



Kingston Field Naturalists

February - March 2024



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.**

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 of 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.

You will be able to attend this meeting in person!! Our speakers will be present in person in the large meeting room at **Ongwanada Resource Centre, Portsmouth Ave,** Kingston. A Zoom link will also be sent to all members.

Our meeting will include a **book sale** of natural history books. Prices will be "pay what you can"; please bring your toonies and small bills! **KFN crests and memberships** will be available for purchase.

On Thursday 16 March former KFN president Anthony Kaduck will present **South Atlantic Odyssey**

Anthony will give a presentation on his recent expedition cruise to Tierra del Fuego, The Falkland Islands, the remote wildlife paradise of South Georgia, and (almost) Antarctica. Trigger warning: lots of penguin photos!



Mourning Dove
Photo P. Waycik

Membership Renewal Time is March 31st

The KFN membership year extends from April 1 to March 31 of the following year so 2022/23 memberships will soon be expiring. **If you are a new member since December 1, 2022 your membership is good until March 31, 2024.** If you are a previous member and have recently renewed, thank you. If you are a Life Member, you need never have to worry!

To renew your membership, please see page 4 OR purchase your membership at one of our in-person meetings.

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. Bring a snack or lunch and a drink. For detailed directions please register by the Sunday before the trip with Anne (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742).

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

Tuesday 7 March 9:00 am to 1:30 pm Landon Bay, Thousand Islands National Park

Tuesday 21 March 9:30 am (ferry) to 1:00 pm (ferry) Sand Beach Wetlands
Conservation Area **Amherst Island**

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. The price of motel accommodation in Whitney has increased significantly over last year. If you wish to avoid paying these rates and are up for a long day, you can arrange to meet us in the park on Saturday morning. Contact Anthony Kaduck (kaduckintransit at gmail.com) for further information.

Saturday 4 March 7:30 am to 4:00 pm Presqu'ile Waterfowl Outing (weather day 5

March) Leader Gary Hillaby We will be meeting at our Kingston carpool location, the Invista Sport Complex, and leaving for Brighton at 7:30 am. We plan to be at Presqu'ile Provincial Park gate at 9:00 am. We will see what birds are available at the park and also check out what's happening at Weller's Bay. Participants should register at fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org

Tuesday 18 April 7:00 am to 5:00 pm Derby Hill Bird Observatory, Oswego County, New York, USA

Leader Gary Hillaby Welcome to the world of international birding. We will be traveling to the Derby Hill Bird Observatory in Oswego County, New York to look for returning birds. Derby Hill is an area that experiences high concentrations of birds especially migrating raptors. Derby Hill is located on the corner of Lake Ontario and is a major junction for birds not wanting to fly over the lake. Deadline to register is Monday 3 April. You will require a valid Canadian passport. We will carpool from the carpool lot at Highways 15 and 401. The field trip will finish in Oswego County. More details will be given to participants. Register at fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org

SAVE THE DATE for our **2023 BioBlitz**: Friday 9 June to Saturday 10 June

A BioBlitz is a fun 24-hour count of all the species in an defined area.

Details coming...

JUNIORS

Indoor meetings

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

Thursday 23 February Winter Ecology. This topic will be presented as it was cancelled in January.

Thursday 23 March Microbes in the Environment



Field Trips

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

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.

Saturday 25 March Landon Bay, Thousand Islands National Park

Summer Camps

The KFN has a Stirrett Scholarship for a Summer Day Camp. Please ask Anne for more information.

Cataraqui Conservation hosts Nature Explorers Summer Camp for 6 to 10 year-olds. \$225 per week. See website: Nature Explorers Summer Camp

Sign up on the website for the *Cataraqui Conservation news* to get earliest booking date (mid- March). Camps fill up very quickly (in just 7 minutes, last year!!!)

Website is <https://cataraquiconservation.ca/> scroll to the bottom of the page to subscribe to their newsletter.

Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre hosts Eco-Adventure Camp for 8 to 13 year-olds and LIT for 13 to 18 year-olds. \$270 per week. See website: ELEEC Camp

TEENS

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

Summer Camp: Please see above for LIT camp for 13 to 18 year-olds at ELEEC.

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

Saturday 11 March Landon Bay, Thousand Islands National Park



Club News and Updates

Welcome to new members: Christina Brinza, Amber Doyle, Byron Sheldrick, Cynthia Wright, Dave and Martha Cochrane, Lucie Germain, Alan McLeod & family, Douglas McBride & family, Derek Hollingshead & family, Linda Dishy & family, Dianne Deveau & family, Rick Szabo, Todd Scheuermann, Sandra Hannah, Scott Gilbert, Helen Jeronimus.

Thank you to Shirley French, our Education Chairperson. Shirley has been spreading the word about nature and Kingston Field Naturalist activities to all age groups in a variety of places. Among other venues, she has met Queen's students at their Biology Colloquium, public and high school students at Science Fairs and the Elbow Lake Eco-Adventure Camp, teens at the Lakeshore Community Garden, and the general public at the Fall Agricultural Fair and the Lakes and Trails Festival in Sydenham. And she has given two courses at the Seniors Centre "Wildlife by the Seasons". Thank you, Shirley!

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

1. Join or renew online using the website:
<https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/membership/>. 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 downloaded from the website or a note containing your membership information along with a cheque payable to: Kingston Field Naturalists, PO Box 831, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4X6.

If you have any questions or if you have decided not to renew your membership and want to avoid receiving further renewal notices, please email Kathy Webb, Membership Secretary, at membership@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org.

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>

National Trust for Canada is sponsoring a competition

South Shore Joint Initiative in Picton is restoring the **Hudgin Log House** near Milton. Their project is to make the House a hub for cultural and natural heritage studies, biodiversity education, and public events. Their project is one of ten nominated to win a \$50,000 grant in the "Next Great Save" competition hosted by National Trust for Canada. You can find details of their restoration and how to vote in this competition here:
<https://nationaltrustcanada.ca/what-you-can-do/nextgreatsave/competition2022>

Media Release from No Clear Cuts Kingston

Several Kingston groups have voiced their support for No Clearcut Kingston's recent request for a federal Impact Assessment regarding the risks placed by the proposed Tannery development on local areas of federal responsibility.

"As No Clearcuts pointed out in its request for the Impact Assessment, the Tannery site is right beside the Rideau/Catarauqui River," said Jeremy Milloy, River First YGK. "This is a National Historic Site of Canada, a National Historic Park, and a Canadian Heritage River, and is inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The federal government should be examining the Tannery proposal's impact on federal waterways, water lots, and federally protected species."

The groups also endorsed No Clearcuts' concerns about the developer's plans to cut down 1800 trees and dig up and export 400,000 tons of earth. They agree that the development proposal needs to be assessed under federal legislation, including the Fisheries Act, the Species at Risk Act, and the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

Also, because the development could bring up to 5000 people onto the site just across from Belle Island, a sacred Indigenous place, they believe that it is up to the federal government to intervene to protect Indigenous physical and cultural heritage, and human rights.

"We agree with No Clearcuts and feel it is essential for the federal government to assess the risks of the development proposal to the river, including its impact on the federal Inner Harbour clean-up project" said Mary Farrar, Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour.

"A growing Rights of Nature movement recognizes that ecosystems, including rivers and forests, aren't merely property that can be owned," said Joyce Hostyn, Little Forests Kingston. "Rather, they are entities that have an independent and inalienable right to exist and flourish. With governments around the world beginning to recognize the Rights of Nature, we call on the Federal Government to do the same."

"We really appreciate having so much support for our Impact Assessment request," said Kerry Hill, No Clearcuts Kingston. "It shows how much solidarity there is around the issue of saving nature in Kingston, especially as the climate crisis gets worse."

No Clearcuts copied its Impact Assessment request letter to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and Canadian Coast Guard, the Minister of Transport, Mark Gerretsen MP, Chief Dave Mowat (Alderville First Nation), Chief Donald Maracle (Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte) and John Bolognone, City Clerk.

The groups supporting the request are:

Building Kingston's Future
Friends of the Kingston Inner Harbour
Kingston Field Naturalists
Little Forests Kingston
River First YGK
Seniors for Climate Action Now (SCAN)
350 Kingston

For more information, please contact:

Jeremy Milloy - 416-740-0444 ext. 6
Mary Farrar - 613-544-1246
Joyce Hostyn - 613-893-4107
Kerry Hill - 613-542-3956

KFN members will have received an email telling how to make a submission to the Ontario Land Tribunal hearing about the Tannery development. We recognize that this is a controversial topic; it is important for all voices to be heard. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

The hearing will be conducted under new guidelines introduced by the Ontario government last Fall, and there is confusion as to whether copies of comments on Participant Forms need to be sent to the lawyers involved as well as the Tribunal. If somebody has submitted a comment or is going to do so, it would be prudent to also send a copy to the lawyers for Patry (Aburto, Roberto <Roberto.Aburto@gowlingwlq.com>; Chen, Jessica <Jessica.Chen@gowlingwlq.com>) and for the City: Tony Fleming <tfleming@cswan.com>; Morley, Jenna <jmorley@cityofkingston.ca>.