



Kingston Field Naturalists

October 2019

OUR
70TH
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](https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org)

Blog: [http://
kingstonfieldnaturalists.
blogspot.com](http://kingstonfieldnaturalists.blogspot.com)

Facebook:
[https://www.facebook.com/
Kingstonfieldnaturalists](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 19 September our speaker will be Matt Ellerbeck presenting **The Conservation of Frogs**

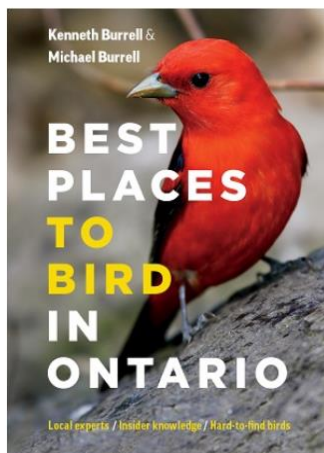
Join Frog Conservationist Matt Ellerbeck for a look at the conservation concerns that affect frogs. This talk features both a slide show and a "meet and greet" with live frog species from around the world.

Thursday 17 October Mike Burrell will present **Best Places to Bird in Ontario**

Since they were kids, Mike and his brother Ken have been obsessed with birds and have travelled across the province in search of them. Mike will share their favourite spots, strategies and stories and tell how he and his brother decided which places would make the cut for their new book, *Best Places to Bird in Ontario*.

Mike grew up in the Waterloo area in southwestern Ontario and inherited his passion for natural history from his parents. He currently serves as the archivist of the Ontario Bird Records Committee, coordinates eBird in Ontario, reviews Christmas Bird Count data for the province and works as a zoologist with the Ontario Natural Heritage Information Centre in Peterborough. Mike is also a member of the bird specialist subcommittee of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). He is considered one of Canada's top birders.

See <http://burrellbirding.ca/best-places-to-bird-in-ontario/> for more information about the book.



At the September meeting the general membership will vote on a **motion to donate funds** to Nature Conservancy of Canada. See page 4 for details.

Kingston Field Naturalists' **first** general meeting was in November 1949. Our 2019 November general meeting will be dedicated to celebrating our 70th anniversary. Details on how you can participate can be found on page 4.

Meanwhile, the social time before the monthly general meeting is an opportunity when new and long-time members can get to know each other better. To make this easier and help us keep this special year in mind, we invite all attendees to fill out and wear a name tag. Starting with the September meeting, name tags will be available as you enter and will be collected at the end of each meeting.

BOOK SALE! Of used natural history books during the social (7:00 to 7:30) before the fall meetings. Prices will be "pay what you will"; please bring your toonies and small bills.

Be prepared for Ticks! Wear long sleeves. Tuck long pants into socks. Use repellent.

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](mailto:n8ture.anne@sympatico.ca)).

Tuesday 17 September 9:00 am to 12:30 pm Kingston Mills

Meet parking lot at Kingston Mills. Bring snack and a drink.

Tuesday 1 October 9:00 am to 2:30 pm Helen Quilliam Sanctuary

Meet Rona parking lot, SE corner (Princess St west of Sydenham Road). Bring lunch and a drink. Long pants tucked in socks advised against ticks.

Tuesday 15 October 9:00 am to 1:30 pm Property of Ed Fletcher near Sydenham.

Meet Rona parking lot SE corner. Bring drink and lunch.

Tuesday 5 November 9:00 am to 12:30 pm Parrott Bay (north side)

Meet Tim Hortons Gardiners Town Centre. Bring drink and a snack.

FIELD TRIPS AND OTHER EXCURSIONS

Sunday 15 September 8:30 am to about 1:00 pm Helen Quilliam Sanctuary Leaders:

Gaye Beckwith ([beckwithbg at gmail.com](mailto:beckwithbg@gmail.com) or 613-376-3716) and Erwin Batalla ([simbat at bell.net](mailto:simbat@bell.net) or 613-389-0144). We will visit a couple of the trails in our shield sanctuary. Meet Erwin at 8:30 am at the Invista Centre (1350 Gardiners Road, NW corner of parking lot) to carpool. We will meet Gaye at the Sydenham Library (4412 Wheatley Street) for 9:00 and head north to the sanctuary. Good boots are a must; walking poles may be needed, depending on conditions. This terrain has some ups and downs. Bring a lunch and join us to picnic at the former quarry.

Saturday 5 October 6 am to 2 pm Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory Leaders:

Carolyn Bonta and Michael Johnson ([bonta.johnson at sympatico.ca](mailto:bonta.johnson@sympatico.ca) or 613-531-4578). Celebrate fall migration at one of Ontario's premier birding destinations! Meet at Kingston Centre (between Loblaws and McDonald's) at 6:10 am or at the Glenora Ferry at 7:00 am to arrange carpooling in time to catch the 7:15 am ferry. En route through the County we will keep our eyes peeled for raptors and waterfowl, then will bird Prince Edward Point in search of anything with feathers! This year, the Bird Observatory opened a new, state-of-the-art banding lab and at 10:30 am we will meet up with Peter Fuller, PEPTBO Director, to learn more about this new facility and banding operations. Bring lunch. We will aim to catch the 1 pm ferry, returning to Kingston around 2 pm.

Friday 1 November at noon till Sunday 3 November at noon Fall Round-Up 2019 will be KFN's 54th Fall Round-Up.

• All people interested in birds, including backyard birders, feeder watchers and bird photographers, are encouraged to participate in this event. • As in Christmas Bird counts, the Round-Up will rely heavily on Section Leaders. Each Section Leader will bird on their own or take interested participants to count birds in their section. • The counting period will be 48 hours from noon on Friday (1 November) to noon on Sunday (3 November). • Birds will be counted only within the KFN Bird Area which is a radial distance of 50 km, centred on MacDonald Park, Kingston. See the KFN website for more details. • Peter Good ([goodcompany at sympatico.ca](mailto:goodcompany@sympatico.ca) or 613-378-6605) is the coordinator.

We simply ask that you register with us in advance by e-mail as soon as possible ([khennige at xplornet.com](mailto:khennige@xplornet.com) or 613-876-1804), indicating which specific location or area you'll be birding or if you would like to be added to an established group or start your own group. We'd like to cover as many different locations in our area as possible.

All are encouraged to send their sightings as soon as possible to E-Bird or by email to Mark Read ([markdread at gmail.com](mailto:markdread@gmail.com)). Erwin Batalla will create a master list for the event, crunching the data to produce some statistics to share with everyone in the next Bluebill.

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 September **Introductory meeting**

Thursday 10 October **Special Seeds**

Thursday 24 October **Spiders**



FIELD TRIP

Saturday 26 October 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Depot Creek Nature Reserve near Verona Theme: Naturalists Notice Nature
Meet McArthur at 9:00 am return 2:00 pm. Bring lunch and a drink. Wear suitable clothing. ***Please sign up by Thursday 24 October*** so sufficient transportation and hand-outs may be prepared.

Registration forms have been sent out to all previous members. Deadline for Fall registration is 15 September. (After 15 September, the next entry date is January 2020 with a deadline of December 15, 2019). Queries? Contact Anne (613-389-6742 or n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca). Extra registration forms may be found on the web at: kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/youth/juniors.

T shirts and zip sweats may be ordered at meetings until October 24

Summer Projects completed over the summer will be due October 24.

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.



Registration Registration forms have been sent to all previous members. Queries? Contact Anne (613-389-6742 or n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca). Extra registration forms may be found on the web at: kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/youth/teens.

Saturday 19 October 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Millen Property of Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington. Clean up and hike. Earn some volunteer hours. Meet Invista parking lot at 1350 Gardiners Road (NE corner). Details to follow.

Friday/ Saturday 8/9 November overnight at Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre. Mostly Mammals.

Saturday 14 December Christmas Bird Count

Club News and Updates

We welcome new members: Maxine Cupido, Megan Coleman, Phil McGrew, Heather King, and Merilyn Simonds.

Did you know?? In addition to the traditional paper form and payment method, KFN memberships can now be purchased online at our website: <https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/membership/>

70th Birthday/Anniversary of Kingston Field Naturalists

Kingston Field Naturalists' **first** general meeting was in November 1949. Our 2019 November general meeting will be dedicated to celebrating our 70th anniversary. Anyone with photos or stories about the early days is invited to bring them to the September general meeting or send them to KFN vice-president Ken Edwards (rkfe at queensu.ca or 42 Watts Cres, Kingston, ON, K7M 2P3). We will try to include as many as possible in either the November meeting or an issue of the Bluebill.

An anniversary is a time to celebrate the past but may also be a time for looking forward. With this in mind, we welcome thoughts and suggestions about future directions of the club.

Request for Support

The KFN has received a request from the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) for assistance in funding the purchase of several properties. The club executive considered these requests and will recommend to the membership at the September meeting that we donate \$3000 to each of the NCC Ostrander Point and the Staley Point projects.

The Ostrander Point project will add 55 hectares of wild, undeveloped shoreline, coastal wetland, forest, alvar and grassland to the protected land in the area of Ostrander Point in Prince Edward County. Ostrander point is important as a stopover feeding site for bird migration, and contains a breeding population of Blanding's Turtle.

Staley Point is located on the extreme northwestern corner of Wolfe Island. The Staley Point property is 40 hectares of cobble beaches, forest, marsh wetlands and open meadow. The large marsh wetlands on the south side of the property filter water flowing off the island into Lake Ontario, while providing habitat for an impressive suite of waterfowl.

The club currently has \$8500 in the Habitat Preservation Fund, so the executive believes we can afford to donate \$6000 now and still keep a reserve for future projects.

You can learn more about these projects at <http://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/where-we-work/ontario/featured-projects/>

Wildflowers in the City !

At the Kingston City Council Meeting on 9 July 2019, Chris Hargreaves, Chair of KFN Conservation Committee, spoke on behalf of the KFN in support of the following motion:

Moved by Councillor Neil

Secoded by Councillor Holland

Whereas many communities in the United Kingdom (Rotherham, Hull, etc.) are replacing boulevards and roadside grass plantings with "wildflower verges"; and

Whereas these low maintenance plantings save tens of thousands of pounds annually in mowing costs, while supporting endangered pollinators such as bees and butterflies, and have gained widespread community supports, while beautifying roadways;

Therefore Be It Resolved That City staff explore this option, and report back to Council by Q2, 2020 with a recommendation to facilitate a pilot project planting for the summer of 2020, noting possible locations, including Sir John A. Macdonald Boulevard; and

That Council approve up to \$20,000.00 from the Working Fund Reserve to implement this pilot initiative and that an information report be shared with Council in Q4 2020, with recommendations regarding potential expansion of the program.

Chris is pleased to report that the motion was passed unanimously.