

Welcome to the 2020 Huron Fringe Birding Festival!

Events start promptly at the Visitor Centre in MacGregor Point Provincial Park.

Please arrive 30 minutes before your first event to check-in at the registration tent to sign your waiver and pick up your attendee package. Arrive **15 minutes early** for each of your following events for instructions so the group can leave on time.

Generally, morning events return to the Visitor Centre by 11:30 am; afternoon and all-day events return by 4:30 pm; shorter all-day events by 3:00 pm.

We are offering some **shorter all day** and **mobility limited** events.

At the **Visitor Centre** - Coffee and pastries are available every morning.

BBQ lunches are hosted by the Friends of MacGregor Point Park from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY MAY 22

All Day

A1 6:00 am **MID PENINSULA BIRDING** – Michael Carlson

Travel with veteran leader Michael as he takes us to some of his favorite birding spots on the Peninsula, including Stokes Bay and Greenough Point. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A2 6:15 am **JARMO'S BIG BACKYARD** – Jarmo Jalava *

Sky Lake and Red Bay areas host rich bird and botanical habitats. The outing will include a 3.5 km hike through a coastal migration hotspot, and a little "Big Sit" on the deck of Jarmo's home, which should yield great views of some Bruce Peninsula avian specialties. (*moderate, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 16)

A3 6:30 am **MALCOLM BLUFF & CAPE CROKER** – Kiah Jasper & Alfred Raab

Bird in the deep interior-forest tract of Malcolm Bluff Shores Nature Reserve and the Neyaashiinigiimiiing territory on the Cape Croker peninsula. These areas have yielded some special finds in past years and the Escarpment bluffs provide spectacular vistas. (*moderate, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A4 6:45 am **BIRDING THE BRUCE WITH BENSETTE** – Jeremy Bensette

Jeremy is Ontario's Big Year record holder and a popular tour guide. Join him in his quest for the abundant birds of the Bruce. Locations may include Isaac Lake, Oliphant wetlands, Red Bay, Sauble Beach and the Ferndale Flats. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A5 7:00 am **BIRDING & BOTANIZING THE FOREST & THE GLEN** – Doug Pedwell

Join Doug for this nature ramble through two Grey Sauble Conservation properties. Ferns, flowers, forest birds and geology will be featured as we explore these sections of the Niagara Escarpment. (*difficult, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

Morning

A6 6:30 am **KINCARDINE LAGOONS aka "PELEE NORTH"** – James Turland

Local birders affectionately refer to the Kincardine Lagoons as "Peele North" because of the often- spectacular fallouts of warblers. This is one of James' favorite birding areas. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

A7 7:00 am **SEX & THE SINGLE WARBLER** – Mark Wiercinski

Warblers have two priorities at this time of the year... breeding (sex) and moving (migration)... what could be more fun than that? Mark will entertain and inform us on these bird activities. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 16)

(Friday May 22...continued)

Afternoon

A8 1:30 pm **BIRD & BOTANY RAMBLE** – Terry Crabe

Botanists and birders will enjoy the riches of the MacGregor Point landscape as seen through the eyes of an experienced Park Ecologist. Terry will take you on a leisurely hike in an unopened campground area of the Park. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A9 1:30 pm **MAGICAL MacGREGOR** – Tim Arthur

Tim's fieldwork with Birds Canada includes several sites within MacGregor Point. We'll wander the Park's woods and wetlands looking for late migrants and birds on territory. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 16)

A10 1:30 pm **FEN & FRINGE** – Erik Van Den Kieboom

Erik is one of the new generation of highly skilled and passionate young birders. He'll show you the abundant birds of the Lake Huron shoreline during this walk from the Visitor Centre. *(easy)* (limit 20)

Evening

A11 7:15 pm **SPARROW ID** – Fred Jazvac

The commoners, the migrants and those difficult "LBJs". Fred is a master teacher and will share his strategy for identifying this confusing family. *(indoor presentation)* (limit 60)

A12 9:00 pm **DENIZENS OF THE DARK** – Mark Wiercinski

Nocturnal adaptations are required to rule the night. From owls to crickets to fireflies, we'll learn how these creatures are able to thrive when darkness descends. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

SATURDAY MAY 23

All Day

A13 6:30 am **BIRDING BLITZ** – Todd Pepper

This world birder knows how to ensure that we all have a great birding experience. Todd will take us on a birding blitz of southern Bruce. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

A14 6:45 am **BIRDS OF THE BRUCE** – Tim Arthur

Tim birded much of Ontario in 2017 and holds one of the top records for birds seen in one year. Tim will take you on a tour of some of his favorite and most productive 'big year' birding spots in the Bruce. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

A15 7:00 am **MALCOLM BLUFF TO HURON SHORES** – Kiah Jasper

Join Kiah for an exciting day of birding and explore his favourite hotspots around the lower peninsula. During this hike you will feel Kiah's infectious enthusiasm for the world of birds. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

A16 7:15 am **THE BOUNTIFUL BRUCE** – Jeremy Bensette

Jeremy birded the entire province during his record-breaking Big Year and is ready to revisit some of the birding hotspots in this area. Join Jere in his never-ending pursuit of the bountiful birds of the Bruce. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

Morning

A17 6:00 am **THERE'S A SONG IN THE AIR** – Michael Carlson

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

(Saturday May 23...continued)

A18 6:15 am **BETTER LIVING THROUGH BIRDS** – Mark Wiercinski

Birds make everything better - from the common backyard variety to the rarest of species. Mark gives us a fun biological spin on things ... interesting behaviours, cool adaptations and just good ecology. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A19 7:00 am **BIRDING ON THE EDGE** – Henrique Pacheco

The habitat mixes around the edge of the Park provide lots of avian action and an eclectic mix of birds for the list. Look, listen and learn about the birds and their habitats with Henrique, an Algonquin Park Naturalist. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A20 7:15 am **BIRDING BACKROADS** – James Turland

We'll discover some bountiful birding opportunities as we scout several forested trails, have a look at some pasturelands and scan Lake Huron. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A21 7:30 am **FEN & FRINGE** – Erik Van Den Kieboom

Erik is one of the new generation of highly skilled and passionate young birders. He'll show you the abundant birds of the Lake Huron shoreline during this walk from the Visitor Centre. *(easy)* (limit 20)

11:00 am **VORTEX OPTICS, ARMSTRONG MILLING, ADVENTURE CANADA**

Over lunch break and into the early afternoon check out vendors and displays at the Visitor Centre.

Afternoon

A22 1:30 pm **AUNT ANNIE'S HOUSE** – Jenna McGuire

Saugeen Métis history and culture will be featured during a presentation at the Historic Saugeen Métis Interpretive Learning Centre and be followed by a tour of Aunt Annie's 170-year-old home where you'll see medicinal plants, Métis artforms and have a taste of traditional food. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A23 1:30 pm **BIRDS & BOTANY IN MacGREGOR** – Terry Crabe

Birders and botanists will enjoy the riches of the MacGregor Point landscape as seen through the eyes of an experienced Park Ecologist. Terry will guide a leisurely hike in an unopened campground area of the Park. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A24 1:30 pm **BIRDING THE TOWER TRAIL** – Henrique Pacheco

Woodland and wetland birds and habitats are featured as we follow Henrique along the Tower Trail to the Ducks Unlimited pond. This is a favorite walk in the Park. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 16)

A25 1:30 pm **NATURE RAMBLE** – John Reaume

John will be on the lookout for all that nature has to offer - dragonflies, damselflies, spiders, turtles, frogs, snakes, and of course, we will take time to admire the birds along the way. John is an expert on wetland creatures great and small. *(easy)* (limit 20)

A26 1:30 pm **COUNTRY ROADS** – Marshall Byle

Local birder Marshal will lead us along his favorite backroads and by-ways. Without travelling far we'll see a variety of habitats, birds and scenic countryside. *(moderate, car-pool)* (limit 20)

Evening

A27 4:30 pm **BANQUET, SILENT AUCTION & PRESENTATION**

EXPLORING THE ART OF DELIVERING SCIENCE – Grant Gilchrist

Grant will share his research on what the study of birds is telling us about a rapidly changing Arctic and how Inuit are helping us understand these dramatic changes. *St. Joseph's Jubilee Hall, Port Elgin. Green Door Catering - Chicken Buffet, vegetarian option available. Early bird price - \$50 extra per person. For the banquet as a single event, or after April 15 - \$60 extra per person. Cash bar.*

Contact Registrar by May 1 with dietary restrictions. (limit 110)

SUNDAY MAY 24

All Day

A28 6:00 am **BIRD 'TIL YOU DROP** – Michael Carlson

Are you ready for a big 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, possible return after 9 pm*) (limit 20)

A29 6:15 am **TOP OF THE BRUCE** – Mark Wiercinski

Birds at the top of the Peninsula are always a good mix of species where the roads are less travelled and the places less visited. We will explore from Dyers Bay road to Cabot Head, and maybe some parts of the National Park. (*moderate, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

Morning

A30 6:45 am **GRASSLANDS & MORE** – Todd Pepper

Todd is a global birder and loves to share his interest and knowledge of birds with one and all. We'll explore grasslands and other habitats outside the Park. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

A31 7:00 am **BIRDING ON THE EDGE** – Henrique Pacheco

The habitat mixes around the edge of the Park provide lots of avian action and an eclectic mix of birds for the list. Look, listen and learn about the birds and their habitats with Henrique. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

A32 7:15 am **'POWER' BIRDING AT THE BRUCE** – Jeremy Bensette

Jeremy has spent six breeding seasons conducting Marsh Monitoring surveys with Birds Canada and is very familiar with the wetlands of the Bruce. Join him for a visit to the marshes of Baie du Dore near Bruce Power, paired with a few other fruitful birding stops along the way. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

A33 7:30 am **BIRDING IN THE PARK** – James Turland

The campgrounds offer easy access to MacGregor Point's bird-rich woods. Merlin may be nesting and the Winter Wren may serenade us with its sweet song. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

A34 7:45 am **UP WITH THE BIRDS** – Doug Martin

This not-so-early hike has been a tradition from the beginning of our Festival. Geared for novice to intermediate birders, we begin with a review of fundamentals followed by birding some of the trails around the Visitor Centre. (*easy*) (limit 20)

A35 8:00 am **FEN & FRINGE** – Tim Arthur

This walk features the abundant avifauna of the Lake Huron shoreline, fen and edge habitats on a leisurely ramble from the Visitor Centre. (*easy*) (limit 20)

11:00 am **ADVENTURE CANADA**

Over lunch break and into the early afternoon check out Adventure Canada at the Visitor Centre.

Afternoon

A36 1:30 pm **FOREST BATHING** – Rob Klea

Learn about the vast array of health benefits nature provides, through experiencing sensory connections in the forest. You'll bask in the restorative powers of nature. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

A37 1:30 pm **BIRDING MacGREGOR'S INTERIOR & SHORE** – Tim Arthur

Join Tim on a ramble through one of MacGregor's unopened campground areas to discover what birds abound in open forest habitats and along the Lake Huron shore. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

A38 1:30 pm **WATER WALK** – John Reaume

We will discover flora and fauna that make their home in swamps, marshes and ponds - from carnivorous plants, to insects, spiders, frogs, snakes and turtles, and of course the birds that specialize in these wetlands. (*easy*) (limit 20)

(Sunday May 24...continued)

A39 1:30 pm **BUILDING BIRD BOXES** – Rotary Club of Southampton [symbol](#)

Build bird boxes for your feathered friends. The Southampton Rotary Club will provide tools, materials and assistance. Following the bird house building, join them on a hike around the Visitor Centre trails. *(easy)* (limit 25)

Evening

A40 7:15 pm **THE ANCIENT CLIFF-FACE FOREST OF THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT** – Peter Kelly

Discover the ancient cliff-face forest along the Escarpment with Cliff Ecology researcher Peter. He will take you on a journey that does not require ropes and climbing gear! *(indoor presentation)* (limit 60)

MONDAY MAY 25

All Day

A41 6:30 am **SMOKEY HEAD & LION'S HEAD** – Doug Pedwell

Join Doug on this nature ramble through two hidden treasures on the Bruce Peninsula. Home to nationally and provincially rare species, these nature reserves are on a migratory corridor along the Escarpment and contain some unique geologic features. *(difficult, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

A42 7:30 am **A BIG SIT AT MARWANDA ESTATE** – Marshall Byle [*symbol](#)

Wide covered porches offer viewing in all directions, or move about to check out the ponds or wander the groomed trails. Over 100 species of birds can be viewed here during May. Coffee & tea provided. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch & lawn chair)* (limit 20)

A43 7:45 am **THE GEMS OF GEOMORPHOLOGY** – Bob Gray

This outing will take a look at potholes, sinkholes, disappearing streams and reappearing streams. Bob will take the mystery out of geomorphology! *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

Morning

A44 7:30 am **WHERE WOODS MEET WETLANDS** – Jeremy Bensette

This favorite Park trail has a lot to offer. Join Jere on a trek through the songbird-rich park woodlands to the wetlands of the Ducks Unlimited pond. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 16)

A45 7:45 am **FEN & FRINGE** – Kiah Jasper

Kiah will show you the abundant birds of the Lake Huron shoreline, fen and edge habitats during this walk from the Visitor Centre. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A46 8:00 am **PHOTOGRAPHY: GOING BEYOND AUTOMATIC** – Arni Stinnissen

Learn secrets for improving your nature-themed photography using easy-to-understand techniques from an experienced and passionate photographer. Bring a camera that has manual controls. A tripod would be handy. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 12)

Afternoon

A47 1:30 pm **DECORATIVE PADDLE WORKSHOP** – Gerald Guenkel

Create your own custom-designed 30" decorative paddle or a one-of-a-kind BBQ tool. You will be provided a white pine paddle blank, hand tools, wood burners, paint and a custom branding iron. *(moderate) (\$20 extra per person)* (limit 20)

A48 1:30 pm **EVIDENCE OF SPRING** – Arni Stinnissen

Join Arni for an all-inclusive search for migratory birds, flowers, butterflies, dragonflies and herps. Bring your binoculars and camera. *(easy)* (limit 20)

(Monday May 25...continued)

Evening

A49 7:15 pm **CAST AWAY: THE ISLANDS OF BRUCE COUNTY** – Sean Liipere

Bruce County islands are natural and cultural treasures. Sean will explore ancient processes that have shaped our seascapes, rare and unusual island ecosystems and the importance of islands for people inhabiting the Great Lakes over thousands of years. *(indoor presentation)* (limit 60)

THURSDAY MAY 28

All Day

B1 6:30 am **MALCOLM BLUFF & CAPE CROKER** – Kiah Jasper & Alfred Raab

Bird in the deep interior-forest tract of Malcolm Bluff Shores Nature Reserve and Neyaashiinigmiing territory on the Cape Croker peninsula. These areas have yielded some special finds in past years and the Escarpment bluffs provide spectacular vistas. *(moderate, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

B2 7:00 am **BIRDING THE BRUCE** – Pete Read

Pete, a popular Quest leader, has spent his life inspiring awareness about the natural world. Enjoy a great birding experience with this world-class birder. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

B3 7:30 am **KINGHURST FOREST NATURE RESERVE** – Nikki May & Angus Inksetter ★

This majestic old growth forest, with its century trees, is a rare example of lightly touched woodlands in southern Ontario. History, woodland birds and botany will be featured. *(moderate, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

B4 8:00 am **GREENOCK SWAMP NATURE RAMBLE** – Doug Pedwell ★

Explore part of southern Ontario's largest forested Class 1 wetland. A new boardwalk and trails have opened this wooded wetland environment to us. Bring your binoculars and cameras. Rubber boots recommended. *(moderate, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

B5 8:15 am **THE BRUCE RE-BECKONS** – Willy Waterton

Join Willy in a quest to rediscover Sherwood Fox's Bruce Peninsula, based on his landmark 1952 book "The Bruce Beckons". We will spend the day exploring Fox's Bruce to see what wonders still exist after 68 years. *(moderate, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

Morning

B6 7:15 am **BIRDING MacGREGOR** – Ian Shanahan

Ian is a global birder touching down in MacGregor. A morning walk around the Ducks Unlimited wetland always turns up late migrants and early nesters. Ian has tips and techniques for identifying these spring beauties. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 16)

B7 8:15 am **CHANTRY ISLAND 1** – Marine Heritage Society with Margaret Anderton

Chantry Island, an Important Bird Area, offers protection of colonial nesting species. View active nests from all levels as you ascend the lighthouse! A tour of the lighthouse and historic keeper's cottage is included. Mainland presentation if boat is cancelled. *(moderate, car-pool, sturdy footwear (no flip-flops), weather permitting. \$25 extra per person to be paid at the dock Tour Base. Must be 4' tall.)* (limit 9)

Afternoon

B8 12:15 pm **CHANTRY ISLAND 2** – Marine Heritage Society with Margaret Anderton

Chantry Island, an Important Bird Area, offers protection of colonial nesting species. View active nests from all levels as you ascend the lighthouse! A tour of the lighthouse and historic keeper's cottage is included. Mainland presentation if boat is cancelled. *(moderate, car-pool, sturdy footwear (no flip-flops), weather permitting. \$25 extra per person to be paid at the dock Tour Base. Must be 4' tall.)* (limit 9)

(Thursday May 28...continued)

B9 1:30 pm **INSECT PHOTOGRAPHY** – Bob Noble

Join Bob for an introduction to macro (close-up) photography of the big world of insects and other small things. Bring your digital camera with a macro setting or macro lens and flash and learn how you can capture the beauty and diversity of this hidden world. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 12)

B10 1:30 pm **BOTANY IN THE PARK** – Tyler Miller

The Huron Fringe is made up of former cobble beach ridges, swales and ancient miniature dunes. Tyler will help you identify the unique wild botany found amidst these features. (*easy*) (limit 16)

Evening

B11 7:15 pm **WANDERING ON THE BRUCE WITH BEARS, SNAKES & ALVARS** – Frank Burrows

Frank will share his adventures of climbing into bear dens, trying to figure out how many Massasauga Rattlesnakes are around and working to have rare alvar ecosystems recognized. (*indoor presentation*) (limit 60)

FRIDAY MAY 29

All Day

B12 7:45 am **ALVARS** – Frank Burrows

Join ecologist and former park manager, Frank, on an exploration of habitats of the northern Peninsula with special emphasis on alvar ecosystems and some of their key residents - bears and Massasauga Rattlesnakes. (*moderate, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

B13 8:00 am **FISHING ISLANDS ARCHIPELAGO** – Bill Crins, Lynne Richardson, Michael Runtz

We'll bird and botanize our way up to Evergreen Resort at Red Bay, lunch at the lodge, then embark on a pontoon boat tour of the Fishing Islands. The islands are remote, scenic and bursting with colonial birds! (*easy, car-pool, \$25 extra per person payable at the Resort*) (limit 20)

B14 8:30 am **LAWN CHAIR BIRDING** – Sarah Rupert ★ *symbol*

We often rush around looking for birds, but sometimes when you just stay in one place birds you didn't realize were there will appear. We will learn to make sketches and notes about birds and their behaviours. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch & lawn chair*) (limit 16)

B15 8:30 am **MÉTIS BEADING WORKSHOP** – Jenna McGuire ★ *symbol*

Join Jenna, a local Métis artisan, for an introductory workshop on Métis beadwork. You'll create an applique piece of beadwork while learning about the cultural significance of beadwork to Métis people. Métis history and bead history in North America will also be discussed. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (*\$20 extra for materials*) (limit 12)

Morning

B16 7:00 am **FIELD & FOREST** – Justin Peter

Join Justin, a Quest leader, accomplished birder and interpreter, on a tour of the bird-rich grasslands and other countryside habitats Bruce County has to offer. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

B17 7:15 am **A BIRD'S EYE VIEW** – Jean Iron

Look, listen and learn with Jean, an OFO Distinguished Ornithologist and well-known educational leader. We'll bird along river and riparian habitats amongst others throughout the morning. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

B18 7:30 am **BIRDING ON THE EDGE** – Pete Read

The habitats around the eastern edge of the Park provide lots of avian action and an eclectic mix of birds. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

(Friday May 29...continued)

Afternoon

B19 1:30 pm **BIRDING & BOTANY IN MacGREGOR** – Ian Shanahan

This outing will explore niche habitats along the Tower Trail through the eyes of an experienced ecologist. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 16)

B20 1:30 pm **INVERHURON** – Marshall Byle

Explore some of the little-known trails along the river and through the dunes of Inverhuron Provincial Park. Groves of tall pines, young woodlands and old cedars round out the diversity of this Park. (*moderate with steep sections, car-pool*) (limit 16)

B21 1:30 pm **PIPING PLOVERS OF SAUBLE BEACH** – Stew Nutt **SYMBOL**

Join this plover enthusiast on an excursion to Sauble Beach to observe active nesting sites of this endearing endangered bird. Learn about the birds' behavior, challenges and the efforts made to re-establish a population in the Great Lakes. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

Evening

B22 7:15 pm **THE CULTURE OF BIRD WATCHING** – Paul Nicholson

While bird watchers are looking at birds, is anyone watching the bird watchers? Is there an observable bird watching culture? Do Tilley hats and multi-pocketed khaki vests have any meaning? Paul, a lifelong birder and bird watching columnist for *The London Free Press*, will share his insights. (*indoor presentation*) (limit 60)

B23 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 2020. Weather dependent, members of the Bluewater Astronomical Society will have their telescopes available for viewing the evening sky. (*easy, indoor presentation/outdoors*) (limit 30)

SATURDAY MAY 30

All Day

B24 6:30 am **CAPE CROKER - BIRDING NEYAASHIINIGMIING** – Jarmo Jalava & Miptoon

Anishinaabe culture and the ecosystems found in Neyaashiinigiing (Cape Croker) will be featured. Birds will be singing, wildflowers will be blooming and the scenery is splendid. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

B25 6:45 am **THE BOUNTIFUL BRUCE PENINSULA** – Justin Peter

India, Galapagos, Bruce County! Justin is a global tour leader. This driving tour will take you through the bountiful, bird-rich habitats of the Bruce and add a range of species to your Festival bird list. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

B26 8:00 am **BIRDS & GARDENS** – James Turland *

We'll bird the Kincardine Lagoons, then travel to the Bruce Botanical Food Gardens in Ripley. The gardens act as a teaching center showcasing ways to be more food self-reliant. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

11:00 am **QUEST NATURE TOURS**

Over lunch break and into the early afternoon check out this display at the Visitor Centre.

(Saturday May 30...continued)

Morning

B27 6:15 am **THE BIRD WHISPERER** – David Brewer *symbol*

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. Banders have a special way with birds. Watch, and maybe even help Dave as birds are collected from mist nests, banded and released. This is a great opportunity to see birds up close and personal. *(easy)* (limit 20)

B28 7:00 am **BIRDING ON THE EDGE** – Michael Runtz

The mixed habitat niches around the edge of the park provide lots of avian action and an eclectic mix of birds for the list. Michael is wildly enthusiastic and entertaining. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B29 7:15 am **THE JI LINE WITH JI** – Jean Iron

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

B30 8:00 am **BIRDING FUNDAMENTALS** – Ian Shanahan

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

B31 9:00 am **CREATING MONARCH FRIENDLY HABITAT** – Audrey Armstrong *symbol*

Learn to nurture monarch butterfly populations by establishing your own monarch waystation. Life cycle, biology, issues and threats to the monarch population and the value of choosing native plants will be covered. Free seeds will be distributed. *(easy, indoor/outdoor)* (limit 20)

Afternoon

B32 1:00 pm **BLUEBIRD TRAIL LANDLORDS** – Dennis & Gwen Lewington

Bluebirds are cavity nesters and nest boxes give these beautiful birds a helping hand. Dennis and Gwen will take you on their Bluebird Trail which they have been maintaining and monitoring for over 36 years. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B33 1:00 pm **iPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY** – Willy Waterton *symbol*

'The best camera is the one with you.' iPhone cameras are much more powerful than people realize. We will explore the camera's various functions and attachments to expand our photographic horizons. *(easy)* (limit 10)

B34 1:30 pm **FIELD SKETCHING / JOURNALING** – Sarah Rupert *symbol*

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

B35 1:30 pm **SEDGES HAVE EDGES** – Bill Crins

Sedges have edges, rushes are round and grasses are hollow right up from the ground. 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)

Evening

B36 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm **DINNER UNDER THE TENT**

Visitor Centre area. Pulled-pork, salads, dessert by Harrigan's Catering. Additional charge of \$20. B36 can be combined with B37 as a single event for \$25. Pre-registration required. (limit 60)

B37 7:15 pm **SEX & BIRDS** – David Gascoigne

An examination of the mating habits of birds and the similarities to human behaviour – even those we might not want to talk about, without the sanctions of morality, fortunately. *(indoor presentation)* (limit 60)

B38 9:00 pm **DENIZENS OF THE DARK** – Michael Runtz

Nocturnal adaptations are required to rule the night. From owls to crickets to fireflies, learn how these creatures are able to thrive when darkness descends. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

SUNDAY MAY 31

Morning

B39 6:15 am **THE BIRD WHISPERER** – David Brewer [symbol](#)

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush! Banders have a special way with birds. Watch, and maybe even help, Dave as birds are collected from mist nests, banded and released. This is a great opportunity to see birds up close and personal. *(easy)* (limit 20)

B40 7:15 am **BIRDING THE TOWER TRAIL** – Justin Peter

This popular trail always produces a good mix of species. Justin's superb birding skills will ensure we spot everything that's to be found along the trail and from the observation tower overlooking the wetland. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 16)

B41 7:30 am **NATURE RAMBLE 'ROUND THE PARK** – Ian Shanahan

Birds are nesting, flowers are blooming, and it's a great time to be in the park with a passionate interpretive naturalist. Ian will point out the intricacies of nature. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B42 7:45 am **BOTANIZING & BIRDING** – Bill Crins

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

11:00 am **QUEST NATURE TOURS**

Over lunch break and into the early afternoon check out this display at the Visitor Centre.

Afternoon

B43 1:30 pm **SHRUB & TREE ID** – Jim Coles

If a tree falls in the forest, can anybody identify it? Using leaf and twig identification keys we'll learn to identify coniferous and deciduous species. *(easy)* (limit 20)

B44 1:30 pm **BIRD & BOTANY RAMBLE** – Ian Shanahan

Ian will guide a leisurely walk along the Tower Trail to the Ducks Unlimited wetland. Birders and botanists will enjoy the riches of the MacGregor Point landscape as seen through the eyes of an experienced naturalist. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 16)

Evening

B45 7:15 pm **PENGUINS** – David Brewer

Everybody loves penguins! Based on his experience on 25 polar cruises to the Antarctic (as staff ornithologist, zodiac driver and general dogsbody), David will touch on the biology, breeding, ecology and conservation of these fascinating and wonderful creatures. *(indoor presentation)* (limit 60)

B46 8:00 pm **SUNSET WALK** – Chris Tomsett

End your Festival experience with a leisurely stroll along the shore of Lake Huron with MacGregor's former Park Superintendent. Discover the sights and sounds of a late May evening in MacGregor Point Provincial Park. *(easy)* (limit 20)

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

- Sturdy **footwear** and **water** is recommended for all outings.
- **Black-legged Ticks** carrying Lyme Disease have been found in Bruce County. Be tick savvy.
- To reduce our carbon footprint, we encourage **car-pooling**. If you are a passenger, please consider giving a donation to the driver on away-from-the-Park trips. \$5 per half-day, \$10 per full-day.
- Bring your own **walkie-talkies** if you have them. Walkie-talkie communication between vehicles keeps you aware of stops, directions, traffic safety and birds along the way.

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.

2020 FESTIVAL FEES

PACKAGE RATES

Adult: 8 Day Festival \$173 4 Day Weekend \$130 Saturday & Sunday \$82
*** Youth:** 8 Day Festival \$86 4 Day Weekend \$65 Saturday & Sunday \$41
*Youth -10 to 21 (under 13 must be accompanied by a registered chaperone)

SINGLE EVENT RATES

(Note: Single Event fees only apply until the total reaches that of a package. Package rates will be applied automatically.)

Half Day Event:	Adult \$22	Youth \$11
All Day Event:	Adult \$44	Youth \$22
Evening Event:	Adult \$10	Youth \$5

Fees include Park entrance fee. Additional fees apply to some events.

Refund information is available on the website.

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

www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1, 2020

Questions? - Contact the Registrar at huronfringebirdfest@gmail.com or 519-375-1889

The Huron Fringe Birding Festival is presented by the Huron Fringe Birding Festival Committee, Friends of MacGregor Point and MacGregor Point Provincial Park. The Festival supports the preservation of the Parks' natural legacy.

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

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