



Kingston Field Naturalists

December 2020

This month
6 pages

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](https://kingstonfielddnaturalists.org)

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

Facebook:
[https://www.facebook.com/
Kingstonfielddnaturalists](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. Social starts at 7:00 pm. See page 4 for the **President's message concerning virtual meetings and details about how to connect via telephone.**

On Thursday 19 November 7:30 pm

Emily Giles will present World Wildlife Fund's *Living Planet Report*

The third edition of *The Living Planet Report Canada* offers a comprehensive look at biodiversity trends across the country and provides an action plan for addressing the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. Join Emily Giles, Senior Specialist at WWF-Canada as she shares the ground-breaking findings and critical solutions for reversing wildlife loss and fighting climate change right here at home.

Emily Giles is a Senior Specialist, Species Conservation at World Wildlife Fund Canada on the Science, Knowledge and Innovation team. She has worked on and led a wide range of projects since joining WWF Canada in 2006, including the highly acclaimed *Living Planet Report Canada*, published in 2017 and 2020. Emily created and led a national freshwater grant program, the *Loblaws Water Fund*, and aided in the reintroduction of the black-footed ferret to the Canadian prairies. Emily has also been a Director at the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre and has volunteered to help wildlife in Canada and around the world.

Emily holds a BSc in Zoology from the University of Guelph, and an MSc in Conservation Biology from the University of Kent. Her favourite adventure to date is her 3-month stint living in the jungles of Borneo, collecting data on bat distribution for her MSc research project.

The full text of the *Living Planet Report Canada* can be found at <https://wwf.ca/living-planet-report-canada-2020/>



Emily Giles, WWF
Canada

Thursday 17 December will be Members' Night

The meeting will be hosted on ZOOM. This is your chance to show off your favourite flora and fauna photos (up to 10) or short videos (up to 5 minutes).

Send your digital presentation to Erwin Batalla (simbat at bell.net) **by Monday 14 December**. You may comment on your presentation during the meeting OR send comments to be read by the host.

The Owl Woods will be closed from 16 November to 6 December. The Owl Woods is on private land. The owners ask that we **stay out** during hunting season. Please honour this long-standing agreement.

Rambles, Field Trips, and other outings

Caution!! This is deer hunting season. In South Frontenac, cross bow hunting is allowed from 1 October to 31 December. Gun hunting is allowed from 2 to 17 November and from 30 November to 6 December. When out hiking and birding, wear bright colours, make noise. And be prepared for TICKS! Wear long sleeves, tuck pants into socks.

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

To join a Ramble you must **register** with Anne (613-389-6742 or n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca) to find out the meeting location. **Limit 10 participants per leader.** Masks will be worn at the start of each trip. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Bring a snack and drink if you like.

Tuesday 17 November 9:30 to 11:30 am Collins Creek area trails

Tuesday 1 December 9:30 to 11:30 am Cartwright's Point

Tuesday 5 January 9:30 to 11:30 am Butternut Creek

Tuesday 19 January 9:30 to 11:30 am Lemoine Point

FIELD TRIPS

Any day, any time, grab a friend and go!! KFN trails challenge

Have you visited our nature reserves? 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 and there are six trails at the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary. 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.

Saturday 12 December Conduct a CBC Survey in 6 Simple Steps at Tree Frog Woods

Leader: Carolyn Bonta (bonta.johnson at sympatico.ca or 613-531-4578)

Interested in learning how to conduct a Christmas Bird Count survey? Our local CBC's are always seeking Citizen Scientists to help tally winter birds. Basic bird ID skills paired with enthusiasm is all you really need, yet the logistics and data-collection aspects of surveying can appear daunting the first time. Join Carolyn Bonta on a mock CBC survey along the trails of Tree Frog Woods near Verona. This training session is suitable for anyone who has never led a CBC survey (or even participated on a CBC!) and will cover the basics of surveying: 1) Form your team, 2) Obtain a survey route/area, 3) Assign tasks, 4) Calculate distance, 5) Calculate effort, and 6) Tally birds! Experienced birders and CBC surveyors are encouraged to attend and help mentor the new cohort. This outing will run approximately 2 hours over ~3km of gentle trails. There are benches and a pit privy on site. Bad weather date will be Sunday 13 December. Directions to Tree Frog Woods will be provided upon registration.

For those unable to join the field-based outing, a virtual presentation with Q&A will be offered via Zoom. Date and time TBD based on participant availability – contact Carolyn to express interest.

January TBD Car-Birding Portsmouth Harbour to Lemoine Point

Leader: Jenny Newton (jennyn1434 at gmail.com)

The distance may hardly be 12 km, but this stretch of waterfront boasts many excellent vantage points over a diversity of habitats. New to Kingston and new to birding, Jenny shares her favourite local route. Join her on a tour of where to go, where to park, and what to look for throughout the seasons. This month keep an eye out for resident red-tailed hawks and bald eagles, winter waterfowl such as long-tailed ducks and red-breasted mergansers, and possible passerines such as snow buntings and northern shrikes. The emphasis of this trip will be on birding locations – an ideal orientation for new or out-of-town KFN members. Members with mobility issues are especially encouraged to participate on this outing, as our tour and birding will take place entirely from our vehicles. Walkie-talkies will be provided to allow communication between participants. Please email the trip leader to register; those without email can call the KFN Field Trips Coordinator at 613-531-4578. The number of vehicles will be limited for safety, so register early! Meeting time and location will be disclosed upon trip registration, but it is anticipated this trip will take approximately 1.5-2 hours.

MORE OUTINGS, and Christmas Bird Count schedule ... see page 5.

JUNIORS

MEETINGS

Unfortunately, we are unable to plan indoor meetings yet.

Family Field Trips

**Saturday 28 November 9:00 am to 12:00 noon
Roger's Side Road area**

Focus on Trees Family Field Trip. Exact location and meeting point upon registration. Please register by Thursday 26 November (613-389-6742 or n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca). Wear warm clothing and good boots. Bring a snack.

There will be no field trip in December.

Watch for details of **23 January 2021** field trip in January Newsletter.



TEENS



Saturday 21 November 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Meyer Woods property of the Land Conservancy for KFLA near Verona. Hike and find out about methods of comparing habitats. An hour or so of volunteer work is planned to remove invasive Phragmites seed heads. For this 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 19 November please (613-389-6742 or n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca). Transportation will be discussed on registration.

**Saturday 19 December Christmas Bird Count
9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

The December outing will be a **Christmas Bird Count**. As part of the Kingston Area count, we will be birding at Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre. Details in email a week ahead.

Next meeting Saturday 16 January

Club News and Updates

Welcome to new members: Andrew Edwards, Mary Crandall, William McLaren, Marnie McCall, Marcelo Rojas & family, Joanna Brown and Henk Kuchlein, Philip Harvey, Keely Maddock and Sean Corcoran, Robert Bertrand, Jesse Lewis, Anahita Farahani, Jane Verner, Helen and Scott Pyne, Joshua Allen & family, Brendan Kelly, Tracy Hanes & family.

Join a KFN General Meeting on Zoom!

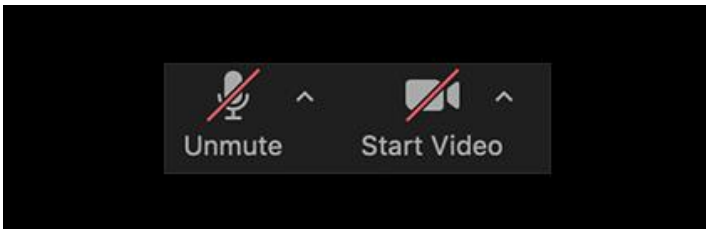
You don't need to be seen or heard if you just want to watch and listen!

1. Make sure you are connected to the internet and then click on the link in the email invitation.
2. You will be asked if you want to open "zoom.us". Accept and you are in the meeting.
3. Relax and enjoy the presentation.

If you want to do more than just watch and listen, then read on...

Being seen and/or heard

When you arrive in the meeting you will see the "**Unmute**" and "**Start Video**" icons in the corner of the screen. If you want to be seen click the "**Start Video**" icon, the red slash will disappear and your face (or whatever your camera is pointing at) will appear to everyone on the call. Pressing the "**Unmute**" icon turns on your microphone. NOT a good idea unless you want to immediately say something; when you are unmuted, everyone can hear all the background noise in your environment.



Correcting your name

If you wish to ask questions or be recognized by friends even when your video is off, then display your name and not the name of the device you are using. If you log in using a Zoom account, your name will show; if you log in without an account, the name of your device will show. To change the name shown, click on "**participants**". This brings up a list of everyone on the call. When you hover the mouse over yourself a box called "**more**" will pop up. Click on this and choose "**rename**".

Written Chatting

To write a message to either the entire group or an individual click the "**chat**" icon which you will find next to the "**participants**" icon. At the bottom of the box that opens you will see:

"**To: Everyone**". To make a comment that everyone will see type it in the "**message here**" box and press enter. If you want to contact a particular individual, select them in the dropdown menu in the "**To**" line. They will receive a private message.

No computer? Don't miss out: Join our monthly meetings by telephone! Contact Carolyn Bonta (613-531-4578) 1-2 days in advance of a meeting to obtain the Meeting ID and Passcode. Then dial 1-647-374-4685 and follow the Zoom instructions. Press *6 to mute/unmute and *9 to raise your hand. Note: Long distance charges may apply.

Field Trips and Rambles in the times of COVID

- 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.
- 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.
- Please bring a mask and 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.
- 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.

Christmas Bird Counts 2020 in the Kingston Area

We are optimistic that many of our local Christmas Bird Counts will take place this year and we encourage new and experienced surveyors to attend. Contact the area compiler listed below for more information or to register.

Monday 14 December Westport with Wendy Briggs-Jude (613-273-5449 or [bwlaird at rideau.net](mailto:bwlaird@rideau.net))

Wednesday 16 December Delta with Jim Thompson (613-329-0959 or [jthompson211 at cogeco.ca](mailto:jthompson211@cogeco.ca))

Friday 18 December Thousand Islands with Josh Van Wieren ([josh.vanwieren at canada.ca](mailto:josh.vanwieren@canada.ca))

Saturday 19 December Frontenac with Michael Johnson & Carolyn Bonta (613-531-4578 or [bonta.johnson at sympatico.ca](mailto:bonta.johnson@sympatico.ca))

Saturday 19 December Prince Edward Point with Peter Fuller (613-968-4643 or [petefullz at gmail.com](mailto:petefullz@gmail.com))

Sunday 20 December Kingston with Kathy Webb ([kw2 at queensu.ca](mailto:kw2@queensu.ca)) and Bill Depew ([william.depew at gmail.com](mailto:william.depew@gmail.com)). The section leaders within this CBC have kindly agreed to return this year to coordinate the field participants and surveys within their sections. As before, feeder watchers will also be an integral part of this count.

Wednesday 23 December Gananoque with Kurt Hennige (613-876-1804 or [khennige at xplornet.com](mailto:khennige@xplornet.com))

Sunday 27 December Napanee with Kurt Hennige (613-876-1804 or [khennige at xplornet.com](mailto:khennige@xplornet.com))

Saturday 2 January Moscow with Bonnie Bailey ([countrygal354 at gmail.com](mailto:countrygal354@gmail.com))

Saturday 2 January Amherst Island with Janet Scott ([jiscott at kos.net](mailto:jiscott@kos.net)) and Bonnie Livingstone (613-389-8516). Amherst Island residents ONLY please.

Note: The following link will take you to a map with all of the Canadian Christmas Bird Counts: <https://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/cbc/index.jsp?targetpg=mapviewer&lang=EN>

Friday 26 February to Sunday 28 February Algonquin Provincial Park

Leader: Anthony Kaduck ([kaduckintransit at gmail.com](mailto:kaduckintransit@gmail.com))

A weekend trip to look for winter specialties. This is mainly a birding and bird photography trip but if we are lucky, we might catch up with American Marten or even a moose. Target birds are Evening Grosbeak, Canada Jay, Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, Red Crossbill and White-winged Crossbill. Spruce Grouse should start becoming more active at this time of year. The elusive Black-backed Woodpecker is always possible. More details to follow in an upcoming Newsletter and on the website.

Use of The K & P Trail In Frontenac County survey until end November

There is considerable pressure on Frontenac County to allow all-terrain vehicles to use part of the K & P Trail near Verona. Frontenac County is currently conducting a "K&P Trail Business and User Survey", and would like to hear from stakeholders of the Frontenac K&P Trail in order to understand how the trail is used, by whom, if it has an economic impact and what the overall user experience of the trail is.

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For the purpose of this survey, the Frontenac K&P Trail refers specifically to the portion of the K&P Trail owned and managed by Frontenac County, extending south from Clarendon Station to Orser Road at the City of Kingston boundary. This survey should take about 20 minutes to complete. Upon completing this survey, you will have the option to be entered in a draw to win one of five \$25 gift cards to a trailside business.

This is an opportunity for people concerned about the effect of ATV use and its effect on wildlife, solitude and the joy of hiking in a naturally silent bit of nature to express their opinions. The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KPTrailSurvey2020>

For more information on the current situation contact Barrie Gilbert (barrie.gilbert36 at gmail.com or 613-385-2289, mobile: 343-333-7612)

News from the Conservation Committee: "Land Relationship Planning"

This term is a useful concept, and might become more widely used. The term was used by Steven Nitah, Dene leader and former Northwest Territories MLA, at a conference in Ottawa earlier this year:

"Think of the phrase 'land-use planning,' " he challenged the audience. "Land use — how we use the land. That doesn't talk about land relationship planning."

Nitah was the chief negotiator for Łutsel K'e Dene First Nations during the creation of Canada's newest national park, the Thaidene Nëné National Park Reserve. The protected area, which covers 26,525 square kilometres of lakes, old-growth boreal forests, rivers and wildlife habitat, was uniquely designed with Indigenous land management in mind.

Nitah argued the concept of "land relationship planning" should enter the collective vocabularies of Canadians as the country imagines pathways forward for nature-based climate solutions.

It's a phrase that got stuck on the tongues of the crowd for the rest of the conference as various experts pooled around tables and in the halls to discuss Indigenous protected areas and undervalued grasslands and how farmers are reimagining their relationship with soil to be better carbon stewards.

For climate solutions in particular, reimagining the relationship between humans and the land has never been more urgent.

The full article can be found at <https://www.greatlakesnow.org/2020/08/climate-change-carbon-canada-natural-landscapes/>

Request for Photographs

Conservation Committee Chair Chris Hargreaves received this request from Ben Walters:

"I teach in the forestry department at Fleming College and in one of my courses I teach students stick nest identification. This is an important part of their learning because in the forest industry there are many conservation measures put in place around raptor and heron nests and identifying them correctly can affect what protections are implemented (referred to as areas of concern). Fleming College's Forestry Technician students are the ones that are often in the field collecting data and looking for and identifying these values.

To help me, I am looking for good quality raptor/stick nest photos that we can use to train and test them on."

Can you help? More information about what is required can be obtained from Chris (hargreavescp at sympatico.ca).