



Kingston Field Naturalists

November 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>

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. Social starts at 7:00 pm. See page 4 for the **President's message concerning virtual meetings**

On Thursday 15 October 7:30 pm Michael Runtz will present *Algonquin Wild*

Dr. Runtz will present a visual extravaganza of this world-famous park's natural history through the seasons. Highlights include Eastern Wolf pups howling at a rendezvous site, the incredible diversity of animals that visit a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker's cafe, and the first-ever photographs of a Snow Flea's landing gear!

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*, and has authored and illustrated 13 natural history books including *Algonquin Wild*. Michael currently teaches Natural History and Ornithology courses at Carleton University.

On Thursday 19 November 7:30 pm

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

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 *Loblaw 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.

Thursday 17 December will be Members' Night

Get your slides and videos ready! Next newsletter we will let you know how to submit them. Sorry we won't be able to share goodies, but you won't be driving home from the meeting, so you **will** be able to add a little something to the eggnog!



Moose Photo: M. Runtz

Fall RoundUp 2020 See details on the Rambles and Field Trips page.

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. Hunting is allowed on Sundays too. When out hiking and birding, wear bright colours, make noise.

And be prepared for TICKS! Wear long sleeves, tuck pants into socks and use repellent.

Please see guidelines for Field Trip and Ramble in times of COVID: page 5

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

ALL Rambles will abide by the guidelines listed on page 5. 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 per leader. Please let Anne know if you need to cancel.**

Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear and bring a mask. Bring a snack and drink if you like.

Tuesday 20 October 9:30 am to 1:30 pm 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

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

FIELD TRIPS

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

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. Note that the trail signs at Helen Quilliam Sanctuary have been refreshed. Send a picture of yourself on each of three identified trails to Erwin Batalla ([simbat at bell.net](mailto:simbat@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.

Sunday 11 October Time TBA K&P Trail: Burbrook Road section

Leaders: Richard Brault and Dianne Croteau ([innova at bellnet.ca](mailto:innova@bellnet.ca)) You can read about the K&P Trail in *The Blue Bill* or you can explore it for yourself! We will leisurely walk along woodland and field habitats hosting a diversity of passerines and waterbirds. There is also the option to venture 1 km further to look for shorebirds in flooded fields. Total distance will be approximately 3.5-6 km. This stone-dust trail is wide and flat. Email registration is preferred, but members without email can phone the leaders at 647-280-4473. Meeting time and location will be disclosed upon trip registration.

Sunday 18 October Time TBA Lemoine Point

Leader: Steve Coates ([sjcoates73 at cogego.ca](mailto:sjcoates73@cogego.ca)) Fall songbird migration is winding down but mid-October is a prime time to observe staging waterfowl in Collins Bay. Both ruby-crowned and golden-crowned kinglet numbers will be at their peak, as will white-crowned and white-throated sparrows; these will be joined by early-arriving winter sparrows such as tree sparrows and dark-eyed juncos. We will slowly walk several kilometers on flat trails that could be muddy in sections. Please email the trip leader to register; those without email can call the KFN Field Trips Coordinator at 613-531-4578. Meeting time and location will be disclosed upon trip registration.

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 ([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. **See the KFN website for more 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 5).

Saturday 24 October 9:00 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](mailto:n8ture.anne@sympatico.ca)).

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](mailto:n8ture.anne@sympatico.ca)). Wear warm clothing and good boots. Bring a snack.

PROJECTS done over the last summer are due **Saturday 24 October**. Please contact Anne to arrange to get these to her for judging by the KFN executive.

TEENS

NOTE: The October field trip is postponed to November

Saturday 17 October 9:00 am to 12:30 pm Trailhead

Birding for the first ever Global Bird Day and the October Big Day for eBird. Organizers are hoping for 25,000 eBird reports! We can help!! Come and practice your birding skills. You may wish to get an eBird account and download the [free eBird Mobile app](#). Learn more about these recording techniques.

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](mailto:n8ture.anne@sympatico.ca)). Transportation will be discussed on registration.

Saturday 19 December Christmas Bird Count (tentative)



Club News and Updates

Welcome to new members: Judy Olacke & family, Marg MacLean, Zachary Deutsch & family, Lori Cournoyer, Bob Montgomerie.

A Message from the President

As we head into the autumn it appears that COVID-19 will continue to restrict the face-to-face activities of the KFN. With appropriate infection control measures in place, we hope to be able to continue field trips and rambles. The Blue Bill, Newsletters, Facebook, Flickr and the normal activities of the Executive continue unchanged.

For many of us the move to virtual meetings on the third Thursday of the month is the most significant change. We held our first Zoom general meeting, the AGM, in September. Attendance at that meeting suggests that many members who normally attend general meetings are not comfortable in the virtual world. I would like to address two common reasons people have given me for disliking virtual meetings and try to convince you that they really aren't that bad!

Social time: Meeting with friends and making new acquaintances is one of the most important aspects of in-person meetings. While not ideal, socializing can be made easier in a virtual meeting. Each person attending has their name displayed below their "box", so there is no need to try and surreptitiously glance at their name tag when you can't remember who they are. Zoom has a "Chat" box where you can easily type a private message to anyone present: you don't have to fight your way across the room, interrupt a conversation already in progress or worry about their remembering who you are! Unfortunately, you have to provide your own snacks.

Zoom platform: Zoom is the platform that the KFN has chosen for meetings. Security concerns with earlier versions of the platform have been addressed. Currently it is likely that there is less chance of having your important information stolen than there would be of having your car vandalized or your wallet lost when you attend a regular meeting! The program is easy to learn and free. It can be used on a computer, tablet or phone. Do not fear it!

There are actual **advantages** to a virtual meeting which include:

- Many of our presenters have high quality photographs that are best viewed on a high resolution computer screen. Projecting them significantly degrades the quality.
- The inconvenience and cost of travel has limited the roster of speakers at our meetings. Virtual meetings gives us an opportunity to attract presenters who would not normally be able to take the time to come to Kingston.
- You don't have to leave the comfort of your home on a cold winter night.
- Temporarily leaving the meeting doesn't involve getting up in front of a crowd of people.
- You can have other activities going on at the same time and nobody will know.
- You can continue your "chat" conversations during the presentation without being told to be quiet.
- Your home furniture is likely more comfortable than auditorium chairs.
- Your pets/kids/grandkids don't have to be left alone for an evening.

I strongly encourage you to give virtual meetings a try.

Prior to the general meeting an email will be sent to all members. The email will contain a link inviting you join the Zoom meeting. The link will be active at 7 pm to allow virtual socializing prior to the commencement of the meeting at 7:30 pm. You will not be required to register.

I look forward to seeing you on-line soon.

Ken Edwards, President KFN

If you do not have email, and would like to join a meeting via phone, please call or text Carolyn Bonta at 613-531-4578 and give her your phone number. The day of the meeting she will call you and give you the numbers to call to join the Zoom .meeting.

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.

Kingston Field Naturalist Executive 2020-2021

Position	Officer, Director	
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

Here is the executive of KFN for this year as elected at our Annual General Meeting Zoomed on 17 September. Contact information for executive members can be found inside the front cover of The Blue Bill.

Update on Barn Swallows at Lemoine Point

Thanks to the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority and to the Friends of Lemoine Point for adding partial sides to the nesting structure at Lemoine Point. The structure was built in 2018 to provide alternative accommodation to Barn Swallows that were being dispossessed due to changes at Kingston Airport. Unfortunately Barn Swallows across Ontario have shown little interest in many of the alternative nesting structures erected to help them, and this occurred at Lemoine Point too. However, nesting structures with partial sides seem to be more successful in attracting Barn Swallows, and we hope that adding the partial sides at Lemoine Point will result in Barn Swallows using the structure next year.

Some Good News!!

An announcement from the South Shore Joint Initiative: the Ontario Government has begun the process to designate the Point Petre Provincial Wildlife Area and the Ostrander Point Crown Land Block as a new conservation reserve!

Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas 3: news from Mark Read

The Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas is a volunteer-based project to map the distribution and abundance of Ontario's approximately 300 breeding birds. Data from the previous two Ontario Atlases have provided enormous contributions to bird and environmental conservation over the last 40 years. Data collection for Atlas-3 starts in 2021 and will be no exception – this project will put Ontario at the leading edge of bird knowledge in North America!

An atlas divides the province into 10x10 km squares that birders then survey for as many breeding species as possible. These data help us map species distribution across the province. Advanced birders also complete point counts in squares, which help us estimate the relative abundance of species across the province. Understanding where breeding birds occur and how their abundance changes between atlases is critical information for conserving species and habitats.

Most of the KFN area falls within 'Region 21'. Prince Edward County, Hay Bay, and the 401 corridor from Deseronto to Belleville lie within 'Region 20'. Regions to the east and north of the KFN study area may also be of interest. To contact a Regional Coordinator see below:

Region 21 – Kingston (Mark Read): kingston@birdsontario.org.

Region 20 – Prince Edward (Nick Bartok): princeedward@birdsontario.org

Region 22 – Leeds and Grenville (Stew Hammill and Gerard Phillips):
leeds.grenville@birdsontario.org

Region 25 – Silver Lake (Mark Read and Richard Knapton): silverlake@birdsontario.org

Volunteers are at the absolute heart of an atlas and are essential to the success of Atlas-3. We need birders of all skill levels to help with the Atlas, and especially those with the ability to bird by ear. If you are interested in helping with the Atlas but unsure how or where you can contribute, check out the website at www.birdsontario.org. Unfortunately, the website is not 'live' at the time of writing (but should be by the time you read this) so more specific links cannot be provided. In the meantime, the regional coordinators listed above will be happy to answer your questions. Be sure to start honing your birding skills as we prepare for the start of atlasing in 2021!

Amherstview Sewage Lagoons

Thanks to an agreement with Loyalist Township, KFN members are permitted to enter the Amherstview Sewage Lagoons property to do nature observation during daylight hours. Access to this location is a privilege. This is an operational facility not a public park. Entry is only through the gate on the SOUTH side of the property, at the end of Amherstview Golf Course Road. There is a lock on the gate; the code and other details on how to enter the site and observation recommendations can be obtained from Kurt Hennige (khennige at xplornet.com), or from Mark Read (markdread at gmail.com). **Please DO NOT climb over the gate** and please carry your KFN membership card in case you are asked by Township officials to confirm that you are a KFN member.

Following these guidelines will ensure that Loyalist Township continues to allow KFN members to enter.