



Kingston Field Naturalists

September 2018

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>

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Monitoring big cats in Ontario
photo Jeff Bowman

Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month from September to April in **Room B201 Mackintosh Corry Hall**, Queen's University. **Social begins at 7:00 pm.**

PLEASE NOTE The room we have rented in previous years is being renovated. We will be meeting in **Room B201 Mackintosh-Corry Hall, Queen's University** until further notice. A detailed map and directions will be included in the **October newsletter** which you will receive before the **September meeting.**

On Thursday 20 September our speaker will be **Jeff Bowman, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry** **A Tail of Two Cats: Lynx and Bobcat Research in Ontario**

Jeff is a Research Scientist with the Wildlife Research and Monitoring Section of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and an Adjunct Professor in the Environmental and Life Sciences Graduate Program at Trent University. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of New Brunswick in 1999, and has been with MNRF since August 2001. Jeff leads Ontario's furbearer and small mammal research programs, and has expertise in population and landscape ecology, spatial data analysis, and landscape genetics. He has conducted research on many species and ecosystems, including work on fishers, martens, lynx, wolverines, mink, wild turkeys, and flying squirrels.

Ontario is home to two cat species, the Canada lynx and the bobcat. The lynx inhabits northern landscapes of the boreal forest, and recent research has shown that the lynx range is contracting northwards, perhaps due to changing climate. At the same time, the bobcat is spreading, expanding its range into the province. Jeff will discuss the natural history of these two species and present recent results of a research program in Ontario designed to test for the effects of recently overlapping ranges of the lynx and the bobcat, including testing for effects of competition and hybridization.

Book Sale Books left over from the May silent book auction will be available for sale during the social (7 - 7:30) before the fall meetings. Prices will be "pay what you will". Please bring toonies and small bills!

Thursday 18 October our speaker will be Mark Stabb
Mark is the Nature Conservancy of Canada Program Director for Central Ontario – East. He will present "**Tallgrass Awakening: Conservation and habitat restoration in the Rice Lake Plains**"

TICKS are about. Take precautions!

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

Tuesday 4 September 8:45 am to 2:45 pm Amherst Island Sandbeach property
Kurt Hennige will join us for this trip. Meet at 8:45 am*** (for 9:30 ferry) at Tim Hortons Gardiners Town Centre (Bath Road at Gardiners Road). Bring lunch, water, hat, repellent.

Tuesday 18 September 9:00 am to noon Property of David and Joanna Atherton, Sydenham Lake. Meet at Rona store (SE parking lot, Princess St near Sydenham Road). Bring water, snack, hat.

Tuesday 2 October 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Marble Rock Conservation Area
Meet car pool lot Hwy 15 and Hwy 401. Bring water, lunch, hat.

FIELD TRIPS AND OTHER EXCURSIONS

Sunday 16 September 8:00 am to 1:00 pm Fall Birding Around Kingston

Leader: Paul Mackenzie (mackenzp@queensu.ca or 613-547-5748)

Meet at the Marshlands Conservation Area parking lot at 8.00 am. (The entrance is off Trailhead Place: turn north at the stoplights on Kings Street West, just west of Cataraqui Golf Club.) Take a walk up the trail looking for fall warblers. Then car pool to the Amherstview lagoons and Wilton Creek in search of migrating shorebirds. Return to Marshlands around 1:00 pm and have lunch.

Monday 6 May to Saturday 11 May 2018 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, arriving at Leamington that evening. We will spend four nights in Leamington and one night in Tillsonburg, returning to Kingston late on the 11th. If time permits we will visit the Carden Alvar on the way back. With luck we could see 150 species including exotics and rarities such as Prothonotary Warbler.

The trip will involve early mornings and long days in the field with plenty of walking, mostly on prepared trails.

Contact: Anthony Kaduck at kaduckintransit@googlemail.com.

**Note: If you intend to go you will need to book your accommodation in Leamington now, while vacancies still exist. We will meet centrally for breakfast each day and then car pool to the day's destinations.

JUNIORS

MEETINGS

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



Saturday 15 September deadline for registration

Thursday 27 September Introductory meeting

Thursday 11 October Life of a Milkweed Plant

SUMMER PROJECTS Projects completed over the summer will be due October 25.

T SHIRTS may be ordered at October meeting only.

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 8 September 9 am to 3:30 pm Canoe Trip

Meet Tim Hortons Sydenham Road. Bring life jacket and paddle if you have them.

Friday 12 October 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm Chart the Dark Sky and Saw Whet Owl banding at **Prince Edward Point**. Meet Tim Hortons at Gardiners Town Centre (Bath and Gardiner's Road). Details to follow.

T SHIRTS may be ordered at October meeting only.

Club News and Updates

We welcome new members: Richard J Beninger, Amanda Tracey. Steve Ingle and Darci Jansen, Fenton Weston, Ellen Hartwick, Liz Argue, and Gary Hillaby.

Barn Swallows at Lemoine Point

Unfortunately, although there were several Barn Swallows observed at Lemoine Point this year, they did not try building nests in the new nesting structure.

This is disappointing, but not unusual. There was a link in our May newsletter to an article in Ontario Nature's magazine about the reluctance of Barn Swallows to nest in alternative structures across the province. (It's at <https://view.publitas.com/on-nature/spring-2018/page/30-34>).

The CRCA is looking into changes that might be made to the structure to make it more attractive to Barn Swallows next year. One thought is that there might be a shade issue, as the structure is quite bright underneath, and the swallows might be looking for an a darker retreat. The CRCA is therefore considering the installation of partial sides on the structure.

PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY

The City of Kingston is currently updating its Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and wants input from residents on how to improve opportunities and access to recreation programs, special events, parks and facilities throughout Kingston.

Residents who didn't complete the online survey during the Spring, can still give input and share their ideas online at GetInvolved.CityofKingston.ca/parks-rec-master-plan - "Click on the "Ideas" tab and share your ideas to help keep Kingston active!"

This is a great opportunity for members who want more scope for passive recreation - such as walking trails and nature parks - to give their opinions at the beginning of the City of Kingston Parks and Recreation Master Plan update. All members are encouraged to participate as soon as possible, as there is a concern that the process might be dominated by responses from people who want more facilities for specific organized sports.

Curious Why Lake Ontario Had Terrible 2017 Flooding?

Watch This IJC Explanation Video

The International Joint Commission (IJC) has released a short video that highlights the major climatic events that caused 2017 flooding on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The IJC is the binational, independent commission that regulates water levels in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence Seaway. This video discusses the board's decision process for managing outflows and provides a basin-wide explanation of why these decisions occurred. It also explains how the flooding could have been worse if the IJC hadn't taken the actions they did. The video can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/275669603>