



# Kingston Field Naturalists

## October - November 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 20 October**

### **Quinn Fletcher from University of Winnipeg will talk about Bats and the Neighbourhood Bat Watch Project**

Quinn Fletcher has been conducting research on critters ranging from beetles to bats for over 20 years. More recently has become passionate about engaging and involving the general public in his biology research. In 2015, Quinn was involved in expanding the Neighbourhood Bat Watch citizen science project ([batwatch.ca](http://batwatch.ca)) out of Quebec into Ontario and Manitoba. Currently, the project operates in five Canadian provinces and one territory.

In Quinn's presentation on 20 October he will talk about the life history of bats, the Neighbourhood Bat Watch project, citizen science in general and how you can become involved!

This will be a **ZOOM meeting** we are sharing with Friends of Frontenac Park and the Land Conservancy KFLA. **Our meeting will begin at 7:15 pm and the talk will begin at 7:30 pm.** You will receive a zoom link a few days before the meeting.



Big Brown Bat  
Photo: K. Edwards

**Our November meeting will be Thursday 17 November**

**Gerard Courtin will present**

### **From Forester to Forensic Scientist: A botanist's journey to the Dark Side**

**Gerard Courtin** is a botanist with expertise in Arctic and alpine ecology. He taught at Laurentian University and helped Sudbury restore its landscape which had been damaged by fire, logging and mining. Since retiring in 2001, Courtin embarked on a career in Forensic Science, using his knowledge of plants and soils to study trace evidence in cases of suspicious death.

### **Amherst Island Updates**

The work on the berm at **Martin Edwards Reserve** is now complete. It is safe to walk on it.

**The Owl Woods will be closed from 21 November through to 11 December.** Thank you everyone for your patience and respect to the owners of the property who have allowed us for many years to enjoy this treasure.

## Rambles, Field Trips, and other outings

Please check the website for any updates.

**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.**

**RAMBLES** take place every first and third Tuesday. 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@sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742).

**Tuesday 18 October 9:00 am to 1:00 pm K and P Trail south from Verona**

Bring lunch.

**Tuesday 1 November 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Queen's University Biological Station**

Bring lunch.

**Tuesday 15 November 9:30 am to noon Invista shoreline** Bring a snack.

## FIELD TRIPS

**Tuesday 18 October to Thursday 20 October Moose Prowl in Algonquin Park**

Leader Gary Hillaby We will have a carpooling spot in Kingston but we will "convoy up" in Bancroft to make our way into the park. We will be in the park dawn till dusk for the days we are there trying to see moose and anything else the park is offering. Contact Gary Hillaby for more details (fieldtrips at [kingstonfieldnaturalists.org](http://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org) or 613-547-8121).

**Friday 4 November noon to Sunday 6 November noon Fall RoundUp**

Fall is in the air and that can only mean one thing: it's time once again for the KFN's Fall RoundUp. Members are encouraged to get birding between the allotted times and submit their birding reports on eBird. The reports will be compiled by Erwin Batalla and a summary will appear in the Blue Bill.

**Saturday 5 November 7:45 am to ~ 1:00 pm Birding Sydenham and Area**

Leader: Gaye Beckwith Meet at the Sydenham Public Library at 7:45 am. Our convoy may break into smaller groups to cover more area. This outing has multiple stops and will be limited to 12 participants. To register, contact Gary (fieldtrips at [kingstonfieldnaturalists.org](http://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org) or 613-547-8121).

**Saturday 26 November 7:00 am to 4:00 pm Snow Geese and Fromage**

(rain date 27 November) Leader Gary Hillaby Our targeted waterfowl is the Snow Goose on this annual field trip. We will be starting our search in the Kemptville area this year and working our way east to Lancaster and the Glengarry Cheese Company. We will meet and "carpool up" at the carpool parking lot at Highway 15 and 401 at 7:00 am. To register contact Gary (fieldtrips at [kingstonfieldnaturalists.org](http://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org) or 613-547-8121).

The Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington would like to remind birders that **Salmon and Snake Islands** are privately-owned nature reserves. They have been (and are) the subject of a unique, decades-long research effort by the Canadian Wildlife Service, and are not open to the public. Please stay in your watercraft and do not trespass on the islands should you choose to birdwatch in the area.

## JUNIORS

### Indoor meetings

6:30 to 8:00 pm at Centennial Public School,  
Norman Rogers Drive

**Thursday 27 October** Ants

**Thursday 24 November** Tricky Tree Keys



Summer Projects are due 27 October.

### Field Trips

Please register, to ensure detailed directions, by the Thursday before the trip with Anne (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742). If you need to cancel, please email before 8:00 on the day of the trip.

**Saturday 22 October 9:00am to 2:00pm Rock Hounding near Verona**

Bring lunch and gloves and a strong shopping bag. Dress warmly with good boots or shoes.

**Saturday 26 November 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre** trails. Focus on Habitats. Bring lunch. Dress warmly.

## TEENS



Please register with Anne (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742) by the Thursday before the trip to receive detailed directions

**Saturday 15 October 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Spectacular Seeds** hike at Robertson Cottage

**Saturday 12 November 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Taxonomy Hunt** at Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre

**Saturday 10 December Christmas Bird Count**

## Club News and Updates

**Welcome to new members:** Richard Cooper & family, Patricia Trefry, Susan Chamberlain, Lloyd Holmes, Mohit Bassan, Glen Parsneau, Paul Preston, Susan Warwick, Andrew Moses, Karen Becker, and Sheila Johnston & family.

**THANKS TO long-time executive member Erwin Batalla!** Erwin looks after our three nature reserves: among other things, he liaises with Ducks Unlimited and the drover at Martin Edwards Reserve, arranges fencing at Sylvester-Gallagher Reserve, and tackles invasive species and signage repairs at Helen Quilliam Sanctuary. He also does the paper work of making sure our taxes are paid and our Managed Forest Plan is updated. Thank you, Erwin!!

**KFN CRESTS** Crests featuring the KFN logo are available for purchase. These crests have an iron-on backing. Crests can be purchased from ramble or trip leaders for \$2 or through the website (<https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/membership/>) for \$3 by PayPal. Be sure to include your shipping address with your online order.

**If you have any suggestions for speakers for our general meetings, please contact Ken Edwards (rkfe at queensu.ca)**

### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

A KFN member has 23 **nest boxes** located along the riverwalk public path known as Butternut Creek. He would like assistance in maintaining them. If you are interested, please email Gary ([fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org](mailto:fieldtrips@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org)) for the contact information of this member.

**Shirley French, our Education Chair**, will be offering the **Wildlife by the Season** course, once again. Registration at the **Seniors Centre** opens on 1 November. We will investigate natural history and some of the compelling research on wildlife topics. Starting with migration in butterflies and birds, we will then look at mammals, turtles, and other critters that stay here in winter, on land and in the water. Hands-on materials will be available from Anne Robertson's KFN collection. Short video clips will also be shown at the end of class to demonstrate aspects of animals' everyday lives in different seasons. The course will be 10 sessions on Fridays 12:00 to 1:00 pm, from Friday 25 November to Friday 10 February 2023. Details in the Senior Centre program guide: [www.seniorskingston.ca](http://www.seniorskingston.ca).

The Museum of Lennox & Addington is showing a photographic exhibition **Owls of Amherst Island and other Canadian Wildlife**. The exhibit opening is Tuesday 18 October at 7:00 pm. Check out the Museum's website for details and information about other exhibits <https://countymuseum.ca/>

The **Friends of the Salmon River** are holding their AGM on 16 November at 6:30 pm in Roblin. Their program features a video of a flyover of the Salmon River from Kennebec Lake to the Bay of Quinte at Shannonville. For details see <https://www.friendsofsalmonriver.ca/>

**Kingston Climate Action Champions** The City of Kingston is inviting residents and organizations to apply to become [Neighbourhood Climate Action Champions](#). Champions will help inspire local climate action by engaging their neighbours in discussions about climate change and leading innovative neighbourhood-focused climate action projects. Champions will be eligible to receive up to \$2,000 to support their project. More information and an application form can be found by clicking on the link above. Applications close 26 October

## **Gerard Courtin will be our November speaker**

Trained first as a forester and then as a botanist with expertise in Arctic and alpine ecology, Courtin found himself on staff at Laurentian University in the fall of 1968. His mandate, over and above teaching courses in botany and environmental biology, was to continue his research on how tundra plants are adapted to combat environmental stress in the High Arctic and to help lead the charge in Sudbury with respect to the restoration of a landscape that had been variously damaged by fire, logging and mining. Over the years his attention became shared gradually between the study of the stresses imposed by the natural environment and those imposed by human activity.

In addition to his duties as teacher and researcher at his parent institution, serendipity has had a large hand in how Courtin has spent his academic years. Because of chance meetings with scientists at other institutions he spent more than twenty years teaching intensive field courses in the United States; Winter Ecology at the Center for Northern Studies in Vermont and Coastal Ecology and Bioclimatology at Cornell University's Shoals Marine Laboratory off the coast of Maine.

Courtin has led a privileged life; his work has enabled him to travel widely in the northern hemisphere and a diverse academic background has been pivotal to the areas of research that he has chosen to pursue. He has been surrounded by students with passion, and enthusiasm for the natural environment. He insists that it is they who have been the driving force behind the passion with which he has approached his teaching. In 2001 he was honoured to receive teaching wards both from Laurentian University and from the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations.

In semi-retirement since 2001, as Professor Emeritus, Courtin embarked on a second career in Forensic Science using his knowledge of plants and soils, especially in Ontario, to study trace evidence in cases of suspicious death. As a result he is recognized as an expert witness in matters dealing with botany and ecology by the Supreme Court of Ontario.

## **News from Chris Hargreaves, KFN Conservation Committee Chair**

### **UPDATE: SOUTH SHORE NATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION AREA**

On September 13th, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada, Steven Guilbeault, initiated a feasibility assessment, alongside the provincial government, as the first step in establishing National Marine Conservation Areas in the Great Lakes, starting with Lake Ontario.

### **KINGSTON INNER HARBOUR REMEDIATION PLAN : PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS EXTENDED TO 30 OCTOBER**

There is a lot of information on the KIH project website at <http://www.kihproject-projetpik.ca/Home/IndexEN>

A guide to the contents can be viewed at <http://www.kihproject-projetpik.ca/Home/QuestionsAnswersEN>

They include:

- An introductory Virtual Information Session video which lasts 22 minutes
- five supplementary videos totaling 34 minutes
- a recording of a *Weight Of Evidence Approach For Risk Assessment Of Contaminants* workshop that lasts 1 hour 25 minutes.
- "Questions and Answers" on many different issues.

However, the website:

- talks a lot about risks, but not about actual problems.
- says that dredged sediments will be dewatered and trucked to a landfill, but "details will be developed further during the detailed design phase". No information is given about the risks involved in dewatering, trucking and dumping the contaminated sediments. I think these "details" should have been considered before the project got to its current stage.
- doesn't say how much the project might cost.

I am also concerned that the website gives no indication as to how long it would take for the harbour to recover to its current level of ecological vitality after the proposed remediation work, before then entering what is considered to be a better state.

**Everyone is encouraged to review the material on the website, reach your own opinions, and submit comments by October 30<sup>th</sup>.**