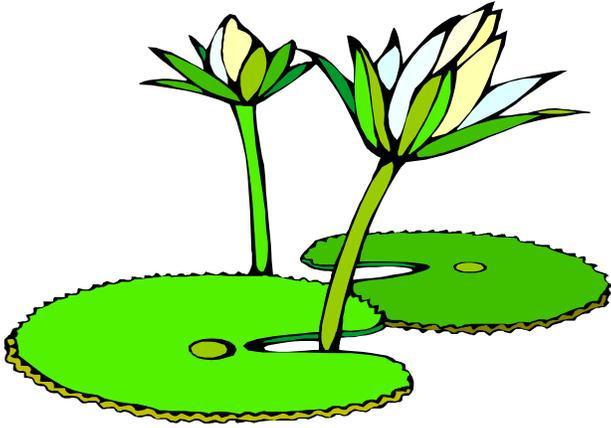


THE LILYPAD

Volume 3, Issue 2
Spring 2003



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With the arrival of spring, our membership has continued to be very active in a variety of ways that compliment our Naturalists' views and goals. In April, our donation of \$3000 purchased an all-terrain wheelchair that will enhance the accessibility of the Wye Marsh. Several members participated in the Adopt-a-highway Clean-up along Highway 93. There were donations and pledges made to the Baillie Birdathon, taking place in May. Plans are underway to purchase and assemble a bench honouring past member Lloyd Delaney. All said and done, the Midland Penetanguishene Field Naturalists have been very generous with their time and money. Well done everyone!

Joanne Scott

Who We Are



This is the third in a series profiling some of our members. In this issue we are honouring Fran Westman, "The Mother of the Marsh."

Frances Louisa Crooks was born in Toronto in 1911 and no one could know at that time how she would influence the study of nature in Simcoe County. She grew up in Toronto and graduated with a Biology degree from the University of Toronto in 1932. Fran first became interested in nature at sixteen years of age. She had always gone camping with her family in the north during the summers and her father was an avid canoe tripper. In the spring of 1927 large flocks of warblers were grounded in Toronto. There were many species in her backyard and her older sister, Grace, told her the names of these colourful birds. This sparked an interest for Fran and she never looked back, learning birds first and then plants. Fran married John

Westman shortly after she graduated and they moved to Ottawa.

The Westman family, which included three daughters, Beverly, Janet, and Valerie, moved to Barrie in 1945 where they operated a mink farm. Fran studied the birds and the plants of Simcoe County and soon became a leading authority in the area. In the early 60's she did studies at the new CKVR tower at Barrie documenting the tower kills of migrating birds. It was through her work that the tower lights were replaced. In 1968, a naturalist position became available at the new Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre. Fran got the job, eventually becoming second in command. She retired in 1976, but continued to work for many years with Bob Whittam at Wye Marsh.

Fran was an honorary life member of the Brereton Field Naturalists of Barrie as well as our own Club. She worked vigorously with the Seniors for Wye Marsh group on their wildlife garden at the Wye Marsh. A day in the field with Fran Westman impressed anyone who accompanied her. She had so much knowledge about the subject of Natural History. Fran died in 2001.

Information taken from a Midland Free Press article

Dorothy Harper

Don't forget the BIRDATHON!

Sid Hadlington is doing a birdathon for our club in May. Get your donations to Dorothy Harper, 533-1632. Part of the money comes back to us.



Midland-Penetanguishene Field
Naturalists Club
Box 393
Midland, Ontario L4R 2J8

President: Joanne Scott
1st Vice president: Greg Lutick
2nd Vice president: Adrienne Jex
Treasurer: Diane Marr
Secretary: Shirley Tilson
Past President: Liz Schandlen

We're on the web!
www.csolve.net/~mpfnc



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*To study and appreciate nature.
To protect and preserve wildlife and
the environment.
To stimulate public interest in, and
promote protection and
preservation of
nature.*



Schedule

Here are the remaining club meetings for this season. Check the brochure for more information.

ONTARIO BUTTERFLIES
Thursday May 15, 2003, 7:30 p.m.

NATURE, ART AND BUTTERFLIES
Saturday May 24, 2003, 7:30 a.m.

FON AGM
OWEN SOUND FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB
May 23 to 25, 2003

NATURE, ART AND BUTTERFLIES
Saturday May 24, 2003, 7:30 a.m.

MANITOULIN ISLAND
June 6 to 8, 2003

POT LUCK AND MEMBERS NIGHT
Thursday June 19, 2003
Tiny Marsh
Walk 5:30 p.m.
Dinner 6:15 p.m.

THE NATURE BOOK CLUB



We have featured some reviews of books related to nature in the past. Now we have a new idea. Here's a chance to be involved in a new social event. The Nats are starting a book club! We can meet regularly, or just once, either in person or on-line. Share the experience of reading with others, in a natural context. Here are some ideas to get you started from our club editor, David Whitehead:

1. Barbara Kingsolver's Prodigal Summer
The author loves people and our planet. The book is fiction but nature is the pervading theme. Moths loom large. Coyotes are establishing themselves where wolves were wiped out. Procreation is the promise. Beautiful writing.
2. Jim Corbett's India: stories selected by R.E. Hawkins. Famous as an executioner of man-eating tigers and leopards Jim obviously loves the land, the people, tigers, leopards and all of the jungle folk. The whole book reveals not only the glory of nature but also the stature of the man and the breadth of his vision. If you have not time for the whole book the last two pages are something EVERYONE should read. These books are at Midland Public Library. If you like them, tell your friends, if not tell me.
Two more items:
1. Please feel free to recommend your choice. 2. A monthly or bi-monthly book club might be a great idea. Anyone interested please contact me, *David Whitehead* 526-2361.

CLUB NEWS



The guest speaker at our January meeting was Isobel Ball; mother, teacher, W. L.U. field school assistant and archaeologist. Isobel talked about and showed slides on the excavation of a Wendat Village located in the hills of Medonte. Isobel's presentation dealt with the methods of doing an archaeological dig, the challenges and the outcomes. We found the presentation both informative and extremely interesting. *Joanne Scott*

Saturday, January 18 was a perfect winter day, cold but sunny. Six brave souls met at Mountainview for skiing and snowshoeing. The trails were in good shape, but wildlife was conspicuously absent. A sociable lunch followed at the chalet and then more fresh air for the bravest of

the group.

Adrienne Jex

At the February meeting we viewed slides and listened to Rolf Kraiker talk about his family's canoe trip along the Thalen River, in the North West Territories. They flew in by small plane with their canoes and all the gear needed for an extended trip in the wilderness. As they travelled along, they witnessed a variety of wildlife such as Arctic foxes, muskox, huge herds of caribou and Arctic birds. What an adventure for this family of four! *Joanne Scott*

Saturday Feb. 22, 2003 Michelle Hudolin gave us an update on the Biological Inventory that was taken of Wye Valley. Michelle, along with Bob Bowles, have mapped the valley into a series of grids in which the inventory counts are taken. They highlighted certain grids (with the help of the GPS system) and hope to tally further grids as funding becomes available. It was a most interesting afternoon at the Marsh. *Liz Schandlen*

Saturday, March 29th, an adventuresome group of 16 adults and 5 children headed out for a walk with Tim Tully, the naturalist at Awenda Park. In spite of threatening skies, we started down the park road towards the bay, not the sand dune as originally planned. Heavy snow prevented us from taking the dune walk. Tim guided us along, talking about the different types of forests and the conditions that promoted their growth. He pointed out wet areas that would soon be full of spring peepers and other amphibians. He directed our view to the site of the Wendat village of Toanche and the possible burial ground of Brule. Eventually, we stepped out onto the sand beach but did not linger there for very long as the chilly wind off the still-frozen bay was biting cold. On our return to the Trail Centre, we enjoyed some hot apple cider and continued our chat with Tim. As always, walks with Tim Tully are both informative and enjoyable! A good time was had by all! *Joanne Scott*

On Thursday April 17th, 2003 the club was treated to a wonderful slide presentation by Walter and Joan Crowe. We were lucky they could take time away from their FON AGM preparations to visit us. They skillfully combined the historical element of Darwin's past by taking us to England with the travelogue of their trip to the Galapagos Islands. The humour during their presentation only added to the enjoyment of it. *Liz Schandlen*

Meetings on March 20 and April 19 were cancelled.

JOKES!



GETTING OLD (thirty years difference)

1972 Long hair
2002 Longing for hair

1972 Keg
2002 EKG

1972 Acid rock
2002 Acid reflux

1972 Growing pot
2002 Growing a pot belly

1972 Hoping for a BMW
2002 Hoping for a BM

1972 The Grateful Dead
2002 Dr. Kevorkian

1972 Going to a new, hip joint
2002 Receiving a new hip joint

1972 Rolling Stones
2002 Kidney Stones

1972 Disco
2002 Costco

1972 Whatever
2002 Depends

Apologies to our non-senior members!

Marilyn Lawrence

RECIPES!

Send us your favourites and we'll print them right here.

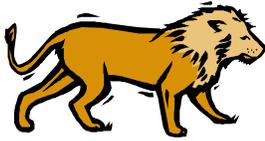


Cider Cake

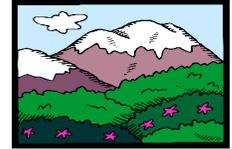
Here is a cake that keeps a long time and travels well.

Cream 1 cup butter and 1 1/2 cups sugar. Mix in 4 eggs. Add 3 cups flour, 1 tsp. baking soda, nutmeg to taste and 1 cup apple cider. Pour into a greased loaf pan and bake at 350 degrees about 1 hour.

Adrienne Jex



Members' Inbox



Last May, when Wayne and I were visiting the Bakubung Game Preserve in South Africa, we found ourselves in the middle of a lion hunt. It was the lions who were doing the hunting. For two days we'd been driven around in a safari jeep to observe the wild animals in their natural habitat. The guides found hippos (by the way bakubung is their native name for hippo), giraffes, zebras, elephants, white rhinos, warthogs, varieties of antelope and deer, plenty of exotic birds but no lions.

On the second day, even though it was getting dark, our guide was determined to find some lions for us. At last he got a call on his radio, giving the location where a small pride had been spotted and we set out, using a small searchlight held high on the top of the jeep to find them. Scanning the left side of the road about 500 yards or more away, our guide spotted a herd of antelope. He told us the lions knew they were there and that's what they were after. Very shortly thereafter, scanning in the distance on the right side of the jeep, we saw some eyes glowing in the dark in the distance. Eerily, they emerged from tiny specks of eyes into a single file line of five lionesses plodding along in perfect time together in the darkness. Everyone in the jeep felt aware that we were on their territory and they were the ones in control. Speaking softly, our guide started explaining how lions circle their prey before a kill. At the same time, the lead lioness silently walked to a spot six feet in front of our jeep and with her back to us, lay down on the road. As soon as she did, two of the pride started crossing the road in front of the jeep about 15 feet ahead as the other two crossed about the same distance behind the jeep. All of us in the jeep collectively held our breath, but as soon as they had safely crossed, the lioness guarding our jeep stood up and walked across the road herself, without once even looking our way. The feeling all of us took away from this experience was one of deep respect for those lions. What intelligence! Actually, it was more than intelligence, but I just can't find the words to describe it. It was awesome. We feel so privileged to have had this experience and to be able to share it with you.

Carolynn and Wayne Fishleigh

A whole book would be needed to describe adequately the Sierra Nevada. Greg and I spent 3 weeks in March in the Lake Tahoe - Yosemite area of Nevada - California. We skied the upper elevations and hiked lower down. Some of my favourite sights were Pygmy Nuthatches, White - Headed Woodpeckers, giant Sequoias and historic Carson City. Commonplace, but so beautiful, were the iridescent Stellars Jays, yellow California Poppies, various blue Lupines and purple-flowering California Redbuds. Greg enjoyed the various species of junipers, pines and other conifers. Also worth mentioning is the excellent Mexican food, and Caesar's Casino for its' great book store. Armchair travelers will enjoy the works of John Muir and Ansel Adams.

Adrienne Jex

In mid May I traveled to the Copper Canyon in Mexico with a group of naturalists, led by Bob Bowles, naturalist extraordinaire. We saw a zillion or so birds, many of them, for many of us, for the first time. Certainly it was my first hepatic tanager. We had dozens of butterflies, mostly yellow, fluttering at our knees while we ohed and ahed over another black and white and orange, beautiful, trembling, as it rested on a nearby rock. (All of us were on and surrounded by rock - all week.) Magnificent views greeted us on all sides from train window or from a perch high on chairs clamped to the roof of our suburban, from where we could look down at the thirteen switchbacks we had just climbed. With more to come.

Nature has been working on the Copper Canyon since the shifting of those tectonic plates off the Pacific coast 80 to 90 million years ago, and it seems as though any one layer of rock has been fighting all the other layers ever since. Volcanoes have smashed and spewed rock into astonishing shapes, setting the imagination free to devise its own fabulous story of what it's all about. There are canyons (barrancas) running into canyons running into canyons. It boggles the mind. It was an exceptional trip with lively, interesting people. If you get the opportunity to go, grab it.

Betty Carter

News!!

From The Newsletter Committee

We have a new addition to our newsletter committee. David Whitehead is joining us. He will be organizing our new Book Club, and hopefully will have enough time to help with other assignments. Welcome David!

We must say goodbye and a big thank you to Marilyn Lawrence, who is unable to continue with us because of time conflicts. She has been an energetic contributor, and we will miss her. She has promised to keep those articles coming though!

Dorothy Harper, chair
Liz Schandlen

Sid and Dot Hadlington
Joanne Scott

Adrienne Jex
Peter Tillson

Marilyn Lawrence
David Whitehead

