

Midland-Penetanguishene Field Naturalist Club

Box 393, Midland, Ontario L4R 2J8
President: Liz Schandlen 526-8320
Vice President: Kate Harries 322-2545
Treasurer:Carolynn Fishleigh 549-0827
Secretary: Lyn Barnett 549-3857
Shirley Tilson(Winter) 526-6816
Past President: Dan Whittam 527-5360

Message from the President

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2011!
Many thanks to those who participated in another successful Christmas Bird Count. The pot luck and auction was well attended with another substantial donation winging itself to those special owls.

I hope you will be able to attend the upcoming outings and meetings as we get closer to our special 50th Anniversary.

Liz Schandlen



Club News

Guest Speakers and Special Events

MOVIE MATINEE

Thursday Jan. 13, 2011 – Starting at 10:00 am.

Our club hosts a double feature at the Wye Marsh.

Al Gore documentary

Monarch Migration

Contact: Sid Hadlington

HORSE CHESTNUT

Thursday Jan. 20, 2011, 7:30 pm.

Our own Beth Brass Elson will speak on horse chestnut medicinal tea.

Contact: Greg Lutick 526-3042

LIFE'S A BEACH

Wednesday February 16, 2011

Enjoy winter activities and a cosy campfire at Kettle's Beach.

Contact: Jack Scott 549-7091

ARCHAEOLOGY OF HURONIA

Thursday February 17, 2011, 7:30 pm.

Jamie Hunter will speak on the Archaeology of Huronia (referencing Natural History via Archaeology).

Contact: Irene Berry 361-2500

TIFFIN CENTRE

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Discover this neighbouring Nottawasaga Valley

Conservation facility.

Contact: Morley Bath 526-8692

STORIES IN STONE

Thursday March 17, 2011

Gerry Bennett will show what old rocks can tell us.

Contact: Irene Berry 361-2500

WYE MARSH SWEETWATER FESTIVAL
March 26 & 27, 2011

A B C'S

Thursday April 14, 2011

A - Appreciate

B - Birds

C - Collingwood Shoreline

Contact: Sid Hadlington 527-0482

CARDEN ALVAR

Thursday April 21, 2011, 7:30 pm.

David Homer (past President of Carden Field Naturalists and board member of Couchiching) will speak on the history and wildlife of the Carden Alvar.

Contact: Irene Berry 361-2500

MTM CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
Waterfowl Viewing Day-Tiny Marsh —
April 2011

ON HURONIA REGIONAL MEETING
April 2011

Contact: Joanne Scott 549-7091

ANTIPODES

Thursday May 19, 2011, 7:30 pm.

Dorothy Harper will speak on travelling in the Antipodes.

Contact: Greg Lutick 526-3042 and Irene Berry 361-2500

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Details To Follow.

Contact: Kate Harries 322-2545
& Shirley Tilson 526-6816

ROYAL BLOOMERS

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Explore Hamilton's Royal Botanical Gardens.

Contact: Joanne Scott 549-7091

80th ON AGM

May 28 & 29, 2011

Details to follow

Contact: Barbara MacKenzie-Wynia
1-800-440-2366

The following is a speech given by Carolyn Fishleigh on the presentation of an Honorary Membership to Elizabeth Brass Elson

This is the 50th Anniversary Year of the Midland Penetanguishene Field Naturalist Club and we wanted to do something special tonight to celebrate it.

As Julie Barker, a member of the MPFN Club has told us, we each hold a piece of the giant puzzle, that when we put it all together solved the riddle of how to stop Dumpsite 41. Tonight I want to tell you a bit about the piece that Wayne & I hold. It includes the MPFN Club

In 2004, Wayne & I attended a speech by that crusader, Steve Ogden on why we had to stop the dump at Site 41. From that day on Wayne and I tried to use whatever talents we have and whatever connections we have to stop the dump at site 41. We took the problem to our club, the MPFN Club and soon everyone was writing letters to the MOE and their politicians. They were emailing, talking it up, just like all of you did, and, just like all of you did, they received the same response "Don't worry we will make sure that the dump is safe". So, since that didn't work, we decided to take it to our mother organization, Ontario Nature, which has a membership of 25,000 field naturalists across Ontario in clubs just like ours. At the AGM of Ontario Nature in Peterborough in 2006 a motion was passed to stop Dumpsite 41. The then president, Rosemary Spiers wrote several letters and pulled all the strings she could, but guess what, she too got back the same response all of you did - "Don't worry. We'll make sure that dump is safe." Well that didn't work either, but one thing Wayne and I did right from the day we heard Steve's speech was to take it to the drumming group which was held in our house at that time. Our drumming is drumming with intent -intent to heal people or situations and Dumpsite 41 was certainly a situation which needed healing. We would drum to create a vortex of energy from that drumming which we sent out into the universe to heal the situation the way it was supposed to be healed. After several years of this, one of our members, John Truscott told us that he was given a vision and was told that two ancient

powerful native elders were at the site keeping guard and they would not allow that dump to go in. John believed that vision 100%. Wayne believed that vision 100% and I hoped 100% that it was true. Of course I am always the sceptic. But now, looking back, I believe it was true because who came to our rescue but the native people!

The first was that wonderful Mohawk environmentalist, Danny Beaton who invited Steve to go on a "Walk for Water" from Dumpsite 41 to



Queen's Park and to take our cause to the politicians there. It was the worst November weather in living memory. It rained, hailed sleeted and snowed the whole way for them and they aren't young either. Sorry guys but you're not young, so it was a sacrifice to their health to do it, but it got us a great profile in the press.

The next were the native women from Christian Island – the Keepers of the Water. They came out to stage a protest across from the site on the May 8th weekend of 2009. They camped and the weather was – again - the worst May weather in recent memory . There was a deluge all weekend long. Wayne and I went out to have a look and I said to him “ Surely they won't make it through the weekend in this. They will go home” But to our amazement, they not only stayed the weekend, and you know the rest, they stayed on the protest site until the job was done. They told us that their sacred fire had told them that they must stay. That protest site was where we all got to know each other and to bond with each other, but more importantly we got to know each of these wonderful women. We got to see, to feel and to experience their dignity, their courage, their sacrifice, their love

of Mother Earth and their willingness to fight for it with an iron will and total peaceful knowingness that they would succeed. It was a transformational experience for each of us as they taught us by their example - the example of being themselves. They taught us how to BE. Even after this experience, many of us wanted to go on crusading, changing the political system and making changes to help solve global warming. We all have a new perspective that we can apply in some way to our lives. And so Beth, for being their leader and for

making the hard decisions that had to be made that stopped the dump, and because you did what the MPFN Club couldn't do and what Ontario Nature couldn't do and because you have taken an interest in our club attending meetings and are planning to start a field naturalist club on Christian Island, I now present you with a Lifetime Honorary Membership in the MPFN Club.

Carolynn Fishleigh

111th 2010 Audubon Christmas Bird Count

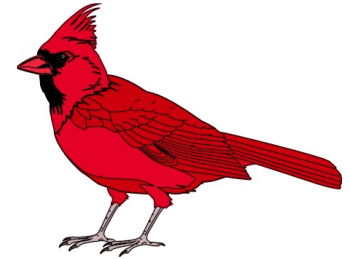
On Saturday December 18th, 2010, 40 members of the Midland Penetanguishene Field Naturalist Club split into 12 groups and took part in the 111th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

The day was slightly overcast with a brisk wind near the shoreline. The lakes were frozen near the shore, temperature around -4C and about 1½ feet of snow on the ground.

The day was successful again with 47 different species and a total count of 3,425 individual birds seen.

After the count, the group gathered at the Wye Marsh for a pot luck dinner and a report on their findings.

The gift auction capped off the evening with lots of laughter and about \$400 raised for the McKeever Owl Foundation.



Thanks to all who took part and made the day a success.

Mark your calendars for next years count on Saturday December 17th, 2011.

Dave Schandlen

Potpourri



W & Bentley



ZERO WASTE?

The diversion of our waste from Site 41 was a great victory for those of us who love the natural environment. However as we all know, we have not provided the final solution to the garbage problem, we have just moved this problem to another place and to another time.

On Sept, 16th Gordon McKay (now Mayor McKay)

delivered a challenging presentation. Gord asked us to strive to achieve "ZERO WASTE" in our daily lives. He also provided some strategies on how to achieve, or at least attempt to reach, this goal.

How many of these strategies have we tried?

Gerry Bennett

MOVIES WORTH SEEING

I hope you can join us for the screenings we have planned for January, February and March. Admittance is free, with a donation gladly accepted, and coffee, tea and cookies are provided at no charge. The Midland Public Library has a fabulous assembly room where we show the films. There is plenty of room, comfortable chairs, a big screen and a great sound system. The movies are held the last Thursday of the month, start at 7:00pm unless otherwise noted, and we try to include time for discussion afterwards.

The dates and films are as follows:

January 27th, 7 pm. Supercar: Building the Car of the Future, and Living City: A Critical Guide. These are 2 episodes of the Nature of Things with David Suzuki. See attached poster for more details, or go to cbc.ca and search for "documentaries".

February 24th, 6:30 pm. HOME: A Stunning Visual Portrayal of Earth (note early start time as DVD is 2 hours long)

March 31st 7 pm. Earth Energy , and Build Green - 2 episodes of the Nature of Things from Visions of the Future set.

See our website at www.sharehuronica.ca for more information and links to the film sites.

Please join us, and remember to RSVP to s.hirst@rogers.com, or call me at 527-0922.

Cheers,
Susan Hirst
SHARE President
www.sharehuronica.ca

Any ideas for another interesting outing?

Pass them along to Morley Bath at 526-8692.



Our 50th.

Fifty years have passed since the founding of our club. The next (spring) issue of the Lilypad will be devoted to the history of the MPFN and the accomplishments of those who were so important in its success. If you have stories and/or pics please forward to Gerry at bengerbet@rogers.com or phone (705) 526-1650.



Snowflake Bentley

When I look out to see large, white snowflakes falling I often remember one of my unsung heroes of science - Wilson A. Bentley, a simple, home-educated farmer born in 1865 near Jericho, Vermont. He is better known perhaps as "Snowflake Bentley".

From an early age Bentley was fascinated by the myriad shapes of snowflakes. Later, working in a shed behind his home he independently developed methods of photomicrography well ahead of his time. By adapting a simple microscope to an equally simple bellows camera and (after years of trial and error) he became the first

person to photograph a single snow crystal (snowflake) in 1885.

The statement "No two snowflakes are alike." is attributed to Snowflake Bentley. His book "Snow Crystals", containing more than 2400 snow crystal images, was published by McGraw-Hill in 1931 but has long been out of print. The images of snowflakes reproduced here are early photographs of Snowflake Bentley.

For more, "Google" - "Snowflake Bentley"

Gerry Bennett