



Kingston Field Naturalists

January – February 2023

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 first meeting of 2023 will be Thursday 19 January Jennifer Doubt from the Canadian Museum of Nature will present

Meet the mosses and liverworts (a warm welcome to Bryology!)

Jennifer Doubt, originally from Deep River, Ontario, has collected and documented mosses and liverworts for over 25 years. Along with the other fun, dedicated staff, students and volunteers that make up the Canadian Museum of Nature Botany team, she cares for a busy, growing archive of over one million preserved plants and lichens, and shares the collection far and wide for research and education.

She will introduce us to those plants that we all see everywhere but struggle to identify.

Apologies to all who were looking forward to an in-person meeting. Since the speaker is from out-of-town **this will be a Zoom meeting**. The Zoom link will open at 7:00 pm; the meeting will begin at 7:30 pm. You can join our monthly meetings by telephone. Contact Janet Elliott (613-547-2674) before the meeting to obtain the Meeting ID and Passcode.

GOOD NEWS! We have the large meeting room at Ongwanada (on Portsmouth Ave) booked for 16 February, 16 March and 20 April. These will be hybrid meetings. You will be able to come in person, connect via Zoom, or listen by telephone.



Pincushion Moss
(*Leucobryum glaucum*)
Photo J. Elliott

On Thursday 16 February we will have a presentation by **Cristiana Zaccagnino and Jan-Mathieu (Mat) Carbon** ***Birds in the Ancient Greek world: why and how should Classicists study them?***

Both Mat Carbon and Cristiana Zaccagnino are faculty members in the Department of Classics at Queen's University. Dr. Carbon teaches history of Greece and the ancient Near East; his research interests include the interpretation of ancient inscriptions. Dr Zaccagnino is a Greek archaeologist and art historian; she studies Italian culture and literature, and the classical tradition in Italian culture.

Birds are important today, especially to birders! Greece 2,500 years ago would have included many more birds than our world does today. Drs Carbon and Zaccagnino will explain to us how important birds were in the ancient Greek world.

Rambles, Field Trips, and other outings

Please check the website for any updates.

Be prepared for ticks if the temperature is above freezing!

RAMBLES take place every first and third Tuesday. Rambles are slow walks to notice nature in all its forms. Dress very warmly for slow moving in winter conditions. Please be prepared for icy conditions. Boot grippers and hiking poles encouraged.

For detailed directions please register by the Sunday before the trip with Anne (nature.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742).

Tuesday 17 January 9:30 am to 11:30 am K&P Trail east from Sydenham Road

Tuesday 7 February 9:30 to 11:30 Inner Harbour from River Road

Tuesday 21 February 9:30 to 11:30 am Rideau Trail north from Bath Road
at Queen Mary Road

FIELD TRIPS

Monday 20 February (Family Day) 9:15 am to about 12:30 Snowy Owls on Amherst Island

Leader Erwin Batalla Amherst Island is a great place to see Snowy Owls, and some of these majestic birds have been seen already this winter. As with any natural wildlife viewing, owl sightings are not guaranteed. However, volunteers are busy scouting the area and hopefully the owls they have located will make an appearance for our group. There is a \$10 fee for a return trip to the island and car pooling is recommended. Please email or phone the trip leader to register (simbat at bell.net or 613-389-0144). Meeting location will be disclosed upon trip registration.

Friday to Sunday 24 to 26 February Algonquin Park for Winter Birds

Leader Anthony Kaduck This annual field trip will take us to Algonquin Provincial Park to look for winter finches and other exotic bird species. We will depart from Kingston on Friday morning (24th) and will be staying overnight at motels in Whitney. The trip will involve several hikes of 1-2 km along trails that may be rough and icy and/or snow-packed. Meals will be at restaurants. Contact Anthony Kaduck at kaduckintransit at gmail.com for further information.

Saturday 13 May to Friday 19 May 2023 Southwestern Ontario Field Trip

Leader: John Licharson We will be heading back to Western Ontario, May 13-19, 2023, to bird Point Pelee National Park, Rondeau (and other) Provincial Park(s), Hillman Marsh, Blenheim and Tilbury Lagoons and the Lake Saint Clair area as well as any other spots to which a twitch may become desirable. The group will be limited to eight participants. **One spot left!** Contact John Licharson (jlicharson at tlaacanada.com or 613-386-7720).

JUNIORS

Indoor meetings

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

Thursday 26 January Winter Ecology

Thursday 23 February Microbes in the Environment



Field Trips

Please sign up with Anne by the Thursday before the trip ([n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca](mailto:n8ture.anne@sympatico.ca) or 613-389-6742). If you need to cancel, please email before 8:00 am on the day of the trip.

Saturday 28 January 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Depot Creek Nature Reserve (near Verona) Focus on trees. Bring lunch and a snack. Dress very warmly with good boots. Please register by 26 January with Anne.

Saturday 25 February 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Robertson Cottage Animal Tracks and Signs. Bring lunch and a snack. Dress very warmly with good boots. Please register by 23 February with Anne.

TEENS

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



Saturday 14 January 9:00 am to 1:00 pm KFN Bird Collections Bird ID workshop. Indoor meeting at Seniors Centre, 56 Francis Street.

Saturday 11 February. 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Wood Duck nest box cleanout at Helen Quilliam Sanctuary.

Club News and Updates

Welcome to new members: Victor Kennedy, Katharine Saunders, Bruce Tufts & family, Ginger Long, Priya and Pallav Garg.

Thank you to the presenters at the December meeting:

Richard Cooper: Moose Prowl, Algonquin Park

Bruce Elliott: Dance of the Planets Over Kingston and Frontenac County

Daphne Christie: Leucistic Goldfinch

David McMurray: Small Wonders - Small Flowers and Plants with Small Flowers

Gary Hillaby: Nassau, Bahamas: Various Birds Seen on a Trip

Kathy Webb: Gananoque Provincial Wildlife Area, the "Old Pheasant Range"

Helmer Wilson: Nature Photos

Bill Depew: Pyramid Mountain Camp, George River at Kuujjwag Quebec, Scenery and Nature Photos

Rebecca Spaulding: Various Nature Photos

Sam Cheng: A Variety of Birds in Kingston

Ken Edwards: A Variety of Photos from Grand Manan

And a big thank you to Erwin Batalla for organizing the presentations.

The Blue Bill is the quarterly publication of the Kingston Field Naturalists. Peter Waycik, The Blue Bill editor, is looking for articles and reports of topics of interest to KFN members. If you have an article, or an idea for an article, please contact Peter (editor at thebluebill.ca).

Crows Roosting in Kingston Steve Manders has been observing a large roost of American Crows on the old Alcan site (north of Princess Street, east of Sir John A Macdonald Blvd). He has recorded more than 1000 crows congregating at dusk and dispersing at dawn from this location. The birds do not always gather there: some nights, none are there. Anybody interested in tracking down these corvids or in passing along other observations of crows can get in touch with Steve at [manderssteve at yahoo.com](mailto:manderssteve@yahoo.com).

KFN CRESTS Crests featuring the KFN logo are available for purchase. These crests are about 8 cm in diameter and have an iron-on backing which makes them easy to apply to a hat, backpack or jacket. Crests can be purchased from ramble or trip leaders for \$2 or through the website (<https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/membership/>) for \$3 (to cover costs of mailing and PayPal). Be sure to include your shipping address with your online order.

Kingston Field Naturalists on iNaturalist

iNaturalist.ca is a great place to post your nature observation photos and browse what others have posted. The Kingston Field Naturalists has established several projects to collect observations made in our study area -- a 50 km radius circle centered on the peak of Murney Tower. These projects were established to collect observations of specific taxa (birds, butterflies, moths, Odonata) and observations made at the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary. To view all the projects, visit <https://inaturalist.ca/projects/kingston-field-naturalists-projects>.

You are encouraged to join the projects that interest you to receive updates about new observations and information posted about the projects. You don't have to do anything special to add your observations as they are added automatically as long as they meet the criteria for the project.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Ontario Nature hosts webinars on a variety of topics. See their upcoming webinars and other events: <https://ontarionature.org/events/> A YouTube channel with recordings of past webinars is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ONNature>

A DARK SKY PRESERVE IN PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY?

Wednesday January 18 at 7 pm the South Shore Joint Initiative will host a webinar:

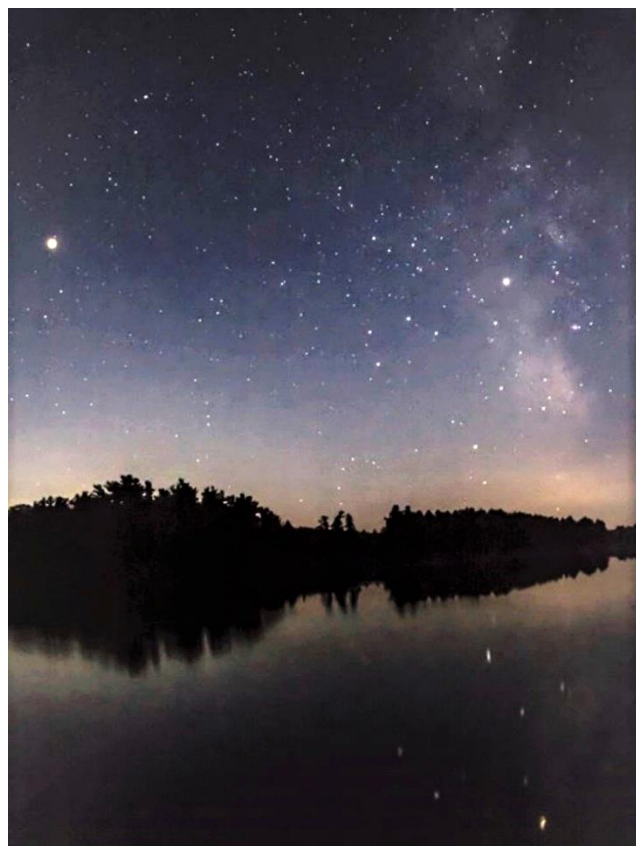
Imagining a South Shore Dark Sky Preserve with Steve Burr from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

What is the benefit to humankind of seeing the night sky? How have our cities and industries prevented our view of the stars? Why do some people not even know about the stars? How can we address this unfortunate circumstance?

Through a short video and power point presentation Steve will tell us about International Night Sky Preserves and the possibility of establishing one on the South Shore.

The webinar is open to all. For more information and/or to register go to

https://www.ssji.ca/dark_sky?recruiter_id=72



Night sky at Desert Lake photo B. Elliott

Kingston Climate Change Symposium 2023

takes place **Thursday 19 January 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**. This is an on-line event; registration is free. Speakers include former Minister of the Environment and Climate Change The Hon. Catherine McKenna, FoodShare Toronto and anti-poverty expert Paul Taylor. Broadcaster Ali Hassan is the host. For more information and registration, go to

<https://www.sustainablekingston.com/2023-climate-change-symposium#>

Sydenham Snow Social happens Saturday 21 January in Sydenham village.

KFN member Gaye Beckwith will be leading a bird walk at the event, starting at 10:30 am from the Sydenham Library. Check out the KFN Facebook page or see

<https://www.southfrontenac.net/> for more information.

LC-KFLA will present Birds of Winter: Raptors on Sunday 29 January 4:00 pm

Dale Kristensen will provide a brief exploration of the remarkable diversity of raptors found in our region followed by a photo sharing session. Non-members are welcome. See

<https://www.landconservancykfla.org/> for more information. Registration is required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/502618895647>