



Kingston Field Naturalists

August - September 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.

Thursday 21 September will be our first general meeting of the year.

Megan Quinn from Nature Conservancy of Canada will be speaking about the loss of biodiversity and current efforts to increase the amount of land protected for the preservation of nature.

Megan is the Conservation Coordinator for Eastern Ontario at the Nature Conservancy of Canada. She moved from Northern England to Canada in 2004 and graduated from the Ecosystem Management Technician and Technology programs at Sir Sandford Fleming College. After working with a variety of environmental non-profits, Megan joined the Nature Conservancy of Canada where she works as the Coordinator of Conservation Biology for Eastern Ontario. Megan also sits on the Young Professionals Committee of the Canadian Committee for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (CCIUCN). She is a Sustainable Development Goal Impact Mentor with the United Nations Association in Canada (UNAC) where she advocates for authentic youth involvement. In February 2022 Megan attended the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) as part of the Nature Conservancy of Canada's (NCC) youth delegation.



Monarchs will soon be heading south!
Photo J. Elliott

Thursday 19 October meeting

The theme for the KFN speaker series for 2023/2024 will be the loss of biodiversity and efforts that are underway to halt and reverse this trend. Our October speaker will be Mark Stabb, Nature Conservancy of Canada – Landscape/Corridor Conservation.

Our general meetings for the 2023/2024 year are scheduled to be in the Ongwanada Resource Centre off Portsmouth Avenue. Social starts at 7:00 pm, meeting begins at 7:30 pm.

There is a plan to have these meetings available by Zoom; you will receive a Zoom link by email a few days before the meeting. You can also join the meeting by phone: contact Janet Elliott (613-547-2674) before the meeting to obtain the meeting ID and the Passcode.

Next newsletter will be available about 14 September.

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 are slow walks to notice nature; they take place on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Please register with Anne (nature.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742), by the Sunday prior to the trip, to receive detailed directions. Good walking shoes or boots, a snack and a drink as well as protection against poisonous plants and nasty insects advised. Walking poles may be useful.

Tuesday 5 September 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Sandbanks Provincial Park

Tuesday 19 September 9:00 am to 12:30 pm K and P north of Unity Road

Tuesday 3 October 9:00 am to 2:30 pm Meisel Woods, Crowe Lake (Rideau Valley CA)

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday 16 September 8:30 am to 3:00 pm Fungi and Feathers at Blue Mountain

Leaders Janet Elliott and Janis Grant The main focus will be on fungi and lichens but as always we look at whatever else nature is offering. Some participants may want to reach the summit for the view of Charleston Lake and to see the elusive Pitch Pine. You will need to bring a snack/lunch. There will be two carpool/meeting spots for this outing: meet at the carpool lot at Highway 15 and 401 at 8:30 am, or at the carpool lot near the Casino in Gananoque at 8:50 am. To register contact Janet Elliott (janet.l.elliott at gmail.com or 613-547-2674).

Saturday 21 October 7:30 am to 2:00 pm Fall Birds at Howe Island

Leader Gary Hillaby We will be going to Howe Island to look for migrating birds. Birds passing over Howe are attracted to the solitude of the island and the beautiful shoreline. We will meet at the Howe Island Ferry at 7:30 am. To register contact Gary Hillaby (fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org or 613-547-8121).

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 or 613-876-1804).

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.

JUNIORS

Registration forms have been sent to past members. Please register by 9 September.

Those eligible to join Teen Naturalists will receive an invitation to Teens and Teen registration form.

New members may download registration form page 1 and 2 from the KFN website (kigstonfieldnaturalists.org junior page)



First Junior Indoor meeting will be on Thursday 28 September 6:30 to 8:00pm.

Location will be Centennial Public School, Norman Rogers Drive.

This will be an important introductory meeting to meet leaders and each other.

First field trip will be Saturday 28 October. Further details on registration.

SUMMER PROJECTS

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



Registration forms have been sent to past members. Please register by September 6 for Canoe trip.

Junior members eligible for Teen Naturalist group will receive Teen registration form.

New members may download a registration form from the KFN web site (kigstonfieldnaturalists.org . Teen page)

First outing **Saturday 9 September Canoe trip to Landon Bay.** Details on registration.

Club News and Updates

Welcome to new members: Kimberly Mask & family, Michael Hartzman, John Noldner, Rachel Zylstra and Charles Woodruff, Catharine Lyons-King & family, Alexandra Waring, Melanie and Mary Chapman, Angela and Richard Saxe, John Cooper & family, Martha Miller, Gema Olivo, Stephanie Etherington & family.

Thank you to all who responded to the call earlier this summer for donations of birding gear!

The **Graeme Gibson Prismáticos Project** is an initiative started by Kingston authors, Merylyn Simonds and Wayne Grady, who are on the board of the Pelee Island Bird Observatory. In conjunction with PIBO they have collected birding gear: binoculars, spotting scopes, and Mexico-specific guidebooks, to be sent to San Miguel de Allende, a small city that lies at the geographic centre of Mexico. Quinte Field Naturalists sent out a request for donations; KFNers responded generously. Thirty-one pairs of binoculars, 9 spotting scopes, 6 tripods and 47 guidebooks were donated. Thanks to Denice Wilkins of Quinte Field Naturalists for this opportunity! And thanks to Kip Parker, Jeremy Statham, Anne Robertson, Michael Johnson and Carolyn Bonta, Jane Kitchen, Janet Scott, Barbara Canton, Mike Brander, Jean Mair and John Cartwright, Dennis and Linda Dong, Sabina Sormova and Stephane Levac, Bonnie Livingstone, and Shirley and Keith Miller for their donations.

To discover more about the Prismáticos Project and its Mexican partners, please visit: <https://pibo.ca/en/projects-outreach/prismaticos/>

Lemoine Point Farm

Last May the Save Lemoine Point Farm group held a Jane's Walk along the farm property line. Shelagh Mirski, who was President of the group that fought to protect part of the farm from residential development in the 1990's, described the fight. You can see the full story here: <https://savelemoinepointfarm.org/report-janes-walk-2023/>. Part of that talk is reproduced below:

"Shelagh reflected on the reasons her group was successful in the face of the challenges posed by an unwelcome development and a supportive Township Council.

She said they:

- Found out about the rules that were in play – how Official Plans and Zoning By-laws can be amended, what polices must be followed
- Spoke up at every available opportunity
- Informed people and asked them to get involved
- Focused their messages in the media
- Had many voices speaking at meetings
- Were lucky with the timing of the municipal election.

Shelagh finished her remarks by telling people that the Save Lemoine Point Farm group wants to see the Farm used for the public good, and never subdivided. She thanked people for attending the Jane's walk and encouraged them to keep in touch, to speak up, and to show up when needed."

If you would like to be kept informed about developments at Lemoine Point Farm, you are encouraged to sign up on the website: <https://savelemoinepointfarm.org/>