



Kingston Field Naturalists

December '21 and January '22

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. Social starts at 7:00 pm.

Thursday 16 December will be Members' Night

The meeting will be hosted on ZOOM; no need to worry about driving home in the dark! This is your chance to show off your favourite flora and fauna photos (up to 10) or a short video (up to 5 minutes). Send your digital presentation to Erwin Batalla ([simbat at bell.net](mailto:simbat@bell.net)) by **Monday 13 December**. You may comment on your presentation during the meeting OR send comments to be read by Erwin.

Zoom Meeting Updates for Thursday 16 December

- You will receive a zoom link a few days before the meeting. The ZOOM link will be opened at 7 pm. The formal meeting begins at 7:30 pm.
- The breakout room this month will be "Conservation Issues". It will be hosted by the Chair of the KFN Conservation Committee, Chris Hargreaves. Please log on at 7 pm if you want to join in the discussion or just listen.
- Some computer platforms do not allow you to enter on your own. If you have a problem, just turn on your microphone and ask to be placed in the room by the moderator. The room will be open from 7:00 to 7:25 pm.
- 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.



See page 6 for **new** HQS map.

Thursday 20 January 2022

our guest speaker will be Steven Cooke from Carleton University

Dr Cooke is Professor in the Biology Department at Carleton University. His work spans the natural and social sciences with a particular focus on developing solutions to problems facing fish and other aquatic organisms. Specific projects have focused on issues and topics such as fish migration, fish-hydropower interactions, the sustainability of recreational fisheries, aquatic habitat restoration and the movement ecology of fish. He has much experience working with practitioners, policy makers and stakeholders to co-create usable knowledge. Cooke founded the Canadian Centre for Evidence-Based Conservation and is working with diverse partners to build capacity for evidence synthesis in his various roles in the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence.

This talk will be highly relevant to KFN's interest in the Kingston Inner Harbour remediation plan.

Christmas Bird Counts see page 5

Rambles, Field Trips, and other outings

This is hunting season! When hiking and birding, wear bright clothes, make noise. In South Frontenac crossbow hunting is allowed from 1 October to 31 December. Gun hunting for deer is allowed in November and December. Check the MNRF site <https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-hunting-regulations-summary>

Be prepared for ticks! Wear long sleeves, tuck long pants into socks, and use repellent. Check your clothes and your body as soon as possible after being out.

Please check the website for any updates on rambles and field trips.

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

Registration is still required for COVID tracking. Please register with Anne (nature.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742) to receive detailed information of meeting points. Ticks are still around: be prepared. For winter rambles dress for moving slowly. Be aware sites may be slippery: hiking poles are recommended.

Tuesday 4 January 9:00 am to noon Little Long Lake Road (north of Sydenham)

Tuesday 18 January 9:30 am to noon Cordukes Road (Hwy 38) **to Jackson's Mill**

Tuesday 1 February 9:30 am to noon Bayview Bog (from Taylor Kidd)

Christmas Bird Count

14 December to 5 January The official Christmas Bird Count survey season starts soon. We hope you will join us on one of our local surveys! **See page 5 for details.**

"Conduct a CBC Survey" training

Interested in learning how to conduct a Christmas Bird Count (CBC) survey? We 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. This two-part 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. While each of the virtual and outdoor sessions can suffice on its own, some aspects of surveying are better demonstrated online while others are best practiced in the field. Carolyn Bonta and Michael Johnson are the co-coordinators of these sessions.

To register for one or both of the following sessions, contact Carolyn Bonta: 613-531-4578 or bonta.johnson at sympatico.ca

Friday 10 December 7 to 8:30 pm via Zoom Virtual workshop

Training will run ~1 hour followed by time for Q&A.

Saturday 11 December 10 am to 12 noon Mock survey at Tree Frog Woods near Verona

We will cover ~3 km of gentle trail. Experienced birders and CBC surveyors are welcome - come meet and help mentor the new cohort! **Rain date: Sunday 12 December**

FIELD TRIPS Please contact the leader to register for the following trips.

Wednesday 5 January 7:45 am to 3:00 pm Amherst Island

Leader Gary Hillaby (fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org or 613-547-8121)

We will circumnavigate the island looking for winter birds. This trip will mostly be "birding by car"; if time permits we may do a short trail on the southern side of Amherst Island. We plan to catch the 8:30 am ferry. We will meet at Gardiners Town Center (Bath Road at Gardiners Road) at 7:45 am sharp to arrange carpooling. Contact Gary to register.

Friday to Sunday 18 – 20 February Field Trip to Algonquin Park

This is a placeholder for a potential field trip to Algonquin Provincial Park to look for winter finches and other exotic bird species. In previous trips we have stayed overnight at motels in Whitney, but this may or may not be possible depending on the pandemic situation. Stay tuned for further announcements in January.

Advance Notice! May 2022 trip to Point Pelee /Western Ontario see page 4

JUNIORS

Indoor meetings

An email will be sent to registered members if indoor meetings become possible.



Field trips

Saturday 22 January 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre (ELEEC) Nature in Winter

Details of meeting place on registration by 19 January please ([nature.ane at sympatico.ca](mailto:nature.ane@sympatico.ca) or 613-389-6742). Bring lunch and dress very warmly with good boots.

TEENS



**Friday 10 December,
Saturday 11 December AND
Saturday 18 December 9:00 am to noon
Christmas Bird Count Activities**

Hope you can join all of these events but let me know what you can do by Wednesday 8 December and I will keep you informed.

Friday 10 December evening Surveyor training virtually
Saturday 11 December Surveyor training Outing at Tree Frog Properties
Saturday 18 December Hike Elbow Lake Nature Trail to record as many bird species as possible.

Saturday 8 January 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Bird identification and KFN bird collection workshop We hope to be able to have an indoor meeting. A confirmation email will be sent by 2 January. Registration by email.

Saturday 12 February Next meeting

Club News and Updates

Welcome to new members Wendy Christopher, Charles Slowey & family, Cindy Moorhead, Dave Carswell and Kim Nguyen, Donald Woodiwiss, Daniel Austin & family, Christopher Dodds & family, Winston Poon, Rosemary and Peter Anderson.

Thank you to Peter Waycik, our newsletter editor and internet expert. Peter not only edits diverse submissions to The Blue Bill, he also prints The Blue Bill, prints and mails the newsletter, and advises the executive on all matters concerning the internet, including cybersecurity and how best to effectively transfer files between members. Thank you Peter!

In memoriam: Peter Good Peter Good passed away on November 25, at age 75. Stalwart is defined as loyal, reliable and hardworking: Peter fit this description very well. Gentle is another adjective his many friends at KFN use in describing him. Peter was an excellent birder and a frequent volunteer for KFN, responding to many requests for work on KFN properties. He will be greatly missed.

The Blue Bill is the quarterly publication of the Kingston Field Naturalists, published in March, June, September and December as a benefit to our members. Articles and reports on topics of interest to KFN members may be submitted to The Blue Bill Editor (email: editor at thebluebill.ca).

KFN's Endowment Fund Thank you to KFN members who responded to the call for donations to our Habitat Preservation Fund, for the purpose of increasing our endowment with the Community Foundation Kingston & Area. We have passed the \$3000 mark and hope to end the campaign by reaching \$4000 by the end of December. This will significantly increase the annual payment that we receive from our endowment for the maintenance of our Nature Reserves.

Map of HQS A map of Helen Quilliam Sanctuary is now available on the website. You can find it under Conservation/nature-reserves/helen-quilliam-sanctuary. The map is reproduced on page 6; additional information about the trails is available on the website. A GPS-enabled map is in the works.

Field Trip Advance Notice

Monday 2 May 8:00 am to Monday 9 May 2022 5:00 pm Western Ontario/Point Pelee

We will bird the South end of Lake St. Claire (Lighthouse Point & Mitchell's Bay), Pt. Pelee National Park, Hillman Marsh, Wheatley Provincial Park, Rondeau Provincial Park, Blenheim Sewage Lagoons, plus anything else of interest in between. Long Point Provincial Park and Windsor area are also possibilities, either as twitches or optional private pre/post extensions.

We will try to carpool in situ to reduce parking difficulty at locations visited.

Maximum group size limited to 7-8 participants. Contact John Licharson (jlicharson at tlaacanada dot com or at six one three, three eight six, seven seven two zero) to register.

Participants will have to make their own accommodation and travel arrangements. (There are hotel, motel, B&B and VRBO/AirBnB options in and around Leamington/Wheatley, but they tend to get booked up quickly.)

Christmas Bird Counts 2021

Please click on the map link of the following website for the most up to date information for each count (<https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/christmas-bird-count/>). All counts will be conducted in a COVID-safe manner and comply with public health guidelines.

The following are bird counts in which members are encouraged to participate:

Frontenac Saturday 18 December

Contact Carolyn Bonta or Michael Johnson (613-531-4578 or bonta.johnson@sympatico.ca)

Prince Edward Point Saturday 18 December

Contact Dale Smith (doc0013@icloud.com)

Kingston Sunday 19 December

Contact Kathy Webb (kw2@queensu.ca)

Gananoque Wednesday 22 December

Contact Kurt Hennige (613-876-1804 or khennige@xplornet.com)

Napanee Monday 27 December

Contact Kurt Hennige (613-876-1804 or khennige@xplornet.com)

Amherst Island Thursday 30 December

Contact Janet Scott (613-389-4608 jiscott@kos.net) or

Bonnie Livingstone (613-389-8516 bonnie.livingstone@gmail.com)

Moscow no date yet

Contact Jeff Brady (bradyjeff1963@gmail.com) for details

Westport Wednesday 15 December

Contact Wendy Briggs-Jude (613-273-5449 or bwlaird@rideau.net) for details

The following counts do not need/want additional participants this year:

Delta Wednesday 15 December

Thousand Islands Thursday 16 December

Kingston Inner Harbour Remediation Plan

News from Chris Hargreaves, Chair of Kingston Field Naturalists' Conservation Committee

Representatives from the Kingston Field Naturalists will meet with Parks Canada / Transport Canada on Monday December 6th to discuss the proposed remediation plan.

The KFN objectives for the meeting are to obtain more information on a number of issues, in particular:

- What is your vision for use of the Inner Harbour after remediation? Why was it said at the EITP Committee meeting that the Inner Harbour was "not being used to its full recreational potential"?
- Are you using up to date information that takes into account the natural remediation that is occurring? Why do you emphasize "fish deformities" when there have been no reports of deformed fish being found in recent years? Are you taking into account the surge in turtle numbers, or the increased number of Canada Geese and Mute Swans?
- Is the disruption to the current ecosystem justified, given the comment during the EITP presentation that dredging would "remove some contamination but not all"; that the consultant's written report refers to areas where, "sediments would be expensive and/or difficult to physically manage"; and the fact that there will be a continuing flow of contamination into the Inner Harbour from the former Smelter and Tannery lands, and through the Orchard Street Marsh?
- If contaminated sediment is removed, where would it be taken? How much would be removed? How would it travel through Kingston?

There will be a Conservation breakout room from 7:00 to 7:30 pm before the KFN General Meeting on Thursday 16 December, to which everybody is invited. There will be a report on the meeting with Parks Canada/Transport Canada, and other issues that members wish to raise can be discussed.

Map of Helen Quilliam Sanctuary

Note that additional information about the trails is available on the website.

