



Kingston Field Naturalists

April – May 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
membership@kingstonfieldnaturalists.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.

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*.

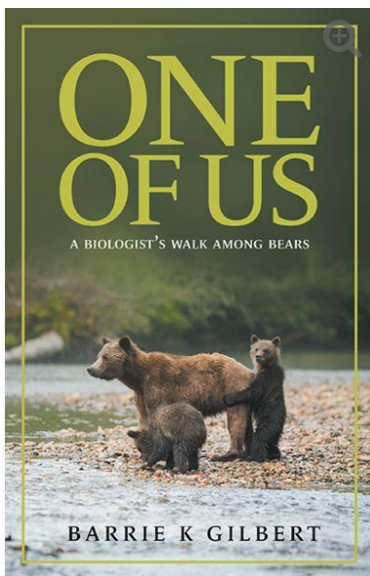
Barrie Gilbert completed undergraduate studies at Queen's University and a PhD at Duke University. He then joined the faculty of Utah State University and carried out research on grizzly bears. In 1977, while conducting research in Yellowstone National Park, he was attacked and badly mauled by a female Grizzly protecting her cubs. After recovering he returned and devoted the next several decades to understanding and protecting these bears. He has researched Grizzlies in Yosemite and Yellowstone national parks, Alberta, coastal British Columbia and along Brooks River in Alaska's Katmai National Park. His research has centered on how bears respond to people and each other, with a focus on how to keep humans and bears safe. Barrie Gilbert is the author of *One of Us*. He will be available for a book signing after the presentation.

Our annual 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. 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.

Our guest speaker will be Jonathan Balcombe, presenting *What a Fish Knows*

Jonathan Balcombe was born in England, raised in New Zealand and Canada, and has lived in the United States. He has an undergraduate degree in biology from York University, a Master's degree from Carleton University and a Ph.D in ethology (animal behavior) from the University of Tennessee. He was formerly the Department Chair for Animal Studies with the Humane Society University, and director of Animal Sentience with the Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy. Jonathan Balcombe is the author of four popular science books on the inner lives of animals. His book, *What a Fish Knows*, is a New York Times best-seller. His books will be available for sale and signing after his presentation.



See page 5 for our **75th Anniversary Challenge**. Our first submission: 75 beer tins picked off the Bunker Hill Road in two (2) kilometers!! Thank you E.A. (Ted) Doleman from Godfrey!

Rambles, Field Trips, and other outings

Please check the website for any updates.

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

Bear activity has been noted at Helen Quilliam Sanctuary: be bear aware!

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. For summer rambles remember hat, sunscreen, repellent and water. Prepare for ticks, wild parsnip etc. with long pants tucked in socks or boots and long sleeves. These trips are often further afield. Food is usually necessary and car-pooling encouraged. Hiking poles may be useful.

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 NW of Napanee

Tuesday 21 May 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Gananoque Wildlife Reserve

Tuesday 4 June 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Avenstone Visit BioBlitz site near Camden East.

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)

May Nature Walks at Lemoine Point

May is a great month to observe nature at Lemoine Point and to enjoy walking the trails. Every May we invite our KFN members and the general public (non-members) to come together and take a morning or evening guided trail walk. The walks take place **every Wednesday in May at 6:30 am and at 5:30 pm**. A KFN member will assemble the group in the south parking lot at Lemoine Point. Here are the dates and leaders.

May 1	6:30 am	Phil Harvey	5:30 pm	Vidya Menon
May 8	6:30 am	Richard Brault and Dianne Croteau	5:30 pm	Steve Coates
May 15	6:30 am	Janis Grant	5:30 pm	Gaven Watson
May 22	6:30 am	Kathy Webb	5:30 pm	Bill Depew
May 29	6:30 am	Gary Hillaby	5:30 pm	Ken Ross

The Field Trips Coordinator asked for volunteers to lead field trips; several people have responded. But now all the trips don't fit on the page!! See page 4 and 6 and the website for the following activities:

Friday 17 May noon to Sunday 19 May noon Spring Round-Up 2024

Friday 10 May 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Emeralds and Elfins on Blue Mountain

Saturday 18 May 8:00 am to 11:00 am Finkle Shore Park and Lennox OPG

Saturday 25 May 7:30 am to 12:00 PM K&P Trail Hike

Sunday 9 June 3:30 am to 9:00 am Dawn Chorus Walk

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

JUNIORS

INDOOR MEETING 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.



Next (and last of the year) indoor meeting Thursday 25 April

This is our annual advocacy meeting and this year we will be learning about **Species at Risk**.

This will be the last meeting to bring coins to donate to Wildlife Preservation Canada to help species at risk. This is part of our advocacy activities, and a way to give back to nature. Keep an eye out for the date for the bird walk in May!

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday 27 April 8:45 am to 2:45 pm Annual cleanup trip, to the **KFN Martin Edwards Reserve** on Amherst Island. This is our third and last "giving back to nature" activity. The Martin Edwards Reserve is a property of the Kingston Field Naturalists and we expect to find all sorts of exciting things along the shore line. Bring work gloves for picking up garbage. Please sign up at the meeting on 25 April or email Anne (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca) by Thursday 25 April, if you would like to join this trip. Timing is dependent on ferry times to and from the island. Car-pooling saves money (\$9.00 per car) and space on the ferry.

Thursday 9 May 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Bird Walk at Lemoine Point Conservation Area (airport end, Front Road entrance). Meet in the parking lot for an evening walk to practice being a birdwatcher.

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 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Explore BioBlitz site

and learn about snake boards and trail cams. Please register by Thursday 9 May.

Friday/Saturday 14/15 June BioBlitz

Club News and Updates

Welcome to new members: Mikayla Stinson, Julie Bridson, Weronika Sus, Duncan Cameron, Nancy and Allen John Elliot, Stephen Agnew and Carol Consell, Tim and Ryan Kinney, Mercedes Cobham, Mary Paul and Mike LaBossiere, Aaron McFarlane and Lindsay Brin, Zach and Alessandra Amey, Jeff Kaboly, William Varela and Amelia Munoz, Nathan Saccon.

Thanks to Peter Waycik, our Blue Bill Editor, who has also been invaluable as our computer/website guru. Peter's careful editing of the quarterly Blue Bill journal gives KFN a publication of which we can be proud. Peter has made significant improvements to the KFN's website, facilitated our move to online payment for memberships and dinner tickets (among other things), and has organized the Executive and Membership into Google Groups to assist in club communications. And now he is volunteering to lead trips to find "odes and leps". Thank you Peter!

It's Membership Renewal Time!

The KFN membership year extends from 1 April to 31 March of the following year, so 2023/24 memberships have expired. 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 18 April 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

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

A Letter for Participants with details of this event has been emailed to those on the mailing list. If you would like to be added to the list please email Janis Grant (Janis.grant at iCloud.com). Volunteers appreciated. Our BioBlitz is a chance to come and join a guided walk to learn some new species as well as to help record those species present.

75th ANNIVERSARY CHALLENGE

The KFN is encouraging every member to help celebrate our 75th Anniversary by making a list of 75 nature-orientated activities/observations that they have carried out over the spring and summer. Lists can be produced on any topic chosen by the member. For example:

- 75 species of bird (or other living things) observed
- 75 plants recorded in a city park, conservation area or nature reserve
- 75 insects observed and identified by their proper Latin name

Members with reduced mobility could participate by producing lists such as:

- 75 birds or other types of wildlife seen on television
- 75 articles read from a pile of magazines waiting to be read

Or somebody could list activities such as:

- 75 acts of kindness to nature
- 75 times the member went out at night to look at the stars
- 75 native seeds or plants planted

Members are also invited to write a short description of how they created their list. These descriptions together with the associated lists will be published as an article in The Blue Bill.

Members can start making their list immediately and then:

- hand it in at the KFN General Meeting on 19 September (or earlier)
- email it at any time before 1 October to 75th@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org
- mail it to: Kingston Field Naturalists, PO Box 831, Kingston, ON K7L 4X6

There will be a participation souvenir for everybody who submits a list.

Multiple lists from each participant are welcome!

KFN Contributes to City of Kingston's Decision to Sign the Montreal Pledge

At the COP15 conference in Montreal in December 2022, 190 countries, including Canada, signed on to an agreement to work together to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity. To address this issue at a local level, the City of Montreal invited all cities around the world to declare their intention to contribute to this global initiative. The pledge sets out 15 tangible actions to which a city must commit in their efforts to preserve natural ecosystems. These actions include a) conserving and restoring natural areas, b) effectively engaging Indigenous Peoples and communities in decision-making and knowledge sharing, c) embedding biodiversity into governing policies and frameworks, d) reducing waste, pollution and pesticides.

The Montreal Pledge can be found here [vdm_montreal-pledge_2022.pdf](#) The Ontario Nature website has a good article about the Montreal Pledge (<https://ontarionature.org/montreal-pledge-blog/>)

The KFN, along with Little Forests Kingston and other local conservation groups, have been working with Kingston City staff to encourage the City Council to sign this pledge. These efforts have paid off. At the City Council meeting on 19 March, a report produced by Paige Agnew (Commissioner, Growth & Development Services) and Julie Salter-Keane (Manager, Climate Leadership) recommended that the city sign the Montreal Pledge and also that the city track their progress on the CitiesWithNature registry. The Council agreed. (<https://citieswithnature.org/citieswithnature-registry/#:%7E:text=The%20CitiesWithNature%20Registry%20will%20be,can%20sign%20up%20to%20CitiesWithNature>).

This current City Council appears to be listening to concerns regarding climate change and loss of species diversity. By signing this pledge, City Council states that they recognize the need to move towards improving local policies that support environmentally sustainable practices. Tracking progress on the Cities With Nature Action Platform lets the city showcase actions and share information with other cities. It is incumbent on city residents to monitor progress and to be vocal when the City does not act in the best interest of nature.

REVIEW OF AVIAN INFLUENZA IN THE KINGSTON REGION (Report by Chris Hargreaves, Conservation Committee Chair)

The outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the Kingston region appears to be over for this season. It began about 31 January, when numerous dead Canada Geese were reported at Lake Ontario Park and the Elevator Bay area. The Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre also received calls and distressed birds from Collins Bay, Bath, and Belleville. About 100 dead geese were recorded. There were several reports of gulls, crows and eagles feeding on carcasses; it is very likely that these birds would become infected with HPAI.

To establish what was happening throughout the Kingston region, the Kingston Field Naturalists organized a "citizen science" survey. Members were asked to send in observations from sites they visited, reporting if they had seen dead geese or other birds, and whether birds displayed normal activity.

By the beginning of March about twenty dead crows had been reported. Some of these carcasses were tested by the Canadian Wildlife Health Co-operative and found to be infected with HPAI. In March the geese started moving north, and the crows dispersed from their roost in downtown Kingston. As the birds moved away, the risk of infection between them reduced. At the beginning of April, the Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre had received no birds in distress for a week, and reports of dead birds had stopped coming in to the KFN survey.

More information on the HPAI outbreak is available on the Kingston Field Naturalists website at <https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/> where the survey results were posted.

MORE FIELD TRIPS

Odes and Leps Field Trips

Peter Waycik is planning field trips this summer to look for odes (dragon/damselflies) and leps (butterflies). See details on the KFN website.

Friday 10 May: Emeralds and Elfins on Blue Mountain

Friday 7 June: Skimmers and Skippers at Frank's Culvert

Friday 5 July: Damsels and Hairstreaks location TBD

Friday 16 August: Darners at Landon Bay Centre

September might be a trip to Prince Edward Point

Friday 10 May 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Emeralds and Elfins on Blue Mountain

Odes and Leps Field Trip #1: Climb the highest point in Leeds & Grenville and look for butterflies, dragonflies and other flying insects with fellow enthusiasts. No promises, but we hope to encounter elfin butterflies and emerald dragonflies. If we are lucky, we might also find the vulnerable West Virginia White. This is a long and arduous 10 km hike with steep hills. Come prepared with plenty of water and snacks. You will also want sun and bug protection. If you are interested, contact: fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org.

Friday 17 May noon to Sunday 19 May noon Spring Round-Up 2024

Spring is in the air and that means the round-up is around the corner. Members are encouraged to bird during this 48 hour period in the Kingston region. The area is a radial distance of 50 km centred on Murney Tower. You can backyard bird and/or get "out and about". Submit your birding reports quickly to eBird because Erwin Batalla will be collecting the data. A final summary about the weekend will appear in the next Blue Bill.

Saturday 18 May 8:00 am to 11:00 am Finkle's Shore Park and Lennox OPG

Leader Kurt Hennige The meeting place for this outing is at the main parking lot at Finkle's Shore Park (Bath). Carpooling from Finkle's Shore will be offered. Our group will travel to the Lennox OPG parking lot to observe a KFN bird box program. Participants may witness nesting Peregrine Falcons, Ospreys, Cliff Swallows and Purple Martins. There is a 15 member limit on this event. Register with Kurt (khennige at xplornet.com) before 16 May. This event is part of the Spring Round-Up weekend.

Sunday 19 May 7:30 am to 1:00 pm Camden Lake Provincial Wildlife Area

Leader Tom Wheatley The meeting spot for this event will be the Invista Sport Complex (northeast parking lot) at 7:30 am. The convoy will arrive at the wildlife area at 8:30 am. If time permits our group may also visit the Moscow Marsh. Register with Erwin (simbat at bell.net). This event is part of the Spring Round-Up weekend.

Saturday 25 May 7:30 am to 12:00 PM K&P Trail Hike

Leader Steve Coates This trip will lead KFN members through a variety of habitats to see where many spring migrants are now residing. The pace of this hike will be calm even though participants should be prepared to cover some distance. We will start at the Sydenham Road trailhead parking lot and head west on the trail until we reach Burbrook Road. Register with fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org

Sunday 9 June 3:30 am to 10:30 am Dawn Chorus Field Trip aka Dawn Song Patrol

As part of our 75th anniversary celebration, Kurt Hennige will lead a Dawn Chorus field trip. Dawn Song Patrols were popular in the 1970's to 1990's; they included an outdoor breakfast. We will assemble at 3:30 am at the Carpool lot at Hwy401/Hwy15. We will be start by birding Abbey Dawn Marsh and Road and later will bird Canoe Lake Road. At a few stops along Canoe Lake Road the leader will demonstrate how to follow a "Breeding Bird Survey" protocol. We will stop about 8:30 am in either Verona or Sydenham for breakfast in a restaurant and return to our cars around 10:30 am.

This outing requires participants willing to drive and share cars, since for safety reasons we will have only four cars and a maximum of 15 people and one leader. Darren Rayner will lead a second group if we have more than 15 people signing up. Please register with Kurt Hennige (khennige at xplornet.com or 613-876-1804) by 5 June.