



THE WAKE-ROBIN

Newsletter of the
Sault Naturalists - Ontario and Michigan

Volume 50, Number 1, January, 2004

Addresses for the Sault Naturalists

The Sault Naturalists can be reached at the following postal address. If the outing leaders or committee chairs are unavailable, you may contact Mary to be directed to the proper person:

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292 Northern Ave.
Sault Ste Marie
ON, P6B 6H3

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Sault Naturalists 50th Anniversary - 2004

Annual General Meeting and Dinner

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

West Superior Room, Cisler Center, LSSU

Dr. Barry Lyons will present an illustrated discussion
*To Eat and Not Be Eaten: Predator/Prey Adaptations in
Tropical Reef Organisms (or How to Make My Vacation Slides
Seem Scientific)*

Sault Naturalists 50th Anniversary - 2004

Sault Naturalists 50th Anniversary - 2004

See Page 9 for details regarding Annual General Meeting and Dinner

2004 Winter/Spring Programme

Jan. 13, Central Methodist Church. *The Lake Superior State University Aquatic Research Laboratory.* Alexandre Litvinov, Professor of Biology at Lake Superior State University and co-director of its aquatics lab, will describe the aquatics lab's projects involving such fish as sturgeon, Atlantic salmon, and walleyes. He will also compare Lake Superior with Siberia's Lake Baikal, the largest (in volume) freshwater lake in the world, where he previously worked as a fisheries biologist.

Feb. 10, Annual Meeting, West Superior Room, Cisler Center, Lake Superior State University. *To Eat and Not Be Eaten: Predator/Prey Adaptations in Tropical Reef Organisms (or How to Make My Vacation Slides Seem Scientific).* Dr Barry Lyons, Research Scientist, Great Lakes Forestry Centre will present a selection of his extraordinary coloured slides from his many scuba diving trips to coral reefs around the world.

March 9, Central Methodist Church. *Geology and Mineralogy Workshop.* Gerry Bennett will provide a selection of rocks, minerals and fossils for hands-on examination. Bring any such specimens you may have for identification. There will also be a short presentation on the dating of the Earth's oldest rocks.

April 13, Central Methodist Church. Dan Donarski, President of the Michigan Outdoor Writers Association and Chairman of the Board of the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers will discuss the effect of hunting on woodcock populations and the impact of cormorants on fish populations. He will also explore some common interests of hunters and environmentalists, such as preserving

wilderness areas and maintaining healthy ecosystems.

May 4, Sugar Shack. *The Second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas Project: Progress and Highlights after the Third Year.* Mike Cadman, Provincial Coordinator and Nicole Kopysh Assistant Coordinator for the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas will outline how the Atlas is organized and provide preliminary information on changes in bird distributions since the first Atlas project 20 years ago.

June 8, Sugar Shack. *Find out "what's new" for Parks Canada Agency in Northern Ontario.* Join Sally Gibson and Donna Ryckman-Rooney and explore the historic sites and national parks in our own backyard.

-Abridged from Reuters World Environment News, Dec. 2, 2003

Environmental groups have reached an agreement with 4 natural resource companies and 2 aboriginal groups to urge the Canadian Government to protect the boreal forest and to develop a network of connected preservation areas across the boreal forest from coast to coast.

Canada's boreal forest provides breeding habitat for 30 % of North America's birds- i.e. about 3 billion landbirds and 35 species of waterbirds. It plays an important role in tempering the impact of global climate change and yet only 10 % is protected from development initiatives.

Betty Bennett

In Memoriam

Remembering Florence Lawrence

reminiscences by: Chuck and Ev

The Sault Naturalists are saddened by the loss of yet another long-time member. Florence was born on Sept 10, 1925, the second of three girls. Her spirit was that of a pioneer woman; no task seemed too daunting for her. Her house was heated with wood which she cut, split and stacked. Flo also caused quite a stir when she insisted on wiring her house, especially after being told that women can't perform such tasks.

Flo, as she is fondly remembered, was very active within her community and her church. During her career as executive secretary to LSSU President Shouldice, she kept the administrative office running smoothly. Her organization skills were called into play for the Naturalists in many capacities. For years, her Mackintosh computer spewed out the newsletter while Flo did the compiling, editing, and mailing the results. Flo was the main contact person on the Michigan side for any rare bird sightings (before the hotline was born), for memberships, and for any pertinent information concerning club activities.

Flo loved nature and was easily spotted on any field trip (she rarely missed any), wearing her red brimmed hat. She was happy doing everything and anything with Neil Taylor, her close friend, and was his caregiver during his illness. As a caretaker, Flo worked toward the betterment of the environment and, of her friends. She could always be counted on to help in any emergency. Chuck remembers calling Neil to ask if he wanted to look at some "Hookers"(orchids) and Flo could be heard in the background saying, "You guys aren't going to look for any hookers without me!". An avid hockey fan, Flo's staunch support for the Lakers was legendary and her schedule revolved around their games.

Our memories involve Flo's carrot cakes which she hauled everywhere. When it was a birthday time, no matter where we were, out came a cake, the icing of which was often performed on the spot. Flo was very concerned about fat and cholesterol and, her carrot cake recipe was revised so often that very little fat was used. After the demise of the carrot cake, an ice cream stop was often made on the return home, and Flo would have a two-scooper!

Flo died on November 24th, 2003.

"As the flowers are made sweeter by the sunshine and the dew,

so this world is made brighter by the lives of people like you".

Potpourri

The Border Birder Hotline

Ken McIlwrick is ornithological records chairperson and operator of the birding hotline.

Please make sure that, when reporting a sighting - particularly of rare birds, you include your name, phone number, location and date of sighting, the species and number of birds sighted. Sightings that are unconfirmed, because Ken cannot contact the caller to verify the sighting, may not be included in the monthly reports.

**The Border Birder Hotline
phone number is: (705) 256-2790.**

indication of your intentions, and we need it by the middle of December. If you expect to be joining us we will need your money (probably \$28/person) in early January. If you change your mind you may not get your money back.

We'll assemble all the names, and arrive at a best-guesstimate of spaces needed. We'll also set up the phone-a-thon, complete with detailed instructions for the lucky person who is first to get through.

Please let us know your intentions by the middle of December!

Don and Vivian Hall
(705) 248-1834

Greetings, Pelee Birders!

Though spring migration seems a long ways off, we have surprisingly little time to begin firming up plans for the 2004 trip to Point Pelee.

We will be organizing a marathon phoning session for the morning of January 2. If we have several households dialing there should be a chance of reserving sufficient space for the agreed-upon dates, May 9-13.

This raises several questions, the toughest of which is "How many spaces should we reserve?" Last May we reserved (and filled) 15 spaces. There are early indications that we should shoot for more than 15, perhaps as high as 20, which is the maximum that the park will allow. This is really a tough judgment call because many people (especially students) don't really know what they'll be doing in May. We have to pay for our reservations January 2, and we cannot count on a refund for cancellations. So to make a long story short - we need a good

Monarch Butterflies and Global Climate Change

On the Nov. 22-'03 broadcast of CBC Radio's *Quirks and Quarks*, Dr. Karen Oberhauser of the University of Minnesota said that the mountain tops in central Mexico where diapausing Monarchs overwinter after migrating from Canada and the eastern U.S. will probably be uninhabitable to this species of butterfly in 50 years. Using modeling to study the species' response to shifts in their microclimate, she predicts that increased precipitation and cool weather in the fir forests (as a result of global climate change) will decimate the butterfly population— just another reason to leave the car at home!

Betty Bennett

Potpourri is continued on page 7.

Winter / Spring Outings - 2003-2004

Sat. Dec. 20 Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. The count area covers a 7 mile radius from the International Bridge. Call Co-ordinator Don Wilshere at (705) 946-3393 for details.

Sat. Dec. 27, 10:00 a.m. MWC. Hike, snowshoe or ski depending on snow conditions. Leaders: Chuck Bosley (906) 248-3287 or Ev. Simon (705) 949-8206.

Sat. Jan. 4, 10:00 a.m. Wellington Square Mall. Wear off the holiday lbs. with a bush-whack hike, or snowshoe (depending on snow) to the conservancy property on St. Joseph Island. Leader: Don Marles (705) 254-6344.

Sat. Jan. 31, 8:30 a.m. MWC. Skiing on ungroomed trails at Grand Marais; a long drive, great scenery, easy skiing. Plan on stopping for coffee en-route. Leader: Bob Gay (906) 647-4038.

Sat. Feb. 7, 10:00 a.m. Zellers Plaza North. Ski and explore the inland lakes near the Bellevue trestle (Highway 556). Moderate difficulty. Leader: Val Walker (705) 253-7044.

Sat. Feb. 14, 10:00 a.m. Zellers Plaza North. Ski Bellevue tower area. Fairly steep hill at onset of trail. Moderate difficulty. Leader: Gary Koteles (705) 949-1302.

Sat. Feb. 28, 10:00 a.m. Wellington Square Mall or 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Island turnoff. Snowshoe or ski the Jocelyn Centennial Park Grounds on St. Joseph Island. Leaders: Don & Viv Hall (705) 248-1834.

Sat. Mar.13, 9:00 a.m. MWC. Ski the ungroomed North Country Trail at Clark Lake (approx. 7 Miles in length). Some gentle hills, but fairly easy trails through swampy areas. Plan on a long day! Leaders: Chuck Bosley (705) 248-5287 or Evelyn Simon (705) 949-8206.

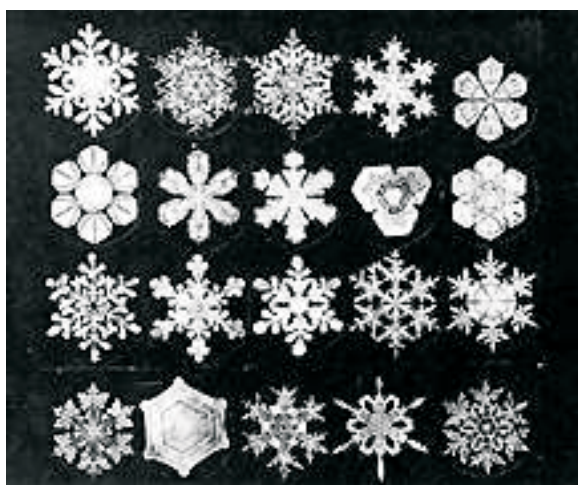
Sat. March 27, 10:00 a.m. Zellers Plaza North. Bush-whack ski the Searchmont area hills and valleys. Plan on a good workout! If you like, bring something to cook over the bon-fire. Leader: Ron Prickett (705) 254-1533.

Sat. April, ? Whitefish Point Bird Observatory. Annual Audubon bird migration with Tony Walker. Call Tony for details! (705) 759-6151.

Sun. April 25, 1:00 p.m. Attend a mini workshop on local mosses and leafy liverworts followed by a hike on the insectory trail on Airport Road for some hands on learning. Bring a hand lens if you have one. Call Sue for location. Leader: Sue Meades (705) 777-0496.

April ? Unconfirmed Greg Zimmerman will lead an outing sometime in April for a visit to Vermillion (near Whitefish Point, Michigan) to see piping plovers. Call Chuck Bosley (705) 248-5287 or Evelyn Simon (705) 949-8206 for details.

Sat. May 15, 10:00 a.m. MWC. Enjoy an early spring outing for flowers. John will also discuss plants and their uses. Leader: John Lehman (906) 635-5095



Revised Outing Guidelines

Out of consideration for the leaders, **always phone the trip leader** or a member of the Outings Committee to **register for all field trips** (not only if the weather is inclement). Phone numbers are provided with each outing description. If no one calls, the outing may be canceled or the date changed. If you decide to attend at the last minute and have not registered, you are always welcome, but take your chances that the event is still on.

Please remember to dress appropriately for the weather, especially during our frigid deep-winter weather conditions! Also remember to bring binoculars, notebook, cameras and film, WATER snacks, etc. Remember to bring lunch and plenty of drinking water on day-long excursions. Loupes and field guides are useful items to bring.

All field trip leaders are volunteers. Participants do so at their own risk.

Remember the Naturalists' Code: **Take only photographs, leave only footprints.** Leave your pets at home and carry out all of your garbage. Leaders would appreciate no collecting unless by permission. Occasional specimens may be collected by the field trip leader for a herbarium collection. Limited picking of non-endangered or non-threatened plant specimens is permitted by field trip leaders for educational purposes in the course of field trips or for further study.

If you have questions or need a ride, please call the leader or organizer, whose number is listed with each outing, or call the Outings Committee, Chuck Bosley (906) 248-3287 or Evelyn Simon (705) 949-8206. If you do not have a car, there's always room in a car pool; someone in the outings committee will be happy to arrange a ride if you do not know a driver.

Car pool participants- please assist the driver in defraying transportation expenses. Suggested amounts: \$3:00 Can. or \$2:00 U.S. as a baseline and upward depending on the length of the trip.

Where we meet:

Michigan - Michigan Welcome Center (M.W.C.)

Follow the blue directional signs immediately south of the bridge toll booths.

Ontario - Wellington Sq. Mall - Follow Highway 17 E to the new McDonalds Restaurant just east of the mall. Park on the west side of of the restaurant parking lot, facing the mall.

- Zellers Plaza North - Enter A&P/Zellers Mall (formerly K-Mart Plaza) from Grt Northern Road or Northern Avenue. Park west of Pennington's Store.

- Market Mall - Located on Second Line (Hwy 550) at Korah Rd. Meet at the N.W. area by the video store.

- Churchill Plaza- Parking lot, under the entrance sign, off Trunk Rd. (Hwy. 17E)

Remember to buckle-up - It's the law.

Potpourri (continued)

Calling all OBB Atlassers!

Mike Cadman and Nicole Kopysh, Provincial Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator respectively, for the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, will be holding an Atlas workshop in the Great Lakes Forestry Centre on the evening of May 3, starting at 7 p.m. This will be a presentation on the provincial picture and on the super-regional picture regarding atlas progress to date. They will also be there to thank all the atlas volunteers who are so fundamentally important to this huge project. Squares that need coverage for whatever reasons (isolation, shortage of birders, etc.) will be identified, and people will be asked whether or not they can help with these squares, even if they are outside their own areas. All are welcome, and it is hoped that all atlassers in our region will be there to meet Mike and Nicole.

Chris Sanders

Save a tree!

Get your copy of the *Wake-Robin* via email as an Adobe Acrobat attachment. Send request to gbennett1@shaw.ca.

Http versions of this newsletter and the previous newsletter are also available at:

<http://members.shaw.ca/gbennett1/>

Unscheduled Outings

Weather permitting, there is usually some sort of outdoor activity involving club members. Call a member of The Group listed in the right column if interested in playing in the outdoors.

THE GROUP

Ontario

Val	(705) 253-7044
Ev.	(705) 949-8206
Ron	(705) 254-1533

Michigan

Chuck	(906) 248-3287
Carl	(906) 635-9891
Betty	(906) 248-5451

“Snowflake Bentley”

Wilson A. Bentley (1865-1931) was a self-educated Vermont farmer who became enthralled by the beautiful symmetry of snowflakes. Using primitive cameras he photographed thousands of snowflakes. As a tribute to a true outdoorsman a few of “Snowflake Bentley’s” images are included in this issue.



By the way; snow is a mineral - but water isn't. Why?

Gerry Bennett

Sault Naturalists Website

[Http://www3.sympatico.ca/don.hall2/index.html](http://www3.sympatico.ca/don.hall2/index.html)

If you have any comments, suggestions or photos to contribute contact Don Hall at

Outing Reports

Mushroom Hunting in the UP

By Carl Linhart

On September 20th, John Lehman expertly led a group of eight on a mushroom identification field trip on Sept. 20. The two areas visited were the Maple Hill area of the North Country Trail north of East Lake and the MSU experimental forest at Dunbar. While recent weather had mitigated against fruiting of many species which may have been expected on a fall outing, John's prior fieldwork in preparation for this trip served the group well. Amongst the species of interest identified were *Scutellinia scutellata*, *Dictyophora duplicata*, *Ischnoderma resinosum*, *Fomes fomentarius*, *Grifola frondosus*, *Laetiporus sulphureus*, *Hypholoma sublateritum*, *Amanita virosa*, *Clitocybula ocula*, and *Pluteus cervinus*.

Ken Hatfield answered questions about geology throughout the trip and gave quite an interesting overview of regional geology when we came upon a collapsed inland sea cave, known to some as the Atrium, formed by glacial meltwater Lake Algonquin, along the face of exposed Niagara Escarpment dolomitic limestone. Thanks to John and to Ken.

Elliot Lake Geology and Mining

By Carl Linhart

On October 18th, Gerry Bennett led a group of nine to the Elliot Lake, Ontario, uranium mining district on a geological tour of local formations and defunct mining operations in various stages of mitigation. Stops were made at exposed rock-cuts along Hwy. 108 where Gerry pointed out evidence of past geological events as demonstrated by the Huronian Supergroup sequence of layering and down-folding of the Quirke Lake Syncline. Gerry's scintillometer demonstrated the radioactivity of the rock and discussion was

made of past geologic times when the earth's atmosphere amazingly contained no free oxygen. Several areas of recent past uranium mining were visited with comparisons of the two types of containment of mine tailings in use there, essentially by methods of vegetation and of flooding, to attempt to minimize acidification. Most useful handouts were



provided. Gerry and Betty had done an impressive amount of previous preparation for this trip, from which all trip participants benefitted. The continual rain was a hindrance but not a damper. Numerous bear droppings were provided for conjecture by participating scatologists. Thanks to Gerry and Betty for a most enjoyable and well-done trip of great educational value.

Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening

Robert Frost (1874-1963)

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.
My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.
He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.
The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Annual General Meeting and Dinner

When: Tuesday, February 10, 2004. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Program should begin at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Where: West Superior Room, LSSU Cisler Center, 650 W. Easterday Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Menu: Buffet dinner with choice of oven-baked chicken or spinach lasagna plus salads, sides, and dessert.

Price: \$13 U.S. or \$18 Canadian

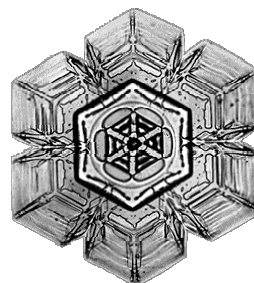
Directions from Canada: After leaving the International Bridge Plaza, turn left onto Meridian and left (east) at Easterday Avenue. Cross the I-75 overpass and turn left at the first stoplight, into the LSSU campus. Turn left at the stop sign and follow the road around the Cisler Center (which is on your right) to the parking lot behind (north of) the building. Enter the northeast entrance on the ground floor and go up the stairs; then turn left and follow the main corridor to the West Superior Room (2nd door on the right).

Speaker: Dr Barry Lyons, Research Scientist, Great Lakes Forestry Centre. *To Eat and Not Be Eaten: Predator/Prey Adaptations in Tropical Reef Organisms (or How to Make My Vacation Slides Seem Scientific)*. The program will feature a selection of Barry's wonderful coloured slides taken from his numerous scuba diving trips to coral reefs around the world.

The deadline for ticket sales is Thursday, February 5. All tickets must be prepaid; none will be available at the door.

For tickets, please contact:

Jean Cowen (705) 254-3643
Dieter Ropke (705) 942-9636 (will deliver)
Mary Ryckman (705) 253-6352
Carl Linhart (906) 635-9891
John Lehman (906) 635-5095



For list of 2003 executive see previous newsletters.

Sault Naturalists Membership Form

C/o Ron Prickett, Membership Chairperson, Sault Naturalists; Telephone (705) 254-1533
P.O. Box 21035, 292 Northern Ave., Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, P6B 6H3, Canada

Categories and Fees

<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Student \$US 7.00 \$C10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$US 11.00 \$C 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$US 15.00 \$C 20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Life \$C 225.00

Name:

Address:

Country & Code: Telephone

e-mail address High speed Dial-up

**The YEAR on your address label indicates the year of your membership.
The membership year is from January to December.**

General Meetings

Time: 7:30 p.m, 2nd Tuesday of each month, except May (1st Tuesday)

Place: Sault Ontario, Sugar Shack, 5th Line

Sault Michigan, Central Methodist United Church, Corner of Spruce and Court St.

Schedule: (Unless noted otherwise in programme description)

Sept.-Nov.	Sugar Shack
Dec. & Jan.	Central Methodist-United Church
Feb.	Annual Dinner Meeting- location varies
Mar.	Central Methodist United Church
April	Central Methodist United Church
May & June	Sugar Shack

Publication Deadlines for Wake Robin and Annual Report

<u>Publication dates</u>	<u>Last day to submit articles</u>
September meeting	August 15
December meeting	November 15
February AGM	January 15
May meeting	April 15

When submitting articles for outing reports, please keep the reports to about a half page.
Pictures or illustrations accompanying reports are welcome.