

The Peninsula Field Naturalists' Club

St. Catharines, Ont.

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November - the threshold of winter but part of the cycle
that gives us our flowering world.

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- NEXT MEETING -

November 26....Mountainview United Church, 150 Glendale Ave., at 7.30 PM.

This meeting closes the 1973 season, and in this instance, it will
commence at 7.30 PM, and be held in the adjoining gymnasium hall.

It would be appreciated if members will keep in mind the earlier
starting time, in order to avoid disruption of the following schedule:

The popular Dessert Party follows the special program, and there is
a charge of \$1.50 per person to cover arrangements by the Church
Auxiliary. Those who intend to participate in this social hour are
asked to check at the door on arrival, for their tickets.

- SCHEDULE -

7.30-8PM..NOMINATIONS. Mr. Ray Woodfield, as Chairman of the Nominating
Committee, will accept members' nominations to fill vacancies in
expired terms of four Directors - President, Vice-President,
Treasurer, and Secretary. All members, including those of recent
membership, are asked to give this important issue their full
consideration.

- PROGRAM PRESENTATION -

8-9.15PM..The Guest Speaker is Mr. William Beese, who will present a color
slide program entitled 'Marvels and Mystery of Nature'.

Mr. Beese, a resident of Niagara Falls, is a well-known Nature
photographer who, since his retirement as Public School Principal,
has devoted much time to travelling and photographing various
aspects of Nature. Many of us remember the excellent program he
gave two years ago, and look forward to more of his superior work.

- DESSERT AND SOCIAL HOUR -

9.30 PM...Immediately following Mr. Beese's program, tables, set Smorgasbord
style with various tempting desserts, will be waiting in the adjoin-
ing hallway, also tea and coffee. Tables and chairs will be grouped
in the meeting hall, informally, to allow for meeting old friends
and our newer members.

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT -

The PFN Club date in this Annual Audubon Census, usually held
on Boxing Day, has not been determined at this time, but we hope
to have this information to announce at the coming meeting.

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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS -

As I intimated to you at the October meeting, your Club is now faced with the necessity of finding a new editor for the Newsletter, to replace Mrs. Thelma French who has found it necessary to resign.

Mrs. French has given the Club a great deal of her time and energy in producing, addressing and mailing this Newsletter which is so vital to the well-being of the Club; and her devoted service will be greatly missed. Her personal plans, which may involve her leaving this community, will probably not allow her to carry on beyond the end of the year, so we do not have much time in which to find a replacement.

There is no disguising the fact that editing the Newsletter is not an easy job and it requires some knowledge of natural history, some ability to write or at least to edit, and some dexterity with a typewriter. However, according to Thelma, and I am sure she is right, there is real satisfaction in the task. It would seem to be an ideal job for a husband and wife team if such could be found.

Thus, on your behalf, I want to express our deep appreciation to Thelma, and at the same time to request that if you yourself wish to volunteer, or know of someone who might be willing, would you please inform Mrs. French or any officer of the Club without delay.

- J. L. McKeever

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As many of you know, your Club is affiliated with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and, as a result of this affiliation, your President is a Director of the F.O.N. for his term of office. As your representative, I attended a meeting of the F.O.N. Board of Directors in Toronto on November 3rd. The Federation has grown tremendously in recent years in both numbers and influence, until it now has over 15,000 members. Growth is a fine thing, but it can produce severe growing pains if organization doesn't keep pace, and the FON is certainly suffering some pains at the moment.

The Executive Director, Gerald McKeating, whom many of you no doubt know, has done a splendid job of presenting the Federation's views before government and commissions concerning environmental problems. However, in trying to do this and at the same time keep proper control of expanding financial and office management problems, Gerry's health has given enough concern that he has been given extended leave of absence.

Subsequent investigation by the Executive Committee showed sufficient laxity in accounting and other office procedures, that the decision was made to hire a business manager type to straighten out the financial affairs and to set up, and operate to, proper business procedures.

As a result, the FON is being forced to economize a bit for the moment, so if by any chance one or two issues of the Ontario Naturalist should appear in black and white instead of colour, don't be alarmed. Such action, plus perhaps a request to the membership for special donations, would be only temporary expedients. The Federation is sound and will, I am sure, play an increasingly important part in the struggle to preserve, and hopefully to improve, our environment.

- J.L. McKeever

CORRECTION -

In the 'President's Comments' of October bulletin, page 2, second paragraph, a typing error occurred - an omission of part of a sentence - which consequently conveyed a wrong interpretation of the subject matter.

The editor sincerely regrets that this escaped the final proof-reading, and particularly as Mr. McKeever was making a very good point in this paragraph, which should have read as follows :

'The Quebec Government's James Bay scheme is part of the same energy picture even though in that case it is the generation of electricity rather than the extraction and transportation of oil and gas. The big question there appears to be why a very large section of wilderness on which native peoples and wildlife depend, should be flooded largely to provide the U.S. with electricity, and Quebec with U.S. dollars and a temporary increase in employment.'

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(The editor suggests that you clip the above correction and 'scotch-tape' it over the erroneous one - if you still have the bulletin - then read the whole of this excellent and timely article again.)

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The P.F.N. Club welcomes these new members -

Mrs. H. Daniels, 6611 Culp St., Niagara Falls, and
Miss Pamela Gadd, 26 Grenadier Court, St.Catharines.

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AUTUMN WALK -

Sunday, October 14th., proved an ideal day for the Club's scheduled Walk on the Trail, and about thirty members took advantage of the sunny weather, starting west from Balls Falls. The colorful foliage claimed most of the attention of the walkers, but at least some Shaggy-mane mushrooms and other interesting fungi species were noticed along the way, as well as several Myrtle warblers.

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JAMES BAY PROJECT -

It's interesting but distressing to learn that the President of Uganda, Idi Amin, apparently has a better appreciation of natural values than the rulers of our fair land. He scrapped plans for a hydro-electric development which would have reduced Murchison Falls to a trickle. He realized that the disturbance of construction work would have driven wildlife away, probably to its destruction. An alternate site was found in a less convenient but less vulnerable area 100 miles away.

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From the bulletin of the Algonquin Wildlands League -

"We may scoff, we may deny, but the wilderness mystique is still a strong element of the Canadian ethos. And it is my belief that as urbanization continues in the future to fence us off from the natural world, our appreciation and need for wilderness will not dim, but will grow and assume a new form."

- Fred Bosworth, in 'Wilderness Canada'
(Clarke, Irwin & Co. Ltd.)

TAKE HEED ! -

There is no indoor meeting held in December, nor issue of bulletin.
January 28th.1974 is the date of the next meeting - the Annual - when
election of officers will be held.

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WASTED ENERGY !

Teen-ager to parents while viewing Niagara Falls : "Just think !
Enough power for 75 million electric guitars." -Morning Smile,Globe & Mail

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'Sam, Sam, the travellin' man' - - -

Our elderly (80 +) and active member, S.C.(Sam) Gayman, is back from his
annual trek to British Columbia and other ports of call. His various jaunts
around B.C. included visits to salmon runs, spawning channels, and many other
points of interest. (We shall try to get a story from him one day for the B.)

Also, he's done it again ! Taken time from his jaunts to arrange for
another shipment of those colorful little nature booklets that members enjoyed
last year, through the courtesy of MacMillan & Bloedel Ltd. of B.C. These
have arrived and will be at the November meeting. Take one - courtesy of Sam !

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In Marjery Coffman's delightful story (in October bulletin) of the biking
holiday she and David enjoyed this past summer, she mentions watching the droll
antics of a pair of mockingbirds. This 'rang a bell' with the editor who
remembered reading some lines long ago about this engaging bird. And here they
are, dedicated to the Coffmans for 'good observation'.....

The mockingbird will sing all day
Sweet tunes he likes to borrow;
At night he softly practices
New notes to use tomorrow.

He mimics any bird he hears,
And this is really shocking -
He has a fine note of his own,
But keeps right on with mocking!

(Author unknown.)

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' TAKE 30 ' -

Just a year ago, your editor's sixth term was about to expire. Consequently I included a sort of swan song in the November/72 bulletin, along with a plea for a volunteer to take it on. Two members offered to assist, and this I appreciated, however it poses a problem of 'sharing' which I've never solved. Dividing the formative part of the bulletin is like trying to cut an orange with a feather. Snaggles are inevitable. The final operation of addressing etc. through to mailing the finished product can be shared, but as it only entails about three hours work, it hardly seems worth while to perhaps pry someone away from their favorite TV program and drive across town.

This is not meant to discourage any volunteer because this task can be a real source of pleasure, as I have found these past seven years. And I wouldn't mind continuing with it if it weren't for a lamed left hand that causes poor mileage on the typewriter. But the editor's work is ideally suited for a husband and wife team - and the 'sharing' would work well. There are a lot of Mr. & Mrs. entries on the membership list - and we'll look for some ballots from these ranks as well as singles, at the coming November nominations.

So - help the energy crisis - turn off the TV and build-a-bulletin instead! Your nature knowledge will increase while writing up members' reports on wildflower and bird observations. Then there's the satisfaction too in knowing you're helping your Club.

In closing, I would like to thank our energetic President, J.L. McKeever, for the very fine cooperation he has given the editor as well as the Club's operation as a whole. My appreciation too for submitting the excellent Commentaries for the bulletin - they fill a real need.

My thanks also to Past President Ray Woodfield for his ever ready help in transporting the bulletin printings to and from Brock. Also, to reach back a couple of years, a special thanks for bringing about a change for the better in the printing operations. For this I will be eternally grateful !

A word of thanks to members Marjery Coffman, Joyce Warrell, Dave Angle, Olive Hammer and others who have supplied nature notes for the bulletin. Keep up the good work !

And though it's time to 'Take 30', I'll still be around as a sort of back-bencher until Spring and the possible upheaval of moving. Then, hopefully, there will be 'other mountains to climb'.

- Thelma French

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