



# *The* Orchid

***Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists***

"Know ♦ Appreciate ♦ Conserve Nature In All Its Forms"

**Volume 59, Number 2 - April 2013**

[www.peterboroughnature.org](http://www.peterboroughnature.org)

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## **Book Sellers Required for Cottage and Other Association Annual Meetings**

The Peterborough Field Naturalists latest book, 'Nature in the Kawarthas' has been a publishing success. The club still has a stock of books on hand from the original share we received when the book was published.

If you would like to try selling the books at a meeting of your cottage association or a meeting of another group and you are a member of then the PFN will provide you with a small stock to sell. Directors and other members who have attended cottage association meetings last year found the books very easy to sell. The book contains a host of information which both residents and visitors to the area will find beneficial.

To obtain a stock of books please contact Martin Parker at 705) 745 – 4750 or [mparker19@cogeco.ca](mailto:mparker19@cogeco.ca) to make arrangements. All proceeds go to the Peterborough Field Naturalists.



PFN member Neil Fortin receives award at our 2013 AGM for his work with the Junior Field Naturalists from PFN President Martin Parker.  
Photo by Chris Gooderham.

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## **Welcome New Members!**

- Gwen Stevens
- Rene & Antge Garneau
- Joe Crowley & Amelia Argue

# Coming Events

<p>Sundays April 7<sup>th</sup> to May 26<sup>th</sup></p> <p>8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Start from the Ptbo Zoo parking lot</p>	<p><b>PFN Outings: “Spring Wildlife Walks”</b></p> <p>Our popular Spring wildlife walks will commence of Sunday April 7th and continue until May 26th, , unless otherwise advertised. Most walks will start at 8am and we will normally car pool from the parking lot of Peterborough Zoo on Water Street. Outings generally last about three hours. Bring some change to donate towards gas costs and bring binoculars if possible. In most cases the leaders will confirm the destination on the day.</p> <table> <tr> <td>7 April - Sean Smith</td><td>5 May – Drew Monkman</td></tr> <tr> <td>14 April - Jerry Ball</td><td>12 May – to be confirmed</td></tr> <tr> <td>21 April - Tony Bigg</td><td>19 May – Martin Parker</td></tr> <tr> <td>28 April - Tony Bigg</td><td>26 May – to be confirmed</td></tr> </table>	7 April - Sean Smith	5 May – Drew Monkman	14 April - Jerry Ball	12 May – to be confirmed	21 April - Tony Bigg	19 May – Martin Parker	28 April - Tony Bigg	26 May – to be confirmed
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<p>Wednesday April 10<sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Ptbo Library</p>	<p><b>PFN Monthly Meeting: “A Journey to the Hawaii Islands”</b></p> <p>Hawaii is famous for its lush forests and active volcanos. These islands first started forming around 4 million years ago, resulting in an incredibly diverse and specialized avifauna, including the Hawaiian Honeycreepers. More recently the Hawaiian endemics are facing pressures from a variety of introduced species. Join Kristen Martyn as she explores three Hawaiian Islands, Kauai, Hawaii (The Big Island) and Oahu, outlining their unique landscape, geology, birds and wildlife. This presentation is packed full of photos from her most recent trip to Hawaii, and is a must hear for anyone wanting to explore these amazing islands and their famous endemics.</p>								
<p>Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>PFN Outing: “An Evening of Frog Songs:</b></p> <p>Join Martin Parker in this evening outing to listen to the spring chorus of frogs. The chorus will be dominated by Spring Peepers. We will also be listening for Chorus Frogs, Northern Leopard Frogs, and Wood Frogs. The outing will start from the north parking lot at the Peterborough Zoo, Water Street North, at 8:00 p.m. The main destination will be the Miller Creek Wildlife Area. This outing will last for a couple of hours.</p>								
<p>Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>PFN Outing: “The Sky Dance of the Timber-Doodle”</b></p> <p>A dusk outing to listen to the sky dance of the American Woodcock or Timber-Doodle. This bird has an elaborate courtship display which consists of a distinctive call made while on the ground, followed by the spiral flight into the sky and then a fluttering flight back to the ground. With leader, Martin Parker, we will travel to the Trent University Nature Sanctuary to watch this spring display. Meet in the north parking lot at the Peterborough Zoo on Water Street North at 8:00 p.m. This outing will conclude by 10:00 p.m. Bring a flashlight.</p>								
<p>Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Ptbo Library</p>	<p><b>PFN Monthly Meeting: “Bird Tracks and Signs in the Kawarthas”</b></p> <p>Don McLeod is a new member of the Peterborough Field Naturalists and a recently retired Professor from Fleming College. Don will present a slideshow featuring bird tracks and sign from the Kawarthas. While mammal tracks are more frequently observed, being at the right place and time will often snag a bird track photo. Signs of birds include scat, nests, tree cavities, feathers and kill sites. All of these observations add to the naturalist's toolbox in the quest to identify and study birds.</p>								

# Junior Field Naturalists

## Earth Day Celebration @ Camp Kawartha Environment Centre

**When:** Sunday, April 21, 1:45 – 3:45 p.m.

This is a day before Earth Day so we can celebrate it a little earlier with a little Earth help (tree planting etc) around the centre, birding & some spring-like games & activities. You might want to bring a pair of rubber boots just in case of wet areas! See you then...Neil



### PFN Officers and Directors

President	Martin Parker	Mparker19@cogeco.ca	745-4750
Vice President	Gina Varrin	gina.varrin@gmail.com	761-7787
Secretary	Sean Smith	Seansmith64@hotmail.com	874-5426
Treasurer	Don Pettypiece	donem.pettypiece@bell.net	750-1145
Membership	Jim Young	jbyoung@persona.ca	292-5444
Program (indoor)	Phil Shaw	pshaw78@hotmail.com	874-1688
Program (outdoor)	Paul Elliott	paulelliott@trentu.ca	740-0501
Webmaster	Chris Gooderham	webmaster@peterboroughnature.org	740-2081
Newsletter Editor	Rebecca Zeran	rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca	743-2660
FON Rep	Ted Vale	tedandmarion@sympatico.ca	741-3641
Special Projects	Kelly Boadway	kjboadway@gmail.com	775-0756
Special Projects	Lynn Smith	smithfam@nexicom.net	944-5599

### Other Volunteers

Bird Feeders	Sean Smith & Don Finigan	
Orchid Diary	Tony Bigg	652-7541
Orchid Mailout	TBD	
Jr. Naturalists	Neil Fortin	292-6185
Local Planning Committees	Jim Cashmore	



One of a dozen little snowflies, *Allocaupnia* sp, on TCT, Base-David Fife Lines, March 25, 2013. Photo by Tony Bigg.



At last, a thaw! TCT, Base-David Fife Lines, March 25, 2013. Photo by Tony Bigg.

## Other Events of Interest

The Peterborough Horticultural Society, the Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners, and the Northumberland Master Gardeners invite you to the **2013 Peterborough Garden Show**. Come celebrate Spring with us!

The show will take place at the **Evinrude Centre**, 911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough

**Friday, April 12, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

**Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

**Sunday, April 14, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Admission is \$6.00 per person (children 12 and under are free).** The coat check is free.

Parking is available at the Evinrude Centre and across the street at the Canadian Canoe Museum. A small donation will be collected by the Rotary Club of Peterborough. Additional free parking is available at the Kinsmen Centre, Sherbooke St. and Clonsilla Ave. There will be a free shuttle bus every 15 minutes to take people to the Evinrude Centre and return.

This year's show will include: Many Garden-Related Vendors and Exhibitors; Speakers on Saturday and Sunday; Informative Demonstrations; Garden Displays; a Garden Advice Clinic; a Floral Design Competition; the Little Green Thumbs Children's Garden and NEW this year – a Celebrity Challenge on Friday, April 12th

**Jane's Walk - Contentious Ribbon of Green: Exploring the Parkway Corridor, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m.**

We will enjoy a 4 km walk along the most beautiful and biologically-rich section of the Parkway Trail and learn about its flora and fauna, history and present-day recreational use. The Parkway Trail is controversial because of the very real possibility that it may become an arterial road. <http://janeswalk.net>

**Jane's Walk – Islands of Green, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.**

The True Citizen The Movers & Shakers (Transportation) The Activist

This walk doubles as the Peterborough Field Naturalists' Sunday morning Wildlife Walk. We'll have a leisurely walk around the South Drumlin, one of Trent University's Nature Areas. We'll talk about the historical land uses in the area and how the land is used today. <http://janeswalk.net>

### **Native Plant Sale**

The North American Native Plant Society is holding their annual sale of wildflowers, ferns, grasses and sedges, as well as trees and shrubs. Our sale showcases hundreds of native species and introduces thousands of native plants into GTA gardens. Also books on related topics. See our displays and chat with knowledgeable experts to help you make the right choices for your planting project. All plants come from ethical growers and are locally sourced. Visit [www.nanps.org](http://www.nanps.org) see the plant list. For more info email [info@nanps.org](mailto:info@nanps.org)

Location: Markham Civic Centre, 101 Town Centre Blvd, Markham (Warden & Hwy 7) free parking

Date: Saturday May 11, 2013, 10am to 3pm



## News from Ontario Nature

-submitted by Lynn Smith

**Club Members Welcome, Mark your calendars....Two upcoming spring meetings!**

### Lake Ontario North Regional Meeting

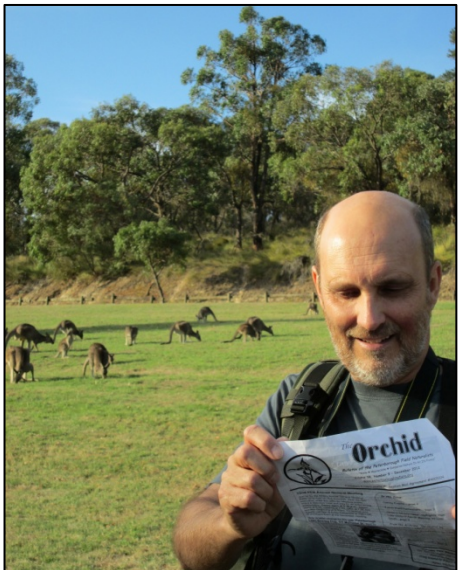
Date: Saturday April 6, 2013  
Time: 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Hosted by: York Region Environmental Alliance [www.yrea.org](http://www.yrea.org)  
Location: Oak Ridges Community Centre,  
12895 Bayview Avenue, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 4P9

- Please bring your own lunch and mug
- Agenda Items include “Social Media and Nature Clubs” – tips and tricks in reaching our target audiences, improving our outreach to members and communities.
- Host, Gloria Marsh, Executive Director of York Region Environmental Alliance will present their work in Biochar. Biochar (charcoal) is used as soil amendment, often used for agricultural purposes. *“Biochar may represent the single most important initiative for humanity’s environmental future,” says, Tim Flannery, author of The Weather Makers.*
- The afternoon hike will be led by Sharon and Jim Bradley around Lake Wilcox which is significant because it is the largest Kettle Lake on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

### Ontario Nature’s 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday June 8, 2013  
Time: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Location: Cawthra Mulock Nature Reserve, Bathurst St. (east) entrance

- You will have the opportunity to participate in a bioblitz and/or hike the Reserve with naturalists who will highlight the wildlife and unique features of the property.
- For further details and to register [http://www.ontarionature.org/discover/annual\\_general\\_meeting.php](http://www.ontarionature.org/discover/annual_general_meeting.php)



Travelling Orchid! PFN Board member Paul Elliot introducing the Orchid newsletter to kangaroos in Australia.



Travelling Orchid! PFN President Martin Parker snaps a photo of his guide (Yaya Barry) and driver (Sadu) in The Gambia holding the Orchid newsletter. In the background are PFN members Kathy Parker and Bill McCord.

## **Alderville Black Oak Savanna Bird Checklist Project**

*-by Roger Frost*

In order to develop a season checklist of birds of the Alderville Black Oak Savanna Preserve, Roger Frost and Elizabeth Kellogg surveyed the site during 2011 and 2012. The ABOS lies along the northern edge of the Oak Ridges Moraine, just east of the community of Alderville, on the Alderville First Nations Reserve. The ABOS has a variety of habitat types including tall grass prairie, oak savanna, old field, a small wooded wetland, deciduous and mixed woodlands and fields in the process of being restored to prairie/savanna habitat.

From September 5, 2011 to September 3, 2012, the ABOS was surveyed on 49 dates. Through most of the year, the surveys were done once a week, but only once every two weeks during the winter. On these visits, every habitat type on the Savanna was surveyed. Three of these surveys were performed after dark to look for nocturnal and crepuscular species.

A total of 136 species were recorded on these surveys, including 11 that had not been recorded before on the site. Breeding evidence was obtained for 77 species, including 38 confirmed.

Highlights of the breeding birds were:

- A Cooper's Hawk nest with young
- A Merlin nest with young
- A territorial pair of Northern Rough-winged Swallows
- 5 pairs of nesting Eastern Bluebirds
- Confirmed breeding of Blue-winged Warbler
- Two territorial male Golden-winged Warblers
- High densities of Chestnut-sided Warblers and Field Sparrows
- Confirmed breeding of Grasshopper Sparrow with at least 7 pairs on site
- Confirmed breeding of Eastern Meadowlark and Bobolink
- Territorial pairs of Pine Siskin

Several Species at Risk were observed during the surveys. These included Barn Swallow, Wood Thrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Canada Warbler, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark and Rusty Blackbird. Of these, only Canada Warbler and Rusty Blackbird do not breed on the site.

The non-breeding seasons were quite different. The winter was quite mild with little snow. Generally, the birding was quiet and mostly consisted of Black-capped Chickadees, American Tree Sparrows, woodpeckers, nuthatches, jays and crows. However, White-winged Crossbills were seen on 4 visits and small flocks of Pine Siskins were frequently observed in the site's swampy wetland.

The greatest species diversity occurred during spring migration, with a high of 64 species seen on May 21. The spring migration did not provide any major fallout days. Most species observed were likely breeding on or near the site. There were no obvious flocks of migrant warbler, vireos, thrushes or flycatchers.

The fall migration was much more interesting. Through September, migrant warblers and vireos were common in the site's woodlands. On September 3, 15 species of warblers were observed on the site. In late September and early October, the Savanna could be alive with birds. Mixed flocks containing sparrows, kinglets, Yellow-rumped, Palm and Nashville Warblers, bluebirds and goldfinches could be in every woodland edge or hedgerow. The gray dogwood thickets of the site were very attractive to a wide variety of birds. Swainson's, Hermit and Wood Thrush, Veery, Gray

Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-throated and Fox Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird and Purple Finch all showed a fondness for their fruit.

The data from these surveys is being compiled, along with other historical data from the site to produce a report and a season checklist of the birds of the Savanna.

Thanks for the support of the Ontario Species at Risk Stewardship Fund, Alderville First Nation and the staff of the Alderville Black Oak Savanna Preserve.

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## **Ideas Sought for 75th Anniversary of the Peterborough Field Naturalists**

The Peterborough Field Naturalists were founded in on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 1940. May 2015 will be the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the Peterborough Field Naturalists. The club has had many successes in the years since 1940 and still is strong locally based naturalist history club.

The Board of Directors at its meeting on February 6 established a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee consisting of Gina Varrin, Phil Shaw, Sean Smith with the authority to add members who are interesting helping to celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> Year.

Members who are interested in being a member of the committee are requested to contact any of the three Directors on the committee and volunteer to assist. Initially the committee will be developing a list of possible activities. Later the committee will be looking for volunteers to assist in organizing specific events or activities.

All members are also encouraged to submit suggestions on possible activities or initiatives which the club should consider. Ideas can range from public events to generate public interest in nature to research projects to a review of the club history. The 'From the Archives' column which has appeared in recent issues of 'The Orchid' is an initiative I undertook to look at the history of the PFN... The ideas are only limited by the imagination of the members of the PFN.

Please submit your ideas of events and activities to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the PFN to Gina, Phil or Sean. Their contact information is given elsewhere in the Orchid.

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## **From the Archives – Weather Signs by Earl White.**

*-From 'The Orchid', May 1964, Volume 9, Number 5*

Cobwebs on the grass in the morning indicate a fair day.

Dew on the grass in early morning is also a good sign.

Smoke raising straight up means fair weather as it denotes high pressure.

Smoke trailing downward shows just the opposite.

Swallows flying high is a fair weather sign as it is caused by high pressure

High clouds and 'mares' tails means fair weather.

Low scudding clouds mean rain.

Then there is the old saw 'red sky in the morning is the shepherds,' warning, red sky at night is the shepherds' delight. This is usually reliable too.

## **Who Cooks for you Who Cooks for you All**

*-by June Hitchcox, courtesy of the Apsley voice*

An email from Liz of Apsley was forwarded to me about the owl that parked on her phone line in February, for about 6 hours. The Hamilton Naturalists' Club, in their December Newsletter, highlighted this same species of owl, seen November 4, 2012 – only the second time that it has been seen during 39 years of the Hamilton Fall Bird Count. Its name? - BARRED OWL. Because of its hoots of 8 notes dropping to "aw" at the end, its call has been described as if it is saying "who cooks for you, who cooks for you all". It has a variety of other barking calls and screams. By night it is one of the noisiest birds, particularly in March/April with its maniacal laughter when it is courting. It is a large, stocky bird -17"- 24"; gray –brown with a "puffy" head; does not migrate; usually seen in wet woodlands. Note the bars ACROSS the neck and LENGTHWISE streaks on the belly. Except for the Barn Owl, it is the only owl with big, brown eyes. It rests quietly by day (unless it is cloudy), hunting at night for rodents, birds, frogs. It locates its prey by sound, thus can hunt in total darkness. Hunting is helped by being able to swivel its head 270 degrees and also by its exceptional ability to hear, aided by having its 2 ears located differently on each side of the head, allowing it to be able to pinpoint sounds – even sounds coming from under the snow. It is difficult to find but 3 things are helpful – the young call to the parents at night; look for the pellets that it coughs up after eating indigestible fur and bones and, lastly, it is inquisitive - imitating its call often brings it near. It was wonderful hearing it when we lived on Jack's Lake.

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## **Trip Report: Presqu'ile Provincial Park, March 17, 2013**

*-by Martin Parker with input from Jerry Ball*

Under the leadership of Jerry Ball fourteen members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists participated in the annual spring outing to view the gathering of waterfowl and other spring migrants at Presqu'ile Provincial Park. The group travelled from Peterborough via the Old Keene Road and along Peterborough County Road #2 then south to Brighton and Presqu'ile. On the way home the group stopped at Cobourg harbour.

The major difference from last year's trip was the temperature. Ball's records record the temperature at the start of last year's trip on March 11 was plus 10C with a temperature at the start being minus 12C this year. Spring is arriving as normal this year. The winds at Presqu'ile were blowing from the north across the cold waters and ice of the bay.

Ball noted that on the way down there were very few birds and normally busy feeders were not very active. The group observed twenty-two different species of waterfowl and a variety of other spring migrants.

Species observed by at least one member of group: Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Tundra Swan, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater & Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded, Red-breasted & Common Mergansers, Ruddy Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Ring-billed, Herring & Glaucous Gulls, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Downy, Hairy & Pileated Woodpeckers, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, European Starling, American Tree & Song Sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird and House Sparrow – 47 species.



## **From the Archives – Presqu’ile Outing, April 4, 1964**

- by Martin Parker. From 'The Orchid', May 1964, Volume 9, Number 5

On April 6, 1964, 18 bird watchers and two cats went on the Peterborough Nature Club's Field Trip to Presqu'ile Provincial Park. We left Peterborough as a group about 9 a.m. and returned near 6 p.m., after completing nine rewarding hours of bird watching.

Before we got together to eat lunch at the Park we went for a walk along the Nature Trail (ed. Note – the Indian Point Nature Trail which no longer exists) to the shore of Presqu'ile Bay. After the ducks flew away there was a bird spotted on the ice a little way up the shoreline. When Mr. Sadler focused the telescope on it the black spot turned out to be a Red-necked or Holboell's Grebe. As we walked towards it we discovered it was fast in the ice and we had a very good look at it. We are happy to report that this bird later got loose and away. Along the shore we found a dead Pied-billed Grebe and Redhead Duck, each providing a subject for study and discussion. The duck had a band on it which was sent to the Department of Wildlife, Washington D.C.

The highlight of the day was the spotting of the "Whistling Swan". (ed note: now Tundra Swans). There were 22 magnificent birds. It is a thrill to see these for the first time. By the Lighthouse we located a Horned Grebe in confusing winter dress. By the end of the day the group had recorded 47 species of birds.

They are: Red-necked Grebe, Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Whistling Swan, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, Common Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, American Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Robin, House Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Evening Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Tree Sparrow and Song Sparrow

### *Current Comments by Martin Parker:*

Fifty years later the PFN (former the Peterborough Nature Club) is still conducting a spring outing to Presqu'ile Provincial Park. The trips in the 1960's were in the early part of April and now they are occurring in mid-March.

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## **Thank you to our Donors at the 2013 PFN Annual General Meeting!**

Every year generous PFN members donate items to the PFN's bucket draw and silent auction. The PFN offers our sincere thanks to the following members for their donations:

- Kelly Dodge (art prints of artwork by Kelly Dodge)
- Ruth Hunter (Hunter Farm bees wax skin cream)
- Mark Peck (behind the scenes tour of the Royal Ontario Museum)
- Sean Smith (birding books and CD)
- Ken Towle (honey and chutney set)
- Bill Snowden (loon carving)
- Bill Snowden (hand-made pottery bowl)
- Ian Heales (original watercolour painting by Ian Heales)
- Enid Mallory (books by local authors Enid Mallory and Laura Mallory)
- Lynn Smith (puzzle, mug, game, and handmade knitted scarves)
- John Bottomley (many many many books)

## NatureWorks 2013: Workshops for the naturally curious

Discover Presqu'île's rich biodiversity all year round through our popular NatureWorks courses. Experienced naturalists will guide you, first in the classroom, then out in the field. These courses fill up quickly ... so book early. The modest workshop fee of \$15 per person, \$35 per family, includes free Park entry! Workshops are suitable for children over 10yrs. Confirm dates and make reservations at 613 475-1688 extension 2. More details at [www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca](http://www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca)

### Migration Mania

**Saturday, May 4: 8am - 2pm**

Yellow, green, indigo, orange streaking across the sky and into the new leaves of the trees in Presqu'île! It can only mean one thing: Spring Migration! We welcome the returning tropical birds and they come here in droves during April and May. Noted Park naturalist Ian Shanahan will help us sight them ... just before they move on to new nesting grounds further north. If you are new to bird life in the Park -- or want to sharpen your skills -- come for the spotting, and the tips on how to find these dazzling gems by sight and sound. Participants would be expected to bring their own binoculars.



### Aerial Warfare

**Dragonflies and Damselflies**

**Saturday, June 15: 9am – 3pm**

Meet the fighter aircraft of the bug world! Deceptively pretty but murderously accurate, even without radar. The world of dragonflies is aerial combat at its best. Find out how these flying jewels emerge from their watery nursery to transform into four - winged wonders. At this time of year we hope to catch a variety of species in the different habitats around the park. Meet these colourful insects in the company of one of Ontario's keenest odonatists David Bree.

### The Invaders!

**Saturday, September 14 - full day**

Come and see the invaders of Presqu'île and how they might be conquered. Invasive species: bugs, plants, crustaceans, fish, and others move into stay with us and eviction can be tough. Learn about the successes of biosurveillance, biocontrol and the actions of humankind. Your leader, Matt Ireland, is a specialist on marshland habitat. Classroom and field sessions included.

### FREE! Nuts to you!

**Saturday, October 5 – half day**

We can't let squirrels and chipmunks have all the fun so come and collect the cones, seeds and nuts we need to renew our Presqu'île woodlots. Energetic volunteers harvest the fall crop and prepare seedlings for winter hardening in our nursery and greenhouses. A casual, non-strenuous affair where many hands can gain on our furry friends. Morning or afternoon, all ages. Please pre-register.

### Mushroom Madness

**Sunday, October 6 - full day**

What's going on in the dark, dank soil beneath us? It's the fungi kingdom fruiting and we'll classify over 100 Presqu'île varieties. With Park biodiversity staffer Phil Careless you'll learn to separate a 'picker' from a 'kicker' in the magic world of mushrooms. Great photo opportunities too!



### A Brush with Nature

**Sunday, October 13 - Morning: level 1; Afternoon: level 2**

Back by popular demand this Fall watercolour painting course, taught by Andrew Hamilton, a noted nature painter, will leave you awash in nature's loveliness, using just three basic colours. All materials supplied, including a mat for your masterpiece. New this year: take either level 1 in the morning or level 2 in the afternoon, or join both. Stunning artistic transformations promised. Great for kids! Inquire about the special fee for both sessions.

# 2013 Reptile and Amphibian Training Workshops



James Paterson



Joe Crowley



James Paterson

Through classroom and field components you will learn about:

- Reptile and amphibian biology and behaviour
- Identification of species and their habitat
- Survey techniques for snakes, skinks, turtles, frogs and salamanders

Instruction by Ministry of Natural Resources (Shaun Thompson and Joe Crowley), Ontario Nature (James Paterson), The Nature Conservancy of Canada (Jennifer M<sup>c</sup>Carter and Brenda VanSleeuwen), Scales Nature Park (Jeff Hathaway), Fleming College (Josh Feltham) and others.

**This three day workshop will be offered twice in 2013:**

**May 14-16:** Camp Kitchikewana in Georgian Bay Islands National Park

[www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca/kids-camp/overnight-camps/](http://www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca/kids-camp/overnight-camps/)

**May 28-30:** Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre (north of Kingston)

[www.elbowlakecentre.ca](http://www.elbowlakecentre.ca)

**COST: \$500/person/workshop** (includes meals and accommodations)

**Email to Register:** [megan.ihrig@natureconservancy.ca](mailto:megan.ihrig@natureconservancy.ca)





The **ORCHID DIARY** for **March 5 - April 1, 2013**

Compiled by Tony Bigg, 652-7541, [tanddbigg@sympatico.ca](mailto:tanddbigg@sympatico.ca)

A cold month with more snow slowed migration to a trickle. Notable sightings were the earliest ever spring sighting of an Osprey - March 7, and the sightings of the two Great Gray Owls.

- Mar 06 The male **Red-breasted Merganser** was reopted by Sean Smith, to still be on Little Lake near the rail bridge at the south end. He also saw a nearly tail-less **Cooper's Hawk** around MacDonnell and George St in downtown Peterborough.
- Mar 07 Rose Marie Rosada watched two very early **Ospreys** on the ice near her cottage on Lower Buckhorn Lake. This is by far the earliest spring date for the county. Sue Paradis had a flock of over 150 **Bohemian Waxwings** in her yard in Ashburnham, feeding in a crab apple tree and eating birch seeds from a shed roof. At Little Lake, Jerry Ball saw a **Glaucous Gulls**, **American Black Ducks**, **Buffleheads**, **Hooded Mergansers**, and a **Pileated Woodpecker**. Ernie Basciano saw a **Barred Owl** on hydro wires between Young's Point and Burleigh Falls. He also saw a **Belted Kingfisher** on the pier below Lock 25 on the Otonabee River. Sean Smith had singing **Song Sparrow** and **Brown-headed Cowbird** at Cunningham Blvd and Armour Rd north of TASSS.
- Mar 08 On his way to Port Hope in the morning, Rick Stankiewicz saw a **Belted Kingfisher** on a power line at the intersection of Cty Rd 28 and Cty Rd 9 where there was no water in sight.
- Mar 09 Jerry Ball had five **American Robins** on Douro 9th Line. A **Northern Harrier** was reported by Tony Bigg, to be quartering the Lakefield Marsh where they normally breed. Rick Gibson came across an **Eastern Meadowlark** and a small flock of **Horned Larks** on Zion Rd.
- Mar 10 Rick Stankiewicz saw his first **American Robin** of the year on Hazel Crescent off Campbelltown Rd south of Cty Rd 2. A good variety of waterfowl were seen from Little Lake Cemetery by Jerry Ball - **American Wigeon**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Lesser Scaup**, **American Coot**, **Common Merganser**, **Hooded Merganser**, **Bufflehead**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Mallard** and **Canada geese**. A Merlin was calling in the cemetery. Scott Gibson also visited the lake and added a male **Canvasback** and the male **Red-breasted Merganser**. Tony Bigg reported that half a dozen **Red-winged Blackbirds** were back, calling, in the Lakefield Marsh. He also heard **Mourning Doves** cooing around the village.
- Mar 11 Tony Bigg reports that a small flock of **Common Grackles** were back in downtown Lakefield today. He and Jerry Ball had a single **Horned Lark** on Cty Rd 2 just east of Bailieboro. Jane Philpott reports trees full of **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **European Starlings** at Gannons Narrows, and she had a **Killdeer** calling in the area. A **Northern Flicker** was feeding at Sean Smith's suet feeder. **Eastern Bluebirds** returned to Michael Gillespie's property to check out his nest boxes.
- Mar 12 On Little Lake Sean Smith counted three **Gadwall**, three **Greater Scaup**, fifty plus **Hooded Mergansers**, thirty-five plus **Ring-necked Ducks**, lots of **Buffleheads** and one adult **Glaucous Gull**. Ken Rumble added **Wood Ducks**, **Northern Pintail**, **Mallards**, **Common Goldeneyes**, and **Common Mergansers** to this list. Jerry Ball had a **Pied-billed Grebe** at Lock 25 on the Otonabee.
- Mar 13 Two **American Coots** were seen by Ken Rumble from Little Lake Cemetery.
- Mar 14 Jane Philpott had an **Eastern Meadowlark** foraging on her lawn at Kawartha Hideaway on Buckhorn Lake. Jerry Ball had eight **Horned Larks** at the junction of Lakeview and Nicholson Rds near Rice Lake. A **Great Gray Owl** was found by Frank and Barb Batty on Cty Rd 10 just south of Morton Line between Cavan and Ida (Kim Clark reports that the bird has been hanging out there for the past week). Tore Buchanan saw a male **Redhead** with some **Canada Geese**, **Common Goldeneyes**, **Common Mergansers** and **Buffleheads**, just south of Lock 25 on the Otonabee River. Ken Rumble saw a **Bald Eagle** soaring over Little Lake.
- Mar 15 The first **Turkey Vultures** of the spring were seen by Drew Monkman, soaring over Costco on the Parkway, and by Jim Watt, soaring over the trees at Gannon's Narrows..
- Mar 16 Another **Great Gray Owl** was reported by Luke Berg just north of Young's Point and the Ultramar gas station on Hwy 28. Jerry Ball saw a **Cooper's Hawk** on Keene Rd, and a **Pileated Woodpecker** on Campbelltown Rd. Jim Watt had two adult and one juvenile **Trumpeter Swans** at Gannon Narrows. They were swimming in the open water between the Gannon Narrows Bridge and Fothergill Island. Lots of ducks and geese as well.
- Mar 17 Sue Paradis had six immature **Pine Grosbeaks** and six **Common Redpolls** in her yard in Ashburnham.

- Mar 18 Tony Bigg reports that he saw the **Great Gray Owl**, still in the same spot north of Young's Point. Didi Anderson had the pleasure of having a **Great Horned Owl** pay a brief visit to her yard. It landed on the roof of the house and she was able to see the long tufts on the head and even the talons.
- Mar 19 Liliana Perez had a male **Ring-necked Pheasant** in her yard on McCrae Drive. It stayed most of the day.
- Mar 21 Walter Wehtje saw two adult **Trumpeter Swans** roosting on the ice adjacent to Auburn Reach Park, along Water St in Peterborough. On the Otonabee River north of Lock 24, Kim Clark got a very good look through her scope at three **Tundra Swans**, noting the yellow on their bills. In the evening Jerry Ball had an **American Woodcock** on the road in front of him on Storell Rd south of the airport. A **Great Blue Heron** flew by Jane Philpott's home at Kawartha Hideaway on Buckhorn Lake. Jim Lloyd reports that he has had **Evening Grosbeaks** coming to his feeder at the western end of Zion Rd. ever since the fall. His property sits in the middle of 62 acres of an old Xmas tree farm.
- Mar 22 Luke Berg reports that the three **Tundra Swans** were still on the Otonabee River just north of Lock 23. He also saw a small flock of **Bohemian Waxwings** on the Trent Campus.
- Mar 25 Whilst walking along Mervin Line west of Airport Rd, Sherry Hambly saw a **Northern Shrike**. Tony Bigg had a **Pied-billed Grebe** on the Otonabee River just north of Lock 25.
- Mar 26 A **Turkey Vulture** was seen by Jerry Ball near the intersection of Drummond Line and Cty RD 2. Jerry, with Martin Parker saw a male **Northern Harrier** on Nicholson Rd north of Rice Lake. Another **Turkey Vulture** was seen by JB Jaboor on Crowley Line just south of Base Line.
- Mar 27 Mike Burrell did a count of waterfowl on Rice Lake, mainly east of Birdsall Line. He counted 62 **Canada Geese**, 1 **American Wigeon**, 13 **American Black Ducks**, 57 **Mallards**, 2 **Northern Pintails**, 2 **Green-winged Teals**, 30 **Redheads**, 21 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 6 **Lesser Scaups**, 13 **Buffleheads**, 161 **Common Goldeneyes**, 14 **Hooded Mergansers**, and 382 **Common Mergansers**.
- Mar 28 Jerry Ball reported that a **Great Blue Heron** had returned to the heronry at the south end of Drummond Line.
- Mar 29 **Osprey** reports were received from Maureen Smith (on the Indian River behind her house in Warsaw) and Jerry Ball (on Duncan's Line north of Rice Lake). The run-off pond at Mather's Corners was 50% open but only had **Canada Geese**, **Northern Pintails**, **American Black Ducks**, and **Mallards**. Jerry Ball also saw a **Bald Eagle** near Serpent Mounds PP and a **Wood Duck** on Settlers Line. Tony Bigg counted six **Turkey Vultures**, four in the south of the county and two near Lakefield by River Rd. He also had two **Killdeer** on Cameron Line.
- Mar 30 Chris Risley and Erica Nol heard two **American Woodcocks** peenting at the southwest end of Jameson Dr, just west of Fisher Dr. They also heard **Killdeer**, flyover **Canada Geese** and **Mallards**. Jerry Ball reports **Northern Pintail**, **American Black Duck**, **Green-winged Teal**, and **Great Blue Heron** at Mathers Corners. He also saw **Horned Larks** on Duncan's Line and a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** on Johnston Drive.
- Mar 31 Rick Stankiewicz saw his first **Osprey** just outside Keene on Cty Rd 2. Walking his dog on Douro 9th Line, Luke Berg saw two **Wood Ducks**, an **Eastern Phoebe**, and two **Brown-headed Cowbirds**. At Mather's Corners, Kim Clark reports there were eight **Green-winged Teal**, two **Northern Shovelers**, **American Black Ducks**, **Mallards**, **Canada Geese**, and **Killdeer**. Chris Risley saw four **Tree Swallows**, and a **Pied-billed Grebe** at Little Lake. He also had an **Eastern Meadowlark** and a **Northern Flicker** on Stewart Line near Hwy 10. Jerry Ball was also at Mather's Corners and added a **Northern Pintail**. on Little Lake Jerry counted nineteen **Redheads**. Three **Song Sparrows** were heard singing along the Bridgenorth Trail by Tony Bigg. He also saw a **Pileated Woodpecker** on the 5th Line of Smith.
- Apr 1 Dave Milsom birded from Trent University to Lakefield along the Otonabee River. He saw **Common Merganser**, **Hooded Merganser**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, large flocks of **Bufflehead** and **Ring-necked Ducks**, Scaup (Greater ?), **Common Goldeneyes**, **Redhead**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Gadwall**, **American Black Duck**, **Mallard**, **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Great Blue Heron**, **Common Grackles** and **Turkey Vultures**.



## ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Deadline for submissions for the May issue: Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Please send all submissions to: Rebecca Zeran, PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough, ON, K9J 7H7 or via e-mail to: [rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca)





# PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

[www.peterboroughnature.org](http://www.peterboroughnature.org)

## membership application form

Memberships may be obtained by mailing completed form and cheque to

Peterborough Field Naturalists  
PO Box 1532, Peterborough, ON K9J 7H7

### CONTACT

Name (s):		Home Tel:	
		Work Tel:	
Address:		Receive Orchid by:	<input type="radio"/> snail mail <input type="radio"/> e-mail <input type="radio"/> both please
		Email(s):	

### MEMBERSHIP TYPE & FEE SCHEDULE

Please make cheques payable to *Peterborough Field Naturalists*

1. Single Adult \$25 ☐ 2. Single Student \$15 ☐ 3. Single Child\* (age 5-12) \$10 ☐

4. Family (couple or family with children\*) \$30 ☐

\*Please give the name(s) and age(s) of the children you wish to be enrolled in the PFN Junior Naturalists

Name	Age*	Name	Age*

### MAIN INTERESTS

<input type="radio"/> Birds	<input type="radio"/> Butterflies/insects	<input type="radio"/> Botany (Wildflowers/trees/shrubs)
<input type="radio"/> Astronomy	<input type="radio"/> Aquatic Life	<input type="radio"/> Geology <input type="radio"/> Field Trips
<input type="radio"/> Hiking	<input type="radio"/> Conservation	<input type="radio"/> Other (specify)

I (name \_\_\_\_\_) am knowledgeable in the following areas \_\_\_\_\_ and would be prepared to

☐ lead an outdoor session ☐ give a presentation ☐ prepare an article for The Orchid

### I am interested in the following:

☐ Joining the PFN Executive ☐ Sitting on research or conservation committees ☐ Working on field projects  
☐ Helping with refreshments at meetings ☐ Please have a member of the executive call me

### AGE GROUP

This information helps us to understand the needs of our members. If a family membership, please check for each adult

☐ Under 20 ☐ 20-29 ☐ 30-39 ☐ 40-49 ☐ 50-59 ☐ 60-69 ☐ 70-79 ☐ 80< over

### DONATIONS

Membership fees cover the general operating costs of the club while other sources of revenue are needed to fund special projects such as ecological restoration. You can assist the club by making a donation to help further our work in such areas. The PFN is a registered charity and issues receipts for income tax purposes. All donations are gratefully received and any member of the executive will be happy to speak to you concerning the use of such funds.

### LIABILITY WAIVER

In consideration of the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) accepting this application, I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns forever release and discharge the PFN, their officers, directors, servants and agents from any liability whatsoever arising from my participation in PFN activities, whether by reason of negligence of the PFN or its representatives, or otherwise. I affirm that I am in good health, capable of performing the exercise required for field trips or other activities in which I participate, and accept as my personal risk the hazards of such participation. As a member of the PFN and/or as a parent/guardian of a member under 18 years of age, I have read and understood the above, and accept its term on behalf of all of my underage children.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_