



Kingston Field Naturalists

December 2018 and January 2019

KFN

A registered charitable organization and a member of Ontario Nature
Box 831
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 4X6

KFN Website
and links to other sites:
<http://www.kingstonfieldnaturalists.org>

Blog: <http://www.kingstonfieldnaturalists.blogspot.com>

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/Kingstonfieldnaturalists>

flickr:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/90930627@N06>

Membership Inquiries:
John Critchley
613-634-5475
johnecritchley@bell.net

Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month from September to April **Social begins at 7:00 pm.**
Ongwanada Resource Centre, Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston

Thursday 15 November Dawn Bazely will present **What is habitat recovery and how should we measure it in Ontario?**

Dawn Bazely is a Professor in the Biology Department, York University, and has led and collaborated on interdisciplinary research in the science-policy-politics nexus with colleagues from political science, business, law, health, history, ethics and education.

Habitat restoration, in one form or another, has been going on for centuries. Ecological Restoration is a great field for encouraging citizen science participation. But, how do we know if our restoration efforts are a success, and whether we are actually doing more harm than good? Dawn will tackle questions such as: is it possible to eradicate an invasive species?

Thursday 20 December

Annual KFN Members' Presentations and Holiday Social

This is your chance to show off your favourite flora and fauna photos (up to 10) or short videos (up to 5 minutes). Please bring your digital presentation to the meeting room by 7:15. For information contact Erwin Batalla (simbat@bell.net or 613-389-0144). Please bring some holiday goodies to share after the presentations.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Owl Woods on Amherst Island will be closed to birders from

19 November to 9 December.

Hunting is allowed at that time.

The Owl Woods will reopen for birding on 10 December.

Thursday 17 January Chris Hargreaves will present **ICELAND: OLD AND NEW**

Chris and his wife Phillida have been members of the KFN since 1979. Chris is a retired High School teacher: he taught History, Geography, and the Social Sciences at QECVI. He has been Chair of the KFN Conservation Committee since 2008, and is currently representing the KFN at the Ontario Municipal Board hearings regarding the environmental protections in the City of Kingston's Official Plan.

Chris was an avid stamp collector as a boy, and was intrigued by the stamps from Iceland showing geysers, giant waterfalls, and volcanos. Before we visited Iceland in the summer of 2018, he wondered how the reality of the country would compare to the images left over from his childhood. His presentation will include rocks, plants, volcanoes, some birds, and visits to a few of the sites shown on those old stamps.

**CAUTIONS: TICKS are still active if the temperature is above 4°C.
It is hunting season; make noise and wear bright colours.**

RAMBLES are slow walks to notice nature in all its forms. Contact Anne Robertson for more information (613-389-6742 or n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca)

Tuesday 20 November 9:00 am to 12:30 pm Invista shoreline

Meet south end of Sunnycres Road (by water treatment plant). Bring a snack and dress warmly.

Tuesday 4 December 9:00 am to noon Collins Creek

Meet N side of Taylor Kidd and west of Collins Bay Road and Collins Creek. Optional Tim Hortons lunch in Collins Bay.

Tuesday 8 January (Second Tuesday) 9:30 am to noon Catarqui Cemetery

Meet at the end of Purdy's Court (behind Enterprise Rent-a-Car) (access from John Counter Blvd.) Dress warmly and bring a snack.

Tuesday 22 January (Fourth Tuesday) 9:30 am to noon Butternut Creek

Meet at Tim Hortons Hwy 15 at Innovation Drive. Dress warmly.

Tuesday 5 February 9:00 am to 12:30 pm Catarqui Trail west of Perth Road village

Meet Kingslake Plaza. Dress warmly and bring a snack.

FIELD TRIPS AND OTHER EXCURSIONS

Sunday 18 November 8:30 am to 1:00 pm Kingston Mills Lock to Chaffey's Lock

Leader: Erwin Batalla (613-389-0144; simbat at bell.net) We'll visit several lock stations looking for ducks, swans and other water birds. Also possible are lingering birds like Belted Kingfisher, sparrows, winter finches and there is a good chance for Bald Eagle. Meet at carpool lot at Hwy 401 and Montreal St/Battersea Road at 9:00 am. Bring warm gear. We will finish with optional lunch at the Opinicon Pub.

Saturday 24 November 10 am to 11:30 am "Winter Birds 101" Sydenham Public Library

The Friends of Frontenac Park invite you to meet our local winter birds! Learn to identify different species by sight, sound, and behaviour, and get tips for distinguishing between similar species. Gather ideas for attracting birds to your yard, and find out how you can help birds through Citizen Science. This free family-friendly workshop runs from 10-11:30 am at the Sydenham Branch of the Kingston Frontenac Public Library. Drop-ins are welcome, but registration is recommended: Contact Frontenac Provincial Park at 613-376-3489.

Sunday 2 December 9:30 am to approximately 12 noon Helen Quilliam Sanctuary,

Van Luven trail Leader: Kip Parker (kakapo1949 at gmail.com or 613-546-4786). A walk in the woods to see what is stirring in winter, mammal tracks, and any winter birds. Meet at 8:30 am at the car park on Sydenham Road just south of 401 to carpool. Then we will meet Kip at the Sydenham library (4412 Wheatley Street) for 9:00 and head north to the sanctuary. Good boots and warm clothing a must; walking poles, snowshoes or slip-on ice studs may be needed, depending on conditions. This terrain has some ups and downs.

Saturday 15 December Frontenac Christmas Bird Count see page 5

Saturday 15 December 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Frontenac Park CBC & Christmas Bird Count for Kids

A variety of interactive, family-friendly activities will be offered throughout the day. Children's activities will run from 10 am to 3 pm at the Frontenac Provincial Park office, and the CBC census of the park trails will begin at 1:30 pm. Free admission. Contact the park at 613-376-3489 for information. Hosted by The Friends of Frontenac Park.

Friday 14 December until Friday 4 January Christmas Bird Counts details page 5

Sunday 13 January 8:30 am to noon Lemoine Point Conservation Area

Leader: Richard Brault and Dianne Croteau (innova at bellnet.ca or 613-280-4473)

Meet at the south entrance to Lemoine Point at 8:30 am for a walk through the woods to look for winter birds including a possible Barred Owl. Dress warmly, bring a snack. Finish by noon.

JUNIORS **MEETINGS**

at McArthur Hall Rooms A313 and A317 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Thursday 22 November SCAVENGERS

Thursday 13 December SEASONAL CRAFTS

Thursday 10 January ASTRONOMY at Ellis Hall SEE BELOW

Thursday 24 January ANIMAL SUPER HEROES



FIELD TRIPS

Saturday 24 November 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Milburn Creek property of NCC (Nature Conservancy Canada). Wear good boots and windproof clothing. Hat and gloves advised. Bring snack, drink and lunch (with something warm in a small thermos) in a small backpack. **PLEASE sign up by Thursday 22 November** so transportation can be arranged. If you would like to volunteer as a driver please let us know. Where required by law a car seat must be supplied.

Thursday 10 January ASTRONOMY at Ellis Hall Meet in the foyer at 6:30 pm prompt then up to third floor and telescope. Pick up in foyer at 8:00 pm. Ellis Hall is on University Avenue, west side.

Saturday 26 January 9:00 am to 2:30 pm Frontenac Park

Dress warmly and bring a snack, a drink, something warm in a small thermos and lunch. We will be hiking and looking for signs of animals in winter. Please sign up by Thursday 24 January. Car seat where required by law must be supplied. Volunteer drivers appreciated.

TEENS

Details of Teen meetings are sent to members about a week before the trip. Your response at that time is appreciated so transportation can be organised and other arrangements made.



Saturday 10 November 9:00 am to 3:00 pm QUBS Herbarium and hike. Dress warmly (windproof all over, hat, gloves, good boots). Bring lunch (something warm in a thermos) and a drink. Bring field notebook and pencil. PLEASE let Anne know if you can come or not by Thursday 8 November.

Saturday 15 December 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Christmas Bird Count Frontenac Christmas Bird Count survey to seek out, observe, and count birds as part of North America's longest-running Citizen Science project. Carpool to the 9 am Winter Birds 101 workshop in Sydenham, then join a survey team to census areas leading to Frontenac Provincial Park, including KFN's own Helen Quilliam Sanctuary. Have lunch and warm up at the park office, then assist with Christmas Bird Count for Kids activities or co-lead CBC surveying in the park. Return to Kingston by 5 pm, although all CBC participants are invited to attend the evening dinner and social (4:30 pm to 7:00 pm). Dress warmly, and bring binoculars if you have them. Snowshoes will be provided by Frontenac Park, if needed.

Saturday 12 January 9 am to 1:30 pm Bird identification workshop and Bird Collection upkeep. Details will be emailed.

Saturday 9 February Wood Duck nest box cleanout

Club News and Updates

We welcome new member Alix Bortolotti.

Book Sale A sale of nature themed books will take place during the social (7 - 7:30) before the November and January meetings. Prices will be "pay what you will". Please bring toonies and small bills!

The Kingston Field Naturalists has signed the Ontario Nature Protected Places

Declaration. If you haven't done so yet, you can still send this message which asks the governments of Ontario and Canada to meet the commitment to protect at least 17 percent of lands and inland waters by 2020. You can join this campaign at: <https://protected-places.good.do/OntarioNature/declaration/>

Motion re Donation to Nature Conservancy of Canada

The NCC is now seeking \$50,000 to cover the costs of a survey, appraisal, closing and the long-term management of the **Camden East Alvar** in the Napanee Plain. NCC is also raising \$129,000 to purchase and protect **The Hudgins-Rose property**, an area of alvar, grassland and wetland habitats located within the Prince Edward County South Shore Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA). At the October general meeting, Anthony Kaduck moved *that the KFN donate \$5,000 towards the purchase of the Hudgins-Rose property and a further \$2,000 towards the stewardship of the Camden East Alvar property*. The motion was seconded by Paul Mackenzie and carried. However, it had been written in the November newsletter that the vote would take place at the 15 November meeting. For those that missed the October meeting and wanted to vote on this issue, the motion will be voted on again at the 15 November meeting as stated. The executive apologizes for the mix-up.

Exciting news from Denby Sadler at Prince Edward Point

We are full steam ahead on the Visitor Experience Improvements at Prince Edward Point. There will be a new bird banding lab and out building built at the Bird Observatory this winter. Construction on site is set to begin in the coming weeks, so I wanted to make sure everyone is aware that there will be machinery on site as well as a trailer temporarily parked at the Vancotte property.

In addition to the buildings, we are improving the signage throughout the site. Signs will be installed at the look-out, Point Traverse, the beach area, the harbor, as well as some proximity signage along the road to indicate where the points of interest are throughout the National Wildlife Area.

We appreciate the patience of all those who visit the site during construction. If you have any questions about any of the work occurring on the NWA, please don't hesitate to contact Denby Sadler (Denby.Sadler at Canada.ca)

LAST CALL Monday 6 May to Saturday 11 May 2019 Birding Southwest Ontario

A week-long field trip to bird the hotspots of Southwest Ontario, including Point Pelee, Hillman Marsh, Rondeau PP, and Long Point. We will depart from Kingston on the 6th May. We will spend four nights in Leamington and one night in Tillsonburg, returning to Kingston late on the 11th. Contact: Anthony Kaduck (kaduckintransit at gmail.com).

****Note:** If you intend to go you will need to book your accommodation in Leamington now.

Saturday 15 December 9:00 am to 4:30 pm Frontenac Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

Teen and adult birders of all abilities are invited to participate in any of the day's events; advance registration is required. The day kicks off at 9 am with a Winter Birds 101 workshop at the Sydenham Branch of the Kingston Frontenac Public Library. Census of the "Frontenac" circle runs from 9 am to 4 pm, but shorter surveys will run in the afternoon at Frontenac Provincial Park. Outdoor surveyors will be assigned to teams and routes based on interest and ability. Stay-at-home feeder-watchers are also needed! A map of the census area is available at www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/cbc/maps/ONFR.pdf. The day ends with a celebratory dinner and social, 4:30-7 pm in Sydenham. Contact Carolyn Bonta / Michael Johnson (bonta.johnson at sympatico.ca or 613-531-4578) for information or to register. The Frontenac CBC is a partnership event with The Friends of Frontenac Park. Our census area includes part of the Frontenac Forests Important Bird Area, newly designated in 2017!

Christmas Bird Counts 2018 Kingston Area

Participants for our Christmas Bird Counts are needed. You don't have to be an expert to take part. This is a great opportunity for new members to learn about the area.

This year the Christmas Bird Count is being coordinated by Kathy Webb (w2 at queensu.ca).

Contact the area compiler listed below if you wish to participate or for more information.

December 14 Friday Westport with Wendy Briggs-Jude (613-273-5449; bwlaird at rideau.net)

December 15 Saturday Frontenac with Michael Johnson & Carolyn Bonta (613-531-4578; bonta.johnson at sympatico.ca)

December 15 Saturday Prince Edward Point with Pamela Stagg (pstagg05 at kos.net)

December 16 Sunday Kingston with Mark Read (613-217-1246; markdread at gmail.com)

December 19 Wednesday Delta with Jim Thompson, (jthompson211 at cogeco.ca)

December 22 Saturday Napanee with Bonnie Bailey (613-329-4572; Countrygal354 at gmail.com)

December 27 Thursday Gananoque with Kurt Hennige (613-876-1804; khennige at xplornet.com)

January 4 Friday Amherst Island with Janet Scott (613-389-4608; or jiscott at kos.net)

Come on the 7:30 am ferry. Meet at the school; lunch is provided.

Note: The following link will take you to a map with all Canadian Christmas Bird Counts
<http://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/cbc/index.jsp?targetpg=mapviewer&lang>