

The Wake-Robin

Newsletter of the Sault Naturalists of Ontario and Michigan

Volume 50, Number 4, May, 2004

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Addresses of the Sault Naturalists

The Sault Naturalists can be reached at the following postal address. If the outing leaders or committee chairs are not available contact Mary to be directed to the proper person.

Sault Naturalists	Mary Ryckman
P.O. Box 21035	194 Old Garden River Rd.
292 Northern Ave.	Sault Ste Marie, On
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ON, P6B 6H3	

Message from the President

The Sault Naturalists Executive Board has come to the unanimous conclusion that a meeting place closer to the city would be a better choice than the Sugar Shack in which to hold Ontario monthly meetings. We have no complaint about the Sugar Shack, with its pleasant setting, spacious accommodations, and available kitchen, other than the fact that its distance from town may discourage those unfamiliar with the facility, or even those who are, from coming to meetings. We are at a point at which every effort must be made to encourage contact by those not yet aware of the all the opportunities offered by our club and greater participation by those who are.

Appreciation is extended to the management committee at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre and particularly to Bill Meades, Acting Director, for granting us permission to hold monthly meetings

at that facility. While it may prove to be more difficult to see bear cubs at the Forestry Centre, as has occurred at the Sugar Shack on meeting night not too long ago, our hope is for enhancement and ease of participation. If we find that the Sugar Shack is indeed the preferred place to hold meetings, we are not bound by this change in the future.

Most of us know people interested in the out of doors, in wildflowers, in birds seen at their feeders, in taking a hike, who do not participate in any organized nature-oriented activities. Many such people would find our activities of fulfilling interest but either do not know of the club or, like most of us, are hesitant to venture into the unknown. Please invite a neighbor, cousin, coworker or acquaintance to a meeting or field trip. Thanks for your help in spreading the word.

Carl Linhart

Future Programme

May 4, Great Lakes Forestry Center (1219 Queen St. East). Dr. Mike Cadman and Nicole Kopysh, Provincial Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator for the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas. ***The Second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas Project: Progress and Highlights after the Third Year.*** Mike and Nicole will be outlining the way the Atlas is organized and giving us some preliminary information on changes that have occurred in bird distributions since the first Atlas 20 years ago.

June 8, Great Lakes Forestry Center. Donna Ryckman-Rooney and Sally Gibson. ***What's New for Parks Canada in Northern Ontario.*** Mandated to protect areas of natural and cultural significance and maintain them for public use, Parks Canada enhances our quality of life. Covering the area from the French River to Rainy River, the Northern Ontario Field Unit offers truly unique cultural and wilderness experiences.

Join Donna and Sally to explore the historic sites and national parks in our own back yard. Visit some favorite sites like Pukaskwa National Park and Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site, and discover the beauty and splendor of the proposed Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area.

September 14, Great Lakes Forestry Centre. Greg Zimmerman. ***The Environmental Health of the St. Marys River System and BPACs Recommendations for Remediation.*** Dr. Zimmerman will describe the Remedial Action Plan Stage 2 Report, which recommends more than 60 remedial actions for the St. Marys Area of Concern. Development of this plan involved four different agencies: Environment Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality,



with input from the Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC). The recommendations address sources of pollution, air and water quality, pollutants in sediments, fish and wildlife habitat and populations, and public involvement. Projects are already under way to implement these recommendations.

October 12, Great Lakes Forestry Center.

Steve Kent, Superior Wind Energy Institute (SWEI).

Proposal for a Wind Farm near Gros Cap. SWEI is hoping to build wind generators in Prince, Dennis, and Pennefather townships and has sought help from local bird watchers to perform bird surveys for the Environmental Assessment required by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Steve will give a general introduction to the wind industry, followed by a description of SWEI's involvement in Ontario and in the local area of interest. He also plans to share the results of some of the completed studies

undertaken as part of the Environmental Assessment process.

November 9, Great Lakes Forestry Center. Connie Thompson, writer of the ***Barbeau Birder*** column for the ***Sault Evening News***. ***Interpreting Common Bird Behavior and Tips for Successful Backyard Bird Feeding.*** Have you wondered why birds crash into your windows or why they always seem to sing from the very top of a tree? Maybe you've seen a bird fluttering in the dirt or eating gravel, or perhaps you've always wondered why the males are so much more beautiful than the females. Connie will answer these and other questions and provide some excellent tips for making your yard a magnet for many different types of bird species.

December 14, Central United Methodist Church. Annual Holiday Get-together. **Your Favorite Place.** Members will be invited to talk about one of their favorite places, preferably one they go back to year after year. Presentations may be accompanied by a small number of slides if desired (a Carousel projector will be available) but there may be a time limit so that everyone who wants to talk can be accommodated. Call John Lehman

(906-635-5095) or Donna Ryckman-Rooney (705-945-9821) if you wish to participate. Look for additional information in the Winter Newsletter.

January 11, 2005, Central United Methodist Church. Tentative) Dr. Taylor Scarr, Entomologist. **Unwanted Insect Immigrants.** Details will be provided in Winter Newsletter.

Bird Links

Some interesting web sites to check out:

Bird Studies Canada - <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/>

Ontario Birding Homepage - <http://www.birdsontario.org/>

The above site is under development.

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology - <http://birds.cornell.edu/>

Ontario Field Ornithologists - <http://www.ofo.ca/>

Federation of Ontario Naturalists web site - <http://www.ontarionature.org/>

General Meetings

Time: 7:30 p.m; second Tuesday of each month, except May (First Tuesday)

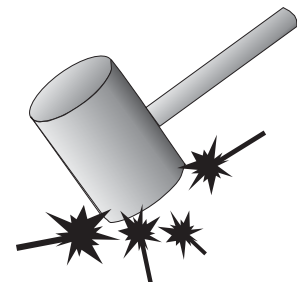
NOTE: Change in venue for Ontario general meetings.

Place: Sault Ontario, Great Lakes Forestry Centre, 1219 Queen Street East, Sault Ste Marie, ON.

Sault Michigan, Central Methodist United Church, Corner of Spruce and Court St.

Schedule: (Unless noted otherwise in programme description)

September-November	Great Lakes Forestry Centre
December and January	Central Methodist-United Church
February	Annual Dinner Meeting- location varies
March	Central Methodist United Church
April	Central Methodist United Church
May and June	Great Lakes Forestry Centre



Current Executive

President	Carl Linhart	(906) 635- 9891	linhartc@yahoo.com
Vice President	Helen Hutchinson	(705) 254-3648	rphmhutch@shaw.ca
Secretary	Gordon Van Midde	(705) 253-9746	hiataus@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Gail Andrew	(705) 942-0768	g.andrew@shaw.ca
Outings	Chuck Bosley	(906) 248-3287	cbosley@lighthouse.net
	Evelyn Simon	(705) 949-8206	
Programs	John Lehman	(906) 635-5095	jlehman@lssu.edu
Bird Observations Secretary	Ken McIlwrick	(705) 541-5643	kmcilwri@nrca.gc.ca
Property	Gladys and Cliff Wallwork	(705) 779-3098	
Membership	Ron Prickett	(705) 254-1533	pricker@adsb.on.ca
Publicity	Tracey Latulippe	(705) 949-1231	t_latulippe@ducks.ca
Environmental Action	Vacant		
Newsletter	Betty & Gerry Bennett	(705) 254-7214	bengerbet@shaw.ca
Botanical Records	Sue Meades	(705) 777-0496	sjmeades@sympatico.ca
Telephone Convener	Mary Ryckman	(705) 253-6352	
F.O.N. Rep.	Tony Walker	(705) 759-6151	anthonywalk@shaw.ca
M.A.S. Rep.	Chuck Bosley	(906) 248-3287	cbosley@lighthouse.net
Web Page Maintenance	Don Hall	(705) 248-1834	don.hall2@sympatico.ca

Digital Newsletter

We can provide a digital version of this and future newsletters as Adobe Acrobat (pdf) files. If you would like to have a digital newsletter please let us know at bengerbet@shaw.ca.

NOTE: The email address of the editors has been changed to bengerbet@shaw.ca.

Spring and Summer Outings

Mon. May 3, 7:00 p.m. Great Lakes Forestry Centre. Breeding Bird Atlas Workshop. Dr. Mike Cadman and Nicole Kopysh will present information, from a provincial and super-regional perspective, on Atlas progress to date. All atlasers and those interested in learning more about the Atlas project are welcome. Call Chris Sanders at (705) 541-5681 for details.

Thurs. May 6 – Mon. May 10. Group camping and birding at Point Pelee National Park for those who have already registered. Leaders: Don and Viv. Hall (705) 248-1834.

Sat. May 8, 10:00 a.m. Zellers Plaza North. Val is planning an early spring outing, hiking up the Robertson Cliffside overlooking the Batchawana Bay area. A good chance to see peregrine falcons. Phone for details. Leader: Val Walker (705) 253-7044.

Sat. May 15, 10:00 a.m. MWC. Early spring outing for flowers, plants, etc. Leader: John Lehman (906) 635-5095.

Sun. May 16, 7:00 a.m. MWC. Join Carl in observing the early spring bird migration in the Cedarville area. Leader: Carl Linhart (906) 635-9891.

Wed. May 19, 6:00 p.m. MWC. Explore the St. Ignace shores for birds and botany. After the walk, enjoy a strawberry festival treat. Leaders: Chuck Bosley (906) 348-3287, and Evelyn Simon (705) 949-8206.

Sat. May 22, 10:00 a.m. MWC. Search for early spring arrivals such as skunk cabbage and various other plants at Naomikong Point. Leaders: Chuck Bosley (906) 348-3287, and Evelyn Simon (705) 949-8206.

Wed. May 26, 6:00 p.m. Meet in the parking lot at the **Sault Locks** for an evening stroll around Whitefish Island. Leader: Tony Walker (705) 759-6151.

Sat. May 29, 9:00 a.m. MWC. Hunt for agates (learn how to recognize them), on the Lake Superior shore at Crisp Point. Leaders: Jean Mannesto (906) 632-4287 and her friend Jerry.

Sat. June 5, 10:00 a.m. MWC. Explore the native wildlife, flora and fauna of the Vermillion area (near Whitefish Point). Leader: Greg Zimmerman (906) 635-5248.

Sat. June 12, 10:00 a.m. MWC. Bicycle with Ron on some trail west of Brimley. The trail decided upon will depend on weather conditions. Leader: Ron Prickett (705) 254-1533.

Sat. June 19, 8:30 a.m. MWC or 10:00 a.m. at Lime Island dock at Raber. There is a 13 passenger max. in the work boat for Lime Island. Pre-register with Chuck (906) 348-3287, or Evelyn (705) 949-8206. We'll look into the history, flora, and fauna of the Island State Park. Leaders: Bill and Norma Mieras.

Sat. June 26, 9:00 a.m. Zellers Plaza North. Hike the 11 km. (moderately difficult) Orphan Lake trail in Lake Superior Park. Leader: Ron Prickett (705) 254-1533.

Saturday, July 3. Join us on a rustic tent camping and canoeing weekend at Lake Superior Park. If interested call Chuck (906) 348-3287 or Evelyn (705) 949-8206.

Sat. July 10, 10:00 a.m. Zellers Plaza North. Join us for a walk to explore Upper Island Lake (near Helen's cabin). Bring a bathing suit if you wish to cool off after the hike. Leader: Helen Hutchinson (705) 254-3648.

Sat. July 17, 10:00 a.m. MWC. Check Albany Creek for insectivore plants and other plants that have been bugging you. We hope to find cardinal flowers and gentians in bloom. Leaders: Chuck (906) 248-3287 or Ev. (705) 949-8206.

Sat. July 24, 10:00 a.m. MWC. Plan to hike from the lower falls of Tahquamenon to the upper falls (approx. 4 mi.). Afterwards have a cool drink at the mini-brewery. Leader: Bob Gay (906) 647-4038.

Sat. July 31, 10:00 a.m. MWC. Visit Creekside Herbs and check-out the native herbal wheel. Stroll through the wonderful gardens. View the many native plantings. St(em)ulate? your green thumb. Leaders: Chuck (906) 248-3287 and Ev. (705) 949-8206.

Sat. Aug. 7, 10:00 a.m. Zellers Plaza North. Visit Barb's camp at Batchawana Bay for a 4 km. hike to Tier Lake. Bring a food item to share for the potluck back at Barb's camp. For those wishing to cool off, bring your bathing suit/towel. Leader: Barb Lapointe (705) 253-5302.

Sat. Aug. 14, 10:00 a.m. Wellington Sq. Mall. Learn how to find your way in the woods. (Bring your GPS and/or compass.) Join in a fossil hunt on St. Joseph Island. (Keepers are guaranteed.) A hand-out describing the most common Ordovician fossils will be provided. Leader: Gerry Bennett (705) 254-7214.

Sat. Aug. 21, or Sat. Aug. 28, 10:00 a.m. Meeting place to be determined later. Call Sue in advance due to her busy schedule. Visit and learn about the unique native-lime-loving plants on the alvars of Manitoulin Island. Leader: Sue Meades (705) 777-0496.

"Raber Rich" is searching for a canoe (and partner) to explore the limestone shoreline in the Raber area. He is available most of the summer (except July 19 -26). Call Rich (906) 297-2810 if interested.

Unscheduled Outings: Weather permitting, there is usually some sort of outdoor activity involving club members. Call any member of "The Group" if interested in "playing in the outdoors".

The Group:

Val (705) 253-7044

Ev. (705) 949-8206

Ron (705) 254-1533

Chuck (906) 248-3287

General Meeting change in venue

Beginning in May, general meetings on the Canadian side of the river will be held at the Great Lakes Forestry Center, 1219 Queen Street, East.

Outing Guidelines

Please register for all outings by calling the trip leader or an outing committee member. Phone numbers are listed in the outing schedule. Non-registrants are welcome but risk being uninformed of last minute outing changes.

Please keep in mind that leaders are volunteers giving freely of their time and expertise.

Dress for the weather and terrain with appropriate clothing and footwear. Be prepared for sudden weather changes (Depending on the season bring rain gear or extra warm clothing.) Bring snacks, water, binoculars, loupes, field guides, etc. For daylong excursions, bring a lunch, and extra water.

Take only photographs; leave only footprints. Leave pets at home. Take out all garbage. Limited collecting of non-endangered and non-threatened plant specimens for further study may be allowed with permission of the leader, but in general no picking.

Refer all questions and requests for transportation to the trip leader or a member of the outing committee.

If carpooling, consider assisting the driver with gas costs. Suggested amounts are \$U.S. 2.00 and \$Can. 3.00 and up depending on the length of the trip.

Participants in outings do so at their own risk.

Remember to BUCKLE UP. It's the law!

Where we meet:

Michigan - Michigan Welcome Center (MWC)

Follow the blue directional signs immediately south of the bridge toll booths.

Ontario - Wellington Sq. Mall - Follow Highway 17 E to the new McDonalds Restaurant just east of the mall. Park on the west side of of the restaurant parking lot, facing the mall.

- Zellers Plaza North - Enter A&P/Zellers Mall (formerly K-Mart Plaza) from Grt Northern Rd or Northern Ave. Park west of Pennington's store.

- Market Mall - Located on Second Line (Hwy **550**) at Korah Rd. Meet at the N.W. area by the video store.

- Churchill Plaza- Parking lot, under the entrance sign, off Trunk Rd. (Hwy. 17E)

Remember to buckle-up - It's the law.

Potpourri

Calling all OBB Atlassers!

Mike Cadman and Nicole Kopysh, Provincial Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator respectively, for the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, will be holding an Atlas workshop in the Great Lakes Forestry Centre on the evening of May 3, starting at 7:00 p.m. This will be a presentation on the provincial picture and on the super-regional picture regarding atlas progress to date. They will also be there to thank all the atlas volunteers who are so fundamentally important to this huge project. Squares that need coverage for whatever reasons (isolation, shortage of birders, etc.) will be identified, and people will be asked whether or not they can help with these squares, even if they are outside their own areas. All are welcome, and it is hoped that all atlassers in our region will be there to meet Mike and Nicole.

Chris Sanders

Your Help is Needed

to serve on the Environmental Action Committee. Please contact Carl or any member of the Executive if you are interested in learning more about the activities of this essential committee of the Sault Naturalists.

Our thanks to Carrie Ginou for volunteering to assist Ron Prickett on the membership committee.

Remember to visit the Sault Naturalists official website at:

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/don.hall2/index.html>

In Memoriam

Rosa Grout 1909-2004

Longtime member Rosa Grout passed away on March 16, 2004, at the age of 95 at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. She held fond and proud memories of having served, in past years, as Sault Naturalists' secretary under President R.G. Campbell.

Rosa was a mathematics teacher, teaching in Minnesota for 15 years and in the Sault area for 27 years. She received a Bachelor of Education degree from Winona State University in Minnesota and a Master of Education degree from the University of Minnesota. She was fond of students and funded an academic scholarship at Lake Superior State University. Even though Rosa was no longer able to attend meetings or field trips, she made an effort to continue her membership and to make additional contributions to the club.

Outing Report

The Atrium- March 13, 2004

THE ATRIUM, 3323 East Lake Road, Rudyard, Michigan is the address of a first rate, special naturalist outing to a hardwood forest, featuring a nearly mile long exposed limestone escarpment breathtaking in geological history. It is part of the Niagara Escarpment of dolomitic limestone that curves underground around Chicago then emerges and climaxes at the great Niagara Falls, and goes beyond that. Why is it called the Atrium? It seems to be nicknamed architecturally, loosely according to a Webster's definition for a sky-lighted central area and great for a garden. Naturalist leaders take groups here on outings for plants, like mushrooms and ferns, geology and skiing.



Special Delivery

mention any names, but C.B.'s were missing. Graciously, E.S. drove back to the Sault Welcome Center to retrieve them. She found them in the car carrier!) So five skiers enjoyed the morning skiing on this sunny day that cast blue shadows of trees and bushes across the snowy hills and valleys. The castle rocks were laced and edged along the top with moss and bulb let ferns drooping over. We skied right up to the escarpment for close examination.

The group skied an hour into the woods along the atrium, then an hour out to meet back with E.S., dubbed federal express lady, who hotfooted it back ahead of schedule with the errant skis. A special delivery!

Now, six equipped people traversed across the road down into the thickly fragrant cedar swamp.

On March 13, 2004, six colorfully attired folks popped on cross-country skis to follow the logging road to the Atrium. (Although, we were short a pair of skis. I won't

Nature prepared a perfect picnic area featuring a stump and several snowdrift seats to enjoy our hearty lunches. After refueling, we followed the boardwalk through the swamp. This narrow boardwalk went over a stream thinly coated with ice. There were no sounds, but the crunch of ski and poles on the icy trail. We emerged into an open area where some people went on to observe beaver dams. We split up, with others going back into the cedar swamp that was lovely, dark, deep and cool. "It is every man for himself", said J.M. as we all emerged and gathered together again.

This day will remain a memory filled with laughter and learning, sharing Swix wax and ski scrapers, and an extra drive for one. The area is so pristine and exquisite; it is definitely stamped first class, special delivery.

Jean Mannesto

Hydrogen or hot air?

We have all read the media reports and the books of "futurists" espousing the coming hydrogen economy with its benefits of cheap, clean energy and SUV's which exhaust water purer than Perrier. However, Matthew L. Wald, writing in the May, 2004 issue of the **Scientific American** is much less optimistic. A few of the problems to be overcome are listed below:

- Hydrogen is not a fuel. It is an energy storage medium, more like a storage battery.
- Hydrogen does not exist freely in nature but must be produced from current energy sources (mainly electricity via coal, nuclear etc).
- Non-polluting sources of hydrogen are either expensive or not currently available (solar, wind or hydro generated electricity).
- Because of the many problems leading to the development of portable hydrogen storage tanks, it is not well suited as a transportation fuel.

Gerry Bennett

Hawk Roosting - *Ted Hughes*

I sit in the top of the wood, my eyes closed.
 Inaction, no falsifying dream
 Between my hooked head and hooked feet;
 Or in sleep rehearse perfect kills and eat.

The convenience of the high trees;
 The air's buoyancy and the sun's ray
 Are of advantage to me;
 And the earth's face upward for my
 inspection.

My feet are locked upon the rough bark.
 It took the whole of Creation
 To produce my foot, my each feather:
 Now I hold Creation in my foot

Or fly up, and revolve it all slowly -

I kill where I please because it is all mine.
 There is no sophistry in my body:
 My manners are tearing off heads -

The allotment of death.
 For the one path of my flight is direct
 Through the bones of the living.
 No arguments assert my right:

The sun is behind me.
 Nothing has changed since I began
 My eye has permitted no change.
 I am going to keep things like this

Sault Naturalists Membership Form

C/o Ron Prickett, Membership Chairperson, Sault Naturalists; Telephone (705) 254-1533
 P.O. Box 21035, 292 Northern Ave., Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, P6B 6H3, Canada

Categories and Fees

<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Full-time Student \$US 7.00 \$C10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$US 11.00 \$C 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$US 15.00 \$C 20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Life \$C 225.00

Name:

Address:

Country & Code: Telephone

e-mail address High speed Dial-up

*The YEAR on your address label indicates the year of your membership.
 The membership year is from January to December.*