

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.

New - In response to your requests, we are offering shorter all day ☆ and mobility limited ♿ events.

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.

Coffee and pastries are available in the Visitor Centre every morning.

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

“The Nest” will be open for socializing and refreshments from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm daily, except Saturdays.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY MAY 25

All Day

A1 6:00 am **BIRDING SHORE TO SHORE** – Michael Carlson

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

A2 6:15 am **BRUCE BACKCOUNTRY BIRDING** – Mark Wiercinski

Visit the upper Peninsula's best-known birding spots such as Dyer's Bay, Cabot Head, the sparrow fields and Crane Lake. You will benefit from Mark's superb birding skills and enjoy the outstanding scenery. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A3 6:30 am **BIRDING INLAND LAKES** – Judith King ☆ ♿

Judith, a popular leader from the past, is back! She will take us birding along the chain of inland lakes and the adjacent fields and forests. The lakes offer classic marshes so marsh birds will be featured. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A4 7:00 am **MALCOLM BLUFF & CAPE CROKER** – Alfred Raab

Bird in the rich habitats within Malcolm Bluff Shores Nature Reserve and Neyaashiinigiing territory on the Cape Croker peninsula. These areas have yielded some special finds in past years and the bluffs provide spectacular vistas. (*moderate, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A5 8:00 am **BOTANY OF THE BRUCE** – Walter Muma

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

Morning

A6 6:45 am **KINCARDINE LAGOONS aka “PELEE NORTH”** – James Turland

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

A7 7:30 am **BIRDING THE PARK PERIMETER** – Marshall Byle

Join our local lifelong birder, Marshall as he leads us through habitats around the Park. The perimeter is a mecca for an eclectic mix of birds. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

Afternoon

A8 1:30 pm **SMART PHONE & TABLET PHOTOGRAPHY** – Kerry Jarvis

Learn cool techniques on how to get the most out of your phone and tablet cameras. Quickly learn how to edit your images in the field to give them that professional look. Come armed with your phones and tablets. (*easy, car pool*) (limit 12)

A9 1:30 pm **NATURE RAMBLE** – Terry Crabe

Terry will guide a leisurely walk along the Tower Trail to the Ducks Unlimited wetland. Botanists and birders will enjoy the riches of the MacGregor Point landscape as seen through the eyes of an experienced Park Ecologist. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm **“THE NEST”**

Birds of a feather flock together. Drop in to The Nest to socialize and share your day's adventures. (*refreshments available*)

Evening

A10 7:15 pm **WARBLERS: ONTARIO'S FEATHERED JEWELS** – John Reaume

This festival kickoff presentation takes a closer look at warblers, the “jewels” of the bird world. The Huron Fringe hosts many of the 35 regularly occurring species we can see in Ontario. John will explore these and another 10 or so vagrants. (*indoors*) (limit 60)

A11 9:15 pm **WAIT UNTIL DARK** – Matt Cunliffe

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

Saturday MAY 26

All Day

A12 6:00 am **MARK'S MYSTERY TOUR** – Mark Wiercinski

A tour with Mark is always an adventure. Along the way, Mark's tips about bird habitats and songs will help you sort them out. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A13 6:15 am **BIRDING THE BACKROADS** – James Turland

Join local expert James for a day in the country. We will travel along scenic rural roads searching for declining grassland birds amongst a range of other species. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

A14 6:30 am **MALCOLM BLUFF TO HURON SHORES** – Mike Burrell

You'll be amazed at Mike's birding skills and the diversity of birds found in this area. There may be a Cerulean or Hooded Warbler on territory. If it's there, Mike will find it! (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*)(limit 20)

A15 9:00 am **HIDDEN WORLDS IN OUR MIDST: NATURAL & HUMAN** – Peter Storck ☆

Hidden corners in our midst reveal the dramas of past lives. Through the eyes of an archaeologist, we will discover an Ice Age lagoon possibly visited by the first people in Ontario, a fishing encampment occupied 1600 years ago and a horticultural village from 600 years ago. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

Morning

A16 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 mnemonics. This field workshop will give you tips to sort out bird songs. (*easy, car-pool*)(limit 20)

A17 6:30 am **BIRDING ON THE EDGE** – Henrique Pacheco

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

A18 6:45 am **BIRDING THE COUNTRYSIDE** – Judith King 

Judith will take us birding through the rural landscapes of the Paisley area. Birds of the farm, forest and field will be featured. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A19 7:00 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)

A20 7:15 am **BIRDING MacGREGOR** – Terry Crabe

This outing will explore 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 good species diversity. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A21 7:30 am **OVER HILL & DALE** – Marshall Byle

Over the river and through the woods on this 100 acres we'll go. Field edge habitat will complete our tour to add to our species list. *(moderate, car-pool)* (limit 20)

11:00 am **VORTEX OPTICS**

During the lunch break check out the Vortex Optics display of binoculars and telescopes for sale.

Afternoon

A22 1:30 pm **WILDFLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE PARK** – Doug Pedwell

Through the eye of your camera lens, participants will explore wildflowers along the Old Shore Road Trail. All types of cameras welcome. Be prepared to get down and dirty. *(easy)* (limit 12)

A23 1:30 pm **FROG FROLIC** – Kerry Jarvis

We will frolic around several ponds to revel in the sights and sounds of these amazing creatures. Bring binoculars and cameras. This hands-on experience will bring out the kid in you. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

A24 1:30 pm **NATURE RAMBLE** – John Reaume

We will roam along the Old Shore Road Trail to 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)

A25 1:30 pm **AFTERNOON BIRDING** – Henrique Pacheco

Follow Henrique down Kempfs Trail to Watersnake Pond to see what we can see in the quiet of the afternoon. Woodland and shoreline habitats are featured. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

Evening

A26 4:30 pm **BANQUET SOCIAL & SILENT AUCTION**

5:30 pm **DINNER & PRESENTATION – THE LISTLESS LISTER: THE ADDICTION OF BIRDING AND HOW I OVERCAME IT** – Michael Runtz

Many birders are addicted to adding new ticks to their lifetime species list. During his highly visual presentation, Michael will detail the transition of a fanatical lister to someone who now enjoys birds and all other living organisms in more pacified ways. *(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 27

All Day

A27 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)

A28 6:30 am **BIRDING BLITZ** – Todd Pepper

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

A29 9:30 am **GREENOCK SWAMP** – Doug Pedwell ☆

Come explore part of Southern Ontario's single largest forested wetland along new trails. This area is home to a number of woodland birds and plants. Bring your camera. Trails can be muddy and wet; rubber boots recommended. (*moderate, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

Morning

A30 6:00 am **SEX & THE SINGLE WARBLER** – Mark Wiercinski

Warblers are the jewels of the forest. They sing because love is in the air. Mark will point out their eye-catching colours and sweet (ok, maybe a tad confusing) songs. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

A31 6:15 am **AROUND THE EDGE OF MacGREGOR** – Mike Burrell

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

A32 6:30 am **BIRDING THE BACKROADS** – James Turland ♪

Rural landscapes are a peaceful backdrop for grassland and woodland birds. This is James' backyard and he is a popular local leader. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

A33 7:30 am **FIDLER'S GREEN** – Dave Fidler & Henrique Pacheco

Dave has developed trails through the forests and fields of his 50-acre tract in rural Grey County. His "yard list" is one of the best in Grey and Bruce. A bonus wetland is home to a pair of resident nesting Trumpeter Swans. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

A34 7:45 am **BIRDING THE BRUCE WITH BENSETTE** – Jeremy Bensette

Jeremy is a popular bird guide leader throughout the spring migration at Point Pelee. Join him as he follows the birds migrating through, or on territory along the Huron Fringe, known locally as "Pelee North" for its abundance of birds. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

A35 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)

Afternoon

A36 1:00 pm **PIPING PLOVERS - ENDANGERED & ENDEARING** – Stewart Nutt ♪

Stew has been on the front line of the plover recovery program since its beginning. He will make a Plover Lover out of you! You may observe courtship (plovers) as well as other behaviours and learn about the challenges these charismatic birds face. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

A37 1:30 pm **GRASSLANDS, WETLANDS & UPLAND FORESTS** – Jim Coles

Join Jim for a ramble around his rural property. We will explore glacial landforms and learn about forest management while viewing the abundant birdlife of field, forest and marsh. (*moderate, car-pool*) (limit 20)

A38 1:30 pm **POND STUDY** – Park Staff

MacGregor Point protects provincially significant wetlands that are home to aquatic species. This hands-on experience will bring out the kid in you. (*easy*) (limit 20)

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm **“THE NEST”**

Birds of a feather flock together. Drop in to The Nest to socialize and share your day's adventures. (*refreshments available*)

Evening

A39 7:15 pm **A BIG YEAR** – Jeremy Bensette

Jeremy spent 2017 dashing off in all directions chasing birds and a Big Year record for the province of Ontario. Many of you know the exciting result! Come out and listen to his account of a year in the life of a Big Year birder. (*indoors*) (limit 60)

MONDAY MAY 28

All Day

A40 6:00 am **BIRDING NEYAASHIINIGMIING** – Jarmo Jalava & Miptoon

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

A41 8:00 am **BLACK CREEK RAMBLE** – Doug Pedwell

This jewel of a Park is located in the heart of the Huron Fringe migratory flyway. Photographers will enjoy the birds, plants and landscapes of this Park. Rubber boots recommended. (*moderate, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 20)

Morning

A42 6:30 am **BIRDING 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 7:30 am **A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT** – Marshall Byle

This has been a popular riparian birding event for a number of festivals. This year Marshall has acquired special access to a private river property. Join us on Marshall's mystery tour. (*moderate, car-pool*) (limit 20)

A44 7:45 am **THE BOUNTIFUL BRUCE** – Jeremy Bensette

Jeremy birded the entire province during his 2017 Big Year and is ready to revisit his favorite birding areas of Bruce County. Join Jere in his never-ending pursuit of birds. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

A45 9:00 am **BIG SIT AT BONNIE'S** – Bonnie Patterson-Collins & Margaret Anderton 

A casual yet productive approach to birding. Join Bonnie and Margaret to 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 lawn chair*) (limit 20)

Afternoon

A46 1:30 pm **LIVING LANDSCAPES: THE WORLD OF MacGREGOR POINT'S BEACHES** – Peter Middleton

Join this accomplished interpreter on a walk along the shoreline of MacGregor Point. Experience the brilliant life that blooms in what appears to be harsh conditions. Peter will make this world come alive. *(easy)* (limit 20)

A47 1:30 pm **WILD BOTANY OF MacGREGOR** – Walter Muma

Walter will lead you on an exploration of the Park to view its spring wildflowers and other wild botany. You'll be surprised at the number of species he can find every step of the way. *(easy)* (limit 15)

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

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Evening

A48 7:15 pm **BRUCE TRAIL - END TO END - 856 KILOMETRES OF DISCOVERY** – Willy Waterton & Audrey Armstrong

Join Audrey and Willy as they take you along on their hike exploring the history, science and geology of the Bruce Trail from Tobermory to Queenston Heights. *(indoors)* (limit 60)

THURSDAY MAY 31

All Day

B1 6:45 am **THE BRUCE RE-BECKONS PART 1** – Willy Waterton

Join Willy in a quest to rediscover Sherwood Fox's Bruce Peninsula, based on his landmark 1952 book "The Bruce Beckons". You will spend the day exploring Fox's Bruce to see what still exists after 66 years. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

B2 7:00 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)

B3 7:15 am **WILDFLOWER WALK** – Esme Batten

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

B4 8:15 am **OLD GROWTH FEATURES** – Clarke Birchard ☆

Clarke will guide us on a discovery trek through the Kinghurst Forest Nature Reserve. This majestic forest, with 250 to 300-year-old trees, is a rare example of pre-settlement woodlands in southern Ontario. Clarke's vast knowledge of history, woodland birds, botany and folklore will be featured. *(moderate, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

Morning

B5 7:15 am **BRUCE BIRDS BRUCEDALE** – Bruce Edmunds f

Let Bruce show you around the Brucedale Conservation Area. From the south end of MacGregor, we will bird our way into Brucedale. This section of the Huron Fringe should provide us with backyard birds, warblers, waterfowl and migrants. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B6 8:00 am **GETTING STARTED MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY** – Bob Noble

Join Bob for an introduction to the photography of insects in their natural habitats. He will cover macro photography concepts, camera set-up and shooting techniques, with lots of practice in the field. Bring your digital camera with macro setting or macro lens and flash. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 12)

Afternoon

B7 12:30 pm **CHANTRY ISLAND 1** – Marine Heritage Society with Margaret Anderton

Chantry Island, an international Important Bird Area, offers protection of colonial nesting species. This boat trip includes a tour of the lighthouse and historic keeper's cottage. View active nests from all levels as you ascend the lighthouse! (*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)

B8 1:30 pm **ADVANCED MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY** – Bob Noble

Experienced macro photographers will be provided advanced approaches for capturing high quality images of insects in the field. Various techniques will be explored including image composition. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 12)

B09 1:30 pm **GRASSLANDS, WETLANDS & UPLAND FORESTS** – Jim Coles

Join Jim for a ramble around his rural property. We will explore glacial landforms and learn about forest management while viewing the abundant birdlife of field, forest and marsh. (*moderate, uneven footing, car-pool*) (limit 20)

B10 2:30 pm **CHANTRY ISLAND 2** – Marine Heritage Society with Margaret Anderton

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

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

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Evening

B11 7:15 pm **SONGBIRD ID** – Sarah Rupert

Warblers and sparrows get a lot of attention, but what about the other songbirds? Sarah will explore vireos to kinglets and wrens to finches. Learn some tips and tricks for identification, listen to some wonderful bird songs and enjoy Sarah's insights. (*indoors*) (limit 60)

FRIDAY JUNE 1

All Day

B12 6:30 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)

B13 8:00 am **FISHING ISLANDS ARCHIPELAGO** – Bill Crins, Mark Peck, Lynne Richardson
We'll bird and botanize our way up to Evergreen Lodge 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, \$23 extra per person)* (limit 20)

B14 9:00 am **BIG SIT** – Mike Pickup & Marshall Byle ☆ ♪
Join Marshall and Mike by the scenic ponds at Marwanda Estate. Easy walks and pondside birding will build up our lists. Tea and coffee will be provided. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

Morning

B15 6:15 am **BIRDING MacGREGOR** – Ian Shanahan
Ian is another global birding tour leader touching down in MacGregor. A morning walk around the Ducks Unlimited wetland always turns up late migrants and early nesters. Ian has all the tips and techniques for identifying these spring beauties. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B16 7:00 am **DISCOVER PAISLEY BIRDING** – Judith King
Judith will introduce you to some local birding hotspots. Mixed forest, riparian habitat and grassland fields will be visited on this outing. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

Afternoon

B17 1:00 pm **PIPING PLOVERS - ENDEARING & ENDANGERED** – Stewart Nutt ♪
Stew has been on the front line of the plover recovery program since its beginning. You may observe courtship (plovers) as well as other behaviours and learn about the challenges these charismatic birds face. Life's a beach for these birds! *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B18 1:30 pm **PHOTOGRAPHY WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE** – Willy Waterton
"The best camera is the one that's with you." Smartphone cameras are much more powerful than most people realize. We will explore the camera's various functions and attachments to expand your photographic horizons. *(easy)* (limit 10)

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm **"THE NEST"**
Birds of a feather flock together. Drop in to The Nest to socialize and share your day's adventures. *(refreshments available)*

Evening

B19 7:15 pm **HUMANS & BIRDS: LOOSING THE TIES THAT BIND** – Richard Pope
Richard is the popular author of "The Reluctant Twitcher" - a (quite) truthful account of his big birding year. Now Richard will take us on a more in-depth look at the basis of our relationship to birds, through the ages to modern times. *(indoors)* (limit 60)

SATURDAY JUNE 2

All Day

B20 7:15 am **MALCOLM BLUFFS & CAPE CROKER** – Alfred Raab
Bird Malcolm Bluffs Nature Reserve and the Neyaashiinigiing territory at the Cape Croker peninsula. These areas in Alfred's backyard have yielded some special finds in past years and the bluffs provide spectacular vistas. *(moderate, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

B21 8:00 am **WATERFALLS** – Kerry Jarvis

Discover the techniques of capturing waterfalls with your camera. Photographers of all levels using all types of cameras: from smartphones, tablets, compact to DSLR will find this informative and fun. (*easy, car-pool, bring lunch*) (limit 12)

Morning

B22 6:30 am **BIRDING THE BACKROADS** – Justin Peter

Justin will focus his extensive birding tour leadership skills on the threatened and declining birds found in local grasslands. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

B23 7:00 am **A BIRD IN THE HAND** – Dave Brewer 

Join Master Bander Dave as birds are caught, banded and released. He will demonstrate banding techniques and explain the recording of scientific data. This is a wonderful opportunity to see birds up close. (*easy*) (limit 20)

B24 7:15 am **A BIRD'S EYE VIEW** – Jean Iron

Look, listen and learn 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 8:30 am **BIRDING SEICHE POND** – Sarah Rupert 

We often rush around looking for birds, but sometimes when you just sit and stay in one place you'll discover a world of birds you didn't realize was there. We will be overlooking the pond, as we learn to make notes about the birds and their behaviours. (*easy, car-pool, bring a lawn chair*) (limit 20)

Afternoon

B26 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 34 years. (*easy, car-pool*) (limit 20)

B27 1:30 pm **BIRD DRAWING BASICS** – Sarah Rupert 

Join Sarah for tips on sketching and drawing birds. Studying the shapes and proportions of birds, you'll work on a final drawing, using a mounted bird as a model. (*easy*) (limit 12)

B28 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)

B29 1:30 pm **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)

Evening

B30 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm **CHICKEN DINNER**

(MacGregor Point Provincial Park, Harrigan's Catering. Additional charge of \$17. B30 can be combined with B31 as a single event for \$23. Pre-registration required)

B31 7:15 pm **THE JOY OF WATCHING BIRDS** – Gavin Watson

Join Gavin, University of Guelph naturalist and Quest leader, as he presents his study on birders and their relationship to the birds they watch. *(indoors)* (limit 60)

B32 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 2018. Weather permitting, members of the Bluewater Astronomical Society will have their telescopes available for viewing the evening sky. *(easy, indoors, outdoors is weather dependent)* (limit 30)

SUNDAY JUNE 3

All Day

B33 9:00 am **HIDDEN WORLDS IN OUR MIDST: NATURAL & HUMAN** – Peter Storck ☆

Hidden corners in our midst reveal the dramas of past lives. We will visit an Ice Age lagoon possibly visited by the first people in Ontario, a fishing encampment occupied 1600 years ago and a horticultural village from 600 years ago. *(easy, car-pool, bring lunch)* (limit 20)

Morning

B34 7:00 am **A BIRD IN THE HAND** – Dave Brewer f

Join Master Bander Dave as birds are caught, banded and released. He will demonstrate banding techniques and explain the recording of scientific data. This wonderful opportunity to see birds up close will be followed by a short birdwatching walk. *(easy)* (limit 20)

B35 7:00 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 atop the observation tower overlooking the marsh. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B36 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)

B37 7:30 am **NEST QUEST** – Mark Peck

Sharpen your observation skills and expand your knowledge of bird biology. On this leisurely walk in the Park, Mark, an expert on nidiology, will help you take your birding skills to another level. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B38 7:30 am **BIRDING IN & AROUND THE PARK** – Ian Shanahan

MacGregor Point is bursting with 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)* (limit 20)

B39 8:00 am **BIRDING & BOTANIZING** – Bill Crins

Bill has an incredible background in both birding and botany! 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)

Afternoon

B40 1:30 pm **STEPPING INTO THE PAST** – Bill Fitzgerald

Ancient sea beds are exposed at several locations within the Park. Bill, an archaeologist, will take you to these spots to see fossils; and to learn about the value these outcrops had to prehistoric peoples living in this area. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 20)

B41 1:30 pm **PIX IN THE PARK** – Bruce Edmunds

Bruce loves to photograph anything that moves, and anything that doesn't move. Focussing on bird photography, Bruce will share his tips and tricks, while capturing whatever is being photogenic. *(easy, car-pool)* (limit 12)

B42 1:30 pm **MONARCH FRIENDLY HABITAT** – Audrey Armstrong

Learn how to nurture monarch butterfly populations by growing your own easy to maintain monarch waystation. You'll discover how to create monarch friendly habitat from the ground up. Free seeds will be distributed to get you started on your own waystation! *(easy, indoor/outdoor)* (limit 20)

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

Birds of a feather flock together. Drop in to The Nest to socialize and share your day's adventures. *(refreshments available)*

Evening

B43 8:00 pm **SUNSET WALK** – 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)

GEARED FOR KIDS!

Saturday, June 2

K01 10:00 am **THE BIRD WHISPERER** – Dave Brewer

Banders have a special way with birds. Watch (and maybe even 'help') Dave as birds are caught, banded and released. This is a great opportunity to see birds up close and personal. *(easy, chaperone required - no charge)* (limit 20)

K02 1:30 pm **ANIMAL DEFENDERS** – Park Staff

MacGregor is a sanctuary for many Defenders, each with their own special ability that would make a super hero jealous! Join Park staff to learn more about these natural abilities for defence! *(easy, chaperone required - no charge)* (limit 20)

2018 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
**Youth 10 to 17 (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 \$16 **Child \$10
*** Child 5 to 9 accompanied by a chaperone*

All Day Event:	Adult \$44	Youth \$32
Evening Event:	Adult \$10	Youth \$10

Additional fees apply as listed. Fees include Park entrance fee.

**The Huron Fringe Birding Festival uses online registration and payment at:
www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca**

The program is posted for viewing January 15, 2018. Registration opens February 1, 2018.
 Questions? - Contact the Registrar at huronfringebirdfest@gmail.com or
 phone 519-375-1889

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. Black-legged Ticks, carrying Lyme Disease, have been found in Bruce County. Be tick savvy.

Shorter All Day ☆

Difficulty Levels

Mobility Limited  Groomed and maintained trails. Walking with difficulty for any distance.

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 away-from-the-Park trips.

Walkie-talkies

Bring your own if you have them. Walkie-talkie communication between vehicles keeps you aware of stops, directions, traffic safety and birds along the way.

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

Friends of MacGREGOR POINT

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 2018 visit our website
www.friendsofmacgregor.org

Park camping reservations - www.ontarioparks.com
Local tourist information - www.VisitSaugeenShores.ca

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

We thank our Sponsors & Supporters

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Friends of MacGregor Point*

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Please support our Community Sponsors.

Huron Fringe Birding Festival Registration: www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca
Registration inquiries: huronfringebirdfest@gmail.com or 519-375-1889
Logos - Facebook / Twitter / Wordpress

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