



# Kingston Field Naturalists

## Summer 2023

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. Look for your next Newsletter in mid-August.

### Kingston Field Naturalists

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](https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Kingstonfieldnaturalists>  
Membership Inquiries: Kathy Webb kw2 at queensu.ca

## Kingston Field Naturalists 2023 BioBlitz

Friday 9 June 3:00 pm to Saturday 10 June 3:00 pm  
at Milburn Creek, Battersea

*Guided walks with expert naturalists*

*Children's activities*

*Learn to find and identify flora, fauna and fungi*

*BBQ on Saturday*

*Marsh Wren  
Cistothorus palustris  
(photo by Kathy Webb)*

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: [janis.grant@icloud.com](mailto:janis.grant@icloud.com)  
Questions? Ask Anne ([n8ture.anne@sympatico.ca](mailto:n8ture.anne@sympatico.ca) or 613-389-6742)

Milburn Creek is a property of the Nature Conservancy of Canada

**See page 5 to 7 for more information and the tentative program.**

## Rambles, Field Trips, and other outings

Please check the website for any updates.

**Be prepared for ticks! Wear long sleeves and pants tucked into socks.**

**RAMBLES** take place every first and third Tuesday. Rambles are slow walks to notice nature in all its forms. Bring a snack or lunch and a drink. Remember sun and tick protection. Bring hat, water, possibly hiking poles. For detailed directions please register by the Sunday before the trip with Anne (nature.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742).

**Tuesday 6 June 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Opinicon Road section of Rideau Trail**

dragonflies and butterflies (Odes and Leps) with Peter Waycik, Kathy Webb and John Poland

**Tuesday 20 June 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Purdon Conservation Area of Mississippi Valley Conservation** for Showy Lady's Slippers

**Tuesday 4 July 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Massassauga Point Conservation Area (South of Belleville)** for Oak savanna and alvar habitats

**Tuesday 15 August 9:00 am to 2:30 pm K and P Trail Sharbot Lake**

**Tuesday 5 September 9:00 am to 2:30 pm Sandbanks Provincial Park**

## FIELD TRIPS

**Friday 9 June 3:00 pm to Saturday 10 June 3:00 pm BIOBLITZ** see page 1 and 5 to 7.

**Wednesday 14 June 9 am to noon Paddle Landon Bay**

Meet at the canoe launch at the Thousand Islands Parkway just past the entrance to the Landon Bay Thousand Islands National Park and be ready to paddle at 9 am (GPS coordinates: 44.351165, -76.065968). We'll paddle in the bay and then up the creek into the gorge. Our focus will be on *anything and everything in nature*. Your kayak or canoe should have all of the province's watercraft safety devices, including a personal flotation device (PFD). To participate and for event updates, please contact Kathy Webb (kw2 at queensu.ca).

**Saturday 24 June 8:00 am to 2:00 pm Up A Creek With A Paddle**

Leader Gary Hillaby. Dust off your canoes and your kayaks. We will be exploring the nature in Eel Bay, taking a leisurely paddle along the shoreline of this part of Sydenham Lake. All vessels will require all provincial safety devices for their watercraft. Parking and launch point info will be given to participants prior to the event. To register contact Gary (fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org or 613-547-8121).

**Saturday 8 July 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Butterflies are free** rain date Sunday 9 July

Leader Peter Waycik. This field trip will be an insect outing focussing on butterflies and dragonflies. The exact location will be determined by weather conditions as we get closer to the field trip date. All participants are required to register at [fieldtrips@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org](mailto:fieldtrips@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org) or call Gary (613-547-8121).

**Wednesday 12 July 9 am to 1 pm Paddle Camden Lake**

Meet at the Camden Lake Provincial Wildlife Area (GPS coordinates: 44.4272410, -76.8465760) near Moscow and be ready to paddle at 9 am. There is a boat ramp or dock to launch from and lots of parking onsite. We will paddle as far around the lake as we can based on time and weather – likely around 7 km. Camden Lake is a breeding area for Black Terns, Common Loons, Green Herons and many other interesting birds, plants and other "creatures." If you're interested in staying longer, the fields of the park are home to field birds, butterflies and dragonflies and there are several short trails along marsh and the adjacent woods. Your kayak or canoe should have all of the province's watercraft safety devices, including a personal flotation device (PFD). To participate and for event updates, please contact Kathy Webb (kw2 at queensu.ca).

**Kurt's Wednesday Bird Walks** June to October ....

**see page 4**

## JUNIORS

**Saturday 10 June BioBlitz kids program.** Do come to the kids program at our BioBlitz at Milburn Creek Nature Reserve, property of Nature Conservancy Canada, in Battersea. Amanda and Mary Anne have a great series of activities from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Register with Anne (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca) for more details.



**Registration forms** for 2023/24 will be sent to 2023 members in mid-August.

## SUMMER PROJECTS

### Start now!

We hope you will complete a summer project for a prize in the fall. Prizes available are the Roland Beschel Prize, Nan Yeoman's Prize and Photo competition. These projects are for hands-on field projects (nature collection, diary etc.) NOT computer oriented. Ask Anne for details.

Projects completed over the summer will be due 26 October 2023

1. Roland Beschel Prize. This prize is for a project done over the summer. A collection or observing and recording something in nature are suitable projects.
2. Nan Yeoman's Prize. This prize is for a diary recording observations over the summer. Once a day or once a week- your choice.
3. Photo Competition. This prize is for up to three photos taken over the summer with a short description.

## TEENS



**Friday to Saturday 9 to 10 June BioBlitz** Do join in the fun at our BioBlitz. Parent accompaniment expected. The program has been sent to Teen members. Come and learn about a plant or animal group you want to know more about. More details if you register with Anne (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca).

**Registration forms** for 2023/24 will be sent out in August to 2023 members.

## Club News and Updates

**Welcome to new members:** Diane Guilbault and Claudine Larocque, Gordon and Lindy Abry, Lance Johnston, Tyson Shank.

**Thank you to all the Annual Dinner organizers!** Thank you to Polly Aiken and Erwin Batalla for arranging the venue and the caterer. Thanks to Ken Edwards for organizing the speaker and operating the Zoom. Thanks to all who donated books for the book sale, and a special thank you for those who shopped and took books home! It was great to be able to get together again.

### Kurt's Wednesdays Bird Walks

Kurt is leading Wednesday morning birding trips, once a month from April to October to five of the six Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) in our region. Each trip will be 4 hours in the areas close to Kingston (Wolfe and Amherst Islands and Napanee Plain) and up to 6 hours for Frontenac Forests and Prince Edward County South Shore KBA's.

Participants will be limited to 10 people and are required to contact Kurt at least 3 days before the trips to receive information on meeting points. While the focus will be on key target species, many other species will be counted as well. This could involve spending long times on scopes to get good counts. Patience will be required!

If you are interested, contact Kurt ([khennige at xplornet.com](mailto:khennige@xplornet.com) or 613-876-1804).

**Wednesday 7 June 6 am Frontenac Forests** Very early start. We will search for many of the forest birds at risk such as Cerulean Warbler, Golden-winged Warblers and Yellow-throated Vireos.

**Wednesday 5 July 7 am Napanee Plain** This area currently holds over 60% of all Loggerhead Shrikes in Ontario. We will be searching for them, Upland Sandpipers and several Sparrow species.

**Wednesday 9 August 6:30 am ferry Amherst Island** This will be a Swallow Roost Count; return on 10 am ferry.

**Wednesday 13 September 7 am to 1 pm Prince Edward South-shore KBA** for a migrant count.

**Wednesday 25 October 8 am to 1:30 pm Wolfe Island** for IBA target species count.

# Join us for our 25<sup>th</sup> BioBlitz

## at Milburn Creek Nature Reserve

### 9 to 10 June 2023

This will be the Kingston Field Naturalists 25<sup>th</sup> BioBlitz in the Kingston area! We have a goal to record 1,000 species in this 24 hour period. We hope that everyone, including our volunteers, will find it a fun and educational event. We are planning our traditional type of BioBlitz.

The idea for the BioBlitz comes from the Canadian Biodiversity Institute. 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. Guided walks and social time are part of our plan.

The BioBlitz takes place from **3:00 pm on Friday 9 June to 3:00 pm on Saturday 10 June 2023.**

The event will run, rain or shine.

#### The Site:

We are delighted that the Nature Conservancy of Canada is allowing us to hold our BioBlitz on their property at Battersea. This 224 acres (91 h) property has wetlands, a creek and a vernal pond, mixed forest, rocky outcrops and old field habitats. It is on the edge of the limestone granite bedrock junction. There are a number of diverse habitats to explore! Note there are several entrances to this property. Boats may be portaged 500m from Milburn Road to the berm on the wetland.

We are very pleased that the Township of South Frontenac is allowing us use of the Battersea Ball Park for parking, camping, BBQ and base site.

**Access from Kingston:** Allow about half an hour from Kingston to the Base Site on Battersea Road in Battersea.

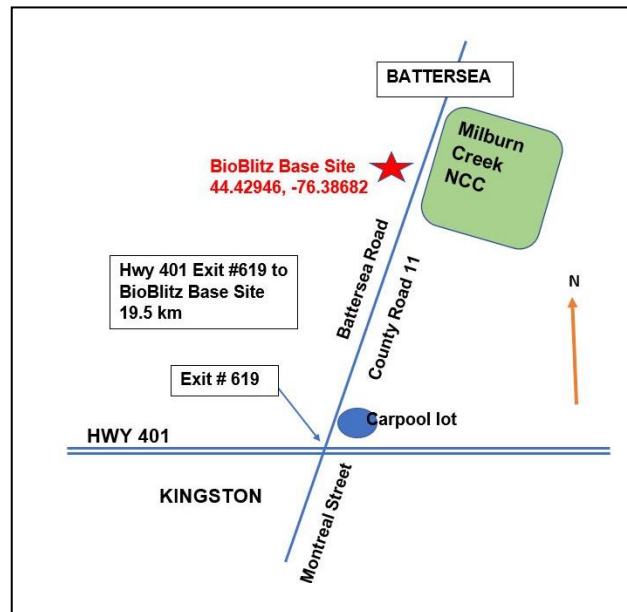
#### Directions to Milburn Creek Nature Reserve

From Hwy 401 exit #619, go NORTH on Battersea Road (County Road 11, Montreal Street).

Pass through Sunbury and on to Battersea.

The Ball Park is 5167 Battersea Road, on west side of Battersea Road near the bottom of the hill, opposite NCC trail onto Milburn Creek property.

**GPS location of our Base Site** at Battersea Ball Park: 44.42950, -76.38646



from  
Road  
one

#### Accommodation:

**Camping:** There will be primitive camping at the Base Site. Please bring your own water.

No fires. No generators. Also camping on private property within 10 minutes of the site. Please ask.

**Cottages:** There are a number of cottages within 15 km of Battersea in South Frontenac listed on the web. Book now!!!

#### Registration:

Participants should register at the BioBlitz base site **between 2:30 pm and 9:00 pm on Friday 9 June** or **between 8:00 am and 2:00 pm on Saturday 10 June.**



## 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.

No collecting or wildlife handling is allowed unless preauthorized (which all group leaders will be). Photographs should be used wherever possible. We are requesting that all qualified observers prepare **NHIC species occurrence forms** for rare and declining species observed during this event. Forms will be available on request.

## 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.** Please return your final tally sheets and field notes to the base site before departure. Tally sheets will be copied and returned if you wish. A reward will be offered for checking out and returning tally sheets. Any species of note should be photographed and the site of observation GPS'd if possible.

OR

2. **Digital submissions through eBird (for birds only) or iNaturalist:** you may submit observations digitally through <https://ebird.org/canada/home> (please share your checklists with the username Kingston FN), and/or with [iNaturalist.ca](https://inaturalist.ca). Both are free and easy to use but you will need to set up your own personal accounts. On iNaturalist, observations made during the BioBlitz within the boundaries of the Milburn Creek Nature Reserve boundaries will automatically be collected by the 2023 BioBlitz project. You can join the project to get updates; however, this is not necessary in order for your observations to be included. Visit the project at: <https://inaturalist.ca/projects/kingston-field-naturalists-2023-bioblitz>

## 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 at 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. Wear long pants to protect against Poison Ivy, deerflies and ticks. Long boots, gaiters, and insect repellent with DEET or PiActive 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.
- **There is cell phone coverage at most of 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.
- The nearest store is Battersea General Store at 5234 Battersea Road at Wellington Street in Battersea.

**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.

If you have expertise, please come and educate us! Please also let us know if there is anything you might need that we might supply. We look forward to this event and hope you do as well. Please share this information with anyone you know who might be interested.

## You may contact us at:

**Anne:** [n8ture.anne@sympatico.ca](mailto:n8ture.anne@sympatico.ca) or (h) 613-389-6742, (c) 613-985-8967, or

**Erwin:** [simbat@bell.net](mailto:simbat@bell.net) or (h) 613-389-0144

# Tentative programme for 2023 BioBlitz

All guided hikes begin at BioBlitz Base Site unless otherwise indicated.

Please be aware that a guided hike may take longer than an hour; it may not be possible to participate in consecutive guided hikes.

## Friday 9 June

3:00 pm	Kick off	
3:15-4:15pm	Introductory walk	Nature Conservancy of Canada
4:15-5:30pm	Moss identification	Jennifer Doubt, Museum of Nature
<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Dinner Bring your own</b>	
7:00-9:00pm	Marsh Monitoring	Kathy Webb and Bill Depew
8:00pm	Invertebrate attractant set up	Brooks Gee and Rose-Marie Burke
9:00pm	Mothing set up	Mark Read and others
9:00pm	Telescope viewing (if sky is clear)	Bruce Elliott
<b>10:00pm</b>	<b>Base site closes</b>	

## Saturday 10 June

6:30-8:00am	Early morning birds	Erwin Batalla
8:00am	Coffee	
8:00am	Moth identification	Peter Waycik
8:00am	Invertebrate attractants retrieval	Brooks Gee and Rose-Marie Burke
9:00am	Grass identification	Dale Kristensen
9:00am	Turtles	TBA
10:00am-2:00pm	<b>Kids program</b> (see below)	Amanda Tracey and Mary Anne Schoenhardt
10:00am	Fish at the berm	Mary Alice Snetsinger
11:00am	Dragonflies and Butterflies	Peter Waycik and John Poland
<b>12:00 noon</b>	<b>BBQ</b>	
12:30 words	Anne	
1:00pm	Snake board and trail cam retrieval	Megan Snetsinger and Janet Elliott
2:00pm	Woody Plants	TBA
<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>Close Please return tally sheets</b>	

## KIDS PROGRAMME

With Amanda Tracey and Mary Anne Schoenhardt

10:00am	Wetland sights and sounds (at the berm)
11:00am	Flying Insects (in the field)
12 noon	Quiz and BBQ (free for kids)
1:00pm	Bioblitz Kids Scavenger Hunt
2:00pm	Prizes at Base