



# Kingston Field Naturalists

## April 2021

### 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.  
Social starts at 7:00 pm. (See below.)  
Telephone users should contact Carolyn Bonta (613-531-4578) for the meeting ID and passcode.

The March general meeting will feature a presentation by David Bree. The Zoom link will open at 7 pm; the formal meeting will start at 7:30 pm. From 7 to 7:30 we will feature a slide show of members submissions. To contribute, please send you photos or short video to [info@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org](mailto:info@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org). While the slide show is running on the main screen there will be a breakout room entitled "iNaturalist Q and A" hosted by our local iNaturalist guru, Mark Read. To enter the breakout room you will need to be running an up-to-date Zoom app on your mobile device or using the downloaded Zoom client on your regular computer. You may enter and exit the breakout room as often as you wish. The room will close after 25 minutes. Those familiar with iNaturalist as well as those wishing to get started are encouraged to join Mark to learn more about this amazing educational and scientifically valuable citizen science project.

### Thursday 18 March David Bree will present: Bringing Moths into the Light

Moths are widespread but often under-appreciated creatures. Join David on this zoom exploration of the moth; what makes a moth a moth, the diversity of moths found in the Kingston area, and how moths fit into the world and your backyard. We will also look at some tips on how to look for moths and how to identify them.

David Bree grew up in Almonte, Ontario and developed an interest in the natural world at an early age. He has worked as a seasonal naturalist in the Provincial Park system. Since 2006 he has been the Park Naturalist at Presqu'île Provincial Park. After 33 years he will be retiring from Ontario Parks this spring (in time to go bird watching). For the last 32 years he has been a resident of Prince Edward County, though seasonal work has allowed time for international travel. He and his wife have managed to enjoy the natural world in six continents over the last couple of decades.

While all aspects of nature are of interest to David his early interests focused on the study of birds, vascular plants, and geology. An interest in insects grew during his time working in parks and he has pursued these throughout east-central Ontario. Dragonflies in particular have been a favourite study area, along with butterflies and moths.



Virgin Tiger Moth  
(*Apantesis virgo*)  
Photo: P. Waycik

**It's membership renewal time.** The KFN membership year extends from April 1 to March 31 of the following year. For directions on how to renew your membership, please see page 4.

## **Rambles, Field Trips, and other outings**

**All outings will proceed as COVID restrictions allow.**

**Please check the KFN website.**

**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](mailto:n8ture.anne@sympatico.ca)) to get details of the meeting location. **Limit 25 participants per leader.**

Cancellation, if necessary, will be sent to those who have registered. Ice and or mud are possible; grippers and/or hiking poles are recommended.

Please do not join us if you have COVID contacts. **Masks will be worn.**

**Tuesday 16 March 9:30 – 11:30 am Butternut Creek**

**Tuesday 6 April 9:30 - 11:30 am Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area**

**Tuesday 20 April 9:30 - 11:30 am Belle Isle**

**Tuesday 4 May 9:30 - 11:30 am Roger Candy Trail, Fairmont Home**

## **FIELD TRIPS**

**Sunday 14 March 1 to 3 pm Car-Birding Portsmouth Harbour to Lemoine Point**

**Leader: Jenny Newton** ([jennyn1434 at gmail.com](mailto:jennyn1434@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, lingering winter waterfowl, and possible early arrivals such as blackbirds, killdeer, and song sparrows. The emphasis of this trip will be on birding locations – an ideal orientation for new birders and 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.

**Sunday 2 May Prince Edward Point Birding**

Trip leader: Anthony Kaduck ([kaduckintransit at gmail.com](mailto:kaduckintransit@gmail.com) or 613-767-8398)

Join fellow KFN members to explore the Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area, a noted hotspot for spring bird migration.

The trip involves short walks of 1-1.5km on footpaths and an unpaved road. The terrain is mostly flat. No services other than washrooms are available at the point, so it would be advisable to bring drinks and lunch. Because parking space is limited and to ensure that physical distance can be maintained, this trip will be limited to six vehicles and 16 people (plus the leader and co-leader). Check the website in the next few weeks for further details.

**MAY BIRD WALKS** this year will be members and friends only, not open to the general public. The schedule will be available in next month's newsletter.

**BioBlitz ! Friday 11 June 3:00 pm to Saturday 12 June 3:00 pm**

If COVID restrictions allow, we will hold our 2021 BioBlitz at the Fourth Lake Nature Reserve of the Land Conservancy for KFLA (west of Parham). There will be **no guided hikes** this year. COVID precautions will be maintained.

In early April BioBlitz information will be emailed to those who have registered in previous years. Some information will be in the next Newsletter and on the web site. To receive a detailed mailing please contact Anne ([n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca](mailto:n8ture.anne@sympatico.ca) or 613-389-6742).

## **JUNIORS**

### **MEETINGS**

Unfortunately, we are still unable to plan indoor meetings.



## **Family Field Trips**

**Saturday 27 March 9:00 am to noon Nature in Spring** including animal homes and signs. The trip will take place at the Collins Creek Woods. The meeting location (or cancellation due to pandemic) will be divulged on registration. Please register by Thursday 25 March (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742).

**Saturday 24 April 9:00 am to 2:30 pm KFN Helen Quilliam Sanctuary north of Sydenham: a road side cleanup and spring wild flower walk**

Meet in town at 9:00 am to carpool or drive together **or** meet there at 10:15 am. Return in town at 2:30 pm.

Dress well for the weather. Bring a snack, lunch, and gloves for garbage pickup. Please register by Thursday 22 April with details of how you will travel (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742). Details of meeting point will be given on registration.

## **TEENS**



**Saturday 13 March 9:30 am to 1:00 pm**

**Visit Fallow Deer Reserve** with Chris Grooms to learn about animal tracking. Details of meeting point and transportation (or cancellation due to pandemic) in email a week ahead. Please register by 11 March (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742).

**Next meetings:**

**Saturday 17 April 9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Camden Lake Provincial Wildlife Area**

Focus on Life through a Lens-- large and small. Details in email.

**FRIDAY 14 May Night Hike**

## Club News and Updates

**Welcome to new members:** Diana Wyatt, Laurie Snelling & family, George Stirrett-Wood, Bryan Williams, Trudy Ferguson, Mary-Jean McIntyre, Bijan Mohammadidoustar & family, John Meragias, Matthew Douglas, Natalie Munn, Kathy Eardley & family, Joyce Hostyn, Mike Hill, Marlene Kraml.

### It's Membership Renewal Time Again!

The KFN membership year extends from April 1 to March 31 of the following year. To renew your membership, you can proceed in several ways:

1. Join or renew online via PayPal at the website: <https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/membership/>. Please note that 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 with a cheque payment to: Kingston Field Naturalists, PO Box 831, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4X6.

Any questions? Contact Kathy Webb, Membership Secretary, at [kw2@queensu.ca](mailto:kw2@queensu.ca)

### Zoom Meeting Update

If you have any observation pictures that you would like to show, please send them to Ken ([info at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org](mailto:info@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org)) by Wednesday 17 March.

**iNaturalist Q and A** will be the breakout room topic.

**No computer? Don't miss the meeting:** 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.

### KFN Executive 2021-22 Call for nominations

At the April AGM, KFN members will vote in the election of the club's executive. The nominating committee is looking for volunteers willing to stand for election. We are looking to fill the following positions:

- \* **Recording Secretary:** The Recording Secretary is an officer of the club, whose key responsibilities are taking the minutes at General and Executive meetings. The new Recording Secretary will take over the responsibility right after the election.
- \* **Treasurer:** The Treasurer is a Director and senior member of the executive, and essentially is the Club's financial manager and bookkeeper. The plan is to elect a new Member-at-Large, who would work with Larry McCurdy for the next year and then take over after the 2022 AGM. This would allow the new Treasurer to learn from Larry the corporate knowledge needed.
- \* **Field Trips Coordinator:** The Field Trips Coordinator is the member of the executive who ensures that we have an active program of field trips from September to May/June. The job involves working with trip leaders to identify and plan trips in the Kingston area and farther afield. No experience is necessary as there are several previous field trip coordinators who can offer advice.

If you are interested in serving the club in one of these important roles, or would like to learn more about what these responsibilities involve, please contact Anthony or one of the other members of the Nominating Committee:

Anthony Kaduck – [kaduckintransit at gmail.com](mailto:kaduckintransit@gmail.com) or 613-767-8398

Alexandra Simmons – [simbat at bell.net](mailto:simbat@bell.net)

Paul Mackenzie – [mackenzp at queensu.ca](mailto:mackenzp@queensu.ca)

## **KFN Nature reserves**

Now that winter is almost over, we renew our invitation to visit our Nature Reserves. The Helen Quilliam Sanctuary is located north of Kingston, in the Shield, and offers several well-marked trails. It is an excellent location to find early butterflies at the end of April and the first blooming wildflowers at the same time. The Martin Edwards Reserve at the east end of Amherst Island is also available for walks along the shore of Lake Ontario at any time of the year. You can find a late Snowy Owl or emerging Garter Snakes in April.

Our most recently acquired property is the Sylvester-Gallagher Nature Reserve. It is on Amherst Island across the road from the Martin Edwards Reserve. This property was recently donated to the KFN and we are still improving the fencing, developing a Managed Forest Program and preparing a Management Plan. While it is not yet available for individual visits, we will organize some field trips to that location and we plan to open it to our members next year.

## **Nesting Season is Nearly Here**

NestWatch is a nest monitoring program organized by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. You do not have to participate in the program or download any app to make use of the treasure trove of information and tools Cornell has developed! Go to the Nestwatch home page at [nestwatch.org](http://nestwatch.org) where you can select "all about birdhouses" to find construction plans for every type of cavity nester. The "nest and egg ID" tab guides you through selection of nest type, habitat, and substrate and shows photos of nests and eggs to identify what species made any nest you find. It also tells you where and when to look for the nest of each species. Check it out at [NESTWATCH.ORG](http://NESTWATCH.ORG).

## **Other meetings only a Zoom away**

**Land Conservancy for Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington** are hosting: Learn how to attract nature to your yard with native plants on **Sunday 21 March at 4:00 pm**.

Dr. Vicki Wojcik, Director of Research and Programs at the Canadian branch of Pollinator Partnership, will talk about planting for pollinators. Joyce Hostyn, a master gardener, will share information on how to "rewild" your yard.

A photo sharing time will follow the presentations.

Find the registration link at <http://www.landconservancykfla.org/> (events).

**Friends of the Salmon River and Friends of the Napanee River**, with support from Hastings Stewardship Council, are presenting a winter speaker series. All events are free and will be recorded and made available on a YouTube link following the event.

**Tuesday 23 March 7 pm** the topic will be Watersheds101 and shoreline restoration and planting programs. Please register ahead at [friendsofsalmonriver.ca](http://friendsofsalmonriver.ca). You can find the entire speaker lineup at this site, or contact susan at [moorepartners.ca](mailto:moorepartners.ca)

**The South Shore Joint Initiative (in Prince Edward County)** is also hosting zoom meetings. You can find their schedule, and recordings of previous meetings at:

[https://www.ssji.ca/south\\_shore\\_events](https://www.ssji.ca/south_shore_events)

**Wednesday 24 March 7 pm** Amanda Tracey from Nature Conservancy of Canada will present Invasive Species in the South Shore IBA.