



Kingston Field Naturalists

February 2020

OUR
71ST
YEAR

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://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org>

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

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

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

**On Thursday 16 January 2020 Barrie Gilbert will present
One of Us: A Biologist's Walk Among Bears**

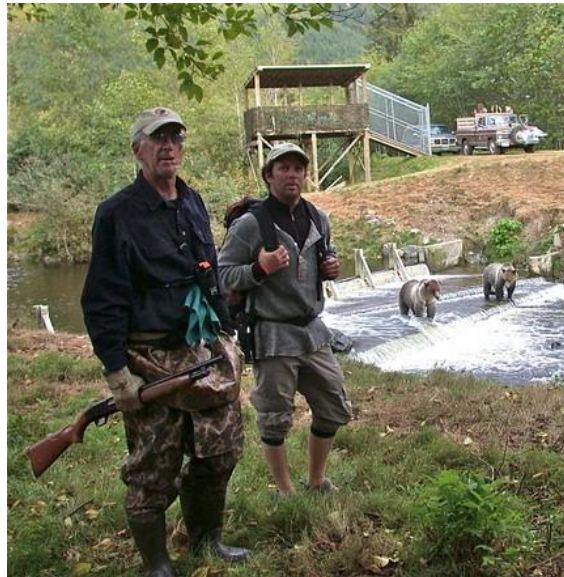


Photo: B. Gilbert

Barrie Gilbert studied at Queen's University and Duke University. When he joined the faculty of Utah State University, grizzly bears research became his specialty. A close encounter with a frightened bear during a research trip in Yellowstone National Park left him clinging to life. Gilbert not only recovered, but he returned to fieldwork, devoting the next several decades to understanding and protecting these often-maligned giants. Gilbert now leads ethical bear-viewing trips to coastal British Columbia.

Drawn from his decades of experience, Gilbert's talk: *One of Us: A Biologist's Walk Among Bears* explodes myths that depict grizzlies as bloodthirsty beasts and reveals the intelligent, adaptable side of these astonishingly social animals. He will be available for a book signing after the presentation.

On Thursday 20 February Ken Edwards and Anthony Kaduck will present Birding Adventures in Colombia

Colombia is a mecca for birders, home to 20% of the world's bird species. Over 150 species of hummingbirds can be seen there, along with motmots, puffbirds, trogons, antbirds and other such neotropical specialties. The country contains six main ecological zones, each with their own distinctive wildlife. For many years a civil war made much of Colombia too hazardous to visit. The peace agreement with the FARC, signed in 2016, has meant that these areas are now opening to intrepid birders. Ken and Anthony will have just returned from another trip to Colombia and will talk about their travels. Expect to see lots of exotic birds and interesting wildlife, plus images of beautiful scenery and the daily life of Colombians.

The Junior Naturalists are having a coin collection to help the World Wildlife Fund's Arctic Species at Risk program. A collection box will be available at the January and February meetings. Your contributions will be much appreciated.

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). **Hiking poles and yak trax or similar non-skid attachments for boots are recommended for winter rambles.**

Tuesday 21 January 9:00 am to noon Cataraqui Cemetery

Meet at Cemetery parking lot behind the Administration building in the Cemetery. Enter cemetery via Purdy's Mill Road; building and parking is on your right. Dress warmly and bring a snack.

Tuesday 4 February 9:00 am to noon K and P trail Cordukes Road east

Meet at trail parking on Burbrook Road at Cordukes Road (east of Hwy 38). Dress very warmly and bring a snack.

Tuesday 18 February 9:00 to noon Collins Creek trails with Nick Gazendam

Meet on Rosanna Ave near the junction with Cataraqui Woods Drive (west of Bayridge Dr and north of Princess St). Please park on south side of the road. It may be muddy and wet. Waterproof boots and boot grippers recommended.

Tuesday 3 March 9:00 am to 12:30 pm Murvale Creek area

Join Chris Grooms to explore trails and see trail cam locations and animal tracks. Meet Invista Centre (1350 Gardiners Road, parking lot at NE corner). Bring a snack (or lunch!)

FIELD TRIPS AND OTHER EXCURSIONS

Friday 17 to Sunday 19 January 2020 Algonquin Provincial Park

Join other KFN members as we search for winter wildlife in Algonquin Park. Target species include Canada Jay, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, possibly both species of crossbill, Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker and Pine Marten. The plan is to leave on the morning of Friday 17 January and stay overnight in Whitney, near the east gate of the park, departing on Sunday morning. Participants may choose to take part in the whole trip or just one night (or even to drive up and back in a long day). Contact Anthony Kaduck for further details (kaduckintransit at gmail.com).

Members travelling from Kingston should meet at the Invista Centre parking lot at **8:00 a.m. on Friday 17 January**. If possible, we will carpool - i.e. take the lowest practical number of vehicles. This will limit our carbon footprint and minimize park permit costs.

Monday 17 February (Family Day) 8:45 to about noon Snowy Owls on Wolfe Island

Leader: Erwin Batalla, (simbat at bell.net or 613-389-0144) Wolfe Island is a great place to see Snowy Owls, and the Kingston Field Naturalists know where to find these majestic birds. Spotting scopes will be set up, giving observers great views. Bring your family and friends because this event is open to the public. We will meet at **8:45 am (note the time change from previous years)** at the Kingston ferry terminal to carpool, and will plan to return around noon.

Winter weather can be unpredictable! Additional winter trips may be posted if field conditions are suitable; please check the website.

JUNIORS

MEETINGS

are at **McArthur Hall** (Union St at Sir John A Blvd)
Meet in Room A334 **6:30 to 8:00 pm**

Thursday 23 January URBAN ECOLOGY
Thursday 13 February EXTREME WEATHER
Thursday 27 February LOCOMOTION



FIELD TRIPS

Saturday 25 January 9:00 am to 12:30 pm Parrott's Bay

Theme: Animal Signs in Winter Meet McArthur 9:00 am. Return 12:30 pm.
Dress very warmly, wear good boots. Bring a snack. Please sign up by 23 January.
Car seats, where required by law, must be supplied.

Saturday 22 February 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre Meet McArthur 9:00 am. Return 2:00 pm. Dress very warmly with good boots and spare mitts. Bring lunch with something hot in a small pack. Please sign up by Thursday 20 February at meeting or by email (*n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca*). Car seats, where required by law, must be supplied.

Annual Coin Collection Our annual coin collection to help wildlife will this year go towards Arctic Species at Risk through the World Wildlife Fund. Please bring coins to January and February meetings. This is one way to give back to nature.

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 11 January 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Bird Identification Workshop Details in email.

The February and March outings are interchangeable depending on the ice conditions. Decision will be made a week ahead and an email will be sent.

Saturday 8 February 9:00 am to 2:30 pm Wood Duck box maintenance at **Helen Quilliam Sanctuary**.

Saturday 7 March 9:00 am to 2:30 pm Snowshoe or ski on **Mitchell Creek property of Nature Conservancy Canada**.

Club News and Updates

We welcome new members: Anita Jessup, Judith Schizkoske, Daniel Lafortune, and Cindy Naughton.

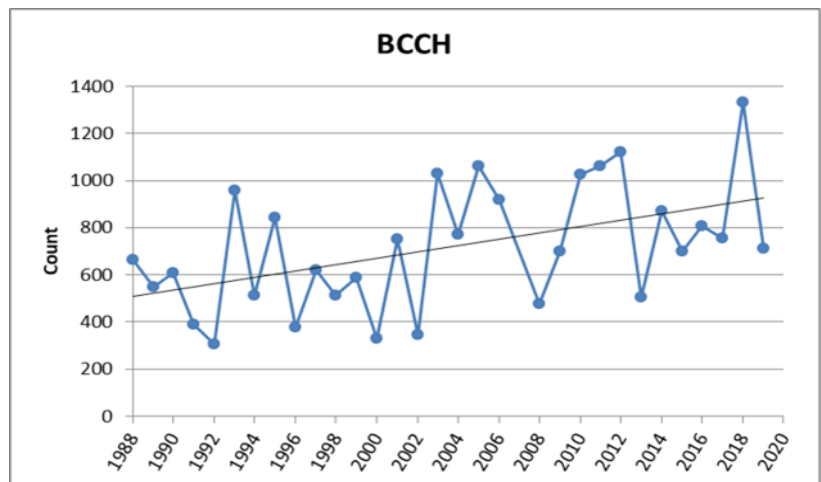
Want to get more involved in the KFN??

The Kingston Field Naturalists Executive is the group of volunteers that carries out the background work to achieve the Club's goal of enabling its members and the public to "observe, understand and conserve" nature, especially in the Kingston area. A list of Executive positions and the people occupying them appears on the inside cover (2nd page) of every issue of The Blue Bill. The Nominating Committee, consisting of 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) is the group tasked with coming up with a proposed slate for 2020-2021 (new Executive starts in May 2020). **There are members with good ideas and/or experience that could make a great contribution by serving on the executive.** Vacant positions will be announced soon. You are welcome to contact one of us if you have any questions about the positions or would like to join the Executive.

Black-capped Chickadees

The Black-capped Chickadee numbers in our area appear to be increasing slightly, both in our Kingston CBC and within the Lower Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Plain CBC area. This year's count result looks to be close to the 30 year trendline (see below). You can get a plot of trends for all birds across counts on the website: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/where-have-all-birds-gone#>. You just need to scroll down to the map, choose your bird, and then click on the area of the map that you're interested in... it's quite interesting!

Here is a plot of the BCCH counts (with trendline) from recent Kingston CBC's.



Upcoming!!

Thursday 16 February 12:00 pm *Inspiring Action* at The Grand Theatre

Sustainable Kingston, in partnership with the City of Kingston, is hosting the Kingston Climate Change Symposium at The Grand Theatre. The symposium will bring together climate champions and inspire action while showcasing the latest developments on community-based climate initiatives. For more information visit <https://www.kingstongrand.ca/events/the-2020-kingston-climate-change-symposium>.

Friday 21 February 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Kemptville Winter Woodlot

Conference This program will be presented by a branch ☺ of the Ontario Woodlot Association. The theme is *What your Forest can do for you*. For more information visit: <https://www.ontariowoodlot.com/component/jevents/event/307>