

The Sault Naturalists Annual Report for 2005



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Who we are

Founded in 1954, the Sault Naturalists is an international club with approximately 130 members. The objectives of the club are: to provide members with a common meeting ground for the exchange of ideas and for broadening their knowledge and understanding of natural science; to promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of our natural heritage; and to support and cooperate with other organizations with similar aims. The group is affiliated with Ontario Nature, the Canadian Nature Federation and the Michigan Audubon Society. Meetings are usually held from September through June on the second Tuesday of each month, in either Sault Ontario or Sault Michigan. See your newsletter for details. The annual meeting for 2006 is in February.

Message from the President

John Burroughs (1837-1921) was a naturalist from the Catskill Mountains of New York State. He, like the Sault Naturalists, authored a highly regarded publication titled the *Wake-Robin*. After his nature essays gained popularity, he kept company with Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, Walt Whitman, Henry Ford, and Thomas Edison. Quoting Burroughs: "If I were to name the three most precious resources of life, I should say books, friends, and nature; and the greatest of these, at least the most constant and always at hand, is nature. Nature we have always with us, an inexhaustible storehouse of that which moves the heart, appeals to the mind, and fires the imagination." We have no shortage in the Sault Naturalists Club of two of Burroughs' precious resources, friends and nature.

For the past four years, I have been privileged to be able to work with and enjoy the company of the dedicated members of the executive committee; honored, also, to be able to enjoy the company of many of you in the pursuit of the enjoyment of nature. You are all precious resources, and I thank you for that!

Carl Linhart

2005 Executive

President	Carl Linhart	(906) 635-9891	linhartc@yahoo.com
Vice-president	Curt Bosket	(906) 635-8367	ibosket@charter.net
Secretary	Gordon Van Midde	(705) 253-9746	hiataus@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Gail Andrew	(705) 942-0768	g.andrew@shaw.ca
Outings	Chuck Bosley	(906) 248-3287	cbosley@lighthouse.net
	Evelyn Simon	(705) 949-8206	
Programs	John Lehman	(906) 635-5095	jlehman@lssu.edu
Observations Secretary	Ken Mellwrick	(705) 541-5643	kmcilwri@nrcan.gc.ca
Archivists	Gladys and Cliff Wallwork	(705) 779-3098	
Membership	Carrie Ginou	(705) 942-0715	cginou@ekit.com
Publicity	Tracey Cooke	(705) 842-1929	t_cooke@ducks.ca
Environmental Action	Katie Bosket	(906) 635-8367	ibosket@charter.net
Newsletter	Betty & Gerry Bennett	(705) 254-7214	bengerbet@shaw.ca
Botanical Records	Sue Meades	(705) 777-0496	sjmeades@sympatico.ca
Telephone Convener	Mary Ryckman	(705) 253-6352	
ON Rep* and Properties Steward	Tony Walker	(705) 759-6151	anthonywalk@hotmail.com
M.A.S.* Rep.	Chuck Bosley	(906) 248-3287	cbosley@lighthouse.net
Web Page	Don Hall	(705) 248-1834	donandvivhall@sympatico.ca
Maintenance			

* ON - Ontario Nature

M.A.S. - Michigan Audubon Society

Program Committee Report

The Program Committee scheduled and implemented the following programs for 2005.

January 11, 2005, Central United Methodist Church. Dr. Taylor Scarr, Provincial Entomologist for Ontario. *Unwanted Insect Immigrants.*

February 8, 2005, Sault College Cafeteria. Annual Dinner Meeting. Stephanie Mills, internationally renowned ecologist, author, and speaker. *Preserving the Environment and Living in Harmony with the Natural World.*



Photo by G. Bennett

March 8, 2005, Central United Methodist Church. Sally Childs, Professor of Recreation Studies and Exercise Science at Lake Superior State University. *Resource Management in South Africa.*

April 12, 2005, Central United Methodist Church. Chad Kister, Alaska Coalition. *The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.*

May 3, 2005, Great Lakes Forestry centre. Kees van Frankenhuyzen, Canadian Forest Service project leader for Microbial Control Agents. *Disease and Forest Insect Outbreaks.*

June 14, 2005, Great Lakes Forestry centre. David Euler, former Dean of Forestry at Lakehead University. *The Polar Bears of Churchill.*

September 13, 2005, Great Lakes Forestry centre Jennie Pearce, wildlife ecologist and manager of her own ecological research company in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. *The Helmeted Honeyeater in Australia – Ecology and Recovery Efforts.*

October 11, 2005, Great Lakes Forestry centre Susan and Mike Bryan, amateur naturalists from the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists. *Caribou Island, Lake Superior—A Natural History Adventure.*

November 8, 2005, Great Lakes Forestry centre Mike Petzold, retired fisheries biologist with the Ontario MNR and owner/operator of Caribou Expeditions, a sea kayak guiding company based out of Goulais River. *Lake Superior by Kayak: from Thunder Bay to Sault Ste. Marie.*

December 13, 2005, Central United Methodist Church. Annual Holiday Get-together. Photos an anecdotes from recent outings.

Thanks to Curt Bosket and Donna Ryckman-Rooney for their diligent efforts as members of the program committee.

Submitted by:
John Lehman
Program Committee Chairperson



Photo by Jim Miller

Outings Committee Report

2005 outings were varied, educational and numerous.

Some of the educational outings of note were:

- The LSSU Aquatic Research Lab at Edison Sault Electric.
- The LSSU Planetarium. (Even though the computer malfunctioned, Randy gave a great lesson on how the universe operates.)
- In Geology, ID of rocks in the lobby of Crawford Hall at LSSU and several hands-on “rock-chipping” events in the field.
- Frogfest in Cedarville with its many, varied educational programs and snake pettings; some venomous snakes ogled through glass only.
- Workshops on tree identification and on mosses and liverworts.
- Botanical events such as native plant gardens, swamp explorations, and edible wilds and mushroom forays.
- And birding- always birding!

How fortunate we are to belong to an organization like the Sault Naturalists! Comments often overheard on outings speak of the high level of talent, knowledge and enthusiasm within the group, not to mention the fun and camaraderie.

However the best-laid plans of the Outing Committee can sometimes go astray! Mother Nature can play her tricks or the leader of an outing might have to cancel

the proposed event. For these and other reasons, it essential to register with the outing leader(s) for all scheduled outings.

Thanks to all the leaders and presenters who generously gave of their time, expertise and often,



Lunch and conversation after a long canoe ride.

Photo by G. Bennett

materials. We welcome any suggestions or new ideas and of course new field trip leaders.

Our new year’s wish for 2006- *more new field trip leaders!*

Submitted by:

Chuck Bosley and Evelyn Simon
Outings Committee



An outing with the Halls - Naturalists get a little exercise on a once wet wetland.

Photo by Curt Bosket.



Photo by M. Bennett

Sault Naturalists' Financial Statement for the Year 2005

Prepared and Submitted by Gail Andrew, Treasurer

Operating Expenses (CIBC, Canadian Dollars)

Receipts		\$1,418.80
Memberships	\$1,068.00	
Premium on \$U.S.	\$145.34	
Donations	\$50.00	
Miscellaneous	\$155.46	

Disbursements \$4,479.63

Newsletter	\$276.48
Postage	\$113.91
Insurance	\$425.00
Capitol Projects	\$3,334.24
Donations	\$100.00
Memberships	\$230.00

Receipts over (under) Disbursements -\$3,060.83

Balance 01-0-05	\$15,174.94
Balance 31-12-05	\$12,114.11

GICs @CIBC in \$Canadian #1	\$3,367.46
#2	\$1,500.00

Operating Expenses (The Huntington National Bank, US Dollars)

Receipts		\$426.76
Memberships	\$126.76	
Donations	\$300.00	

Disbursements \$681.38

Postage	\$15.00
Miscellaneous	\$416.38
Donations	\$250.00

Receipts over (under) Disbursements -\$254.62

Balance 01-01-05	\$992.28
Balance 31-12-05	\$737.66

The Club gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following donations:

June Koropecski	\$50.00
Chuck Kruch	\$300.00

Membership

Membership years: 2004-2007

Memberships by category

Student	1
Individual	67
Family	43
Complimentary	16
Life	9
	—
Total Number of Memberships	136

Submitted by:

Carrie Ginou

Membership Chairperson

Environmental Action

Over the past year I attended two of the meetings on Non-ferrous Metallic Mineral Mining which the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) held to set the rules for sulfide mining in Michigan. This is a controversial issue, especially since mining may occur in the UP in an environmentally sensitive area called the Yellow Dog Plains near Marquette. The Office of Geological Survey has information on the DEQ website concerning this rules process, and there are many websites for organizations trying to fight sulfide mining in the UP.

I also attended two meeting for the Sault Watershed Project led by Pat Carr of the Chippewa County Conservation District. The members of the watershed project are working to identify sources of water pollution in Sault Ste. Marie, MI and to prioritize clean up projects.

**Modern snail
and 400 million
year old
ancestor on St.
Joseph Island**



I attended an Environmental Summit at LSSU in November sponsored by BPAC (Bi-national Public Advisory Council) which was well attended by the public. There was a follow-up meeting in December to try to form a citizens action committee to work on sustainability and planning issues in the Sault. (The committee -the Sustainable Sault (Mich.) Coalition- has since formulated a mission statement and is planning a number of activities in the spring.-eds)

BPAC has several opportunities to work on projects such as clean up of Ashmun Creek. Unfortunately the clean up sessions often conflicted with Naturalist outings, but Curt and I did attend one of the sessions. Submitted by:

Katie Bosket,

Environmental Action Chairperson

Newsletter

Special thanks to those of you who have submitted photographs, outing reports and other articles for inclusion in the newsletters.

A reminder to all members: If your email or mailing address changes, please be sure to inform the membership chairperson, Carrie Ginou or the newsletter editors to ensure receipt of the newsletter, in your chosen format (electronic or paper).

Betty and Gerry Bennett

Newsletter Editors

Adopt-a- highway Program

Members of the Sault Naturalists conducted the 2005 spring and fall litter pick-up on the Naturalists' "adopted" section of Highway 550, a distance of one kilometre from the junction of Highway 565 to

Gagnon Road in Sault ON. Special thanks to the faithful crew of volunteers, who, despite frequent re-scheduling because of the weather, persevered to get the job done.

Betty Bennett

Fort Creek Conservation Area

Some members of the Sault Naturalists joined forces with the group "Friends of Fort Creek" in 2005 to oppose the development of a snowmobile trail through the conservation area. After many letters, phone calls, petitions, and meetings at City Hall and the Conservation Authority, the trail proposal was voted down by councillors -for the time being.

Betty and Gerry Bennett
