



Kingston Field Naturalists

April 2020

This month
6 pages

KFN

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

KFN Website
and links to other sites:
<https://kingstonfielddnaturalists.org>

Blog: <http://kingstonfielddnaturalists.blogspot.com>

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

Membership Inquiries:
Kathy Webb
kw2 at queensu.ca

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

At press time, Thursday 2:00 pm, Ongwanada said we are clear to go ahead with the meeting for Thursday 19 March. If there is a change, we will make every effort to contact members. Please check the website before you head out!

On Thursday 19 March

Stephen Lougheed, Conservation Biology, Queen's, will present

Conservation in the Age of Genomics

We are facing a biodiversity crisis that is unprecedented in human history, caused by myriad human impacts including habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive species, pollution, unsustainable harvesting, and climate change. Dr. Lougheed's lab is using genomics and the latest mapping tools to quantify human impacts on species at risk, identify critical habitat, better understand species ecology, and ultimately make recommendations for conservation. He will talk about some of his work on at-risk snakes and frogs, and if time permits, some of his Arctic work on bears and fish.

Thursday 16 April is our Annual General Meeting

We will have a short report about our activities in the past year, the budget will be presented, and the 2020/2021 Executive will be elected. After the work is done,

**Carolyn Bonta will present
Biodiversity of the Barrenlands**

A long-time member of the Kingston Field Naturalists, Carolyn Bonta recently joined the Executive as Field Trips Coordinator. Carolyn's talk will take us on a tour of the tundra biome of the north-central Canadian Arctic where she has spent the past two summers conducting fieldwork. The Arctic climate has been warming rapidly in recent decades, and Carolyn's study area is within the range of the precipitously-declining Bathurst caribou herd. This presentation will highlight how changes in climate and large herbivore populations can drastically alter vegetation communities and patterns on the tundra landscape.



It's spring!
Time to sing out!
Photo J. Elliott

It's Membership Renewal Time Again! Please see page 4 for details on how you can renew your membership and make donations to KFN.

Thursday 21 May is our Annual Dinner Meeting.

We will be dining at Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, CFB Kingston. Michael Runtz will be our speaker. For details, see page 4.

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 17 March 9:00 am to 1:30 pm Cataraqui Trail east end of Sydenham Lake

Meet Rona (2342 Princess St SE corner of parking lot). Bring lunch.

Tuesday 7 April 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Mitchell Creek property of Nature Conservancy Canada Meet Rona (2342 Princess St SE corner of parking lot). Bring lunch.

Tuesday 21 April 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Camden Lake Wildlife Area

Meet Invista Centre parking lot 1350 Gardiners Road (NE corner). Bring lunch, drink, hat, sunscreen and repellent.

Tuesday 5 May *8:30 am to 2:30 pm Howe Island** with Peter Waycik.

Meet 8:30 am at the bottom of Fort Henry Hill to carpool (or at 9:00 am at ferry dock on Joyceville Road). Bring lunch, hat and sunscreen. (N.B. The ferry is closed 9:30 to 11:30 am that day.)

FIELD TRIPS AND OTHER EXCURSIONS

Saturday 21 March ~8:00 am to ~4:00 pm Presqu'ile Waterfowl Weekend

Leader: Gary Hillaby (613-547-8121 or gary.hillaby at gmail.com) Join Gary for the annual Presqu'ile Waterfowl Weekend, our region's most popular early spring birding event. Spotting scopes at viewing areas provide close-up looks at ducks, geese, and swans while provincial park staff and volunteers offer identification tips. Meet Gary in the NE corner of the Invista Centre parking lot for carpooling in time for an ~8:00 am departure. [NOTE: The #7 bus arrives at Invista Centre at 8:08 am - trip participants planning to arrive at the meeting point by bus should notify the trip leader.] *Carpooling is strongly encouraged, and all participants are expected to contribute equally to vehicle mileage and the park entry fee.* Pack a lunch, and dress for cold weather and wind because we will be spending much of the day by Lake Ontario. This trip will involve up to 4 km of walking on relatively gentle terrain and park trails. Anticipated return 4:00 pm.

Rain date will be Sunday, March 22 - contact Gary or monitor the KFN website for updates.

Sunday 29 March 8:30 am to noon Cataraqui River & Kingston Inner Harbour

Leader: Ken Robinson (613-766-4782 or ken.robinson546 at gmail.com) Meet Ken at the Tim Hortons on Highway 15 south of Highway 401 at 8:30 am to carpool. [Nearby transit stop at 111 Innovation Drive services Express Bus route 602 leaving downtown at 8:07 am.] Together, we will explore areas along the Cataraqui River looking for waterfowl, over-wintering species, and early migrants. Waterfowl viewing opportunities (albeit on a smaller scale) for those unable to visit Presqu'ile Provincial Park last weekend! Between driving from point to point, we will be standing outside a fair bit, so dress warmly. Walking will be limited to short distances on gentle terrain. The trip will finish around noon.

Tuesday 31 March 1:30 to 3:30 pm Workshop on Cyanobacteria see page 5 for details

Saturday 25 April 9:30 am to noon Helen Quilliam Sanctuary Clean-up

Meet at the gravel pit at 9:30 am. Tools such as brush clippers and hammers are useful but not essential. Come and explore the trails, look for early spring flowers, butterflies and birds while helping with trail maintenance and signage. Refreshments will be available at noon at the gravel pit. Contact Gaye Beckwith (613-376-3716, beckwithb at sympatico.ca) if you plan to come and to arrange carpooling.

Sunday 26 April 6:00 am to 3:30 pm Prince Edward Point

Leader: Anthony Kaduck (613-767-8398 or kaduckintransit at gmail.com) Search for early migrant songbirds and waterfowl at Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area. Meet at Tim Hortons at the corner of Gardiners Road and Bath Road at 6:00 to sort out carpooling for a 6:15 departure, or meet us at the Adolphustown ferry dock in time to catch the 7:15 ferry. *Carpooling is strongly encouraged, and all participants are expected to contribute to vehicle mileage.* This trip will involve 3-4 km of slow walking over mostly flat trails, plus some extended standing. Rubber boots or waterproof hiking shoes are recommended. There are no services other than washrooms at the Point, so bring lunch and a thermos. Ice cream at the Black River Cheese Factory on the way back is optional but strongly encouraged. ☺

SAVE THE DATE!!

Friday 12 June to Saturday 13 June Our 2020 BIOBLITZ see page 5

JUNIORS

MEETINGS

are at **McArthur Hall** (Union St at Sir John A Blvd)

Meet in Room A334 **6:30 to 8:00 pm**

Thursday 26 March MYTHICAL CREATURES

Thursday 9 April CAVITY NESTERS

Thursday 23 April ADVOCACY—Protected Places



FIELD TRIPS

Saturday 28 March 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Marble Rock Conservation Area

Theme: Signs of Spring Meet McArthur 9:00 am. Return 2:00 pm. Dress warmly. Bring lunch and a snack. Please sign up by Thursday 26 March at meeting or email n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca. Car seats, where required by law, must be supplied.

Saturday 25 April 9:00 am to 2:30 pm This is our roadside cleanup meeting for the KFN Helen Quilliam Sanctuary property and a Sanctuary hike for spring wildflowers. Bring lunch, a snack and gloves for picking up garbage. Please sign up by Thursday 23 April at meeting or email Anne (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca) to ensure transportation and handouts. Car seats, where required by law, must be supplied.

Annual Coin Collection With the help of adult KFN members, our annual coin collection to help wildlife raised \$285 towards Arctic Species at Risk through the World Wildlife Fund. This is one way to give back to nature.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Stirrett Summer Camp scholarships are available for Juniors to attend nature camps. Written applications by April 1. Please ask Anne for details. Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority Nature Explorers Camp is for 6-11 year-olds, eight week-long sessions. For information Google: CRCA Nature Camp Day Camp.

Eco Adventure Camp is for 8-13 year-olds, and Leader in Training for 13-18 year-olds at ELEEC (Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre); seven week-long sessions. Google: Eco-adventure Camp Kingston.

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.

Stirrett Summer Camp Scholarships

Please see information under Juniors (above) for up to 13 year-olds and Leader in Training for 13 to 18 year-olds.

Saturday 4 April 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Birding Wolfe Island with Mark Read. Use of 'scopes. Details in email a week ahead.

Friday 15 to Saturday 16 May BIRDATHON. Join us for all or part of this 24 hour bird count. More details next month.



Club News and Updates

We welcome new members: Serge Brodeur, Angelique Stockmann, Aaron Rusak, Kristin Maling & family, Emily Su & family, David and RoseMarie Kingsley, Mike Parry, Andy Bone.

This past month memorial donations have been made in the name of June Fitchett, a long-time member.

It's Membership Renewal Time Again!

The KFN membership year extends from April 1 to March 31 of the following year. Thanks to those who have already renewed. If your membership is still due for renewal, please:

1. Join or renew online via PayPal at the website: <https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/membership/> OR
2. Download and print the membership form from the website and mail it in with a cheque payment to Kingston Field Naturalists, PO Box 831, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4X6 OR
3. Visit the membership table at the back of the room during the general meeting to process your membership with either a cash or cheque payment.

Donations are always welcome and charitable receipts are issued for donations of \$10 and over. Donations can accompany your membership renewal or can be processed separately online: <https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/donations/>

If you have any **questions**, please contact Kathy Webb at kw2 at queensu.ca

Our Annual Dinner meeting will be Thursday 21 May. This year our dinner will be at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, 18 Craftsman Blvd, CFB Kingston. (Next month's newsletter will include a map.) This venue has ample parking and level access (NO stairs). The venue opens at 6:00, dinner starts at 7:00 pm. Cost will be \$60 per person for a choice of beef or chicken or vegetarian meal. Ticket are available until 14 May from Polly at the March and April meetings, or by contacting her (pollyaiken13 at gmail.com or 343-363-1342).

Our speaker will be Michael Runtz, one of Canada's best-known naturalists, nature photographers, and natural history authors. We will again be having a silent auction of natural history books and paraphernalia. If you have something you would like to donate, please contact Janet Elliott (janet.l.elliott at gmail.com or 613-547-2674).

Want to get more involved in the KFN??

Our 2020-2021 Executive will be elected at the AGM meeting in April. Candidate suggestions and expressions of interest are welcomed by The Nominating Committee: Alexandra Simmons (simbat at bell.net; 613-389-0144) Janet Elliott (janet.l.elliott at gmail.com; 613-547-2674) and Gaye Beckwith (beckwithb at sympatico.ca; 613-376-3716). You are welcome to contact one of us if you are interested.

UPCOMING!

Tuesday 31 March 1:30 to 3:30 pm Workshop on Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae)

A workshop on rising temperatures and their influence on 'algae' blooms; emphasis on the cyanobacteria (blue-greens) with Shirley French and Queen's students, Allen Tian and Eden Hataley. You may have noticed worrisome 'algae' blooms in our surrounding waterways over the past several years. The concern is: when is it safe to swim in a lake or let our pets drink the water? Is that bloom producing a toxin? That last question can only be answered through more in-depth testing; the students will share some of their research findings on this topic. In this workshop we will also cover the identification of 5-6 main types of cyanobacteria (blue-greens) that we can look for and some of the algae and cyanos that indicate healthy waterways. For \$18 each participant will get a Foldscope (pocket microscope & LED magnifier) for quick and easy viewing of bloom organisms. Cost is \$8 without a Foldscope. Registration is essential since there is space for only 35 participants. **Where: CRCA Outdoor Centre**, West Hall, 1641 Perth Rd., Glenburnie. Time: 1:30 to 3:30 pm, 31 March. Register with shirleyfrenchka at gmail.com; let her know if you intend to take home a Foldscope.

Kingston Field Naturalists 2020 BioBlitz

Friday 12 June 3:00 pm to Saturday 13 June 3:00 pm

At Fourth Lake Nature Reserve*, Fourth Lake Road near Parham

Guided hikes with expert naturalists

Learn to find and identify flora and fauna

BBQ on Saturday

Children's activities

For program and a map visit www.kingstonfieldnaturalists.org (after 1 April)
Or contact Anne (n8ture.anne@sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742)

*Fourth Lake Nature Reserve is a property of Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington and at other times is closed to the public.

The Junior Naturalists Coin Collection raised \$285.00 with your help. This has been sent to World Wildlife Fund to support Arctic Species such as Atlantic Walrus and Narwhals. Thank you for your donations. This is one of three ways the Junior Naturalists give back to Nature each year. They also do a roadside or shoreline cleanup and have a meeting focussing on advocacy, sending letters to Canadian politicians on something topical of concern.

The documentary *Beaver Believers* will be shown by The Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) at Queen's. This movie is billed as a great way to educate the public about the importance of habitat restoration. Screening is on Thursday 19 March at 6:30 pm at Queen's Biosciences Complex, Room 1102. Tickets are \$5 each and a limited number will be available the door. Tickets are also available on line-- See SCB Facebook page or website for tickets.

A graduate student in the Queen's School of Environmental Studies is collecting data for a **bird-window collision study on the Queen's University campus**. She hopes the data will encourage the university to include collision mitigation tactics in their campus planning. The student is looking for volunteers to help record data. Data collection involves a 15-20 minute walk around one of the buildings on the Queen's campus in the first hour of sunrise, and recording any evidence of bird window collisions. There will be a training day to help volunteers understand what to look for and what brief notes to make if they see anything. The data collection period is from March until early November. If you are interested, please contact Maleeka: queensbirdcollisions at gmail.com.