

The Orchid

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Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All its Forms



Belted Whiteface, Sawyer Creek near Lakefield, July 10, 2016 ~ Submitted by Dave Milsom

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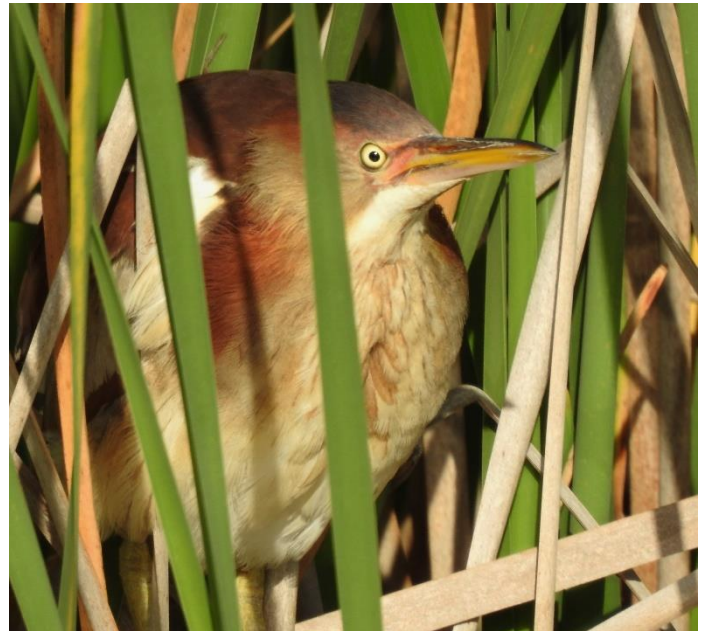
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Olympia Marble, Devil's Four Mile Road
May 11, 2016 ~ Submitted by Luke Berg



Above: Common Loon on nest, Otonabee River Lock 25,
June 19th ~ Submitted by Denise Griffin

Above right: Least Bittern, Sawyer Creek,
July 10th ~ Submitted by Dave Milsom

Welcome New PFN Members!

Bruce Brough & Austin Demaeyer
Michael Mesure
David Webster
Maggie & Chris Eaton
Christine & Mitch Champagne
Lauren Dares
John Williams
Roy Bowles
Ross & Nora Jackson

Coming Events				
Sundays September 4 th to October 23 rd 8:00 am North Parking Lot, Riverview Zoo, Water Street, Peterborough	Sunday morning wildlife outings			
	Our autumnal season of Sunday morning wildlife outings will start on 4 th September.			
	Unless otherwise stated the outings will begin at the Riverview Zoo parking lot on Water Street at 8:00am. From the zoo participants will carpool to local sites for bird watching and other wildlife encounters. Bring binoculars if you have them and pay attention to the weather forecast when deciding what to wear.			
	The walks are suitable for novices and experienced naturalists alike. We welcome newcomers!			
	Some dates do not yet have leaders identified. If you are interested in leading an outing to one of your favourite wildlife hotspots, please contact Paul Elliott. Outings will be led by the following:			
	4 th September	Jerry Ball	2 nd October	Drew Monkman
	11 th September	Martin Parker	9 th October	tbc
	18 th September	Chris Risley	16 th October	Martin Parker
	25 th September	tbc	23 rd October	Jerry Ball
Wednesday Sept. 14 th 7:30 pm Camp Kawartha Environment Centre	PFN Monthly Meeting: Experimental Lake Area			
	Dr. Paul Frost currently holds the David Schindler Professorship in Aquatic Science from Trent University. Dr. Frost's presentation will be on the 'Past and Present of Experimental Lake Area'. The Experimental Lakes Area is located outside of Kenora, Ontario and is a world-class field station where ecologists study long-term environmental changes and human-related effects on ecosystems. Dr. Frost will detail the history and development of the ELA, explain its scientific significance, and provide a virtual tour of this important field station. He will also provide a summary of its recent history and current status.			
Wednesday October 12 th 7:30 pm Camp Kawartha Environment Centre	PFN Monthly Meeting: Learning the Plants of the Kawarthas			
	This presentation is aimed at naturalists with an interest in learning more about identifying plants in the wild in the Kawartha region. Mike will talk about the groups and families of plants and the characteristics used to confidently identify plants to the species level. He will also discuss the use of common names versus scientific names, the importance of considering timing and habitat, the best field guides and reference materials to use, and some other helpful resources. Mike will end with a quiz using photos of common and not-so-common plants that grow in the wild near Peterborough. Your own experiences and questions about identifying plants will be welcome.			
	Mike has spent most of his career working with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, most recently with the Natural Heritage Information Centre. He is Past-president of the Field Botanists of Ontario and he works for the Kawartha Land Trust as a volunteer.			

Coming Events cont'd

<p>Saturday October 15th</p> <p>9:00 am</p> <p>Tim Horton's parking lot, Sobey's Plaza, Lansdowne Street West</p>	<p>Hawks over Cranberry Marsh</p> <p>As hawks and other raptors are heading southward each fall they are blocked by the water of Lake Ontario. The raptors will migrate westerly along the north shore of Lake Ontario looking for a way around the lake. On this outing we will travel to the Cranberry Marsh in Whitby to observe the annual fall hawk watch, which operates during the months of September and October. On the date of this trip there should be buteos and possibly eagles migrating through. The exact number will depend on weather conditions, especially the wind direction. If the hawk migration is slow there will be lots of other wildlife to see. The trip will also provide an excellent introduction to the prime hawk migration monitoring location on the north shore of Lake Ontario.</p> <p>Meet trip leader, Martin Parker, at 9:00 am in the Tim Horton's parking lot at the Sobey's Plaza, Lansdowne Street West. We will carpool to the Cranberry Marsh and return in the late afternoon. Bring a packed lunch, binoculars, and clothes suitable for the weather forecast. A portable stool will be handy if you have one.</p>
<p>Sunday October 30th</p> <p>8:00 am</p> <p>Country Style at junction of Old Keene Road & Highway 7</p>	<p>Birding at Presqu'ile Provincial Park</p> <p>Jerry Ball will lead a day-long trip to view migrant birds at Presqu'ile Provincial Park, with other stops of interest on the way. In particular, expect to see many interesting waterfowl. Bring a packed lunch, binoculars and, if you have them, rubber boots (not essential). Meet at 8:00 am at the Country Style at the junction of Old Keene Road and Highway 7, east of Peterborough. We will carpool, so bring a contribution for gas and the vehicle entry fee to the park.</p>

PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)


All Junior Naturalists are invited to sign up for the summer photo contest. There is still time to get outside and take some great photos! Cool prizes were generously donated by The Toy Shop of Peterborough and by Christensen Fine Art. Details are available online at <http://peterboroughnature.org/junior/>.

Events to watch for this fall include archery at Camp Kawartha and a skulls identification workshop at Trent University. Full details are available online in the Juniors' event listings!

Other Events of Interest

<p>Friday September 2nd</p> <p>7:00 pm</p> <p>Guest Services Building, Riverview Park & Zoo</p>	<p>Peterborough Astronomical Association monthly meeting</p> <p>For more information on their monthly meetings (September is "Autumn Constellations and Deep Sky Targets' by John Crossen), and other upcoming events, please visit www.peterboroughastronomy.com.</p> <p>New this fall! Novice Astronomy Classes begin September 2nd at the Riverview Zoo. The monthly classes are designed for novice backyard stargazers. Starting time is 6:30 pm in the Rotary Education Centre at the Riverview Zoo. There are onsite washrooms and the building is accessible. The novice meetings last approximately 30 minutes, after which the regular 2-hour PAA meeting with a guest speaker will take place. Participants are welcome to attend three meetings (both novice and advanced) at no charge. Bring a notebook, pencil or pen, and your sense of curiosity! Contact John Crossen at 705-657-7717 or johnstargazer@nexicom.net for details.</p>
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Other Events of Interest cont'd

<p>Fourth Wednesday of each month 7:00 pm Lion's Centre 347 Burnham Street, Peterborough</p>	<p>Peterborough Horticultural Society monthly meeting</p> <p>The Peterborough Horticultural Society meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Lions Centre, 347 Burnham Street, Peterborough. Join us at 6:30 pm for socializing; the meeting begins at 7 pm. Annual membership rates are \$20 individual, \$25 family, \$2 guest. All are welcome and you don't have to be an experienced gardener! For more info visit www.peterboroughhort.com.</p> <p>September 28th - Gifts from the Garden Demonstrations October 26th - All About Garlic, Gail & Todd Grainger November 23rd - Bugs in the Garden, Professor David Beresford, Trent University</p>
<p>Saturday September 10th 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre, 1434 Chemong Road, Peterborough</p>	<p>Open House at Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre (OTCC)</p> <p>The OTCC (well known as the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre) is hosting an Open House on Saturday, September 10th from 10:00am to 3:00pm at the centre (1434 Chemong Road) and hope that you can join us. There will be a chance to tour the indoor and outdoor education spaces, visit with the turtles, and purchase some tasty treats. All proceeds to support OTCC!</p>
<p>Saturday September 10th 10:30 am to 3:30 pm Alderville First Nation Black Oak Savanna, 8467 County Road 18, Alderville</p>	<p>9th Annual Prairie Day at Alderville First Nation Black Oak Savanna</p> <p>A celebration of the tallgrass prairie and black oak savanna ecosystems of the Rice Lake Plains. Join us for a family-friendly event that includes guided hikes, workshops, entertainment, food and fun! Admission by donation. No pets, please. Contact Daphne Paszterko to volunteer, or for vendor opportunities at dpaszterko@alderville.ca or phone 905-352-1008.</p>
<p>September 13th to 16th or September 25th to 30th or October 4th to 7th</p>	<div data-bbox="467 1203 917 1791">  </div> <div data-bbox="938 1203 1482 1791"> <p>2016 Fabulous Fall Fungi Workshops</p> <p>Now in its 7th year, these stimulating, hands-on workshops explore the impressive diversity of mushrooms and other fungi found in Southern Ontario. Suitable for all levels. Maximum of 12 individuals per workshop.</p> <p>This year there is a choice between 3-day and 5-days sessions. Location: Queen's University Biological Station. Register early to avoid disappointment (there are waiting lists each year). Details at www.queensu.ca/qubs/events-and-outreach.</p> </div>

Other Events of Interest cont'd

<p>Saturday September 17th</p> <p>9:00 am to 3:30 pm</p> <p>Thicksons Woods, Whitby</p>	<p>Birds, Beavers & Butterflies Nature Festival</p> <p>This year we are very excited to announce that two of the most popular attractions, missing last year, are expected to be back! Amazing magician Warren Toaze will confound and astound one and all with his sleight of hand. Geologist Norbert Woerns will share his extensive knowledge of rocks and minerals with the budding rock hounds at this fall's festival. Of course there will be many other exciting things to experience in the out-of-doors. Visit www.thicksonswoods.com for more information.</p>
<p>Saturday September 24th</p> <p>1:00 to 3:00 pm</p> <p>Ecology Park, 1899 Ashburnham Drive, Peterborough</p>	<p>Peterborough GreenUP's Vermicomposting Workshop</p> <p>Composting food waste, especially in small, indoor spaces can pose a real challenge. Vermicomposting is an innovative solution using red wigglers, food waste and a tight-lidded rubber bin. Learn how to set up and manage your vermicomposter properly and use the precious worm castings to boost soil nutrition in the garden. Cost is \$50 (includes 2 hour instruction, 1 lb of worms and a vermicomposting bin) Registration is required for this workshop. No drop-ins please.</p>
<p>Thursday September 29th</p> <p>6:30 to 9:00 pm</p> <p>Prince of Wales Public School 1211 Monaghan Road</p>	<p>Rain Ready Peterborough Community Forum – Peterborough GreenUP</p> <p>Join us for the Rain Community Solutions program community forum on September 29th from 6:30 to 9:00 pm at the Prince of Wales Public School Auditorium. GreenUP, in partnership with Green Communities Canada and the citizens living in the Avenues neighbourhood of Peterborough, are planning to install eight rain gardens in their area!</p> <p>At this community forum we will be discussing rain gardens, water issues and flooding in The Avenues neighbourhood in Peterborough, sharing knowledge, and introducing this new and exciting rain garden program to the community.</p>
<p>Sunday October 16th</p> <p>10:00 am to 4:00 pm</p> <p>Ecology Park, Peterborough</p>	<p>Little Autumn Tree Sale</p> <p>Autumn is the best time to transplant trees and shrubs in your yard. GreenUP's Ecology Park is holding a big nursery sale to make room for the new trees coming in the spring.</p> <p>Plants, shrubs and trees will be for sale, starting at only \$1! All sales are final, and no additional discounts (sorry, Friends of GreenUP discount is not applicable at this sale).</p>

PFN Volunteer Corner: Orchid Editor Needed!

Marla has greatly enjoyed volunteering as Orchid Editor over the last 3 years; however, she has decided to move on to new adventures.



Our Club is now looking for someone willing to volunteer as editor of the Orchid newsletter. Marla can vouch that The Orchid is "a labour of love" and she is happy to help her successor with the transition. For more information on this position please contact Marla (orchid@peterboroughnature.org) or Lynn Smith (smithfam@nexicom.net).

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

Submission deadline for the October issue is **Friday, September 23rd**.

Send submissions to Marla Williams via email: orchid@peterboroughnature.org
or post mail to: PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7



Membership Renewals: PFN memberships expire on December 31st each year but Orchid deliveries will continue until March. After August new memberships are valid until the end of the following year. A tax receipt is issued for memberships and donations.

PFN Board of Directors				Other Volunteers		
President	Lynn Smith	smithfam@nexicom.net	944-5599	Membership Secretary	Jim Young	760-9397
Vice President	Kim Zippel	kimzippel@nexicom.net	740-0587	Orchid Editor	Marla Williams 874-5653 orchid@peterboroughnature.org	
Secretary	Martin Parker	mparker19@cogeco.ca	745-4750	Orchid Mailing	Mary Thomas	
Treasurer	Don Pettypiece	don.pettypiece@gmail.com	750-1145	Jr. Naturalists	Lara Griffin 749-3639 pfnjuniors@gmail.com	
Program (indoor)	Phil Shaw	pshaw78@hotmail.com	874-1688	Ecology Park Feeders	JB Jaboor, Don Finigan	
Program (indoor)	Marie Duchesneau	duchesneau13@hotmail.com	874-5739	Orchid Diary	Martin Parker	745-4750
Program (outdoor)	Paul Elliott	paulelliott@trentu.ca	740-0501	Miller Creek Management	Jim Cashmore, Jim Young	
Harper Park, Stewardship	Rene Gareau	rene.gareau@sympatico.ca	741-4560	Advocacy Committee	Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Martin Parker, Ted Vale, Marilyn Hubley	
Webmaster	Chris Gooderham	webmaster@peterboroughnature.org	740-2081	Peterborough Christmas Bird Count	Martin Parker	
Ontario Nature Rep	Ted Vale	tedandmarion@sympatico.ca	741-3641	Peterborough Butterfly Count	Jerry Ball	
Special Projects	Marilyn Hubley	maykeema@hotmail.com	760-9378	Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count	Colin Jones	
Peterborough Field Naturalists PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7						

PFN Trip Report: Warsaw Caves – A Botanist's Paradise

Article and photos submitted by Lynn Smith

On Saturday, June 11th The North American Native Plant Society hosted a field session at Warsaw Caves Conservation Area and kindly invited Peterborough Field Naturalists to join them. Many thanks go to Janice Keil for organizing the event and to Mike McMurtry for leading the group (photo, right).

Twelve of us followed Mike through a charming mixed forest and onwards to the limestone plains. There we explored the area and peppered Mike with many "What's this?" questions. A few notable alvar species included Balsam Ragwort, Snowberry, Hooked Violet, Field Chickweed, Early Saxifrage, Stitchwort, Bearberry and many more. My own botany experience is limited so it seemed that each identified plant was a "lifer" for me!



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Our hike continued through a variety of habitats. I enjoyed learning to identify some ferns including Spinulose Wood Fern, Marginal Wood Fern, Sensitive Fern, Bulbit Fern, Common Polypody, Walking Fern and Maidenhair Spleenwort.



We eventually came to a lookout and had a grand view of the Indian River. Someone pointed out the many peculiar orange gelatinous growths on the cedar trees (**photo, left**). They reminded me of funky Christmas balls. Apparently the cedar-apple rust is a fungus that requires both cedar and apple trees to complete its complex life cycle. We were looking at the galls which would release spores and the wind would then carry the spores to the apple trees to continue its life cycle. Learn something new every day!

It wouldn't be Warsaw Caves without mentioning potholes, grykes, kettles and a disappearing stream, all of which we experienced on a lovely June day.

Thanks to the members of the North American Native Plant Society for sharing their wealth of knowledge. I look forward to another opportunity to collaborate.

From the Ontario Nature website: Ontario Nature launches new citizen science directory

Ontario Nature is excited to launch its new Directory of Ontario Citizen Science!

The Directory of Ontario Citizen Science, or DOCS for short, is an online, searchable tool that connects seasoned or budding citizen scientists with volunteer opportunities across the province. DOCS is specifically aimed at citizen science projects with biological, environmental or conservation goals.

Citizen science is the collection and analysis of data relating to the natural world by members of the general public, typically as part of a collaborative project with professional scientists.

Individuals visiting the DOCS webpage can view all the posted citizen science projects. You can search for projects matching a specific set of criteria (e.g. child-friendly) or by subject (e.g. mammals, birds, or insects). The directory already includes 16 interesting and fun projects taking place across Ontario, all looking for dedicated participants. You can learn more about these projects by visiting www.ontarionature.org/docs.

Interested in receiving updates about citizen science? Consider joining our mailing list to hear about new opportunities to get involved by emailing info@ontarionature.org.

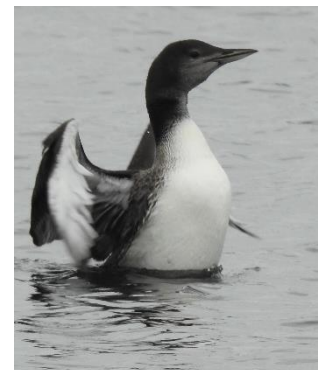
Loon Chicks at Lock 25

Article and photo submitted by Dave Milsom

On May 27th I photographed a Common Loon sitting on a nest on an island composed of mud about 20 metres from shore on the Otonabee River near Lakefield. The site was just north of Lock 25. My wife and I visited the spot on several occasions throughout May and June and each time found the bird sitting quietly on the nest, often under the scrutiny of several photographers standing on shore.

On June 23rd, the first of two eggs hatched. The following day, the second egg produced a downy young. Both were attended by both parents as they swam for the first time on the river. Often the chicks would climb onto the mother's back to rest, while the father dove to catch small fish to feed the young. The baby loons will remain with the adults for eleven weeks, at which point the elders will depart. The immature birds must then forage for themselves until they are able to fly.

The Loon upbringing is a lengthy process and is being monitored daily by many visitors and photographers. On Friday, August 19th I viewed the 2 juvenile loons with an adult above Lock 25. The juveniles were constantly flapping their wings as they prepare for their first flight (**photo, right**), likely in a few days.



17th Annual Petroglyphs Butterfly Count

Article submitted by Martin Parker; Photos courtesy of Dave Milsom

On Saturday July 16th, twenty-one butterfly enthusiasts from Peterborough and elsewhere completed the 17th Annual Petroglyphs Butterfly Count. This count follows the protocol established by the North American Butterfly Association, and is just one of hundreds held annually across the continent. The participants spent a combined total of 33 hours in the field, in ten different parties, looking for and identifying butterflies. The day of the count was cloudy, with a slight breeze and very agreeable temperatures. The cloudy conditions resulted in some butterflies staying in cover.

The count compiler, Jerry Ball, wishes to thank all the participants who assisted. He noted the cloudy conditions on the day of the count resulted in reduced numbers as less were flying. The low numbers of Sulphur butterflies and absence of Cabbage White is linked to the lack of sunshine.

Ball noted that a total of 49 species of adult butterflies, representing 2,082 individuals were observed, plus 7 American Lady caterpillars and 1 Monarch caterpillar. The highlight of the count, according to Ball, were the six species of hairstreaks found. These tiny butterflies are amongst the most spectacular in the region, and the varied habitats in the area of the Petroglyphs Butterfly Count results in a large diversity of species of hairstreaks.

The number of Monarchs was again low with only 4 being found. This contrasts with 301 on the 2012 count and 25 on last year's count. The Monarchs had a good winter in Mexico; however, the rainy weather and flooding in Texas in April impacted the numbers of adults returning to Ontario. On the 2014 count only 2 Monarchs were recorded.

Total Count Results:

Swallowtails – Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 3

Sulphurs & Whites – Mustard White 1; Clouded Sulphur 7; Orange Sulphur 2; Pink-edged Sulphur 2

Coppers, Hairstreaks & Blues – Bog Copper 20; Coral Hairstreak 35; Acadian Hairstreak 35; Edward's Hairstreak 6; Banded Hairstreak 2; Striped Hairstreak 2; Gray Hairstreak 5; Eastern Tailed Blue 3; 'Spring' Spring Azure 1; 'Summer' Spring Azure 6

Brush-footed Butterflies – Great Spangled Fritillary 28; Aphrodite Fritillary 8 (**photo, below left**); Atlantis Fritillary 1; Silver-bordered Fritillary 2; Meadow Fritillary 2 (**photo, below right**); Pearl Crescent 139; Northern Crescent 258; Tawny Crescent 1; Eastern Comma 1; Gray Comma 1; American Lady 9; White Admiral 7; Northern Pearly-eye 13; Eyed Brown 92 (**photo, below centre**); Appalachian Brown 3; Little Wood-Satyr 2; Common Wood-Nymph 36; Monarch 4

Skippers – Silver-spotted Skipper 3; Juvenal's Duskywing 4; Columbine Duskywing 46; Least Skipper 20; European Skipper 78; Peck's Skipper 19; Tawny-edged Skipper 5; Crossline Skipper 1; Long Dash 9; Northern Broken-Dash 12; Little Glassywing 19; Delaware Skipper 61; Mulberry Wing 79; Broad-winged Skipper 118; Dion Skipper 22; Dun Skipper 845

Unidentified – Speyeria (Fritillary) species 4

Caterpillars – American Lady 7, Monarch 1

The participant's registration fees to the North American Butterfly Association were paid through the income received from the PFN Legacy Fund, created with the Rhea Bringeman Bequest.



Peterborough Chimney Swift Watch – 2016

Submitted by Chris Risley

The Spring 2016 swift watches gave us some interesting numbers for downtown Peterborough. The peak occurred on May 17th when Dan Williams saw 123 enter the roost. A Merlin was seen by several people harassing the swifts and keeping them from getting into the roosts. Heavy rain before normal roost time seemed to make them enter early.

The following data was sent to SwiftWatch Ontario at Bird Studies Canada (BSC). Observers all across the range of the Chimney Swift in Canada will have made observations on most of these same dates so it will be interesting to see the BSC report in a few months. Thank you to everyone who assisted with this watch.

Chimney Swift roost observations for chimney in downtown Peterborough								
Date (2016)	Start (pm)	Stop (pm)	Observer	Number Entering Main Roost	Total Entering All Roosts and Seen	First Time	Last Time	Comments
May 9	7:54	8:50	Chris Risley	66	68	8:37		
May 13	7:59	9:02	Dan Williams	86	88	8:41	8:41	
May 17	7:59	9:03	Dan Williams	123	123	8:46	8:57	
May 21	8:22	9:02	Warren Dunlop	49	56	8:29	8:59	
May 25	8:35	9:05	Chris Risley	60	63	8:41	9:01	
May 29	8:54	9:08	Chris Risley	26	26	8:57	9:03	Very, very windy
June 2	8:35	9:21	Chris Risley & Erica Nol	35	36	8:41	9:16	Merlin chasing
June 6	8:10	9:20	Ariel Lenske	83	83	8:10	9:07	Heavy rain 1 hr before count
June 10	8:14	9:22	Chris Risley	54	55	8:58	9:16	
June 14	8:37	9:34	Chris Risley	2	29	9:21		Merlin chasing; 26 CHSW left area without entering the main chimney

Peterborough Naturalists Retain Biodiversity Cup

Article submitted by Martin Parker; Photo courtesy of Kathy Parker

The Biodiversity Cup is awarded annually to the team competing in the Carden Challenge who observe the most number of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies. The teams in the Carden Challenge cover the area contained within the circle for the Carden Christmas Bird Count, a circle with radius of 24 kilometres.

The team consisting of PFN members Matthew Tobey, Luke Berg and Martin Parker, along with Kawartha Field Naturalists' member Susan Blayney, observed a total of 127 bird, 13 mammal, 13 reptile & amphibian, 19 dragonfly & damselfly, and 20 butterfly species. Bonus points were awarded for species which are classified as Species at Risk. The team collected a total of 221 points. There were two other teams in the Biodiversity Challenge.

The team which included PFN member Kathy Parker came third with 197 points. Kathy's team had captured the four previous Biodiversity Challenges. See photo at right for Kathy's reaction to her husband, Martin, winning the Biodiversity Cup. Relegated to the garden shed!

Matthew Tobey was a member of the team which captured the Carden Cup in 2014 for Competitive Teams and captured the Recreation Team trophy in 2015. This was Luke Berg's first year of competition. Susan Blayney previously captured the Biodiversity Cup as a member of the team with Kathy Parker and others.

The Carden Challenge is a fundraising initiative of the Couchiching Conservancy whereby the participants raise funds through sponsorship for the protection and conservation of the globally significant habitat known as the Carden Alvar. This year just over \$22,000 was raised.

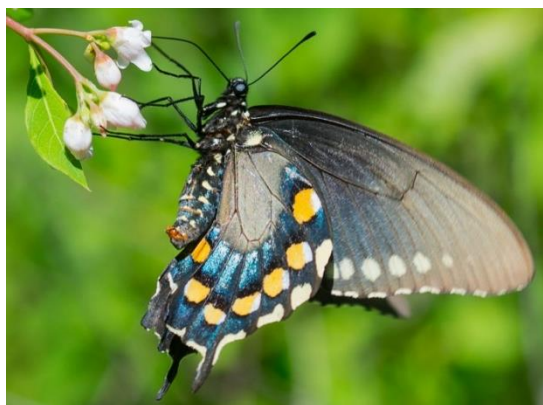
This year a total of 3 teams competed for the Biodiversity Cup, 3 teams in the Competitive class for the Carden Cup, and 5 teams in the Recreation class. Collectively the participants observed 145 species of birds, 18 species of mammals, 9 species of reptiles, 7 species of amphibians, 25 species of dragonflies and damselflies, and 22 species of butterflies.

Congratulations to the PFN members who participated and a big thank you to the PFN members and others who sponsored them.



Pipevine Swallowtail – A new species for Peterborough County

Article and photo submitted by Ken Morrison



On June 21, 2016, Jerry Ball and I were driving slowly on Sandy Lake Road off of Highway 46 east of Apsley looking for butterflies, when I spotted what we first thought was a Black Swallowtail. I took at least 50 photos as the butterfly had features not associated with a Black Swallowtail. After consulting several references we determined it was a female Pipevine Swallowtail (see photo, left).

Jerry Ball thinks that this sighting is the first on this road and maybe for Peterborough County. According to the new ROM book 'Butterflies of Ontario', 2015 by Peter W. Hall et al., the Pipevine Swallowtail is normally restricted to the Carolinian zone in southwestern Ontario.

There are records along the north shore of the western part of Lake Ontario as far east as the eastern edge of Prince Edward County. And there is an exceptional record of one individual at Caribou Island in Lake Superior.

Colin Jones, Provincial Arthropod Zoologist at the Nature Heritage Information Centre, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has confirmed the identification and agreed that it is the first record for Peterborough County.

Nothing Part Four: Searching for the Sphinx

Article and photos submitted by Basil Conlin

By the end of August, moth mayhem has reached its peak along the east coast of North America and has begun the descent into cold stillness with winter just around the corner. Moths are most abundant in July and one family of large moths that become very common during this time of year are the sphinxes, family Sphingidae. These moths range in wing size from the lettered sphinx (*Diedamia inscriptum*) at 25-40mm to the great ash sphinx (*Sphinx chersis*) at up to 70mm.

Sphinx moths come in a wide variety of colors, shapes, and patterns, but generally have a deltoid shape when at rest with wings held over their back. Some closely resemble tree bark with subtle waves and shadings, while others resemble leaves with a psychedelic arrangement playing with subtle colors, shading and contouring to create an alien appearance that goes almost completely undetected in nature. Others have brightly colored hind wings for defense that resemble those of some of the Saturniidae family and the Erebiidae genus *Catocala* (**photo at right** is a Meske's underwing, photographed on the Trent U campus, July 20th).



We have around 41 species of sphinx moths that could occur in Peterborough county at any time of the year, about half of which occur as uncommon strays (source: Moth Photographers Group). Sphinxes are generally most common in June through July, but certain species can be found as early as April and as late as November.

The Sphingidae family is broken down into three subfamilies: the large sphinx moths (Sphinginae), the eyed sphinx moths (Smerinthinae), and the small sphinx moths (Macroglossinae). Some common species in the Kawarthas are the familiar garden pests: the five spotted hawkmoth (*Manduca quinquemaculatus*) and Carolina sphinx (*Manduca sexta*), whose larvae are both known as the tomato/tobacco hornworm and feed on members of the night shade family such as tomatoes and potatoes.



Other species include laurel sphinx (*Sphinx kalmiae*, **photo at left**, taken May 27th), wild cherry sphinx (*Sphinx drupiferarum*), waved sphinx (*Ceratomia undulosa*), twin-spotted sphinx (*Smerinthus jamaicensis*), small eyed sphinx (*Paonias myops*), blinded sphinx (*Paonias excaecata*) big poplar sphinx (*Pachysphinx modesta*), Abbott's sphinx (*Sphecodina abbotti*), lettered sphinx (*Diedamia inscriptum*), snowberry clearwing moth (*Hemaris deffinis*), hummingbird clearwing moth (*Hemaris thysbe*), bedstraw hawkmoth (*Hyles gallii*), virginia creeper sphinx (*Darapsa myron*) and Pandorus sphinx (*Eumorpha pandorus*).

Species of interest that occur in Peterborough County include the Canadian sphinx (*Sphinx canadensis*) and Clemen's sphinx (*Sphinx luscitiosa*), two species that are fairly uncommon across their relatively short ranges but have been found on the Trent University campus. Very uncommon moths and uncommon/rare strays that could potentially be found in the Kawarthas include pink spotted hawk moth (*Agrias cingulata*), hydrangea sphinx (*Darapsa versicolor*), tersa sphinx (*Xylophanes tersa*), achemon sphinx (*Eumorpha achemon*) and white lined sphinx (*Hyles lineata*). If any of these rare species are found it is good to report your sighting.

Sphinx moth caterpillars are large and often have eyespots along their sides, as well as a horn-like projection at the end of their body as a defense against predators, giving them the common name of 'horn worms'. They feed on a wide variety of deciduous trees and shrubs, with the northern pine sphinx (*Lapara bombycoides*) feeding on pine and occasionally other conifer species. Some species of sphinx moth have multiple generations per year, laying eggs in spring that become adults in mid-summer, then have caterpillars that overwinter underground as pupae. Adult sphinxes in the Smerinthinae family do not feed, but members of Macroglossinae and most Sphinginae feed

on nectar and some species have impressively long proboscises, many times the length of their bodies, for getting nectar from deep within flowers.

Some good trees and shrubs to plant to attract sphinx moths are poplars (Salicaceae), willows (Salix), alders (Alnus), ash (Fraxinus), grape (Vitis), Amelopsis, Rhododendron, snowberry (Symphoricarpos), and members of the Rosacea family such as cherry, apple, and hawthorn. Most moths, including sphinxes, seem to prefer thicket-like areas with lots of plant diversity and areas to hide from predators like birds and squirrels.

In addition to the large, flashy moths, many hundreds of species of smaller, often drabber moths begin to visit lights regularly by the end of June. Identifying moths encountered at lights can sometimes seem daunting, but getting an understanding of moth families will make identifying moths much easier as you learn to categorize your specimens. Soon you will be a mothing addict!

Between March 16th and August 10th 2016, I have collected observations on 450 species in 28 families in one location on the edge of the city of Peterborough. By the end of December I hope to see 600+ species. I hope you all get out to some lights and experience 'the dark side' of naturalism for yourself; there's always something new to see! For identification help, Moth Photographers Group (<http://mothphotographersgroup.msstate.edu/>) is a great place to start. Sightings can be reported to Moth Photographers Group, BugGuide.net (<http://bugguide.net/node/view/15740>), iNaturalist.org (<http://www.inaturalist.org/>) or to Butterflies and Moths of North America (<http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/>). Happy mothing!

Footnote to Champlain in the Kawarthas: Champlain the bird watcher

Submitted by Alan Brunger and Peter Adams

Last year, in 2015, Trent Valley Archives celebrated the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's visits to the Kawartha Lakes in order to raise awareness of First Nations and French culture in the region, as well as Champlain himself. The culmination of this project was the book ***Finding Champlain's Dream: Champlain, First Nations and French Culture in Peterborough and the Kawarthas**** which focuses on the month or so that Champlain spent in the Kawarthas, convalescing, hunting and on one occasion, getting lost on his own for three days.

However, the book overlooked some of Champlain's accomplishments including one of his leisure activities, notably his study of the fauna and flora of the Kawarthas. While a guest at the hunt camp of his Huron and Algonquin allies in the fall of 1615, in what would later be Peterborough County, Champlain wrote "*I observed a certain bird which seemed to me most peculiar*". Trent University archaeologists, M. K. Munson and S. M. Jamieson noted this activity in their book ***Before Ontario: The Archaeology of a Province***. They state (p.119) that, "*On his travels in 1615... Champlain reported that he saw a bird that 'had a beak like that of a parrot, and was the size of a hen. It was entirely yellow, except the head which was red, and the wings which were blue, and it flew at intervals like a partridge'.*"

Munson and Jamieson suggest that this was a vagrant specimen of the Carolina Parakeet (*Psittacus Carolinensis*) which became extinct in 1918, the last individual dying in the Cincinnati Zoo. This parakeet was prolific throughout eastern North America as noted by J.J. Audubon in his voluminous ***Birds of America***. Audubon's painting of the bird shows its red head, and yellow neck, although green predominates elsewhere in its plumage, as opposed to the blue colour noted by Champlain.

The parakeet feasted on orchards and farmer's field crops so that they were targeted as major pests and threats to agriculture. Audubon noted that "*the woods are the habitation best suited for them...*" and that "*on the ground these birds walk slowly and awkwardly... they do not even attempt to run off when approached by the sportsman...*". In the late 1820s, at the time of his writing, Audubon observed, "*our parakeets are very rapidly diminishing in number; and in some districts, where twenty-five years ago they were plentiful, scarcely are now to be seen. At that period (around 1800) they could be procured ... as far north-east as Lake Ontario.*"



Consequently, almost two centuries earlier, in the fall of 1615, an isolated specimen of Carolina Parakeet may well have strayed into the Kawarthas to confront the isolated, lost, Samuel de Champlain.

This description of his sighting of the unusual specimen of native bird is the sort of detail that makes Champlain's journals, the recorded observations of the first European in our region, so valuable and interesting.

References

Finding Champlain's Dream: Champlain, First Nations and French Culture in Peterborough and the Kawarthas / Découvrir le Rêve de Champlain: Champlain, les Premières Nations et la Culture Française à Peterborough et les Kawarthas, Elwood H. Jones, Peter Adams and Alan Brunger, eds., Trent Valley Archives, ISBN 078-0-9810341-6-4, 2015.

Before Ontario: The Archaeology of a Province, M. K. Munson and S. M. (McGill Queen's Press, Native and Northern Series #72, 2013).

The Birds of America, Audubon, J.J., 1827-1838, www.audubon.org/birds-of-america (accessed 14 May, 2016).

The Chickadees Check In Submitted by Murray Palmer

On the twenty-first of April, just before five in the afternoon,
I decided to erect a chickadee nest box; that was none too soon,
For around six thirty I spotted two sprites clinging near the hole.
They began to 'excavate' their cavity, each playing an equal role.

Their rapid flights appeared frantic, so prized was their find
Since here there are few old, rotting trees or woodpeckers of any kind.
With one tiny beakful at a time, the birds darted across the yard.
Removing the shavings I'd put in for them seemed like fun, not hard.

Sometimes the hen gathered chips inside to be scattered by her mate;
Often they'd meet at the hole when their flights would alternate.
Earth Day morning the pair lessened efforts to whittle down the pile.
Sometimes seemingly gone, they always returned after a while.

On the fourth day their chip removal flights slowed to very few,
But on day five came snow and freezing cold as light north winds blew.
I'm always glad to see these little puffballs to my nest box returned.
By their infectious joie de vivre our affection is well earned.



Murray Palmer, 2016

Above: Black-capped Chickadee at nest box, April 24, 2016

Left: Chickadee fledgling, June 2016

~ Submitted by Murray Palmer, Peterborough



The Orchid Diary



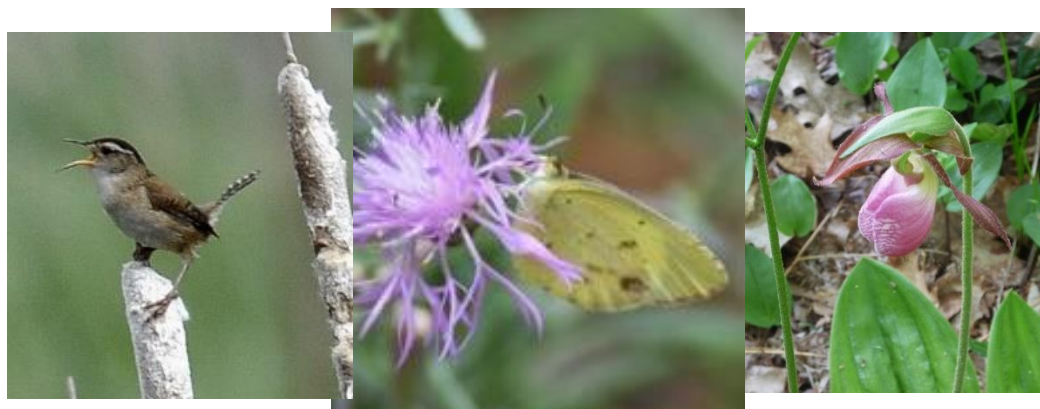
A summary of noteworthy observations by PFN members and others in the Peterborough Region.

Information is compiled from e-bird, the Drew Monkman Sightings website, PTBO Sightings, and individual submissions. Please submit your interesting observations to Martin Parker at mparker19@cogeco.ca or phone (705) 745-4750.

Lack of Rain	The lack of rain this summer season was memorable. There was extensive media coverage on the impact on agriculture but wildlife was also adversely affected. By late July there was a lack of nectar-bearing blooms as plants dried up in fields. Over half of the Common Milkweed in the area died, impacting future populations of Monarchs. Lower water levels affect aquatic life.
'Lady of the River'	A pair of Common Loons nested on a small islet just off the shore, north of Lock 25 on the Otonabee River. Two young were hatched. This nesting pair was a breeding season attraction and were probably the most photographed nesting loons in the province this year! Adults were observed with young riding on their backs in late June. According to an area resident this is the third year the loons have nested in this stretch of the river.
June 1	A very late White-winged Scoter was present on the Lakefield Lagoon by Dave Milsom. A couple of Cerulean Warblers were present throughout the month along the side of Deer Bay Reach Road west of Burleigh Falls. Observed by many. Kim Mitchell photographed a Luna Moth in the Bridgenorth area. Jerry Ball observed a Black-billed Cuckoo and American Woodcock along Charlie Allan Road, and a Scarlet Tanager on Galloway-Cavandish Forest Access Road, north of Flynn's Corners.
June 2	A Ruddy Duck was found on the Lakefield Lagoon by Bill Crins and seen by many other observers. Andrew Jobes reported a nesting colony of Cliff Swallows , consisting of 40 adults, under the footbridge at the Trent Rowing Club at Trent University.
June 4	While doing a Cooperative Breeding Bird Survey north from Birdsalls Luke Berg located singing Clay-coloured Sparrows at two different stops.
June 5	A Least Bittern , late Wilson's Warbler and Orchard Oriole were found along the Lang-Hastings Trail by Donald Sutherland.
June 6 & 10	Iain Rayner covered the Jones Quarter Line in the Cavan area for Clay-coloured Sparrows and on June 6 had 2 individuals, with 4 individuals on June 10.
June 11	Dave Milsom & Jerry Ball found a Golden-winged Warbler along Tate's Road, north of Flynn's Corners.
June 14	A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found in the swamp along Mervin Line, near the Airport by Travis Cameron. Seen by others during the month and into July.
June 15	Sean Smith & Martin Parker had 5 Green Herons and 1 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in the swamp along Mervin Line. Drew Monkman reported his first Monarch of the summer. Numbers have been low this summer as the drought has impacted the milkweed in Peterborough County. Also, the flooding in Texas in April reduced the number migrating northward.
June 16	North of Flynn's Corners Ernie Silhanek located a single Prairie Warbler and a Clay-coloured Sparrow .
June 17	Luke Berg spotted a Red-headed Woodpecker in the Miller Creek Wildlife Management Area.
June 19	A Black-crowned Night Heron was spotted in the Rogers Cove area, Little Lake, by Daniel Williams. Additional sightings by others during the summer.
June 21	A Pipevine Swallowtail (butterfly) was found and photographed by Ken Morrison and Jerry Ball along Sandy Lake Road (see separate article). First record for Peterborough County.
June 23	Steve Kerr and others spotted 2 Five-lined Skinks at the dam at the outflow to Jacks Lake, Apsley.
June 24	Jerry Ball had a Milbert's Tortoiseshell on Cedarwood Drive, Trent Lakes. Donald Sutherland had a Black-crowned Night Heron on the Ouse River at River Road.

June 27	Jerry Ball and Luke Berg found a Hickory Hairstreak (butterfly) on Hubble Road east of Stoney Lake, and 90 Eastern Comma (butterfly) in the Twin Lakes area north of Hastings.
Bald Eagle nesting	It appears there are at least six pairs of Bald Eagles nesting in the County. The pair on Katchewanooka Lake fledged one young. According to Drew Monkman there is a nest on Stoney Lake and along the Trent River. David Beaucage Johnson reported on June 4 that there are two pairs on Buckhorn Lake – one nest on Joe's Island for a couple of years and a new nest this year on Flat Island. A visitor to the PFN booth at the Buckhorn Arts Festival reported Bald Eagles nested on Seymour Lake this year for the first time (also Ospreys nesting on lake). For most of the 20 th century Bald Eagles had been extirpated as a breeding species in the County.
July 2	Iain Rayner located a Sedge Wren in the wetland at Miller Creek Wildlife Management Area.
July 3	An Orchard Oriole was found at Pengelly Landing on the north shore of Rice Lake by Iain Rayner.
July 4	Jerry Ball had an impressive 72 Compton's Tortoiseshell (butterfly) along roadways off County Road 507 north of Flynn's Corners.
July 9	Iain Rayner had a Short-billed Dowitcher at the Bensfort Road Landfill site.
July 12	Jerry Ball, Ken Morrison & Robert DiFruscia visited the Sandy Lake Road area off County Road 46 and found a total of 33 species of butterflies including 7 species of Hairstreaks – Hickory, Banded, Stripped, Coral, Acadian, Edward's and Grey.
July 15	Jerry Ball & Luke Berg on the Lang-Hastings Trail between Cameron and Blezard found a Little Yellow butterfly. There are less than six records for the County. Luke also spotted a Cloudless Sulphur , the first record for the county.
July 16	The 21 participants of the Petroglyphs Butterfly Count found 49 species representing 2082 individuals (see separate report).
July 18	The first of the southbound migrating shorebirds arrived with 1 Semipalmated Plover and 1 Baird's Sandpiper at the Fairbairn Street wetland initially reported by Iain Rayner and seen by others.
July 19	Jerry Ball on the Lang-Hastings Trail between Cameron and County Road 38 observed a weasel (unknown species) which was carrying a young European Starling. Dropped the prey in response to Jerry's presence.
July 21	Kathy Parker, Lynn Smith & Mark Zippel surveyed the butterflies of the Harper Park area and reported 7 species including 17 Mustard White.
July 23	Daniel Williams report a Philadelphia Vireo at the Kawartha Land Trust Ingelton-Wells Reserve on the north shore of Stoney Lake. Donald Sutherland spotted a Pectoral Sandpiper at the Lakefield Lagoon.
July 29	Jerry Ball had an impressive 11 Grey Hairstreaks along County Road 46 near Sandy Lake Road.
Jacks L. Turtles	Steve Kerr has compiled a summary of 2014 to 2016 turtle observations in the Jack Lake watershed for the Jack Lake Association. In 2016 they collected 5 reports of Blanding's Turtle , 14 reports of Midland Painted Turtle and 16 reports of Snapping Turtle . This report is part of the initiative of the Association to protect the natural habitats around the lake.
Please submit your interesting sightings to mparker19@cogeco.ca	

Summer Sightings Sampler:



Left: Marsh Wren,
Prospect Marsh,
May 29 ~ Jim Young

Centre: Little Yellow,
Lang-Hastings Trail,
July 15 ~ Luke Berg

Right: Showy Pink
Lady's Slipper,
Kawartha Highlands,
June 1 ~ Barry Dicks



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:	Email(s):
		<input type="radio"/> snail mail <input type="radio"/> e-mail <input type="radio"/> both please	

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

<input type="radio"/> Under 20	<input type="radio"/> 20-29	<input type="radio"/> 30-39	<input type="radio"/> 40-49	<input type="radio"/> 50-59	<input type="radio"/> 60-69	<input type="radio"/> 70-79	<input type="radio"/> 80< over
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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: _____