



Kingston Field Naturalists

May 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://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org>

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

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

Membership Inquiries:
Kathy Webb
kw2 at queensu.ca

COVID-19: A message from your president

Fellow KFN members,

I wanted to give you an update on where we stand with club activities as we move farther into the year of the pandemic. We held our first virtual meeting of the executive on April 1st using Zoom. At the meeting we discussed three main issues: how to deal with our activity schedule over the next few months, what to do about our AGM, and what to do about the May dinner.

Activities. You have probably already noticed that some of our activities have been cancelled, with a promise to review the situation by the 15th of April. It is now clear that our field trips, monthly meetings, Teen and Junior Naturalist activities, May bird walks and rambles cannot continue while Ontario is under a state of emergency. So we have decided to cancel all group activities for the months of April and May.

The remaining major activity on the schedule is the BioBlitz in June. It is difficult to predict the future course of the pandemic but there is at least a glimmer of hope that we might be able to run this activity. So we have left the BioBlitz on the programme for the moment. We will revisit this and take a final decision at the May executive meeting.

Annual General Meeting. We would normally hold our AGM in April, at which time we would elect a new executive and approve an annual budget. After discussing a number of options, we decided to put off the AGM until September. This means that the current President (me), Past President and Vice-President will continue in their positions, though it is likely that some duties will be transferred to the presumed replacements identified by the Nominating Committee.

It also means that we will need to operate with a provisional budget and seek approval in arrears in September. Our Treasurer, Larry McCurdy, has developed a budget proposal for the 2020-2021 fiscal year and the executive has had time to consider it in depth. We will be recommending this budget to the membership in September. It does not involve any significant changes from the way we have traditionally allocated funds, so we are confident that the members will support it in September. If any changes need to be made there is scope to do so because we will at that point only be just over one third of the way through the fiscal year.

..... continued ...



Scarlet Cup fungus
Sarcoscypha austriaca
Photo J. Elliott

It's membership renewal time. If you have already renewed, thank you. If not, check page 4 for details of how you can do so.

COVID-19: A message from your president ...continued ...

"May" Dinner. We have decided to hold the dinner meeting on October 15th. The venue (the CFB Kingston Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess) is available as is our speaker, Mike Runtz.

Like everything else in this most unusual year, we are having to adapt on the fly to situations that were not foreseen by the drafters of our constitution. If you have any concerns about the approach we have taken, please contact me and I will be happy to discuss them.

In the meantime, stay safe, wash your hands, and practice social distancing and we will get through this crisis. The wildlife will be waiting for you when we get to the other side.

Anthony Kaduck,
President

Rambles and Field Trips are cancelled in April and May. Please check website or June newsletter for updates.

Martin Edwards Reserve

We are proceeding with the usual maintenance of the property. Members are still allowed to visit but you must be aware that the electric fence has been energized. We expect cattle to be on the property after May 15.

Good News about Blue-Greens!

Our workshop on cyanobacteria will be on the KFN website for free, no later than May 15th. We are working on bringing you relevant, up-to-date information about HABs (harmful algae blooms), potentially found in our local waterways. Queen's students Allen Tian and Eden Hataley will share their work from the field about this photosynthetic group that has been known to produce toxins. Their study area has been Dog Lake in the CRCA watershed. I will give a rundown of the good and bad contributors to our lake ecosystems but also share the importance of this ancient group. Towards the end of the video we will show you how to identify some of the easy to recognize species in a lake community. Health and safety recommendations will be addressed. If there is interest, we may follow-up with a question and answer session.

For those of you curious to see what a bloom may look like up close (140 times magnification) you can still get a foldscope kit from Shirley French. To cover the cost of postage & foldscope kits, send a cheque for \$15 addressed to the **Kingston Field Naturalists**, (address: P.O. Box 831, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 4X6, Attn. Shirley French) and send an email to shirleyfrenchka at gmail.com stating how many you would like, plus your **return address**. We have already "folded" the microscopes for you and will include a size estimation slide in each kit. Best wishes to everyone during this COVID-19 crisis.



Dolichospermum, large oval akinete, 20 μ m in length.

JUNIORS

All Junior meetings and field trips are cancelled for the remainder of this season.

Please see separate emails for fun things to do outside.

Please apply in August/September, when you will be alerted, to register for next year.



The BioBlitz MAY still happen. Please check adult website (kingstonfieldnaturalists.org) for updates. Juniors are welcome to attend this.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP (IF camps are running)

Stirrett Summer Camp scholarships are available for Juniors to attend nature camps. Written applications ASAP. Please ask Anne for details and look on the appropriate website.

Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority Nature Explorers Camp is for 6-11 year-olds, eight week long sessions. 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.

SUMMER PROJECTS

Start now! We hope you will complete a summer project for a prize in the fall. Prizes available are the Roland Beschel Prize, Nan Yeoman's Prize and Photo competition. These projects are for hands-on field projects (nature collection, diary etc.) NOT computer oriented. Ask Anne for details.

Projects completed over the summer will be due October 22, 2020

1. Roland Beschel Prize. This prize is for a project done over the summer. A collection or observing and recording something in nature are suitable
2. Nan Yeomans Prize. This prize is for a diary recording observations over the summer. Once a day or once a week- your choice
3. Photo Competition. Up to three photos taken over the summer with a short description.

TEENS

Teen activities for May will be sent in a separate email with things for you to do separately.

Camp scholarships available as under Juniors for Eco Adventure camp and Leader in Training if they run this year

Watch for details of BioBlitz as elsewhere in this Newsletter. Do join us if you can.



Club News and Updates

We welcome new members Doreen Fumia, Patricia Webster & family, Keith Dunn & family, Brian Grigg & family, and Amin Zargar.

BioBlitz

Our 22nd BioBlitz is scheduled for Friday 12 June to Saturday 13 June.

Details of the BioBlitz have been sent to those who have participated previously. If you would like this information sent to you please contact Anne (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca) or Janis (janis.grant at icloud.com). The information is also on the KFN website (kingstonfieldnaturalists.org).

Please note: a decision on whether to hold the BioBlitz this year will be made at the May executive meeting and a **GO or STOP decision will be posted on the website no later than 8 May.**

The speaker for our annual dinner meeting will be Michael Runtz

Michael's association with Algonquin Park spans sixty years and includes working in the Park as an interpretive naturalist for 14 seasons. Michael hosted the international television series *Wild by Nature*, authored and illustrated 13 natural history books including *Algonquin Wild* and an award-winning children's book on beavers for which he provided the images. In addition, Michael has written more than 1,100 natural history articles for newspapers and magazines (*Nature's Way* is nearing its 30th season). Michael currently teaches Natural History and Ornithology courses at Carleton University where more than 50,000 students have taken his courses. His numerous awards include the Council of Canadian University Biology Chairs *Distinguished Public Science Education Award* and several Carleton University *Teaching Achievement Awards*. A popular keynote speaker and media guest, Michael was the only Canadian featured in the TVO/NHK Japan's *Superteachers* series.

Message from our Membership Secretary

Thank you to all who have already renewed your memberships for the 2020/21 membership year – 50% of you to date. For the rest of you who wish to renew your memberships, you can proceed in one of the following ways:

1. Join or renew online at the website: <https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/membership/>.

Please note that you do not need a PayPal account to renew online: once you click the "Pay Now" button, you simply proceed by clicking the "Pay with a credit or Visa debit card" button. 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. 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/>

Any questions? Contact Kathy Webb, Membership Secretary, at kw2 at queensu.ca