



Kingston Field Naturalists

March – April 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://kingstonfielddnaturalists.org>

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/Kingstonfielddnaturalists>

Membership Inquiries:
Kathy Webb
membership@kingstonfielddnaturalists.org

Meetings are normally held at 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month from September to April in Ongwanada Resource Centre off Portsmouth Avenue. Social starts at 7:00 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

We will have two speakers on Thursday 21 March, Natasha Thorpe and Joanne Barnaby will present virtually: Indigenous efforts to assist in the recovery of wildlife populations

Natasha and Joanne have co-facilitated multiple wildlife related processes for over 13 years, pioneering methods to bring together Indigenous knowledge and western science in guardians work and resource management. Most of their collaborations have been with Caribou peoples in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Alaska.

This will be a Zoom presentation. Join us at Ongwanada for social time, a display of local herpetiles, a used book sale, and a special 75th birthday announcement.

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.

Thursday 18 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 2024/2025 Executive. When the work is done, we will have a presentation by **Barry Gilbert entitled *Return of the Grizzly***.

Note from our President: The KFN Executive has been working since January on updates needed to the club's Constitutional documents - the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. At the February General meeting Notice was given of the intent to bring these revised documents forward for approval by the Membership at the March General Meeting. Legal review of the revised drafts has unfortunately resulted in some delays in finalizing these changes. The Executive decided to defer presenting the revised documents to the Members until early fall 2024. The final versions will be posted to the KFN website in September. Notice of the new date for review and approval of these changes will be provided in advance as required by the KFN Bylaws.



Exciting astronomy event! A once-in-a-lifetime **Total Solar Eclipse** will happen on 8 April in Kingston. We are on the path of totality which will pass over at 15:42 pm DST. Queen's University Department of Physics is providing certified eclipse glasses to the community for free. Please check this website for where to get glasses and suggested viewing locations:

<https://www.queensu.ca/physics/2024eclipse#2024EclipseWhatIsASolarEclipseMP>

See page 6 for more information and resources

photo: R. Wittich used with permission

Rambles, Field Trips, and other outings

Please check the website for any updates.

Ticks are active again. Wear long sleeves, tuck your pants into your socks.

RAMBLES are slow walks to notice nature; they take place on the first and third Tuesday 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. Prepare for ticks and other nasties. Bring hat, water, sunscreen, repellent and possibly hiking poles.

Tuesday 19 March 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Depot Creek Nature Reserve of the Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington

Tuesday 2 April 9:00 am to noon Bullen Road North of McIvor Road for butterflies? This depends on water levels and location may change to K&P nearby. Register for details.

Tuesday 16 April 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Mitchell Creek property of Nature Conservancy of Canada, north of Snug Harbour on Canoe Lake Road.

Tuesday 7 May 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Menzel Centennial Nature Reserve northwest of Napanee.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday 20 April 9:30 am to noon Helen Quilliam Sanctuary Clean-up

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 (simbat at bell.net or 613-389-0144) if you plan to come.

Saturday 27 April 7:00 am to 3:00 pm Prince Edward Point (weather date April 28)

Leader: TBD We will be looking for Spring migrants at some of the best hotspots in the County. Meet at the Adolphustown ferry dock at 7:00 am sharp. We will convoy to the southern tip of the point, walking the trail that leads to the lighthouse. We may stop at a couple of short trails along the way, time permitting. Our group should be back at our meeting place at 3:00 pm. This trip will be limited to 12 birders plus the leader. If you are able/willing to car-pool with another participant please do so, as several of the places we will visit have limited parking. Contact Gary (fieldtrips@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org or 613-547-8121)

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 at 6:30 am and at 5:30 pm 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@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org or 613-547-8121).

Friday to Saturday 14 to 15 June (3:00 pm to 3:00 pm) BioBlitz

Detailed information including location and program will be sent out in early April to those on the mailing list. To be added to the mailing list please contact Janis (janis.grant at iCloud.com). Information will also be on the KFN website (kingstonfieldnaturalists.org) by mid-April. Volunteers are still appreciated.

JUNIORS

INDOOR MEETINGS 6:30 to 8:00 pm

at Centennial Public School, 120 Norman Rogers Drive.
Please bring a pair of indoor shoes to wear in the school.



Thursday 28 March

We will have a special guest visiting us starting at 6:30 pm (so try to arrive on time) to learn about **Solar Eclipses**. Then we will have some fun activities for the scheduled topic of **Spring Ephemerals**. You won't want to miss this!

Next indoor meeting Thursday 25 April

This is our annual advocacy meeting and this year we will be learning about **Species at Risk**. A reminder that we are currently collecting coins to donate to Wildlife Preservation Canada to help species at risk as part of our advocacy activities as a way to give back to nature.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday 23 March 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Visit to property of Carolyn Bonta and Michael Johnson

near Verona. Please sign up by 21 March by email to Anne (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca) to receive detailed information. Note this is the week **before** the indoor meeting in March.

Saturday 27 April 8:45 am to 2:45 pm Annual cleanup trip, to the **KFN Martin Edwards Reserve** on Amherst Island to clean up the shoreline and walk out to the bar. Note ferry times determine trip timing. Please sign up by 25 April either at the meeting on Thursday evening or by email to Anne (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca) to receive detailed instructions.

TEENS

Friday 12 April 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm Night Hike
for frogs, owls and other night time creatures.
Please register by Thursday 10 April to get detailed directions.

Saturday 11 May TBA

Friday/Saturday 14/15 June BioBlitz



Club News and Updates

Welcome to new members: Myrna Treuting, Jaya Roy, Risa Zaleski, Daniel Gauvin, Anne Mirth and David Gauthier, Joan Sebben, Jeremy Allen & family, Philippe Garant and Isabelle Auger, Joyce D'Eon & family, Christopher Dennison, Neil Ainsworth, Dawn Fryer, Norm and Karen Heywood, David Weyman.

Thanks to our Vice-President Christine Hough. As VP, Christine has stepped into chairing meetings when our President was away, sometimes on short notice. She arranged the speakers for the past year. She has represented KFN at Ontario Nature meetings, and at City of Kingston meetings with the Climate Adaptation Committee and the Biodiversity Group. Her biggest task has been to spearhead preparation of all the documentation required for applying to have the KFN properties included in part of the 30 x 30 initiative (the worldwide initiative for governments to designate 30% of Earth's land and ocean area as protected areas by 2030). Thank you Christine!

It's Membership Renewal Time!

The KFN membership year extends from 1 April to 31 March of the following year, so 2023/24 memberships will soon be expiring. If you are a new member who has joined since the end of November 2023, your membership is good until 31 March 2025. If you are a previous member and have already renewed, thank you. If you are a Life Member, you never have to worry!

To join or renew your membership, you can proceed in several ways:

- Pay online using the website: <https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/membership-and-donations/>
- Download and print the membership form from the website (or write a note with the relevant information) and mail it in with a cheque payment to: Kingston Field Naturalists, PO Box 831, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4X6
- Come to the 21 March meeting and visit the membership table at the back of the room to process your membership with either a cash (exact change) or cheque payment. Individual memberships are \$30, Family \$32, Young Adult (age 18-25) \$20.

If you have any questions, please email: membership@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org

It is our 75th Anniversary! If you have any historical pictures to share, stories to tell, or suggestions for celebrating this achievement, please send them to the dedicated email: 75th@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org A committee is planning a listing competition: come to the 21 March meeting to learn more.

Save the date! Our dinner meeting will be Thursday 16 May 6:00 to 10:00 pm at the Royal Kingston Curling Club, 130 Days Road. Tickets will be \$50 per person. The guest speaker will be Jonathan Balcombe telling us *What a Fish Knows*. Tickets can be purchased online <https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/kfn-events/kfn-may-dinner-2024/> If you would prefer to buy your tickets by mail or in person, please contact maydinner@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org or call Barb Lotan at 613-389-8697 to make arrangements.

Participation Opportunities

Please see note on page 2!

Wingspan is a board game for bird enthusiasts. Andrew Miller, a KFN member, has access to a venue for hosting games nights. If you are interested, please contact him: millerandrew88@gmail.com.

ONTARIO NATURE NEW VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Ontario Nature is launching a pilot program to connect people who want to volunteer for nature with opportunities to do so. We are going to try this out as a pilot for a few months.

If you are a Nature Network group that could use volunteers – whether for one-day events or ongoing opportunities. Our first newsletter is going out in early March.

If you are interested in volunteering or know someone who is, you can sign up to receive the newsletter at [this link](#). Please reach out to [Lesley](#) for more details.

Conservation Committee Report from Chris Hargreaves, Chair.

The Conservation Committee is organized on an informal basis – members receive a monthly report by email and are invited to respond and/or help on any of the topics that particularly interest them, and/or to raise new issues. Additional members would be most welcome: just email hargreavescp at sympatico.ca if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

AVIAN INFLUENZA IN KINGSTON AREA

There have been no reports of large die-offs of Canada Geese since the 200+ carcasses were found in the Lake Ontario Park - Elevator Bay area at the beginning of February. However, dead birds have been reported sporadically throughout the Kingston region, and are continuing to be reported, so the future is still uncertain.

Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre has been on the “front lines”, euthanizing sick Canada Geese. KFN usually makes an annual donation of \$300 to Sandy Pines. At their last meeting, KFN executive voted to increase the donation to \$500 for this year.

ONTARIO LAND TRIBUNAL HEARING ON THE DAVIS TANNERY PROPOSAL

Vicki Schmolka has produced a daily summary of the hearing for What’s Up Kingston. Find it at https://vickischmolka.substack.com/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Tannery Hearing Day 1 (which was 5 February) provides an outline of the evidence each party planned to present. The final day of hearings was 8 March. Written submissions are due 30 April; a decision may be many months away.

More about the Solar Eclipse

This site gives an interactive map showing the time and extent of the eclipse at North America:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/map/2024-april-8?n=1183>

Remember it is not safe for you or your camera to look directly at the sun.

Thanks to Kevin Kell and Kim Hay for the following picture taken during the total eclipse in 2017:



Photo details:

Canon EOS Digital Rebel DS6041
(aka EOS 300D, 2003),
3072 x 2048 pixels (6.3 Mpixels),
Canon 75 – 300 mm lens at 300 mm
with polymer solar filter,
ISO 800, 1/400 second,
on a tripod, no processing.