



THE WAKE-ROBIN
Newsletter of the Sault
Naturalists of Sault Ste. Marie
of Ontario and Michigan
Vol. 52, No. 2. September 2006



Gerry Bennett's outing for fossils at St. Joe: July 15, 2006. Grant Adcock, Graham, Gerry, Dave, Rich, Joy (Photo thanks to Robert Cohen)

Mailing address:
The Sault Naturalists
Northern Postal Outlet, P.O. 21035
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 6H3

2006 Executive

President: Dave Euler.....705 248 1494
Vice President: Curt Bosket....906 635 8367
Secretary: vacant
Treasurer: Gail Andrew.....705 942 0768
Membership: Carrie Ginou....705 942 0715
Outings coordinator:
Val Walker.... 705 253 7044

Program coordinator: John Lehman
Archivists: Gladys and Cliff Wallwork
Michigan Audubon rep: Chuck Bosley
Observations sec: Ken McIlwrick
Ontario Nature rep.: Tony Walker
Web masters: Vivian and Don Hall
www3.sympatico.ca/donandvivhall/index.html

Publication Deadlines for the Wake Robin and Annual Report

Publication target	Last Date for Submission
September Meeting	August 15
December Meeting	November 15
February AGM	January 15
May meeting	April 15

Ron Prickett's Trout Lake Trip (photo thanks to Curt Bosket)



Outings and Membership reports:



Adopt-a-highway Program by Betty Bennett

The adopt-a-highway program was established in the early 1990's by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) as a way for concerned citizens to help keep our roadways free of litter. As members of the program, individuals, community clubs, small businesses and industries volunteer to pick up litter 2-3 times yearly along assigned provincial highway rights-of-way after the individual or representative for the group signs an agreement with the MTO to care for the assigned section. These agreements are renewable every two years.

The Sault Naturalists became involved with the Adopt-a-Highway program in 1994, when Cliff Wallwork, acting upon the suggestion by Don Marles (chair of the Environmental Action Committee), signed the first agreement to "adopt" Highway 550 from the junction of Highway 565 (Airport Road) to Gagnon Road. Cliff provided spiked poles and buckets (still in use), and lots of encouragement. After a few years, Cliff handed over the leadership to Wendy Lalouette and from Wendy to me. Helen Hutchinson has been involved from the outset in helping to organize the clean-up, pinch-hitting for the leader when required. Always available for the clean-up, she continues to be a convincing recruiter of volunteers.

Many members of the Sault Naturalists have contributed their time and energy over the last 12 years to this program. To try and name them all would be to unintentionally omit some. So thank you to all who have volunteered.

Our last clean-up was in May of this year and the next one will probably be in late September. If any of you would like to help, please call me at 254-7214 or email me at bengerbet@shaw.ca.

Helen Hutchinson, Doreen Guerriero, Tony Walker, Gerry and Betty Bennett did the spring cleanup on the Sault Naturalist section of Hwy 550, fulfilling our commitment to the Adopt- a Highway Program with the MTO until next fall. This is a two-year renewal agreement, renewed this past March. (see photo to the left).



Photo thanks to Robert Cohen, which probably brings to mind the Bird Studies Canada, Marsh Monitoring Programme which many of us worked on this spring.

NEWSLETTER Contents:

Outings reports: p.2, 3, 4

Outings: p. 5, 6

Meeting dates/place:(see also programs): p.7

Programs: p.8, 9

Notes from the prez: p 9

Membership form: p.9

North Country Trail outing. Photo: R. Cohen



OUTINGS REPORTS CONT'D

May 10- North End of Peoples Road with Gail Andrew

Our walk in the mild early evening of May 10 was nice and leisurely. The seven of us had a wonderful opportunity to watch two beaver swimming in the pond and another on the far shore munching on a stump. The pond is also home to nesting Canada geese and a pair of Mergansers and we heard an American Bittern and Sandhill Cranes but couldn't see them.

Our hosts Horst and Lise, guided us along three of the loop trails on their property, through the mixed forest of birch, oak, maple, spruce and cedar and pointing out the uncommon ironwood trees and many Canada Yew (now used in treatment of certain cancers) with each trail having a lookout to view the ponds from a different perspective. We made our way back to our host's log cabin where tea and a campfire welcomed us and to listen for the spring peepers.

These tiny frogs (approx. 1/2 to 1 inch long, have a mark on their back resembling a cross-species *Pseudacris Crucifer*), individually have a high pitched peep, but there must have been thousands because together they created a large chorus. *Gail Andrew*

NAOMIKONG CREEK

May 6, 2006 *Leaders: Curt & Katie Bosket*

Participants included Curt and Katie Bosket, Dave Euler, Betty Nassoiy (American Betty), Betty Bennett (Canadian Betty) and Bev Smith. We drove west along the Curly Lewis Highway and parked at the upper North Country Trail parking lot. This provided a beautiful vantage point to look out over the trail route area and Lake Superior on a fine spring day. The initial portion of the trail immediately drops into low wetlands, and then flattens and meanders through mixed hardwood and conifer. Utilizing a list of anticipated plants prepared earlier by Chuck and Katie, the group immediately began identification. We were slowed frequently by a large number of downed trees across the trail, felled by winter storms.

The forest floor was a carpet of new growth, including White Twisted Stalk (*Streptopus amplexifolius*), Dutchmen's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), Trillium (*Trillium grandiflora*), Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*), and Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*).

We heard and saw a number of birds including White and Red Breasted Nuthatches, Northern Flickers, Yellow-Rumped Warblers, Black Throated Green Warblers, Pileated Woodpeckers and a Northern Harrier hunting along the shore. We also surprised 2 garter snakes along the trail, one that appeared to be about 24" long. After crossing the swinging bridge that spans Naomikong Creek in the afternoon, we ate lunch and both Dave and Bev discovered dog ticks on their clothing, which launched an animated conversation about the proper way to remove them, the possibilities of transmitting Lyme's Disease



Garter snake photo thanks to Curt Bosket

and Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and methods of detecting them on your hind end (a rear-view mirror)! The two Bettys also treated us to a song and dance. We then reversed our direction and hiked back to the parking lot, concluding another fun and informative outing. *Curt and Katie Bosket*



Photos of the **distinguished ornithologists**, Carl, Curt and Joy, above, and the pink lady slipper, right, thanks to Robert Cohen

SUGAR ISLAND Hike – Dave Euler

On Saturday June 3, 20 members of the Nats explored the human history and natural history of Sugar Island. Named because aboriginal people used the sugar maple trees on the island as a source of sweetness, the Island today hosts a small rural year-round community as well as seasonal homes. We hiked the trails on the nature reserve established by the University of Michigan, on the estate of a former governor of Michigan, Chas Osborn. Governor Osborn and his partner, Stella Novella, are both buried on the island and Betty Nassoio gave us a brief history of the Governor and his “New Star” companion. Betty’s presentation was excellent and she was named “Distinguished Historian” by the President of the Club. Later, Betty showed us a picture taken in 1938 of the Governor, Stella, Betty and another friend. Enjoy the photos.



Thanks to Robert Cohen for scanning this photo

Katie Bosket was also named Distinguished Botanist on this trip, because she was the first person on the trip to find and identify a pink lady slipper. Three people shared the title of Distinguished Ornithologist, based on bird identification skills, Carl Linhart, Joy Cohen, and Curt Bosket.



Fall Outings

coordinated by Val Walker
705-253 7044

p.5

Sat. Sept 2-4. Wellington Sq. Mall @ 10:00 am. Join Ron & Val for a three-day canoeing and camping event in the Mississagi Delta Nature Reserve on the North Channel. Please call ahead for details. Leaders Ron Prickett (705) 254-1533 and Val Walker (705) 253-7044.

Sun. Sept 10. Functions @ 9:30 am. Grab the canoe or kayak and partake in a joint venture with the Voyageur Trail Association. This is a day trip paddling Robertson Lake and exploring the area. Please note that you will be required to sign a liability waiver prior to the outing. Meet at **Functions** at the GoodLife on Second Line at 9:30 am. Leader: Gary Koteles (705) 949-1302.

Sat. Sept 16. Welling Sq. Mall @ 8:00 am. Get up early and car-pool to historic Fort St. Joseph to look for plant life and migrant birds. Keep an eye peeled for sandhill cranes staging in farm fields on route. Bring a lunch & water. Leader Carl Linhart (906) 635-9891.

Sat. Sept 23. Michigan Welcome Centre @ 10 am. John will lead a day outing to hunt for and learn about some fungi that pop up in the fall. Bring your lunch. Leader: John Lehman (906) 635-5095.

Sun. Sept 24. Michigan Welcome Centre @ 7 am. Get an early jump on bird watching at Birch Point. Bring waterproof boots, a chair, scope or binoculars and dress warmly. Don't forget your lunch and keep your eyes open for oddities which may be seen at this time of year. Leader: Tony Walker (705) 759-6151.

Sat. Sept 30. Hessel @ 9am Join Jessie on a guided paddling excursion along the shoreline of Les Cheneaux. Birch Island is our final destination and is one of the first conservation easements protected by Little Traverse Conservancy within this island chain. Cost is \$65 per person. No prior experience needed. Trip is limited to 10-12 people. To make your reservation contact Jessie Hadley at (906) 484-4157 or info@WoodsWaterEcotours.com



Sun. Oct 1. Wellington Sq. Mall @ 10 am. Hike the 5 km trail into the Desbarats Bat Cave and view the autumn splendour from atop the cave. Venture into the dark, dank cave, if you dare. And – yes, there are bats in the cave. Bring flashlight & lunch. Leader: Val Walker (705) 253-7044.

Wed. Oct 4. Canadian Sault Locks parking lot. 6:00 pm. Grab your binoculars for an evening of birding on the Whitefish Island trails and the St. Mary's River with Carl. Leader Carl Linhart (906) 635-9891.

FALL OUTINGS, cont'd

p.6

Sat. Oct 7-9. Michigan Welcome Center @ 10 am. Spend the Canadian Thanksgiving weekend on a canoeing/camping trip. We'll be paddling the Two Hearted River from the Reed and Green Bridge to the river mouth. You must be self-contained for this trip. Call ahead for details. Leaders: Chuck Bosley (906) 248-3287 and Ev Simon (705) 949-8206..

Sun. Oct 15. Michigan Welcome Center @ 8 am. Check for fall plants and birds at St. Vidal Point and at the mouth of the Albany River. Waterproof footwear recommended. Leader: Carl Linhart (906) 635-9891.

Sat. Oct 21. Wellington Sq. Mall @ 10 am. Come out for the day and enjoy a brisk fall walk near Tower Lake. Leader: Gary Koteles (705) 949-1302.

Sat. Oct 28. Zellers Plaza North @ 9 am. Rock, ice and water – the work of glaciers in Algoma. Join Gerry and examine ancient and more recent glaciogenic deposits north of town. Leader: Gerry Bennett (705) 254-7214.

Sat. Nov 4. Wellington Sq. Mall @ 10 am. Hike 3 km into the Rose Lake Conservation Reserve to botanize in the dune peat land complex. Things could be wet so bring waterproof footwear. Leader: Jim Miller (705) 254-7494.

Sat. Nov 11. Michigan Welcome Center. Get ready for a joint hiking excursion hosted by the North Country Trail Association to Tahquamenon Falls. Call ahead for details and departure time. Facilitator: Val Walker (705) 253-7044

Sat., Nov 18. TBA. Call Val Walker (705) 253-7044 for details.

Sat. Nov 25. Michigan Welcome Centre @ 10 am. Join Chuck & Ev for a jaunt along the scenic North Country trail. Don't forget your lunch. Chuck Bosley (906) 248-3287 and Ev Simon (705) 949-8206.

Sat. Dec 9. Michigan Welcome Centre. Head out to East Lake and the Atrium on a joint hike with the North Country Trail Association-another chance to meet up with like-minded folks. Call for details. Facilitator: Val Walker (705) 253-7044.

Sat. Dec 16. Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Take part in observing and recording birds in an assigned area or sign up for "feeder watch" at your backyard feeders. For further information call Ken Mc Ilwrick (705) 541-5643.

Sat. Jan 6. Market Mall @ 10 am. Join Val for a bushwacking ski (let's hope) excursion north of town. Call ahead for details. Leader: Val Walker (705) 253-7044.

Sat. Jan 13. Market Mall @ 10 am. Join Ron for a brisk cross-country ski through the bush just outside town. Call ahead for details. Leader: Ron Prickett (705) 254-1533.

Outing Guidelines

-Please register for all outings by calling the trip leader or an outing committee member. Non-registrants are welcome, but risk being uniformed of the last minute outing changes.

- Dress for the weather and terrain with appropriate clothing and foot wear. Bring snack, water, binoculars, loupes, field guides, etc. For daylong excursions, bring lunch and extra water.

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

-If carpooling, consider assisting the driver with gas costs. Suggested amounts are: US \$2.00 and CAN\$3.00, depending on the length of the trip and the dollar.

-Inform your leader if you have to leave early, or make any changes to the plan or schedule while on the trip.



Luscious moss photo thanks to Curt Bosket

Where we Meet

General Meetings

Time: 7:30 p.m. 2nd Tuesday of each month, except May which is on the 1st Tues.

Place:

Sault Ontario: Great Lakes Forestry Centre, 1219 Queen St. East.

Sept., Oct, Nov., May, June.

Sault Michigan:

Central Methodist United Church corner of Spruce and Court St.

Dec., Jan., Feb., March and April

no meeting in July and August.

MICHIGAN OUTINGS

Meet at the Michigan Welcome Center (MWC).

Follow the blue directional sign immediately south of the International Bridge toll booths

ONTARIO OUTINGS

-Market Mall. Located on Second Line West (HWY 550) at Korah RD. Meet at the NW area by the video store.

-Churchill Plaza – follow Hwy 17 E. The Mall is on the right off Trunk Rd. (Hwy17E) parking lot, by the entrance sign.

-Wellington Sq Mall – Follow Hwy 17 E to the McDonalds Restaurant, east of the Mall. Park on the west side of the parking lot, facing the mall.

-Zellers Plaza North – enter A&P /Zeller's Mall from Great Northern Rd, or Northern Ave. Park west of the Pennington's store.

**PROGRAMS - SEPTEMBER 2006
THROUGH JUNE 2007- John Lehman
coordinator**

**September 12, 2006, Great Lakes
Forestry Centre**

Gladys Wallwork will speak on *Seasons of the Watershed: A Land-lover's Guide to Lake Superior*. Gladys' enthusiastic interest in botany led to a concurrent interest in photographing plants and flowers, which she continues to enjoy. She will bring a selection of her exceptional slides, showing the Lake Superior region from Sault Ste. Marie to Pukaskwa, as seen from its trails. She will also point out some seasonal points of interest for hikers and campers.

**October 10, 2006, Great Lakes
Forestry Centre**

Wildlife biologist Ian Thompson, a world authority on the American marten (also known as the pine marten) and one of the leading wildlife scientists in Canada, will be speaking on *The Lifestyles of a North American Predator*. The presentation will detail his marten research and his experiences searching for and observing this reclusive mammal. Ian is currently an employee of the Canadian Forest Service and is carrying out long-term research projects on woodpeckers and old-growth forests. He has also worked in British Columbia, Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and Newfoundland.

**November 14, 2006, Great Lakes
Forestry Centre**

Ashley Moerke, Assistant Professor of Biology at Lake Superior State University, will speak on *Looking Upstream: Linkages between Humans and Stream Ecosystems*. Ashley will describe how scientists use aquatic organisms, such as fish and insects, to identify the degree to which humans influence aquatic ecosystems. She will also summarize research findings from a large study conducted by LSSU to illustrate relationships between the aquatic communities and degraded environmental conditions on the St. Mary River.

**December 12, 2006, Central United
Methodist Church**

Annual Holiday Get-Together: *An Evening of Natural Wonders*. Members and guests are invited to bring their own "treasures," such as collections of rocks and minerals, pressed plants, insects, art from nature, stamps depicting natural history, and any other natural objects or artistic depictions of nature that you would like to share with the

membership. Tables will be set up for displays and people will be free to wander among them informally as the contributors describe features of their collections and answer questions. Call John Lehman (906) 635-5095, or Dave Euler (705-248-1494, if you expect to bring something to the meeting.

**January 9, 2007, Central United
Methodist Church**

Paul DeBeer, a graduate of Sault College's Field Naturalist Program, will speak about *The Nature and Diversity of South and East Africa*, illustrating his talk with a number of photos. Paul was born and grew up in South Africa and worked as a guide throughout South and East Africa. He will describe his experiences from five years of guiding and relate his impressions of the different habitats, cultures, wildlife, and other interesting things that he came across in this travels.

**February 13, 2007. Sault College
Cafeteria, 443 Northern Avenue**

Annual Dinner Meeting. David Kronk, Education Specialist at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, will speak on *Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and the U.S. National Park System*. He will provide an introduction to the park system and describe recreational opportunities at Pictured Rocks, its natural history, and plans for its future development.

**March 13, 2007, Central United
Methodist Church**

Marshall Werner, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Lake Superior State University, will be speaking about *The Biological and Chemical Health of the St. Mary River*. His presentation will include a description of LSSU's research on biological and chemical pollutants in the river and will include an update of research findings described by Ashley Moerke in the November 14 meeting.

Programs cont'd

p.9

April 10, 2007, Central United Methodist Church

Speaker and program to be announced.

May 1, 2007, Great Lakes Forestry Centre

Robert Knudsen, Species at Risk Technician for the Ministry of Natural Resources, will speak about *Wood Turtle Biology and Conservation in Algoma*. He will report on an MNR study of wood turtles, with a description of the partnerships formed and what has been accomplished over the past six years of the study. The study was initiated by Great Lakes Power to identify the effects on wood turtles of vegetation management on hydro right-of-ways.

From the Prez-

It looks like another interesting season for the Sault Naturalists. John Lehman and his committee have lined up a series of interesting meetings; and Val Walker, with the help of numerous members, has planned a series of outings that will please everyone. Some outings are short, some are long, some are hot and some are cold, but each one is enjoyable and we never fail to learn something about nature. I hope everyone can take advantage of these trips, and we welcome all.

A big thank you to John, Val and all the leaders.

The Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas is entering its final year in 2007. This is a cooperative effort by volunteers to record the birds that breed in Michigan over a 5 year period. Let's try to help out next spring, its last year, by volunteering to census in the Chippewa County area of Michigan. More details will be available later, so for now, just mark on your mental calendars that we hope to be part of the Michigan Atlas team next May and June (2007).

-Dave Euler

From the Editor: I appreciate receiving your brief trip reports along with photos. Please send them to Gail Giuliani at birchpt@sympatico.ca. or Box 6 Site 4 R.R. 4, Echo Bay ON P0S 1C0 . Thank you. gg

Sault Naturalist Membership Form

Mail to:

Carrie Ginou, Membership Chairperson,
Sault Naturalists P.O. Box 21035,
306 Northern Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, ON
P6B 6H3 Canada

Categories and Fees:

Please circle the appropriate categories.
Membership is from Jan. to Dec.

_____Renewal: _____New Member
Student: \$10.00 Individual: \$20.00
Family: \$25.00 Life : \$250.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____Prov/State_____

Postal Code: _____Country: _____

Telephone _____

Email: _____

Send this newsletter by email: Yes ___ No ___

Am't enclosed: _____ (payment may be submitted in either US or CAN funds)
