



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With the return of warmer weather, we hope all members are able to get out to enjoy the wildlife of spring and summer, and have lots to report on at our future meetings. If you have been on any adventures over the winter, please feel free to report on them at our annual June pot-luck at Tiny Marsh - which takes the place of our regular monthly meeting.

Adrienne & Greg

## Who We Are

We are continuing our series profiling some of our members. Here is someone well-known and loved by many members:

The world needs more nature lovers, people who appreciate the fact that we share the planet with many life forms. Betty Carter, long time member of the Midland Penetanguishene Field Naturalist Club, is such a person. A wife, a mother of five, and a former nurse, Betty knows a thing or two about serving others, including more than just her fellow human beings. A solo camping expedition involving Betty a few years back illustrates how people can be either friend or foe to other living creatures, including critters like porcupines. Chalk Betty up as a friend. "I needed a break from work and family, and took a long weekend hike on the Bruce Trail," she recalls. "I hiked in about an hour from where I parked. I set up camp and made myself a little campfire when I heard what I thought was a baby crying. 'This is ridiculous,' I thought. Obviously there were no babies here. But the crying continued. It turned out that it was a baby porcupine toddling on down the path towards me. I shoed it off and went to bed in my tent. In the morning, I made myself coffee, and again the baby porcupine was crying. I decided I had to be nicer this time, so I said: 'OK, tell me what the problem is?' He turned off to one side and walked off. I followed him to an abandoned campsite where someone had left garbage around. There was a large porcupine, probably the mother, with a bean can stuck on her snout. She had been obviously there a while, at least from the night before. 'Well, I have to do something about this,' I thought, so I picked up a long stick and tried to knock off the can, but it didn't work. I decided I had to take it off by hand, but was very wary of the porcupine and tried to keep it at bay with the stick while I twisted the can off its snout. Once I got the can off, the large porcupine waddled away and the baby followed, not making a sound any more. It's funny the things you see." Betty's act of kindness relieved the suffering and trauma of two helpless creatures that had resulted from human thoughtlessness. *Continued on page 3.....*

### Good News About Site 41!!

On April 11, 2005, Tiny Township passed an Interim Bylaw to prevent the County of Simcoe from moving ahead with Site 41 for one year. It does not appear that the County of Simcoe is going to challenge the bylaw, although this is not official yet. The purpose of the Bylaw is to provide time to examine unanswered questions as to the viability of Site 41. At the last Community Monitoring Committee meeting, there was talk about looking at alternative sites. This is the first time we have heard this discussed. For the most up to date information on the issue, go to [www.stopdumpsite41.ca](http://www.stopdumpsite41.ca). We have a victory right now, but we can't afford to get complacent. Please take a look at the petition on the website, proposed by Garfield Dunlop. He asks that you print it and have it signed by as many people as you know who care about what is happening and send it to him.

Of interest also is a golf tournament being held on June 24th at the Orr Lake Golf Club to get those interested in stopping Site 41 to meet each other and to support the fight.

Carolynn Fishleigh

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Secretary: Shirley Tilson  
Past President: Joanne Scott



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.*

**Editorial**

Your newsletter staff have been reviewing our efforts, in light of the 5th anniversary of this publication. That's right, 5 years of the Lilypad!

We sometimes wonder if we are "voices in the wilderness." We need some feedback from our readers! Do you like the format? Shall we bring back the Recipes column? Would you like a Sightings column?

You will get a chance to express your views in the next issue. We will insert a questionnaire for you. Please take the time to give us your opinions!

You don't have to wait until then either. We are always ready to have your comments and suggestions. Talk to any of us. Thanks

*Dorothy Harper, editor*

THE NATURE BOOK CLUB



In March we read The Snow Leopard, by Peter Matthiessen. This was a more challenging read, in my opinion. The author describes his journey with naturalist George Schaller in search of the Blue Sheep and the Snow Leopard of Tibet. There was much climbing and enduring of harsh conditions, interesting comments on the lives of the native populations, and a lot of description of the author's interest in Buddhism. No snow leopards. However, we were inspired to look them up on the internet, and they are indeed beautiful. Both the men in this book seem to be very strongly introverted characters, and willing to put up with a lot of discomfort in pursuit of animals. Pat Taylor hosted us delightfully as always.

April's book was Consider the Fish by Chris Gudgeon. This is an interesting and easy read, about the importance of fish and the fishing industry in Canada's history. David was particularly interested in learning about the Icelandic settlement of Gimli. It was a novel and clever way of learning some Canadian history. Betty Carter was our gracious hostess.

Man-eaters or Mutual Keystone Species? The Tribe of Tiger, by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, examines the complex relationship between the cat tribe and the human tribe. Her comments are based on widely spaced visits to the Kalahari as an anthropologist and ethnologist, and the resulting interaction with the human and feline owners of that territory. She also draws from the work of others and her own housecats. Observations range from cougar attacks in the US to tigers living longer & happier in circuses than in zoos. David reports it is a very interesting book about cats, large and small. Our book club will be discussing this book at our next meeting at Liz Schandlen's home on May 29. If you plan to attend, let her know so that she can pop an extra bag in the teapot. We are always ready to welcome more people to our get-togethers.

*Linda and David Whitehead*

**MacGregor Point Park has gone to the birds!**

The Friends Of MacGregor Point Provincial Park, near Port Elgin, will be hosting the 8th annual Huron Fringe Birding Festival May 27th through June 5th, 2005.

The HURON FRINGE BIRDING FESTIVAL offers 82 hikes, presentations and workshops related to birds and nature. It offers a wide range of birding activities, workshops on Sparrows (John Haselmayer), Warblers (Mark Wiercinski), and Nesting of Ontario's Breeding Birds (George Peck). Also offered are classes for Beginning Birders (Peter Middleton and Martin Parker) and hikes for the experienced - "Birding by Ear", "Bird Until you Drop" (by Michael Carlson). Participate in a Birdathon or take one of the many birding hikes offered, from a group of expert birders and naturalists. The afternoons feature many nature related hikes, from wildflowers, geology, insects, reptiles, butterflies, nature hikes, botanical medicines, forestry, dragonflies, archaeology, photography, to ecology. Evenings have presentations by excellent speakers followed by owl prowls and star gazing. For more information call MacGregor Point Provincial Park at (519) 389-6231 or check the web site at <http://www.friendsofmacgregor.org>

# CLUB NEWS



**Blizzard barbecue!** In January, only a few hardy members braved the wind and snow to hike the woods at Lutick's blueberry farm. A few birds and animal tracks were seen, and tree identification discussed. The cozy fire made our picnic lunch even more convivial. *Greg Lutick*  
**Florida Vacation.** Instead of the Boreal Forest presentation in February, we were treated to a travelogue by Ed

**Glanert.** Colorful birds, rare manatees, and the endangered Everglades made us forget about winter for a short time. *GL*

On Saturday, February 19th, eighteen members of our Club attended a workshop titled "Birding 101". Expert birder, Sid Hadlington, with assistance from his wife Dorothy, presented an informative and educational tutorial on bird identification skills. He showed us how to use our birding books effectively. He brought along a variety of birding books and a bird identification computer program that we could purchase. He talked about bird shape, colour, size, habitat and flight pattern. By the end of the afternoon, he had answered our many questions and we all went away ready to enjoy another season of birding. *Joanne Scott*

On March 17, Ed Glanert presented his slides of wildlife in Madagascar. His incredible photos captured many species of lemurs, geckos and chameleons. He included photos of wildlife ranging from butterflies to trees.

Through the photos and commentary we were able to get a feel for the lifestyle of the island's people. *GL*

**Legal Grass.** In April, retired lawyer, Gordon Michener, demystified the family of grasses. With beautiful slides and herbarium specimens he taught us to appreciate these mostly overlooked and under-appreciated plants. *Greg Lutick*



## Schedule

Here are the club meetings for the rest of the season. Check the brochure for more information.

### 74<sup>th</sup> ON AGM

June 3, 4, and 5, 2005  
North Bay

### POT LUCK AND MEMBERS NIGHT

Thursday June 16, 2005  
Tiny Marsh

### CAWTHRA MULOCK PROPERTY

Saturday June 18, 2005

## Ontario Nature News

Ontario Nature, formerly the FON, are inviting clubs to open their doors to nature by hosting an event for the public in their communities (such as a nature hike, birding outing, tree planting activity or guest speaker) to celebrate their 75th anniversary. They will help with the promotion of events through local news releases, on their website and through special anniversary publications. They plan to profile 75 club events across the province in 2006.

We will be hosting a special event for this celebration, probably in conjunction with a regular meeting or outing. What should we do? Give us your ideas!

*Continued from page 1....*

Born in Kapuskasing, Ont., where she spent the first 14 years of her life, Betty and her family moved south to Brantford, where she attended high school. She then studied nursing in Montreal. Betty worked as a nurse, but left the profession for another equally demanding role, starting a family. Betty's husband, Bill was a member of the Canadian Forces, so the family moved frequently over the years. She and Bill have lived in the Elmvale-Wyevale area for the past 40 years.

Her fondness for the great outdoors undoubtedly owes much to her formative years in Northern Ontario. "There's a picture of me when I was about a year old, walking with my father in Kapuskasing", she says. "This, of course, was before they cut down all the trees. My father had been at the Ontario Agricultural College before it was relocated to Guelph, and he was interested in everything that grew and everything that moved. So my learning started almost immediately."

Betty joined the Brereton, Orillia and Collingwood Field Naturalist Clubs. She started doing the Christmas bird count around 1970. And like many nature lovers, Betty's passion has taken her far afield. For several years, she went on expeditions with Ontario Nature Tours or Quest Tours. Last year, she joined Bob Bowles' tour to Mexico. One of Betty's memorable trips was to Churchill with Fran Westman and two other women.

Betty's appreciation of nature isn't limited to our fine-feathered friends. "I've often said that I moved from birding to botany to geology". "I find rocks easier to observe because they don't move". Bird watching and nature tours aren't her husband's thing, but that's OK with Betty. "We're all different and it's fine that we enjoy differing interests." Two of Betty's sons still live at the farm homestead in Wyevale, while their daughters now call Toronto home. Their oldest son lives in the Kootenays in British Columbia. Family outings usually involved a hike somewhere, she recalls. You can be sure that on those outings Betty instilled in her offspring an appreciation for all living creatures, the way her father did for her. And if any of them come upon a porcupine in distress, they'll know what to do. *Liz and David Schandlen*

## And No Birds Sang

I went for a walk on the dikes at Tiny Marsh  
And I saw a few living things there  
And clouds claimed the sky, white, dark and light grey, purple  
And the water was limpid, spotted green with leaves  
And the water lilies were white, were yellow  
And the pickerel weed was purple and native, so good  
And the purple loosestrife was purple but alien so bad  
And there was silence there as I was alone  
And there was the purple nightshade we had in our yard  
And one time Sammy asked if the berry was good to eat  
And I said, "No it's poisonous, don't eat it"  
And she spit it out and said, "I didn't swallow any"  
And there was viper's bugloss, electric blue, scarce this year  
And there was blue vervain and cat tails and bur reed  
And Joe Pye weed and birdfoot trefoil, mauve and gold  
And daisies and bladder campion and alfalfa  
And gentian and milkweed and sweet white clover  
And gulls flew over, silent, and terns with a short "kee-ee"  
And milkweed to remind me I haven't seen a monarch yet  
And sweet yellow clover and fleabane and goldenrod  
And yarrow and rose pink that I had to look up when I got home  
And 7 feet high timothy and Queen Anne's lace as tall  
And I realize I've never looked with attention at her laciness  
And red osier dogwood often clenched in the arms of grape vine  
And silver maple silvery and red maple dotted with insect spots  
And there were prickly thistles with yellow or purple flowers  
And there were dozens of tiny toads leaping from under my feet  
And there was jewelweed touch-me-not orange and yellow so soft  
And weedy St. John's wort and chickory and knapweed, yellow, blue and mauve  
And landing on mullein a large black and grey-winged dragonfly  
And in the woods mosquitoes and she bit my hand  
And a deerfly bit my neck amid the willow, alder, aspen  
And there was boneset with white flowers and perfoliate leaves  
And yellow bullhead lilies and white arrowhead on the water  
And one perfect white birch tree and violet self-heal  
And there were a dozen geese chattering as I came near  
And two silent white trumpeter swans and islands of waterweeds  
And the geese stopped talking after I passed  
And there was a yellow butterfly and scatters of feathers  
And little heaps of turtles' eggshells on the gravel verge  
And a splash as three young mergansers landed and dove  
And a bee hums, flying around me, a scout I guess  
And there is goatsbeard and yarrow and one lone buttercup  
And goldenrod and early asters and a white butterfly  
And I've spilled ink on my new blue shirt  
And there is sumac and huge coltsfoot leaves  
And I am surrounded by bees who reject me and fly off  
And aspen leaves barely quiver in the faint, warm breeze  
And I reach a gate, and a path verging off to the right  
And do I disremember that it is the way to the car  
And I take it and now I'm on a grassy, wooded lane  
And I come to a shaky, slanting-sideways, wooden bridge  
And am I too heavy and I'm ready for a rest  
And I wonder -- if I sit will it collapse — or will I  
And will I rise again if I do and do I really care  
And the water flows under and joins another canal  
And there are new floating leaves and flowers  
And "peace comes dropping slow"  
And I could stay here  
And let the peace and quiet and, yes, wildness, lull me  
And let it become me and me it, whatever "it" is  
And I'm content to let it all just be.  
And of course I have to get up, get to the dams and bridges  
And the car and drive that "narrow road to the interior"  
And I do. I did.

August 18, 2004 Betty Carter



## NEW BIRDS ON THE FARM BOOK

*Birds on the Farm – A Stewardship Guide*, written by Erin McGauley and edited by Gregor G. Beck and Ann Bell is Ontario Nature – Federation of Ontario Naturalists' newest publication. The book focuses on improving bird habitat around farms and rural areas. It also demonstrates the link between bird-friendly farming and sound farm management.

*Birds on the Farm* is packed with glossy, full colour photos of birds that frequent rural and farm areas, and the snappy layout of the pocket-sized publication makes it an easy and enjoyable read.

The book highlights some of the most readily available ecological management techniques that help protect birds and their habitat. Techniques such as conservation tillage, riparian buffer strips and integrated pest management play important roles in enhancing and creating bird habitat on farms. Each technique is briefly outlined, as are the economic, environmental and/or social benefits of their implementation.

You can purchase the book from Ontario Nature for \$8 each (or \$6 each for orders of 10 or more), plus GST and shipping. Our club has a few copies for sale too, see Adrienne.

## Club Notices

\* Don't forget that dues are collected in September. You won't receive the newsletter unless you are a paid member of the Club.

\* **Baillie Birdathon** Sid and Dot Hadlington are our birders for this event. They will see as many birds as they can in 24 hours, on May 20. We'll tell you the results in our next newsletter. When you give to the Birdathon, part of your money comes back to our club. So, don't forget to donate to the Baillie Birdathon this year. See Dorothy Harper at the meeting, or call 533-1632.