



Kingston Field Naturalists

Summer 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

Thursday 17 September will be our Annual General Meeting

We will have a short report about our activities in the past year, the budget will be presented, and the 2020/2021 Executive will be elected. 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 tour of the tundra biome of the north-central Canadian Arctic where she has spent the past two summers conducting fieldwork. 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 presentation will highlight how changes in climate and large herbivore populations can drastically alter vegetation communities and patterns on the tundra landscape.

Our annual dinner meeting has been postponed to Thursday 15 October and will be held at Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, CFB Kingston.

Michael Runtz is confirmed as our speaker at that time. He is a professor of Biology at Carleton University. He comes highly recommended; here is an excerpt from RateMyProfessor.com: "Professor Runtz is the best prof I've ever had. He is super funny, knowledgeable, and always keeps the class engaged with his love for the content he is teaching. He always has great and crazy stories to tell. I would definitely recommend this class to anyone who is at all interested in nature. Definitely a must-take course at Carleton."

With regret, BioBlitz 2020 has been cancelled. See page 2 for our alternate format.

Follow us on facebook!

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



City-dwelling nature!
There is a starling (?) nest in this hydro pole on King Street.
Photo J. Elliott

Rambles, Field Trips, and other outings

Rambles and Field Trips are cancelled until September. Please check website for updates.

If you are hiking, remember that **ticks** are NOT practicing physical distancing!! **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).

Watch for details of September Rambles in the next Newsletter. We hope to be able to ramble on Tuesday 1 September and Tuesday 15 September.

Message from Field Trip Coordinator Carolyn Bonta:

At this time, all summer field trips are CANCELLED and no new trips are planned until 1 September 2020. However health restrictions may change, and field trips may be organized over the summer. Monitor the KFN website or phone the Field Trips Coordinator (Carolyn Bonta 613-531-4578) for trip status updates.

BIOBLITZ 2020

It is with regret that we must cancel the KFN 2020 BioBlitz.

We hope to hold the 2021 BioBlitz in the same location and hope you will be able to join us then.

INSTEAD you are invited to submit your natural history sightings in the Kingston Circle (50 km around City Park) for 12–13 June, to the **i-Naturalist Natural History Kingston Study Area site**.

You do not need a species identification to submit a photo as you may get identification from your photo at this site. As well you may see species submitted by others.

TO DO THIS:

1 Visit <https://www.inaturalist.org/> and sign up for a free account (you will need email and password).

2. Then go to

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/natural-history-of-the-kingston-study-area> and look for the small "join this project" link found just above the big red Add Observations button. Start adding observations through your personal account using the green upload button found near your profile icon at the top of each page - your observations will automatically be added to the KFN Project.

3. When viewing observations on the project, use the filters to set parameters such as date, range, taxonomic group or more.

Look for our next Newsletter in the third week of August.

JUNIORS

MEETINGS are usually held at McArthur Hall (Union St at Sir John A Blvd) **6:30 to 8:00 pm** on the first and third Thursday of each month.



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

Summer projects This is something you can do! Do phone or email Anne to discuss what you might do for a project this summer. **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 22 October 2020.

Roland Beschel Prize. This prize is for a project done over the summer. A collection or observing and recording something in nature are suitable

Nan Yeomans Prize This prize is for a diary recording observations over the summer. Record your observations once a day or once a week- your choice.

Photo Competition This prize is for up to three photos taken over the summer; include a short description of each photo.

Registration for 2020-2021: see Newsletter in late August.

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.

TEENS



Registration for 2020-2021: see Newsletter in late August.

Plan for a canoe trip Saturday 12 September.

Club News and Updates

Welcome to the following new members: Martin Burger & family, Brian Utigard & family, Mary Jane Gordon & family, Catherine Showalter & family, Diane Creber, Ronald Robertson, Jake Gibson, Hendrik Saaltink & family, and Karen Cooney.

Membership Renewal Notice

Thank you to those who have renewed your memberships for the 2020/21 membership year – over 60% 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/>. 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.
- If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Webb, Membership Secretary, at kw2@queensu.ca.

Good News about Blue-Greens! Update on workshop

Shirley French, our education committee chair, and two Queen's students will be presenting a video workshop on cyanobacteria. The free workshop will be on the KFN website after 29 May. (Please note change in date.) They 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 study blue-green algae (aka cyanobacteria). Their study area has been Dog Lake in the CRCA watershed. Shirley French has been examining samples for the type of algae/cyanobacteria and will share some of the 'easy' to identify species. She will give a rundown of the good and bad contributors to our lake ecosystems and will also share the importance of this ancient group. Health and safety recommendations will be addressed. Please check KFN website for more details.

Lemoine Point Barn Swallow Watch

The KFN is co-ordinating some informal monitoring of the Lemoine Point Barn Swallow Nesting Structure again this year. Barn Swallows showed little interest in the structure in 2018 and 2019, but this slow movement into an alternative structure is a pattern observed in many locations across Ontario.

Up until 12 May, very few Barn Swallows have been seen at Lemoine Point, although they have been observed elsewhere in Kingston. There are many at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour; they arrived around the end of April.

On 1 May a couple of Barn Swallows were seen flying near the farm at the south entrance to Lemoine Point, but they did not approach the structure. Since then no swallows have been observed near the structure, although there are some reports of swallows in that area.

If you are walking at Lemoine Point and notice any Barn Swallows at the structure, or elsewhere, please send an email to hargreavescp@sympatico.ca

See a video of Barn Swallows at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour on our facebook site.