The Orchid

Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

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

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Blanding's Turtle, Twp of Otonabee-South Monaghan, May 30 2013. Photo by Rick Stankiewicz.

Welcome New Members!

- Ron, Allison, Samantha & Chloe Seiderer
- Linda & Ken Sunderland
- Seonaid Brailey
- Judy & Garry Sutherland

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Coming Events

Wednesday June 12th 7:30 p.m. Ptbo Library	**PFN Monthly Meeting: A Tour of Canada's Reptiles: Diversity, Conservation and Tales from the Field** Joe Crowley will speak to us about Canadian reptile diversity and distribution and reptile conservation in Canada and Ontario.
Sunday June 23rd 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	**PFN Outing:Butterflies and Birds of Ingleton-Wells KHC Property** This whole-day outing will be to the Ingleton-Wells property of the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy, inland from the North Shore of Stony Lake. The purpose of this outing is to acquaint PFN members to this protected area and to determine what animals are present. There will be a special emphasis the butterflies in the open meadow on the property and the breeding birds of the adjacent wetland and woodland area. The trip is being led by Martin Parker and a representative of the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy. Meet in the parking lot at the Peterborough Zoo at 8:00 a.m. Bring a packed lunch and drinks. Binoculars, camera, and butterfly net would prove to be handy.
Saturday June 29th 1:30 p.m.	**PFN Outing: The Geology of Dummer Moraine** The geomorphology of any region influences the natural environments and human uses of the area. This outing will focus on the features and landforms of this site which resulted in it being unsuitable for agriculture. The leader will be Fritz Heilingbrunner, who was President of the Peterborough Nature Club, now the Peterborough Field Naturalists, in the early 1960's. He has taken a special interest in the geology and geomorphology of the Peterborough Region. Meet at the parking lot at the Peterborough Zoo at 1:30 p.m. for an interesting afternoon.
Saturday July 6 10:00 a.m.	**PFN Outing: Butterflies of Sandy Lake Road** The Sandy Lake Road area in the northeastern section of Peterborough County is the premier location for finding a variety of butterfly species. In early July it is possible to find six species of hairstreaks – Gray, Edwards's, Striped, Banded, Coral, and Acadian along with a number of species of Skipper – Dun, Broad-winged and many other butterfly species. The leader for this outing is Jerry Ball, an authority on the butterflies of our region. This is a joint trip with Kingston Field Naturalists. It is an excellent opportunity to learn how to identify the butterflies of our area. The meeting for this outing is the Tim Horton's outlet on the western entrance to Havelock on Highway 7 t 10 a.m. Butterflies are not early risers!
Wednesday August 14th 8:30 p.m. Beavermead Park	**PFN Outing: Bat Walk** Meet Paul Elliott in the main parking lot at Beavermead Park for a walk to look for bats. We will also use ultrasonic bat detectors to listen to any bats we encounter. Other nocturnal wildlife may also be seen. Bring a flashlight, bug repellent and dress appropriately for the weather.

Coming Events continued

Sundays Sept 1 - Oct 27 8:00 a.m. Ptbo Zoo Parking Lot	**Autumn Wildlife walks** The weekly autumn wildlife walks will take place in September and October. Meet in the parking lot of Peterborough Zoo parking lot at 8.00am. We will car share from there to local sites of interest. Bring binoculars and a cash contribution to gas costs. The leaders will be confirmed later (volunteers welcome to contact Paul Elliott). Outing dates: September 1,8,15,22, 29 & October 6,13,20,27
Wednesday Sept 11th 7:30 p.m. Ptbo Library	**PFN Monthly Meeting: Beekeeping** Speaker: Ian Crtichell
Wednesday Oct 9th 7:30 p.m. Ptbo Library	**PFN Monthly Meeting: Shorebird Ecology and Conservation** Speaker: Colleen Murchison and Johanna Perz

Junior Field Naturalists

Nature Activities @ Camp Kawartha Environment Centre

When: Sunday, June 23, 1:45 p.m.

We will meet at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre (at Trent University) on Sunday June 23rd 1:45 pm for an afternoon of nature activities, hiking and campfire with a special treat (maybe Banana Boats, yum!). I am looking forward to seeing any & everyone for the final get together before the summer break. 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
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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	

Other Events of Interest

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. Discover Presqu'ile'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

FABULOUS FALL FUNGI. Discover the wonderful world of mushrooms and other fungi in this three-day workshop. Hands-on identification, plus discussions on ecology, uses and etymology. Dates: Oct 1-4, 2013. Cost: $350. Includes 3 nights' accommodation, meals, instruction, use of lab space & microscopes. Small class size (max 12 students). Location: Queen's University Biological Station. Details: www.queensu.ca/qubs.

A Fire-fronted Serin or Red-fronted Serin, normally breeding in the Caucasus and the higher mountains of Turkey and Iran, observed May 16, 2013, in Prince Edward County near the end of Long Point Road. Photo by Emily Pettypiece.

PFN members admiring Serviceberry Tree during PFN Spring Wildlife Walk at Sawer Creek Wetland Wildlife Area, May 12, 2013. Photo by JB Jaboor.

ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Deadline for submissions for the Setember issue: Friday, August 23rd, 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**

A Walking Success: Peterborough Jane's Walk Attracts 100 participants

-by Chris Gooderham, Photos by Chris Gooderham unless otherwise noted

The first weekend of May was Jane's Walk, the annual event that celebrates the life and ideas of Jane Jacobs—legendary author, urban activist, and renowned thinker who championed the interests of local residents and pedestrians over a car-centered approach to planning. This year was the fourth year in a row that the PFN has sponsored and organized the walks locally. The event attracted nearly 100 participants (I think I counted 96) in total to five different walks throughout Peterborough. Since its inception in 2007, Jane's Walk has grown to international fame as an event that celebrates walkable neighbourhoods, urban literacy, and cities planned for and by the people.

Sunday Afternoon Walk: Creek Mystique, Kim Zippel and Gina Varrin (photo credit: TrailSwag, Evan Holt)

Thanks to the passionate walk leaders who organized and shared their stories about Peterborough's special places. We had some great diversity this year and I'm sure we will see some again next year. Our fantastic walk leaders were: Meredith Carter, Erin McGauley, Drew Monkman, Mike McMurtry, Roger Jones, Kim Zippel, Gina Varrin, and Andrew Jobes. You all did a great job. I know, because as the City Event Organizer, I try to attend every walk!

In case you missed the walks, you can read more about them on the PFN website at: peterboroughnature.org/janeswalk/

Saturday Morning Walk: Exploring Beavermead and Little Lake, Erin McGauley & Meredith Carter

Saturday Afternoon Walk: Contentious Ribbon of Green, Drew Monkman

Sunday Morning Walk: Islands of Green, Mike and Roger

Sunday Afternoon Walk: Be Here Now, Mindfulness and the Art of Sensing, Andrew Jobes

PFN Naturalists Do Well in Carden Challenge

-by Martin Parker

The Peterborough Field Naturalists were well represented in this year's Carden Challenge, a birding and biodiversity competition in the CardenAlvar. It is also a major fund-raiser for the Couchinching Conservancy. Over $22,000 was raided this year.

PFN member Kathy Parker was part of the team known as the Carden Catbirds. Other team members consisted of Susan Blayney of Fenelon Falls, Alex Mills of Barrie and Chris Evans of Orillia. They participated in the CardenAlvar Biodiversity Challenge. They had to identify species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies within a 24 hour period. All identifications had to be confirmed by two members of the team. Bonus points were awarded if the species are recognized as species at risk by either the Federal or Provincial Governments.

The Carden Catbirds earned 182 points to capture the new Biodiversity Challenge Award, which was donated by Martin and Kathy Parker. There were a total of four teams in the Biodiversity Challenge, with the 2nd place team earning 178 points, and the other two teams obtaining 152 and 172 points.

PFN members Sean Smith, Matthew Toby and Martin Parker along with Dan Bone of the Kawartha Field Naturalists comprised a team called 'The Wylie Road Runners'. They came in second in the Carden Cup which is for competitive teams. The winning team 'The Lagerheads' observed 133 species of birds and were awarded the 'Carden Cup'. The 'Wylie Road Runners' observed 122 species with the other two competitive teams observing 117 and 103 species.

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There were four teams in the Recreation Category with the leading team observing 82 species.

The Carden Challenge commenced at 6 p.m. on Friday May 24 and lasted until 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 25. All observations had to occur within in an area contained within a circle of radius 24 kilometers centered on the CardenAlvar, just north of Kirkfield. Some teams birded all night while other had a few hours' sleep. The event ended with a catered supper and awards presentation.

Columbine. PFN Spring Wildlife Walk to Hermiker Point, May 19, 2013. Photo by JB Jaboor.

Variegated Trillium. PFN Spring Wildlife Walk to Hermiker Point, May 19, 2013. Photo by JB Jaboor.

Wild Flowers of the Kawarthas by Dorothy Hunter

-submitted by Martin Parker

Dorothy Hunter was an active member of the Board of the Peterborough Field Naturalists in the late 1960's being involved with the 'Tree Bee', indoor meeting coordination and refreshments at the meetings.

In the late 1960's Dorothy Hunter initiated a project dealing with the common wild flowers of the region for the club. She used the surplus from the refreshment fund to make coloured prints of some of the more spectacular and interesting wildflowers. The prints were assembled into a photo album which was display at the indoor meetings. I believe that all the photos were taken by Dorothy Hunter.

The completed album was to be displayed at the regular meetings of the club in order to create an awareness and appreciation of our floral heritage.

The photo album produced by Dorothy Hunter has recently been returned to the Peterborough Field Naturalists and will be displayed at upcoming meetings at the Library. A project initiated over 45 years ago by dedicated volunteer can now be enjoyed again by PFN members.

Bluebirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds

-by June Hitchcox, courtesy of the Apsley Voice and the Halton Bluebird Club

Cowbirds are described as "nest parasites" when it comes to laying their eggs because they lay them in the nests of other birds and let the hosts raise them. The Halton Bluebird Club has Bluebird trails in Bronte Creek Provincial Park on both sides of Bronte Creek with Bluebird nest boxes along these trails which club members monitor weekly, checking to see f there are nests in them; watching to see what species of bird is flying into the box; (sometimes they are used by other species such as Sparrows, Wrens); how many eggs; how many chicks; when those chicks fledge. They also band the chicks. For the first recorded time in the Club, a Cowbird laid 2 eggs in one of those Bluebird nests! Apparently birds are able to count the number of eggs that they lay so this Cowbird had to dispose of one Bluebird egg each time it laid one of its own. On May 19, there were 5 eggs in the nest. On May 26, Monitors reported 3 blue eggs plus 2 chicks still sitting in half their egg shells. June 2, still thinking that they were Bluebird chicks because Bluebirds were flying in and out of the nest box, the Monitors were surprised at the size of the 2 chicks and suggested that they were large enough to band. On June 5, banders found that the 2 large chicks were gone, leaving 2 very small chicks and an unhatched egg. Those 2 large chicks had hatched May 26 and were fledged in less than 10 days! Bill Read to the rescue: those large chicks were Cowbirds! He also noted that female Cowbirds tend to lay their eggs in the nest of species which raised them. If these 2 young Cowbirds are females, they will probably seek out a Bluebird nest this year for their eggs. Monitors will keep a sharp eye on the size of the eggs. It is illegal to remove Cowbird eggs from a nest – Cowbirds check on their eggs and have been known to destroy the host nest if their eggs are removed. Perhaps another solution may be found such as a different style of nest box that Cowbirds cannot access. Many thanks to Joyce LeChasseur and to Sylvia van Walsum for this fascinating glimpse into nature.

Introduction to Dummer Moraine Outing

-submitted by Martin Parker

Prepared from F.A. Heilingbrunner, 2001, Field Trip to the Dummer Moraine, Peterborough

The Dummer moraine is an interrupted, large area of very rough, stony ground stretching about 140 km from Tamworth (north of Napanee) to Burnt River (north of Fenelon Falls) along the south margin of the Precambrian Shield. It trends about 75 degrees west of north, roughly at right angles to the direction of the ice flow. The Dummer Moraine is named after the Township of Dummer since it is best represented there.

The Dummer Moraine is considered a recession moraine and marks a temporary halt in the retreat of the ice front of the Lake Simcoe lobe. This took place towards the end of the Wisconsin Glaciation, at the Lake Iroquois stage. The features of this moraine seem to indicate that much of it was formed under stagnant ice conditions.

The material in the Dummer Moraine is very stony till. Most of the material is angular Ordovician limestone, indicating it had not been transported very far. Basically picked up and dumped by the almost stagnant ice. The till tends to become less stony further south, especially as the Dummer moraine grades into ground moraine. Some Precambrian boulders are also found in the till. They tend to be more rounded since they had earlier been brought from further north. Precambrian erratics are present as well. In flatter areas of the moraine the till is very thin; at times the glacial surface of the limestone bedrock is exposed.

On the outing scheduled for Saturday, June 29, former President Fritz Heilingbrunner will be leading a guided car tour to various locations in the Dummer Moraine to view examples of the geomorphologic processes which created the Dummer Moraine and how it impacted the development of this area.

CHECK THIS OUT! A Special Opportunity for a High School Student!
The Peterborough Field Naturalist Board would like to support Ontario Nature's Youth Summit by sponsoring a keen high school student to attend the weekend event.

Are you a high school student with a passion for nature, desire to learn more about the environment, want to meet like-minded friends?
Ontario Nature is holding their 2013 **Youth Summit for Biodiversity and Green Solutions** from September 20 -22nd at YMCA Geneva Park, Orillia, ON

The Youth Summit will feature numerous workshops and hands-on activities to help students become environmental leaders in their community. Topics include sustainability, green technology, bird banding, Ontario's species at risk and MORE! The venue is Lake Couchiching with nightly campfires, canoeing and nature walks. See further details at www.ontarionature.org/youthsummit OR email the co-ordinator, Sarah Hedges at sarahh@ontarionature.org

How to Apply for Sponsorship? Deadline is Friday June 28, 2013.
Please email to smithfam@nexicom.net an outline of your experience and interest in nature **and** why you would like to attend the Youth Summit weekend. **Also**, would you be willing to share your Youth Summit experience and what you learned, at a Peterborough Field Naturalist Club meeting?
We would like to hear from you!

From the Archives – The Dawn Chorus, June 2 1963

-submitted by Martin Parker

By Dudley Hewitt. From the Orchid, Vol. 8, No 6, June 1963

Standing in a clearing overlooking a heavily wooded ravine we were entirely unprepared or the din made by the Whip-poor-wills that early morning of June 2nd. Because of the fact that we would have to be settled in our watching positions by 3:45 a.m. some of us had to be up and ready to leave home by 2 a.m. in order to cover the close to 40 miles to the meeting place. (Ed. Note: outing was southeast of Millbrook and Dudley Hewitt lived north of Selwyn)

Those who planned the outing had expected there would be only a few hardy individuals out at that hour and were very agreeably surprised that the turn-out was in the neighbourhood of thirty-eight.

It was quite cool, not cold, and as we settled down waiting for the first of the day birds to start their sleepy song we wondered how we would separate the awakening of the birds from the cacophony of song caused by the Whip-poor-wills, which seemed to get louder and more frequent as the morning approached. Talking was kept to a minimum and at 3:48 one of the parties picked out the song of the Winter Wren. Gradually other birds joined the chorus. It was quite difficult to pick the different birds from the chorus of the Whip-poor-wills, which continued until 5:05 a.m.

The participants had been divided into three groups, one of which was stationed beside the creek at the bottom of the ravine. The second some distance north on the top edge of the ravine and the third party on the hill behind the farmhouse, each party under the guidance of a thoroughly experienced and well trained bird watcher; Doug Sadler, leading the group down by the creek; Harry Williams the one on the rim of the ravine; and that by the house under the leadership of Gus Yaki.

Each leader kept a list and at 6:15 we gathered at the farmhouse for breakfast, which had been prepared by Claire Williams, assisted by some of the other ladies in the party. The lists were compared and sorted out and a master list was prepared with the names of the birds listed in their order of incidence A total of 43 different birds were heard and everyone seemed well pleased with the results of the Dawn Chorus. This was a new venture of the Peterborough Nature Club and the response was very gratifying to the committee who organized it.

Times First Bird Songs heard (all times a.m.):

3:48	Winter Wren
3:53	Northern Waterthrush, Great Horned Owl
3:55	Ovenbird
4:07	Indigo Bunting, Common Nighthawk
4:20	American Robin
4:21	Warbling Vireo
4:27	Song Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager
4:28	Winter Wren (full song), Chipping Sparrow
4:29	Wood Thrush
4:30	Eastern Phoebe
4:33	Veery
4:37	Eastern Kingbird, Mourning Dove
4:40	Eastern Wood Peewee, Eastern Towhee
4:41	Field Sparrow
4:48	Red-eyed Vireo, Common Yellowthroat
4:53	Brown-headed Cowbird
4:55	Gray Catbird
4:59	Baltimore Oriole
5:00	Vesper Sparrow
5:05	end of Whip-poor-will
5:07	American Crow
5:11	Black-capped Chickadee, Rose-breasted Grosbeak
5:16	Nashville Warbler
5:21	Blue Jay
5:28	American Goldfinch
5:32	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
5:34	Black-and-white Warbler
5:43	Northern Flicker
5:44	Yellow Warbler
5:47	Chimney Swift
5:48	Black-throated Green Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow
5:50	Golden-winged Warbler
6:04	Mourning Warbler
6:12	Black-billed Cuckoo, Tree Swallow

Barn Swallow Nest Watchers Needed!

-from a posting to ONTBIRDS, May 31, 2013

Have you ever seen a Barn Swallow mud nest cup attached to a house, shed, or barn? Then please consider reporting it to the new Barn Swallow NestWatch project! Birds Studies Canada needs your nest information to help us understand this special and entertaining bird! It only takes a few minutes to fill in our online form (http://goo.gl/4X9wb) and provide simple yet critical information on the nesting structure type and surrounding habitat.

If you have Barn Swallows nesting near you and would like to monitor the progress of the nest, please visit the Barn Swallow NestWatchwebsite (www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/pnw) for more information.

Although Barn Swallows are still fairly common, their numbers are decreasing rapidly across Canada; however, the reasons for the decline are not well understood.

To learn more about the program contact Kristyn Richardson at krichardson@birdscanada.org or 519-586-3531 ext 127.

Ontario Whip-poor-will Observations Needed

-from a posting to ONTBIRDS, May 17, 2013

Bird Studies Canada is asking birders to report any whip-poor-wills heard or seen in Ontario. Observations can be reported to eBirdCanada (www.ebirds.ca) or use our online form (http://goo.gl/rD9nE) to report any locations in Ontario where you hear a whip-poor-will calling during May through August. Bird Studies Canada's Ontario Whip-poor-will Project aims to increase understanding of the distribution and abundance of the Eastern Whip-poor-will in Ontario.

We're also seeking volunteers to conduct roadside whip-poor-will surveys in southern and central Ontario. These nocturnal surveys are conducted during the peak calling periods leading up to the full moon. This year there are two whip-poor-will survey periods: an early period (May 17-25), and a mid-season period (June 16-23). Volunteers can choose their route by viewing the 2013 Ontario Eastern Whip-poor-will Project Assignment Map (http://tinyurl.com/ahws4e6) and then email Kathy Jones at volunteer@birdscanada.org to register their plans. Once a participant registers their route they can go ahead and survey - they should not wait for confirmation unless they need a map.

For additional information and survey resources visit the Ontario Whip-poor-will Project webpage (http://gool.gl/1FYCN). Assistance for this species at risk stewardship project has been provided by the Government of

Clockwise from Left to Right: (a) & (b) Blanding's Turtle on lawn, Twp of Otonabee-South Monaghan, May 30 2013. Photos by Rick Stankiewicz.
(c) Blanding's Turtle laying eggs in garden, Twp of Otonobee-South Monaghan, May 31, 2013, Photo by JB Jaboor.
(d) Pair of Caspian Terns, Trent Canal north of Parkhill Road, City of Peterborough, May 5, 2013. Photo by Rebecca Zeran.
(e) Ebony Jewelwing Damselfly eating mosquito in backyard. City of Peterborough, June 4, 2013, Photo by Rebecca Zeran.

·PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS·

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: o snail mail o e-mail o 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

o Birds	o Butterflies/insects	o Botany (Wildflowers/trees/shrubs)	
o Astronomy	o Aquatic Life	o Geology	o Field Trips
o Hiking	o Conservation	o Other (specify)	

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

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

I am interested in the following:

o Joining the PFN Executive
o Sitting on research or conservation committees
o Working on field projects
o Helping with refreshments at meetings
o 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

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

DONATIONS

Membership fees cover the general operating costs of he 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: _____