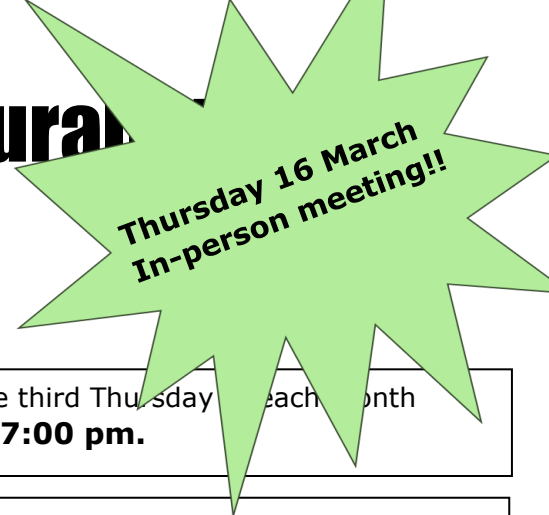




# Kingston Field Naturalists

## March – April 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.**

### 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 more penguins!

**You will be able to attend this meeting in person!!** Anthony will be present 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 also be available for purchase.

### Thursday 20 April will be our Annual General Meeting

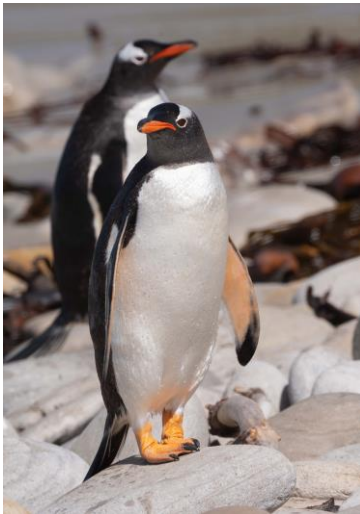
We will have a short report of our activities in the past year, a review of the budget, and a vote by the membership on a slate of candidates for the 2023/2024 Executive. When the work is done, we will have short presentations from members of the executive.

### Our May Dinner Meeting is Back!

We will get together for dinner on **Thursday 18 May** at the Royal Kingston Curling Club, corner of Days and Front Roads. Our speaker for the evening will be Dr. Jeff Bowman, a research scientist with Ontario MNR and an adjunct professor at Trent University. Dr. Bowman will be talking about Muskrats and Wetlands.

Dinner choice will be chicken or vegetarian, tickets will be \$50 per person. You can purchase your tickets at the general meetings in March or April, or by contacting Polly Aiken (pollyaiken13 at gmail.com or 343-363-1342). There will be a cash bar.

The sale of used natural history books and paraphernalia will also return. If you have something to donate for the sale, please hold off a little bit longer, until after mid April, and please limit your donation to 12 items. Check next month’s newsletter for how and where to donate.



Penguins!  
Photo A. Kaduck

### Membership Renewal Time is 31 March

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

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

**Tuesday 4 April 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Milton Cemetery and river front trail**

**Tuesday 18 April 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Helen Quilliam Sanctuary Greenwood  
track spring wildflower walk**

## **FIELD TRIPS**

**A message to all Kingston Field Naturalists members.** Your Field Trip Coordinator needs your help. I'm looking for leaders to assist in the seasonal field trip operations. It's time to get off your "couches" and get involved in the organization we all love. My immediate need is for people to lead the May Nature Walks at Lemoine. The walks run every Wednesday early morning and early evening in the month of May. I'm also looking for leaders for future field trips that could suggest an outing and/or be assigned an event. A leader of an event does not have to be an expert so all I'm really looking for are members who care about nature and the KFN. The KFN organization does not run itself and relies on the help of its members. Members who have not yet been involved in volunteering are encouraged to do so. Please contact Gary ([fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org](mailto:fieldtrips@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org) or 613-547-8121).

**Tuesday 18 April 7:00 am to 5:00 pm Derby Hill Bird Observatory, Oswego County, New York, U.S.A** 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 Highway 15 and the 401. The field trip will finish in Oswego County. More details will be given to participants. Register at [fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org](mailto:fieldtrips@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org)

**Saturday 22 April 9:30 am to noon Helen Quilliam Sanctuary Clean-up  
COME CELEBRATE EARTH DAY!!**

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 Batalla (613-389-0144 or [simbat at bell.net](mailto:simbat@bell.net)) if you plan to come.

**Friday to Saturday 9 to 10 June 2023 Our BioBlitz** will take place on the **Milburn Creek** property of the Nature Conservancy Canada at Battersea. This event is a count of all species that may be observed in 24 hours. This is a fun event for everyone with guided walks and a BBQ.

**Topsy Farms on Amherst Island** welcomes visitors. Check out their website (<https://www.topsyfarms.com/>) to see details of their workshops, special events and activities for children. They are offering a Grafting Fruit Tree workshop on 25 March. Note that Topsy Farms offers a 2 km groomed trail on their property; they ask that visitors check in at the Wool Shed and make a \$5 per person donation for trail upkeep.

# JUNIORS

## Indoor meetings

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



**Thursday 23 March Winter Ecology** Due to a second "snow day" cancellation we will try for a "third time lucky" with this topic.

**Thursday 27 April Invasive Species**

## 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) for more details and directions. If you need to cancel, please email before 8:00 am on the day of the trip.

**Saturday 25 March 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Landon Bay, Thousand Islands National Park**

**Saturday 22 April 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Helen Quilliam Sanctuary Cleanup and wild flower walk**

## 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](mailto:n8ture.anne@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 March Landon Bay,** Thousand Islands National Park

**Friday 14 April evening Marsh Monitoring** with Kathy Webb and Bill Depew



## Club News and Updates

**Welcome to new members:** Caroline Liptay & family, Peter Fraser, Corey McSween, Damien Carey & family, Elizabeth Boehm-Wilson, Linda and Liah Braun, Chantal and Stephen Smith, John Linn, Karen Siltanen, Ravichandiranesan Ponnudurai and Sivapalan Ananthamoorthy, Tara Lumax, Sabrina Cheng, Danielle Goodvin, Roger Beech, Corey Larocque, Janet and Hank-John Reinink, Jim Demers & family, Laurie Sylvester, Patricia Swerhone, Sophie Turner & family, Janice Sommerville & family, Emma Robinson & Ken Murray, Sleiman Shakkour, Stu Hall and Sara Thompson-Hall, Nicole Deschesne and Tracy Wondrasek, Katherine Newton, Karen Dyer & family, Mark Day and Lori Martel, Christopher Boot, Dominique Chung.

**Thank you to Polly Aiken** who manages KFN's Facebook account. Especially during COVID closures, Facebook has been an important part of the glue that keeps KFN together. And now Polly is busy organizing our May dinner meeting. THANK YOU POLLY!

**The Nominating Committee** is currently calling for nominations to the 2023/2024 (May to May) KFN executive. The position of Vice President has been vacant for the past year; in order for our organization to thrive and grow it is essential that this position be filled. Candidate suggestions and expressions of interest are welcomed by Ken Edwards (rkfepajaro at me.com), Anthony Kaduck (kaduckintransit at gmail.com), and Gaye Beckwith (beckwithb at sympatico.ca).

**Rewrite of the Constitution** Executive members are currently revising our bylaws to be in compliance with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. These changes will be presented to the membership at a General Meeting for approval at a subsequent General Meeting. There will be an opportunity to discuss proposed changes before the new bylaws are adopted.

### Membership Renewal Time is 31 March

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 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.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 at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org.

### A request received from Mike Street:

I have been a hawkwatcher at the Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch since 1990. On moving to Kanata I had a project in mind, specifically to try to find out where the spring raptors go once they leave the Derby Hill, NY hawkwatch. Derby Hill sees up to 100,000 raptors each spring and all, or most, are coming to Canada! My idea was to see if their route, once they cross the border, could be determined. COVID killed the plan for the first three years, but I'd like to see what I can find this year. I'm wondering if any KFN members have seen evidence of the flight line and could guide me as to the best location(s) from which to look for the birds.

From the flight data from Derby Hill it looks as if the Turkey Vulture flight will be starting the week of 13 March. Because of their size and because they often travel in large groups, TVs may be the best bet for finding the flight path. **If anybody can provide information, please send it to Mike Street at mikestreet1 at gmail.com** Chris Hargreaves would like to be informed too.

## **Nature on the Hill**

The KFN has been invited to help with Nature Canada's annual lobbying of parliamentarians. The aim is to hold Members of Parliament and Ministers accountable for commitments made during the United Nations 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) in Montréal this past December.

According to Nature Canada: *From March 7th - 9th we'll be coming together as a strong voice for nature in meetings with elected officials. On the evening of March 7th, we'll hold an orientation session to ensure that you will have all the tools you need to succeed in lobbying for nature. Then, on March 8th and 9th, you will hold meetings with MPs. Finally, all of our efforts will culminate with a celebratory reception on the evening of March 9th.*

Christine Hough will be going to Ottawa to represent the Kingston Field Naturalists.

## **NEXT STEP REGARDING THE TANNERY LANDS**

### **Note from Chris Hargreaves, Conservation Committee Chair**

I think it's great that the Ontario Land Tribunal gave No Clearcuts Kingston "Party status" to participate in the hearings on the developer's appeal against Kingston City Council's rejection of their proposal to develop the Tannery lands! This will enable No Clearcuts Kingston to raise environmental concerns about the project -- including stormwater flow and runoff of contaminated sediments into the Cataraqui River -- that the Planning Department has been treating as engineering problems to be sorted out after planning permission was given.

Another case management conference has been scheduled for April 5th, but the actual hearing will probably not start until February 2024, and may then take a month.

## **Winter is almost over!**

## **Soon we will all want to be out and about looking for signs of spring.**

## **Please respect private property!**

In the province of Ontario, notice of no trespassing can be given

- (a) orally or in writing;
- (b) by means of **signs posted** so that a sign is clearly visible in daylight under normal conditions from the approach to each ordinary point of access to the premises to which it applies; or
- (c) by means of the marking system: **Red markings** made and posted as below are sufficient for the purpose of giving notice that entry on the premises is prohibited: A marking under this section shall be of such a size that a circle ten centimetres in diameter can be contained wholly within it. And: Markings under this section shall be so placed that a marking is clearly visible in daylight under normal conditions from the approach to each ordinary point of access to the premises to which it applies.

In addition:

Entry on premises may be prohibited by notice to that effect. **Entry is prohibited without any notice on premises,**

- (a) that is a garden, field or other land that is under cultivation, including a lawn, orchard, vineyard and premises on which trees have been planted and have not attained an average height of more than two metres and woodlots on land used primarily for agricultural purposes; or
- (b) that is enclosed in a manner that indicates the occupier's intention to keep persons off the premises or to keep animals on the premises.

**Note** that owners are not required to post no trespassing signs or markers on cultivated fields, orchards, vineyards, etc. A snow-covered field, whether seeded or not, is considered to be "under cultivation". Fenced lands also do not need to be posted.

The American Birding Association **Code of Birding Ethics** reprinted below applies equally to all field naturalists!

*Practice and promote respectful, enjoyable, and thoughtful birding as defined in this code*

### **1. Respect and promote birds and their environment.**

**(a)** Support the conservation of birds and their habitats. Engage in and promote bird-friendly practices whenever possible, such as keeping cats and other domestic animals indoors or controlled, acting to prevent window strikes, maintaining safe feeding stations, landscaping with native plants, drinking shade-grown coffee, and advocating for conservation policies. Be mindful of any negative environmental impacts of your activities, including contributing to climate change. Reduce or offset such impacts as much as you are able.

**(b)** Avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger. Be particularly cautious around active nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display sites, and feeding sites. Limit the use of recordings and other audio methods of attracting birds, particularly in heavily birded areas, for species that are rare in the area, and for species that are threatened or endangered. Always exercise caution and restraint when photographing, recording, or otherwise approaching birds.

**(c)** Always minimize habitat disturbance. Consider the benefits of staying on trails, preserving snags, and similar practices.

### **2. Respect and promote the birding community and its individual members.**

**(a)** Be an exemplary ethical role model by following this Code and leading by example. Always bird and report with honesty and integrity.

**(b)** Respect the interests, rights, and skill levels of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience and be especially helpful to beginning birders.

**(c)** Share bird observations freely, provided such reporting would not violate other sections of this Code, as birders, ornithologists, and conservationists derive considerable benefit from publicly available bird sightings.

**(d)** Approach instances of perceived unethical birding behavior with sensitivity and respect; try to resolve the matter in a positive manner, keeping in mind that perspectives vary. Use the situation as an opportunity to teach by example and to introduce more people to this Code.

**(e)** In group birding situations, promote knowledge by everyone in the group of the practices in this Code and ensure that the group does not unduly interfere with others using the same area.

### **3. Respect and promote the law and the rights of others.**

**(a)** Never enter private property without the landowner's permission. Respect the interests of and interact positively with people living in the area where you are birding.

**(b)** Familiarize yourself with and follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing activities at your birding location. In particular, be aware of regulations related to birds, such as disturbance of protected nesting areas or sensitive habitats, and the use of audio or food lures.

*Birding should be fun and help build a better future for birds, for birders, and for all people*

*Birds and birding opportunities are shared resources that should be open and accessible to all*

*Birders should always give back more than they take*

The American Birding Association Code of Birding Ethics is reprinted here. It is available online at <https://www.aba.org/aba-code-of-birding-ethics/> Please promote this code and share it widely.