



Kingston Field Naturalists

March 2020

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

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

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.

On Thursday 19 March Stephen Lougheed 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. The UN Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services estimates that there are one million species at risk of extinction in the next decades. 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.

Stephen Lougheed is the Baillie Family Chair in Conservation Biology, Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at Queen's University, and Director of the Queen's University Biological Station. His research combines leading-edge genomics, spatial ecology, and modeling to understand biodiversity origins and human impacts on wild populations. His fieldwork spans the Americas from Tierra del Fuego to the Arctic. His core research, funded by NSERC, investigates the origins of biodiversity from single landscapes, through entire species distributions spanning continents, to entire assemblages of species. Lougheed has dedicated himself to experiential learning particularly in remote field settings, with his colleagues teaching Queen's students in locales in East Africa, Latin America, China, as well as locally. He has won numerous teaching awards.



Dr. Stephen Lougheed will be our March speaker.

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

The Junior Naturalists are having a coin collection to help the World Wildlife Fund's Arctic Species at Risk program. Thanks to all for their generous donations in January. A collection box will be available at the February meeting. Your contributions will be gratefully received!

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 18 February 9:00 to noon Collins Creek trails with Nick Gazendam
Meet on Rosanna Ave near the junction with Cataraqi 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!)

Tuesday 17 March 9:00 am to 1:30 pm Cataraqi 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.

FIELD TRIPS AND OTHER EXCURSIONS

Monday 17 February 8:45 am to noon (Family Day) 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!**– at the Kingston ferry terminal to carpool. We will plan to return around noon.

Saturday or Sunday 21 or 22 March Presqu'ile Waterfowl Weekend
Leader: You? The annual Presqu'ile Waterfowl Weekend is our region's most popular early spring birding event. Hosted by The Friends of Presqu'ile Park, there is something for everyone. Spotting scopes at viewing areas provide close-up looks at ducks, geese, and swans while provincial park staff and volunteers offer identification tips. Are YOU planning to attend this event? We are looking for someone to coordinate a meeting time and carpooling between Kingston and Presqu'ile Provincial Park on one of the two days of this event. No birding or trip-leading experience necessary! By leading this trip, you will gain the company and knowledge of other waterfowl enthusiasts. Please email Carolyn Bonta, Field Trip Coordinator at fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org if you can help. Potential participants are encouraged to watch the website or contact Carolyn to be notified when a leader is found.

Sunday 29 March 8:30 am to noon Cataraqi 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 Cataraqi 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 4 for details

SAVE THE DATE!!

Friday 12 June to Saturday 13 June Our 22nd BIOBLITZ

JUNIORS

MEETINGS

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

Thursday 27 February LOCOMOTION
Thursday 12 March ESSENTIAL PLANTS
Thursday 26 March MYTHICAL CREATURES



FIELD TRIPS

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.

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.

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 7 March 9:00 am to 2:30 pm Snowshoe or ski on **Mitchell Creek property of Nature Conservancy Canada**
Focus on Tree identification. Details in email a week ahead.

Saturday 4 April 9:00 am to 2:00 pm **Birding Wolfe Island**
with Mark Read. Use of scopes.

15-16 May Birdathon

Club News and Updates

We welcome new members: Joan Mercier, Robert Young & family, Lou Anne Meloche, Yuying Zhu, Peter Strahlendorf, Nydia Kien, Sandrine Abbondioli & family, Arthur Beck, Donald Lyons.

Our Annual Dinner meeting will be Thursday 21 May. Our speaker will be Michael Runtz, one of Canada's best-known naturalists, nature photographers, and natural history authors. Details of location and cost are being finalized. We will again be having a silent auction of natural history books and paraphernalia.

It's Membership Renewal Time Again!

The KFN membership year extends from April 1 to March 31 of the following year. If your membership is due for renewal, you can proceed in several ways:

1. Join or renew online via PayPal at the website: <https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/membership/>
2. Download and print the membership form from the website and mail it in with a cheque payment. Mail to Kingston Field Naturalists, PO Box 831, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4X6
3. Come to one of our general meetings and visit the membership table at the back of the room 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

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. **Positions that need to be filled include Vice President, Publicity and Website maintenance.** 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)

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.