

The

Orchid



June/July 2019

Volume 65, No. 5

peterboroughnature.org

Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

Published nine times yearly. Publication Mail Agreement #4005104

Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Blue-spotted Salamander on evening of April 14 at Stoney Lake. Photo: Ken Lyon

Inside: If You Missed Spring This Year, Read All About It Here!
Lots of Interesting Outings Reports
Book Overview: Climate – A New Story
Info on Bill 108, Schedule 5, The Extinction Schedule

In this Issue:

PFN Coming Events.....	3
PFN Junior Field Naturalists.....	5
Other Events of Interest.....	5
President's Message.....	7
Volunteer Corner	7
Jakob Griffin Wins Camp Scholarship	7
Book Overview: Climate: A New Story.....	8
Outing Report: April 24 – Salamanders & Frogs..	9
Call for Piping Plover Volunteers.....	9
Outing Report: April 27 - Frogs & Woodcocks..	10
Outing Report: April 28 - Sunday AM Walk	10
Outing Report: May 5 – Outing with WBFN	11
Outing Report: May 11 – Wildflower Walk	12
Outing Report: May 12 – Hogsback Trail.....	13
Outing Report: May 19 – Sunday AM Walk.....	14
Outing Report: May 26 – Sunday AM Walk.....	15
Trent Ecologist Wins Research Award.....	15
Red Alert: The Extinction Schedule.....	16
Poem: Twilight Delight.....	17
The Orchid Diary	18
PFN Membership Application.....	20



Red Trillium. Photo: Marla Williams



What's wrong with this picture? Photo of Wood Duck and Mallards by Ken Vale



Bloodroot. Photo: Don McLeod

Welcome new PFN members!

- Andrew & Amy Lipscombe
- Jane Tapsell
- Ron Kronstein & Eleanor Clarke
- Cecilia Chow
- Jayshree & Paresh Mody
- Elizabeth MacLeod
- Kate Jarrett

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Sunday, Jun. 2</p> <p>All-day starting at 7 a.m.</p> <p>Meet in parking lot near 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. Bring some lunch, water, binoculars, and a camera for the excellent photographic opportunities.</p> <p>Accessibility: easy. Some driving on a gravel road.</p>
<p>Wednesday, Jun. 12</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p> <p>2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: How we can fight Ontario's invasive plants!</p> <p>Guest speaker, Vicki Simkovic, Coordinator at the Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC), will present this talk on invasive plants. Phragmites, Garlic Mustard, Dog-strangling Vine, and Buckthorn are familiar examples of Ontario's 400-plus invasive species. They crowd out native terrestrial and aquatic plants, altering the environment for insects, birds, reptiles and mammals.</p> <p>OIPC was formed in 2007 by a group of people who saw a need for a collaborated response to the increasing threat of invasive plants. Since then they have been providing leadership, expertise and encouragement to take positive action in our own gardens and the fields and forests around us.</p> <p>Vicki Simkovic holds a MSc in Ecology and Evolution from the University of Western Ontario. She is a passionate ecologist and naturalist and brings a strong invasive species background through her role as Field Assistant with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and her work with the Nature Conservancy of Canada.</p>
<p>Saturday, Jun.15</p> <p>12:30 p.m.</p> <p>Crawford Drive at Harper Road commuter parking lot</p>	<p>The Enchanting Forest – Peter's Woods</p> <p>Join Carling Dewar of Ancient Forests Exploration & Research and Sue Paradis as we fall under the spell of this remnant old growth forest. The province's oldest known Sugar Maple (460 years) and White Oak (450 years) are in this small forest with White Pines a metre wide. Carpeted with ferns and wildflowers, it is typical of what settlers would have found on the Oak Ridges Moraine a few centuries ago. The trail is only 0.9 kilometres long but it descends into a gully and back up. Bring binoculars, a camera and change for gas if carpooling.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy to moderate</p>
<p>Sunday, Jun.30</p> <p>7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p> <p>Riverview Park and Zoo, Water Street North</p>	<p>Search for Breeding Birds of Peterborough County</p> <p>Expert birders, Dave Milsom and Matthew Tobey will lead an all-day search for breeding birds of Peterborough County including Cerulean warblers in the Buckhorn area. Bring lunch, drinks, binoculars and change for gas if carpooling. The group will return around 3:00 but participants can leave earlier if necessary</p> <p>Accessibility: easy</p>

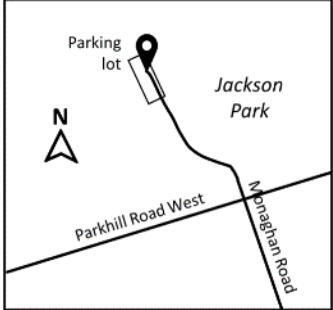
PFN Coming Events	
<p>Saturday, Jul.6 9 a.m. Crawford Drive at Harper Road commuter parking lot</p>	<p>Northumberland Land Trust McEwen Nature Reserve, Oak Ridges Moraine</p> <p>This property is a tract of rolling, wooded kame forest and open fields, directly adjacent to the Ganaraska Forest and the Oak Ridges Moraine. The property contains a drumlin, a beautiful pond, wetlands, a creek, forests, and retired farmland. Seventy-six bird species have been recorded, 22 of which were breeding on the property. Earlier this year, the main field was burned and there is an abundance of Baltimore Orioles, Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. We will see how the ecology of the meadow is different between the years when there is and isn't a burn. Towards the back of the property there is a possibility of finding Eastern Newts in the pond. Dylan Radcliffe will be the leader. The hike is about 5 km on hilly terrain and the ground on the trail is mostly sand so be prepared with water, snacks and light clothing. There will be lots of great opportunities for bird photography in the main meadow on the property. Accessibility: Moderate to challenging</p>
<p>Sunday, Jul.7 1 p.m. Meet at Country Style at Hwy 7 and Old Keene Road east of the City</p>	<p>Butterflies Along the Lang-Hastings Trail</p> <p>This afternoon outing is an introduction to butterfly watching along a section of the Lang-Hastings Trail. The focus will be on learning how to distinguish between the different species present in early July. This outing will be led by Jerry Ball, one of the leading butterfly experts in the province and a popular PFN leader. Bring binoculars and a camera. Accessibility: Easy</p>
<p>Sunday, Jul.14 9 a.m. Meet at Country Style at Hwy 7 and Old Keene Road east of the City</p>	<p>Butterflies of the Sandy Lake area</p> <p>The diverse habitats along Sandy Lake Road, off County Road 46 north of Havelock, support the greatest diversity of butterflies in the region. Butterfly enthusiasts from across the province visit this area to observe the variety of species present, including five hairstreaks. This outing will introduce you to this area and its abundance of butterflies. Jerry Ball will be our leader. Bring binoculars, camera, lunch and water. Accessibility: Easy</p>
<p>Wednesday, Sep.11 7:30 p.m. Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Best Places to Bird in Ontario</p> <p>Mike Burrell, co-author of Best Places to Bird in Ontario, will be the speaker. This guide, released last spring, outlines the top 30 birding destinations in Ontario, with up-to-date information on hard to find species, directions, birding tips and much more.</p> <p>Mike Burrell is a birder par excellence, he thinks he has been interested in birds since he was able to lift up a pair of binoculars. He didn't get serious about birds until he was 15 after he attended the Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists Internship at Long Point Observatory. Since then it has been all birds, all the time. He has worked at Long Point Bird Observatory, with several environmental consulting firms, with Bird Studies Canada and now is with the Natural Heritage Centre.</p>

Additional Outings Not Included in Published Version of The Orchid

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Sunday, Jul. 21</p> <p>Meet at 10 a.m. at the Riverview Park and Zoo or at 10:30 at the park gate house parking lot</p> <p>289 Caves Road, Warsaw</p>	<p>Ferns of Warsaw Caves Conservation Area</p> <p>Ferns have been around for over 300,000 million years despite producing neither flowers nor seeds. As they are generally fond of moist forest floors, Warsaw Caves has a lot of varieties for us to find in the cool shade. A digital copy of a fern ID information package with a worksheet and ID chart will be available on our website in the Outings section closer to the outing. If you are planning on attending, read over the package and download the ID chart to your smart phone to have with you. We will have hard copy for those without a phone. Kathryn Tisshaw, a MSc candidate in the Department of Environmental and Life Sciences at Trent, will lead the outing with Sue Paradisis. Wear sturdy footwear and bring binoculars, your phone, insect repellent and cash for park admission if driving in and for gas if carpooling.</p> <p>For those wanting to stay at Warsaw after the hike, bring a lunch and enjoy some of the many trails and explore some of the unique geological features of the park. Canoes are also available to rent for a paddle down the Indian River.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy to moderate</p>
<p>Sunday, Aug. 11</p> <p>1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Meet at the main door of the Life Sciences Bldg., Trent University</p>	<p>Get a Rush out of Grass and Sedges</p> <p>These graminoids are spectacular when you look at them closeup. Come spend a few hours with a couple of plants geeks to learn to ID some common grasses and sedges. We will start our day with an hour of interactive Powerpoint presentation and scope work followed by a few hours of field identification activities. Background information and an ID chart can be downloaded from the PFN website by all participants before the workshop. Leaders will be Susan Chow and Kat Tisshaw.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy</p>
<p>Thursday, Aug. 15</p> <p>Meet at 8:45 p.m.</p> <p>Lower parking lot off Fairbairn at Parkhill</p>	<p>Encounter With Bats and Other Nocturnal Occupants of Jackson Park</p> <p>Join Paul Elliott for a night walk using ultrasonic detectors to pick up the high-frequency sounds made by foraging bats. We will meet at the Jackson Park parking lot on Fairbairn/Parkhill. Participants need to wear sensible footwear and may bring flashlights if they wish. Accessibility will be good, other than the fact that we will be walking in the dark!</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy</p>

Additional Outings Not Included in Published Version of The Orchid - Cont'd

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Saturday, Aug. 24</p> <p>Meet at 7 a.m. in the Sobeys' parking lot adjacent to Tim Horton's in Sobeys' Plaza, Lansdowne Street West</p>	<p>Shorebirds and Monarchs at Presqu'île Provincial Park</p> <p>This annual outing to Presqu'île Provincial Park is to view the gathering of 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 in the southern end of the beach to view the shorebirds and other fall migrants. 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>Accessibility: Easy</p>
<p>Most Sundays in September & October</p> <p>8 to 11 a.m.</p>	<p>Sunday Morning Walks</p> <p>Most Sunday mornings in September and October, the PFN will lead a morning outing to one or more natural areas in the region. Full details will be in the next issue of The Orchid in September as well as on the website.</p>

Other Events of Interest	
<p>June 12, 26</p> <p>July 10, 24</p> <p>August 7, 21</p> <p>September 4, 18</p> <p>October 2, 16, 30</p> <p>5:30 to 7 p.m.</p> <p>Meet in parking lot at Monaghan Rd. and Parkhill Rd. at the trailhead</p>	<p>Wednesday Forest Walks in Jackson Park</p>  <p>Did you know there are old-growth forests in Peterborough's Jackson Park? Want to learn more about the history of these forests, as well as the trees, plants, and wildlife that depend on them? Well, now you can! Join Ancient Forest Exploration & Research every other Wednesday from May to October to explore these rare old-growth forests during their Wednesday Forest Walks!</p>  <p>No registration required. Weather permitting. Stay tuned for special guests. Check their Facebook page for updates or call them at 705-312-2337.</p>

PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

Hear ye, Hear ye: We Have New Leaders for the Juniors!

We are excited to introduce our new leaders! Stephanie Collins, Erica Barkley and Jay Fitzsimmons have taken on leadership roles in our organization and will be running the PFN Juniors program as volunteer program coordinators. They each bring a ton of experience, knowledge and fun ideas. We hope you'll join us in thanking them for taking this on!

Saturday, Jun.1

De-paving Paradise

The Juniors will be joining Green Communities Canada and Peterborough GreenUP at the largest De-pave Paradise project in Canada. Everyone is invited to come and help plant native species at the site, located in Millennium Park, between the Otonabee River and No Frills. Details are on the PFN Juniors page, and we ask that people RSVP so that GreenUP will know how many planters to expect. No specific time commitment (stay for as long as you wish). High school students can bring their volunteer hours forms to be signed.

Sunday, Jun.9

Leaf-Pressing Art Activity

The Juniors will be hosting a leaf pressing art activity with Creating Space. We'll collect leaves from street-side trees and identify them based on their shapes. These are some of the trees we see every day, but too often overlook their beauty. Please register your family on the PFN Juniors page by sending an RSVP.

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/>

Activities are geared for ages 5 to 12, but kids of all ages are welcome (parents stay and participate). Our events are led by PFN members and individuals from other organizations in our community who volunteer to share their knowledge and skills with us. We also organize environmental stewardship activities for kids to get involved and inspired.

Not a PFN member yet? Child memberships are \$10 per year. Contact pfnjuniors@gmail.com for details.

Other Events of Interest

Sunday, Jun.2

2 to 4 p.m.

Fleming Annex
(portable building),
Peterborough
Museum and
Archives
300 Hunter Street

What's Up with the Climate - and What Can We Do About It?

Presented by Ginny Colling and Deborah Pearson

Colling and Pearson will be presenting a dynamic audio-visual lecture and discussion looking at climate change in action around the globe and in our own backyards. They will address three burning questions: Must we change? Can we change? and Will we change? Following their presentation will be a discussion that will explore what we can do to preserve the planet for future generations, both as individuals and collectively as global citizens.

Other Events of Interest

<p>Sunday, Jun.9 2 to 4 p.m.</p> <p>Fleming Annex (portable building), Peterborough Museum and Archives 300 Hunter Street</p>	<p>Conservation Paleontology: Leveraging the Past to Understand our Future</p> <p>Presented by Dr. Danielle Fraser</p> <p>Dr. Fraser will review the ways in which paleontology can contribute to conservation science and will use relevant examples from her research. She will argue that the impacts of direct human disturbance to the environment will reach far beyond our lifetimes and that the fossil record is the only source of relevant long-term data. Dr. Fraser hopes to paint a picture of how mammals responded to the extinction of the dinosaurs and to the extreme environmental changes that have occurred over the past 66 million years.</p>
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Seasons on the Moraine

This is a series of guided nature walks on Ballyduff Trails (next to Fleetwood Creek Conservation Area), sponsored by South Pond Farms in collaboration with Kawartha Land Trust. Tickets are \$30 per event and include a meal. For more information, please visit <https://southpondfarms.ca/seasons-on-the-moraine/>

- June 17: Dragons & Damsels... and Butterflies, Too
- June 24: Headwaters – Lively Beginnings
- July 15: Prairie, Woods & Wetlands
- August 19: Seeing the Forest for the Trees
- September 16: Fall Flowers & Other Finery

Kawartha Land Trust Events

- June 12: Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island Trail Maintenance | Volunteer Work Party
- June 15: Moonlight Walk: Whip-Poor-Wills & Other Night Sounds | Nature Connection
- June 19: Housekeeping at a Wildlife Preserve | Volunteer Work Party
- September 16: Fall Flowers & Other Finery
- June 22: Cation Wildlife Preserve Celebration & Trails Grand Opening | Nature Connection
- July 6: Stony Lake Trails Appreciation Day | Nature Connection
- July 7: Prairie Plug Planting | Volunteer Work Party
- July 26: Ancient Forest Exploration | Citizen Science
- August 11: Ancient Forest Exploration | Citizen Science

To sign-up and for more information email pwilson@kawarthalandtrust.org or call the KLT office at 705-743-5599. To find out about more upcoming KLT events including volunteer work parties please visit http://kawarthalandtrust.org/?post_type=event

President's Message – Swan Song

Well, not exactly a swan song, but this is my last message before my term as President ends on June 30. I will continue to serve on the Board and have agreed to become treasurer later in the fall.



Dylan Radcliffe will take over as President in July, and has already assumed some of the work that goes with the office.

I want to thank all Board members and volunteers during my term for their hard work and commitment to the PFN. They are the ones responsible for the club's accomplishments over the past two and a half years. I would like to encourage even more members to become involved in the work of the PFN in the future.

I look forward to another great year for the PFN under Dylan's leadership.

Ted Vale, President

Volunteer Corner: Looking for volunteers to contribute to a display board update



Current display board. Photo: Lynn Smith

Our display board has done us well for many years at events including the Garden Show, MNRF Earth Day, Gamiing Nature Centre, Buckhorn Art Festival, Jack Lake Cottage Association and many more. However, it's time for an UPDATE!

Would you enjoy the opportunity to exercise your creativity and transform our display board into something fresh and new?

Please contact Lynn Smith
smithfam@nexicom.net

Jakob Griffin Wins Margaret and Carl Nunn Memorial Camp Scholarship

Submitted by Ted Vale

Jakob Griffin, the PFN nominee for the Margaret and Carl Nunn Memorial Camp Scholarship, has won this award. The scholarship is offered by Ontario Nature through a generous donation from the Nunns.

Jakob is a young man with an intense interest in the natural environment which he has developed through his experience hiking and canoeing. Our members who know him are impressed with his knowledge of locally-occurring reptiles and amphibians. He can identify most if not all of the local species. He is also knowledgeable about raptors and other birds of prey.

The scholarship covers the costs of Jakob's attendance at Camp Kawartha's Nature Camp from August 25 to 28. This session emphasizes Camp Kawartha's nature-based programming along with the usual summer camp activities and fun.

Congratulations, Jakob, and have a good time at camp!

Book Overview: Climate: A New Story by Charles Eisenstein**Submitted by Marilyn Freeman**

In most of the world it's not the skeptics that are the biggest obstacle to climate action. It's the indifference of the general public and the political class. As long as normal routines continue, people will not be persuaded to take meaningful action. People cannot be frightened into caring about what scientific predictions say could happen 20 to 30 years from now. The real motivator will be something local, something doable, something personal.

Author Charles Eisenstein aims to reframe the discussion around climate change. In fact, he doesn't like that phrase at all. He prefers 'climate derangement' because the climate crisis is caused primarily by the derangement of ecosystems worldwide: the draining of wetlands, clear cutting forests, soil erosion, the poisoning of the air, water and soil with chemicals, the interruption of the water cycle and so on. Climate health depends on the health of local ecosystems everywhere.

What I appreciated about this approach was its holistic nature. The earth and its systems are compared to a human body. Take a little piece of the liver, a little of the heart, a morsel of brain and slowly, but eventually, the entire system breaks down and death occurs.

Ecosystems are rife with non-linearity – symbiosis, positive and negative feedbacks, autocatalytic loops, trophic cascades – and homeostatic feedback mechanisms are how the planet maintains an environment hospitable to life. What we've forgotten is that humans are part of the system, not external to it. The planet does not exist solely for our purposes. Our worldview holds other beings as less sentient; beasts are beasts, dirt is dirt, all undeserving of empathy and only to be valued in monetary terms. In other words, even if we cut carbon emissions to zero, if we don't reverse the ongoing ecocide on a local level everywhere, the climate will still die a death of a million cuts.

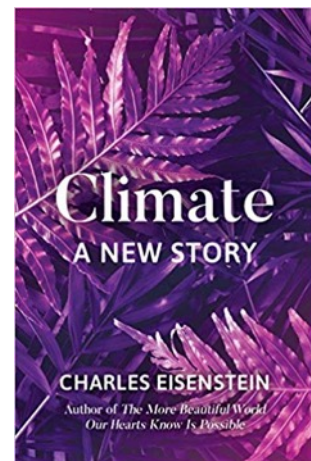
Eisenstein says that we must go right back to our foundational systems, stories and psychologies of our civilization. A shift in our mythologies is more than a cognitive shift and much more than a switching of societies to a zero carbon fuel stock. Every aspect of society, the economy and the political system must come into alignment with a new story. Eisenstein draws attention to Indigenous philosophy as a guide to a new direction.

This is a complex and very rich book. It combines science, philosophy, economics and psychology. In the last chapter, Bridge of a Living World, Eisenstein outlines 17 policies and changes to work for. He suggests picking your passion as no one person can work on all of them but, importantly, all are within reach right now. Jewish philosophy has a concept called "tikkun olam". It means "to heal the world". Climate: A New Story is exactly what this is about. It has a place of importance on my bookshelf.

ISBN: 9781623172480 (paperback)

ISBN: 9781623172497 (e-book)

Ptbo library: 363.7 Eis

**Orchid submissions are encouraged!**

The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, August 23

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

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



Outing Report: April 24 – Night of Salamanders and Frogs

Submitted by Basil Conlin

Kawartha Land Trust's (KLT's) Ingleton-Wells property is located on the North Shore of Stoney Lake and was donated to KLT in December of 2011. The 80-acre property is known to be one of the most important sites for First Nations in the area, second to Quakenbush and Petroglyphs Provincial Park. The property has trails that are regularly maintained by KLT stewards and are open to the public year-round. The property contains old fields where you may spot an eastern bluebird, and mature maple-oak-beech-hemlock forest where you might spot a golden-winged warbler.



The paparazzi caught wind of the salamander outing. Photo: Basil Conlin

On April 24, over 40 people gathered at KLT's Ingleton-Wells property to search for migrating salamanders. The search was led by Sue Paradisis and Martin Parker. The evening was beautiful, but a little too dry for



Red-backed Salamander. Photo: Martin Parker

much amphibian activity. Our large group (one of the largest groups EVER for this outing!) quickly found salamanders despite the conditions by turning over logs and rocks (and placing them back in their correct places afterwards). This turned up several blue-spotted salamanders, red-backed salamanders (and their darker phase: the lead-backed salamander), and one member even reported briefly seeing a spotted salamander before it retreated back into a rodent burrow. A few egg masses of spotted and blue-spotted salamander, as well as wood frog eggs were observed in the vernal pool we checked. Most notable was the absence of four-toed salamanders. They were present in 2018 and 2017, but this year - despite a larger group of samplers - we did not find any.

The barred owls were calling, but less spring peepers were calling than previous years. The hepatica had only just started to bloom, and other ephemerals like Dutchman's breeches and trout lilies hadn't opened any flowers yet.

A few naturalists drove up Birchview Road afterwards to see if anything was migrating across the roads. Two northern leopard frogs, a green frog, and a blue-spotted salamander were moved across the road, but conditions were dry and windy and didn't favor migration.

Call for Piping Plover Nest Monitoring Volunteers

Submitted by Taryn Lourie, Piping Plover Biologist & Volunteer Co-ordinator – Ontario Parks

Piping Plovers have arrived at provincial parks on Lake Ontario. I am looking for conservation enthusiasts who want to volunteer for the 2019 breeding season. Volunteers will be acting as citizen scientists by collecting information about the chicks and breeding behaviours. This important information will help inform future conservation efforts. Volunteers will also help make sure adults, eggs, and chicks are safe, and will engage and educate the public on Piping Plover conservation efforts.

Please feel free to pass this on to interested individuals, post information on your blog and social media, or send out a mass email to your network.

Potential volunteers can contact me at Taryn.Lourie@ontario.ca for more information and to be added to future mailing lists.

Outing Report: April 27 - Kermit's Friends and Timberdoodles

Submitted by Sue Paradisis

On the last Saturday evening of April, twelve keen and hardy naturalists joined Martin Parker for his annual Kermit's Friends and Timberdoodles outing. Once we got walking, the beauty and sounds around us took our minds off the wind and the 4 degree temperature. We were taken to Hooten Line, a road that passes through the Cavan Swamp and is closed this time of year due to annual flooding. The Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (ORCA) started acquiring finger-like parcels of the bog and swamp in the 1960s with the help of the National Conservancy of Canada trust funds that were then matched by grants from the MNR. As property came up for sale, ORCA purchased it and now ORCA protects 1852 acres covering the entire swamp.

Hooten Line provides a window into the swamp and, in spite of the cold, a lot was seen and heard. Evidence of beaver activity was observed along the creek edge before it was seen crossing the road and disappearing into the vegetation. Lots of Spring Peepers were active but more subdued than



Wood Frog eggs found right beside the road. Photo: Sue Paradisis



Wood Frogs showing affection. 😊
Photo: Sue Paradisis

had it been warmer. It was actually nice as you heard individuals and slight variation in their calls rather than the din of hundreds of them. One chilled Wood Frog and Chorus Frog called but no Leopard Frogs.

Birds were the highlight. Fifteen species were identified including four Virginia Rails. White-throated Sparrows were singing loud and clear but the most noticeable were the Wilson's Snipes. We heard one call when we first arrived but by the time darkness fell, their winnowing sounds were hard to miss. They were loudest beside the field next to the swamp which made it difficult to hear the American Woodcock (aka Timberdoodle). We did hear it none the less. It was too dark to see the aerial flight but we heard the chipping trill from its wings as it climbed and the twittering as it descended.

We all enjoyed our evening and I ended up going back the next day. The sun and warmth got the Wood Frogs calling and I was able to photograph egg masses right beside the road.

Outing Report: April 28 - Sunday Morning Bird Walk

Submitted by Drew Monkman

Pleasant sunny conditions made for a productive Sunday Morning Bird Walk on April 28 as our group of 14 birders found 52 species, including a heartening surprise discovery. From the Riverview Park and Zoo, our first stop was the Otonabee River end of Woodland Drive, where an Osprey perched cooperatively near its nest and allowed for closeup views and photographs. Stopping briefly at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre, we also added some new-for-the-year birds like House Wren, Field Sparrow and Tree Swallow. The feeders were busy, too, as White-



Photo: Reem Ali

throated Sparrows, American Tree Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos and Northern Cardinals seemed oblivious to our presence.

We then headed south on Douro 9th Line, stopping at a small wetland just south of the Warsaw Road. The sightings came fast and furious as we enjoyed species such as Common Raven, Eastern Phoebe, Belted Kingfisher, Swamp Sparrow and Blue-winged Teal. We were also entertained by the aerial display of a Wilson's Snipe, a behaviour known as "winnowing". Continuing south to the flooded corn field at Mather's Corners, spotting scopes allowed for views of American Wigeon and Green-winged Teal, while a Brown Thrasher and Savannah Sparrow called in the distance and a Northern Harrier hunted over the fields.



White-throated Sparrow. Photo: Reem Ali

The highlight of the morning, however, was Duncan's Line, where we quickly added Vesper Sparrow, Barn Swallow and Brown-headed Cowbird. Kathryn Sheridan then noticed some bird activity around a martin house at farm #820. I assumed they were probably European Starlings, but to everyone's delight, the tenants were six Purple Martins. This declining species is never an easy bird to find in the Kawarthas, so discovering a new breeding colony (new to our group, at least) was very exciting. Driving south to a large, sheltered bay on

Rice Lake where Duncan's Line veers to the west, we were greeted by hundreds of ducks. Among them were scores of Gadwalls, Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaups, Common Mergansers, American Wigeons, and Buffleheads. As Caspian Terns flew back and forth over the water, we also got great looks at a pair of Brown Thrashers, several Northern Flickers, and two Eastern Phoebes. Delightful spring weather and a nice variety of interesting birds had once again made for a wonderful Sunday morning.

Outing Report: May 5 – Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre with WBFN

Submitted by Don McLeod

Mark Rupke from the Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre led 28 naturalists on a walk to observe spring wildflowers, trees, birds, wetlands and other features of the property. The extra large group size was great to see and was the result of a joint outing of members from the Willow Beach Field Naturalists and the Peterborough Field Naturalists. Mark did an excellent job with the guided walk.



More shows of affection. Common Garter Snakes mating: larger female with smaller male. Photo: Don McLeod

Many members were thrilled to finally see some welcome signs of spring including Bloodroot, Yellow Trout Lily, Early Blue Cohosh, Wild Leek, Red Trillium, Marsh Marigold and Eastern Skunk Cabbage. Everything appeared to be about one week late compared to past years. Notable was the lack of yellow flowers on the Marsh Marigold plants. Among the Trilliums only the occasional Red was observed. During a previous outing on May 5, 2016, the forest floor was carpeted with White Trilliums in bloom. Unusually cool and damp weather during April and May likely contributed to the late season.



Cobourg Creek. Photo: Don McLeod

A small group of naturalists at the rear of the line observed a pair of Common Garter Snakes in the middle of mating. There was a smaller male entwined with a larger female. The male periodically quivered its body against the female. They did not attempt to move away despite our presence. It was the first time for many of us to observe this behaviour.

Another very cool observation was the Black-capped Chickadee nest cavity. Mark and some helpers had just recently observed the Chickadees removing small bits of soft wood from the cavity and dropping the bits on top of them! During our outing there was no sign of the Chickadees but the bits of wood were still plainly visible.



Raccoon prints in mud. Photo: Don McLeod

Birds were not plentiful but keen birders in the group found the following: Gull sp (5), Turkey Vulture (3), Red-bellied Woodpecker (1), Downy Woodpecker (1), Hairy Woodpecker (1), Northern Flicker (1), Eastern Phoebe (1), Blue Jay (1), American Crow (1), Black-capped Chickadee (10), Red-breasted Nuthatch (3), White-breasted Nuthatch (1), Brown Creeper (3), American Robin (2), American Goldfinch (6), Chipping Sparrow (1), Song Sparrow (3), Swamp Sparrow (1), Brown-headed Cowbird (1), Common Grackle (7), Black-and-white Warbler (1), Northern Cardinal (1).

Outing Report: May 11 – Evening Wildflower Walk at Lady Eaton Drumlin

Submitted by Marci Lucas

An Introductory Hello and a Wildflower Experience!

It was during our annual trip to the Peterborough Garden show that we stumbled across the Peterborough Field Naturalists' education booth and picked-up an application to finally pursue membership. I say finally, because a year ago I had filled out the application and a cheque for a family membership and drove around with it in my car for over six months, never getting around to actually mailing the application! I've always been interested in the natural world but have no formal education in biology or environment or ecology. I enjoy gardening, birding,



Trout Lily. Photo: Marci Lucas

I enjoy camping and hiking and I am a mother to a beautiful 5-year-old boy (Corwin). Corwin is the real motivating factor for our connection and application with the Peterborough Field Naturalists.

One of my goals as a mother has been to instill an appreciation and enjoyment of the natural world for my son. I am a firm believer in the health benefits for both adults and children of spending time outside and exploring nature. My son has participated over the last three years in Fox Kits which is an outdoor program, for children 4-6 years, hosted by Jumping Mouse Outdoor Programs. Corwin attends every other Friday at the Kawartha Outdoor Education Centre rain/snow/ice or shine and plays in the woods. It's through first-hand experience that I can say that yes! in fact spending time in the woods is essential for a child's development. Corwin is a shy and sensitive boy and when I go to collect him at the end of a day of playing and learning at Jumping Mouse, there is a tangible confidence about him that can be seen in the way he carries his body, the way he speaks,



Trillium. Photo: Marci Lucas

and his independent nature to explore. As a mother, observing these qualities in my son is so rewarding! When I became aware of the junior program with the Peterborough Field Naturalists, I considered this another opportunity to further my son's exploration and understanding of the natural world as well as a way to connect with like-minded people.



Large-flowered Bellwort.
Photo: Marci Lucas

Our first outing with the Peterborough Field Naturalists was on the wildflower walk at Trent University. We hiked up a drumlin not anticipating to see many wildflowers given the cooler weather we have been experiencing over the months of April and May. However, to our delight there were several flowers that were either in bloom or starting to emerge from the ground. These tiny little gems, such as the Sharp Lobed Hepatica (*Anemone acutiloba*), the cascading Large-flowered Bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*) and Trout Lillies (*Erythronium americanum*) were present and ready to be enjoyed. The Hepatica was lovely with its variegated leaf. The forest floor was covered - especially the north west side - in Trilliums. The forest had such a lovely quality in the evening with trees



Sharp-lobed Hepatica.
Photo: Marci Lucas

just beginning to bloom, creating a soft and welcoming feeling. Other wild flowers that were beginning to show their leaves were the False Solomon's Seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*), Early Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum dioicum*), violets, and False Lily of the Valley (*Maianthemum canadense*).

I have since ventured up the drumlin, knowing now the treasures that abound, and all of these flowers, plus others, are still available for enjoyment. The Early Meadow Rue has come into blossom and is stunning as it dances in the wind. There are also some pink and purplish coloured Trilliums. The drumlin is a unique little habitat, based on my observations, and I have come to further appreciate slowing down when out in the woods and observing the forest floor in order to admire these ephemeral beauties!

Outing Report: May 12 - A Walk Along the Hogsback Trail on the Omemee Esker

Submitted by Scott McKinlay

Our 2nd Mother's Day Sunday morning outing with Scott McKinlay to the Cavan Swamp Wildlife Area and Omemee Esker, aka Hogsback Trail, attracted 19 people and, despite cold and windy conditions, we encountered 67 different bird species. We made several stops along the way, including pasture areas on Hooton and Hayes Lines, the Cavan Swamp Wildlife area, the Ski Hill Road causeway over Pigeon River, and, of course, a 2.5 km walk along the Hogsback.

We encountered eight different sparrows, including White-crowned, White-throated, Chipping, Swamp, Savannah, Song, Field, and Grasshopper, as well as several other open habitat species such as Brown Thrasher, Bobolink, and Eastern Meadowlark. The Pigeon River was very cold and windy, forcing everyone back into their cars, but not before finding four species of swallows, and three large white species - Caspian Terns, Trumpeter Swans, and Great Egret. At Cavan Swamp, the Snipe were "winnowing" their aerial displays; Don McLeod spotted a Hooded Merganser; and the Common



Bay-breasted Warbler. Photo: Ken McKeen

Yellowthroats and Yellow Warblers were putting on a show. But alas, the Virginia Rails and Soras refused to cooperate.

The highlight, as expected, was the warblers along the Hogsback. Although the wind kept the total numbers low, we still managed to find 13 species, including Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, B&W, Nashville, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Palm, Pine, Yellow-rumped, and crippling views of Cape May and Bay-breasted. Below the budding hardwoods, white Trilliums and Trout Lily were just beginning to open up, and Bloodroot was just finishing. Towards the end of the hike, the cedars, and hardwoods gave way to a magnificent view of a pastoral landscape of rolling hills and open pasture, complete with nesting Eastern Bluebirds, more Meadowlarks, and a noisy House Wren.

Luckily, the rain held off just long enough to shuttle all the cars to the end of the trail and send everyone home dry, and hopefully with a few new sightings for 2019.

Outing Report: May 19 – Sunday Morning Bird Walk

Submitted by Dave Milsom

A large number of birders attended the May 19 PFN outing to Herkimer Point on a warm Spring Sunday. A total of 75 bird species were seen including ten Purple Martins near the Old Railroad Stop restaurant on Rice Lake. There had been a good "fallout" of migrants that morning as a result of fairly heavy rain around 5 a.m.

Highlights included 21 [Editor's note: twenty-one!] species of warbler. Most interesting was a stationary male Lawrence's warbler (a hybrid of Golden-winged and Blue-winged) perched high in a bare deciduous tree for about 4 minutes while all the group examined it. Other attractive warblers seen were 4 Blackpoll, 3 Cape May, 3 Pine, several Bay-breasted, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, a Northern Waterthrush, an Orange-crowned and a male Canada Warbler.

One of our first finds was an Olive-sided Flycatcher which perched cooperatively for about 2 minutes at the very top of a bare maple tree.

Woodpeckers heard and seen included Red-bellied, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Northern Flicker. A total of 8 Scarlet Tanagers were seen well including 1st-year males and adult females.

In the marsh, an American Bittern called occasionally before our recording coaxed it to fly across the road.

Other good finds were Philadelphia Vireo, Winter Wren, and Northern Harrier.

Matthew Tobey's ears and eyes were invaluable throughout the morning.



Lawrence's Warbler at Herkimer Point. Photo: Don McLeod



First-year male Scarlet Tanager. Photo: Don McLeod

Outing Report: May 26 – Sunday Morning Bird Walk

Submitted by Drew Monkman

Warm, sunny weather greeted the 16 birders who took part in the Sunday morning bird walk on May 26. Led by the ever-enthusiastic and knowledgeable Martin Parker, we made our first stop at Miller Creek Conservation Area where we heard and saw an American Redstart and a Black-and-white Warbler across the road from the entrance gate. Moving on to the observation tower, we observed several Swamp Sparrows, Common Yellowthroats and a very obliging Red-eyed Vireo. The group also got good looks at a Bobolink perched conspicuously on a low shrub. This bird was a first for several of the participants.



Martin Parker and group. Photo: Drew Monkman

Our second stop was the north end of the B.E.L. Rotary Bridgenorth Trail. The birding here was excellent. As we walked along, we were serenaded by several Veery and at least four Northern Waterthrush. Among the highlights were a Northern Flicker cautiously peering out of a nesting hole, great looks at a male



Male Mourning Warbler. Photo: Cathy Douglas

Mourning Warbler in spectacular breeding plumage, and spotting a rare Olive-sided Flycatcher perched at the pinnacle of a dead tree in the marsh. Other birds that kept us company included Common Yellowthroats, Yellow Warblers, Swamp Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Eastern Kingbirds, and Great Crested Flycatcher. At one point, a Pileated Woodpecker flew directly overhead.

Birds were only part of the show. Several early butterflies were active such as Red Admirals, American Ladies and a Dreamy Duskywing. We were also enthralled by a Goldenrod Crab Spider perfectly camouflaged in a White Trillium where it had caught an unsuspecting Honey Bee. It was a wonderful way to spend a May morning and many thanks to Martin!

Renowned Trent Ecologist to Be Honoured with 2019 Distinguished Research Award

Trent University is pleased to announce that the 2019 Distinguished Research Award, one of the University's top honours, will be presented to Dr. Erica Nol on Tuesday, June 4 at the 10:00 a.m. convocation ceremony.

Established in 1986, the Distinguished Research Award is given annually to a member of the Trent University faculty in recognition of outstanding achievement in research and scholarship.

Dr. Erica Nol is an internationally recognized expert in the field of bird conservation whose research has been widely published in high-profile journals. Over her career, Professor Nol has published 123 papers in refereed journals including the highest profile journals in her field such as *Nature*, *Science*, the *Journal of Animal Ecology*, *Ecological Monographs* and *Animal Behaviour*. In addition, Prof. Nol has numerous other research contributions including book chapters, contract reports and international conference presentations include keynote speaking engagements. Prof.



Erica Nol

Nol has presented research across Canada, the United States and Europe and is a frequent reviewer for international journals. She also provides reviews for consultants, NGOs, government biologists and national granting councils. The quality of Prof. Nol's research has gone hand-in-hand with a deep commitment to the education of graduate students. Over the course of her career, she has supervised 57 graduate students and the vast majority have secured positions in their field of research. Her lab is consistently one of the largest and most active in the Environmental and Life Sciences graduate program and she currently supervises 14 graduate students.

Editor's Note: Erica Nol is a long-time member of the PFN. She has assisted with trips and the Junior programmes over the years. Her husband, Chris Risley, is a former President.

Red Alert: The Extinction Schedule

By Anne Bell, Director of Conservation and Education, Ontario Nature



It's time to fight back with all the force we can muster.

Yesterday [May 2], the provincial government tabled Bill 108, an omnibus bill that reflects neither the values nor the long-term interests of Ontarians. If passed, Bill 108 would undermine environmental protections set out in the Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA) and several other laws, including the Environmental Assessment Act, and the Conservation Authorities Act.

Schedule 5 of Bill 108 would be aptly named the Extinction Schedule. If passed, it will gut ESA protections for most of Ontario's threatened and endangered species and their habitats, from American eel to loggerhead shrike, spotted turtle and wolverine. It will allow the Minister to interfere with science-based decisions about species at risk and to delay or limit protections. It will create numerous loopholes for developers and industry laggards who wish to dodge ESA requirements.

The government has grossly misled the public, pretending that proposed changes to the ESA would improve outcomes for species at risk. It's time to call their bluff.

Please phone, write or meet with your MPP. Let them know that you strongly oppose Bill 108, especially Schedule 5, the Extinction Schedule.

Read more about the ESA review here: <https://ontarionature.org/endangered-species-act-review-top-ten/>

And please sign the petition: <https://ontarionature.good.do/esa2/sign/>



Leopard Frog and Eastern Garter Snake. Photos: Basil Conlin

Twilight Delight - How Long Will It Last?

I'm not really sure just how long I've been
Trapped in this dark box, impaled on a pin.
I'm a Photinus pyralis; you should have seen me dance;
Oh, heart of hearts, please give me one last chance!
With me are many insects a mutant ape has captured.
Polyphemus' eyes would leave you totally enraptured,
But some two-legged creep caught us in a bug net.
When we show our colours, is this the respect we get?
My flashing butt is my glory, my great claim to fame.
Known as a lightning bug or firefly, I feel no shame
In admitting that I'm really a kind of beetle.
If only I could get free from this damn needle!
I'd like to fly to a spot on a streamside meadow;
For any patch of lush grass, I'd gladly settle.
If I get there on warm summer evenings by and by,
I'll flash to those choosy darlings over whom I fly.
Oxygen mixes with luciferin and luciferase in me
To create a cold light and the wonder you see...
But I'm still treading air at the top of this pin;
I'm feeling quite giddy with the condition I'm in:
Stranger in twilight, how sweet romance is!
Stranger in twilight, what are our chances?
Each lightning bug flashes specific signals of light ...
Our courtship dance at twilight is an awesome sight
As countless blinks and streaks illuminate the dark.
The correct code flashed below indicates my mark.
A suitor approaches his target with some trepidation ...
He might not meet a mate but deceitful predation.
When a female Photuris mimics the Photinus code,
And eats the male, great benefit to her is then bestowed.
This femme fatale absorbs toxic steroids; when detected
By jumping spiders and birds, as prey she's rejected.
Every year, though, opportunities to mate are getting tougher.
So much development and light pollution - we need a buffer!
Don't mow grass short, or remove rotten logs and leaf litter.
Remove garden lights, close curtains; no shine or glitter.
Firefly populations everywhere are seriously declining,
So please help us, your wild friends, and I'll stop pining.
We see you watch us in the dark; let's continue this trend.
Let our magical light show enchant you without end.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2018



Photo: Murray Palmer

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

The Orchid Diary

Regrettably, the Orchid Diary will not be available this month.



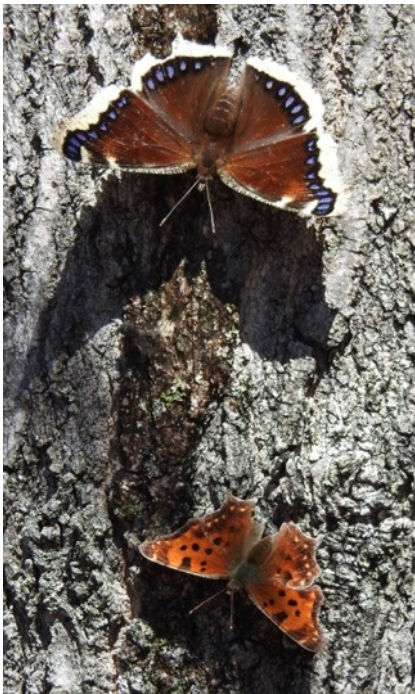
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Contact us for wildlife advice, education and inquiries.

(705) 292-9211



Mourning Cloak and Eastern Comma at Harper Park on April 25. Photo: Rene Gareau



Wild Turkey in tree on May 11 ~ CR 4 & Hwy 28. Photo: Marla Williams



Female Pileated Woodpecker at Don and Emily Pettypiece's feeders ~May 14. She's obviously spoiled for choice.



Red-headed Woodpecker in Ennismore on May 13. Photo: Bill Snowden



Pine Warbler at Karen MacDonald's feeder at Catchacoma Lake on April 22.



Goldenrod Crab Spider feasting on a Honeybee in a Large White Trillium flower on May 26. Photo: Don McLeod

Membership Application Form

Memberships may be obtained by mailing this completed form to:

Peterborough Field Naturalists
PO Box 1532
Peterborough Ontario K9J 7H7



PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

Contact Information:

Name(s):

Phone(s):

Address:

Email(s):

I would like to receive The Orchid by (Pick One): ☐ Mail Delivery ☐ E-Mail ☐ Both

Membership type and fee schedule:

Notice: Membership fees provide only a small part of the funds required to operate the Peterborough Field Naturalists. Donations from members like you help us offer a diverse range of programming for everyone. Please consider including a donation with your membership so that we can continue to serve you and the Peterborough community. **Please make cheques payable to Peterborough Field Naturalists.**

I have included a donation with my membership fees:

☐ Yes or ☐ No

If Yes amount:

\$ _____

1. Single Adult \$25 ☐ 2. Single Student \$15 ☐ 3. Single Child (5 – 12) \$10 ☐ 4. Family \$30* ☐

***Please give the names and ages of children wishing to enroll in the Junior Field Naturalists:**

Name:	Age:

Name:	Age:

◀◀◀ New Member Information ▶▶▶

Main interests:

- | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles and Amphibians | <input type="checkbox"/> Botany |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birds | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Life | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insects | <input type="checkbox"/> Astronomy | <input type="checkbox"/> Mammals |
| Other: _____ | | |

How do you hope to participate:

- ☐ Outings
☐ Citizen Science
☐ Meetings
☐ Junior Naturalists

Volunteers are always needed. Do you have interest in any of these activities:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Join the PFN board | <input type="checkbox"/> Sit on research or conservation committees | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with the Orchid publication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Work on field projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead an outing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help the Junior Naturalists | <input type="checkbox"/> Give a presentation | |

Liability Waiver (New and Returning Members):

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 my underage children

Signature: _____ Date: _____