



Sault Naturalists Annual Report

Annual Report of the President

...It Was A Very Good Year...

From Showy Lady's Slippers to Kirkland's Warblers; it was a very good year.

It was a very good year for club outings; every week there was something interesting, somewhere in the Twin Saults. When there was snow we skied; Maple Lake, Stokely Creek, St Joseph Island, McNearney, the Canyon and the Sough, and the Lake George Wetlands. When the birds returned, we birded; Lake George, Fort Creek, the Locks, Whitefish Point and Point Pelee. In the summer we hiked and paddled and looked for plants and nature throughout Ontario and Michigan. No corner of this part of Ontario and Michigan has escaped our notice. It was a very good year.

For our monthly meetings, it was also a very good year. We were in the Arctic with Franco Mariotti and Jim and Kathy Bricker, we visited the Galapagos with Bill and Flo Purnis, and we learned more about our own backyard; sea lamprey control, the Chickadee dawn chorus, invasive plants, energy conservation and we read nature stories together in December.

One of the highlights of the year for me was the discovery that the colony of Showy Lady's Slippers on the Ontario Nature property on St Joseph Island has survived. This 100 acre property was purchased by the Club at a public auction in Hilton Beach in 1968 for \$160.00. Helen Nattress, Gary Rahn and Cliff and Gladys Wallwork were instrumental in buying the property. The Wallworks and Don Hall spent many days on the property recording the plants that were there and over time it seemed that the Lady Slippers disappeared, perhaps because of flooding caused by beavers. They were not seen for many years until this year, when during a field trip to the island, a colony of over 150 plants was found deep within the cedar swamp. I think it was an omen of how nature and life will survive, no matter how we treat the earth.



President Dave Euler

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Gladys and Dave with the Showy Ladies Slippers
Photo by Gail Giuliani



Biking on Beaver Island
Photo by Gail Andrew

Our Thoughts...

Our thoughts go out to Jack, Mary and Donna in the loss of their loved ones, Janet Jones and Angus Ryckman.

(Continued from page 1)

The two overnight excursions to Michigan were also highlights, at least according to the number of stories that are still told while eating lunch on the trail. We drove to Grayling, Michigan and spent two days searching for Kirkland's Warbler, one of the world's rarest birds. We found the birds with the help of Alison Vilag, (the local guide) and were impressed and concerned for the welfare of this little creature.

Beaver Island, many miles out in Lake Michigan beckoned, and so the club trooped to this island riding the ferry to this island paradise. Although I wasn't there, I heard stories of bike rides, hikes along the shore, interesting plants, card games at night, and a very wonderful time on this storied island.

We also got our hands dirty. On August 27, a beautiful, sunny, warm and cloudless sky was the setting for our work bee on the observation platform at Pumpkin Point. Like some of us in the club, our lovely viewing platform at Pumpkin Point was experiencing structural problems. Her legs were not quite what they used to be and her braces needed bracing. With lots of good cheer, some good natured ribbing, and with a lusty spirit of repair, we fixed her. She now stands straight and tall and you can see for "miles". Well done to everyone who helped.

Perhaps most impressive of all the activities of the club this year, was the time and effort that club members invested in making the club work well. There are lots of people to thank, and I am pleased to acknowledge these efforts.

John Lehman has been our stalwart program coordinator for several years and will be retiring from that job this year. We will miss John's faithful work to get a speaker for each and every monthly meeting. Thank you and well done John. John will continue to manage the Club's Wiki, and in that as well, he carries out his responsibilities with good cheer. If you haven't seen the Wiki yet, take a look, it contains lots of information.

Carrie Ginou has agreed to assume the responsibility for programs, and we are pleased she will help with this task.

Val Walker is our outings coordinator and has done her usual excellent job. She will continue and we appreciate her efforts.

Gail Andrew has been treasurer for more years than I can count; we count on her to keep our money in order and she always does. We appreciate your commitment Gail, and thank you.

Donna Ryckman-Rooney accepted the job of secretary last year, and we hope she will continue this next year as well.

(Continued from page 2)

Tony Walker has been our “go to guy” for the jobs we need done and has done them well, from making a bird check list to guiding us in fixing our viewing platform. Yeah Tony.

Don Hall was elected Vice-President last year and has agreed to be President next year. He also helped plan the repair of the Platform and was a key construction person. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you Don.

Vivian Hall brings food, a big smile, a hug, a laugh, and she can clear brush and start a generator when you need help!!, and that’s not all, she was part of the Platform construction crew. Wow!

Janet Jones brought food to the platform crew, and Gail Giuliani, chef “extraordinaire” cooked burgers and helped serve.

Ron Prickett and Carl Linhart were a mighty construction team on the platform repair crew, and acquitted themselves with distinction.

Brian Adair was also part of the platform repair group and he brought needed construction experience to the task.

Robert Cohen has helped with Executive Committee duties and gave us a guiding hand with the Platform repair as well.

Leslie Askwith handled publicity during most of the year and will retire from that work this year. Thanks, Leslie for your help over the last few years.

Our Outings leaders have been a stalwart group and we thank them: Gail Andrew, Mark Croft, Dave Bell, Bob Currell, Bob Gay, Carrie Ginou, Don and Vivian Hall, John Lehman, Carl Linhart, Bonni Mackintosh, Jeanne Mannesto, Sue Meades, Ron Prickett, Gayle Philips, Harvey Robbins, Ev Simon, Cynthia Suhay, Cathy Sutherland, Val Walker, and Tony Walker.

After 5 years as President I expect to continue on the Executive Committee and will be helping with publicity as well as other jobs as they come up.

Dave Euler
President



*Birding the island off Pumpkin Point
Photo by Vivian Hall*



Ron and Carl on the platform repair crew



On the Batchawana River

Sault Naturalists

Annual Financial Statement for 2011

Canadian Account

Balance Jan. 1 2011:	\$2588.54
Balance Dec. 31 2011:	\$1832.35
Receipts:	\$2010.00
Memberships:	\$2010.00
Disbursements:	\$2766.19
Newsletter:	\$162.44
Postage:	\$120.29
Insurance:	\$682.56
Bank Charges:	\$69.10
Capital Projects:	\$232.30
Donations:	\$100.00
Ont.Nature/Nature Can:	\$265.00
Misc:	\$1134.50

Receipts over(under)
Disbursements: (\$756.19)

US Account

Balance Jan. 1 2011:	\$450.59
Balance Dec. 31 2011:	\$783.63
Receipts:	\$433.00
Memberships:	\$315.00
Misc.:	\$118.04
Disbursements:	\$100.00
Donations:	\$100.00
Receipts over(under)	
Disbursements:	\$333.00

Jan. 4 2012
Gail Andrew - Treasurer



In the Hartwick Pines
Photo by Don Hall

Program Committee Report

The Program Committee scheduled and coordinated the following programs for 2011.

January 11, 2011. **Tim Flynn**, current president of the Mackinaw Forest Council, gave an illustrated presentation, *Restoring Michigan's Living Legacy—Finding and Protecting the Last Best Places*.

February 8, 2011 Annual Dinner Meeting. **Franco Mariotti**, Staff Scientist/Biologist from ScienceNorth Museum in Sudbury, presented *High Arctic Oasis: An Ecological Trek through the High Arctic Islands of Canada*.

March 8, 2011. **Kevin Tallon**, Fisheries Assessment Technician with the Sea Lamprey Control Centre (SLCC) of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, gave an illustrated presentation about the *Ecology and Control of Sea Lampreys*.

April 12, 2011. Biologists **Jim and Kathy Bricker** narrated *Caribou Summer*, a video presentation about their summer-long hiking trip to Nunavut, Canada.

May 3, 2011. **Robert Rattle**, researcher on Human Dimensions of Global Change and Sustainable Consumption, gave an illustrated presentation on *The Internet and Communications Technologies (ICTs) and Ecological Integrity*.

June 14, 2011. Sault Naturalists President **David Euler** gave an illustrated presentation *Into the Heart of Cambodia and Vietnam*.

September 13, 2011. Educator **Bill Purnis** gave an illustrated presentation on *Galapagos—Life in the Slow Lane*.

October 11, 2011. **Dr. Jennifer Foote** of the Algoma University Biology Department presented a program on *Communication Networks in Black-capped Chickadee Dawn Chorus*.



Bill Purnis and Florence MacLeod



Jim and Kathy Bricker

November 8, 2011. **Laura Sanderson**, Invasive Species Awareness Coordinator for Algoma University's Invasive Species Research Institute, gave a presentation *Invasive Plants of Ontario's Forests: Issues and Impacts*.

December 13, 2011. Our Annual Holiday Get-together, *An Evening of Nature Readings*, featured readings of poems and prose about nature, including a reading by Conor Mihell from his new book *The Greatest Lake and Other Stories from Superior's North Shore*.

Submitted by:
John Lehman
Program Committee Chair

Membership Report

January 25, 2012

Membership Total	117
Total No. US	22
Total No. Canadian	95

Categories

Life (paid)	12
Individual	53
Family	45
Student	2
Complimentary Individual	1
Complimentary Family	0
Complimentary Life, Group	4
Total	117

Year Paid To:

2013	1
2012	56
2011	44
Life	16
TOTAL	117

New Paid Memberships since Aug. 2007-	48
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Harvey Robbins



*Tony, Christopher and Mária at Point Pelee
Photo by Don Hall*



*Ron and Val on the Batchawana River
Photo by Vivian Hall*



*Eastern Bluebird at Point Pelee
Photo by Dave Euler*

Fisheries Management Report

Valerie Walker

FMZ 10 Council Representative

In 2004, the Ministry of Natural Resources introduced the Ecological Framework for Fisheries Management to enhance fisheries management in Ontario. This new approach included public input into decision making from Advisory Councils for all 20 planned Fisheries Management Zones (FMZ) in Ontario. Each Advisory Council consists of 15 to 20 volunteers representing a variety of stakeholders and interest groups.

The Algoma District is included in FMZ 10 and the FMZ 10 Advisory Council was one of the original three pilot councils established.

In 2010, the Ministry of Natural Resources Project Team with the support of the FMZ 10 Advisory Council turned its attention to developing a strategy to manage smallmouth bass in Zone 10.

While bass (smallmouth bass and to a lesser extent largemouth bass) are valued sportfish in the FMZ 10, the species is not native across the majority of the zone. In fact, both species are considered invasive, particularly north of Highway 17. Evidence suggests that introduced bass are negatively impacting other native species in the zone including lake trout, brook trout and walleye. Predation by introduced smallmouth bass on native forage fish (like minnows) can not only devastate these populations directly but can have an adverse impact on native top predators, like trout and walleye, which rely on them.

Bass Management Objectives established by FMZ 10 Project Team and Council

Objective 1:

Prevent new introductions and the spread of bass across the landscape, recognizing that the proliferation of bass populations can impact biodiversity, including forage species and valued sport fish (e.g. minnows, lake trout, brook trout).

Objective 2:

Keep regulations simple and rationalize objectives at a landscape scale.



Objective 3:

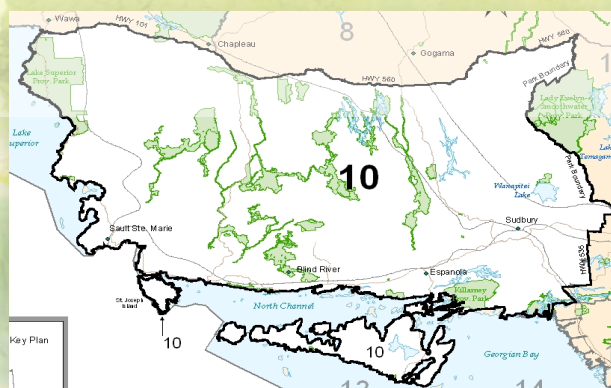
Increase fishing opportunities and manage for large bass in order to reduce the proliferation of small bass in the population.

Currently the FMZ 10 Council is focusing on the reduction of bass abundance through changes in harvest control. One option is to extend the open season considerably longer than the current 5 month season to increase angler opportunities and reduce bass populations through harvest. As retaining a component of large bass in the population will limit juvenile abundance, maintaining a closed season to protect aggressive males during the spawning and incubation periods is also a consideration. The use of a size limit restriction to reduce the harvest of large bass is another option.

The FMZ 10 Council will soon be putting forward several bass regulatory options for public consultation. Stay tuned.

For more information on Fisheries Management Planning in Zone 10 see

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/LetsFish/2ColumnSubPage/264844.html>



Fisheries Management Zone 10



Memorial Outings

The summer of 2011 saw two memorial hikes, each in memory of Sault Naturalists who were truly legends in their own time. Along with family members, we told stories of old times and toasted old friends.

Chuck Bosley was a hiker, and one of his favourite hikes was the Naomikong Swamp. Chuck was also an accomplished botanist; it seemed appropriate that Skunk Cabbage was in bloom along the trail. The flowers and birds were wonderful, as was the fellowship, storytelling and sharing of memories on the beach.

If ever there was a lover of nature and the rugged outdoors, it was Betty Nassoiy. One of her favourite places has come to be known as "Betty's Cove", a secluded and beautiful spot north of Gros Cap. It was a moving experience, toasting a dear friend on the windy shores of Whitefish Bay.





Near Newberry, Michigan



*Backpacking near Terrace Bay, Ontario
August 1979*



*Chuck Bosley and Gary Rahn using binoculars
to project images of the 1994 solar eclipse
(look closely in their shadows)*

Historical Photos

Gladys Wallwork is the club archivist, and she is doing a wonderful job of keeping the archives, including many photos, preserved and catalogued.

Other not-so-well catalogued records of our history are filed away in hundreds of slide trays and photo albums, some of which are collecting dust on members' bookshelves.

Members who have access to scanners are beginning the lengthy process of converting these images to digital form. Digital images are more easily shared, and copies can be easily passed along to Gladys for safekeeping.



*The Legendary Two-hearted River Trip
August 1998*



Photo courtesy of Tony Walker

Outings Report

Valerie Walker, Outings Coordinator

The field trips in 2011 were numerous and varied, and hopefully with a little something for everyone. Each weekend, it was the usual die-hards in attendance and often there was a sprinkling of those more selective in their participation. Regardless, there were lots of laughs and much camaraderie while travelling through so many beautiful places.

This past winter we had our usual plethora of skiing destinations to King Mountain, the Atrium, Tahquamenon Falls, Delirium Swamp, to name a few. For the first time ever, we skied the exhilarating and challenging Turkey Lake Watershed (I'm still recovering from that one).

The mild temperatures made way for several paddling destinations to Trout Lake, the Batchewana River, the Goulais River, the St. Marys River, Cummings Lake and the Mississauga River. How fortunate we are to have such a selection of impressive waterways in our backyards.

Of course, there were many bird watching outings. A few new destinations on the list included the Kirkland's warbler odyssey in Michigan, and a Bar River birds & biking extravaganza. There were also lots of botanical outings in the mix as well as a few fungal forays to keep the mycologists happy. Beaver Island was the setting for a first ever, exploratory weekend biking venture to check out the local history, plants, birds and bars ...no, not sand bars.

It's not all play, unfortunately. Sometimes we actually have to work and this year it was shoring up the Pumpkin Point viewing platform as well as thinning out the vegetation competing with the Showy Orchids on the St. Joseph's Island Ontario Nature Reserve. Hopefully we will see some results this summer.



Christopher Zayachkowski on the island off Pumpkin Point



Chuck Bosley Memorial Hike

On a sombre note many of us participated in the Chuck Bosley Memorial Hike to his favoured spring destination, the Naomikong Swamp. We reflected on and shared our stories of Chuck as we sat on the Lake Superior south shore. He is so missed by all.

The Club's field trips are led by members volunteering their time for the benefit of the Club. Thank you for your dedication and support.

Happy trails.



Photo by Vivian Hall



Bryozoan Colony on the Batchawana River

Photo by Don Hall

Ontario Nature and Hub Trail Report

Ontario Nature

During the years 2011/12 Ontario Nature, formerly the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, adopted a dramatic action plan to encourage the Provincial Government to act on protecting forests and wildlife. Thus was born the Ontario Biodiversity Charter 20/20, its aim was to have Ontario Nature members and others sign a petition to present to Parliament demanding that serious consideration be given to the loss of biological diversity and that methods be developed to correct the decline. A total of 6,154 names were collected and the Sault Naturalists played its part.

The Snapping Turtle was becoming an endangered species due to indiscriminate hunting, with no regulations in place to control the numbers killed. Anne Lewis of Friends of the Snapping Turtle was instrumental in putting a petition in place to correct this. I am pleased to say that our club members and friends helped; and that approximately 10,000 signatures (and still climbing) have been gathered and will be presented to Parliament at the end of January. Information on the Biodiversity Charter and Snapping Turtle Petition may be found on the Web at

<http://www.ontarionature.org/protect/campaigns/t> and <http://www.ontarionature.org/protect/campaigns/s>

Be informed on what is happening in Ontario. Become a member of Ontario Nature and join now.

Continued...

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THE OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST

Vivian Hall/Sault Naturalist photo

Sault Naturalists is an international club that hosts talks by experts on various environmental topics and whose members go on regular outings.

Sault Naturalists enjoy the outdoors on both sides of the CanAm border

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Hub Trail/Sault Trails Advocacy Committee

On August 29th Mayor Amaroso and Council and Members of the Sault Trails Advocacy Committee were present at the opening of the John Rowsell Hub Trail, as club representative I attended. Here are a few items from a recent STAC meeting:

- The trail is checked on a daily basis, with \$100,000 allocated to the upkeep of the trail system.
- A usage survey using an electronic monitor to see how many people use the trail is soon to be released.
- Traffic control/directional signs and signs pertaining to points of interest will be put in place in the near future.
- This year the City will be celebrating a 100 year anniversary and it is hoped that the Sault Naturalists will be involved, particularly with matters pertaining to the HUB trail.

If you have any questions with regards to Ontario Nature or the Hub please contact me.

Many thanks for your support.

Tony Walker



*Tony on the Platform Work Crew
Photo by Vivian Hall*



*Near the Robertson Cliffs
Photo by Don Hall*

Thank You, Dave!

In February 2012, President Dave Euler will be stepping down after five years at the helm. As executive members know well, the position of president is not to be taken lightly. Dave has worked tirelessly to keep all club activities moving smoothly. Mountains of emails to answer, agendas to post, executive and general meetings to manage! In addition to his duties as president, Dave regularly leads outings and has assumed other demanding roles when needed, including stepping in as one-time coordinator the Christmas Bird Count.

We thank you Dave and we also extend our thanks to Gail for contributing a great deal, and putting up with a husband whose mind is frequently elsewhere.

That is not to say that Dave and Gail are now free to rest, relax and read in front of the fire! We have an extensive list of tasks that need doing, and you will be hearing from us within hours of the February meeting!

Many Thanks!

The Executive Committee

Sault Naturalists Membership Form

Mail to: Harvey Robbins, Membership Chairman, Sault Naturalists
P.O. Box 21035, 306 Northern Ave. E., Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6B 6H3, Canada

Categories and Fees: You may submit payment in either US or Canadian funds

☐

Renewal

☐

Student \$10.00

☐

Individual \$20.00

☐

New Member

☐

Family \$25.00

☐

Life \$225.00

Name: _____

Address: _____ Prov/State: _____

Postal/Zip Code: _____ Country: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Would you like to receive the meetings/outings correspondence by email? _____

(This saves on the cost of stamps and envelopes and facilitates sending last minute updates)

The activities of the Sault Naturalists are adapted to the physical capabilities of its members and should involve little risk of injury; in fact there has never been a serious accident during the 55-plus years the club has been in existence. Nevertheless accidents can happen, and in light of today's litigious climate the club needs to protect itself through liability insurance. This requires that we ask you to sign the following statement in order to participate in club activities.

Please read and sign the following as a condition of membership. For family memberships, all adult members of the family should sign.

During any event sponsored by the Sault Naturalists, I agree to assume total responsibility for my own safety and well-being and for that of any minor children under my care, and for protection of my and their personal property. To the extent allowed by law, I agree to waive, discharge claims, and release from liability the Sault Naturalists Club, its officers, members, and outing leaders from any and all liability on account of, or in any way resulting from injuries and damages as a result of my participation in any outing or other club activity. I understand and intend that this assumption of risk and release is binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, and includes any minors accompanying me in a club activity.

Signature(s): _____
