



Kingston Field Naturalists

October 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 normally held at 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month from September to April. Until at least December, we will be having virtual meetings.

Thursday 17 September will be our Annual General Meeting starting at 7:30 pm. The meeting will be virtual, using the Zoom platform.

All KFN members *in good standing* are invited to attend. In order for the votes to be valid we need to have a quorum, which is defined in our constitution as at least 25 members. If you can spare the time please join the meeting! After the business portion of the meeting is concluded, your reward will be an interesting presentation by Carolyn Bonta.

Registration: For security reasons the login information for the meeting will not be published. Members who wish to attend will need to register in advance by sending an email to the outgoing President. On the day of the meeting those who have registered will receive an invitation which will contain the login information.

Registration opens Thursday 10 September 10.

Registrations closes Wednesday 16 September.

Send requests for registration by email to [kaduckintransit at googlegmail.com](mailto:kaduckintransit@googlegmail.com)

Advance Preparations: In order to minimize the length of the meeting, proposed motions and other information will be published on the website. The audited financial statements will be published in the September BlueBill and will be available on the website as background for the vote on the 2020/21 budget. The annual reports from the executive members and committee chairs were published in the June BlueBill.

Conduct: For each item requiring a decision there will be an online poll. The results will be tabulated by the meeting software and will be available immediately after each vote.

Agenda: Please see page 4 for an abbreviated agenda, and the website for the full agenda.

Carolyn Bonta will present Biodiversity of the Barrenlands

Carolyn's talk will take us on a field trip to the tundra biome of the north-central Canadian Arctic where she has spent the past two summers doing research. This slideshow of Arctic biodiversity will highlight how changes in climate and large herbivore populations can drastically alter the tundra ecosystem.



Flora? Fauna? Fungus?
An aquatic life form,
can be found in Otter
Lake by Helen Quilliam
Sanctuary...see page 4

Our dinner meeting is cancelled. Please see page 4 for details of upcoming meetings.

Rambles, Field Trips, and other outings

The KFN executive has reviewed the KFLA Public Health guidelines and have decided to tentatively book rambles and field trips under the following conditions:

- The maximum number of participants in a field trip or ramble will be based on the destination and focus of the trip and will be set by the trip leader. Please see details in the trip description.
- Participants must register with the leader by email or phone prior to the trip in order to receive details of the specific meeting point. *Please contact the trip leader by the means (email or phone) specified in the trip description.* Pre-registration will also facilitate contact tracing.
- Carpooling will not be arranged by the trip leader, as the KFN cannot encourage it at this time. Please arrange your own transportation.
- Please bring a mask to wear when in proximity to other participants. Please bring hand sanitizer for yourself.
- Please observe a 2m physical distance from others at all times.
- Equipment sharing (scopes, binoculars, lenses) is not encouraged by the KFN.
- Participants must declare:
 - ✓ that they have not experienced any flu-like symptoms,
 - ✓ that they have not tested positive for COVID-19 or been in contact with a person who has tested positive, and
 - ✓ that they have not been outside of the country in the past 14 days.
- Please consider the health and safety of others (and yourself!) If you are sick, please stay home.
- Be aware that these activities may be cancelled on short notice if there is a spike in COVID-19 infections in the Kingston area. Check the KFN website for updates.

As always, please come prepared for ticks (long sleeves, pants tucked in to socks).

RAMBLES are slow walks to notice nature in all its forms.

ALL Rambles will abide by the guidelines listed above. To join a Ramble you must **register** with Anne (613-389-6742 or n8ture.anne@sympatico.ca) to find out the meeting location. **Limit 10 participants per leader. Please let Anne know if you need to cancel.**

Tuesday 15 September 9:30 to 11:30 am Rideau Trail in town

Bring a drink, hat and mask as required.

Tuesday 6 October 9:30 to 11:30 am K and P trail in town

Bring a drink, hat and mask as required.

Tuesday 20 October 9:30 to 1:30 am Rideau Trail north of Hwy 401

A longer ramble (5 km). Bring lunch, drink, hat and mask.

Tuesday 3 November 9:30 to 11:30 am Lake Ontario Park Area

(This is hunting season, we will stay close to home!) Bring drink, hat and mask.

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday 13 September 8:00 am to 4 pm Paddle at Puzzle Lake Provincial Park

Leader: Carolyn Bonta (613-531-4578) This trip already has a waiting list.

Saturday 26 September 9 am to noon Faith Avis Trail Grand Re-Opening

at Helen Quilliam Sanctuary Come and check out the new and improved Faith Avis trail. Meet at the quarry at the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary at 9 am. Bring sunscreen and tick repellent. We expect to encounter some migrating warblers. The trail loop is fairly even and about 3 kilometers long. Good walking wear is a must. Limit 10 participants per leader. To register and for more information, contact your leaders: Erwin Batalla (613-389-0144 or simbat@bell.net) and Gaye Beckwith (613-376-3716 or beckwithb@sympatico.ca)

Friday 6 November at noon to Sunday 8 November at noon Fall Round Up

See page 4 for details

JUNIORS **MEETINGS**

There will be no indoor Thursday meetings at least until January.



Family Field trips

will take place on the fourth Saturday of each month, according to the guidelines in this Newsletter (page 2).

Saturday 26 September 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Please register as your own bubble and travel independently. Please read the guidelines concerning field trips on page 2 of this newsletter. Location of field trip (very local) will be sent to those who register. Limit 10. Bring lunch, snack, drink, hat, mask. Focus on NNN (Naturalists Notice Nature) and insects.

Saturday 24 October 9 am to 1:30 pm Lost Lake Area

The Junior family field trip this month will be to the Lost Lake area on Taylor Kidd Blvd. We will have a hike and play some games focussing on plants and different habitats as well as noting anything else we may see.

Bring snack, drink and lunch. Wear long pants tucked in socks (or boots) against ticks. Dress for the weather.

Please register in advance so enough materials will be available. Each family is expected to drive themselves. If this is a problem, please discuss with Anne. Meeting location details on registration (613-389-6742 or n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca).

Registration forms for past members have been mailed. Please register by 15 September by mailing form to Anne with \$20 fee.

New members may find an application for Junior program on the website at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/youth/junior/registration or contact Anne (613-389-6742 or n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca).

TEENS

Registration Forms have been mailed.

Monthly meetings will take place with parental delivery and pick up at site of trip. **Guidelines as specified in this Newsletter (page 2) will be adhered to.**



Saturday 10 October 9:00 am to 2:30 pm Meyer Woods

Hike at Meyer Woods, a property of the Land Conservancy for KFLA near Verona. Emphasis on comparing habitats. An hour or so of volunteer work is planned to remove seed heads from invasive Phragmites. For this trip bring shoes that can get wet (bring a change of shoes) and if you have them, pruners and work gloves. Bring lunch, a drink and field notebook and pencil. Register by Thursday 8 October please (613-389-6742 or n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca). Transportation will be discussed on registration.

Club News and Updates

Welcome to new members: Dylan Rawlyk & family, and Stephanie Fullerton.

Thursday 17 September Our Annual General Meeting more details: **Agenda**

Vote: Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

Review of decisions taken by the Executive with respect to COVID-19 pandemic.

Vote: New executive appointments

Vote: Budget for 2020/21

Presentation: Carolyn Bonta

Election of 2020-2021 KFN Executive

The Nominating Committee, chaired by the Past President, presents the following slate of candidates for the 2020-2021 KFN Executive. The General Membership will vote on this slate at the AGM. The Nominating Committee consisted of Alexandra Simmons, Gaye Beckwith and Janet Elliott.

Position	Officer, Director	Candidate for 2020-2021
Honorary President	O	Ron Weir
President	O, D	Ken Edwards
Past President	O, D	Anthony Kaduck
Vice President	O, D	John Donihee
Treasurer	O, D	Larry McCurdy
Recording Secretary	O	Janis Grant
Membership Secretary	O	Kathy Webb
Blue Bill Editor		Peter Waycik
Junior Naturalists		Anne Robertson
Bird Records		Mark Read
Conservation		Chris Hargreaves
Education		Shirley French
Field Trips		Carolyn Bonta
Nature Reserves		Erwin Batalla
Member-at-large		Janet Elliott
Member-at-large		Polly Aiken
Member-at-large		Jane Revell
Member-at-large		Martin Roncetti

Thursday 15 October Michael Runtz will present Algonquin Wild virtually

Michael Runtz was scheduled to be our Annual Dinner meeting speaker. Our dining has been cancelled, but Michael has generously agreed to give his talk via Zoom. Details of how you can join this virtual meeting will be sent in our next (November) newsletter.

Michael's association with Algonquin 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.

Thursday 19 November our general meeting will also be virtual. Check next month's newsletter and the website for details.

Friday 6 November at noon to Sunday 8 November at noon Fall RoundUp

* All people interested in birds, including backyard birders, feeder watchers and bird photographers, are encouraged to participate in this event. *The counting period will be 48 hours from noon on Friday (6 November) to noon on Sunday (8 November). * Birds will be counted only within the KFN Bird Area which is a radial distance of 50 km, centred on MacDonald Park, Kingston. * All are encouraged to send their sightings as soon as possible to e-Bird or by email to Mark Read (markread at 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. **See the KFN website for more details.

KFN trails challenge

Win a free membership!!! Copying many other nature organizations, we are challenging our membership to walk **three** of our 7 trails before 1 December. There is one trail at the Martin Edwards Reserve on Amherst Island. There are six trails at the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary: Porcupine, Roland Beschel, Betty Hughes and Faith Avis west of Bedford Road and Art Bell and Van Luven east of Bedford Road. Send a picture of yourself on each of three identified trails to Erwin Batalla (simbat at bell.net) and your name will be entered in a draw to win a free membership. The winner will be announced at the December General meeting. Good luck and start walking before the snow falls!

Flora? Fauna? Fungus?



Zooids of *P magnifica*, with a piece of black thread to indicate scale.

Two weeks ago I found something in the water, attached to a stick, in a lake close to Helen Quilliam Sanctuary. The lower, big mass shown in the photo on page 1 is about 10 inches in diameter. The whole thing is slimy and gelatinous.

What is it?? iNaturalist answered the question for me! It is Fauna, a Magnificent Bryozoan (*Pectinatella magnifica*), a "moss animal" belonging to the class Phylactolaemata. It is a colony of invertebrates, made up of millions of zooids, and is native to Eastern North America. Thanks iNaturalist!

Photos: J. Elliott

Exploring Nature Online using iNaturalist



If you have a computer or smartphone and an email address, **iNaturalist** is a great way to document, identify and explore observations made in nature. You can post your own observations as well as view those submitted by others. You do not need a species identification to submit a photo or audio file, as the site assists with this via auto-identification software and identifications made by others (including some experts) who use the site.

Getting started is easy to do:

- Visit <https://www.inaturalist.ca/> and sign up for a free account; you will need an email address and a password.
- There are good instructions and tutorials online at <https://inaturalist.ca/pages/getting-started-inaturalist-canada>.
- Start adding observations through your personal account using the green upload button found near your profile icon at the top of each page.
- When viewing observations, you can use the filters to set parameters such as date, range, taxonomic group and more.

“Projects” in iNaturalist are a way of pooling observations made in specific locations and/or of particular species in an area. Projects can be found by searching under the Community tab. To post and explore observations made in the KFN study area, look for the **Natural History of the Kingston Study Area** project (<https://www.inaturalist.ca/projects/natural-history-of-the-kingston-study-area>) and join using the small “join this project” link found at the top right of the page. Observations you make within the KFN study area will be automatically added to the project.

Some other local projects that might interest you include: Moths of the Kingston study area, KFN Helen Quilliam Sanctuary, Frontenac Arch Natural Area, Thousand Islands National Park, Belle Island Species Count, Nature Conservancy of Canada - Ontario Region (which includes the Camden East Alvar, Milburn Creek, Elbow Lake and Freeman projects).