

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Welcome to the Huron Fringe Birding Festival

Events start promptly at the Visitor Centre in MacGregor Point Provincial Park. Please arrive 15 minutes early so your group can depart on time. Morning events return to the Visitor Centre by 11:30 am; afternoon events by 4:30 pm. Additional Field Trip Information is found at the end of the Schedule of Events.

Coffee and pastries are available in the Visitor Centre every morning. The Friends of MacGregor Point host BBQ lunches from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm daily. "The Nest" (tent) will be open for socializing and refreshments from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm, as posted.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### FRIDAY MAY 26

#### *All Day*

A1 6:00 am **BRUCE BACKCOUNTRY BIRDING** – John Haselmayer

Visit the upper Peninsula's best known birding spots such as Dyer's Bay, Cabot Head, the sparrow fields and Crane Lake. John's superb birding skills combine with great birding and outstanding scenery. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A2 6:15 am **BIRDING MIDDLE BRUCE PENINSULA** – Michael Carlson

Join Michael as he travels from Lake Huron to Georgian Bay. We will visit some of his favorite spots including Stokes Bay, Hopeness and the Malcolm Bluff area. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A3 6:30 am **BIRDING NEYAASHIINIGMIING** – Jarmo Jalava & Anthony Chegahno

Blending Aniishinaabe culture and traditions with the many interesting ecosystems found in Neyaashiinigmiing (Cape Croker) will be the highlight of this all day trip. This is the start of the breeding season and we will definitely find birds singing on territory. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A4 8:00 am **THE BOTANY OF THE BRUCE** – Walter Muma

Walter will take us to explore several sites on the Bruce Peninsula for orchids, spring wildflowers and other wild botany. Stops will include a rich hardwood forest, alvars, Dorcas Bay for its famous orchids and more. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 15)

#### *Morning*

A5 7:00 am **KINCARDINE LAGOONS** – James Turland

Hike the trails of this premier birding hotspot, locally known as "Pelee North". If you missed seeing birds at Point Pelee, chances are you'll find them here. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

A6 7:30 am **BIRDING THE TOWER TRAIL** – Marshal Byle

Diverse habitat along this trail makes it a mecca for an eclectic mix of birds. We will scope the wetland from the observation tower and dyke watching for late migrant warblers. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

### **Afternoon**

A7 1:30 pm **BIRDS, BEES & BUTTERFLIES** – *Ages 5+* – Kerry Jarvis

Discover the Butterfly Gardens of Saugeen Shores with Kerry. Learn about the “magic plants” that are magnets for our threatened pollinators and the secrets in wildlife gardening. (*easy, car-pool, registered chaperone required for under 13*) (limit 20)

A8 1:30 pm **NATURE RAMBLE** – Terry Crabe

Join Terry for a leisurely walk along the Tower Trail to the Ducks Unlimited wetland. This event is geared for a wide level of birders who simply want to enjoy the MacGregor Point landscape. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm **“THE NEST”**

Come mix, mingle, socialize and share your day’s adventures at The Nest. (*refreshments available*)

### **Evening**

A9 7:15 pm **TOUGH CALLS IN THE FIELD** – Fred Jazvac

Join Fred for his annual ‘Birding Tips & Techniques’ festival kickoff presentation. He will compare similar species that are difficult to separate. (*indoors*) (limit 60)

## **Saturday MAY 27**

### **All Day**

A10 6:00 am **BACK ROADS OF SAUGEEN TOWNSHIP** – James Turland

The back roads offer relaxed touring and good birding. James knows all the area hot spots. We will visit the Saugeen River, Lake Huron shoreline and numerous trails around the township. (*moderate, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A11 6:30 am **HURON SHORES TO MALCOLM BLUFFS** – Mike Burrell

We’ll see shorebirds, ducks, grassland birds and forest birds. You’ll be amazed at the diversity in this section of the Bruce. We may even find a Cerulean or Hooded Warbler on territory. If it’s there, Mike will find it! (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A12 7:00 am **BIRDING SOUTH BRUCE** – Todd Pepper

We’ll explore habitats within the Huron Fringe and along the Niagara Escarpment. Participants will benefit from Todd’s knowledge of birdsong and breeding bird behaviour. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

### **Morning**

A13 6:00 am **BIRDING BY EAR** – Michael Carlson

Do you have difficulty remembering bird songs and calls no matter how often you hear them? Michael is a natural at mnemonics. This field workshop will give you tips to sort out bird songs. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A14 6:15 am **WRESTLING WITH WARBLERS** – Mark Wiercinski ♥

Few birds are more annoying than warblers. They move around a lot, hide behind leaves and branches and then move when you finally have your binos focused! Mark's tips about habitat and song will help you sort them out. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A15 7:00 am **BIRDING A QUIET CORNER OF MacGREGOR** – Terry Crabe

This outing will explore the habitat niches along the Rotary Way and Deer Run trails through the eyes of an experienced park ecologist. Edges, old fields, hedge rows and woodlands provide opportunities for good species diversity. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A16 7:30 am **BIRDING THE EDGE OF MacGREGOR** – Henrique Pacheco

Henrique is one of the new generation of keen young birders. Come see what youthful sharp eyes, ears and technique can find. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A17 9:00 am **OLD SHORE ROAD TRAIL** – Ted Cheskey

Pitcher Plant Marl and the area north of the Visitor Centre are favorite areas of this former park naturalist. This walk provides relaxed opportunities to casually bird the shoreline, wetlands, hardwood and coniferous forests. *(easy)* (limit 20)

11:00 am **EAGLE OPTICS**

During the lunch break Eagle Optics will have binoculars and telescopes on display and for sale.

### **Afternoon**

A18 1:00 pm **PIPING PLOVERS - ENDANGERED & ENDEARING** – Stew Nutt

We'll travel to Sauble Beach to see these imperiled shorebirds at their nesting site. You may observe courtship (Plovers) as well as other behaviours and learn about the challenges these birds face. Life's a beach for these birds! *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A19 1:30 pm **SHARE YOUR BEST SHOTS** – Fran Sanagan ♥

Come to this non-threatening, non-judgmental session and present some of your shots in a "Show & Tell" workshop. Whether it be on Facebook, a gallery wall or your phone, this is the other side of making a photograph. We will discuss managing files, editing collections and "what's next?" *(indoors, bring camera, thumb drive/SD card)* (limit 15)

A20 1:30 pm **TIME TRAVEL TO THE PAST** – Peter Storck

Peter will tell us about the skills and inventiveness behind 'Stone Age' technology, the Ice Age environment experienced by the first people to colonize Ontario and how, three centuries ago, Native peoples transformed the environment of southern Ontario. A flintknapping demonstration illustrated talk and two field visits highlight this event. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A21 1:30 pm **FROG FROLIC** – **Ages 5+** – Kerry Jarvis

Our frolic will take us to several ponds to revel in the sights and sounds of these amazing creatures. If available, bring cameras and close-focus binoculars. (*easy, car-pool, registered chaperone required for under 13*) (limit 20)

A22 1:30 pm **DYES FROM NATURE & SPINNING WOOL** – **Ages 5+** – Audrey Armstrong

Create a tie dye bandana with dyes from nature! While the dye pots simmer, try your hand at spinning wool with a drop spindle. You will make your own spindle and may take it home with you along with your trendy bandana! (*easy, registered chaperone required for under 13*) (limit 20)

### **Evening**

A23 4:30 pm **SOCIAL & SILENT AUCTION**

5:30 pm **BANQUET & PRESENTATION - JUST WINGING IT: A BIRD NERD AND HIS**

**CAMERA** – Ethan Meleg

Bird photography is downright difficult, but amazingly fun and rewarding! Ethan started watching birds when he was a kid and began photographing them over 20 years ago. He will share tips, techniques and funny stories from his adventures photographing birds. (*St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Port Elgin, Green Door Catering, Chicken Buffet, vegetarian option available*) (*early bird price - \$45 extra per person. For banquet/presentation as a single event or after April 15 - \$55 extra per person*). *Casual, bar available, pre-registration required. Contact Registrar by May 1 with dietary restrictions.* (limit 110)

## **SUNDAY MAY 28**

### **All Day**

A24 6:00 am **BIRD 'TIL YOU DROP** – Michael Carlson

Are you ready for a full day of birding? If so, this dawn to dusk birding marathon on the Bruce Peninsula is for you. Your day's list could be over 100 species! (*moderate, car-pool, bring lunch & walking supper*) (limit 20)

A25 6:15 am **BIRDING BEAUTIFUL CABOT HEAD & BEYOND** – Ted Cheskey

Visit some of the Peninsula's best known birding spots such as Dyer's Bay, the sparrow fields, Crane Lake and the Cabot Head "Important Bird Area". We'll observe migration monitoring and bird banding at the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory with Ted, its current President. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A26 6:30 am **WILDFLOWER WALK** – Nature Conservancy of Canada Staff

Experience this new Shining Rainbow Deer Nature Sanctuary with NCC staff. You will see an array of spring wildflowers, many of which are rare elsewhere in southern Ontario. The birding should be great too. (*moderate, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A27 7:00 am **MALCOLM BLUFFS & CAPE CROKER** – Alfred Raab

Bird in a variety of habitats within the Malcolm Bluffs Nature Reserve and the Neyaashiinigiing territory at the Cape Croker peninsula. These areas in Alfred's back yard have yielded some special finds in past years and the cliffs provide spectacular vistas. (*moderate, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

### **Morning**

A28 6:00 am **SEX & THE SINGLE WARBLER** – Mark Wiercinski ♥

Warblers are the jewels of the forest. Mark will point out their fascinating behaviours, eye-catching colours and sweet songs. They are here because love is in the air. Learn how to use this to help with identification. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A29 6:15 am **AROUND THE EDGE OF MacGREGOR** – Mike Burrell

MacGregor Park is bursting with late migrants and birds marking out their territory in full song. Mike's awesome birding skills will ensure you get in on all this avian action. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A30 6:30 am **BACKROADS OF SAUGEEN** – James Turland

Saugeen's rural landscapes are a peaceful backdrop for grassland and woodland birds. This is James' back yard and he is one of our favourite local leaders. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A31 8:00 am **UP WITH THE BIRDS** – Doug Martin ♥

Continue the tradition that pre-dates the Festival - a not-so-early morning walk along the Tower Trail to the Viewing Tower. The species list has rivalled many other events. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A32 10:00 am **TRACKS & SCATS** – *Geared for Kids* – Park Staff

Become a wildlife detective by learning how to identify animal tracks and their droppings with songs and games on a hike through the park. You're sure to be a natural! *(easy, chaperone required - no charge)* (limit 20)

### **Afternoon**

A33 1:00 pm **BLUEBIRD LANDLORDS** – Dennis & Gwen Lewington

Bluebirds are cavity nesters and natural cavities are not very abundant. Nest boxes give these beautiful birds a helping hand. Dennis and Gwen will take you on their "Bluebird Trail" of nesting boxes which they have been maintaining and monitoring for over 33 years. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A34 1:30 pm **RELAXED NATURE WALK** – John Reaume

Come for a leisurely walk from the Visitor Centre along the Old Shore Road Trail and sample nature's smorgasbord - wildflowers, dragonflies and damselflies, spiders, frogs, reptiles and of course, birds. John has expertise with them all. Bring your binoculars! *(easy)* (limit 20)

A35 1:30 pm **PHOTOGRAPHY WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE** – Willy Waterton ♥

The best camera is the one that's with you. Phone cameras are a much more powerful tool than most people realize. We will explore the camera's various functions to expand your photographic horizons. *(easy)* (limit 12)

A36 1:30 pm **GRASSLANDS, WETLANDS & UPLAND FORESTS** – Jim Coles

Join Jim for an exploration of his rural property. We will see and discuss glacial landforms, soils and forest management while viewing abundant birdlife. *(easy but uneven footing, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A37 1:30 pm **SPEED, STRENGTH & STEALTH: ONTARIO'S RAPTORS** – Ages 5+ – Wild Ontario

Get nose-to-beak with these stunning predators, and learn about the incredible skills and abilities that help raptors do what they do. (*outdoors, registered chaperone required for under 13*)

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm **"THE NEST"**

Come mix, mingle, socialize and share your day's adventures at The Nest. (*refreshments available*)

### **Evening**

A38 7:00 pm **THE MESSENGER - SPECIAL FILM PRESENTATION**

THE MESSENGER is a visually thrilling ode to the beauty and importance of the imperiled songbird, and what it will mean to all of us on both a global and human level if we lose them. Presented in partnership with the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory (BPBO). (*Bruce County Museum & Archives, Southampton, \$15 extra per person supports BPBO, 6:30 pm cash bar*) (limit 100)

A39 9:30 pm **NOCTURNAL NOISES** – Ages 5+ – Park Staff

Learn what nocturnal adaptations it takes to rule the night life on this interactive hike! From owls to crickets to fireflies, learn how these creatures are able to thrive when the lights go out. (*easy, registered chaperone required for under 13*) (limit 20)

## **MONDAY MAY 29**

### **All Day**

A40 6:00 am **BIRDING SOUTH BRUCE** – Marshall Byle

This is car birding at its best using Marshall's local knowledge. We will follow a scenic route in southern Bruce County, stopping to bird various habitats. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A41 6:30 am **BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY HIKE** – Bruce Edmunds & Doug Pedwell

Make the most of your telephoto lenses. Your intrepid leaders will take you to a variety of local hotspots where you will have opportunities to capture the images of our feathered friends, and whatever else may appear in front of the camera. (*car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 15)

### **Morning**

A42 6:00 am **BIRDING A QUIET CORNER OF MacGREGOR** – James Turland

This outing will explore the habitat niches along the Rotary Way and Deer Run trails. Edges, old fields, hedge rows and woodlands provide opportunities for good species diversity. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

A43 8:00 am **A CULTURAL WALKABOUT** – Bill Fitzgerald

Archaeology has been studied extensively at Inverhuron Provincial Park. Bill is an authority on the human history of the park from prehistoric times into the 19th century. This is a fascinating walk through the past. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

### **Afternoon**

A44 1:30 pm **TREE ID** – Jim Coles

Using leaf and twig keys we will identify conifers and hardwoods near the Visitor Centre and learn about the role of site characteristics in determining species composition. *(easy)* (limit 12)

A45 1:30 pm **WILD BOTANY OF MacGREGOR POINT PROVINCIAL PARK** – Walter Muma  
Walter will lead you on an exploration of the Park to view its spring wildflowers and other wild botany. *(easy)* (limit 12)

### **Evening**

A46 7:15 pm **ORCHIDS OF GREY - BRUCE** – Walter Muma

Grey and Bruce counties are home to up to 46 species of orchids; 44 in the Bruce Peninsula alone! Walter will take us on a visual journey of the orchids of Grey - Bruce. His presentation will feature just about every species present in this botanically rich and unique area. *(indoors)* (limit 60)

## **THURSDAY JUNE 1**

### **All Day**

B1 6:30 am **PASTURES, STREAMS & WOODLOTS** – James Turland

This driving tour in Bruce County will take you through varied habitat and will add a range of species to your Festival bird list. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

B2 6:45 am **THE BRUCE RE-BECKONS PART THREE** – Willy Waterton ♥

This is the third and most 'extreme' quest in the Bruce Re-Beckons series to rediscover author Sherwood Fox's Bruce Peninsula 64 years later. *(very difficult, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

### **Morning**

B3 7:30 am **A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT** – Marshall Byle

*Inverhuron* comes from the Gaelic word *inver* meaning *confluence*. We will bird along the historic Little Sauble River in Inverhuron Park and observe spawning rainbow trout. *(moderate, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B4 8:00 am **LIVING LANDSCAPES: THE WORLD OF MacGREGOR POINT'S BEACHES** – Peter Middleton

Join this esteemed leader on a walk along the shoreline of MacGregor Point. Experience the brilliant life that blooms in what some might consider harsh conditions. *(easy)* (limit 20)

### **Afternoon**

B5 1:00 pm **CHANTRY ISLAND** – Margaret Anderton & Marine Heritage Society

Chantry Island, an international Important Bird Area, offers protection of colonial nesting species. View active nests from all levels as you ascend the lighthouse! This boat trip includes a tour of the lighthouse and historic keeper's cottage. *(moderate, sturdy footwear - no flip-flops, weather permitting, arrive on your own at the Southampton Dock by 12:30 pm. \$25 per person)*



*to be paid at the dock, children must be 4' tall and accompanied by a registered chaperone)*  
(limit 9)

B6 1:30 pm **BIRDING FUNDAMENTALS** – Marshall Byle

On this short walk from the Visitor Centre, Marshall will introduce you to some birding basics - use of binoculars, bird ID and language, describing a bird's location and birding etiquette. *(easy)*  
(limit 20)

B7 1:30 pm **LIVING LANDSCAPES: THE WORLD OF MacGREGOR POINT'S BEACHES** – Peter Middleton

Join this esteemed leader on a walk along the shoreline of MacGregor Point. Experience the brilliant life that blooms in what some might consider harsh conditions. *(easy)* (limit 20)

B8 3:00 pm **CHANTRY ISLAND** – Margaret Anderton & Marine Heritage Society

Chantry Island, an international Important Bird Area, offers protection of colonial nesting species. View active nests from all levels as you ascend the lighthouse! This boat trip includes a tour of the lighthouse and historic keeper's cottage. *(moderate, sturdy footwear - no flip-flops, weather permitting, arrive on your own at the Southampton Dock by 2:30 pm. \$25 per person to be paid at the dock, children must be 4' tall and accompanied by a registered chaperone)* (limit 9)

### **Evening**

B9 7:15 pm **BIRDING JEOPARDY** – Sarah Rupert

Answer: "The mascot of the Huron Fringe Birding Festival". Question: "What is an American Redstart?" Come for a fun-filled interactive evening of birding team trivia. *(indoors)* (limit 60)

## **FRIDAY JUNE 2**

### **All Day**

B10 6:30 am **CAVES OF THE BRUCE PENINSULA** – Bob Gray

Completely different processes have resulted in the creation of three types of caves on the Bruce Peninsula. We will explore all of them: wave-cut, limestone solution and crevice caves. Geology rocks! *(difficult, car pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

B11 7:00 am **MALCOLM BLUFFS & CAPE CROKER** – Alfred Raab

Bird in a variety of habitats within the Malcolm Bluffs Nature Reserve and the Neyaashiinigiing territory at the Cape Croker peninsula. These areas have yielded some special finds in past years and the cliffs provide spectacular vistas. *(moderate, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

B12 8:00 am **FISHING ISLANDS ARCHIPELAGO** – Lynne Richardson, Mark Peck & Bill Crins  
We'll bird our way up to Evergreen Lodge at Red Bay, lunch at the lodge, then embark on a tour of the Fishing Islands in comfortable pontoon boats. The Islands are remote, scenic and bursting with colonial birds! *(easy, car pool, lunch included, \$20 extra per person to be paid at Evergreen Resort)* (limit 20)

### **Morning**



B13 7:30 am **BIRDING THE BACKROADS** – Justin Peter

India, Galapagos, Bruce County! Justin is a global birding tour leader. He will take us on this driving tour focusing on the threatened and declining birds of local grasslands. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B14 8:00 am **BIRDING MacGREGOR** – Ian Shanahan

A morning walk around the Ducks Unlimited wetland always turns up late migrants and early nesters. Ian is another global birding tour leader touching down in MacGregor. We'll hear about the importance of wetlands for migrating birds as we identify some of these spring beauties. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B15 8:30 am **THE BIG SIT** – Margaret Anderton

A casual yet productive approach to birding. Join Margaret and find out what can be seen from the comfort of a sitting position overlooking a pond, a field, a forest and feeders. *(easy, car-pool, bring a lawnchair)* (limit 20)

### **Afternoon**

B16 1:30 pm **WILDFLOWER SCIENCE & MYTHS** – Heather Starrs ♥

Legends and superstitions are attached to many common and not so common plants found at MacGregor Point. This easy stroll will identify many wildflowers and look at the stories behind their names and interesting uses. *(easy)* (limit 12)

B17 1:30 pm **A WALK IN THE PARK** – James Turland

Our popular local leader will show you why any time of day is a good time for a walk in the park. We'll find the flora that attracts birds, spring flowers and other delights. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B18 1:30 pm **RAIL TRAIL RAMBLE** – Kerry Jarvis

Explore the wilds of the Saugeen Shores Rail Trail in Southampton. Join Kerry to learn about the role the railways once played. Our ramble explores wildlife, culture and history. We will see the area where Hurricane Hazel once de-railed a train. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm **"THE NEST"** with Birder-in-Residence, Sarah Rupert

Come socialize at The Nest, and bring along your questions for our special guest birder-in-residence. Sarah fields all types of questions from all levels of birders at Point Pelee National Park. *(refreshments available)*

### **Evening**

B19 7:15 pm **THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE - IN FRANKLIN'S WAKE** – Audrey Armstrong & Willy Waterton ♥

Join Willy and Audrey for this presentation on the Northwest passage, learn about a surprise Grey - Bruce connection and revel in Willy's outstanding photography of the Canadian Arctic. *(indoors)* (limit 60)

## **SATURDAY JUNE 3**

### **All Day**

B20 6:30 am **BIRDING IN AND AROUND THE PARK** – Ian Shanahan

MacGregor Park is bursting with late migrants and birds marking out their territory in full song. Ian's awesome birding skills will ensure you get in on all this avian action. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

B21 7:00 am **BIRDING THE HURON FRINGE** – Justin Peter

This driving tour explores the sand and gravel lowlands along the Huron Fringe lakeshore between MacGregor Point and Sauble Falls to the north. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

B22 7:30 am **BACK ROADS OF SAUGEEN TOWNSHIP** – James Turland

The back roads offer relaxed touring and good birding. We will visit the Saugeen River, Lake Huron shoreline and numerous trails around the township. (*moderate, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

### **Morning**

B23 6:30 am **SWEET WATER SEA** – Martin & Kathy Parker ♥

Join Kathy and Martin in an early morning birding stroll from the Visitor Centre and along the shoreline road to the tip of Sunset Point to look for breeding species and late migrants. There will be a focus on the birds of the sweet water sea and its shoreline and some of the changes which have happened over time. (*easy*) (limit 20)

B24 7:00 am **A BIRD'S EYE VIEW** – Jean Iron

Look, learn and listen with Jean, OFO's 2016 'Distinguished Ornithologist' and well known educational leader. We'll start at the Saugeen First Nations Amphitheatre which overlooks river and riparian habitat, then cross the river to see what's on the other side. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

B25 7:45 am **PIPING PLOVERS - ENDEARING & ENDANGERED** – Stewart Nutt

Join Stew to visit endangered Piping Plovers at one of their few nesting sites in Ontario. You may observe courtship (Plovers) as well as other behaviours and learn about the many challenges these birds face. Life's a beach for these birds! (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

B26 9:00 am **TAKE A PEEK AT THE BEAK** – *Geared for Kids* – Park Staff

One way birds have adapted to prosper in all corners of our planet is through the various shapes and uses of their beaks! Learn all about beaks on a hike through MacGregor Point. Bring binoculars. (*easy, chaperone required - no charge*) (limit 20)

### **Afternoon**

B27 1:30 pm **NATURE BIKE HIKE** – *Ages 5+* – Audrey Armstrong

Pedal around the Park stopping at different habitats and observing the birds, insects, botany and mammal evidence along the way. (*easy, registered chaperone required for under 13*) (limit 15)

B28 1:30 pm **DOWN & DIRTY PHOTOGRAPHY** – Doug Pedwell

Through photography, participants will explore wildflowers growing along the Old Shore Road Trail. All types of cameras welcome. Be prepared to get down and dirty. (*easy, car-pool, bring camera*) (limit 15)

B29 1:30 pm **FIELD SKETCHING / JOURNALING** – Sarah Rupert

Field sketching helps you hone your identification skills. Anyone can do it. Sarah will show you how journaling can help you document your observations in the field. (*easy, bring pencil & notebook*) (limit 12)

B30 1:30 pm **SEDGES HAVE EDGES** – Bill Crins

*Sedges have edges, rushes are round and grasses are hollow right up from the ground.* With a PhD in botany, Bill will open your eyes to a whole new world on the forest floor, including the world of sedges, his specialty. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 12)

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm **“THE NEST”** with Birder-in-Residence, Sarah Rupert

Come socialize at The Nest and bring along your questions for our special guest birder-in-residence. Sarah fields all types of questions at Point Pelee National Park. (*refreshments available*)

### **Evening**

B31 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm **CHICKEN DINNER**

(*MacGregor Point Provincial Park, Harrigan’s Catering, additional charge of \$17. B31 can be combined with B32 as a single event for \$23. Pre-registration required*)

B32 7:15 pm **BIRDER MURDER MYSTERIES** – Steve Burrows

From a life-long interest in birding to creating the “Birder Murder” mystery series; Steve will show us how birding has lead to a transformation of a nature writer into a birder, murder, mystery writer. (*indoors*) (limit 60)

B33 9:15 pm **STARRY STARRY NIGHT** – John Hlynialuk

John will introduce you to the wonders of the night sky, and tell you about dark sky events for 2017. Weather permitting, members of the Bluewater Astronomical Society will have their telescopes available for viewing the evening sky. (*easy, indoors, outdoors weather permitting*) (limit 30)

## **SUNDAY JUNE 4**

### **All Day**

B34 7:00 am **BIRDING POINT TO POINT** – James Turland

This driving tour explores the sand and gravel lowlands along the Huron Fringe lakeshore between MacGregor Point and Point Clark. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

### **Morning**

B35 7:15 am **THE JI LINE WITH JI** – Jean Iron

We’ll cover the JI Line grasslands and other habitats with Jean, OFO’s 2016 Distinguished Ornithologist and well known educational leader. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

B36 7:30 am **NEST QUEST** – Mark Peck

On this leisurely walk in the park, Mark will help you take your birding skills to another level. Find out how citizen scientists provide valuable conservation information while expanding your observation skills and learning about the nidology of breeding birds. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

B37 7:45 am **PONDS & FIELDS** – Martin & Kathy Parker ♥

Martin and Kathy will take you along the southern boundary of the park to explore their favourite birding locations in this area. Time will be spent visiting the viewing tower on the Ducks Unlimited wetland. We will look for birds in the second growth areas of the park. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

B38 8:00 am **BIRDING & BOTANIZING** – Bill Crins

Bill has an incredible background in both birding and botany! The abundant flora and fauna of the Lake Huron shoreline, fen and edge habitats are featured during this walk from the Visitor Centre. (*easy*) (limit 20)

### **Afternoon**

B39 1:30 pm **SCIENSATIONAL SSSNAKES** – Ages 5+

A hands-on experience with reptiles and amphibians. You will get to know live animals that are safe, friendly and easy to handle. (*outdoors, registered chaperone required for under 13*)

B40 1:30 pm **SAUGEEN SHORES: WATERSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY** – Kerry Jarvis

Enjoy the majestic vistas in Saugeen Shores while enhancing your photographic skills with tips and techniques for waterscapes. Open to all levels of photographers and all types of cameras (smart phones, tablets, DSLRs, compact cameras). (*easy, car-pool, tripod if you have one*) (limit 15)

### **Evening**

B41 8:00 pm **SUNSET WALK & TALK** – Doug Pedwell

End your Festival experience with a leisurely stroll along the shore of Lake Huron. Discover the sights, sounds and scents of an early June evening in MacGregor Point Provincial Park. (*easy*) (limit 20)

## **2017 FESTIVAL FEES**

### **PACKAGE RATES**

**ADULT:** 8 Day Festival \$155   4 Day Weekend \$110   Saturday & Sunday \$82  
**YOUTH:\*** 8 Day Festival \$93   4 Day Weekend \$66   Saturday & Sunday \$50  
**CHILD:\*\*** Saturday & Sunday \$30  
\* Youth 10 to 17 (under 13 accompanied by a registered chaperone)  
\*\* Child 5 to 9 accompanied by a chaperone

### **SINGLE EVENT FEES**

**Please Note:**

Single Event Fees Only Apply if you are NOT Purchasing a Festival, 4 Day Weekend, or Saturday & Sunday package

**HALF DAY EVENT:** Individual \$22/ Youth \$16 / Child \$10

**EVENING EVENT:** Individual \$10 / Youth \$10 / Child \$8

**ALL DAY EVENT:** Individual \$44 / Youth \$32

Additional fees, where applicable, are listed per event / Fees include Park entrance fee.

**The Huron Fringe Birding Festival uses online registration and payment at**

**[www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca](http://www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca)**

Registration opens February 1, 2017. Program posted online January 15, 2017.

Questions? Contact the Registrar at **[huronfringebirdfest@gmail.com](mailto:huronfringebirdfest@gmail.com)** or phone **519-353-8618**

Refund information is available on the website.

Festival branded clothing can be ordered at <http://friendsofmacgregor.org/page/clothing>

## FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

Sturdy footwear is recommended for all outings.

### Difficulty Levels

**Easy** – Walking leisurely on groomed and maintained trails. Participants should be able to walk up to 1.5 kilometres (1 mile) without any problems.

**Moderate** – Walking on maintained trails some of which may be rough or rocky. Brisk walking may be required to get from one location to another in a timely manner. Participants should be able to walk up to 4.5 kilometres (3 miles) without any problems.

**Difficult** – Walking on trails that have uneven terrain. There may be some walking off trail. Participants should be able to negotiate walking on slippery surfaces, where there is unsure footing or where they are climbing over rocks and logs.

### Car-pooling

To reduce our carbon footprint, we encourage car-pooling. If you are a passenger, please consider giving a donation to the driver on out of park trips.

### Walkie-talkies

Walkie talkies enhance your birding experience while driving. Bring your own if you have them. We have some to share, but not enough for every vehicle.

### Leader Recognition

♥ Indicates an original leader from the first Huron Fringe Birding Festival, 20 years ago.

## MacGREGOR POINT PROVINCIAL PARK

MacGregor Point Provincial Park's location on the shore of Lake Huron sets the stage for our festival. Our backdrop for the festival includes the migratory flyway along Lake Huron, Bruce County and the beautiful Bruce Peninsula. We attract hike and event leaders from across Ontario and beyond.

*Festival headquarters are at MacGregor Point Provincial Park, located approximately five kilometres south of Port Elgin, Ontario on the shore of Lake Huron. The park address is: MacGregor Point Provincial Park, 1593 Bruce Road 33, Port Elgin, Ontario, Canada N0H 2C5*

## **The Friends of MacGREGOR POINT**

The Friends of MacGregor Point present this Festival as one way to ensure the preservation of the natural legacy of MacGregor Point for future generations.

For information about the Friends and events planned for 2017 visit our website  
[www.friendsofmacgregor.org](http://www.friendsofmacgregor.org)

Park camping reservations - [www.ontarioparks.com](http://www.ontarioparks.com)  
Local tourist information - [www.sunsets.com](http://www.sunsets.com)

*The Huron Fringe Birding Festival is presented by the Huron Fringe Birding Festival Committee, the Friends of MacGregor Point and MacGregor Point Provincial Park.*

## **We thank our Sponsors & Supporters**

### **PARTNERS**

*Ontario Parks  
Friends of MacGregor Point*

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Mildmay Tent Rentals, Mildmay  
Nature's Millworks, Paisley  
Quality Inn, Southampton

Super 8 Motel, Port Elgin  
Synergistic Solutions, Southampton

Please support our Community Sponsors.

Huron Fringe Birding Festival Registration: [www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca](http://www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca)  
Registration inquiries: [huronfringebirdfest@gmail.com](mailto:huronfringebirdfest@gmail.com) or 519-353-8618  
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