



sault
naturalists

**Sault Naturalists
of
Ontario and Michigan**

ANNUAL REPORT... for 2012

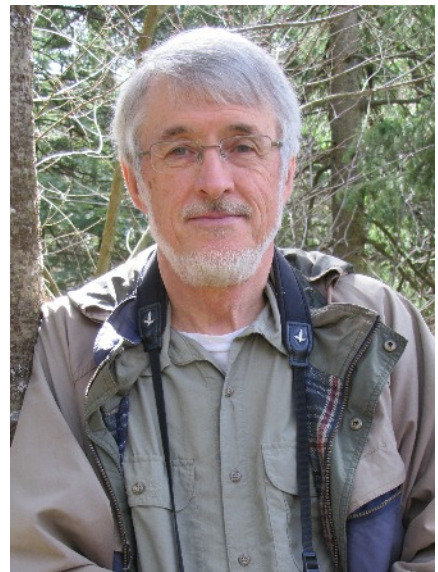
President's Messagefor 2012

Settling down to write this report is proving difficult; I'm constantly being distracted by a Harris's Sparrow at my feeder...

That's a rare bird for our area! The chickadees are a diversion too, so many chickadees, and March-like weather in January! It's driving me crazy! But I must try to focus!

This year, my first as president, has been quite a ride! I've gained a new appreciation for past presidents and the efforts they have made to keep the club together and running smoothly.

Thanks to the past presidents who have offered guidance, and many thanks to all those who have contributed to a wonderful year; those brave souls who arranged and led a tremendous range of outings, the program people who found and cared for our guest speakers, the many people who contributed to the annual meeting, the computer wizards who maintained a healthy club presence on the web, the executive committee members who worked tirelessly (and put up with me in my bumbling first year), those who took notes, decorated, counted birds, wrote reports and compiled newsletters...



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*It's starting to snow. The Harris's Sparrow is back. I really should be skiing ...
No! No! Keep your mind on your work...*

I must not forget the thoughtful people who provided coffee and refreshments, kept our finances in order, arranged the Christmas Bird Count, kept track of the membership, ran the Hub Trail Challenge, publicized our activities, kept our archives in order and did a great job of representing the club in other organizations...

*Why it's called Harris's Sparrow? Who was Harris? Wait, there's a Blue jay! ...
Hold it! Slow down...don't lose focus...*

I'm sure I've missed someone. Many, many dedicated and talented people work hard to keep this club running smoothly.

When checking out the newsletters and web pages of other naturalists clubs, I can't help but appreciate our club's affinity for the great outdoors. There are clubs that have several outings in the spring and summer, but that's about it. Others might have one outing per month year round. Sault Naturalists are out virtually every week all year long. Our outing list is nothing if not impressive, and there are many informal, unadvertised field trips as well. We've stayed true to our roots as outdoor people, and of that we should be proud.

The outdoors is our focus. At times we enjoy nature in peaceful solitude, but I find the most memorable moments are experienced in the company of good friends. A friendly and memorable moment last summer was Cliff Wallwork's 90th birthday party which we celebrated outdoors at Cliff's place, in the shade of towering white spruce that Cliff himself had planted in his younger days.

I've been struggling with distractions, but that is as it should be. As naturalists our hearts and minds, if not our bodies should be outdoors, immersed in the wonders of nature.

Thanks and best wishes for the coming year.

Don Hall

Sault Naturalists *Treasurers Report* for 2012

Canadian Account

Balance Jan. 1 2012: \$1832.35
Balance Dec. 31 2012: \$1752.12

Receipts: \$1967.00
Memberships: \$1967.00

Disbursements: \$2047.23
Newsletter: \$150.26
Postage: \$153.54
Insurance: \$718.20
Bank Charges: \$ 59.70
US Exchange: \$ 7.07
Capital Projects: \$68.29
Ont. Nature/Nature Can.: \$150.00
Misc: \$740.17
Receipts over (under) Disbursements: (\$80.23)

Report Date: January 4, 2013
Gail Andrew-Treasurer

US Account

Balance Jan.1 2012: \$783.63
Balance Dec.31 2012: \$632.71

Receipts: \$466.92
Memberships: \$315.00
Misc: \$151.92

Disbursements: \$617.00
Donations: \$100.00
Insurance: \$517.00
Receipts over (under) Disbursements: (\$150.92)



photos courtesy
of
Gladys Wallwork



Sault Naturalists *Program Committee Report 2012*

A wide variety of programs were available for the Sault Naturalists in 2012. The topics ranged from water to solar power and involved journeys to local places, as well as far-off destinations including: the Arctic, the mid-Atlantic Ocean, Cambodia and Vietnam, and Patagonia.

January 10, 2012. Adventurer *Marie Price* talked about the wild places and Inuit culture that she experienced during her *Travels in the Arctic and Subarctic*.

February 14, 2012. Annual Dinner and General Meeting. Outdoors writer and photographer *James Smedley* presented *Four Seasons with James Smedley – An Outdoors Agenda*.

March 13, 2012. Enthusiastic mycologist *Marilynn Smith* encouraged us all to take more of an interest in mushrooms and other local fungi with her talk *The Fungi, Both Friend and Foe*.

April 10, 2012. *Robert Reid*, President and CEO of N-Sci Technologies spoke about his Sault Ste. Marie-based company's projects in *Solar Energy and Sault Ste. Marie*.

May 1, 2012. *Lindsey Palumbo*, the Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition's Project Coordinator, related her group's initiatives in *Facilitating Science and Informed Stewardship Practices in Rural Lakeside Communities*.

June 12, 2012. Long-time Sault Naturalists member and gifted photographer, *Gladys Wallwork*, amazed us all with her beautiful images chronicling water from the Big Lake to a single drop in *Water Magic*(see photos p4)

September 11, 2012. *Dave Euler* related his experiences viewing local wildlife while travelling up the Mekong river in his talk *Into the Heart of Cambodia and Vietnam*.

October 9, 2002. *Steve Roedde*, a local physician who took part in an international crossing of the Atlantic by rowboat, discussed his experiences in *Crossing the Atlantic by Rowboat*.

November 13, 2012. *Harvey Robbins* presented *Birds, Animals and Flowers of Patagonia and Iguacu Falls* detailing some of the amazing wildlife found in these areas of South America.

December 11, 2012. Our Annual Holiday Meeting featured nature-themed photos and videos submitted by members in a collection entitled *Nature on the Net*.

Thank you to all of the speakers who generously donated their time and expertise and the many Sault Naturalists members who contributed to the program committee.

Submitted by:

Carrie Ginou

Program Committee Chair

Membership Report for 2012 (as of February 1 2013)

Membership Total 128

Total No. US 26

Total No. Canadian 102

Categories

Life (paid) 13

Individual 56

Family 48

Student 2

Complimentary Individual 3

Complimentary Life, Group 6

Total 128

Year Paid To:

2014.....2

201366

2012.....27

2011. . . .14

Life19

TOTAL...128

New Paid Memberships since Aug. 2007...60

submitted by Harvey Robbins

The NEW mailing address for the Club:

Sault Naturalists

P.O. Box 20136, 150 Churchill Blvd.

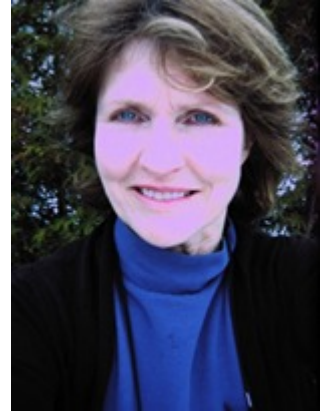
Sault Ste. Marie ON P6A 6W3

Canada

VISIT US ON THE WEB!!!

www.soonats.pbwiki.com

2012 Outings Report – Valerie Walker



The rather late start and early end to the snow cover did shorten the ski season somewhat this year, but there was enough to enjoy some of our favourite destinations. The Link Trail with Mark Crofts, the Giant Pines Loop with Carl Linhart and the Canyon with Ron Prickett were all still on the docket. There were a few new ventures like the epic ski along Lake George through frozen marshes and biting winds. Cynthia Suhay was on that trip and survived to tell, I'm happy to report (the woman is a machine). We also checked out the St. Joe Island Nature Reserve to look for openings in the cedar swamp where Showy Lady Slippers could grow. What we do for those orchids! Just about lost an eye on that one. And of course, we had to look for owls in winter (and other birds of prey) on the agricultural flats in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The early spring brought in the birds and flowers and many outings to seek and find, to ponder and admire. Ev Simon and Carl Linhart found us plenty to ogle on Drummond Island in alvar plants and assorted orchids. The dual also directed a most memorable fern foray in the Brevort Lake area.

Over the course of the spring, summer and early fall, we peddled, paddled and plodded through some beautiful and rugged country. There were more birds to behold, more plants to prize and more stars to study. As a club, we participated in a number of the city's events this year. Like the "Celebrate 100" anniversary with several local nature walks and the Hub Trail Challenge, to promote nature awareness and education. Speaking of the Hub Trail, Dave Euler spearheaded an initiative in July to identify and document all the plant species along the Hub Trail. This will be a series of many outings to build a plant list and will require the ongoing participation of the membership. What a project!

As usual, the many outings happen as a result of the many dedicated members that volunteer their time. Even your suggestions for destinations are a valuable contribution to the process. Keep it coming and thank you for your support!

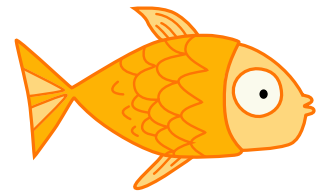
Happy Trails.

Annual Report 2012-Valerie Walker, FMZ 10 Council Representative
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT REPORT Summarized from OMNR
publication: *Bass in Fisheries Management Zone 10: Desired Sport Fish or Invasive Intruder?*

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. The Sault Naturalists are represented on the FMZ 10 Advisory Council by Valerie Walker and alternate Harvey Robbins. The FMZ 10 Project Team and Council have proposed the following **Regulation Options** for bass (small & largemouth):

Current FMZ 10 bass regulations:

- Open Season: - 4th Sat. in June to Nov. 30th
- Catch and Possession Limit: Sport Fishing Licence- 6,
Conservation Fishing Licence – 2



Option 1: Zone-wide Regulation

- Open Season: -3rd Saturday in June – May 15th
- Catch and Possession Limit: Sport Fishing Licence - 6,
Conservation Fishing Licence – 2
- Size Restriction: Not more than 1 greater than 40 cm (15.7 in)

Option 1 supports bass management objectives in FMZ 10 by maintaining one simple, consistent bass regulation for the entire zone and by increasing fishing opportunities with an extended open season. The proposed size restriction would help retain large bass in the population to prevent juvenile populations from dominating the fishery.

Option 2: Split-zone Regulation

- Open Season: Open all year
- Catch and Possession Limit: Sport Fishing Licence -6,
Conservation Fishing Licence – 2
- Size Restriction: Not more than 1 greater than 40 cm (15.7 in)

Exception: All waters east of where the east bank of the Serpent River crosses Hwy 17 and south of Hwy 17, including Manitoulin Island will have no size restriction and open season from 3rd Saturday in June to November 30th.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT REPORT...continued from P7

Option 2 is slightly more complex because it divides the zone into two areas: a smaller more southerly landscape, including Manitoulin Island, where bass are considered native, and a much larger northern area where bass have been introduced. A year-round open season in the larger non-native area will expand fishing opportunities, while the proposed size restriction for this area would protect large bass. In the southern native bass range, fishing opportunities would increase with a one week earlier open season. This area would not require a size restriction as the season would remain closed throughout the winter and spawning period when large bass are more vulnerable to angling.

Provide your feedback on these options

We need your feedback. To learn more information about bass in FMZ 10 and proposed bass management options, please visit our website at www.ontario.ca/zonecouncils.

Sault Naturalists Executive

President:

Don Hall

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Vice-president:

Ron Prickett

(705)254-1533

Treasurer:

Gail Andrew

(705)942-0768

Recording Secretary:

Donna Ryckman- Rooney

(705)945-9821

Membership:

Harvey Robbins

(705)949-4863

Program Committee Interim Chairperson:

Carrie Ginou

(705)942-0715

Program Committee Incoming

Chairperson:

Dave Euler

(705)248-1494

Outings Coordinator:

Valerie Walker

(705)253-7044

MAS Representative:

Carl Linhart

(906)635-9891

Ontario Nature and STAC Representative:

Tony Walker

(705)759-6151

Members-at-large:

Helen Hutchinson (705)254-3648

Robert Cohen unlisted

Hub Trail Challenge 1st July, Fort Creek 2012

As I look back over 2012, the success of the Hub Challenge on Canada day July 1st, in conjunction with the cities 100 year anniversary, and the collaboration with STAC was a very rewarding experience. The goal was to get a cross section of people from the Sault out to enjoy the outdoors. We had glorious weather and bikers, hikers, joggers, and parents pushing prams, and guy's with dogs covered the Fort Creek section, which has lots of scenic views. By studying plants and wildlife and answering several questions they competed in our own sections light hearted skill test. At the end of the day at the Roberta Bonder tent we awarded prizes to participants, in the challenge.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Donna, Joy, Robert, and President Don for all their help in making the day a great success.

STAC and the Sault Naturalists in the near future will be looking at signage to identify by pictures and writing, wildlife along the trail.

Ontario Nature. Fall Meeting September 14/15/16.

Location Manitoulin Island.

The fall meeting of Ontario Nature Northern Group, took place on Manitoulin Island. Our hosts were Jon Smith, President of Manitoulin Nature Club, and John Diebolt of the Friends of Misery Bay. We found that they are very active groups. Friday night we had a business meeting and discussed matters relevant to Northern Clubs.

The following day we made our way to Misery Bay located on the South Shore for a talk on the History of the friends and the beautiful visitors center followed by an outside Bar-B-Que then a talk on saving endangered species given by two gentlemen from the "Wiki" First Nation Reserve.

A hike down to the shoreline followed. The scenery and lovely weather added to the enjoyment of the day. In the evening, Ontario Nature hosted an informal buffet for the group of naturalists from the island. This was followed by a talk on the Islands' Sandhill crane migration. Many friends were made.

For me to have the pleasure of representing the Sault Naturalist at this gathering was a joy.

Submitted by Tony Walker rep for the club.

LCC Report for Sault Naturalists annual newsletter 2012

The Algoma Forest Local Citizen Committee of Sault Ste. Marie (LCC) formed in 1990. The committee is composed of stakeholder groups such as trappers, independent loggers, forestry workers, hunters and anglers, motorized and un-motorized users, naturalists, educators and the general public. The committee meets monthly to discuss current uses of the Algoma Forest from south of Montreal River to Iron Bridge. Meetings are open to the public and held at the Sault Ste. Marie Conservation Authority building on Fifth Line in Sault, Canada.

In 2010 the Forest Management Plan for the Algoma forest crown land was completed. This Plan spans from 2010 to 2020. The downturn in forestry company operations has affected the make-up of the committee. We no longer have participation from St. Mary's Paper Co. or the paper-worker's union which in turn has decreased the staff numbers at Clergue Management Company proportionally. As well, Ministry of Natural Resources staff continue to retire and it appears that the Ministry is not re-hiring as many positions.

The good news is that the committee has respectful dialogue of forest use and issues. We can express our Naturalists views as plans are being formulated and developed. We can encourage the Ministry to include climate change in future planning and to develop social and economic benefits and tourism and recreational values to be considered when forest management planning. The Forest Management Planning process is complex and arduous. I feel like I'm just getting to know the process a bit after being on the committee for a few years now.

Donna Ryckman-Rooney



photos
by
Bill
Purnis

Fort Creek outing...spring 2012

LOOKING AHEAD...programs for March to June 2013

March 12, 2013, 7:30 pm, Central United Methodist Church

Peter Uhlig, a self-described wandering ecologist, will be giving an informal look at the diversity and biology of the orchids in his talk **Orchids – Addiction not Hobby**. He will share his tremendous pleasure in growing and enjoying selections from this amazing family of plants while providing a photographic tour of both native and exotic orchids and reviewing aspects of their unique anatomy, reproduction, natural history and home culture.

April 9, 2013, 7:30 pm, Central United Methodist Church

Chris Holbrook will share his exciting work **Tracking Fish Around the Great Lakes with Acoustic Telemetry**. Understanding where, when, why, and how fish move has been a basic challenge to fisheries management in the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation System (GLATOS) was developed in 2010 to help "unravel the mysteries of Great Lakes fish behavior" by allowing individually-tagged fish to be tracked over large areas and long time periods. Chris will provide an overview of GLATOS and describe how it is being used to improve invasive species control (sea lamprey) and native fish restoration (lake trout, sturgeon) in our favourite waterways.

May 7, 2013 –Ontario Been "Down Under" recently? Well if you haven't, Bill Purnis and Flo MacLeod will catch us up on everything Australian at our May 7th monthly program. Bill and Flo spent a few weeks touring Australia and New Zealand and will have lots of pictures and experiences to share with us.

June 11 2013 - Ontario John Pedlar is a Forest Biologist at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario. His work focuses on invasive forest insects, species distributions, and climate change. In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the need to take climate change into account when managing natural systems. Assisted migration - the intentional movement of species to novel locations that are projected to have suitable future climate - has been put forward as one way to help adapt natural systems to climate change. This approach has been highly controversial in the conservation community because it directly conflicts with the longstanding paradigm of managing species within natural range limits; however, proponents of the approach point to the unprecedented threats that climate change poses and wonder what 'natural' is in a climate changed world. John has explored these issues as a member of the Canadian Forest Service Assisted Migration Working Group and has helped to author several scientific articles on the subject.

