

The Orchid



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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



"This is would make a fine nesting hole." "Get lost! It's mine!"

See page 19 for the poem that was inspired by these photos: "A Holey War in Jackson Park"
Photos of Northern Flicker and Pileated Woodpecker taken by Murray Palmer in early May.

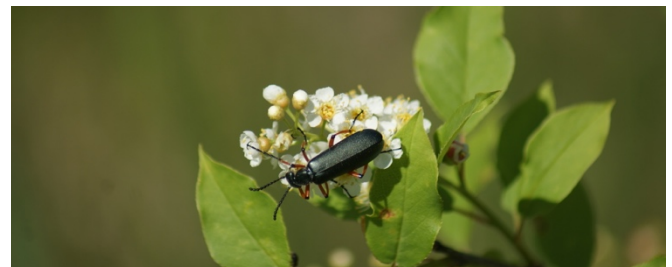
Inside: Vernal Pond Update
Moth Phenology Report
Endangered Species Act Lawsuit
Maps of Harper Park and Peterborough's Natural Areas
Info on Celebrating Canada's 150th on Stoney Lake Trails June 25

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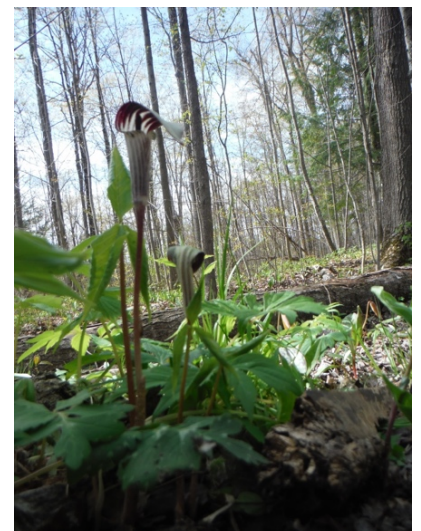
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Welcome new PFN members!

Kim Groenendyk
 Mary-Pat Mathers
 Shannon MacDonald
 Glenn Rutherford
 John Foster




From top: Silvery blue butterfly, and Blister Beetle (*Lytta sayi*). Photos taken by Basil Conlin at the Dance Nature Sanctuary on May 17.



Late-April spring flowers at Mark S. Burnham Park. From left: Bloodroot, Spring Beauty, and Jack-in-the-Pulpit. Photos submitted by Dylan Radcliffe.

| PFN Coming Events | |
|---|--|
| <p>Sunday, June 4</p> <p>7 AM</p> <p>Meet at Tim Horton's on Lansdowne St. W.</p> | <p>Carden Plain Important Bird Area</p> <p>An all-day visit to the wonderful Carden Plain, an unusual alvar habitat that is home to an abundance of rare grassland bird species, butterflies and plants. Jerry Ball will be our guide to this globally rare habitat 65km west of Peterborough. Loggerhead Shrike, Golden-winged Warbler, Osprey, Black Terns, Sedge Wren, Yellow Rail, Upland Sandpiper, Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Towhee and Brown Thrashers are all possibilities.</p> <p>Bring some lunch, water, camera and binoculars.</p> <p>Meet at Tim Horton's at the Sobey's Plaza on Lansdowne Street West.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, June 10</p> <p>8:30 PM</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p> <p>2505 Pioneer Road</p> | <p>Meet the Moths</p> <p>Please join Basil Conlin for an evening of mothing at the Environment Centre. Basil will give a Mothing 2.0 talk describing some of the finer details of identifying moths to the family and genus levels. He will also go over identification techniques for other species of nocturnal insects, as well as methods of attracting, collecting, observing and conserving these species.</p> <p>We will meet at 8:30 PM at the Environment Centre, then bait some trails and set up a light sheet. Bring boots, a flashlight/headlamp, and a blanket/snacks! There are places to sit and watch the moths come in. The evening will wrap up by 11:30. Accessibility: easy to moderate.</p> |
| <p>Wednesday, June 14</p> <p>7:30 PM</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p> <p>2505 Pioneer Road</p> | <p>Monthly Meeting: Ontario's Bats: Biology, Ecology and Conservations Issues</p> <p>Guest speaker: Lesley Hale, Divisional Integration Coordinator, Ministry of Natural Resources</p> <p>Ontario's eight species of bats play a critical role in the province's ecosystems as nocturnal insectivores. They are considered one of our most valuable species groups for agricultural pest control. The recent spread of white-nose syndrome has caused concern for the future of many bat species in Ontario, making bat monitoring and conservation more important than ever.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, June 17</p> <p>9 AM to noon</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p> <p>2505 Pioneer Road</p> | <p>Planet of the Beetles</p> <p>Beetles are the most diverse group of multi-cellular organisms. Come and learn how to tell a beetle from other insects and how to identify many of the most common families. After an introduction to this amazingly successful group of animals, we will use sweep nets, pond nets and other techniques to check out the local beetle fauna. This session will be led by Paul Elliott. Accessibility: easy to moderate</p> |

| PFN Coming Events | |
|--|---|
| <p>Sunday June 25th</p>  | <p>Celebrate Canada's 150th on the Stoney Lake Trails</p> <p>One can participate in the morning activity and/or one of the afternoon outings. All members are invited to the social. Bring packed lunch if doing the morning and one of the afternoon trips.</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Morning birding along the north shore of Stoney Lake under the leadership of Martin Parker</p> <p>For the morning activity, we will meet in the parking lot at the Peterborough Zoo at 7:30 am and car pool for the travel to the KLT Ingleton-Wells parking lot or meet at the Ingleton-Wells parking lot on Reid Road.</p> <p>1:00 p.m. There will be three different trip options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Butterflies of the Stoney Lake Meadow with Gerry Ball 2. Trails of the KLT Ingleton-Wells and North Stoney Lake with Evan Thomas 3. Vernal Pools of KLT Ingleton-Wells Reserve with Sue Paradis <p>The afternoon trips will commence from the public parking area on the shores of Stoney Lake beside Viamede Resort at southern end of Mt. Julian Viamede Road.</p> <p>Accessibility: moderate. Walking through woodlands and meadows</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Social at the Boathouse Pub Restaurant and Viamede Resort to celebrate the summer season and Canada's 150th birthday.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, August 26</p> <p>7 AM</p> <p>Meet at Tim Horton's in Sobey's Plaza, Lansdowne Street West</p> | <p>Shorebirds and Monarchs</p> <p>This outing will be to Presqu'île Provincial Park to view the gathering of migrating shorebirds as they are making their migration from their Arctic breeding grounds to their wintering areas, primarily in the southern hemisphere. In the fall, the birds linger longer than in the spring. We will be visiting the viewing locations at the southern end of the beach to view the shorebirds and other fall migrants.</p> <p>The fall migrations of Monarch butterflies will be commencing at this time of the year and arrangements are being made with park staff to conduct a demonstration on Monarch banding for the participants of this outing. Time will be spent looking for some of the other species of fall butterflies.</p> <p>The leaders for this outing are Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey. There will be an early departure for this outing in order to increase the opportunities of seeing shorebirds prior to them being disturbed by falcons and people. The outing will return to Peterborough in the mid-afternoon. Bring a packed lunch, binoculars, camera, and telescope (if you have one).</p> |

PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

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|-----------------|--|
| Sunday, June 11 | Aquatic invertebrates sampling. Put on your grubby clothes and rain boots and join us for a close look at larval dragonflies, mayflies, aquatic beetles, and zooplankton. We will muck around in the pond to collect these aquatic invertebrates and Jay Fitzsimmons and Sherri DeGasparro will help us to identify what we find and teach us cool facts about their life cycles. Nets and magnifiers will be provided. Please register on the PFN website so we have a sense of numbers. |
|-----------------|--|

Other Events of Interest

| | |
|---|--|
| June 3 and June 10 | BioBlitz at Trent University See article further on for more details. |
| First Friday of each month 7:00 PM Guest Services Building, Riverview Park & Zoo | Peterborough Astronomical Association Monthly Meeting For more information on their monthly meetings, please visit www.peterboroughastronomy.com . June 2: Flares on the Sun and Other Stars by Dr. Alexander Mackinnon, of the University of Glasgow, UK via Skype. |
| Fourth Wednesday of each month 7:00 PM Lion's Centre 347 Burnham Street | Peterborough Horticultural Society Monthly Meeting Join us at 6:30 PM for socializing. The meeting begins at 7 PM. Annual membership rates are \$20 individual, \$25 family, and \$2 guest. All are welcome - and you don't have to be an experienced gardener! For more info visit www.peterboroughhort.com . June 28 - David Hobson, Author "Tips and Tricks for Waterwise Gardening" |

PFN Volunteer Corner

Rallying for Refreshments

To continue enjoying refreshments at our Club meetings we need 1 or 2 people to volunteer a little time to bring supplies. You are guaranteed a smile of appreciation from all Club members. If interested, please contact Lynn Smith (smithfam@nexicom.net or 705-944-5599).



Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the May issue is **Friday, August 25**.

Send submissions to Kathryn Sheridan via email: orchid@peterboroughnature.org

or post mail to: PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7



| PFN Board of Directors | | | | Other Volunteers | |
|--|------------------|---------------------------|----------|---|--|
| President and Ontario Nature Rep | Ted Vale | tedandmarion@sympatico.ca | 741-3641 | Membership Secretary | Jim Young 760-9397 |
| Vice-President | Kim Zippel | kimzippel@nexicom.net | 740-0587 | Orchid Editor | Kathryn Sheridan orchid@peteboroughnature.org |
| Secretary | Martin Parker | mparker19@cogeco.ca | 745-4750 | Orchid Mailing | Mary Thomas |
| Treasurer | Dave Heuft | dave.heuft@gmail.com | 743-6164 | Jr. Naturalists | Lara Griffin 749-3639 pfnjuniors@gmail.com |
| Meeting Co-ordinator | Phil Shaw | pshaw78@hotmail.com | 874-1688 | Ecology Park Feeders | JB Jaboor Don Finigan |
| Meeting Co-ordinator | Marie Duchesneau | duchesneau13@hotmail.com | 874-5739 | Orchid Diary, Citizen Science Projects | Martin Parker |
| Outings Coordinator | Paul Elliott | paulelliott@trentu.ca | 740-0501 | Miller Creek Stewardship | Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Brian Wales |
| Harper Park Committee Chair | Rene Gareau | rene.gareau@sympatico.ca | 741-4560 | Advocacy Committee | Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Marilyn Hubley, Martin Parker, Ted Vale |
| Co-webmaster | Dylan Radcliffe | Dylan.radcliffe@gmail.com | 991-0422 | Webmaster | Chris Gooderham webmaster@ peterboroughnature.org |
| Past President | Lynn Smith | smithfam@nexicom.net | 944-5599 | Peterborough CBC | Martin Parker |
| Special Projects | Marilyn Hubley | maykeema@hotmail.com | 760-9378 | Petroglyphs CBC | Colin Jones |
| | | | | Peterborough Butterfly Count | Jerry Ball |
| Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7 | | | | | |

President's Message – Revised Peterborough City Plan

The City of Peterborough is revising its Official Plan and has asked the PFN to nominate a board member to sit on an Advisory Committee to make recommendations on the natural heritage sections of the plan. The Board appointed Martin Parker who has agreed to represent the PFN on the Committee at its May meeting.



Those of you who attended the May club meeting will recall a request from Ian Attridge to record observations about flora and fauna you observe in Peterborough's natural areas during the "spring rush" in May and June. The areas identified are Trent University Lands, the Parkway Route, Loggerhead Marsh, the Liftlock Area, Harper Creek Watershed, Jackson Park, Meade Creek/Downers' Corners' Wetland, Lilly Lake, and Fleming College Lands.

The intention is to use this information to support recommendations about protecting the City's natural heritage in the new Official Plan.

Dylan Radcliffe is preparing some wonderful maps of these areas and we are also working out how to compile the information you collect. We will get this out to club members at a later date.

In the meantime, you can submit data to eBird, iNature, the Reptile and Amphibian Atlas, or the Orchid Diary.

Ted Vale, President

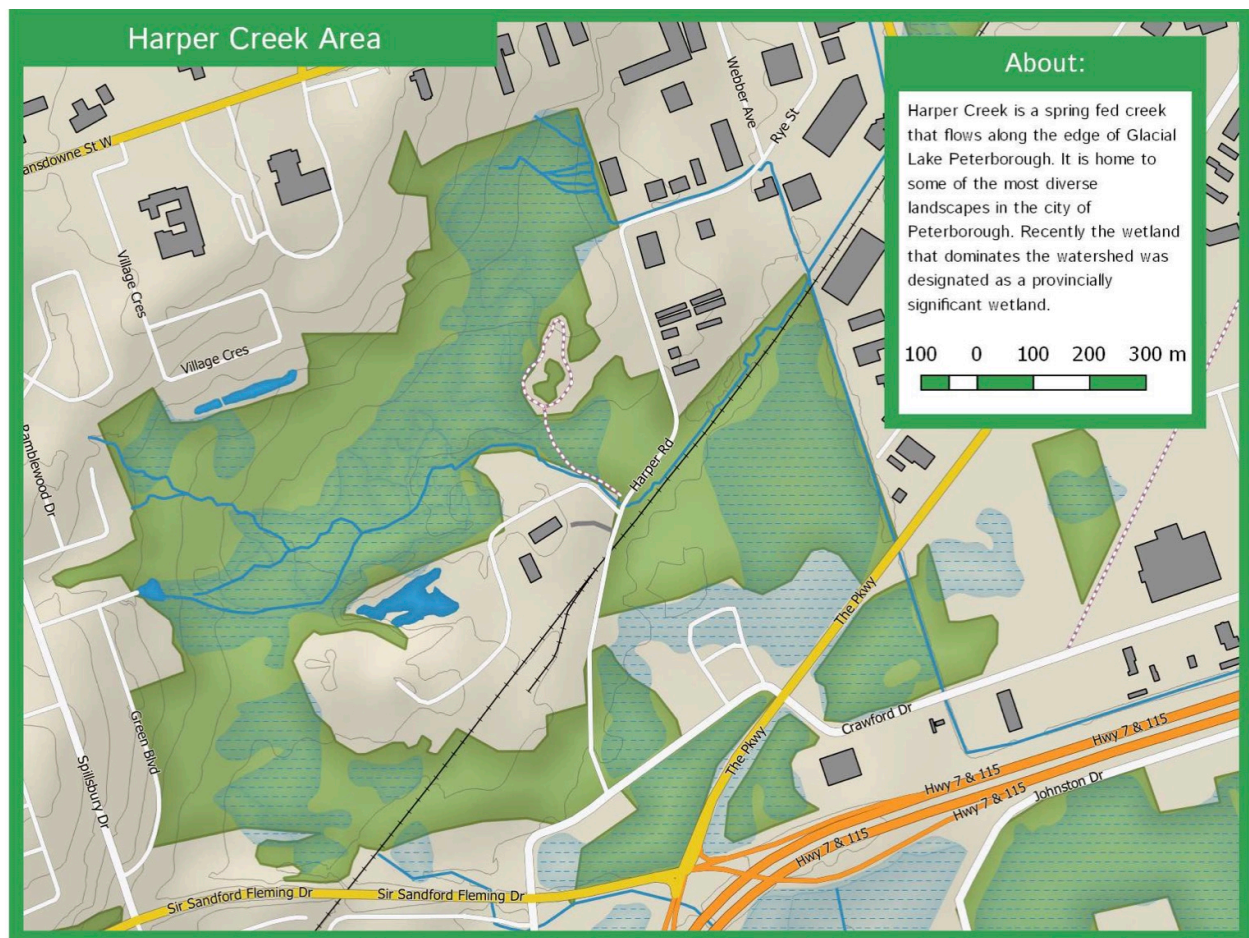
Peterborough's Natural Areas and Flood Plains



Map annotations by Ian Attridge of Kawartha Land Trust

Three photographs of Trillium flowers. The left image shows a red Trillium with yellowish-green sepals and a dark center, with a large green leaf in the foreground. The center image shows a white Trillium with a yellow center and green leaves, with a blurred forest background. The right image shows another red Trillium with yellowish-green sepals and a dark center, with a large green leaf in the foreground and a blurred forest background.

Map of Harper Park



Map provided by Dylan Radcliffe of Peterborough Watershed Services. A short walking path is outlined in dashes. More maps of can be found in the Peterborough Natural Areas Atlas by typing “bit.ly/ptboatlas” in your internet browser.

BioBlitz at Trent University

Submitted by The Trent BioBlitz Team: Debbie Jenkins, Maggie Boothroyd, Cristen Watt, and Madison Wikston

Please join us at the Trent University campus to conduct an initial “expert” driven BioBlitz on Saturday June 3rd or Saturday June 10th, with a larger community BioBlitz planned for fall. Although this will be one of many BioBlitz events happening across Canada, it will surely be important to the Trent community and society at large.

For Canada’s 150th birthday, the National government has challenged Canadians to record our biological diversity through local BioBlitz – rigorous surveys that attempt to record all of the existing plants and animals within an area of interest. The need is great and the campus at Trent University is the perfect target with 1500 acres of largely intact green space, ~10% of Peterborough’s land holdings.

Through multiple BioBlitz events our goal is to catalogue and map biological diversity across Trent’s campus and provide a strong ecological foundation for long-term monitoring and conservation. Additionally, we will record flora and fauna across seasons to capture both resident and seasonal wildlife. In 2017 and 2018 we will carry out two comprehensive events, spring/summer and fall/winter, and establish a system to collect on-going opportunistic observations.

Our plan is to cover plants, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, insects, aquatic vertebrates and invertebrates. With sufficient participation, we will run two types of data collection; 1) a system of points along systematic line transects that will be revisited in the future and provide robust coverage across the campus, and 2) unbounded opportunistic search effort throughout the campus. We hope that you will be able to join us and make this event a success.

Can you participate? Please e-mail us at trentbioblitz@gmail.com and let us know and include your area of expertise and your preferred date. Remember, that generalists will also be important to this effort so please come out!

Looking forward to working with you all.



If you were scanning a field of a couple hundred Canada Geese, would *you* have spotted the Greater White-fronted Goose? Photo taken April 23 by Dave Milsom on Kellogg Road in Welcome.

Moth Phenology Report – April and May 2017, Trent University Wildlife Sanctuary

Submitted by Basil Conlin

In 2017, I have continued mothing at the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary, making this my fifth year in a row. So far this year, mothing has been relatively slow for me and several other moth-ers that I know throughout the province. This could be in part because of our drought last summer that caused a lot of plants to wilt, coupled with our spring flood that may have washed away a few overwintering moths. My first moth of 2017 was a lifer, *Agonopteryx clemensella*, a species of grass-miner, on March 6. After this I didn't see another moth until my FOY (first of year) speckled green fruitworm (*Orthosia hybisci*) on April 14th. On this night, I also had FOY half-wing (*Phigalia titea*) and spring cankerworm (*Paleacrita vernata*). FOY Grote's sallow (*Copivaleria grotei*), Grote's pinion (*Lithopane grotei*), and major sallow (*Feralia major*) appeared on April 17th. Stout spanworm (*Lycia ursaria*) and a variety of micros including Packard's concealer (*Semiscopis packarella*) and Canadian agonopteryx (*Agonopteryx canadensis*) showed up on April 23rd. My first, and so far, only lettered sphinx (*Deidamia inscriptum*) arrived on April 30th. My four most common moths in April were speckled green fruitworm (250 individuals), half-wing (100 individuals), forage looper (*Caenurgia erechtea*) (100 individuals) and the white-speck (*Mythimna unipuncta*) (50). I had a total of 40 species for April in 7 families and 10 genera.



Grapevine epimenis moth.

Photo: Basil Conlin

May mothing began slowly due to rain. I found a black-rimmed prominent (*Pheosia rimosa*) on May 16. Last year's FOY date was May 1st. On May 17, I found a lifer grapevine epimenis moth (*Psychomorpha epimenis*, pictured above) along the canal between McFarlane and Parkhill Rd., in Peterborough. According to Chris Schmitt from The



Abbott's sphinx moth.

Photo: Basil Conlin

Canadian National Collection of Insects in Ottawa, this moth was recently only known from southern Carolinian Ontario, and has expanded its range. May 18th had 21 species come out to the lights, including a FOY Abbott's sphinx (*Sphecodina abbotti*, pictured left) and a one-lined zale (*Zale unilineata*). Abbott's sphinxes feed at dusk and make a buzzing sound to mimic bumblebees. I was also bombarded with several mottled grey carpet moths (*Cladara limitaria*) that night, about 20 of them. May 23rd had the first curve-lined geometer (*Eutrapela clemataria*) and snowberry clearwing (*Hemaris diffinis*), and May 24 had a total of 30 species including a FOY Nessus sphinx (*Amphion floridensis*) red-fringed emerald (*Nemoria bistriaria*) and one-eyed sphinx (*Smerinthus cerisyi*). So far, I have seen 41 species of moth for May in 10 families and 20 genera. Every year for the last four years I have found a cecropia moth (*Hyalophora cecropia*) on May 27th, so I am hoping to make that five years in a row.

Please see the Coming Events section for information about Basil's upcoming mothing night at the Environment Centre on June 10.

The Fox and the Rabbit

Submitted by JB Jaboor

This photo was taken at noon on Wednesday, April 26 on Drummond Line, about 2 km south of Mathers Corners. I found it trotting south on Drummond Line, quite unafraid going right past my car. I turned and followed for about 400 m before it went into a driveway for a rest. After another minute or so, it came out of the driveway and trotted past at 2 metres. Finally, getting fed up with my persistence, it left the road, dropped the prey in high grass, and hopped through a fence to await my departure. More patience than me, it turns out!



May 7th Walk on the Oak Ridges Moraine

Submitted by Lynn Smith

Five hardy souls met at the Cavan carpark and were welcomed by rain, wind and cold. However, spirits remained optimistic as we watched a pair of Northern Harriers fly low and then weave back and forth over the field across from the carpark. We were off to a good start, despite the weather.

Next stop was a little marsh along Syer Line. Northern Waterthrush, Northern Flicker, Swamp Sparrow, Purple Finch and American Goldfinch were calling. But it was what we heard calling overhead that surprised us. Two Common Loons were yodelling their distinctive song as they flew over. The 14 Canada Geese flying over next didn't garner as much enthusiasm.

Next stop was a little wooded pond along Syer Line. We were entertained by two Northern Rough-winged Swallows swooping low over the pond at an incredible rate of speed. They co-operated by landing on a nearby branch where they patiently waited for all of us to get a good view. Whilst all of this was happening, a Winter Wren serenaded us in the background. Other notables were a pair of Wood Duck, a Belted Kingfisher and a Canada Goose.



Four of the five hardy souls

Next was the exercise portion of our day. We set off for a 1 km walk along a rail trail that took us to an abandoned railway station, once known as Dranoel Station. Yes, it was drizzling, cold and windy. However, close encounters with an Ovenbird and Eastern Towhee kept the spirits lifted. Other notables were Ruffed Grouse drumming, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Waterthrush, White-throated Sparrow and Northern Cardinal.

By this time, we were feeling slightly chilled and were looking at our watches. We decided to make one final stop. Off to Wild Turkey Road we went. We got out of our cars and were immediately greeted by a pair of Northern Mockingbirds. Well, that was worth the trip! Not to be outdone, a Trumpeter Swan

seemed to come out of nowhere and flew by us. Other notables were Brown Thrasher and Song Sparrow.

With a sigh that comes from having a great day, but also feeling glad to be going home to a hot shower and warm dry snugglies, we parted ways. Until the next time.

From the Archives: Odonata in Petroglyphs Provincial Park by David Bree

Submitted by Martin Parker

'The Orchid' has been the bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists since 1955. Through the years, 'The Orchid' has contained a vast variety of articles on the flora and fauna of the Peterborough area. An example is the series of articles in 2001 and 2002 prepared by David Bree. At the time, David was the Park Naturalist at Petroglyphs Provincial Park. He is now the Park Naturalist at Presqu'île Provincial Park.

There was a series of articles on the status of various species of Odonata in Petroglyphs Provincial Park. In 2001, Bree identified 60 different species of Dragonflies and Damselflies within the limits of Petroglyphs Provincial Park. He noted that a total of 95 species have been recorded in Peterborough County. In articles in the December 2001 and February 2002 issues of 'The Orchid', Bree provides a status report on all the species he observed in the 2001 flight season.

Bree continued his observations of Odonata within Petroglyphs Provincial Park in 2002 and identified 65 species that year. Eleven of the species were not recorded the previous year, thus bringing the total number known to exist in this small park to 71. The 2002 observations were summarized in the April and May 2003 issues of 'The Orchid'.

The articles prepared by Bree and published in 'The Orchid' have been reproduced in a consolidated report 'Summary of the Odonata in Petroglyphs Provincial Park'. Copies of this report have been provided to the Natural History Information Centre of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Curve Lake First Nation, the current managers of the park.

Copies of the consolidated report are available by contacting Martin Parker at mparker19@cogeco.ca or at a club meeting. There is a cost of \$3.00 to cover copying and binding.

Update on the Vernal Pond at the Ingleton-Wells Property

Submitted by Sue Paradis, May 27

The vernal pool we visited on April 26th on "The Night of Salamanders and Frogs," is teeming with life. The wood frog tadpoles that hatched the night we were there are swimming throughout the pond and the Blue Spotted Salamander eggs have hatched. With binoculars, you can see the gills and coloration as described in Peter Mills book - *Metamorphosis*. They are over an inch long and there are enough of them to make it easy to find one to watch.

The pool has drawn down over a foot in spite of all the rain, and most of the Spotted Salamander eggs were out of water. Fortunately, their gelatinous egg mass keeps them from drying out. Some of them have hatched while the rest look ready.

There are many other creatures swimming around including dragon fly nymphs and beetles. Green frogs are all around the edges and basking on logs. Lots of birds were singing, and the red shouldered hawk was hard to ignore.



Spotted salamander eggs and larva.
Photo Sue Paradis

Endangered Species Act Lawsuit

Reprinted from Ontario Nature Newsletter

On May 4, 2017, the Supreme Court denied our leave application for our Endangered Species Act case. The act was considered the gold standard law for species protection in North America until the government dramatically weakened it in 2013.

Sadly, this is the end of the line with the courts. From the boreal caribou to the Blanding's turtle to golden eagles, all of Ontario's most at-risk wildlife suffered a legal blow.

The provincial government has abandoned species at risk, but Ontario Nature will not. Ontario Nature will rally with members, partners and allies to protect Ontario's most vulnerable species and the habitats they rely on for their very survival.

Veteran lawyers Lara Tessaro and Anastasia Lintner represented Ontario Nature and Wildlands League. The legal case challenged the Ontario Divisional Court's decision to uphold a provincial regulation that exempts major industrial activities— including forestry, mining, energy, and residential development — from the strict protection standards outlined in the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In many instances, these exemptions give industries a free pass to kill endangered or threatened species and destroy their habitat, as long as this harm is "minimized."

We lost our case, and now it is time to pursue other options.



Woodland caribou. Photo by Paul Tessier

Background

2007: The Ontario government passes the ESA, considered the gold standard law for species protection in North America.

July 1, 2013: The provincial Cabinet regulation under the ESA that dramatically weakens protection for Ontario's at-risk wildlife came into effect. The regulation exempts many major industrial activities from the ESA, allowing them to dodge crucial protection measures. It also significantly reduces government oversight of harmful activities.

September, 2013: Ontario Nature joins forces with the Wildlands League to sue the government over the regulation. [Click here to read our press release announcing the lawsuit.](#)

May 29, 2015: Ontario's Divisional Court upholds the provincial regulation. [Click here to read a press release about the decision.](#)

September 2015: Ontario Nature and Wildlands League win the right to appeal this very disappointing decision.

April 19, 2016: The appeal is heard in Toronto.

October 11, 2016: The Ontario Court of Appeal rules that the exemption regulation is lawful.

December 9, 2017: Ontario Nature and CPAWS Wildlands file for leave to appeal with the Supreme Court of Canada.

May 4, 2017: Supreme Court of Canada denies leave to appeal.

Why does it matter?

The survival of Ontario's most vulnerable wildlife is now weighed against competing industrial interests, which may tip the scale towards extinction. Every single endangered and threatened species in the province is deprived of the full protection of the law.

Rhea Bringeman Award Established

Submitted by Martin Parker

Rhea Bringeman was a long-time member and volunteer with the Peterborough Field Naturalists. Her many accomplishments with the PFN included President from 1980 to 1983. PFN records indicate she served on the Board of Directors for a total of 32 years. She also was the PFN representative to the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, now Ontario Nature for over 19 years. She was the main organizer of the Ontario Nature conference held in Peterborough in 1995. Bringeman also compiled The Orchid Diary, a monthly summary of observations in the Peterborough area, for many years.

Rhea Bringeman left the PFN a substantial bequest on her passing in 2013. A portion of her bequest was used to establish the PFN Legacy Fund, an endowment fund with the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough. The annual disbursement from this fund is for use as the PFN Board determines. For example, in both September 2015 and 2016, the PFN sponsored a student to attend the annual Ontario Nature Youth Summit. The PFN is sponsoring another student this year.

At the April Board meeting, it was decided to designate the sponsorship of the student to the Youth Summit in memory of Rhea Bringeman in recognition of her work with the PFN and Ontario Nature. The annual award has been named "The Rhea Bringeman Award" and a suitable permanent recognition of the award winners is being prepared.

The initial winner of the award will be announced at the June meeting of the PFN.

PFN Award Winners at Peterborough Regional Science Fair

Submitted by Martin Parker

The Peterborough Field Naturalists is an annual sponsor of four special awards at the Peterborough Regional Science Fair. Each award consists of \$25 in prize money plus a copy of the PFN publication 'Mammals of Peterborough County' and the current issue of 'The Orchid'. Funding for this award is from the annual proceeds from the PFN Legacy Fund, established with the bequest from Rhea Bringeman.

The four winners are;

Elementary Level (Grades 4 to 6):

Owen Turner for 'How do Plants Affect the Water in Soil'

Ewan Walsh for 'To water or not to water'

Junior Level (Grades 7 & 8):

Nicole Smith for 'Oil Cleanup Using Simple Materials'

Mitchell Crowley for 'Keeping Our Oceans Clean'

A thank-you from winner, Nicole Smith: "I would like to thank you for the award I received from the Peterborough Field Naturalists during this year's science fair. It means so much for my project to be recognized and I am planning on competing next year."



The Orchid Diary



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

Information is compiled from eBird, Drew Monkman's Sightings web page, the ptbosightings Yahoo group, and individual submissions.

Please submit your interesting observations to Martin Parker at mparker19@cogeco.ca or phone 705-745-4750.

| | |
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| Weather | May 2017 was a wet month with many days of rain. This resulted in many low-lying areas being flooded, delay in opening the waterway, and some delays in migration. |
| April 27 | FOY (first of year) Warbling Vireo by Donald Sutherland in the city and Daniel Williams at Beavermead Park. Sean Smith in the Trent Nature Area had 1 Sandhill Crane fly over, singing Northern Waterthrush , Swamp Sparrow , Winter Wren & Brown Thrasher plus a large Snapping Turtle . |
| April 28 | FOY Common Yellowthroat by Luke Berg in his yard. Mark Hecnar of Edmison Road reported White-crowned Sparrow , the beginning of the movement through the region. |
| April 29 | Carrie Sadowski heard a calling Whip-poor-will behind her residence on the 7 th line of Selwyn Township. She also had a couple of bats flying around, a full chorus of Spring Peepers & Western Chorus Frogs along with American Woodcock doing their courtship flights and some gobbling Wild Turkeys . |
| May 3 | A Redhead was still present on the Lakefield Lagoon by Warren Dunlop. |
| May 4 | Luke Berg had a Northern Goshawk along County Road 44 near Fire Route 61.. |
| May 8 | Matthew Gavin & Iain Rayner had a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in the Edgewater Blvd area. FOY include American Pipit & Grasshopper Sparrow by Luke Berg in Trent Nature Area; Black Tern at Lakefield Lagoon & Least Flycatcher at Beavermead Park by Donald Sutherland; and Yellow-throated Vireo at Cordova Lake by Sturdee. |
| May 9 | A Red-headed Woodpecker was found by Matthew Walmsley at Camp Kawartha on Stoney Lake. Iain Rayner had FOY Northern Parula in the Bear Creek area. |
| May 11 | An American Bittern was flushed by Marilyn Hubley in the wetland along the road to Mount Pleasant. She had a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in her yard at Mount Pleasant. FOY include: Scarlet Tanager in the Bridgenorth area by Amelia Argue; Red-eyed Vireo by Ken Abraham in Trent Nature Area; and Least Bittern by anonymous birder near Buckhorn. |
| May 12 | Mike V.A. Burrell had Northern Goshawk along the 8 th line of Douro. FOY migrants: Chestnut-sided Warbler by Iain Rayner at Beavermead; Eastern Wood Pewee by C. Douglas at South Bay Stoney Lake; and Blackpoll Warbler by Daniel Williams at Beavermead. |
| May 13 | FOY species include Marsh Wren at Plato Creek Wetland, Havelock by Ian Sturdee; Least Sandpiper at Lakefield Lagoon by Donald Sutherland; and Golden-winged Warbler on Elim Park Road by Iain Rayner. |
| May 14 | Nima Taghaboni photographed an American Black Bear investigating his bird feeders in the yard near Young's Point. FOY migrants: Tennessee Warbler by Basil Conlin in Harper Park; Indigo Bunting by Roy Burton at Stewart Hall; and Cape May Warbler by Mike V.A. Burrell on the 8 th Line of Douro; |
| May 15 | Michael Gillespie of David Fife Road recovered an injured Cooper's Hawk , which was taken to a rehabilitation facility but died. It was banded and the Banding Office informed him that the bird was banded on May 10, 2014 near Sodus, Wayne County, New York. The report noted it was hatched in 2014, making the hawk 5 years old Matthew Tobey had an Orchard Oriole near the intersection of Airport Road and the railway crossing, and Luke Berg had another on the Lang/Hastings Trail between Richmond and Drummond Lines. Ian Sturdee had FOY Canada Warbler in the Cordova Lake area. |
| May 16 | Lesser Scaup was found at Lakefield Lagoon by Matthew Tobey and was seen until May 19 th . |

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| | <p>An unidentified contributor to Drew Monkman's Sightings web site observed an American Black Bear in their yard in the vicinity of Jackson Park.</p> <p>FOY years specie: Bay-breasted Warbler by Amelia Argue ear Bridgenorth; Wilson's Warbler & Lincoln's Sparrow by Donald Sutherland on Rotary Trail at Trent U.; and Orange-crowned Warbler by Matthew Tobey at Airport Road at Railway.</p> |
| May 17 | <p>A Great Egret was found by Shauna Rayner at the Lakefield Lagoon.</p> <p>Matthew Tobey had a Clay-colored Sparrow on Jones Quarter Line.</p> <p>Basil Conlin located a Grapevine Epimenis (<i>Psychomorpha epimenis</i>), a moth. This may be the first Peterborough County record.</p> <p>Stephanie Armstrong of Warsaw reported finding a hatchling Painted Turtle making its way across her path towards water. This is the first year she has found a Painted Turtle which overwintered. She took it to the nearby river.</p> <p>Lots of FOY migrants – Swainson's Thrush by Luke Berg in Trent Nature Area; Blue-winged Warbler along Hubble Road by Luke Berg; Alder Flycatcher & Mourning Warbler in Cavan Swamp area by Scott McKinlay, and Philadelphia Vireo by Luke Berg in his yard in the city.</p> |
| May 18 | <p>Basil Conlin found an Abbott's Sphinx (<i>Sphecodina abbotti</i>), a moth.</p> <p>Dave Milsom had FOY Willow Flycatcher at Herkimer Point.</p> |
| May 20 | <p>Iain Rayner spotted a flock of about 125 Brant flying over of Hwy 7 & Keene Rd.</p> <p>Luke Berg had a Northern Goshawk along the Lang/Hasting Trail near Keene.</p> <p>Basil Conlin reported a Common Tern from Lakefield Lagoon.</p> <p>Kevin & Stacey Archer reported the Lake Katchewanooka Bald Eagle nest has 2 young.</p> <p>Marie Windover has a Gray Jay still coming to her residence in the Flynn's Corner area.</p> <p>A dead Eastern Milk Snake was found on Six Foot Road near Buckhorn by T. Sinclair.</p> <p>FOY birds include Yellow-billed Flycatcher on West Eel's Lake Road by Richard Poort, Yellow-billed Cuckoo on Deer Bay Reach Road by Scott Gibson, and Common Nighthawk in the Bear Creek area by Iain Rayner.</p> |
| May 21 | <p>Donald Sutherland had a FOY Sedge Wren along the Rotary Trail at Trent U.</p> |
| May 22 | <p>Iain Rayner had a flyover of a White-winged Scoter in the Bear Creek area</p> <p>The meltwater pond south of Mather's Corner has refilled with rain and attracted 11 Dunlin according to Donald Sutherland.</p> |
| May 21 | <p>A Red-headed Woodpecker was photographed by Nima Taghaboni at his feeders in the Young's Point area (the same feeder a bear visited earlier).</p> <p>A second Red-headed Woodpecker was found along Heritage Line by Tore Buchanan</p> |
| May 23 | <p>Basil Conlin located a Snowberry Clearwing (<i>Hemaris diffinis</i>), a moth.</p> |
| May 27 | <p>Scott Gibson had a flight of 16 Brant pass over his home in the City.</p> <p>Bill Crins had a late Red-breasted Merganser on Little Lake off Beavermead.</p> <p>The latest date for a spring migrating White-crowned Sparrow by Ben Taylor & Sheila Collett in the Trent Wildlife area</p> <p>Donald Sutherland had a Lincoln's Sparrow along the Rotary Trail at Trent University.</p> <p>FOY reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher in the Bear Creek area by Iain Rainer and a Grey-cheeked Thrush in the Edgewater Blvd area.</p> <p>As of May 28th, 207 species of birds have been report on e-Bird for Peterborough County</p> |



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* |
|------|------|------|------|
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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 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|

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: _____

A Holey War in Jackson Park

There is very much a housing shortage in Peterborough City.
It's even affecting its bird population - more is the pity.
Today I saw a woodpecker in another kind's nesting hole;
So much for theoried separation by niche or ecological role.
"Ki, ki, ki, ki ...", the male northern flicker's loud proclamation,
Jammed the air, hindering detection of its lofty location.
Then I saw fresh wood chips lying around a live poplar tree,
Telling me that, as I looked way up, "There's the cavity!"
Later, the "wuc, wuc, wuc ..." of a male pileated woodpecker
Announced the alarmed bird's return to his squatting heckler.
Sometimes the females joined their mates, but momentarily;
The watchful pileated clung inside his hole, guarding it warily.
Intrigued by this odd bird cold war, I checked on it next day.
The flicker was calling from his hole in a snag six feet away.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2017



Left: Burying beetle (*Nicrophorus sayi*) next to a raccoon skull on April 17 at the Trent University Campus. The beetle is covered in a colony of phoretic mites. The mites are engaged in commensalism with the beetle, cleaning the beetle of bacteria and general filth from animal carcasses in exchange for food and a place to live. Many species of mites are also host-specific and can only be found on one species of insect. Photo and interesting commentary by Basil Conlin.

Right: A fairy shrimp with eggs in a vernal pool beside a development area on the Trent University campus on April 17. Photo by Basil Conlin.



Show off the PFN Logo on Your Next T-Shirt, Hoodie or Hat**Submitted by Lynn Smith**

Next time you are out shopping, be sure to drop into Mark's Work Wearhouse at 1135 Lansdowne St. West. The PFN Logo is ready and waiting to be embroidered on your next Spring Fashion Statement. It's Easy!

- Choose a piece of clothing;
- Take it to the desk at the back of the store.
- Tell the clerk that you would like to have the Peterborough Field Naturalists logo embroidered on it.
- You will receive 10% off the cost of the clothing (probably some exceptions here)
- The cost to embroider is \$5.75.



You will become one of the elite "Peterborough Field Naturalists Logo- wearing Club members". It doesn't get much better than that!



Welcome and unwelcome (?) guests at the suet block at Young's Point: a red-headed woodpecker on May 21 and a black bear on May 14. Photos submitted by Nima Taghaboni