



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

There is no President's message this month. Dan has had to resign because of work conflicts. We will have stand-ins every month until the next executive is elected. Please see the important notice below. It outlines how you can participate in planning our future.

*Dorothy Harper*



## CLUB NEWS

### 2008 – 109th Audubon Christmas Bird Count

On Saturday December 20, 2008, 38 members of the Midland Penetang Field Naturalists Club, split into 12 groups and took part in the annual Christmas Bird Count. The day was clear and cold, with lots of snow on the ground. The lakes were a mixture of open and frozen, but mostly frozen.

The day was successful again with 40 different species seen, with a total count of 3,432 individuals counted. Highlights included white-winged crossbills and bohemian waxwings. This year saw the lowest number of species sighted in a long time. The frozen waters were mostly responsible, reducing the water fowl species seen.

After the count the group gathered at the Wye Marsh for a pot luck dinner and to report on our findings. The gift auction capped off the evening with lots of laughter and over \$400 raised for the McKeever Owl Foundation. Thanks to all who took part and made the day a success. Mark your calendar for next year's count on Saturday December 19<sup>th</sup>,



2009.

*David Schandlen*

IMPORTANT!

## The Club's Future

IMPORTANT!

A discussion was started about the future organization of our club at the January meeting. A lot of ideas have been collected by Carolyn Fishleigh, Jean Brockelbank and Greg Lutick. A copy of those ideas has been sent to members via email, and more copies will be available at the February meeting. Please come prepared to brainstorm around our revitalization. We have difficulty getting new members, executive officers, and attendance especially during the winter. For example, we have no one who has volunteered for President this upcoming year. **HAVE YOUR SAY! JOIN THE DISCUSSION!** By email or phone to Carolyn, or at the meeting. This is your chance to change things!

*Dorothy Harper*

Midland-Penetanguishene Field  
Naturalists Club  
Box 393  
Midland, Ontario L4R 2J8  
[www.csolve.net/~mpfnc](http://www.csolve.net/~mpfnc)

President: Dan Whittam  
Vice President: David Whitehead  
Treasurer:Carolynn Fishleigh  
Secretary: Lyn Barnett  
Past Presidents: Greg Lutick and  
Adrienne Jex



#### 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 club meetings for the rest  
of the year. Check the brochure for more  
information*

**FATAL LIGHT AWARENESS**  
Thursday February 19, 2009 7:30 p.m.

**SPRING THINGS**  
Thursday March 19, 2009 7:30 p.m.

**MINESING SWAMP**  
Saturday March 21, 2009

**WYE MARSH SWEETWATER FESTIVAL**  
March 28 & 29, 2009

**NATURAL SHORELINES**  
Thursday April 16, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

**MTM CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION**  
Waterfowl Viewing Day-Tiny Marsh  
April 18 2009

**ON HURONIA REGIONAL MEETING**  
April 2009

**McRAE POINT PROVINCIAL PARK**  
Saturday April 18, 2009

**ALIENS**  
Thursday May 21, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Here are 2 poems by our poet laureate Betty Carter. They will lift  
your vision toward the coming Spring!

### Spring Gems (Dufferin Hylands)

A thousand diamonds glittered  
on the pond in the birchwood  
each dazzling bubble twisting the reflection  
of writhing branches, new leaves, trunks  
mirrored pearly on the silvered dark.

On closer inspection I found  
every diamond was a nose  
the tip of a frog prism-ing sparkles  
into the dimness under the trees  
tossing gleams of delight  
an unanticipated enchantment  
hinting at mysteries submersed



### Songs of Spring

Bees. Hundreds.  
Busily buzzing, hovering low  
over the composting pile  
of raked-up apples  
wormy  
from under the ancient, crippled  
tree on the backyard lawn  
a full, stirring symphony  
whose sound stings.



### Want to borrow a book?

Our club has a good supply of printed information about  
nature. You'll find the catalogue on Page 4. Just ask one of  
the officers, and they'll tell you how to borrow .

## Community News

An Education from Maude Barlow



Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians and Senior Advisor to the President of the UN General Assembly enlightened the approximately 200 citizens present at **Midland Secondary school** on **January 21st** about the world water situation. Entire continents like Australia have no more ground water, the country Pakistan has none either. Many other countries are in crisis. Some of those that do have groundwater are selling the rights to it to the large water bottling conglomerates who are bottling it and selling it back to the citizens who live in poverty. These large bottling companies are exploiting populations by telling them that only bottled water is safe to drink, when in fact tap water is tested and safer than bottled water. She recommends bans on bottled water in public places, better access to water fountains in schools and raising public awareness to see that groundwater is a human right. She stated that bottled water leads to water shortages, climate change and that our landfills cannot support bottled water. In some communities the percentage of water bottles that end up in landfills is 80%. She recommends that citizens form groups to defend our right to the groundwater beneath us before it runs out altogether.

Steve Ogden was praised for his life long effort in opposing Site 41 which is now wasting millions of litres of ground water a day in their dewatering process so that they can put a massive dump on the purest water in the world. Steve got a standing ovation. They called his efforts "The Power of One". On January 29th, Maude Barlow, Elizabeth May, Steve Ogden and Danny Beaton, Mohawk Environmentalist and Governor General Award winner met in Toronto & issued a press release condemning Site 41 and calling for citizens to **sign the facebook petition** against Site 41 at [www.thepetitionsite.com/1/stop-dump-site-41](http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/stop-dump-site-41).

Carolynn Fishleigh

### Information about site 41

from First Nations Drum magazine January 2009 Volume 19 Issue 1, by Dr, John Bacher



*Explanation for the unusual purity of the water under the proposed Dumpsite 41.*

"Rainwater from the 1980's has slowly percolated through the glacial debris that makes up the local hills and acts as the source for these groundwaters. Filtration through the soils - whose chemically reactive surface is provided by organic matter (humus), iron oxides, and clay minerals abound - purifies the water to a remarkable extent. The multibarrier concept of groundwater protection, it would seem, was developed by Mother Nature through rock weathering and soil formation long ago."

*Where does it go?*

"Dumpsite 41 sits on top of both the Alliston Aquifer and the bed rock channel of the ancient St Lawrence River, which still flows below ground from Georgian Bay to Lake Ontario. This bedrock channel links a web of aquifers such as the Alliston, Holt, Kame Outwash, Mount Albert, Oak Ridges and Schomberg aquifer complexes. The Oak Ridges Moraine is widely appreciated as Ontario's vital rainbarrel."

All of this has the potential to be poisoned by the dump if the upward gradient ever changes and the engineers will not guarantee that it never will. Their answer to our question at a recent Community Monitoring Committee Meeting as to what would happen if the upward gradient ceased was "We will compensate the farmers" What about the rest of us? Once that water has been poisoned there is no getting it back. There is no compensation that could ever make up for that. If you have not already signed the petition to stop Dumpsite 41, you can help by doing so at [www.thepetitionsite.com/1/stop-dump-site-41](http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/stop-dump-site-41)

Wayne & Carolynn Fishleigh

**MIDLAND-PENETANGUISHENE FIELD NATURALIST**  
**LIBRARY CATALOGUE**

**BIRDS**

- Atlas of Bird Migration
- The Birds of Simcoe County - Devitt
- Birds of Rosetown-Biggar Saskatchewan
- Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario 1987
- Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario 2001-5
- Birdlife Insights into the Daily Lives of Birds
- The Hungry Bird Book
- Fog Swamp – Living with Swans in the Wilderness (B.C.) – Trudy Turner
- Parent Birds and their Young – Skutch
- Field Guide to Birds (local)
- How to Know the Birds – Paterson (2)
- Bird Finding Canada
- Birdwatchers Key
- Naming the Birds at a Glance
- Birdlife Insights – Jim Flagg
- Birds of Ireland
- Birds of Britain/Europe
- Birds of India
- Aves de la Republica Dominica
- Hawaiian Birds

**FLOWERS AND PLANTS**

- Botanical Excursions in Quebec and Ontario
- Botanical Excursions to Boreal Regions in Northern Quebec and Ontario
- Wildflowers of Alaska
- The Edible Wild
- Foraging for Edible wild Mushrooms
- The Language of Flowers
- Feasting Free on Wild Edibles
- Survival in the Bush
- Common Marsh Plants Booklet
- Manitoba Wildflowers Booklet
- Houseplants
- Vascular Plants of the Bruce Peninsula
- A Taste of the Wild
- Redwoods of California
- Houseplants
- Irish Wildflowers
- New England Mountain Flowers

**RACHEL CARSON**

- Under the Sea Wind
- Silent Spring
- The Sea Around Us

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- The Dawn of Life
- The Frail Ocean
- Autumn Across America
- Edwin Way Jenle (mostly birds)
- Nahanni Trailhead – A Year in the Northern Wilderness
- Alpine Canada
- Guide of Wildlife Refuges (American)
- FON Resource Manual
- Wetlands of Ontario South of the Precambrian Shield
- Wonders of the Antarctic
- Geographica de Plantas (plants of Chile)
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Photo Album 1982
- Photo Album 1998
- Photo Album 2000

**NEWSLETTERS**

- The Raven = Algonquin Provincial Park
- Amphibian Voice
- Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary
- Avian Care and Research Foundation
- Government Reports
- The Wood Duck – Hamilton Field Naturalists
- Heritage Matters
- M.T.M.

**MISCELLANEOUS PAMPHLETS**

- NATURE Canada
- Ontario Naturalists – Family Notes
- Ontario Nature and Seasons issues
- Orillia Naturalists – The Ermine
- Sky News
- The Chickadee
- Toronto Field Naturalists
- University of Guelph Arboretum Green Web