



Kingston Field Naturalists

April and May 2022

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>

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 21 April will be our Annual General Meeting

We will elect the members of the club's executive for the 2022-2023 term. The agenda, proposed budget and executive nominations will be posted on the website at <https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/meetings/>

When the business of the meeting is done, two executive members will present slides on local natural history. Janet Elliott will present *Quest for the Freshwater Limpet*. Rose-Marie Burke will present *The Nature that Surrounds Me: A Sampling of What I See in My Backyard*.

Zoom meeting updates for Thursday 21 April:

- 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 topic for this month's breakout room will be **BioBlitz 2022**. Join Anne Robertson to learn about this year's return to a "normal" BioBlitz.
- If you have a problem accessing the breakout room, turn on your microphone and ask to be placed in the room by the moderator.
- Join our monthly meetings by telephone. Contact Janet Elliott (613-547-2674) 1-2 days in advance of a meeting to obtain the Meeting ID and Passcode.

ALSO THIS MONTH! Thursday 28 April 7:00 pm

Introduction to (Birding) Field Trips – Zoom Meeting

In advance of the field trip to Prince Edward Point on 30 April, this short Zoom meeting will start with a few basics of birding, then focus on how to identify some of the early migrants that we might expect to see on the weekend. It is intended for novice/beginner-level birders attending the field trip, and also for anyone else gearing up for spring migration season. **To receive the Zoom link for this event:** email your request to info@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org



White-tailed Deer
Photo: R-M Burke

Thursday 19 May our guest speaker is Meryln Simonds, well-known local author

Ms Simonds is about to release her new book *Lousie de Kiriline and the Songbirds of Pimisi Bay*. In 1935, Louise de Kiriline Lawrence, born into Swedish aristocracy and survivor of the Russian Civil War, escaped the hustle of Quintmania after a year as nurse-in-charge of the world-famous Dionne babies and retreated to her wilderness cabin on the Mattawa River. There, she discovered birds, the life history of many of them a mystery at the time. Training herself in the art of observation and ornithology, she published ground-breaking studies and wrote six books and scores of magazine stories.

See page 6 for information about the public book launch in May.

Our 2022 **BioBlitz** will be **Friday to Saturday 10 to 11 June at Camden East Alvar**. If you are on our mailing list you will receive a detailed Letter of Information in late April. If you would like to be on the list please email Janis Grant (janis.grant@icloud.com).

Rambles, Field Trips, and other outings

Please check the website for any updates.

TICKS are looking for hosts! Wear long sleeves, tuck long pants into socks, use repellent. Ten minutes in a hot dryer kills the ticks that come home on your clothes.

RAMBLES are slow walks to notice nature in all its forms. Be prepared for ticks, wild parsnip, flies of all types, poison ivy. Bring hat, sunscreen, water. For detailed directions please register by the Sunday before the trip with Anne (nature.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742).

Tuesday 19 April 9:00 am to noon K & P Trail north from Murton Road (near Murvale)

Tuesday 3 May 9:00 am to 1:30 pm Helen Quilliam Sanctuary Spring wildflowers
Bring lunch.

Tuesday 17 May 9:00 am to 12:30 pm Camden East Alvar Pre-BioBlitz trip

Bird Walks at Lemoine Point

Every Wednesday in the month of May, all starting at the south parking lot, rain or shine.

4 May 6:30 am Leader Erwin Battala

6:30 pm Leader Steve Coates

11 May 6:30 am Leaders Kathy Webb, Bill Depew

6:30 pm Leader Steve Coates

18 May 6:30 am Leader Anthony Kaduck

6:30 pm Leaders Janis Grant, Nancy Spencer

25 May 6:30 am Leader Ken Ross

6:30 pm Leader Gary Hillaby

FIELD TRIPS See more excursion notices on page 4, 5 and 6

Saturday 23 April 9:30 am to noon Helen Quilliam Sanctuary Clean-up

Meet at the gravel pit at 9:30 am. Tools such as brush clippers and hammers are useful but not essential. Come and explore the trails, look for early spring flowers, butterflies and birds while helping with trail maintenance and signage. Refreshments will be available at noon at the gravel pit. Contact Erwin Battala (613-389-0144 or simbat at bell.net) if you plan to come.

Saturday 30 April 7:00 am to 3:00 pm Prince Edward Point (weather date 1 May)

Registration is still being accepted for this trip. See page 4 for details.

Thursday 5 May 8:00 am to 1:00 pm (rain date 6 May) Up A Creek With A Paddle

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

Join us for a watercraft outing on Little Cataraqui Creek. We will be launching at the Ambassador Hotel in the heart of Kingston. We will hope to see an assortment of wetland birds. Meeting and launch point will be in the east parking lot of the hotel. Your canoe or kayak should have all the province's watercraft safety devices especially your PFD (Personal Floatation Device). Contact Gary Hillaby to register.

Saturday 14 May 7:30 am ~ 12:30pm (rain date May 15) K & P Trail

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

We will be looking for Spring migrants along a section of the K&P Trail. This exceptional portion of the trail has an assortment of habitats, all within minutes of Kingston's city centre. We hope to see a variety of returning birds. We will be meeting at Dalton Ave. and Binnington Crt. We will be walking on the trail as far as Cordukes Rd and back. You may need sunscreen and bug spray. Register with Gary Hillaby.

Friday 20 May noon to Sunday 22 May noon Spring Round-Up see page 5

There will be two field trips to local IBA's as part of the Round-up.

Friday 20 May 12:15 pm to 5 pm Amherst Island IBA

Saturday 21 May 6:30 am to 12:00 pm Moscow Marsh and Camden Lake IBA

See details for both on page 5.

JUNIORS

Indoor meetings will be held as emailed to members:

Thursday 14 April Cavity Nesters

Thursday 28 April TBA

Thursday 12 May Bird walk at Lemoine Point



FIELD TRIPS

Please register with Anne at least 3 days ahead of trip for more detailed information (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742)

Saturday 23 April 8:45 am to 2:30 pm Shoreline cleanup and walk at Martin Edwards Reserve of KFN on Amherst Island

Meet at Gardiners Town Centre Tim Hortons for prompt departure to catch ferry, or meet for the 9:30 am ferry at Millhaven. Cost about \$10 to be shared if car-pooling. Bring lunch and dress very warmly for cold wind off the lake.

Bring gloves for garbage pick-up.

Please register with Anne by Wednesday 20 April: n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca

TEENS



Details of Teen trips will be sent on registration with Anne (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742).

For the following trips triple vaccination is necessary and masks will be worn throughout.

Friday and Saturday 13 - 14 May Birdathon

Join for all or part of the time from 5:00 pm Friday to 3:00 pm Saturday. We will visit a variety of habitats in order to record as many species as possible in the time period. A few hours of sleep is anticipated at Robertson cottage if you care to join us overnight. Details in email sent early May.

Rock Hounding trip to be rescheduled in the summer.

Club News and Updates

Welcome to new members: John Suk & family, Rick Sutherland, James and Kim Marshall, Dorothy and Ted Lloyd, Mary Barker, Pamela Wheaton, Bobby Sly and Andria Johnston, Donald Lyons, Geoff Matthews, Kim Turner, Andrejs Skaburskis, Carolyn Southward and Michael Surette, Nicholas Farkas and Maureen Carbray, Peter and Sandra Baxter.

Thank you to Chris Lyons, a KFN member who lives in Port Hope. Over the years he has set up more than 100 Tree Swallow nest boxes on Amherst Island. (In addition he maintains over 600 nest boxes in the Port Hope area!) Chris states that 2017 was his best year, with 67 successful nests. Chris is now retiring from tending Amherst Island Tree Swallow nest boxes; the work there will be continued by Richard Brault, Dianne Croteau and Chris Grooms. Thank you, Chris for setting up the Tree Swallow trail on Amherst Island!

It's Membership Renewal Time Again

The KFN membership year extends from 1 April to 31 March of the following year so 2021/22 memberships have recently expired. If you are a new member since 1 December 2021 your membership is good until 31 March 31 2023. If you are a previous member and have already renewed, thank you. If you are a Life Member, you never have to worry!

To renew your membership, you can proceed in one of several ways:

1. Join or renew **online** using the website <https://kingstonfieldnaturalists>. Please note that you do not need a PayPal account to renew online: once you click the "Pay Now" button, you can proceed as a guest by clicking the "Pay with a credit or Visa debit card" button.
2. **Mail a printed membership form** or a note containing your membership information along with a cheque payment to: Kingston Field Naturalists, PO Box 831, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4X6.

Executive Elections

At the **Annual General Meeting** on 21 April we will elect the members of the club's executive for the 2022-2023 term. The agenda, proposed budget and executive nominations will be posted on the website at <https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/meetings/>

FIELD TRIPS and outings . . . more on next pages too!

Saturday 30 April 6:00 am to midafternoon Prince Edward Point

This will be a visit to the Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area and Bird Observatory in search of early spring migrants. This is a good time to catch up with incoming sparrows and towhees, as well as early-arriving warblers such as Pine, Black and White and Nashville. Both Kinglet species "should" be present. Waterfowl will still be hanging around in good numbers and there is a good chance of seeing Bonaparte's Gulls and a few swallow species.

If conditions are good there will be an optional side excursion to Kaiser Crossroads. The trip will include several walks on forest trails and a walk out to the lighthouse (about 2.5 km round trip).

Participants need to register in advance; registrations are still being accepted. See the website for details. There has been considerable interest in this trip so we have added a second group. Group 1 will be led by Anthony Kaduck, Group 2 by Erwin Batalla and Gaye Beckwith. Registered participants will be notified which group they will join.

Meeting Point will be at **06:00 in the Tim Horton's parking lot at 460 Gardiners Road.** This is located in the plaza at the south end of corner of Gardiners Road where it intersects with Bath Road. Participants coming from outside of town can meet at the Adolphustown ferry terminal at 07:00 am in time to catch the 07:15 am ferry.

Car-pooling is encouraged! In the pre-pandemic past it was a standard procedure to arrange car-pooling at the field trip meeting point. As both groups are now large (15+ people) and some of the sites we will visit have limited parking spaces, it would be really helpful if we could organize car-pooling. If you

are planning to travel alone or as a couple and are fully vaccinated, please consider sharing your car with another birder. If you can offer someone a seat it might be wise for all to wear masks but we will leave that decision to the driver and passengers. If you are offered a ride a donation to the driver for fuel costs would be appreciated.

Please also note:

There are **no food or beverage outlets** at or near the Point. Participants should bring lunch and drinks. If the weather is hot and sunny, you may want to bring additional water.

Ticks are active at this time of year. We will be walking on prepared trails but normal precautions should still be taken.

There are **washrooms** at the ferry terminal and outhouses at the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory.

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

Please see March newsletter or the website for details.

Friday 20 May noon to Sunday 22 May noon Spring Round-Up

Our 65th Spring Round-Up will be Friday noon to Sunday noon (20 to 22 May). Birds will be counted only within the KFN Bird Area which is a radial distance of 50 km centred on MacDonald Park, Kingston. See the KFN website for more details.

Count as many species and individuals as possible during this most exciting period of the birding year. Choose your favorite birding site within the KFN Bird Area, be it your own backyard, a local park, or migration hotspots like Prince Edward Point, Amherst Island or Wolfe Island.

Bird alone or with a group of birding buddies for as long or short period of time as you like. Bird casually, or bird intensely, or just photograph the birds you enjoy.

All are encouraged to send their sightings as soon as possible to eBird or by email to Mark Read (markread at gmail.com) to create a master list for the event, crunching the data to produce some statistics to share with everyone in the next Bluebill.

For more info how to participate or how to join a group contact Kurt Hennige (khennige at xplornet.com or 613-876-1804).

Friday 20 May 12:15 pm to 5 pm Amherst Island IBA

Leader Kurt Hennige (khennige at xplornet.com) We will meet at 12:15 pm at the Amherst Island Ferry Dock in Millhaven to take the ferry to Amherst Island. The visit will include a long walk on rough terrain along the shoreline at the Martin Edwards Reserve. Will return from the island on the 5 pm ferry. Maximum 8 participants plus leader.

Saturday 21 May 6:30 am to 12:00 pm Moscow Marsh and Camden Lake IBA

Leader Anthony Kaduck (kaduckintransit at gmail.com) We will visit the Camden Lake IBA and Moscow Marsh. These sites north of Napanee are regular breeding grounds for a wide number of interesting species including uncommon birds like the Least Bittern, Black Tern, Bobolink and Common Gallinule. The trip will involve a short walk around the marsh, observation of Camden Lake from three viewpoints, and a walk through a mature woodland. In addition to viewing the birds, participants will be able to assist in developing data for the new Ontario Breeding Birds Atlas by recording breeding evidence. The leader(s) will demonstrate how this is done. Register with Anthony Kaduck.

Saturday 18 June 8:00 am to 3:00 pm (rain date 19 June) Solitude in the Sanctuary

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

Meet at the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary where the culvert crosses Bedford Road. We will start at the headwaters of Rothwell Lake and make our way into Holleford Lake. We will hope to see a variety of species as we navigate this rarely used secluded waterway of the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary. Your kayak or canoe should have all the province's watercraft safety devices especially your PFD (Personal Floatation Device). Contact Gary Hillaby to register.

REMINDER!! Amherstview Sewage Lagoons: NEW COMBINATION LOCK

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. Please heed the directions given in last month's newsletter. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU CLIMB OVER THE GATE.** Access to this location is a privilege. ...continued ...

There is NEW padlock on the gate at the Amherstview Sewage Lagoon. Please contact Kurt for the code and the instructions on how to operate the lock. Members can get the new combination from Kurt Hennige (khennige at xplornet.com) or via the Contact Us tab on the KFN Website www.kingstonfieldnaturalists.org or from Mark Read (markread at gmail.com).

Sunday 22 May to Sunday 29 May BELLE PARK PROJECT BIOBLITZ Being organized by Belle Park Project

Curious about what's growing and living in Belle Park? Join us in the park between May 22 and 29 to find, photograph and identify plants, animals, birds, insects and fungi who call the park home. Use your cellphone and the iNaturalist app to upload your citizen scientist contributions to help create an inventory of the rich natural diversity at Belle Park. Believe it or not we can also inventory species the old fashion way! Bring hand lens, binoculars and field guides!

Join us for a group walk or go out on your own or with family or friends. Schedule for events will be posted at <https://belleparkproject.com/> in early May. If you'd like to receive email notifications please fill out the 'contact us' form: <https://belleparkproject.com/about-us>.

Merilyn Simonds Book Launch Sunday 15 May 2:00 to 4:00 pm, in person

Ms Simonds is about to release her new book *Lousie de Kiriline and the Songbirds of Pimisi Bay*. There will be a Kingston book launch:

Sunday 15 May 2:00 - 4:00 pm, in person

Short talk and reading at 3:00 pm

Coopers' Croft Barn, 1777 Middle Road, Kingston

There will be refreshments, book sales, and launch of the video: *Woman, Watching: Louise de Kiriline Lawrence & the Songbirds of Pimisi Bay*.

Coopers' Croft Barn is a newly restored 19th century barn on a 15-acre property 10 minutes from downtown Kingston, home to dozens of species of birds. The barn walls will be hung with stunning bird photographs by Richard Cooper.

For more information, email [simonds at merilynsimonds.com](mailto:simonds@merilynsimonds.com).

Conservation Committee Report

South Shore Marine Conservation Area

Nature Canada is arranging a meeting with our MP Mark Gerretsen to promote the creation of a National Marine Conservation Area in the eastern basin of Lake Ontario. Chris Hargreaves has been invited to participate in this meeting on behalf of the Kingston Field Naturalists.

Kingston Inner Harbour Remediation Plan

The various groups that made presentations last December to Parks Canada regarding the remediation plan were invited to a zoom workshop on "Kingston Inner Harbour: Weight of Evidence Approach to Risk Assessment and Risk Management Decisions". Vicki Schmolka and Chris Hargreaves attended on behalf of the KFN. The Parks Canada consultants presented the Federal/Ontario governments' joint document "*Canada-Ontario Decision-Making Framework for assessment of Great Lakes Contaminated Sediments*". This explained the process to be followed in great detail.

Proposed Development of Davis Tannery Site

- Transport Canada, one of three federal ministries involved in planning the cleanup, stated the Tannery project would have to be completed in a manner that prevents continued contamination of the adjacent harbour.
- Transport Canada has concerns with the draft landscape plan in that it does not appear to align with feedback received from the stakeholder community.
- Parks Canada has noted that the proposed remedial approach of the Tannery site includes remediation of lands and modification north of the subject property, including lands under Parks Canada's administration. As presently proposed, Parks Canada would not support the remedial approach for its lands.