



# Kingston Field Naturalists

## Summer 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.

Our next general meeting will be  
**Thursday 15 September by ZOOM**

**Samantha Cava from Nature Canada** has worked with various government, non-government and academic institutions. Her passion lies in current and emerging environmental initiatives in Canada as it relates to protected areas establishment and Indigenous-led conservation.

She will be speaking about the Nature Canada project to create a National Marine Conservation Area in the eastern part of Lake Ontario.

### Meanwhile

**Join us for our annual BioBlitz! Details on page 5 and 6 and on the website: [kingstonfieldnaturalists.org](https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org)**

Next newsletter will be sent late August.

## Kingston Field Naturalists 2022 BioBlitz

Friday 10 June 3:00 pm to Saturday 11 June 3:00 pm

At Camden East Alvar, [Fred Brown Road north of Odessa](#)

Guided walks with  
Expert Naturalists  
Children's activities  
Learn to find and identify  
Flora and Fauna and Fungi  
BBQ on Saturday  
COVID protocols  
will be followed.

Photo: Scarlet Paintbrush  
*Castilleja coccinea*  
Thanks to David McMurray

For details of activities visit [www.kingstonfieldnaturalists.org](http://www.kingstonfieldnaturalists.org) (after mid May)  
To be added to mailing list please contact Janis Grant : [janisgrant@icloud.com](mailto:janisgrant@icloud.com)  
Questions? Ask Anne ([n8ture.anne@sympatico.ca](mailto:n8ture.anne@sympatico.ca) or 613-389-6742)

Camden East Alvar is a property of the Nature Conservancy of Canada

## 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 (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742).

**Tuesday 7 June 9:00 am to 1:30 pm Property of Jeff Peters** Inverary area Bring lunch.

**Tuesday 21 June 9:00 am to 1:30 pm Property of Joanna Atherton** Sydenham Lake Bring lunch.

**Tuesday 5 July 9:00 am to 1:30 pm Cataraqi Trail with Joan and Richard Worsfold** Perth Road Village Bring lunch.

**Tuesday 16 August 9:00 am to 2:30 pm Menzel Centennial Nature Reserve** (north of Napanee) Bring lunch.

**Tuesday 6 September 9:00 am to noon Join Jane Revell** for a ramble near **Westbrook**.

## FIELD TRIPS

**Wednesdays on the Water starting Wednesday 15 June Stay Tuned!!**

Starting in June, we are hoping to hold some regular paddling outings to local areas. **Please keep an eye on the website for more information.** Depending on interest, these will take place on a weekly or biweekly basis on Wednesday mornings. Our focus will be on *anything and everything in nature*. Your kayak or canoe should have all the province's watercraft safety devices, including a personal flotation device (PFD). Leaders will be Kathy Webb and Bill Depew (contact kw2 at queensu.ca).

**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 Flotation Device). Contact Gary Hillaby to register.

**Friday 1 July 9:00 am to 1:00 pm (weather day July 2) Butterflies Are Free**

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

Our focus on this outing will be insects especially butterflies. We will start the day on the Cataraqi Trail at Maple Leaf Road and Opinicon Road. We may stop at other spots on the trail to increase the variety of species to view. To register contact Gary.

**Saturday 16 July 7:30 am to 12:00 pm Patterson Park "Walk-about"** (rain date July 17)

Leader Gary Hillaby Meet at the parking lot of Patterson Park at the southernmost end of Sunny Acres Rd in Kingston. We will walk the waterfront trail and take in what nature is offering. This outing is to familiarize members with the Invista property and see why this area is considered a prime birding location near the heart of Kingston. You should bring the usual outing accessories (bug spray, sunscreen, water/snack). Since we will cross-over into some private property you will also need your current KFN membership card. Register at fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org or call 613-547-8121.

**Saturday 13 August 8:00 am to 1:30 pm Cat On A Bike** (rain date August 14)

Leader Gary Hillaby We will meet at the parking lot at the Sydenham Library. Our convoy will head east toward Perth Road. What we see and how many stops will determine how much of the Cataraqi Trail we'll cover. Bring the usual outing accessories (bug spray, sunscreen, water/snack). Register at fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org or call 613-547-8121.

**Saturday 10 September 7:30 am to 13:00 pm Blue Mountain Fungi and Feathers** (rain date

September 11) Leader Gary Hillaby We will meet at the carpool lot at Highway 2 and 401 (Gananoque). Fungi and mushrooms will be a focus as we ascend to the summit of Blue Mountain. This edge of Charleston Provincial Park can provide great opportunities to observe nature both on the ground and in the air. We might even see the elusive Pitch Pine. Bring the usual outing accessories (bug spray, sunscreen, water/snack). Register at fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org or call 613-547-8121.

## **JUNIORS**

### **10-11 June BioBlitz**

Juniors, please join us at the Camden East Alvar to help list as many species as we can in 24 hours.

#### **Kids program:**

**Saturday 10:00 am** Bug hunt (wetland and meadow)

**Noon BBQ** (kids eat free) and Kids quiz

**1:00 pm Species hunt** How many species on the kids BioBlitz list can you see? Amanda and Sarah will help you!

Please let me know if you would like details of location and what to bring (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca) before 8th June.

See also website kingstonfieldnaturalists.org and elsewhere in this Newsletter.



**Summer Projects** Choose one of three summer projects for a prize: a project on a particular group of animals or plants, a summer nature diary, or up to three nature photos taken this year with a brief description. More details available from Anne (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca)

**Summer Nature Camp** See details under Teens, below.

## **TEENS**



### **Friday 10 to Saturday 11 June BioBlitz.**

Teens, please help us record as many species as we can in 24 hours. Come for any part of the event and learn about species of your choice at Camden East Alvar (north of Odessa). For details of location and programming please contact Anne by 8 June. No transportation provided. More information on website kingstonfieldnaturalists.org and elsewhere in this Newsletter.

**Saturday 25 June Rock Hounding trip** Information will be emailed.

### **Summer Nature Camp**

There may still be room at the Eco-Adventure Camp at Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre. For 8 to 13 year-olds and 13 to 18 year-olds. Scholarship are available: apply for KFN scholarship through Anne. Look on the website: Eco-Adventure Camp at Elbow Lake for more information. Recommended!

Nature Explorers Summer Camp at Cataraqui Conservation is sold out. You can still put your name on the waiting list.

## Club News and Updates

### Have you Renewed Your Membership?

The KFN membership year extends from 1 April to 31 March of the following year. The 2021/22 membership year recently ended and we hope that you will renew. 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.
3. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Webb by emailing [membership@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org](mailto:membership@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org)

### National Marine Conservation Area in the eastern part of Lake Ontario.

On behalf of KFN, President John Donihee contacted the local candidates in the current provincial election.

"There is a widely supported initiative under way to establish National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCAs) ...including in Eastern Lake Ontario. Although an NMCA is a federal designation, it needs the cooperation and support of the provincial government to proceed. Implementing the NMCA designation would not come at a cost to Ontario taxpayers and would help advance conservation efforts designed to protect biodiversity in the Great Lakes, while ensuring continued public benefit, education and recreational enjoyment of the Lake.

If you are elected, KFN urges you to support the Ontario government pursuing the establishment of an NMCA to protect Eastern Lake Ontario in the near future."

The four major party local candidates who received the emailed letter about the proposed National Marine Conservation Area for eastern Lake Ontario and all responded quite positively.

Our September speaker will bring us up-to-date on this project.

### Sunday 5 June\* 10:30 am Doug Fluhrer Park How to Draw Water Workshop

Prince Edward County-based ecologist Corina Brdar will lead a workshop "How to Draw Water".

<https://oceanweekcan.ca/events/nature-journaling-workshop-how-to-draw-water/>

This workshop is part of Ocean Week Canada (June 3-12) and the summer Ocean Festival. The festival aims to strengthen Canadians' connections to their local watersheds and Canada's coastline—the longest in the world— and to inspire community-based action to ensure a healthy ocean for future generations. [Check out <https://oceanweekcan.ca>]

Melissa Rombout writes: "In developing the visual arts and community engagement component of the festival, I am seeking to challenge and address a broad array of themes such as the role of the creative imaginary in the transmission of scientific knowledge; the intersection of human bodies and bodies of water; the contemplative nature of journaling as a healing practice; the ocean as an instrument of colonializing economies; the connection between the planet's "deep time" and our urgent present moment; and the recognition that water – from wetlands, streams, rivers and lakes leading to the ocean— and all the life on earth supported by it, is a more-than-human entity."

\*Apologies to newsletter print copy recipients. Notice of this event arrived just a few days before the event.

# Join us for our 24<sup>th</sup> BioBlitz at Camden East Alvar Friday 10 June 3:00 pm to Saturday 11 June 3:00 pm

This will be the Kingston Field Naturalists 24<sup>th</sup> BioBlitz in the Kingston area! We have a goal to record 1,000 species in this 24 hour period. Our BioBlitz is an inventory of as many living things as can be identified within a 24 hour period within a defined area. Specialists and experts from diverse disciplines will explore the area under investigation.

The event will take place rain or shine.

**The Site:** We are delighted that the Nature Conservancy of Canada is allowing us to hold our BioBlitz on their new property, Camden East Alvar. An alvar is a biological environment based on a limestone plain with thin or no soil. Often flooded in spring and affected by drought in midsummer, alvars support a distinctive group of prairie-like plants. This 121 ha (300 acre) property has ephemeral wetlands, a small creek, wooded areas and rocky areas with crevices in the limestone bedrock. There are a number of diverse habitats to explore!

Camden East Alvar abuts the Radio Controlled Modellers Club property. We are delighted that they will allow us to use their lane for access, and their property for parking and camping. A devastating fire in March burned their clubhouse to the ground; we will be soliciting donations for them. A donation jar will be available at registration.

**WARNING** Model planes may be flying on the property near our parking area and the ends of the runway may have radio-controlled planes taking off and landing. **Please heed signs and avoid these areas.**

**Access from Kingston:** Allow about half an hour from Kingston to the site at **1035 Fred Brown Road**.

## Directions to Camden East Alvar


Approximate GPS location of RC Modellers laneway:

N 44.3287 W 76.7877

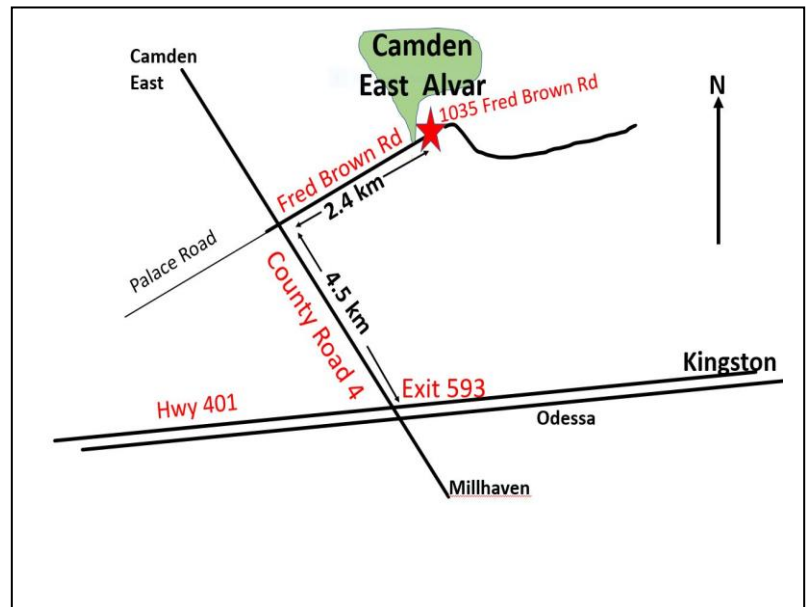
From Kingston, go west on Hwy 401 to exit 593 for County Road 4 (Camden East Road/Millhaven).

Go NORTH on County Road 4 towards Camden East for 4.5 km.

Turn right (EAST) onto Fred Brown Road. (The road to the left at this intersection is Palace Road.)

Proceed EAST for 2.4 km to  1035 Fred Brown Rd. This is the Radio-Controlled Modellers Club property where we will be parking and camping.

Camden East Alvar is the property to the west of the Radio-Controlled Modellers Club.



**Registration:** Participants should register at the

BioBlitz base site **between 2:30 pm and 9:00 pm on Friday 10 June** or **between 8:00 am and 2:00 pm on Saturday 11 June**.

**Camping:** There will be primitive camping at the RC Modellers site. Please bring your own water. No fires. Donations towards privy appreciated.

**Species observed:** For all observations, a minimum of the species name, observer, date, location observed (ideally GPS coordinates) and trail should be recorded. Applicable notes should be added. Upon registration, a tally sheet and a map of the property will be provided. A tally will also be kept at the BioBlitz base site notice board so you may look at species already recorded and note those that may yet be found. **Please let us know** if you intend to go off trail. Please also tell us if you would like to be paired with another expert for your recording.

**For this year's BioBlitz there will be two options for submitting your species observations:**

1. **Written records:** A written record with your name must be handed in for species to be included in the final tally.
2. **Digital submissions through eBird (for birds only) or iNaturalist:** In addition to your written reporting you may submit observations digitally through [eBird.ca](https://eBird.ca) (please share your checklists with the username Kingston FN), and/or with [iNaturalist.ca](https://iNaturalist.ca).

### What to bring:

- Please bring your own meals and snacks, including supper on Friday. There will be a BBQ lunch on Saturday at noon. Donations appreciated. Coffee will be available at the base site 8:00 am on Saturday. Please bring your own mug.
- Please also bring sunscreen, insect repellent, hat, and a flashlight for night activities.
- Good walking boots are advised. It has been very wet and you may wish to bring rubber boots. Wear long pants to protect against Poison Ivy, deerflies and ticks. Long boots, gaiters, and/or 30% DEET also help protect against ticks.
- Please bring your own clipboard, checklist and field guides, binoculars and magnifiers.
- Cameras and GPS units will be useful (but not required) to record rare species and species needing identification.
- A whistle for emergencies is always a good idea. Watch too for black bears.
- **There is cell phone coverage at the site.**
- Some potable water will be available at the base site; please bring your own water bottle and travel mug.
- A portable toilet will be available at the base site.

Please . . . *Plan on taking your garbage home with you.*

**NO DOGS at this event.** Please be sensitive to the fact that this is private property. Try to keep the impact to a minimum and attempt to leave things as they were found. No collecting or wildlife handling is allowed unless preauthorized (which all group leaders will be). Photographs should be used wherever possible.

**Contact: Anne:** n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca , (h) 613-389-6742, (c) 613-985-8967, or **Erwin:** simbat at bell.net or 613-389-0144

## TENTATIVE PROGRAM

*All events begin at the registration site and usually involve about a one hour walk.*

### Friday 10 June

2:30 pm	<b>Registration desk at base site open</b>	
3:00 pm	<b>Kick-off and introductions</b>	Anne Robertson, Amanda Tracey
3:00 pm	<b>Special alvar plants</b>	Amanda Tracey
4:00 pm	<b>Trail camera setup</b>	Shirley French, Thom Snowman
5:00 pm	<b>Evening birds</b>	Kathy Webb
6:00 pm	<b>Supper: Bring your own</b>	
7:00 pm	<b>Invertebrate attractants set up</b>	Rose-Marie Burke, Brooks Gee, Mary Alice Snetsinger Diane Lepage, Suzanne Deschenes
9:00 pm	<b>Base Site closes</b>	

### Saturday 11 June

6:00 am	<b>Early Birding</b>	Erwin Batalla
8:00 am	<b>Coffee available, Registration desk opens</b>	
8:00 am	<b>Invertebrates trap checks</b>	Brooks Gee, Rose-Marie Burke, Mary Alice Snetsinger
9:00 am	<b>Snakes</b>	Megan Snetsinger
10:00am-12:00	<b><u>Kids program:</u> Invertebrate hunt</b>	Amanda Tracey, Sarah Wallace
10:00 am	<b>Dragonflies and Butterflies</b>	Carol Seymour, Kurt Hennige, Peter Waycik
12 noon	<b>BBQ</b>	Gaye Beckwith, Richard Brault
12 noon	<b><u>Kids quiz</u></b>	Anne Robertson
12:30 pm	<b>Informal remarks</b>	Anne Robertson
1:00 pm	<b><u>Kids BLITZ LIST to check off</u></b>	Sarah Wallace
1:00 pm	<b>Lichens</b>	Colin Chapman-Lam
3:00 pm	<b>Close</b>	