



Hart's-Tongue Herald

The Newsletter of the Owen Sound Field Naturalists Spring 2005
Volume 18, Number 1

Box 401 , Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 5P7

Editor: *Lorraine Brown*



"Let's not get all lovey-dovey now, but it's that time of year again!" Mourning Doves are on their nests as you read this. (John Prosser)

In Future, We Shall Go on the Trip Last Week!

The interesting report by Fred Jazvac in the winter 2005 issue contains a sentence we can relate to. Leading the Birding around the Bay hike, he wrote, "I was disappointed not to find the Sandhill Cranes that I had seen the day before..."

Having reviewed the bird watching tours we have taken, Joan and I have reached this decision: in future we shall go on the trip the week before.

A visit to the Asa Wright Nature Centre in Trinidad some years ago proved to be a huge success, with more than one hundred species of birds new to us. There were many manakins, several seedeaters, plenty of parrots and macaws, influxes of Scarlet Ibis, and feeders full of hummers. Our guide promised that we would see a Bearded Bellbird (*Procnias averano*); though it was calling loudly our searching did not result in a sighting of this elusive bird. Similarly, on a field trip to Tobago, we were promised that we would see several species of unusual birds. The highlight was to be the Yellow-Legged Thrush (*Platycichla flavipes*), noted by French as a "fairly common but local resident." We all stood gazing at the appropriate clump of trees, but after half an hour we gave up. It was then that our leader uttered those words that would confirm our attitude towards when to travel: "but there were lots of them here last week!"

Two years earlier: the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve in Costa Rica. We were with a different guide, but he was making the same confident statement, that we would see the Resplendent

Quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*). We wandered through the rain forest, up to our knees in mud, and saw snakes, orchids and birds aplenty, but nary a sighting of a Quetzal. "That's strange", quoth Rafael in a puzzled tone of voice, "we all saw them here last week." This impelled us, upon returning to travel headquarters at San José, to make our request. To no avail. The response was polite but categorical: "We cannot book you onto the tour last week; it's all full up!"

Sometimes we are luckier: in southern Queensland we were promised that we would certainly add the Superb Lyrebird (*Menura novaehollandiae*) to our life-list. We crept through the bush for hours, with no sighting, and our guide explained that another group saw one "only yesterday". Surely it must be easier to arrange to be in the right place yesterday than last week? The patient and sympathetic reader will be astonished to learn that it is just as difficult to organize. On returning to Brisbane our request was turned down flat: "Sorry, coppers, quite impossible." You guessed it: the tour for yesterday was fully subscribed. There was one small compensation - we did find the discarded tail feather of one Lyrebird in the bush on another occasion, and it has a proud place on the wall of our den. We are willing to bet that it was not there in the Queensland bush the next day.

Although we are the main victims of this phenomenon, it can happen to others. Friends visited us from England one spring. She teaches in an outdoor education school in Epping Forest, London, and was anxious to observe our

wildflowers. We immediately went to the Bruce Caves to see the masses of Large-Flowered Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*). Yes, you guessed it: "well, there were carpets of them here last week!"

Walter Crowe

Reviewing Audubon

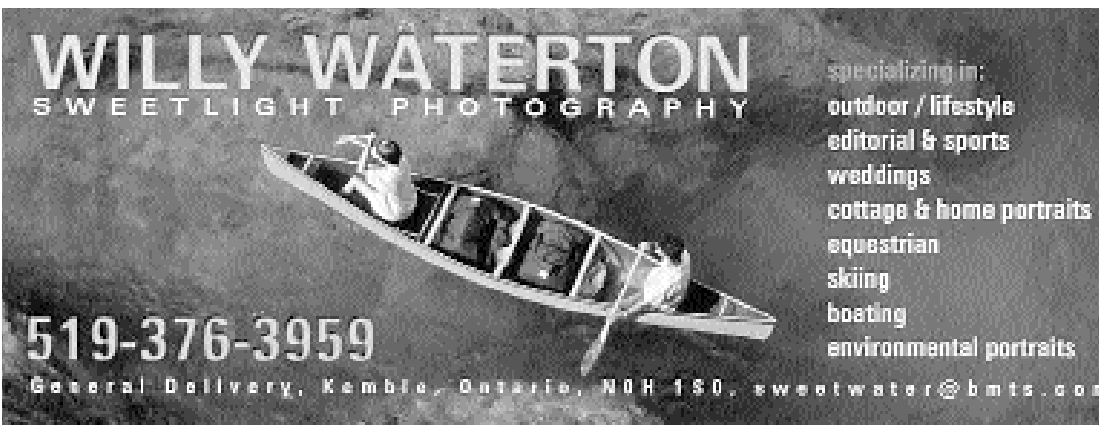
Did you ever wonder who was the first person in North America to band a bird? According to the American writer Richard Rhodes it was John James Audubon. Rhodes's *John James Audubon: The Making of an American* (Knopf, \$42.00) is the first biography of the legendary "American woodsman" in over 40 years. A Pulitzer Prize winning author, Richard Rhodes has created a book that is not for the birds but for those who love them.

America was barely a country when Audubon, just four months past his 18th birthday, arrived in the United States. He was a man already obsessed with birds and, over the next quarter of a century, he would travel to the most obscure corners of the country, drawing the feathered inventory of America.

To draw birds in Audubon's day it was necessary to shoot them. Over the years, John James shot, gassed and poisoned thousands of our feathered friends. The result was *Birds of America*. Published in over-size elephant folios, this immense bird book would be awkward to use in the field but is worth today well over a million dollars (if one ever comes on the market).

Accompanied by a generous selection of his bird paintings, John James Audubon: *The Making of an American* now becomes the standard biography of a bird artist whose influence reverberates around the world today.

Andrew Armitage



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Have you met the one-tonne challenge yet?

We did. Back in January, inspired by an article in ON Nature, we had our windows and doors weather-stripped, little holes sealed up all over the place, and our basement walls insulated. We have managed to reduce our carbon dioxide emissions by 8.8 tonnes through these improvements. Our house is much more comfortable and less drafty now, and we're looking forward to lower heating bills next year.

Planting trees is another way to meet the one-tonne challenge. If you're a landowner with some acreage that you'd like to reforest, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority can provide the trees. For information, call Anne Lennox-Brindle at (519) 376-3076, Ex. 232.

Lorraine Brown

Purple Martins –



Would you like to spend one week each year at this lovely cottage at Freer Point on the north shore of Manitoulin Island? It's one of four cottages in a special ecological area with 3.6 kilometres of shoreline, burr oak savannah, alvar, grasslands and the wetland at the outlet of Sucker Creek.

The Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy has agreed to purchase this property, complete with the four cottages, on May 31, 2005. They are looking for individuals to purchase a 'life estate'. This will allow the buyers to use the cottages every summer for the rest of their lives while making a donation to help the EBC acquire the conservation land. For more details, contact Bob Barnett at 416-960-8121 or rbarnett@escarpment.ca



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Will they Ever Return?

A few years ago, OSFN members installed three purple martin apartments on the grounds of the Bayshore Arena. So far, those apartments have remained unoccupied. Perhaps the birds haven't found them yet, or they don't like the location (though we thought it was ideal), or maybe it's because purple martin numbers have been declining in recent years.

An article about the purple martin houses in the Hart's-Tongue Herald at the time prompted OSFN member Marion Wyllie to send us the following letter recalling her lifetime of experiences with purple martins.

The story of the purple martin housing evoked some memories. I was first aware of purple martins in 1914 at Peasemars, near Clarksburg. This bird sanctuary was the home of author and bird lover Edith L. Marsh. (The name Peasemars comes from her surname, Marsh, and her mother's maiden name, Pease.) Edith showed me a martin "tenement" which the colony used year after year. Years later on our farm, "Forestlawn" at Kilsyth, purple martins showed no fear as they nested in a birdhouse atop my clothesline post.

In 1991 my son and I finished up a writers' convention at Atlantic, Iowa, with a tour of the Purple Martin Train. It consists of a steam locomotive and 30 cars including caboose, diner, sleepers and many day coaches. Some have been preserved as a railway museum, but several are a natural history museum, with special attention to the purple martin as a species at risk.

Brochures handed out informed us that the purple martin is the largest of the swallows, and eats only flying insects. A Texas naturalist killed one early one morning (back in the days when shooting songbirds was considered acceptable - ed.) and found it had already eaten 300 mosquitoes. He estimated in a full day it might have consumed 2000 of the pesky critters.

Good luck to the builders of apartments for purple martins!

Marion Wyllie

Costa Rica Birding Trip This Summer

Ted Cheskey, well-known Ontario birder and the president of the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory, will lead a birding trip for 10 participants to Costa Rica this summer. The approximate dates are August 1 to 9, and approximate cost is \$2500. If you are interested and would like more details, contact Ted Cheskey at goshawks@sympatico.ca or call him at (519) 856-0552.

OSFN's Baillie Birdathon Star

In the Winter 2005 issue of Birdwatch Canada, Bird Studies Canada recognized Baillie Birdathon participants who have made significant contributions to bird research and conservation through their participation in the birdathon over the past several years. All of these people had surpassed the \$1000 mark in funds raised in a single year.

We're happy to report that, among the 35 stars was Dave Fidler,

representing the Owen Sound Field Naturalists. Not only have Dave's efforts put money into Bird Studies Canada's coffers, he's also contributed to OSFN in no small way. Baillie Birdathon funds

are shared between BSC and the naturalist organization where the participant wants the funds to go. Thanks for sending your funds to OSFN, Dave!

Whooping Cranes in Port Elgin!

The sightings reports at the indoor meeting on April 14 included an exciting story. Three Whooping Cranes have been seen around Port Elgin. We thought we were hearing wrong. Sandhill Cranes for sure, but Whooping Cranes?

OSFN members Jackie and John Stockmann were outdoors on their property near Port Elgin when they heard what sounded like someone blowing down a pipe. They looked up to see three very large white birds flying over, low enough that their red heads and cheeks could be seen. There was no mistaking them: they were Whooping Cranes. The Stockmanns got in touch with Operation Migration who have radio-tagged the birds.

Whooping Cranes were close to extinction a few decades ago. Chicks reared in captivity and led on their southward migration by pilots in ultralights have done very well, and numbers are now rebounding. But still, talk about a species to add to your yard list!

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Meeting and Field Trip Reports



The sap was running at the Grays' Kemble-area farm as OSFN members gathered to enjoy this rite of early spring. (John Hands)

Sugaring-Off with Bob and Mary Beth Gray

None of the participants will forget the great day, the wonderful weather, and the splendid hospitality afforded to us by Bob and Mary Beth Gray at their farm north of Kemble on March 19th. This was the venue of the O.S.F.N.'s Sugaring Off demonstration and ramble in the woods. We were treated to samples of maple sap straight from the collecting tanks, maple syrup - the finished product, and maple Sugar 'candy' freshly chilled by Grey County snow.

About thirty members and guests arrived at the farm at 1:30 pm prepared with walking sticks, snow shoes and hiking /snow boots. When the group had assembled Bob described the sugar bush - 10 of a possible forty acres of tapped sugar maples. He estimated that they had 700 trees tapped with around 750 taps linked by plastic tubing. He told us that there were runs of permanent tubing called main lines (1 inch in diameter) and 3/8" lateral tubing interconnecting the trees. The sap travels via these lateral runs to the permanent lines and then to the stainless steel collecting tanks beside the access road. During a good year it is possible to realize one litre of maple syrup per tap.

Nels Maher and his wife Jean also have a sugaring-off operation on their farm.

Nels gave a demonstration of an earlier method of drawing sap from maple trees by drilling a hole in the tree trunk and hanging the pail to gather sap. With this method it is possible to determine how quickly the sap is flowing by watching the frequency of the drops.

Mary Beth handed out small paper cups, then ladled out portions of sap for our tasting pleasure. There was a sweetness and a hint of maple syrup in the liquid.

Bob then took some of the stalwart ones on a walk up along the pathways in the sugar bush. Above the bush is the Niagara Escarpment whose limestone rocks arc through the upper reaches of the farm. There is quite a beautiful view of Owen Sound Bay from the base of the rock face.

When the hikers returned, the whole group reassembled at the Sugar Shack.

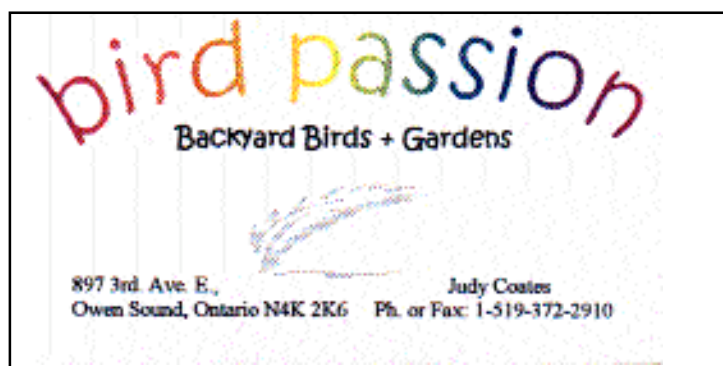
Mary Beth and Bob described the function of the large stainless steel tanks, the stove, the chimneys, and special overhead doors to allow the steam to escape (if the wind is from the right direction).

While Bob was describing the parts of the cooker, Mary Beth distributed paper cups and doled out some maple syrup. Since the next Saturday evening was to be the year's first "boil off", the syrup was from last year's crop. Delicious!

Then Mary Beth took two pans outside and placed clean snow in each. She drizzled maple sugar onto the snow - the syrup 'froze' immediately and we all were treated again, this time with crunchy maple sugar taffy-on-snow. M-m-m good!

A thoroughly wonderful and informative time was had by all. One participant was heard to say that they would no longer be upset by the price of maple syrup knowing now what was involved in the process.

John Hands



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Welcome New Members

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Grey County's Interactive Map Site

Grey County's Geographic Information System (GIS) site is now available on line. The site displays information on planning, transportation and tourism. Check it out at <http://gis.greycounty.ca>

Owen Sound Field Naturalists' Privacy Policy

The privacy of OSFN members is important. This policy outlines how our members' personal information is gathered, stored and used by the club.

The OSFN does not collect any information about its members except that which is knowingly and specifically supplied by them. This may include name, mailing address, phone number and e-mail address. Any member who wishes to exclude certain pieces of personal information (home address, phone number or e-mail address) not essential to maintaining their membership may choose to do so.

This information is stored and maintained by the Membership Coordinator in a computer database (member list) that contains the above-mentioned particulars plus the membership category (family, single, honorary), history (date membership began), last membership payment, and expiry date. A paper record of this list is

printed from time to time. Access to this list in electronic and paper form is shared among the executive members and nominating committee.

The member list is used primarily for monitoring membership status and mailing the OSFN newsletter (Hart's-Tongue Herald) and membership cards. From time to time the list may be used to contact members for other club business and to relay information about events and issues relevant to the OSFN mandate. The OSFN will not release the membership list for any other use. To protect members e-mail addresses, all group e-mail messages will be sent BCC. Any member who receives unwanted correspondence from the OSFN can request exclusion from this type of contact.

The OSFN strives to maintain accurate and up to date member information. Any errors or changes to this information should be directed to the Membership Coordinator.

An Excellent Course on Birds

Last fall, around 40 people gathered at the library in Thornbury on eight Monday nights to learn about birds. We all agreed that George Peck's course was excellent!

One of the best things about the course was George's photographs. The lengths the man has gone to, photographing birds in their nests, would have made up an interesting course on its own. The photos were so good that several times, the group broke into spontaneous applause.

George seems to have an uncanny ability to find nests. One group of photos showed how, during a picnic with friends, he located a hummingbird nest in a tree near where their picnic site. The next photo showed a minivan with a camera and tripod on the roof, under a deciduous tree. The next photo was the nest with baby hummers. How come I never find hummingbird nests when I go on picnics?



Another memorable photo was one of a raven feeding its young eggs that it had stolen from another bird's nest. You could see not one but two eggs in the parent bird's beak.

Another fun part of the course was the little quizzes that George gave us, which allowed us to find out if we'd been paying attention to him! Some participants found the tests a little nerve-racking, but I found them to be one more way to help us remember the things he'd told us about. Sort of an interactive review.

George may run the course again this coming fall. If he does, I would recommend it highly to anyone who has an interest in birds and wants to learn more in a thoroughly enjoyable way.

Lorraine Brown

Merle Gunby wrote the following allegorical story as a guest editorial *The Grenadian Voice* for Earth Day 1993. At that time, Merle and Sheila were living in Grenada. We re-print it here in honour of Earth Day 2005.

During two years exploring the mountains and valleys of that lovely small island, Merle was alarmed at how quickly the outcome of environmental events became obvious. As Merle puts it, any feeling of First World superiority was quickly dashed with the realization that an island provides an illustrative model for what is happening in the more complex continental lands.

Observations from a Small Mountain

The gentle wavelets lapping at the shoreline of the small bay were brown and viscous. They left a thick brown scum that seemed to crawl up on what was normally gritty-clean bright sand. From an untidy clump of mangroves at one corner of the bay, a little river emptied its water from the mountains into this private corner of the ocean. On a previous day, up near the mountain top, a lone hiker stopped for a drink of cool crystal clear water; there too a large inlet pipe siphoned off a share for the thirsty city.

There had been a short heavy shower yesterday, not unusual for this time of year -- the rainy season in the Caribbean. A few months earlier a farmer had chopped and burned the bush on another

hillside; his family needed more food, and clothes and school books seemed to be more expensive each year. Just before the rains came, he had taken a fork and laboriously turned up the rich red soil ready for planting. He and his neighbours up and down the valley had done their work well. They were beginning to harvest their crops. They were pleased, but the prices in the market weren't what they ought to be.

It was odd though, how much better the crops were on the newly cleared plot. The sweet potatoes and callaloo were as good on that freshly cleared hillside as what was growing on the plot dug in the rich soil along the river. But the rains carved out tiny gullies on the hillsides. They grew bigger with each shower that lifted up the rich red earth and rushed with it down the hill and into the river, which was no longer clean. The river carried its opaque brown burden down from the hills and dumped it into the sea.

A few hundred yards offshore a coral reef had been growing and building for many millennia. Each day the polyps and fragile tentacles reached up to the watery sunlight to extract nourishment from the clear water. Imperceptibly, their calcareous bodies had accumulated over the years, forming a rugged, living, precipitous wall that prevented the oceanic breakers from slamming full force into the shore. This reef-wall was a vibrant habitat for hundreds of marine species both microscopic and monstrous. The coral galleries provided a home for the lobster, and vital nurseries and feeding areas for vast numbers of sea creatures. Living coral, like the forests of our planet, contribute a vital portion of the atmospheric oxygen we breathe.

A lone watcher stood on

a spectacular promontory overlooking one of Grenada's pretty bays. He was aware of all this, and of the farmers' quandary, and he was sad. Where there should have been blue, clear, clean life-sustaining water, an ugly brown silty stain spread out from the river, out of the bay, out further over the reef where the surf began to mix and disperse this misplaced silt. Two days later the little bay appeared once again clear and blue, but the damage had been done. The coral polyps no longer sought nourishment. The suffocating silt had blocked their ability to extract food and oxygen from the sea. A living, building, process that had continued for eons had stopped. The coral was dead. In the next few days the lobsters and their fellow reef dependants would try to find shelter and sustenance elsewhere. But that search may be in vain because the story of this little bay is not unique.

This silt, this detritus that creates marine disasters, is the terrestrial life sustaining medium of forests and farms. As each pound of silt is washed from the farmer's plot the production potential diminishes causing a triple disaster: the marine, atmospheric and terrestrial environments are all damaged.



Is it spring yet? A ribbon snake surveys his surroundings. OSFN members reported having seen ribbon snakes on April 14. If the photographer could let us know who he or she is, we'll credit you in the fall HTH.

The Spring Program

Sunday, April 24, 2005 ROCKS BENEATH OUR SOLES

Torben Hawksbridge

Join one of the contributors to the Owen Sound Field Naturalists' newest publication, *Geology and Landforms of Grey and Bruce Counties*, as he leads us on a full day discovery tour. Torben will be visiting a series of sites and formations highlighted in the book. Meet in the north parking lot of the Bayshore Community Centre 1900 3rd Ave E., at 9:30 am. Bring a lunch and comfortable walking shoes.

Registration: Torben Hawksbridge
(376-2275) 15 participants

enliven the branches with their spectacular spring colours. The Kolapore uplands represent one of the largest remaining tracts of upland hardwoods in southern Ontario. Enjoy a spring walk in these wonderful woodlands. Meet at the Kolapore Skiers' Parking lot, Grey County Road #2, approximately 5 km. south of Ravenna, at 9:30 am. Bring a lunch and comfortable walking shoes.

Registration: Lynne Richardson (599-3612) 12 participants

Indoor Program

Thursday, June 9, 2005

THE PERILS OF A BIRDING COLUMN Lionel Gould

Over the past year, Lionel has written a weekly birding column for the Saturday Sun Times. Through the column he has shared sightings and a wide ranging of fascinating insights into the world of birds. Join him this evening as he shares photos and stories drawn from his experiences of the weird and wonderful world of birds, birding and birders.

for the outing to be paid to the Friends of Chantry Island. Details of the place and time of boarding will be supplied in the Spring issue of the Hart's Tongue Herald.

Registration: Peter Middleton
(376 -3242) 18 participants

Indoor Program Thursday, May 12, 2005

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE Nels Maher

Nels needs no introduction to the club as an expert botanist specializing in ferns. What many of us do not know is Nels the photographer. Over the years, Nels has turned his perceptive and artistic eye to photographing flowers, insects, birds and many other aspects of the natural world. Join him this evening as he explores the hidden beauty around us through the lens of his camera.

Sunday, June 19, 2005

CHANTRY ISLAND: A PLACE APART Peter Middleton

This will be a special outing to Southampt on's remarkable Chantry Island. Over the past few a deeply committed group of volunteers has lovingly worked to restore the historic lighthouse and its keeper's house. The island is also well known for

its nesting colonies of gulls, cormorants, herons and egrets. Although the main breeding season for most of these birds will be coming to its conclusion, the experience of being close to such colonies is always exciting.

There will be a \$20.00 charge

June 24 -25 Trip to Pinery Provincial Park

There may still be space on this trip to Pinery, one of Ontario's premier parks Pinery's Carolinian forests will be at the peak of their beauty at this time of year. For more information, contact Freeman Boyd at 538-4368.

Saturday, May 28, 2005 KOLAPORE EXPLORATIONS

Lynne Richardson

Lynne will lead a hike through this remarkable area of Grey County at a time when flowers are abundant and warblers

Please register for all outdoor programs by calling the program leader a few days before the event.



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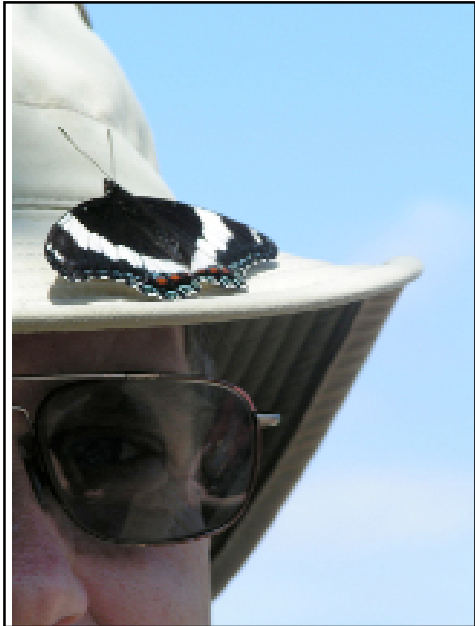
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The Spring Program



The NABA Count is a great event for kids. Young photographer Jon Martin took this photo of a white admiral that landed on his Dad's hat and his Mom's butterfly sweatshirt.

Erratum

We have to correct an error in the Winter newsletter. We reported that the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy had conveyed the Galbraith Natural Area to the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority. This was in error. The NCC owns the westerly 40 acres, and EBC owns the easterly 10 acres. Neither has any intention of transferring their lands. Our apologies for this error! We should also have mentioned John Tinker as being an important donor to the fund-raising effort that helped protect the Galbraith Natural Area.

NABA 2005

COME JOIN US FOR THE 8TH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY COUNT (NABA)!
MacGregor Point Provincial Park and Surrounding Area.

Saturday July 9 with a raindate of July 10, 2005
9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (we start at 10am sharp)

Cost is \$ 5.00

Bring a bag lunch. If you have them, please bring a net, butterfly books and binoculars. The results will be tallied at the Visitor Centre at 4 p.m. with munchies being served by the Park.

Everyone Welcome!



Letter from OSFNr Science Fair Award Winner for 2005

Thank you for your interest in my project on "Future Climate Change in Canada". I discovered that the negative impacts of global warming far outweigh the benefits of a longer, warmer summer especially in northern latitudes such as Canada.

My sister won the OSFN Award five years ago when she earned her way to the Canada Wide Science Fair in London, ON. This makes the award that much more meaningful to me as I too earned a spot on the Canada Wide Science Fair Team and will be heading to Vancouver in May 2005. Thank you very much for the recognition and also for the cash award. I appreciate it very much.

Riley O'Hagan, Gr. 7 Brant Central School, Walkerton, ON

Rituals of Spring on Manitoulin

Jan and I went to Manitoulin Island on April 9-10. The main objective was to observe Sharp-tailed Grouse on their lek. We were successful. The experience was remarkable from several perspectives.

The opportunity to visit Manitoulin at this time is a joy in itself. To sit silently, as dawn breaks over glowing, frost-spangled grasslands set against the pristine contrast of an ice-covered bay and listen to cranes bugling, is getting pretty close to heaven on earth.

And then there are the grouse. The "dancing" is a soul-stirring ritual that has been played out every spring, across the North American grasslands, since time immemorial. The males gather in a very discrete patch of grassland where they begin their ritual with deep moaning chortles and chicken-like clucks, as sentry birds stand guard, perched in trees, or on top of boulders.

Almost as if under the control of a conductor's baton, the whole group of assembled males begins to dance. Wings are flared, heads lowered and tails raised and spread. With rapid beating footsteps and quill rattling, they circle and twist, setting the morning air abuzz with a percussive drumming. As they pound out their primal rhythms, they also inflate golden wattles above each eye and inflate deep mauve sacs on each side of their necks. It is a splendid display.

Then as suddenly as it started, it stops. Every bird freezes, only to begin again a few seconds later. What is remarkable is



Photo of dancing Sharp-tailed Grouse by Willy Waterton

the instantaneous reaction of every bird on the lek to either begin dancing, or to freeze. The dancing sessions are spelled off with intervals of face-to-face sparring with rivals. It was amazing how three hours in the blind seemed to evaporate.

Peter Middleton

Coming Events

Bruce Peninsula Orchid Festival (4th Annual) May 27, 28, 29

Celebrate the beauty, diversity and conservation of orchids, wildflowers and wildlife on the Bruce Peninsula! Festival highlights include a wide range of activities: guided hikes, orchid tour caravans, birding hikes, flying squirrel demo and a feature presentation by acclaimed Canadian nature photographer Ron Erwin. For information please visit www.orchidfest.ca.

Huron Fringe Birding Festival (8th Annual) May 27 to June 5

Bigger and better! Visit www.friendsofmacgregor.org or call (519) 389-6231 for details.

Day Camps for Kids

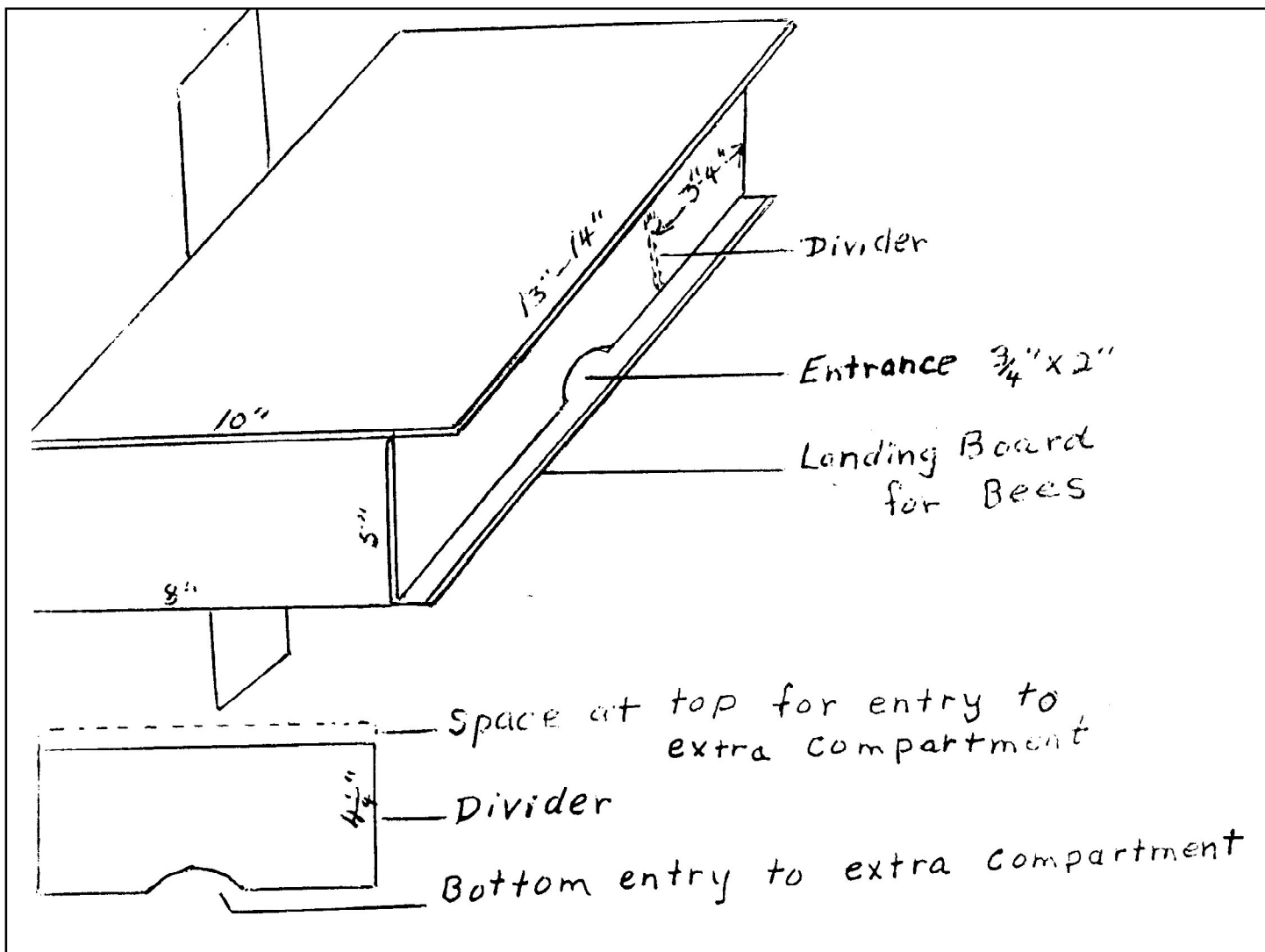
The Grey Sauble Conservation Authority offers day camps through July and August. Call 376-3076.

The Institute for Outdoor Education and Environmental Studies (IOEES) also known as the Outdoor Ed Centre, is also holding day camps this summer. Contact Deborah Diebel or Sandra Mielhausen by phone at (519) 534-2767 or by e-mail at deborah_diebel@bwdsb.on.ca.

Season Wrap-up for Young Nats

On May 15th the Young Nats will wrap up their year with a visit to the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory at Cabot Head and a barbecue. For details, contact Nancy White at GSCA (376-3076) or

**Cedarholme Cottages
Bed & Breakfast
Hope Bay
R.R. 6, Warton, Ontario N0H 2T0
(519) 534-3705
On The Bruce Trail**



Bumble bees – They’re Good Insects to have Around!

Bumble bees are large, attractive insects that are of interest to children, scientists, beekeepers, naturalists, conservationists, home gardeners, farmers and commercial bumblebee breeders. There are several species that vary in size and coloration. These highly beneficial insects pollinate many native plants, home-grown fruits and vegetables and agricultural crops.


Though bumblebees are highly social insects, their colonies are not perennial in nature like those of honey bees. They do not store a surplus of honey that can be harvested.

Like so many other creatures, bumble bees are declining, partly due to scarcity of nesting sites. You can make a simple shelter for bumble bees by following the pattern shown here. Once the shelter is built, add some dried grass, cattails tops, or a mix of both to give

the queen material for building her nest. This material should be replaced each spring. The box should be attached to a tree or post, preferably on the north side. It should be placed high enough that tall grasses will not block the entrance.

Our thanks to the Sydenham Sportsmen’s Association, who provided this information and the instructions for building a bumblebee shelter through Lorne Smith.

The Ginger Press Bookstore
848 Second Avenue East
Owen Sound, Ontario
N4K 2H3
519 376-4233
1 800 463-9937



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 N0H 1G0
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The Spring 2005 Program at a Glance

Indoor Programs

All indoor meetings will take place in the auditorium of the Owen Sound and North Grey Union Public Library at 7:00 pm. Following a social time and announcements, the speaker of the evening will present at 7:30, followed by club business, sightings and reports.

May 12 A Walk on the Wild Side

June 9 The Perils of a Birding Column

Outdoor Programs

Sunday, April 24 Rocks Beneath our soles

Saturday, May 28 Kolapore Explorations

Sunday, June 19 Chantry Island: a Place apart

June 24-25 Trip to Pinery Provincial Park

July 9 NABA Butterfly Count

The outdoor program of the Owen Sound Field Naturalists is designed to help members discover new areas, add to their knowledge of natural history, or just to enjoy a "stroll in the woods" with like-minded people. Note that each trip has its own specific time and meeting place. Registration is required for all outings. Please call the contact person indicated about a week before the outing.

Membership Application & Renewal Form

Name.....

Mailing Address.....

Telephone.....E-mail.....Check here if Renewal.....

Membership Category: Single (\$18).....Family (\$25).....

Return with cheque to: Owen Sound Field Naturalists, Box 401, Owen Sound, Ont. N4K 5P7

Membership cards can be picked up at indoor meetings. Check here if you want your card mailed to you.