert Darrell.

Following the presentation, many in attendance were delighted to meet Shoalts in person, and have their book 'Vanished Beyond the Map', signed.

Information on Adam Shoalts and his bestselling books, is available on all social media platforms including Facebook and Instagram.

**REMEMBER TO STOCK UP FOR WINTER BIRDFEEDING AT THESE SUPPLIERS OF ALL THINGS BIRD-RELATED!**



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

Huron Bruce Nature Club's Annual Dinner Meeting:, Cont.:



Canadian Explorer and Author Adam Shoalts speaks at the Huron Bruce Nature Club's annual dinner meeting. C. Hodges photo



Food was plentiful and delicious as over 100 members and guests availed themselves of the plentiful repast. C. Roberts photo



Camp Kintail is packed with a sold out crowd for the HBN annual dinner meeting. J. Pepper photo

Camp Kintail's plentiful dinner buffets, along with their brisk level of service to our large group for the Annual Dinner, have proven popular with members, with the added attraction of great speakers and a friendly social time. Here Dan and Yvonne Bieman get ready to enjoy the full scope of the bounty spread before us all!

Till next year!



C. Hodges



HBN member Bill Hodges receives his signed copy of 'Vanished Beyond the Map', by Author/Explorer Adam Shoalts. C. Hodges photo



Above: HBN members and guests lost no time lining up to have Adam Shoalts' books signed. Ben and Jane Miltenburg were amongst those taking Shoalts' latest book home. C. Hodges photos



Adam Shoalts' books include:

A Sense of Adventure (2006); Alone Against the North (2016); A History of Canada in 10 Maps (2017); Beyond the Trees (2019); Whisper in the Night Wind, (2021) Where the Falcon Flies (2023) Vanished Beyond the Map (2025). Adam has also written the Nature Adventure Book for young readers.

~~~ PAST MEETINGS... ~~~

**May 26th, 2026: Brian Folmer, native plantings for pollinators.**

**Catherine Hodges**



Pepper photo

**Presenter Brian Folmer brought dozens of native perennials to the HBN Club May meeting.**

**GOODALL  
& HILLS**

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**On May 26th,**

Huron Bruce Nature welcomed expert landscape horticulturist, Brian Folmer, to the Point Clark Community Centre. We learned to plant our gardens mindfully, with the pollination needs of bees, butterflies, and other insects, plus hummingbirds. Club Members and guests were greeted by



**Brian Folmer demonstrates a native perennial preferred by Monarch butterflies.**  
Pepper photo



**A wealth of healthy, colourful flowerheads greeted members as they arrived at the May meeting.**  
Pepper photo

tables loaded with a wide range of blooming native plants that Folmer brought from his Garden Centre near Walkerton. Drawing on his encyclopedic knowledge, Folmer guided us through every plant and shrub, explaining their ideal growing conditions, as well as which pollinators they attracted.

Folmer advised participants to work with the conditions they had, whether it be dry, sandy soil, wetland, shade, or full sun. There are native perennials that thrive in any of these conditions, and the right plant in the right spot will thrive.

Another key learning was the need for nutrient-rich soil. Folmer shared his technique of minimal fall and spring cleanup, 'chop and drop'. Leaving stems and seed heads, leaves and grass clippings allows nutrients to return to the soil naturally. Birds will feed all winter if seed heads are available, and organic matter like stems and leaves will recycle naturally.

Following the presentation, club members were able to purchase the rare and unusual native perennials, ensuring great production of nectar and blooms in their home gardens.

Folmer invited participants to visit his 108 acre Botanical Garden, featuring many natural areas including a spring-fed pond, forested wetlands, and a 30-acre display garden. More information on his annual Outdoor Market, guided tours, workshops, gift shop and much more are available on his website, [folmergardens.com](http://folmergardens.com).



**Members were very interested to check over plant labels as they began to plan for their requirements.**  
Pepper photo



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

June 23RD: Rob Wray from Owen Sound Field Naturalists

Nature Club enjoys Artistic Photography at Annual General Meeting

Catherine Hodges



**Photographer Rob Wray answers questions at the HBN Club's June meeting.
C. Hodges photo**

Members of the Huron Bruce Nature Club enjoyed the artistic photography of Rob Wray at their June 23rd meeting, at Point Clark Community Centre.

Rob Wray, a member of both the Owen Sound Field Naturalist Club and the Bruce Birding Club, has come to photography and birding only in the last five years, and is largely self-taught. His love of the natural world, poetry, music, and the harbours of Georgian Bay all came together in a visually stunning presentation to the HBN members at the Club Annual General Meeting.

Wray started his slide show with images of the Earth from outer space, taken by astronauts. Quoting poets such as Wordsworth and E. E. Cummings, he wove a narrative of how people, birds, animals, reptiles and insects live through the cycle of changing seasons, light, and

weather. The slideshow showcased an exceptional collection of photographs, rich with natural detail. Wray presented an impressive range of subjects — birds in motion, quiet moments with mammals, tiny insects, glowing

sunsets, and sweeping landscape vistas — weaving them together with warm, engaging narration. Organized across the twelve months of the year, the presentation revealed how the character of light shifts with the seasons, from the cool clarity of winter mornings to the golden warmth of late-summer evenings. This seasonal structure not only highlighted the diversity of his work but also deepened our appreciation for the patience and awareness required to capture nature at its most compelling. Rob Wray's photography can be found on the Owen Sound Field Naturalists' Facebook pages. His informative posts, on Feathered Fridays, are exceptionally popular. <https://owensoundfieldnaturalists.ca>

The Annual General Meeting reports followed, including summaries of the financial review, membership, outings, speakers, newsletter, website and Ontario Nature. Christine Roberts and the Board Members were thanked and recognized for their commitment and dedication, and new president Catherine Hodges was introduced.

Unique, one-of-a-kind bookends, created by HBN secretary Brent Bowyer, were available for members to purchase through donations to the Club. HBN meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, with the next one, the new season, on September 22nd. The speaker is Jeannine Krait, and her topic is 'Saunter Nature'. Doors open at 7pm, with guests and visitors always welcome. Refreshments are provided but please bring a mug and napkin. There are HBN Club outings and activities planned throughout the seasons.

Contact information for inquiries can be found on the Club webpage, <https://hbn.huronstewardship.ca/>, or by leaving a message on the club's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/HuronBruceNature>.



**HBN member, Jayne Miltenburg, photographer Rob Wray, and president Christine Roberts convene after the HBN Club meeting.
C. Hodges photo**

TELL US WHERE TO GO!

Know of any good places to enjoy nature? Please bring them to the attention of your HBN 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!



HBN President Catherine Hodges was happy to note that a busy Wren family had taken advantage of one of the nest boxes she and Bill have up. They even posed for this photo!

~~~ PAST OUTINGS...~~~

Sunday, March 8th:

Animal Tracks in the Snow with expert animal tracker Jeff Kinchin on his Bognor Property:

Who Made Those Tracks & Why?

Susan Greco:

Snow shoes were recommended, because of deep snow. Five of the group did bring them. Jeff tried to stay in front to make it easier for those without. Often people had their legs sink down to the knees. But no complaints at all. Everyone had a wonderful afternoon.

Jeff Kinchin shared his vast knowledge of the animals' behavior, which he reads through the tracks: running, walking, looking back. Even having a scratch.

I appreciated Jim taking on creating the directions and printing maps for everyone. As well, appreciated Pat Ross-Smith for making sure that the waiver was signed by all, and collecting the guiding fees. This assistance was extremely helpful.

Below: some comments on the outing from participants:

Pat Ross-Smith:

We saw some raccoon, coyote, deer, grouse and I think turkey tracks, and learned the difference between different types of scat. I went with Sue Greco and Jim Laliberte, who was the navigator.

The walking was a bit difficult if you didn't have snowshoes, which I don't, but I'm glad I had my walking poles. We were lucky with the weather; it wasn't warm but it was sunny.

Brent Bowyer:

It was a very interesting outing with such a knowledgeable guide. Who would've guessed that there are several other things to think about when identifying a track besides the actual shape of it. Thanks for all you work in arranging this, Sue!

Vy Waller:

I really enjoyed it too, and would like to go out with him again to multi-task with tracking in warmer weather and identification of trees and possible habitats.



All set to go: everyone had a wonderful afternoon!
P. Ross-Smith photo



Learning on the trail: Jeff Kinchin gives information along the way. S. Greco photo



P. Ross-Smith



(Continued...)

Something furry this way went: a good selection of tracks on this outing.



P. Ross-Smith



S. Greco



P. Ross-Smith

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

**Animal Tracks in the Snow...**



Kim Armitage

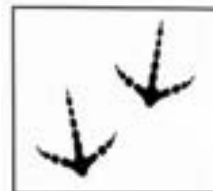
**The tree with the hole!** Well, not so fast with the funeral and the chain saw.

Jeff explained that trees that may be considered 'dead' have plenty of tricks left by cooperating with nature all around to provide nesting, food, protection and sharing of nutrients, and so live on.

As for tracking, we were taught to identify deer, coyote, turkey as well as other tracks. The fun part - putting together what they were up to, by the clues in the spacing, foot splay, and direction of the tracks, and hints left on the ground and in the trees.

**Kim Armitage**

*Thank you for the reports, Kim, Vy, Pat and Brent!*



**City Nature Challenge – April 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>: Combined Bruce Birding Club and**

**Huron Bruce Nature hike - James Turland**

**On Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.**, a group of 25 birders gathered in the parking lot of the Kincardine Dog Park. James and Simon Turland led the group on a guided birding walk at the Kincardine Lagoons. The group was a combination of members from the Bruce Birding Club and Huron-Bruce Nature.

The hike was part of the **City Nature Challenge**, an annual worldwide event that brings together people in cities and communities around the globe to document as much local biodiversity as possible. Participants record plants, birds, insects, mammals and other wildlife they find through the iNaturalist app. These observations contribute to a huge worldwide database and help communities learn about and compare the biodiversity found in their own areas.

It turned out to be a particularly exciting morning. During a pre-scout of the lagoons, James discovered a bird that had been recorded at the lagoons only once before. He quickly posted the sighting to the BBC Messenger page, and it wasn't long before several more birders arrived to get a look at the rarity.

The bird was an **Eared Grebe**, a small and distinctive waterbird that is an uncommon sight in this part of Ontario. Eared Grebes breed mainly in western North America and the prairie provinces and are much less common in eastern Ontario and around the Great Lakes, making this a particularly exciting find for local birders. In fact, the previous record for the Kincardine Lagoons was back in 2009.

Eared Grebes are fascinating birds. During the breeding season they develop striking golden-yellow feathers behind the eyes, giving them their name. Their legs are positioned well back on their bodies, which makes them awkward walkers and almost helpless on land—but those same legs and feet make them excellent swimmers and divers. They spend much of their time underwater searching for small fish and invertebrates.



Photo Credit to Alan D Wilson

Perhaps most remarkably, Eared Grebes undergo an extraordinary transformation before migration. They can nearly double their body weight as they build up fat reserves for their long journeys. They also have the unusual habit of swallowing their own feathers. These feathers collect in the stomach and form compact

pellets that help protect the digestive system from sharp bones and other indigestible material.

The Eared Grebe wasn't the only highlight of the morning. The group recorded **31 species of birds**, providing plenty of excitement for both beginning birders and experienced listers.

(Continued...)

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

City Nature Challenge – April 25th, 26th.....

Three species of warbler were seen—**Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler and Yellow-rumped Warbler**—along with four species of woodpecker: **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker and Northern Flicker**.

Other highlights included 15 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 12 Turkey Vultures, 12 White-throated Sparrows, a Green Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Towhee and several species of waterfowl, including Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead and Ruddy Duck.

With beautiful weather, a great group of birders and the unexpected discovery of a rare visitor, it was a memorable City Nature Challenge outing at the Kincardine Lagoons.

Complete Bird List — 31 Species

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Canada Goose — 15 | • Blue Jay — 3 |
| • Mallard — 6 | • American Crow — 6 |
| • Lesser Scaup — 6 | • Black-capped Chickadee — 4 |
| • Bufflehead — 10 | • Ruby-crowned Kinglet — 15 |
| • Ruddy Duck — 1 | • White-breasted Nuthatch — 2 |
| • Mourning Dove — 3 | • American Robin — 4 |
| • Ring-billed Gull — 10 | • White-throated Sparrow — 12 |
| • Eared Grebe — 1 | • Song Sparrow — 4 |
| • Green Heron — 1 | • Swamp Sparrow — 2 |
| • Turkey Vulture — 12 | • Eastern Towhee — 1 |
| • Belted Kingfisher — 1 | • Red-winged Blackbird — 5 |
| • Yellow-bellied Sapsucker — 1 | • Brown-headed Cowbird — 2 |
| • Red-bellied Woodpecker — 2 | • Palm Warbler — 2 |
| • Downy Woodpecker — 1 | • Pine Warbler — 1 |
| • Northern Flicker — 2 | |



Stoney Island Treasures with Sue Greco Sat., April 25th:



**Flower finds on HBN
Stoney Island Hikes**

Susan Greco

Flowers included Jack in the Pulpit, Herb Robert (Wild Geranium), Comfrey, Blue Cohosh, Baneberry (Doll's eyes) Sarsaparilla, Red Trillium, Common Buttercup, Celandine, Liverleaf Buttercup, Aquilegia (Columbine), Daisy Fleabane, Canada Violet - yellow and blue; Downy Violet - pale blue and yellow; Gay Wings (Polygala), White Trillium, Yellow Lady Slipper, Foam Flower (Tilapia), Wild Lily of the Valley, Clintonia (Corn Lily) Star Flower, Wild Ginger, Solomon's Seal, False Solomon's Seal, Starry Solomon's Seal.

Sue comments:

The Comfrey has been spreading like wildfire in Stoney Island....growing so high. It's an amazing plant for healing and so many uses, including fertilizer; so rich in nitrogen. Flowers in May. See over.

However this year, found in Stoney Island in one place, but couldn't get everywhere to check as the mosquitos have been so bad.

Found Goldenrod trying to take them over, growing even larger! Nature is quite amazing and surprising.

(Photos above and over supplied by Sue Greco)

(continued...)



"Sourcing food and products that have been grown, gathered and prepared by farmers, foragers and preservers in Bruce and Huron Counties - supplemented by the rest of Ontario."

Fresh fruit and veggies, locally raised meats, fish and eggs, preserves and canned items, sauces, snacks, drinks, coffees, teas, baking supplies, stone milled wheat, spices, seasonings, soups/chilies, frozen meals, fish, honey/jam/maple syrup, pet foods, sweet treats, juices, cheeses, pastries, less well known produce.... **AND MORE!**

EMAIL: info@commonplacekincardine.ca

INSTAGRAM: [@commonplace.kincardine](https://www.instagram.com/commonplace.kincardine).

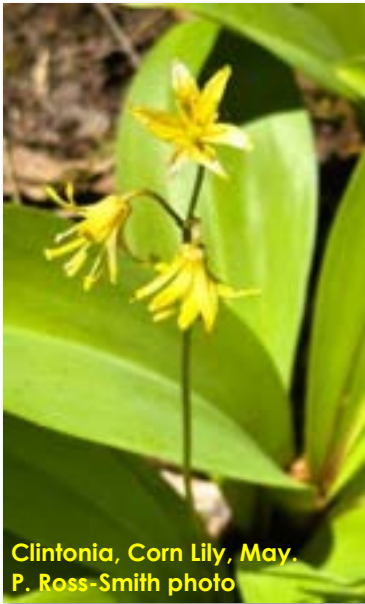
FACEBOOK: [commonplace market](https://www.facebook.com/p/The-Commonplace-)

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

City Nature Challenge outings, continued: Stoney Island with Sue Greco



L. - R: Squirrel Corn, Ginger, Daphne. Squirrel Corn is closely related to Dutchman's Breeches but is identified by the lack of a yellow 'waistband' with which the latter guides bees to its nectar. Daphne, found in the above pink and in white, is always a scented delight to come across. Poisonous. Photos supplied by Sue Greco.



Clintonia, Corn Lily, May.  
P. Ross-Smith photo



Comfrey, Stoney Island, May.

**NOTE:** Sue returned with a group to Stoney Island in May to capture plants in bloom. The result is a feast for our eyes!



**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.



Nineteen people joined Sue for the walk, including some non-members. Thanks to Christine Roberts for gathering them together for her group shot!

~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

HBN's 2026 Bruce Peninsula Explorer, May 19th - 21st

Donna Murray



J. Pepper



J. Pepper



J. Pepper

This year's Bruce Explorer was another successful adventure with approximately 13 fellow nature lovers. Three more joined/met up with us later on in the first day. Along the way, we spotted a variety of wildlife, including a small Painted Turtle in the tiniest mud puddle in the middle of a dirt road to nowhere. Susan Miller was fortunate enough to spot it, and Steve made sure that everyone got a good look at it before placing it safely out of harm's way – making sure to keep it in the direction it was found. Next, a beautiful Bald Eagle was seen around the winding trail to Oliphant Beach, along with a Caspian Tern, 8 assorted species of frogs & 3 salamanders, all living quite happily in a roadside ditch. As we convoyed back along the narrow roadway with its twists and turns, hugging the shoreline, several stops had to be made to let the 'locals' cross and gather up their flocks of goslings. Then it was a short drive to our next stop at Rankin River Sky Lake. The group was rewarded with the following species sighted: Green Herons, Great Blue Herons, White Egrets, Canada Geese, Caspian Tern, another Bald Eagle, Water Snake, Beaver, Black Cormorants, numerous Swallows, Sand Pipers & Bobolinks.



J. Pepper?



C. Hodges



J. Pepper



C. Hodges

The roadsides and ditches at Oliphant and Rankin River offered a great variety of wildlife. Bob Simpson and Bill Hodges were amongst the group's explorers as we all discovered this, that and the other. We concluded that the ditches were more habitable to the amphibians due to the heavier rains, as they were fuller than usually seen.

As our day was getting on and we had spent quite a lot of time here, some of the group enjoyed a quick bite of lunch.

Another attempt was made to visit Black Creek Provincial Park but once again it turned out to be too windy and the w/r was not available. Those who hadn't eaten at Sky Lake took a quick break to enjoy a bite of lunch from the shelter of their vehicles. Loons were also spotted at Black Creek,

and at this point of our day, it was time for a much needed w/r break at Ferndale Gas and Variety Store. From here we all headed on the 45 minute drive to Tobermory

to check in and unwind prior to gathering at The Princess Hotel's Pharos Restaurant for our supper.

NOTE: The Princess Hotel has undergone extensive renovations in the past year, and is expected to have more accommodations in May of 2027.

Day 2

Travelling down Dorcas Bay Road enroute to Singing Sands, some members were fortunate enough to briefly see Sandhill Cranes camouflaged in the somewhat more open grassy area across from the main wetland of the park.

(continued)



Hodges photo

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

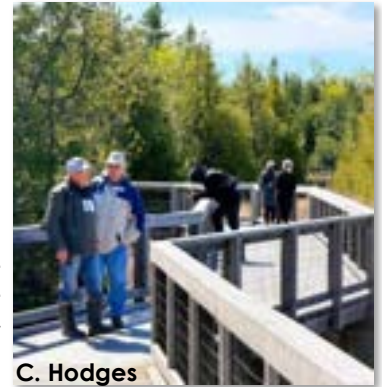
**Bruce Peninsula Explorer.....Day 2....**



C. Hodg-

**Sunshine and blue skies awaited us** at Singing Sands for a morning of observations on the boardwalk, lookout platform, beach area and the Garden Trail. Approx # of 36-38 species of birds was identified by club members either by site or by using apps like Merlin. This was somewhat impressive as 3 of the park staff had also been observing and recording species of birds and their count was only slightly higher than ours by 5 or 6 (I believe they ended up with approximately 43)!

A picnic lunch was enjoyed as we looked out over the beautiful stretch of beach. Quick w/r breaks & then those continuing on to the National Park were headed off to Cyprus Lake & Head of Trails. Our hosts Jeni and Steve, along with Murray and Gayle Jamieson, returned to town to prepare for our evening potluck BBQ (More on that later.....lol). After registering each party/



C. Hodges

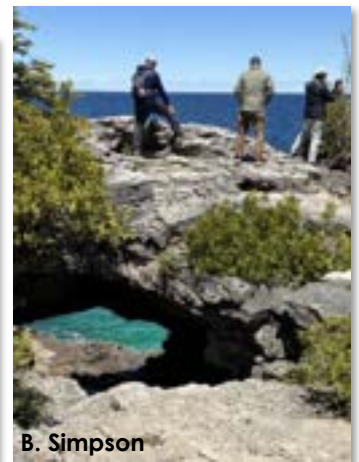


B. Simpson

vehicle we assembled at Head of Trails, where it was decided that some members would go explore the Grotto & some would traverse the less rocky Horse Lake Trail. Stunning views and clean, cold turquoise water meets you at the Grotto and natural arch, with lots of opportunity to climb over rocks and clamber up higher for an even better view of Georgian Bay.



B. Simpson



B. Simpson



Pat Ross-Smith

←  
**Shirley Vogan and Bill Hodges enjoy the view and fresh air atop the Arch, along with New Hampshire visitors Peggy and Terry.**



B. Simpson

So in one day we managed to cover the shores of both Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. Fantastic! Boardwalk forest trail & Horse Lake provided a peaceful, shady meander with the odd bit of bird-song greeting you as you passed by with plenty of wooden rest stops to take it all in. What was thought to be a

dead snake in the shallow lake water proved not so upon closer inspection. Odd, long, flat almost wormy like creatures were skimming around on the bottom of the rocky area in the water - we later concluded them to be leeches (even though they were not dark in colour). While waiting for everyone to make their way back to the washrooms, there was much discussion as to whether or not more trails could/should be explored in the time remaining on our passes. It was the majority of the group's decision that it had been a good day and time to head back to town to get ready for the potluck at the Pepper accommodation, Sis's Cottage.

(continued...)

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

Bruce Peninsula Explorer.....

Day 2....

The day had been most enjoyable and we were lucky to have had great weather. Not too hot and not too cold... however, when it came time for the three 'chefs' to light the BBQ, the weather gods decided to add a bit of wind into the mix and it was found to be quite difficult to keep the two small BBQs going. Keeping the lid on meant no wind but it also meant almost smothering the fire within. Taking the lid off left everyone on the deck in a thick cloud of billowing smoke! Meantime the group was happily chattering away and munching pre-meal snacks, unaware of the battle going on just outside. It was truly a challenge to get the burgers cooked, but they persevered and sometime later we enjoyed top notch burgers complete with all the

trimmings. Snacks, salads, desserts, warm drinks and much laughter followed into the early evening hours as various games were played, complex puzzles peered over, conversations flowed freely and members bun-



P. Ross-Smith



B. Simpson



J. Pepper

Players: Bob and Barb Simpson, Donna Murray and her cousin Marilyn Scott, Susan and Lucy Miller, Pat Ross-Smith, visitors Terry and Peggy indulged in some amusing derring-do and laughter after the potluck. Jeni observed!

dled up to return to their lodgings



rather late in the evening!

Day 3



C. Hodges

After enjoying a group breakfast at The Princess, we assembled at the Pepper cabin. Off we went to one of our favorite spots at Alvar Bay. The walk in is not difficult and the pace is leisurely letting us enjoy the many small birds flitting from tree to tree or hearing the Blue Jays and Crows pre-announce our arrival. Once we reached the old portable building it was discovered that it has been left as a bat sanctuary, and signs inform the hiker to leave them undisturbed. Carrying on past them means leaving the grassy trail to get to a large natural paved shoreline with an abundance of extremely tiny flowers, surviving mainly between the cracks and crevices of the pocked alvar surface. Shorebirds fly overhead along with the occasional Eagle. Ducks were seen sheltering in the curve of the small inlet close to the area used by the volunteers during the annual Monarch butterfly Festival. While no species of snakes were observed this time, I'm sure they were tucked in out of sight somewhere, which made some members quite happy! At the end of this hike, some members had checked out and packed up ready to head home, so we said

our goodbyes and 'safe travels'. The rest of the group decided to return to town and grab a bite of lunch, then regroup afterwards to return to Cape Hurd road and visit another natural area known as Shining Rainbow Deer Reserve. To the surprise of hike leader, Donna, rubber boots or waterproof footwear wasn't necessary so they were quickly ditched for regular shoes/hikers. There have been some improvements made to the narrow boardwalk that used to dip when stepped on, more signage as to where you are on the 1.5 km trail, and showing the local inhabitants that make this unique area their home.

Redstarts darted amongst the trees; a stop at the wetland lookout proved somewhat uneventful, but was a relaxing atmosphere to chat with one another about past experiences there. (continued...)

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

**Bruce Peninsula Explorer.....**



C. Hodges

**Gayle Jamieson, Shirley Vogan and Barb Simpson study the hardy flora that survives in the Alvar pavement.**

**Day 3**

Dedicated members scanned the area several times to try to find Sandhill Cranes or birds of prey but none were found. Returning to the trail, we wound our way through the intermittently marked Karst pavement of the alvar section. There were fewer birds noted here than at our morning hike, perhaps because of the time of day. We did observe a few healthy specimens of Hills Thistle (below) which has been reintroduced to the area in hopes of restoring it to a more natural status. Lake Primrose and Creeping Juniper were also plentiful here. Making our way back to Cape Hurd Road we said some more goodbyes to those heading home and again safe travels along with a few tips for stops along their route. The few remaining returned to town to grab a bite at either The Crow's Nest or Tobermory Brew House for our last supper in the Tub!



(Pepper photos)



For some of us, the adventure didn't stop there. Staying over an extra night meant that some of us enjoyed a meandering trip home, stopping off at places like Handicraft House and the Georgian Market and Bakery just north of Wiarton; pausing at the Wiarton waterfront to enjoy the Market's great baking, or sometimes driving home via Lion's Head along the adventurous Forty Hills Trail and pausing at the lovely little limestone St. Margaret's Chape, built 1925 and with a pretty aspect and garden; maybe a stop at historic Lion's Head Inn, or Walker House in Southampton for a good meal....and, as well.....on the way home, it was reported by Catherine that a stop at Rankin River/Spry Lake proved worthy of another look, as Sand hill Cranes were seen there. Pat Ross-Smith later commented: 'I think we arrived home about 4:30. We went to Oliphant and as we drove by the marshy area, we stopped and saw 4 Sandhill cranes, one egret, a blue heron and quite a few cormorants. Then we went to Sauble Beach and had lunch. On to MacGregor Point Park where we walked on the stone beach and around the two boardwalks.'

*\*Many, many thanks to the Peppers for hosting us and shout out to the members who travelled with us yet again for another adventure up the Bruce.....*

*Donna*

***Some great memories too good to leave out.....Ed.***



**Cathy Cooper, Shirley Vogan, Pat Ross-Smith, Catherine Hodges at the Grotto. Bill Hodges photo**



**At the Grotto. Marilyn Scott, visitors Terry & Peggy, Barb Simpson, Donna Murray, Pat Ross-Smith, Lucy and Susan Miller. B. Simpson photo**



**Barb enjoys the Grotto. Day 2. B. Simpson photo**

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

BRUCE PENINSULA EXPLORER:

Donna's birding lists:

Horse Lake, Cyprus Lake:

American Redstart,
Great Crested Flycatcher,
Nashville Warbler,
Black-throated
Green Warbler,
Black and White Warbler,
Yellow bellied Flycatcher,
Northern Cardinal,
Ovenbird,
Redbreasted Nuthatch,
Canada Goose,
Sandhill Crane,
Mallard duck,
Scarlet Tanager.

Singing Sands birds:

Song Sparrow,
Brown Thrasher,
Sandhill Crane,
Least Sandpiper,
Red Crossbill,
Northern Mockingbird,
Common Yellowthroat,
Wilson's Warbler,
Redwinged blackbird,
Bald Eagle,
American Robin,
Black Capped Chickadee,
Blue Jay,
Hermit Thrush.
White Crowned Sparrow,
American Pipit,
Yellow Rumped Warbler



Pine Warbler,
Killdeer,
American bullfinch,
Ring Billed Gull,
Black Throated Green
Warbler,
Nashville Warbler,
Blue headed Vireo,
Cedar Waxwing,
Northern Parula,
American Redstart,
Purple Finch,
Blackburnian Warbler,
Redbreasted Nuthatch,
Ovenbird,
Partridge,
Winter Wren,
Northern Flicker,
American Crow.



Huron Fringe Birding Festival: May 28th - 30th, June 3 - 6

In May, Sue led a flower Hike for the HFFN Birding Festival
In Stoney Island.

Passionate About Wild Flowers Hike in Stoney Island – May 30th

Fabulous afternoon sharing my love of flowers with 16 eager and delightful individuals.



S. Greco photo



Pat Ross-Smith photo

NOTE: Sue has led many outings to Stoney Island from spring through summer and into autumn. For a list of just some of the wildflowers encountered this year, please refer to the list on Page 12, and the photos on Page 13. Thank you, Sue!

June 8th: Along the Kipp Trail Biking in Nature with Catherine and Bill Hodges



C. Hodges photo

The Biking the Kipp Trail on Friday went well although it was sooo hot! There were seven bikers at the Pepper's for a break and refreshments in the shade, on the patio under the upstairs deck where everyone cooled off.

The ride was about 30 km, north of Kincardine up to the Inverhuron Provincial Park where we circled the perimeter 'Chain Trail'.

(Jeni was pleased to be able to show the visitors a recent discovery - six or seven English Bluebells, blooming under a Beech tree, which were bought about three years ago, were shipped the following fall and planted - then nothing till now!

And alongside them, out of the blue, two amazing Columbines with many buds and a partly opened flower or two, which looked as if they were going to be cream and pink or red!)

Photos next page.....

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

**The Kipp Trail Biking in Nature ....**



The riders are:  
Rebecca Hodges, Liz Addison, Bill Hodges, Dave Carson,  
Catherine Hodges, Jayne & Ben Miltenburg  
Photos: B. & C. Hodges



**Mysteries of the Greenock Swamp, and Cargill, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Sue Greco**

**Brent Bowyer photo**



**Hoping everyone enjoyed the outing.** I think Shannon really did and I'm sure we all appreciated her knowledge, humor, and great enthusiasm for sharing the history and stories! We lucked out on the weather sunny skies, nice breeze with no rain, kept the bugs away.

Shannon told us about Henry Cargill, lumber Baron, the town's namesake. He brought in the railway and built mini canals throughout the swamp to bring out the lumber. There is a unique bridge on one of the backroads that Sharon took us to see. Apparently, there were only two others built of that style, one being the U.S.....but the one in Cargill is noted as the finest example.

**Brent Bowyer photo**



**B. Bowyer photo**



Henry built two churches in the town, one Catholic, and the other perhaps Baptist. The congregations didn't mix, even going to separate stores on opposite sides of the streets. Shannon took us to Schmidt Lake, although not to the floating dock area. Shannon spoke about the Swamp being like a giant sponge that cleans and filters the wetland and run-off, and of course that the

Greenock Swamp is the biggest, most important forested wetland in Ontario.

She spoke of Cargill's only hanging, and of stills and goings-on in prohibition times, also of in the logging camps gambling and prohibited liquor.... this place has history galore!

**Mark Humphrey:**

**Thank you Sue for arranging the walk.** Shannon did an amazing job sharing her enthusiasm for the swamp. Really a local history lesson and nature excursion in one! I enjoyed the photos as well.

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

Waterfalls and Spring Awakenings with Sue Greco, June 30th:



The Huron Bruce Nature Club on the Waterfalls trail in Grey Bruce, visiting Inglis, Jones, and mini treasure Kribbs Falls by Colpoys Bay. After lunch with Willie in Wiarton, the group of twelve zipped across the Peninsula to the west side to explore the wonderful wildflower treasure finds in Ontario Nature's Reserve at Petrel Point. On next to Oliphant Fen Boardwalk, another treasure trove of unique



Brent Bowyer

fen flowers and orchid wonders. - Sue

Above: Wiarton Willie welcomes; Right and lower right: members enjoy the Jones Falls hike which includes rocky terrain to explore; some very tenacious trees in amongst the natural mazes. A favourite walk for many over the years, although the actual waterfall is dependent on the spring runoff for volume.

Below left and centre: the group pauses for a photo on the deck at Inglis Falls.

Photos supplied by Sue Greco and Brent Bowyer.

**** 'The trip to see the wildflowers in the fens** and also the waterfalls was really well organized by Sue. She had it timed to the minute which involved a lot of preplanning and travel. It was a wonderful day at just the right time of year to see the orchids and wood lilies.

A memorable experience for all of us!' - **Brent Bowyer**



(Credit to the photographer)



Brent Bowyer



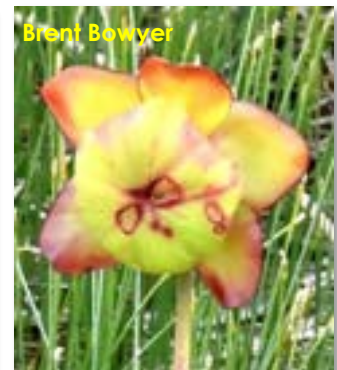
Brent Bowyer



Brent Bowyer



Brent Bowyer



Brent Bowyer

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

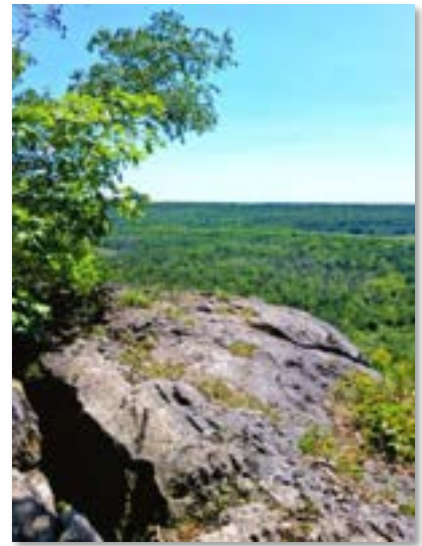
**July 29<sup>TH</sup>: Snake Boardwalk and Sidney Bluffs Hike**

**Sue Greco... Photos supplied by Sue.**

Sue led a 14k Hike starting on Cape Croker Snake Board Walk: Cape Croker Park, located on the unceded territory of Ne-yaashinigmiing, home of the Chippawwas of Nawash Unceded First Nation. Wonderful Scenery with Spectacular Views

Hike approx. 7-9 km. Rated- Moderate to Difficult with steep staircase to the bluffs, roots, rocks to navigate along the way, incline, and connecting trail to Sydney Bluffs, ascending 500 ft to the top of the Bluffs taking the hikers on to the opposite side overlooking Hope Bay, and back to the steel staircase to descend to the bottom again.

Susan reports it was her most challenging hike to date on the Bruce Trail, but so rewarding and gratifying after looking back at the views and to see how far they had travelled. From Snake Boardwalk to the beginning of the challenging climb up to meet the steel staircase, completing a 500ft. ascent to the top of Sydney Bluffs. The trail took them in a big horseshoe to the opposite side of Sydney Bluffs along to Hope Bay to meet the Hart's Tongue side trail, connecting back on the Bruce Trail to begin the climb down. They observed fresh bear droppings; obviously bears were enjoying the abundance of berries found along the trail.



**TELL US WHERE TO GO!**

Know of any good places to enjoy nature? Please bring them to the attention of your HBN

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!



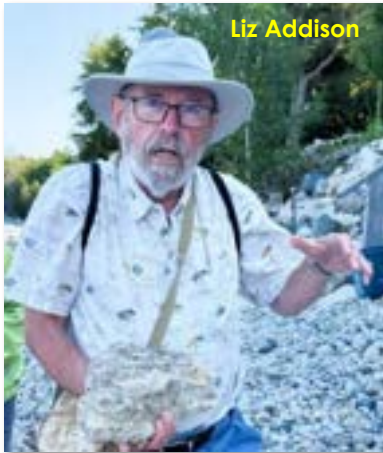
~~~ *PAST OUTINGS...* ~~~

August 4th: Bob Geddes Rock Walk Kincardine beach - Every Pebble Tells a Story

Pat Ross-Smith

Bob did his ever popular Stones on the Beach Hike at the bottom of the Ninth shoreline.

Geologist Bob Geddes led about 30 HBN members and local residents along the north edge of the Stoney Island Conservation Area on Lake Huron. Bob gave a brief review of the geology of the area and led us on a fascinating look at some of the rocks, many with fossils of coral, trilobites, brachiopods and a sea lily.



Liz Addison



Pat Ross-Smith



Pat Ross-Smith



Pat Ross-Smith



August 7th: Second HBN bike outing with the Hodges

Great cycling outing today south along lakeshore. Due to humidity/heat we chose a shorter 15km loop starting at Station Beach, with stops at the Lagoons, the garden of James Turland & Becky Grieveson, and finally a quick detour to check out the namesake of Boiler Beach - the Erie Belle boiler.

Biking photos from HBN Facebook page; Point Clark Lighthouse: Pepper photo (archive)



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!



IN OTHER NEWS...

Spark Fair 2026

Christine Roberts



Huron Bruce Nature participated in the inaugural Spark Fair April 17 and 18 at the Kincardine Pavillion. Organized by Active Living 55+, the free event welcomed the public to learn about local groups and organizations. It was well attended and a great opportunity for us to connect with community members. Our booth volunteers Gloria Bond, Dave Carson, Pat Ross-Smith, myself and Rhodora Doughty met and talked with many people who expressed interest in our group. We look forward to welcoming them as new members soon.



Geddes Park Walkie-Talkie group and local CFUW Inverhuron walk April 27th

Christine was asked for a presentation to the Walkie Talkie group about HBN, and turned it into an extra City Nature Challenge outing. She also facilitated a walk with Kincardine and District CFUW at Inverhuron on the Monday of the challenge. Photos supplied by Christine Roberts.

City Nature Challenge weekend...



Walkie Talkie group at Geddes Park



Inverhuron Walk with Kincardine and District CFUW

Saturday, August 15, 10 am - noon: Shoreline Cleanup at Station Beach, Kincardine.

We once again partnered with the Lake Huron Coastal Centre.

The Coastal Centre has posted the following:

'We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who came out to Saturday's beach clean up in Kincardine! With the help of 79 volunteers we collected 10 bags of garbage off the shore and removed just under 40 lbs of trash and debris! '

Photos from HBN Facebook page post from the Coastal Centre.



Thank you!





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 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!



Photo contest Photo contest Photo contest

SUBJECT FOR 2027: 'Creatures Great and Small'.

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 noting your name and where the photo was taken.

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

BELOW:
Yvonne Bieman has shared these great photos from the City Nature challenge birding on April 27th. New member? Here's a chance to get your bird book out to discover the difference between the two right side photos! Thank you, Yvonne!



Members' Page....2.

....What we've been doing....

Our February meeting is always popular. The display of crafts and hobbies adds to the interest and helps pass time before everyone has arrived with their potluck dishes and 'We can eat!'

This past February, Brent and Carol Bowyer brought along his 'wonky bookends' and Carol has been creating lovely painted rocks and branch weaving, while Donna Murray had a great display of her owl collection....thank you kindly, guys! Photos from Brent.





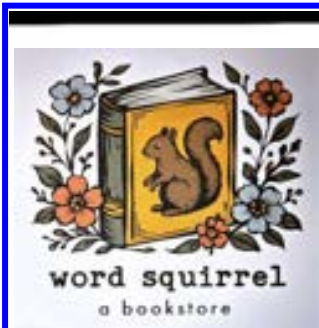
**Wilder
& Rain
Flowers**

hello@wilderandrainflowers.ca
wilderandrainflowers.ca
@wilderandrain

929 Queen Street
Kincardine, ON
519.396.2563

Not just flowers! Plants, gifts, windchimes, pots and planters; lovingly crafted bouquets using locally grown flowers....come wander and watch the seasons change inside as well as out!

<https://wilderandrainflowers.ca/>
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wordsquirrelbooks@gmail.com

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BLAST FROM THE PAST:



2010 Sawmill Trail: the Peppers with Catherine Hogg and Tom Lobb

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

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!



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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!

"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!



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

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:
prosssmith@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 2026 to SEPTEMBER 2027

....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

Name(s): (Please print:)

Contact Information:

Address: _____

Post Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Cut out or scan this form.

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT HURON BRUCE NATURE?

~ ~ ~ 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:

As with any event, changes can be required, so please keep an eye on your email incomings.

Sept. 22 – Jeannine Kraft, Master Naturalist: 'Saunter Nature'.

Oct. 26 – Helmi Hess- Loggerhead Shrike & wildlife preservation.

Nov. 24 – Members night-presentations on a variety of interests.

If you would like to make a presentation, please contact Catherine Hodges, President, or Yvonne Bieman, Vice President. See contacts, P. 2.

• • • • •

Feb. 23, 2027 – Annual lunch potluck, 11:30-2. Bring your dinnerware and appetite!

- Marcus Maddalena, Ontario Nature Reserves Manager will present on Sauble Dunes: update, history and mission of Ontario Nature for newer members; Q&A
- Table for display of hobbies of members. (PLEASE LABEL YOUR EXHIBIT - name, and if for sale.)
- Photo Contest, 'Creatures Great and Small'; SEE PAGE 24.
- Christine has a table display on winter sowing.

March 23 - Jeremy Shute – Adventuring in your back yard!

April 27 - Annual Dinner Meeting – Sandy Nelson – travel photos. More information to be forwarded.

May 25 – Sally Cheung, (U. of Guelph biologist) – Owls & Raptors.

June 22 – AGM- Stuart Heggie: 'From the Edge of Town to the Edge of the Universe'.



NEXT ISSUE:

Your next issue of **Fringe Notes** will carry events starting with HBN's fall season, beginning with the Corn Roast in early September.

Please bear with your editor who will be learning a new publishing programme, due to the fact that the present programme (Publisher) is being discontinued in October. Efforts have been made to complete this current issue in time to have it sent out, and printed, before the Publisher programme ends.

If you have sent photos or a report which doesn't appear in this issue, it will hopefully be in the upcoming one. See you there! - Ed.

~~~ 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

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.



*** HBN requires participants in outings to sign a waiver.
Make sure you're signed up before hiking.

WE CONTINUE TO CAUTION ALL PARTICIPANTS TO STAY WITH THE ORGANISED GROUP!
It is unexpectedly easy to become disoriented. Cell reception is often unavailable.
Learn the 'What three words' rules.

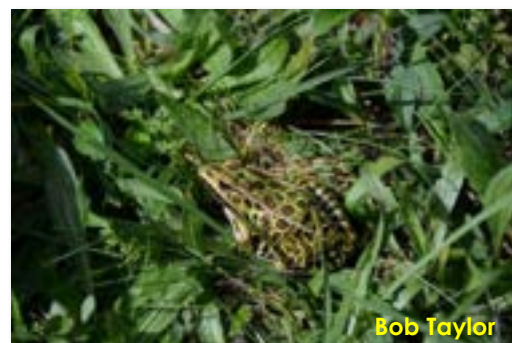
Enjoyed your walk, hike, or visit? Made a discovery? Let us know - send us a paragraph (or an essay!) here at the Newsletter base - beechleajlp@gmail.com. (Please give your name, in case we don't recognize your email address.) We love to hear how the outings went!



WHAT THREE WORDS - 'What three words' is an app that separates everywhere in the world into three-metre sections. Each section has a series of three words to locate it. The app works without wifi or data, so if you're out of range, it will still work - it was designed that way. Anyone can be located to their exact position by giving the three words for his or her location.

However, using this system could activate rescue services that can take time to reach lost hikers. This is why we strongly advise you to do it the easy way - stay with your designated group! You don't wanna be out there in the dark! For full information, check out this app online.

Have fun....
and step easy!



Bob Taylor