

Welcome to the Huron Fringe Birding Festival.
Registration and payment is online at www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca
Online registration opens February 1, 2016.

We limit the number of participants on each event for your enjoyment and out of respect for the environment.

Events start promptly at the Visitor Centre in MacGregor Point Provincial Park. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Morning events usually return to the Visitor Centre by 11:30 am; afternoon events between 3:30 and 4:30 pm. Additional Field Trip Information is found at the end of the Schedule of Events.

Coffee and pastries are available in the Visitor Centre every morning. A BBQ lunch is available from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm daily.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY MAY 27

All Day

A1 6:00 am **BIRDING THE 45TH PARALLEL** – Michael Carlson
Bruce Road 9 is known as the 45th Parallel Road. Michael will bird the Bruce Peninsula from coast to coast - Lake Huron to Georgian Bay up to this latitude. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A2 6:00 am **BRUCE BACKCOUNTRY BIRDING** – John Haselmayer
Visit the upper Peninsula's best known birding spots such as Dyer's Bay, Cabot Head, the sparrow fields and Crane Lake. This outing combines great birding and outstanding scenery. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A3 8:00 am **NORTH OF THE SAUGEEN** – Joy Albrecht
Explore the backroads north of the Saugeen River. You will travel through the Chippewas of Saugeen Ojibway territory and inland habitats at the base of the Bruce Peninsula. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

Morning

A4 6:30 am **KINCARDINE LAGOONS** – James Turland
Hike the trails of this premier birding hotspot, locally known as "Pelee North". If you missed seeing birds at Pelee, chances are you'll find them here. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

A5 7:30 am **BIRDING THE EDGE OF MacGREGOR** – Terry Crabe
The MacGregor landscape offers a variety of habitats that provide the right niches for a good number of different species. Travelling by car to these areas, we will seek them out on short walks into each habitat. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

Afternoon

A6 1:30 pm **LET THERE BE LIGHT** – Fran Sanagan

Learn how lighting influences your photographs. In this workshop, you will learn a variety of natural lighting techniques, and how to get the most out of outdoor flash photography. There will be an opportunity to share your photos and discuss the results. *(easy)* (limit 15)

A7 1:30 pm **ARE YOU A PLOVER LOVER?** – Stew Nutt

If you're not already, you will be after spending time on the beach with these charismatic, endangered birds. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A8 1:30 pm **SHRUB & TREE ID IN MacGREGOR** – Jim Coles

Using leaf and twig keys, we will identify the conifers and hardwoods in the vicinity of the Visitor Centre and learn about the role of site (soil characteristics) in determining species composition. *(easy)* (limit 20)

Evening

A9 7:15 pm **BIRDING BY IMPRESSION & ALL THAT JIZZ** – Fred Jazvac

Join Fred for his annual Festival kickoff 'tips and techniques' presentation. We all bird by JIZZ (birding by impression, GISS, right-brain birding, holistic birding, gestalt birding).

Explore insights into how using impression applies to bird identification. *(indoors)* (limit 60)

A10 8:15 pm **SUNSET AT THE HURON SHORE** – Willy Waterton

Most people go inside after the sun sets but this is when some of the most stunning light occurs. This workshop will give you tips on taking images of the setting sun and twilight using your smartphone to DSLR. If you have a tripod, bring it along. *(moderate, hiking along shore, car-pool, bring compact and/or digital SLR)* (limit 12)

SATURDAY MAY 28

All Day (end by 3:30 pm)

A11 6:00 am **HURON SHORES TO MALCOLM BLUFFS** – Mike Burrell

We'll cover all the birding bases - shorebirds, ducks, grassland birds and forest birds. You'll be amazed at the diversity. We may even find a Cerulean or Hooded Warbler on territory. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

A12 7:00 am **INVERHURON BIRDING & BOTANY** – Dr. Scott Taylor

Inverhuron Provincial Park may be small, but the diversity of habitat and its shoreline location make it an excellent place to look for songbirds and unique plants. Join us for this exploration of the forest and shoreline habitats. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

A13 9:00 am **MONARCH FRIENDLY HABITAT** – Audrey Armstrong

Learn how to nurture monarch butterfly populations by growing your own easy to maintain monarch waystation garden. Following a slide show in the morning, the afternoon will be outdoors, making seed balls, looking for monarchs, eggs and larvae along the Lake Huron shore and visiting local waystations. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

Morning

6:00 am to noon **BIRD BANDING** – weather permitting

A14 6:00 am **BIRDING BY EAR** – Michael Carlson

Do you have difficulty remembering bird songs and calls no matter how often you hear them? Michael is a natural at mnemonics. This field workshop will give you tips and tools you can use to sort out bird songs. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A15 6:00 am **SEX & THE SINGLE WARBLER** – Mark Wiercinski

In spring, love is in the air. Let Mark explain the unseen action in the trees. It's always fun when Mark tackles this topic. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A16 6:30 am **BIRDING THE 4 CORNERS OF MacGREGOR** – James Turland

Visit wetlands, shorelines, forests and fields along the margins of MacGregor Park. You will enjoy James' relaxed style and his ability to locate the birds. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A17 7:00 am **BIRDING THE EDGE** – Todd Pepper

Back by popular request, Todd will bird the Lake Huron shoreline along the Old Shore Road Trail. He will lead us through habitats including fens, forests and wet beaches. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A18 7:30 am **PAISLEY BIRDING** – Joy Albrecht

Join Joy birding the back roads from MacGregor to Paisley, with a stop at the Old Mill, Schmidt Lake and some roadside birding in the swamp on the way back to the Park. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

11:00 am **EAGLE OPTICS**

During the lunch break Eagle Optics will have binoculars and telescopes on display and for sale.

Afternoon (end by 3:30 pm)

A19 1:30 pm **ETHICS OF BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY** – Terry Crabe

The Tower Trail provides many opportunities to view birds but what are the challenges for the casual or professional photographer who wants to get the best shot. A birder and photographer, Terry will share the principles he follows. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A20 1:30 pm **AROUND THE EDGE OF MacGREGOR** – Ken Burrell

Ken is among the top birders in Ontario. With Ken leading, you may be surprised at the birds you can find on a lazy afternoon. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A21 1:30 pm **BIRDING BRUCEDALE TO MacGREGOR** – Joy Albrecht

Wooded and open areas beside the shore from Bruce Dale Conservation Area to MacGregor Point's Koehler Pasch property provide great birding opportunities. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A22 1:30 pm **FROG FROLIC** – Kerry Jarvis

Listen to, enjoy and locate the frogs who call MacGregor Park home. Our frolic will take us to several ponds to revel in the sights and sounds of these amazing creatures. If available, bring cameras and close-focus binoculars. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

Evening

A23 4:30 pm **SOCIAL** 5:30 pm **BANQUET & PRESENTATION** – **Lust & Domain: An Exploration into Why Birds Sing** – Dr. Lyle Friesen

Recent advances in the field of bioacoustics have revealed that birds communicate in highly sophisticated ways. The mysteries of the dawn chorus, a sublime avian phenomenon, will be highlighted. Champion singers, those with the most complex songs, the largest repertoire or that are marathon singers, will be identified. *(St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Port Elgin, Roast Beef Buffet, vegetarian option available) (early bird price – \$40 extra per person; after April 15 or for banquet/presentation only – \$50 extra per person). Casual, bar available, pre-registration required, silent auction. Contact registrar by May 1 with dietary restrictions.* (limit 110)

SUNDAY MAY 29

All Day

A24 6:00 am **BIG DAY ON THE BRUCE** – Michael Carlson

Are you a lister? Do you tick? From warblers at dawn to Whip-poor-will at dusk, you will keep tallying up your numbers. Your day's list could be over 100 species. *(moderate, car-pool, bring lunch & walking supper)* (limit 20)

A25 6:00 am **FLOWERPOT ISLAND** – Doug Pedwell

An exhilarating open-air jet boat will take you from Tobermory to the showcase island of Fathom Five National Marine Park. Flowerpot Island is famous for shoreline flowerpots, perched caves, rare orchids and birdwatching. If Lake Huron is too rough, a Tip of the Bruce tour will be an equally worthy substitute! *(difficult, car-pool, jet boat, bring backpack & lunch) (\$45 extra per person)* (limit 22)

A26 6:30 am **WILDFLOWER WALK** – Nature Conservancy of Canada Staff

Experience a section of a recently secured 1000 acre NCC property near the Johnson Harbour Road. You will see an array of wildflowers, many of which are rare elsewhere in Southern Ontario. *(moderate, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

A27 7:30 am **BIRDING SOUTH BRUCE PENINSULA** – Todd Pepper

The southern Bruce Peninsula boasts a number of landform features found both within the Huron Fringe and along the Niagara Escarpment, providing a variety of bird habitat. Participants will benefit from Todd's knowledge of birdsong and breeding bird behaviour. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

Morning

6:00 am to noon **BIRD BANDING** – weather permitting

A28 6:00 am **WRESTLING WITH WARBLERS** – Mark Wiercinski

Warblers are very annoying. They move around a lot and hide behind the most inconvenient leaves and branches. Mark's humour and tips about habitat and song will definitely keep you interested. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A29 6:30 am **BIRDING BEYOND THE J/I LINE** – Ken Burrell

The Burrell brothers rank among the top birders in Ontario. Take your pick of either expert for a great morning of birding. Join Ken on a driving tour which will focus on the threatened and declining birds of the grasslands in nearby Bruce County. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A30 7:00 am **eBIRDING THE PARK** – Mike Burrell

Mike will take you birding, then introduce you to eBird, the amazing online repository of bird sightings, abundance, distribution and seasonal occurrence. You'll find out how easy it is for you to become a citizen scientist and contribute your sightings to this awesome database.

(easy) (limit 20)

A31 8:00 am **UP WITH THE BIRDS** – Doug Martin

This hike takes you on a not-so-early morning walk along the Tower Trail to the Viewing Tower. Past experience on this event has resulted in a species list that will rival many other events. Can we do it again? *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

Afternoon

A32 1:30 pm **BIRDING & BIRD RESEARCH** – Dr. Scott Taylor

Join Scott in a walk to the Ducks Unlimited wetland and hear about some of his research projects at Cornell while looking for late migrants and resident birds settling in to nest.

(easy, car-pool) (limit 20)

A33 1:30 pm **DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES** – John Reaume

Damselflies and dragonflies are members of the order Odonata meaning "toothed ones" which reference their awesome mouth parts. We will attempt to capture some of them in butterfly nets for closer examination. *(easy, car-pool, bring binoculars/cameras/butterfly nets/field guides if you have them)* (limit 20)

A34 1:30 pm **SAUGEEN SHORES BUTTERFLY TRAIL** – Kerry Jarvis

Want to know the best plants, trees and shrubs to attract wildlife? Join Kerry as he showcases various gardens throughout Saugeen Shores. Learn about the "magic plants" that are magnets for birds, butterflies, caterpillars and mammals. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A35 1:30 pm **SONGBIRDS & SALAMANDERS ON THE FARM** – Art Wiebe & Janice McKean

All living things need water to survive. Let Art and Janice introduce you to their backyard pond as they explain "natural habitat" and what it means to migrating birds, and the little critters who call it home. They will also talk about conservation programs that have assisted them in enriching these habitats. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

Evening

A36 7:15 pm **SPIDERS OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA** – John Reaume

Spiders have a bad reputation but in reality they are fascinating creatures. John will talk about their unique anatomy and interesting behaviours. Webs are not just for catching prey! Learn how to observe them. Understanding spiders will make you appreciate them more - it's true! *(indoors)* (limit 60)

MONDAY MAY 30

All Day

A37 6:00 am **HOTSPOTS OF THE LOWER BRUCE** – Alfred Raab

Habitats will be varied on this outing. We will visit Sauble Beach for a chance to see Piping Plover; inland lakes including Boat, Isaac and Sky lakes; grasslands around Ferndale and Black Creek Provincial Park. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

A38 8:00 am **THE BRUCE RE-BECKONS** – Willy Waterton

Join Willy in a quest to rediscover Sherwood Fox's Bruce Peninsula, based on his landmark 1952 book "The Bruce Beckons". You will spend the day exploring Fox's Bruce to see what still exists after 63 years. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

Morning

A39 6:30 am **BACKROADS OF SAUGEEN** – James Turland

Saugeen's rural landscapes are a peaceful backdrop for Bobolinks and other grassland birds. This is James' back yard and he is one of our favourite local leaders. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A40 7:30 am **BIRDING IN AN AMPHITHEATRE** – Joy Albrecht

The elevated steps of the Saugeen amphitheatre provide viewpoints over the river and riparian habitat. Here you will get a bird's-eye view. *(moderate, car-pool)* (limit 20)

Afternoon

A41 1:30 pm **RIVER WALK** – Marshall Byle

Enjoy a walk through beautiful habitats ranging from cedars to mixed hardwood, all the while following a trout stream. Observe spawning rainbows and spring migrants including Scarlet Tanagers and warblers. *(moderate, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A42 1:30 pm **DOWN & DIRTY PHOTOGRAPHY** – Doug Pedwell

Participants will explore through photography the wildflowers growing along the Old Shore Road Trail. All types of cameras welcome. Be prepared to get down and dirty. *(easy, car-pool, bring camera)* (limit 15)

Evening

A43 7:15 pm **WHAT'S THE FLAP ALL ABOUT?** – Paloma Plant

The Fatal Light Awareness Program is sustained by a terrific group of volunteers. FLAP was the first organization in the world to raise concerns about bird collisions. They have instigated many changes to building design and lighting in urban areas. *(indoors)* (limit 60)

THURSDAY JUNE 2

All Day

B1 6:00 am **MALCOLM BLUFFS & AREA BIRDING** – Alfred Rabb

Bird in a variety of habitats within the Malcolm Bluffs Nature Reserve and area. The soaring Escarpment cliffs provide spectacular vistas of Colpoys Bay. *(moderate, carpool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

B2 8:00 am **MORE OF THE BRUCE RE-BECKONS** – Willy Waterton

Join Willy in a continuing quest to rediscover Sherwood Fox's Bruce Peninsula, based on his landmark 1952 book "The Bruce Beckons". You will spend the day hiking and exploring

Fox's Bruce to see what still exists after 63 years. This trip involves more hiking than A38. *(difficult, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

Morning

B3 6:30 am **BIRDING KINCARDINE & AREA** – James Turland

Hike the trails of Kincardine's premier birding hotspot, locally known as "Pelee North". You will see a variety of warblers, ducks and other migrants. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B4 8:30 am **THE BIG SIT** – Margaret Anderton

Join Margaret to see what can be seen from the comfort of a sitting position overlooking a pond, a field, forest and feeders. *(easy, car-pool, bring a lawnchair)* (limit 20)

Afternoon

B5 1:30 pm **BOTANY OF THE FRINGE** – Barbara Palmer

The Huron Fringe is a physiographic unit between the former glacial Lake Algonquin shoreline and the present day Lake Huron shoreline. Former cobble beach ridges, swales and ancient miniature dunes each provide their own combination of plants. *(easy)* (limit 12)

B6 1:30 pm **WHAT'S YOUR QUESTION?** – Fran Sanagan

Bring your photographic questions to Fran. With his many years of experience, he will offer insights into how to get the photos you're after. From raw images to photo editing, Fran can help you improve your technique with his tips of the trade. *(easy)* (limit 15)

Evening

B7 7:15 pm **TICK TALK: LYME DISEASE IN ONTARIO** – Dr. Andrew Peregrine

Lyme disease is an infection that primarily occurs in wildlife. However, infections also occur in people. This talk will review current information on the importance of identifying Lyme disease in wildlife and people across Ontario. Practices to prevent infection in people and pets will also be discussed. *(indoors)* (limit 60)

FRIDAY JUNE 3

All Day

B8 6:00 am **BIRDING NEYAASHIINIGMIING** – Jarmo Jalava & Anthony Chegahno

Blending Anishinaabe culture and traditions with the many interesting ecosystems found in Neyaashiinigiing (Cape Croker) will be the highlight of this all day trip. This is the height of the breeding season and we will definitely find birds singing on territory. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

B9 6:30 am **BIRDING SOUTH BRUCE** – Marshall Byle

This is car birding at its best. We will follow a scenic route in Southern Bruce County, stopping to bird various habitats. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

B10 7:30 am **A GEOLOGICAL JOURNEY** – Bob Gray

Join Bob in exploring spectacular caves, deep gorges and a scenic broad glacial re-entrant valley along the Niagara Escarpment in eastern Grey County. *(difficult, car pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

Morning

B11 6:30 am **BIRDING THE 4 CORNERS OF MacGREGOR** – James Turland
Visit wetlands, shorelines, forests and fields along the margins of MacGregor Park. You will enjoy James' relaxed style and his ability to locate the birds. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B12 7:00 am **BIRDING THE TOWER TRAIL** – Ellen Smout
Join Ellen as she leads us along the Tower Trail, a favourite spot for local birders. We will see species that will nest in the boreal forest. We will scope the wetland from the observation tower and dyke. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

Afternoon

B13 1:00 pm **CHANTRY ISLAND** – Marine Heritage Society
Chantry Island, an international Important Bird Area, offers protection of colonial nesting species such as egrets, herons, gulls and cormorants. This boat trip includes a tour of the lighthouse and historic keeper's cottage. *(moderate, flip-flops not permitted, weather permitting, car-pool leaves the Park at 12:15 pm, \$30 per person to be paid at the dock)* (limit 9)

B14 1:30 pm **WOULDN'T IT BE PLOVERLY** – Stewart Nutt
Join Stew to visit endangered Piping Plovers at one of their few nesting sites in Ontario. You may observe courtship (Plovers) as well as other behaviours and learn about the many perils these birds face. You will find out how local involvement is helping this species recover. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B15 3:00 pm **CHANTRY ISLAND** – Marine Heritage Society
Chantry Island, an international Important Bird Area, offers protection of colonial nesting species such as egrets, herons, gulls and cormorants. This boat trip includes a tour of the lighthouse and historic keeper's cottage. *(moderate, flip-flops not permitted, weather permitting, car-pool leaves the Park at 2:15 pm, \$30 per person to be paid at the dock)* (limit 9)

B16 1:30 pm **SAUGEEN SHORES: WATERSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY** – Kerry Jarvis
Saugeen Shores is a treasure chest for photographers. Learn photographic waterscape techniques to enhance your photography skills and discover some of the majestic vistas in Saugeen Shores. *(easy, car-pool, bring camera/accessories)* (limit 15)

Evening

B17 7:15 pm **SPARROWS** – Sarah Rupert
Do little brown jobs have your head spinning? Join Sarah for a light-hearted presentation on sparrow identification. She'll break the sparrows down into small groups, give you tips and tricks to figure out one of the more challenging groups of birds and show you some imposters that are often confused for sparrows. *(indoors)* (limit 60)

SATURDAY JUNE 4

All Day

B18 6:30 am **BIRDING THE BEYOND** – Mark Peck

Mark will travel backroads and byways beyond the Park boundaries searching for various habitats and their niche birds. Knowing Mark, an expert on “nidiology”, you’ll find a nest or two also. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

B19 7:00 am **BIRDING THE HURON FRINGE** – James Turland

A visit to Inverhuron Provincial Park and the Lake Huron shoreline will provide dune grassland as well as edge and shoreline habitats. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

B20 8:00 am **BEACHES & BIRDS** – Karen Alexander

During this shoreline tour of varied coastal areas north of Sauble Beach, Karen will describe how different types of beach stewardship can influence the health and quality of coastal ecosystems. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

Morning

6:00 am to noon **BIRD BANDING** – weather permitting

B21 6:30 am **BIRDING THE TOWER TRAIL** – Justin Peter

Diverse habitat along the Tower Trail makes it a mecca for an eclectic mix of warblers, flycatchers, thrushes and more. Justin will help us find these birds by sight (and sound!) and will share tips about bird behaviour. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B22 7:00 am **ROAD BIRDING FOR GRASSLAND SPECIES** – Brett Woodman

Tour the local countryside looking for elusive nesting grassland birds of Saugeen Shores. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B23 7:30 am **BIRDING HIDDEN SPOTS OF MacGREGOR** – Ellen Smout

Travel some of the lesser known areas in the park looking for hidden gems. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B24 8:00 am **BEGINNING BIRDING FOR ADULTS** – Doug Pedwell

This event is for those who wish to learn about the world’s number one hobby - birding. Topics include binoculars, field guides and apps, identification marks of birds and eBird. *(easy, indoor/outdoor, car-pool)* (limit 20)

Afternoon

B25 1:30 pm **A BIT BAFFLED BY BOTANY?** – Dr. Bill Crins

“Sedges have edges, rushes are round and grasses are hollow right up from the ground.” Bill helped compile the plant list for MacGregor Park; he can provide you with tips on how to identify any plant, including his specialty, sedges, and open your eyes to a whole new world on the forest floor. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 12)

B26 1:30 pm **WILDFLOWER DIVERSITY WITHIN THE FRINGE** – Brett Woodman

Here’s your chance to learn about and appreciate some of MacGregor Point’s varied wildflowers. Brett will show you some of his favourite plants. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 12)

B27 1:30 pm **FIELD SKETCHING &/or JOURNALING** – Sarah Rupert

Field sketching helps you hone your identification skills. Everyone can do it. Sarah will show you how sketching can help you document your observations in the field. (*easy, bring pencil & notebook*) (limit 20)

B28 1:30 pm **BLUEBIRD LANDLORDS** – Dennis & Gwen Lewington
Bluebirds are cavity nesters and natural cavities are not very abundant. Dennis and Gwen will take you on their “Bluebird Trail” which they have been maintaining and monitoring for over 32 years. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

B29 1:30 pm **ARE YOU A PLOVER LOVER?** – Stew Nutt
If you’re not already, you will be after spending time on the beach with these charismatic, endangered birds. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

Evening

B30 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm **BRUCE COUNTY CHICKEN DINNER**
(*MacGregor Point Provincial Park, additional charge of \$17. Dinner combined with B31 as a single event \$23. Pre-registration required*) (limit 60)

B31 7:15 pm **STORIES FROM THE SUBCONTINENT: A NATURALIST’S RAMBLES IN INDIA** – Justin Peter

Justin has visited India several times and will share some of his experiences and observations during this illustrated talk. Visit some of India’s signature sites, see the countryside and people, and of course, some of its amazing wild things and places!
(*indoors*) (limit 60)

9:00 pm to 10:00 pm **ATTRACTING MOTHS** – Andalyne Tofflemire

B32 9:15 pm **STARRY STARRY NIGHT** – John Hlynialuk
John will introduce you to the wonders of the night sky, and tell you about dark sky events for 2016. Weather permitting, members of the Bluewater Astronomical Society will have their telescopes available for viewing the evening sky. (*easy, indoor, outdoor weather permitting*) (limit 30)

SUNDAY JUNE 5

All Day

B33 6:00 am **DEBATING THE ISSUES, & MORE, WITH MARK** – Mark Wiercinski
This walking / driving tour travels between Bayview Escarpment and Bognor Marsh. Along the way, Mark will highlight issues affecting bird populations in Ontario. You will find out what this has to do with sex, which of course it does! (*difficult, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

B34 6:30 am **WINGED PURSUITS** – Nathan Miller
Join Nathan as he pursues the winged jewels of MacGregor Point Provincial Park and Bruce County. We will focus on finding birds during the morning and winged insects as the day warms up. All creatures found will be discussed. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

Morning

6:00 am to noon **BIRD BANDING** – weather permitting

7:00 am to 8:30 am **MOTH ID** – Andalyne Tofflemire

B35 7:00 am **BIRDING THE PERIMETER OF THE PARK** – Justin Peter

Driving the varied habitats along the edge of the park provides a mix of warblers, flycatchers and other possibilities. An opportunity to view wetlands and the shoreline will also enhance this outing. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

B36 7:30 am **BIRDING & BOTANIZING** – Dr. Bill Crins

The Lake Huron shoreline, fen and edge habitats are featured during this walk from the Visitor Centre. We always benefit from Bill's broad experience as an interpretive naturalist. (*easy*) (limit 20)

B37 8:00 am **NEST QUEST** – Mark Peck

On a leisurely walk in the park, you will take your love of birding to the next level. Find out how citizen scientists provide valuable conservation information while expanding their observation skills and learning about the nests of breeding birds. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

Afternoon

B38 1:30 pm **SPEED, STRENGTH & STEALTH: ONTARIO'S RAPTORS** – Wild Ontario

Ontario is home to some of the most amazing hunting birds on the planet! Come get nose-to-beak with these stunning predators, and learn about the incredible skills and abilities that help them do what they do. (*outdoors*)

B39 1:30 pm **WITCHES & WILDFLOWERS** – Heather Starrs

Legends and superstitions are attached to many common, and not so common, plants found at MacGregor Point. Heather's walk will introduce you to stories about plants. (*easy*) (limit 20)

Evening

B40 8:00 pm **SUNSET WALK** – Doug Pedwell

Join Doug for a leisurely stroll along the shore of Lake Huron to discover the sights, sounds and scents of an early June evening in MacGregor Point Provincial Park. (*easy*) (limit 20)

FAMILY WEEKEND

One parent/guardian must accompany children from the same family. This person is allowed to participate in the event free of charge. See the website for parent/guardian registration details.

SATURDAY JUNE 4

Morning

6:00 am to noon **BIRD BANDING** – weather permitting

FAM1 9 am **PLUGGING KIDS INTO BIRDING** – Richard Tofflemire

Birding with kids can start right in your own backyard or in a provincial park! It is a family friendly activity. Learn about the equipment needed, field guides and apps and the easiest

ways to identify birds. Bring binoculars if you have them, we will have some for you to use if you don't. (limit 40)

Afternoon

FAM2 1:30 pm **AFTERNOON ADVENTURES**

(Children will be divided into two groups. Each child will attend both afternoon programs.)

(limit 40)

BINO BOY & ELYTRA GIRL – Andalyne & Richard Tofflemire

Everyone already has the superpowers they need to explore nature! Come out for a dynamic exploration of the forest and learn how much fun discovering nature can be.

and

MONARCH MADNESS – Audrey Armstrong

Not only are monarchs beautiful, but their life cycle and migration is amazing! In this hands-on interactive workshop, children will learn about monarchs and create really cool crafts. To help foster habitat for this Species at Risk, you will make “seed bombs” to take home.

Evening

FAM3 7:15 pm **ANIMAL DEFENCES – CAMPFIRE PROGRAM** – Park Staff

Join Park Naturalists for an evening of deception, camouflage and chemical warfare as they investigate the defensive nature of MacGregor's wild inhabitants. *(outdoors)*

9:00 pm to 10 pm **ATTRACTING MOTHS BESIDE VISITOR CENTRE** – Andalyne Tofflemire

SUNDAY JUNE 5

Morning

6:00 am to noon **BIRD BANDING** – weather permitting

7:00 am to 8:30 am **MOTH ID** – Andalyne Tofflemire

FAM4 9:00 am **MORNING EXPLORATIONS**

(Children will be divided into two groups. Each child will attend both morning programs.)

(limit 40)

BUILDING FOR THE BIRDS – Kerry Jarvis

Get in the birding spirit. Build your own structure for a nest or wildlife feeder. No carpentry skills are required; just bring your enthusiasm! *(kit - \$10 extra per child. All tools provided.)*

and

POND EXPLORATION – Andalyne & Richard Tofflemire

Join Richard and Andalyne for an informal, hands-on look at the fascinating critters that make the pond their home. Dip nets, basins and hand lenses will help us look at the often unseen animals that live in pond water.

Afternoon

FAM5 1:30 pm **SPEED, STRENGTH & STEALTH: ONTARIO'S RAPTORS** – Wild Ontario

Ontario is home to some of the most amazing hunting birds on the planet! Come get nose-to-beak with these stunning predators, and learn about the incredible skills and abilities that help them do what they do. (*outdoors*)

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

Difficulty levels

Easy – Walking leisurely on groomed and maintained trails. Sturdy shoes recommended. Participants should be able to walk up to 1.5 kilometres (1 mile) without any problems.

Moderate – Walking on maintained trails which may be rough or rocky. Brisk walking may be required to get from one location to another in a timely manner. Participants should be able to walk up to 4.5 kilometres (3 miles) without any problems.

Difficult – Walking on trails that have uneven terrain. There may be some walking off trail. Participants should be able to negotiate walking on slippery surfaces, where there is unsure footing or where they are climbing over rocks and logs.

Car-pooling

Walkie-talkies enhance your birding experience while driving. We encourage you to bring your own for the events. We have some to share, but not enough for every vehicle. To reduce our carbon footprint, we encourage car-pooling. If you are a passenger, please consider giving a donation to the driver to help with expenses.

The Huron Fringe Birding Festival is presented by the Huron Fringe Birding Festival Committee, the Friends of MacGregor Point and MacGregor Point Provincial Park. Festival headquarters are at MacGregor Point Provincial Park, located approximately five kilometres south of Port Elgin, Ontario on the shore of Lake Huron. The park address is: MacGregor Point Provincial Park, 1593 Bruce Road 33, Port Elgin, Ontario, Canada N0H 2C5