

The

Orchid



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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Camouflaged Moths. Photos submitted by Basil Conlin

Clockwise from top left: Salt-and-Pepper Looper (*Syngnatha rectangula*), Once-married Underwing (*Catocala unijuga*), Green Arches (*Anaplectoides prasina*), and Red-lined Panopoda (*Panopoda rufimargo*)

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Harper Park Brook Trout Study Progress Report
New Butterfly for Peterborough County
A Guide to Coexisting with Snakes
Lots of Nature Activities Coming Up

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Welcome new PFN members!

- Cheryl & Gareth Goodchild
- Terry & Shauna Moodie
- Jayne Spearin
- Kathleen Clysdale
- Michael Papadacos & Gabrielle Chackal and juniors Felix Papadacos and Cleo Papadacos
- Jesica & Andrew Ryzynski and juniors Abbigail Wilken-Ryzynski, Gavin Wilken-Ryzynski, Sebastian Ryzynski & Molly Ryzynski



Images of Lily Lake on the weekend of April 21.
Above: Mallard flying over Lily Lake. Below:
River Otter on the lake. Photos: Jonathan Mallory



Exploring spring at Lily Lake.
Photo: Jonathan Mallory

PFN Coming Events

<p style="text-align: center;">Sundays, April 1 to May 27 8 to 11 a.m.</p>	<p>Sunday Morning Wildlife Walks</p> <p>Our regular Spring wildlife walks will continue until May 27. Unless otherwise advertised, walks will start at 8 a.m. and we will carpool from the parking lot of Peterborough Zoo on Water Street. Outings generally last about three hours. Bring some change to donate towards gas costs and bring binoculars if possible. In most cases, the leaders will confirm the destination on the day. Accessibility: easy to moderate.</p> <p>Apr. 29 Lynn Smith (see separate entry) May 6 Scott McKinlay (see separate entry) May 13 Sue Paradisis (1 p.m. start – see separate entry) May 20 Toby Rowland May 27 Mike McMurtry</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, Apr 29 8:00 a.m. Meet at Cavan car park</p>	<p>A Walk on the Oak Ridges Moraine</p> <p>Led by Lynn Smith, this outing will include car stops as well as a couple of strolls along back roads. Bring binoculars, a scope if you have one, snacks and water. Meet at the Cavan Carpark/Go Bus Stop: From Peterborough take Hwy 115 South and Exit at County Rd 10/Millbrook Cavan (Exit #38). Come to a stop sign. Go straight and the carpool lot is on your left, on Syer Line. Accessibility: easy/moderate. There are some fairly steep slopes in places.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, May 6 8:00 a.m. Meet at Ultramar at Lansdowne St. W and Hwy 7</p>	<p>A Walk on the Hogsback Trail, an Esker near Omemee</p> <p>Join Scott McKinlay for a birding and nature hike along the Hogsback Trail, Omemee Esker. We will also be making a couple of stops along the way in the Cavan hills and swamps. The 2.5 km Hogsback trail is hilly and rocky in areas and can be muddy after a rainfall, so wear sturdy footwear. Accessibility: moderate to challenging.</p> <p>We will be leaving cars at both ends of the trail so please leave some empty seats in your car for ferrying people back to the start. Bring binoculars, weather-appropriate clothing, and bring a small donation for gas costs if you are not driving. We will be meeting at 8:00 a.m., WEST of Peterborough at the Ultramar at the intersection of Lansdowne St and Hwy 7.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, May 9 7:30 p.m. Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: Tallgrass Awakening</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Mark Stabb, Program Director, Central Ontario-East, Ontario Region/Nature Conservancy of Canada</p> <p>Created in 1960, the Nature Conservancy of Canada has been responsible for the protection and restoration of a great number of precious natural spaces all across the country. Mark Stabb's presentation will focus on the tallgrass and savanna restoration through 10 years of successes and challenges on Nature Conservancy of Canada lands and on properties of the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative partners.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, May 13 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Wildflower Walk Through Burnham Woods' Old Growth Forest</p> <p>Mark S. Burnham Park has one of the only remaining old growth forests in our area. It is at its best in May when spring ephemeral flowers are blooming. Come</p>

PFN Coming Events

<p>Meet at carpool parking lot at Old Keene Rd and Hwy 7</p>	<p>for an afternoon stroll to discover the unique features of these special forests while appreciating the beauty of our spring wildflowers. Sue Paradisis will lead the outing.</p> <p>To avoid the \$3.00 parking fee, we will meet in the carpool parking lot west of the park at Old Keene Road and Highway 7 (north of highway across from Country Style). Bug spray may be needed. Accessibility: moderate. Trail has some steep slopes</p>
<p>Thursday, May 24</p> <p>8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p> <p>2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>More Moths</p> <p>After the success of last year's event, Basil Conlin invites you to join him for another evening of mothing at the Environment Centre. He will give an introduction to identification techniques for moths and other species of nocturnal insects, as well as methods of attracting, collecting, observing and conserving them.</p> <p>We will meet at 8:30 p.m. 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>As a primer, you might consider (re)reading Basil's excellent five-part series of moth articles published in the Apr, May, Jun/Jul, Aug/Sep, and Nov 2016 issues of The Orchid which can be downloaded here: peterboroughnature.org/the-orchid/</p>
<p>Sunday, June 3</p> <p>7 a.m.</p> <p>Meet at Tim Horton's at the Sobey's Plaza on Lansdowne Street West</p>	<p>Carden Plain Important Bird Area</p> <p>Join us for an all-day visit to the wonderful Carden Plain. This is 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 65 km 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, a camera for the excellent photographic opportunities, and binoculars. Accessibility: easy. Some driving on a gravel road.</p>
<p>Saturday, June 9</p> <p>9 a.m. to noon</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p> <p>2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>Return to the Planet of the Beetles</p> <p>If you missed last year's beetle workshop, fear not! Here is another chance to get to know what is possibly the most successful multi-cellular life form on the planet. Beetles are the most diverse group of multi-cellular organisms.</p> <p>Learn how to distinguish between beetles and other superficially similar 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, pit fall traps and other techniques to check out the local beetle fauna. The session will be led by Paul Elliott. Accessibility: easy to moderate</p>

PFN Coming Events

<p>Wednesday, June 13 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: Big Spenders - The Breeding Ecology of North Island Brown Kiwi</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Sarah Jamieson, Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute for Conservation Research at San Diego Zoo Global (current Rabies Research Biologist, MNRF)</p> <p>Kiwi are shy, nocturnal, flightless birds that are endemic to New Zealand. They are treasured by the Māori people and have become the national icon of New Zealand. Sadly, all five species of Kiwi are at risk of extinction. Adult and juvenile predation by introduced mammals is the leading cause of population decline; however, further hampering the recovery of Kiwi is their low hatching success and even lower recruitment rates. Unfortunately, very little is known about their breeding ecology. Sarah spent 3 years in the field working to help fill that knowledge gap. In her presentation she will describe what it is like to be a kiwi biologist and review some of her research findings.</p>
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PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

<p>Junior naturalist families are reminded to check the website for event listings and email pfnjuniors@gmail.com if you're not on the members distribution list for event announcements. Bookings can be made online at https://peterboroughnature.org/junior/</p>	
<p>Saturday, May 5 10:30 am - 12:00 pm</p> <p>Silver Bean Cafe, Millennium Park</p>	<p>Tulip Dissection</p> <p>Ever wondered about the internal structures of plants and their functions? Tulips are great for learning about the parts of a plant because they clearly show their floral structure. Many thanks to PFN member Lauren Sisson, who will walk us through the steps. This activity will be held at the Silver Bean Event Room in Millennium Park (rain or shine). Enjoy a coffee by the river and a fun, hands-on biology lesson with your kids! PFN membership and registration is required. Please book spaces for your kids using the booking feature on the web page so we can bring enough supplies.</p>

Other Events of Interest

<p>Saturday, May 5 2 p.m. at Jackson Park (meeting at the Monaghan entrance parking lot)</p>	<p>Jane's Walks</p> <p>Jane's Walk is a global festival of citizen-led walking conversations. In 2018, Jane's Walk Peterborough is exploring how city design influences heritage preservation and community interaction in public spaces.</p> <p>Stops on this walk will include Jackson Park, Hamilton Park, Bonnaccord Community Garden, the Woolen Mills, the skateboard park and a tour of The Mount. Along the way we will discuss the importance of outdoor spaces - for conservation of natural heritage as well as human health and well-being - as well as mixed use and higher density communities, and the benefits of renewing existing buildings rather than tearing them down to build new ones.</p> <p>For more details about this walk or other Jane's Walks that are planned, visit http://janeswalkptbo.eventbrite.com</p>
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PFN Coming Events

Saturday, May 5	Global Big Day <p>Global Big Day is birding's biggest day, uniting birdwatchers worldwide across political boundaries and language barriers, all brought together by our shared passion for birds. In 2017, 20,500 people from 162 countries took part. In 2018, will you join us?</p> <p>It's simple to contribute: go birding and then submit your data to eBird — how easy and fun is that? You don't need to do a full day of birding; even an hour or 10 minutes makes a real difference! Learn more on eBird.</p>
Sunday, May 6 10 a.m. Goodwood Community Centre, Goodwood	Ontario Nature's Lake Ontario North Regional Meeting <p>Ontario Nature, of which PFN is a member group, is inviting all who are interested to attend their spring regional meeting. This meeting will be hosted by the Oak Ridges Trails Association. If interested in attending, please contact Ted Vale (tedandmarion@sympatico.ca or 705-741-3641) for more info.</p>
Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6 Market Hall	Pollination Summit <p>The Pollination Summit will be a weekend of discovery, storytelling, and connecting. Connect with one of the world's leading experts on bees and pollination; visit community stewarded urban beehives & pollinator gardens; and engage with community members so that we can explore profound human questions on our role in ensuring a healthy pollinator community.</p> <p>There will be a presentation by special guest Mark Winston, author of Bee Time: Lessons from the Hive and internationally renowned pollination expert from Simon Fraser University. For more details, please visit www.peterboroughpollinators.com/events</p>
Saturday, May 12 4639 Robinson Rd. Baltimore, Hamilton Twp 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Hazel Bird Day <p>The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) invites you to our inaugural Hazel Bird Day on the Rice Lake Plains. Come and celebrate birds, conservation and all the people who make NCC's work possible. Enjoy this family-friendly event with hikes, talks, and a BBQ lunch at the Hazel Bird Nature Reserve, just 20 minutes north of Cobourg. RSVP online at natureconservancy.ca/hazebirdday or call 1-800-465-0029 x2222</p>
Thursday, May 17 7 to 8 p.m. Fleming College Sutherland Campus (Peterborough) Whetung Theatre (Room B3100)	Peterborough County Stewardship 2018 Speaker Series: Bats <p>Lesley Hale has worked at the MNRF in Peterborough for 10 years. Most of that time she worked in science where she coordinated and conducted research on bats across the province in relation to wind turbines and white-nose syndrome. She was involved in surveying the province for new bat hibernacula and summer roosting colonies. Lesley's talk will focus on the status of bats in Ontario.</p> <p>For more information, visit our website or register on Eventbrite www.peterboroughcountystewardship.org</p>

PFN Coming Events	
Saturday, May 12 to Monday, May 21 Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area 20 km SE of Picton	Spring Birding Festival at Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory Members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists are invited to visit Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory this spring for their Spring Birding Festival. There will be guided bird walks, birding trips with guest birders, a Big Week in the South Shore IBA, and banding demonstrations. Further details can be found here: www.peptbo.ca/sbf.php
May 25 to 27 Friday to Sunday South Bruce Peninsula	Bruce Peninsula Nature Weekend South Peel Naturalists' Club extends an invitation to join them to explore the Bruce Peninsula. This annual weekend event provides the opportunity to see the best of the Bruce with expert leaders and in the company of fellow naturalists. The cost per person for the weekend is \$20 registration fee to cover cost of bucket raffle prizes and lodging for volunteer leaders, plus \$236 (+ 13% taxes) for two nights' accommodation at Evergreen Resort (evergreenresortredbay.ca) near Red Bay (includes all meals and snacks). Book rooms in advance by calling 519-534-1868. To register for the weekend, send e-mail to mail@spnc.ca or contact Donna at 905-815-0933 or Audrey at 905-820-2571.
Sep 7-10 or Sep 24-28 or Sep 30-Oct 5 or Oct 9-12 Queen's University Biological Station	2018 Fabulous Fall Fungi Workshops Now in its 9 th year, Fabulous Fall Fungi is a popular series of multi-day, hands-on workshops situated in a beautiful country setting where participants learn about fungal identification, ecology and natural history. Typically, 150-200+ species are identified per session. Suitable for all levels. Max 12 people per session. Meals & accommodation included. Early registration is advised. Visit qubs.ca/events for further details.

Call for a Delegate to the 2018 Ontario Nature Youth Summit



Ontario Nature is hosting its 9th annual Youth Summit for Biodiversity and Environmental Leadership to bring together students aged 14 - 19 years from across the province for a weekend of nature exploration, environmental learning and fun outdoor activities.

For the past three years, the Peterborough Field Naturalists has sponsored a high school student for the Ontario Nature Youth Summit. The PFN plans to sponsor another for 2018. Participants meet a growing network of young environmental leaders with the opportunity to collaborate with like-minded thinkers.

We are looking for someone in high school, preferably grade 10 or 11, with a strong interest in the environment and protecting our natural heritage. If you know a student who would enjoy an opportunity to attend the Youth Summit, which is being held at YMCA Geneva Park in Orillia (weekend date in September TBA) please contact Ted Vale (tedandmarion@sympatico.ca or 705-741-3641) or any other board member. For more information, please visit:

www.ontarionature.org/connect/nature_guardians/youth_summit.php

We will be contacting environment clubs at local high schools asking if they would help us to identify a candidate.

Volunteer Corner: Peterborough Pulse

Saturday, July 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Peterborough Pulse is the city's largest Open Streets event. For one day, George Street becomes a car-free corridor where families can walk, bike, dance, play and socialize.

Along the road, booths from community organizations and businesses are set up to show off their wares. It's a family-oriented and family fun-filled day. Check out the website www.ptbopulse.com and Facebook.

The Peterborough Field Naturalists has an opportunity to participate in this event with a booth and display. It's an opportunity to engage families young and old in the value of appreciating nature. We anticipate setting up a booth with activities and hands-on fun for kids.

Please consider volunteering your time to plan the family activities for the booth and helping out July 21! We need to decide by MAY 14th so please come forward now if you're interested!

Contact Lynn Smith at 705-944-5599 or smithfam@nexicom.net



Volunteer Corner: Buckhorn Fine Art Festival (Aug. 17-19)

The Peterborough Field Naturalists will once again have a booth set up at this year's Buckhorn Fine Art Festival. We need volunteers for various "shifts" at our booth during the event, which runs from 7:00 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 17 through to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 19. This year's festival will feature a special exhibit entitled "The Lives of Birds", as well a wide variety of art from local artists. **BONUS:** Volunteers get free admission to this popular event (normal entrance fee: \$8.00 per person). Parking is also free.

Contact Rene Gareau at (705) 741-4560 or rene.gareau@sympatico.ca

Marsh Restoration: May 12 & 13 and 19 & 20

Submitted by PFN member, Janice Keil

Greetings! You are invited to help bring these seven acres back to life with native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants to how it was originally as marsh according to the earliest surveys. It will be a great chance to come together with many different groups. All of this land will be eventually returned to Alderville First Nation as a small sign of my personal commitment to the 94 calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. My wish is to bring this area overrun with reed canary grass back to how it was pre-contact and we need your help to make this special project happen!

Date: Choose a day that works for you: Saturday May 12 or Sunday, May 13; or Saturday, May 19 or Sunday, May 20. (If you want to come more than one day, we won't stop you!!) **Time:** 10 a.m – 3 p.m (totally flexible depending on your schedule) **Place:** SW corner of 8th Line East and Pethericks Road, Northumberland County. It is east of Campbellford and one concession south of Pethericks Corners, home of the Church Key Brewery.

Bring rubber boots, shovel (cleaned off so we get no more invasives), lunch, water and lots of good cheer (home baked cookies will be available). An RSVP to janice.keil@icloud.com would be appreciated.

Many thanks to Ducks Unlimited, Lower Trent Conservation Authority and SARFIP (Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program) for their financial support of this project.

The Ontario Invasive Plant Council is using this marsh restoration as a demonstration project for reed canary grass control. Thanks to OIPC for their support.

Thank you for your willingness to volunteer! I look forward to seeing you there.

President's Message

2018 Budget

The Board has established a budget for the current fiscal year. Thanks to the work of board members and other dedicated volunteers, we are able to maintain the current membership fee structure without changing the level of services we offer. (We must be the envy of all our elected officials.) In particular, we continue to provide a printed copy of the Orchid to those members who wish to have one. We are fortunate compared to some other clubs, who have been forced to raise fees or discontinue the printed version of the newsletter. One reason that we are able to do this is that many members make an annual donation to the club in addition to their membership fee. We really appreciate their generosity.



Rhea Bringeman Legacy

The Board has finalized its strategy for the management of the Rhea Bringeman Legacy. Nearly \$40,000 is lodged in a legacy fund with the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough, which generates an annual grant to be used for ongoing specified projects identified by the Board. Currently we provide funds for a delegate to the Ontario Nature Youth Summit, prizes for the Peterborough Science Fair, expenses for the annual bird and butterfly counts, and donations to other scientific projects. This fund (and the annual grant) is expected to grow over the years, increasing the PFN's capacity to support community education and research.

We have retained approximately \$15,000 in an investment fund with the Community Foundation. Five thousand dollars is set aside as an emergency fund. The balance (both revenue and principle) will be used to fund special projects that arise from time to time, (such as the donation to the campaign to purchase Boyd Island).

It is our intention to fund the core activities of the club out of membership fees and annual donations, and to reserve the proceeds of the legacy and investment funds for special projects. It is our hope to "leverage" the funding for these projects by applying for other grants.

Volunteers Needed

We are receiving more and more requests to lead nature walks for other groups, and to set up displays at events and exhibits. This is really stretching our capacity to respond. These are all opportunities to spread the word about the PFN and about protecting our natural heritage, which as you all know is under pressure from our constantly expanding urban areas. We are planning to reach out to members to establish a list of people who would be willing to participate in these efforts. Here's your chance to give something back to the PFN and protect our natural heritage.

~Ted Vale, President

A New Peterborough Butterfly Record in Plain Sight

Submitted by Basil Conlin

On June 29, 2014, I was exploring a mature beech forest east of the city of Peterborough when I encountered an azure butterfly. It was puddling at the base of a beech tree and was easy for me to catch. I placed the vial alongside the rest of the silvery blues (*Glaucopsyche lygdamus*) and northern azures (*Celastrina lucia*) I had collected that afternoon and headed home. When I spread this butterfly, I noticed something was odd, but being a novice and not expecting anything other than common species, I placed the specimen in a box alongside several others and left it for later.

Now in 2018, I am slowly uploading all insects in my collection to iNaturalist. I decided to photograph some of my azures when I noticed: AN EARLY HAIRSTREAK (*Erora laeta*)! Normally females of this species are encountered, if the species is ever encountered, but I had a rare male looking back at me. Somehow this record slipped by me. In person, the bold and unique underside patterns that make this species stand out are obscured and dull. I confirmed with Ross Layberry, author of *Butterflies of Canada* (1998) that this was the first record for Peterborough County. This species is the rarest of our butterflies, and many experienced butterfly watchers go their whole lives without seeing one. This record demonstrates the value of insect collections and of exploring places that might otherwise be overlooked.



Male *Erora laeta* butterfly. Photo: Basil Conlin

A New Bird for Harper Park

On April 24, Rene Gareau spotted a rare bird in Harper Park! Rene is willing to bet that this bird has never been spotted in Harper Park before. It definitely wasn't on the Harper Park eBird list.

It's probably some kind of fancy domestic chicken that has made a successful break for freedom, he reckons. Still, it's quite pretty with its white feathers on its feet and all, isn't it? I have heard calls to make the Silkie Bantam chicken the Harper Park mascot!



Orchid submissions are encouraged!

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

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

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



To Feel Free Again

While sitting in my canoe in a Sandy Lake bay
I saw her slowly enter and swim my way.
She dove among yellow water lilies growing in patches,
Surfacing many times to swallow her catches.
With head held skyward, she flapped her wings against the light,
Stretched and shook her streamlined body with sheer delight.
I've never seen anything so beautiful, nor will I soon,
For nothing exceeds the thrill of being with a Common Loon.

In mid-May '86 I saw the loons were in trouble.
Their nest of two eggs was flooded; I had to act on the double.
I built an artificial nesting platform, hoping they'd re-nest.
Twelve-inch cedar logs to form a square worked best
With chain link fencing to hold cover and nesting plants,
Anchored diagonally at the corners to reduce the chance
Of incoming waves unsettling the incubating bird.
Anchoring it fifty to a hundred feet from shore is preferred.

On July 8th about five in the morning I heard the yodelling male
Proclaiming to the world that their second nesting didn't fail.
I shared in his excitement; to help the loons was no bother.
Though I remained silent, I myself felt like a father.
For many years since did I launch a nesting structure
Until prevented from doing so by a family rupture.
Those years of helping and guarding loons meant the world to me;
Soon after ice-out this labour of love was my way to feel free.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2018



Photo: Murray Palmer

Harper Park Brook Trout Study Progress Report

Submitted by Scott Blair, M.Sc. Candidate – Trent University, Environmental & Life Sciences and Michael Fox, Professor, School of the Environment and Department of Biology, Trent University

It is hard to believe the Harper Park brook trout study is almost a year in. We have prepared a brief progress report on how the current Harper Creek brook trout study is going. Since there are two components to the study, it is split up into two subsequent projects.

First, we are studying habitat use of brook trout using a mark-recapture study design with repeated seasonal sampling of 25 sites within Harper Creek's north and south tributaries, and Byersville Creek (see Fig. 1). Adults received a small visible cheek tag, while juveniles had the tip of their adipose fin clipped to aid in population estimates. Note that this size classification is arbitrary based on tagging size constraints and does not necessarily depict maturing. To date, we have sampled all 25 sites in summer, autumn, and winter of 2017-18, with a sampling event in spring remaining. In summer, we captured 62 juveniles and 86 adults; in autumn, we captured 27 juveniles and 100 adults, with 15 recaptures from previously tagged brook trout; and in winter, we captured 15 juveniles and 79 adults, with 27 recaptures. Anecdotally, it appears that adult brook trout prefer deep pools and areas with undercut bank during summer and winter months. During the autumn, this preference appears to shift, as adults move in shallow to spawn. Juveniles appear to have broader site preferences, but may gravitate more towards shallow riffles and woody debris. Our brook trout data is currently being tested to see if either macroinvertebrate density or groundwater inflow rate influences juvenile or adult distribution in Harper Creek. This research is being conducted by two undergraduate students as Honours theses. Our current findings are simply anecdotal, however future statistical analysis will hopefully reveal the factors that are influencing brook trout habitat use at various times throughout the year.



An electrofishing action shot of Scott Blair and undergraduate student Peter Silk netting a brook trout.



A captured brook trout just prior to receiving a radiotag. Photo submitted by Scott Blair.

Second, we are assessing factors associated with brook trout summer, fall, and winter movement using radio-telemetry. Twenty adults in Harper Creek were tagged with small radio-transmitters in August 2017 using the funding generated from the Fund-and-Follow-a-Fish program. From these tags, we have collected real-time GPS location data using a handheld radio receiver twice per week, to determine pre-, during, and post-spawning movements of adult brook trout. So far, it appears that movement is limited until the onset of spawning season in autumn, as expected. Interestingly, the individuals tagged furthest downstream have made the largest upstream movements during spawning season, with a noteworthy movement of approximately

2 km upstream (over 2/3 of the creek) within a week. The causes for these movements remain a mystery until we conduct a full statistical analysis. We plan to tag a further 20 to 30 brook trout again this year to paint a more accurate picture of the factors associated with brook trout movement. There is a possibility for several of these tags to be placed in Byersville Creek fish, as we have unexpectedly found a small population of brook trout there as well.

We hope that the outcome of this study will provide a baseline for year-round brook trout habitat use and movement in small urban streams, which can be used to help protect other native populations subject to urban developmental stressors (such as unnecessary casinos). While moving towards a more urbanized world is inevitable, it is our responsibility to consider the surrounding environment and to protect our native flora and fauna in the process.

From everyone involved in the Harper Creek brook trout study and the Trent University Fox Lab, we thank you for your kind donation to the project and selfless efforts to preserve Peterborough's nature areas.

Avoiding Snakebites: A Guide to Coexisting With Snakes!

Submitted by Matt Ellerbeck (a.k.a. The Snake Man) - Snake Advocate & Conservationist

Snakes are among the world's most misunderstood and feared creatures. However, the horrible reputation that snakes have is not deserved.

Snakes will not make unprovoked attacks on people. When a person comes in contact with a snake, the animal's first instinct will be to rapidly flee the area and find shelter. If the snake doesn't do this, it may just stay perfectly still to try to blend in with the surroundings.

Even if the snake is captured, it may still not resort to biting – proof of its gentle demeanor. The snake has several harmless tactics it can resort to as an alternative to biting. The snake may hiss, make mock strikes with a closed mouth, or flail around to try and escape. This is the snake's way of saying, "Just leave me alone!"



Massasauga Rattle Snake (*Sistrurus catenatus*), Ontario's only venomous snake. It is found primarily along the Georgian Bay and the Bruce Peninsula.

An account of the true nature of snakes can be found in a study done by University of Georgia Professor Dr. Whit Gibbons. The following excerpt from Dr. Gibbons' study speaks for itself: "All the snake species tested have had the same initial response to human presence. If given the opportunity, they escape--down a hole, under a ledge, or in the case of cottonmouth snakes, into the water. Escape is even the standard behaviors of enormous diamondback rattlesnakes, which will immediately disappear if they have enough warning before they think a person can reach them. The snakes just want us to leave them alone."

Snake bites on humans usually only happen when someone is deliberately trying to provoke or harm a snake, and the animal bites purely in self-defense. According to NC State University, almost 80% of snake bites happen when someone is trying to capture or kill the snake. All these facts show that snakes are not aggressive or evil animals. If you provoke and capture a wild animal, what

can you expect but to be bitten since the animal is going to try to defend itself?

The key to being safe around snakes is to simply leave them alone. The following excerpt from the book 'Dangerous Snakes of Africa' by Branch and Spawls (1995), speaks volumes: "Snakes never make unprovoked attacks."

Edward R. Ricciuti's *The Snake Almanac* (Lyons Press 2001), states that venomous snakes do not look for people to bite and Mark O' Shea's *Venomous Snakes of the World* (Princeton University Press 2005), proclaims that people must realize that snakes are not out to bite them but prefer to be left alone.

Sometimes hikers and campers will encounter a snake when the animal is out basking in the sun or foraging for food. When startled, the snake may slither rapidly towards the direction of shelter (like a burrow or under a rock). When the snake darts suddenly, it may give the illusion that it is chasing after you. This is not true though. Sadly, people's anxiety in such a situation only fuels the belief that the snake was pursuing them.

It is also important to remember that most snakes are completely harmless. In fact, only around 13% of all snake species are venomous. Of this small number, even less are equipped with venom that is strong enough to seriously harm a human being.

If a venomous snake does bite a person, often no venom is injected into the bite. This is called a dry bite. Snakes have venom first and foremost as a means to quickly subdue their prey. The venom also helps the snake digest its meal, as it aids in breaking down the prey internally. This is important as snakes do not chew their food but swallow it whole. As humans are too big for snakes to eat, they will not want to waste their precious venom on us.

If the snake does inject venom, proper medical treatment and anti-venom can usually save the person's life. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, only about 0.2% of people bitten by snakes in the United States actually die from the bite. According to the University of Melbourne's [presentation entitled] 'Snakebite Mortality in Australia' (2003), death from venomous snakebites in Australia is relatively uncommon. Ontario is home to just one species of venomous snake, the Massasauga rattlesnake. It is a shy species that prefers to avoid people. There have only been two fatalities in Ontario linked to snakebite ever, and in both cases the victims did not receive appropriate medical treatment, which almost certainly would have saved their lives.

It is very easy to coexist with snakes, especially since they do many useful things for people. First of all, snakes are great controllers of rodents like rats and mice. Without snakes, rodent populations would surge and these creatures would destroy crops, affecting our food supply. [Some] rodents [can] spread harmful diseases which can seriously affect our health. Snakes are great at hunting rodents because they can crawl into small burrows and other areas that rodents use as shelters. These places are too small for other predators to get into.

Snakes also help stop the spread of Lyme disease. According to a study conducted through the University of Maryland, a single Timber Rattlesnake eats up to 4,500 ticks a year! Small rodents often carry the bacteria (genus *Borrelia*) that produces Lyme Disease. When ticks bite these rodents, they can later drop off and then spread the disease to humans or pets. Luckily, snakes prey heavily on rodents, and then in turn the ticks attached to them! Therefore, snakes are extremely useful to people, as they help stop the spread of this disease.

Furthermore, snakes are saving the lives of countless numbers of people every year. Snake venom is being used in the medical field to treat all sorts of serious ailments like heart and stroke disease, cancer, Parkinson's, blood clots, and many more.

Despite these benefits, countless numbers of snakes are killed by fearful people every year. We must look past our fear and ignorance and see snakes for what they really are - interesting creatures that play very important roles in the eco-system. A fear of snakes can be a learned behavior, so we must learn not to pass our irrational fears onto our children, but teach them to respect wildlife.



An Eastern Milk Snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*). These non-venomous snakes are often confused with rattlesnakes due to their superficial resemblance. Milk Snakes are widespread across Ontario.

PFN Outing Report for Sunday, April 8

Submitted by Kathryn Sheridan

This outing had an inauspicious start even though twelve hopeful people showed up. It was -5 °C out and overcast with a light wind. At our meeting spot in the Riverview Park and Zoo parking lot, Chris Risley, our leader, forewarned us that we may not see many birds this day. Indeed, we all looked around and pricked our ears but there were no sightings or hearings to be had in the parking lot. We ventured onwards despite the dreary prospects.

We made two major stops on this outing. The first was Mervin Line, near the Peterborough Airport. This is one of the places Drew Monkman wrote about in his "Where to Go" series that was published in *The Orchid* recently. It proved to be a good spot for birding – even when it had seemed that all birds had otherwise vacated the county. Cathy Douglas kept a list of what we saw and I kept a list of what to come back to see later. Our other stop was Whitfield Landing on the Otonabee River, south of the airport. This was also a good spot. A very popular, well-stocked bird feeder at someone's house made the birding all the better.

Our bird list (26 species): Canada Goose (2), Common Merganser (3), Wood Duck (6), Mallard (6), Great Blue Heron (2), Osprey (1), Ring-billed Gull (2), American Kestrel (2), Ruffed Grouse (1), Mourning Dove (11), Belted Kingfisher (2), Red-bellied Woodpecker (4), Hairy Woodpecker (2), Downy Woodpecker (1), American Crow (3), Black-capped Chickadee (13), White-breasted Nuthatch (6), American Robin (7), Blue Jay (3), European Starling (2), Song Sparrow (6), American Tree Sparrow (2), Red-winged Blackbird (12), Common Grackle (28), American Goldfinch (46), and Purple Finch (1)

Some birds to come back to see later: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Common Yellowthroat and other warblers, and Rusty Blackbirds. The Rusty Blackbirds usually pass through in late April or thereabouts and October.

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Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7					

PFN Outing Report for Sunday, April 22

Submitted by Dave Milsom

A large group showed up in the Zoo parking lot on a beautiful sunny morning for our April 22 spring outing.

We drove north along the Otonabee River where we found Hooded and Common Mergansers, Common Loon, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Ospreys, 4 Belted Kingfishers, and a first-of-the year male Blue-winged Teal at Lock 24.

At Lakefield sewage lagoons we added Lesser and Greater Scaup, Ring-necked and Wood Ducks, 10 Cormorants, Tree Swallows, Savannah Sparrow, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, Wild Turkey and Ruffed Grouse.

At the overlook to Buckley's Marsh, just off Highway 28, we were surprised to find a large flock of Snow Buntings and 4 Horned Larks.

A flooded field off 9th Line provided brief views of 3 Wilson's Snipe and 2 Killdeer.

Later, we had great views of 2 Sandhill Cranes overhead on Keene Road and an adult Bald Eagle. At Mather's Corners were Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Great Blue Heron, Flicker, a pair of Ravens, a Kestrel, and 5 "Richardson's" Cackling Geese.

Elsewhere we saw 2 Northern Harriers and at least 4 Eastern Meadowlarks.

It appears that Spring has finally arrived!

Many thanks to Matt Tobey for his spotting skills on this productive outing.



Sandhill Cranes flying over Keene Road.
Photo: Dave Milsom



PFN outing participants viewing waterfowl at the Lakefield sewage lagoons on April 22. Photo: Drew Monkman



Over 58 Climate Change Research Reports (CCRR) and publications present results of science and research on forest and peatland carbon, fish and wildlife impacts, forest fire, afforestation and much more...

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Climate Change Research Reports (CCRR) are available at the Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptation Resources (OCCIAR) website:
www.climateontario.ca/scripts/MNR_Pub/mnr_publication.php

From the Archives: 7th Annual Dawn Chorus at Millbrook on June 1, 1969

The Orchid, Volume 14, Number 3, July-August 1969 (Dudley Hewitt, Editor)

As in preceding years, we met at the blinker in Millbrook and proceeded to the Williams farm. The air was clear, no wind, the temperature approximately 53 degrees (low for this night). There was a good turnout and the three group leaders, Paul Bristow, Doug Sadler and Harry Williams, took up their usual locations.

The first bird heard was Whip-poor-will at 3:46 a.m. with a total of 43 varieties of birds heard, ending at 6 o'clock. Three birds were new to the Dawn Chorus: the American Redstart, which sang at 4:45 a.m., the Black-throated Blue Warbler at 5:33, and the Red-breasted Nuthatch at 5:46.

Heard or seen after 6 o'clock in the areas: Grackle, Grasshopper Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, (which was new to the areas of the Peterborough Nature Club), the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, House Wren, Red-tailed Hawk, and Kingfisher. Five different kinds of nests were seen: Vesper Sparrow, Robin, Ovenbird, Wood Thrush, and Phoebe, and young Robins were seen out of the nest.

The main chorus of Robins, Wood Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, etc. occurred between 4:41 and 5:00 o'clock, when the first light came. The moon set at 5:10.

Anyone who wishes a complete list of birds with the time heard may contact the Editor and a list will be forwarded.



PETERBOROUGH Pollinators Pollination Summit 2018
Peterborough, Ontario
May 5th & 6th

The Pollination Summit is a two-day celebration of native plants and local pollinators, of community stewarded urban beehives, of pollinator gardens, of local makers and crafters, and of discovery, storytelling and connecting to nature and to each other.

Mark Winston, author of *Bee Time: Lessons from the Hive and Listening to the Bees*, will be a special guest at Peterborough's first pollination summit!

Saturday, May 5th
Honey Fair, Book Signing & Mark Winston Presentation
Market Hall: 7:00pm-10:00pm

Sunday, May 6th
Pollinator Garden Tour
Various Sites: 9:00am-10:30am

Taste some local honey @ the HONEY FAIR!

Sunday, May 6th
Community Dialogues (with light refreshments)
Lett Architects: noon-3:00pm

For more info, visit our website: peterboroughpollinators.com

THANKS to our sponsors:




YOU'RE INVITED!
Hazel Bird Day

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is pleased to invite you to learn about and explore the Rice Lake Plains at our inaugural Hazel Bird Day, a day to celebrate migratory bird conservation and all the people who make NCC's work possible. Please join us at this family-friendly event for hikes, talks, and a BBQ lunch at the Hazel Bird Nature Reserve, 20 mins north of Cobourg.

When?
World Migratory Bird Day
Saturday, May 12, 2018
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
*Optional morning bird hike at 8am

Where?
Hazel Bird Nature Reserve
4639 Robson Rd, Baltimore, Hamilton Township



Eastern bluebird, Photo by Cameron Cuman

Find out more and RSVP online:
natureconservancy.ca/hazelday

Or to:
Pia Kaukoranta, Development Officer
pia.kaukoranta@natureconservancy.ca | 1.800.465.0029 x2222





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 745-4750.

Weather	The weather in April this year was not typical warm April showers, but rather was dominated by below-average temps with a late winter snow/ice storm on the weekend of April 14. Temperatures did not start to return to seasonal until the end of the month.
Mar. 26	Sue Paradisis reported that the vernal pool in Harper Park was teeming with life: Fairy Shrimp, Fingernail Clam, mosquito larvae, log cabin caddis fly larvae, mites and various beetles. Spring was emerging. Iain Rayner found a Tundra Swan in the Fife's Bay area, Chemong Lake. Jerry Ball had a Red-shouldered Hawk north of Flynn's Corners.
Mar. 29	Jerry Ball had an Eastern Meadowlark on the 8 th Line of Douro.
Mar. 27	3 Cackling Geese & 1 Tundra Swan on Fife's Bay by Iain Rayner.
Mar. 29	A Red-necked Grebe was spotted on Little Lake from various vantages by Dan Williams, Erica Nol, Chris Risley and Iain Rayner.
Mar. 30	A Snowy Owl was still present on the ice of Rice Lake off the Station Restaurant, Hiawatha by Steve Paul.
Mar. 31	Jerry Ball had 6 Red Crossbills & 3 Pine Siskins along Tate Road off Cty Road 46.
Apr. 1	Donald Sutherland and many others found four Greater White-fronted Geese and 6 Cackling Geese in a flooded field east of Baillieboro on the Second Line. Sutherland also had 3 Canvasbacks (2 m., 1 f.) at the south end of Duncan Line. On the first PFN spring nature walk, under the leadership of Jerry Ball, 2 Sandhill Cranes were found near Buckley Lake (the 1 st spring walk last year also had the first of the year Sandhill Cranes for Jerry Ball).
Apr. 2	The Calders report that on Pigeon Lake they could see many Canada Geese, Tundra Swans, Northern Pintail, Bufflehead, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Ring-necked Ducks, American Wigeon, Wood Ducks, Mallards, Common Mergansers along with a Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier and Great Blue Heron. Matthew Tobey reported there was a significant snow event this day. In the afternoon, he reported the first Mourning Cloak of the year (no other report until end of period). A Snow Goose was found in the pool on the Second Line of Cavan/Monaghan by Cathy Douglas and others. Greater White-fronted Geese & Cackling Geese were still present. Another Greater White-fronted Goose was on the Briar Hill Bird Sanctuary according to Cathy Douglas and others.
Apr. 3	Snow Goose and Cackling Geese still present on Second Line. Periodically observed until April 22 at this location by multiple observers.
Apr. 5	Toby Rowland had a Glaucous Gull in the Millennium Park area. Still present on April 10 by several observers. Daniel Williams had the first Yellow-rumped Warbler of the spring. Jerry Ball found a Common Loon on Little Lake and a Northern Shrike on Nicholson's Road.
Apr. 7	2 Cackling Geese were at the Briar Hill Bird Sanctuary by Mike Burrell and Donald Sutherland. Late Snowy Owl present along County Road 38, Asphodel-Norwood by Scott Kendall.

Apr. 9	Jerry Ball reported that five of the Osprey nest platforms between Keen and Hastings were occupied by Ospreys , and a Belted Kingfisher was near the airport.
Apr. 11 - 14	Late winter storm starting with cold rain and then sleet and finally snow resulting in many cancelled events.
Apr. 13	Dan Chronowic had a Great Black-backed Gull on river at Trent University.
Apr. 14	Lynn Smith reported that a pair of Wood Ducks , a pair of Hooded Mergansers , and a pair of Mallards were on the pond on her property.
Apr. 17	<p>Michael Gillespie reported that the number of species at his feeders on David Fife Line numbered 17 by 2 p.m. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed sitting under his feeder. There was also a Turkey Vulture and Common Raven in the area as well.</p> <p>Others noted that after the snow/ice storm, feeders were inundated by birds searching for food.</p> <p>Bonaparte's Gulls arrived with birds present at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoon (Cathy Douglas), Beavermead Park by Daniel Williams, and Rotary Park by Matthew Gavin & Robert Walker Ormiston.</p> <p>Snowy Owl found in Ennismore Twp. by Iain Rayner.</p>
Apr. 18	<p>Lynn Smith reported 2 Belted Kingfishers, 10 Cedar Waxwings, 2 American Tree Sparrows, and 1 Tree Swallow in her yard.</p> <p>Red-necked Grebe on Little Lake according to multiple observers. Still present on April 19.</p> <p>Jerry Ball noted there were lots of Pied-billed Grebes on Rice Lake and a pond off Baseline Road off the Keene Road had 41 Green-winged Teal.</p> <p>Ball noted he observed 41 species along the north shore of Rice Lake. The migration has resumed.</p> <p>Kathryn Sheridan noted 50 Tree Swallows on the Otonabee River at Lakefield. There were also a Belted Kingfisher, Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle and lots of Buffleheads and Common Mergansers.</p>
Apr. 21	<p>Lynn Smith had a Fox Sparrow at her residence near Cavan.</p> <p>Iain Rayner had a Tundra Swan off Elm Lodge Road.</p>
Apr. 22	<p>The meltwater pond at Mather's Corners refilled with meltwater and five Cackling Geese were present according to Barb Boland & Drew Monkman. Northern Pintails observed by multiple observers at this location.</p> <p>A late flock of 40 Snow Buntings was spotted in the area of Hwy 28 and Block Road east of Lakefield by the participants of the PFN Sunday Morning outing.</p> <p>2 Red-breasted Mergansers on Rice Lake off Hiawatha by Steve Paul and 6 on Pigeon Lake off Kerry Line by Iain Rayner.</p> <p>Brad Toms reported a Gray Catbird near Norwood.</p> <p>Butterflies emergence: Jerry Ball surveyed roadways off Hwy 507 north of Flynn's Corners and found 168 Compton Tortoiseshell, 5 Mourning Cloak, and 183 Eastern Comma butterflies.</p>
Apr. 23	<p>Ernie Silhanke had a Great Egret south of Fowler's Corners.</p> <p>A Green Heron was found by Chris Risley, Ben Taylor & Sheila Collett at Beavermead Park.</p> <p>Lynn Smith heard Spring Peepers & Wood Frogs calling in her pond near Cavan.</p>
Upcoming	The spring chorus of frogs will be starting up to full volume, a major influx of migrants is on the way, and the spring flowers will start to emerge. Winter weather will be done.



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

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Address:		Receive Orchid by:	<input type="radio"/> snail mail <input type="radio"/> e-mail <input type="radio"/> both please
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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
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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: _____