



Kingston Field Naturalists

September 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

Meetings are normally held at 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month from September to April. These are not normal times. We will proceed on a month-by-month basis for the near future.

Thursday 17 September will be our Annual General Meeting

We need to have an Annual General Meeting so that a new executive can be elected and the budget for the year approved. The club will purchase Zoom, a licensed virtual meeting platform. The AGM will be conducted by Zoom at 7:30 pm on Thursday 17 September.

Instructions on how to join the meeting will be emailed to members and posted on the website and sent in the next newsletter.

After the work is done,

Carolyn Bonta will present Biodiversity of the Barrenlands

A long-time member of the Kingston Field Naturalists, Carolyn Bonta recently joined the Executive as Field Trips Coordinator. 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. The Arctic climate has been warming rapidly in recent decades, and Carolyn's study area is within the range of the precipitously declining Bathurst caribou herd. This slideshow of Arctic biodiversity will highlight how changes in climate and large herbivore populations can drastically alter the tundra ecosystem.

Our annual dinner meeting is still planned for Thursday 15 October at Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, CFB Kingston

Michael Runtz is confirmed as our speaker at that time.

The KFN executive will meet on Wednesday 2 September. We will decide at that time if it is possible/wise to proceed with our dinner meeting. Results of that meeting will be posted on the KFN website and sent with the October newsletter. (The newsletter will be sent out by 11 September.)



A whole community invites you to get up-close-and-personal at Helen Quilliam Sanctuary
Photo: J. Elliott

Follow us on facebook!

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

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:

- Trips will not exceed 10 participants per leader.
- Participants must register with the leader by email or phone prior to the trip in order to receive details of the specific meeting point. 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 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 at sympatico.ca](mailto:n8ture.anne@sympatico.ca)) to find out the meeting location.

Limit 10 participants

Tuesday 1 September 9:30 am to 11:30 am Fort Henry Area

Bring a drink, hat and mask as required.

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

Bring a drink, hat and mask as required.

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

Bring a drink, hat and mask as required.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday 19 September 8:00 am to 4 pm Paddle at Puzzle Lake Provincial Park

Leader: Carolyn Bonta (613-531-4578) Late summer is a pleasant time to explore this Natural Environment class park, where we will see rare plants such as the Endangered Lowland Toothcup and fascinating landforms including the potentially meromictic Loyst Lake. Good boots and walking poles are recommended, as the terrain is rugged and there is one 150 m portage and some features are a short bushwack from shore. We will depart Kingston at 8 am, and aim to return by 4 pm. Carolyn is able to transport up to five canoes on her vehicle, but arrangements must be made 1-2 days in advance; she is also willing to help coordinate paddling partners and portage the canoes of those whose portaging days are behind them.

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. To register and for more information, contact your leaders: Erwin Batalla (613-389-0144 or [simbat at bell.net](mailto:simbat@bell.net)) and Gaye Beckwith (613-376-3716 or [beckwithb at sympatico.ca](mailto:beckwithb@sympatico.ca))

JUNIORS **MEETINGS**

There will be no indoor Thursday meetings at least until the New Year.



Family Field trips

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

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.

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@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 12 September 9:00 am to 1:30 pm Local Canoe Trip Bring hat, snack, lunch, drink, mask. Field Notebook and pencil. Location will be disclosed on registration. Limit 10 people. If you have a canoe to share that you can bring it would be much appreciated. Details emailed a week ahead.

Club News and Updates

Welcome to new members: Timothy Cross & family, Maria Csernak & family, Maggie Warner & family, Sharon Moorcroft & family, James Sargent & family, Matt McTaggart & family, Ian Foulds, Robert Gilroy & family, Laura Williams, Matthew Fyfe, Jaimie Bortolotti, Carol Yntema & family, Jane Lott, Marisa Sandlin & family, David Howe & Rosanne Dawson, Steven Bencze, Crystal Woloshyn, Janel Bascom & Stephen Lipka.

Fall Roundup

KFN intends to conduct the Fall Roundup and the full slate of Christmas Bird Counts, but the counting will be done only by individuals or small groups and the results will be compiled electronically. Details in next newsletter.

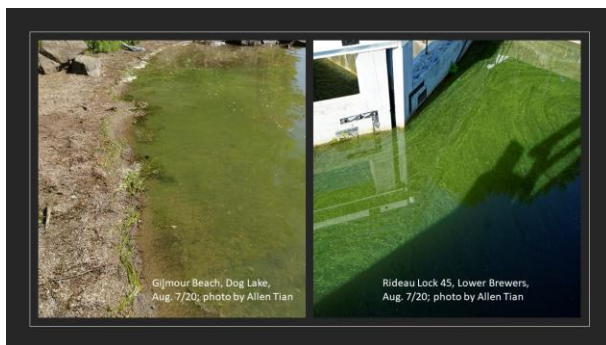
Can low water levels influence blue-green algae (BGA) blooms?

As mentioned in the online workshop (<https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/blue-green-algae-workshop/>), the answer appears to be YES based on observations over the last five years. Of course, nutrient levels, temperature, agricultural activity, depth of the basin, and so forth, are all lake features that will contribute to a BGA bloom. I am suggesting that we can over-simplify the BGA prediction process along the shallow inland lakes such as Cranberry Lake and Dog Lake in the Cataraqui watershed. When NOAA in the US forecasts a "good year" for BGAs we can expect a "bad year". This year was predicted to be a good BGA year for western Lake Erie (their high agricultural activity adds a lot of phosphorus to the basin when spring precipitation is HIGH). This year, spring precipitation was LOW. The nutrients in our shallow inland waters, in the Cataraqui watershed, are concentrated when we have below average precipitation. This "seems" to be the case but is not based on an extensive sampling regime since I do not have the resources for that.

This advisory and request for more information on local water levels was circulated from the South Frontenac newsletter July 17, 2020, more specifically from Holly Evans, the Watershed Planning Coordinator. "Cataraqui Conservation confirmed a Level I Low Water declaration for the Cataraqui Region on June 24, 2020 due to lower than normal precipitation amounts, hot temperatures, and high winds contributing to lower than average surface water conditions for inland lakes and streams." Level I - voluntarily reduce non-essential water use by 10%.

Level II Low Water request for the Quinte watershed (in place at the same time July 17, 2020) - voluntarily reduce non-essential water use by 20%. "Municipalities that source water from Lake Ontario or The Bay of Quinte have access to a more sustainable water supply. The delivery of water to residents on these systems is not impacted by current conditions."

See the attached photo of the BGA bloom that is developing on Cranberry Lake. Allen Tian is reporting BGA's from Rideau Canal Lock 45 (Lower Brewers) and Gilmour Beach, Dog Lake. For those folks who have Foldscopes (some still available for \$15 from shirleyfrenchka@gmail.com) this is a reminder to take a photo of your water sample (from whichever lake you decide to sample) on August 16th, Aug. 30th, and Sept. 13th and share it with me. Shirley French



Blooms on Dog Lake August 7, 2020



Anabaena August 8, 2020