

*The*

# Orchid



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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Wood Frog at Burnham Woods on October 6. Photo: Marilyn Hubley

**Inside:**

Outing Reports for Rocks, Fungi, Millbrook and Hawks

Ontario Nature Regional Meeting Report

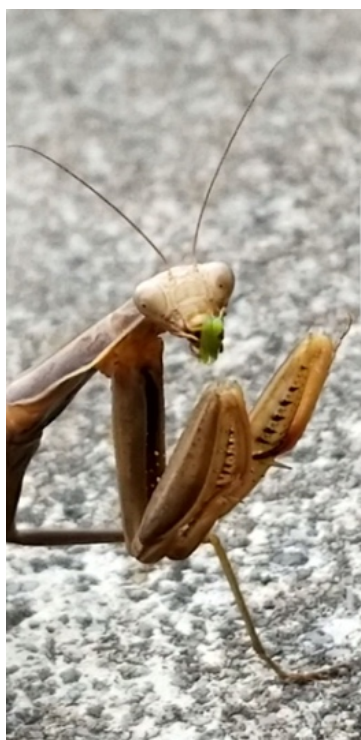
Book Review: The Man Who Climbs Trees

Project FeederWatch Starts Nov. 9



## In this Issue:

PFN Coming Events.....	3
PFN Junior Field Naturalists.....	5
Volunteer Corner: Graphic Design Experience ...	6
President's Message.....	6
PFN Juniors Help Pollinators.....	7
Outing Report for Sep.29: Millbrook Valley .....	7
Outing Report Oct.5: Rocks and Geology .....	8
Outing Report for Oct.6: Mushroom Field Trip...	9
Outing Report for Oct.19: Migrating Hawks .....	10
Giving Tuesday On December 3.....	10
Ontario Nature Regional Meeting Update.....	11
Book Review: The Man Who Climbs Trees.....	12
68 <sup>th</sup> Peterborough Christmas Bird Count.....	13
Project FeederWatch .....	14
Time Travel of the Erratic Kind .....	15
From the Archives: A Brief 50 Years History .....	16
The Orchid Diary .....	17
Orchid Diary Study Now Published .....	19
PFN Membership Application.....	20



Clockwise from top: A field of migrating Sandhill Cranes NW of Lindsay on Oct. 26 (Steve Paul). Red-bellied Snake at KLT's Thanks.Giving at South Pond Farms on Oct. 10. Spring Peeper in Burnham Woods on Oct. 6 (Don McLeod). Preying Mantis with remains of a grasshopper (Laura Mallory).

### Welcome new PFN members!

- Matthew Poppleton
- Barb Evett
- Tyler Miller
- Carol-Anne Albertson
- Bill Hayes
- Lee Blanchard & Beverly Wiseman
- Betty & Ken Morrison
- Cynthia Sherwood

## PFN Coming Events

### PFN Outings

Weekly fall outings for our members and community guests continue with the hope that weather will cooperate. As always, we encourage participants to carpool and bring change to help with gas if not driving. Sturdy footwear is recommended, and one should always dress according to the weather forecast for our destination. Bring water, binoculars and depending on the outing, a spotting scope if you have one.

<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, Nov. 3 8 to 4 p.m. Meet at Country Style (Old Keene Rd &amp; Hwy 7, east of Peterborough</p>	<p><b>Birding at Presqu'ile Provincial Park</b></p> <p>Jerry Ball will lead a day-long trip to view migrant birds at Presqu'ile Provincial Park, with other stops of interest on the way. Expect to see many interesting waterfowl. Bring a packed lunch, binoculars and, if you have them, rubber boots (not essential). Bring a contribution for gas if carpooling and the entry fee to the park. Accessibility: Easy walking</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, Nov. 13 7:30 p.m. Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p><b>Monthly Meeting: The Anthropocene's Animal? Coywolves as Feral Cotravelers</b></p> <p>In Canadian cities and towns, their presence is well known and feared. The coywolf is "an unsettled mixture" crossing the supposed species lines between wolf, coyote, and dog; and between the spatial assignments of wild, rural, and urban. Our guest speaker, Dr. Stephanie Rutherford, will be discussing how the coywolf provides us with an opportunity to reimagine all creatures as cotravelers.</p> <p>Stephanie Rutherford is an Associate Professor in the Trent School of the Environment, and also teaches and advises in the MA and PhD programs in Sustainability Studies, Cultural Studies, and Canadian and Indigenous Studies. She is the co-author of <i>Historical Animal Geographies</i>, published in 2018.</p> <div> </div>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, Nov. 24 1 to 4 p.m. Meet outside Tim Horton's in the Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza on Lansdowne St. W.</p>	<p><b>Wave Riders of Rice Lake</b></p> <p>Join Martin Parker for this traditional Grey Cup afternoon exploration of sites along the northwestern shore of Rice Lake. We will be looking for the later migrating ducks and other birds. Highlights will be the rafts of ducks riding the waves of Rice Lake and the scenic vistas overlooking the lake. Bring binoculars, telescope if you have one, and clothes suitable for the weather forecast for the day. The trip will last until the late afternoon. CFL fans will be home in time for the Grey Cup game. Accessibility: Easy</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, December 1 7:00 a.m. Meet at Tim Horton's in the Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza on Lansdowne St. W.</p>	<p><b>World's Greatest Concentration of Gulls</b></p> <p>This day trip will be a birding outing to the Niagara River, a designated Important Birding Area due to the variety and number of gulls which utilize the river in the late fall. More species can be observed in a day than anywhere else in the world. There will be thousands of gulls consisting of ten or more species. Besides the gulls, there will be other water birds, and southern specialties such</p>

## PFN Coming Events

	<p>as Tufted Titmouse. The leaders for this outing will be Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey.</p> <p>Participants will carpool from this meeting location and proceed directly to the secondary gathering location at the Adam Beck Generating Station Lookout at Queenston at 10 a.m. The group will spend time here identifying gulls. If you are planning to meet the group at Queenston please advise Martin (705-745-4750) in advance.</p> <p>Bring a packed lunch, binoculars, and telescope if you have one. A camera may be handy as well. Wear clothes suitable for the weather forecast for the Niagara River area for the day of this excursion.</p> <p>This outing will end in the Niagara Region in the late afternoon. For those wishing to spend the weekend at Niagara, the secondary meeting location at Queenston gives you the opportunity.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy</p>
<p>Wednesday, Dec.11 7:30 p.m. Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p><b>Monthly Meeting: Members' Slide Show Night</b></p> <p>The members' slide show, held at our December monthly meeting, is a highly anticipated annual PFN tradition. Show fellow PFN members your photos of a recent trip. Display those exciting nature moments or wildlife encounters that you have recently experienced. This is your night to "show and tell"!</p> <p>We ask that you limit your presentation to less than 15 minutes so several members have an opportunity to share their photos and narrative.</p> <p>Contact Jim Young at <a href="mailto:jbyoung559@gmail.com">jbyoung559@gmail.com</a> or phone 705-760-9397 to add your name to the list.</p> <p>Sharing some Christmas baking is also part of the December PFN tradition, so please don't feel shy about bringing a goodie or two. Friendly reminder... the Environment Centre is a nut-free facility.</p>
<p>Sunday, Dec.15 All day</p>	<p><b>68<sup>th</sup> Annual Peterborough Christmas Bird Count</b></p> <p>Please see article further on for more information.</p>
<p>Friday, Jan. 31 Peterborough Curling Club</p>	<p><b>Join us for PFN's 79<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting</b></p> <p>Keep up-to-date on PFN business, elect the next executive, enter the raffle for prizes, enjoy a delicious meal and stay for an entertaining presentation!</p>



From ilpavone2004 on DeviantArt



### PFN Coming Events

The speaker will be Noel Alfonso, Ichthyologist in the Research Services Division of the Canadian Museum of Nature. The title of his presentation is: "Adventures in Ichthyology and Natural History at the Canadian Museum of Nature"

More information will be included in next month's Orchid and on the PFN website.

### PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

Junior naturalist families are reminded to check the website for event listings and email [pfnjuniors@gmail.com](mailto: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-naturalists/>

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](mailto:pfnjuniors@gmail.com) for details.

Sunday, Nov. 24

2 to 3:30 p.m.

#### Geocaching

Please visit website for more details: <https://peterboroughnature.org/junior-naturalists/>

Sunday, Jan.5

1 to 4 p.m.

Art Gallery of  
Peterborough  
250 Crescent St.

#### Let's Make Nature Art

The Peterborough Junior Naturalists are teaming up with the Art Gallery of Peterborough for a nature art event.

The Art Gallery of Peterborough (AGP) has "Family Sundays", where families can come for free to visit the gallery and make some art. For this Family Sunday, we'll be decorating wood pendants with pressed flowers and leaves. Make some nature-themed jewelry or ornaments to take home. All wood and plants are from Peterborough. Jay Fitzsimmons of the PFN Juniors will be there along with AGP volunteers.

No registration required. The event is free, as are all of the AGP's Family Sundays. You can enjoy them the first Sunday of every month. Drop in any time between 1:00 and 4:00.



Pressed flower art by Kathie McCurdy

## Volunteer Corner: Graphic Design Experience Needed

It's time to update our 'tired' display board. A committee has been formed and discussions have begun with lots of ideas and enthusiasm. However, there is one piece missing in the puzzle.



Current display board. Photo: Lynn Smith

Someone with GRAPHIC DESIGN expertise is needed to help us put all those ideas and enthusiasm onto our display board with a professional touch.

It's a short-term project with a short-term time commitment but it requires a valuable asset that we would really appreciate!

Please contact Lynn Smith at [smithfam@nexicom.net](mailto:smithfam@nexicom.net) or call 705-944-5599.

## President's Message

Hello members of the club.

I hope you have all had the opportunity to get out and enjoy the fall weather. There were plenty of great sightings reported at October's meeting and I'm sure there will be plenty more in the coming month! This thanksgiving I reflected on how thankful I am to live in a city where so many people have such a deep passion for sharing and protecting the natural environment. I have not had the opportunity to get out on many outings this fall, but I can probably say we are all quite thankful for our trip leaders for sharing with us their diverse range of knowledge.



If you consider yourself thankful for what our club offers the Peterborough community, there are lots of great ways for you to give back. As we come towards the upcoming AGM, you may be interested in volunteering on the board of directors. This club functions entirely because of the work that our board does each month.

Another way you might consider getting involved is to offer to lead an outing or speak at our meetings. Even if you just have a favorite destination that you would like to share with the club, you'll find lots of intrepid naturalists willing to join in for an outing. In December, the PFN holds one of my favorite meetings and that is our member's slide night. So if you've got some great photos or stories to share with the club, get in touch with Jim Young so you can share!

Finally, one way to share your thanks with the club is to offer a donation. We are a small but mighty club, and member's fees only cover a portion of our operating costs. This month we opened up the ability on our website to offer a donation through CanadaHelps ([www.peterboroughnature.org](http://www.peterboroughnature.org)). If you are willing and able, I would encourage you to offer us a monthly donation. As a registered charity, you will receive a tax receipt in the mail from CanadaHelps. As our club goes through a period of rapid growth, your donations help us to continue offering accessible naturalist education and outings to everyone in the Peterborough community.

Dylan Radcliffe, President

## PFN Juniors Help Pollinators

Submitted by Stephanie Collins



Photo: Stephanie Collins

On Saturday, October 19, the Peterborough Junior Field Naturalists met with Meredith Carter from the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (ORCA) to plant a pollinator garden at their office in Peterborough. It turned out to be a beautiful sunny fall morning and Meredith taught the Juniors about the importance of pollinators and what plants they like. The Juniors got their hands dirty with planting Black-eyed Susan, Bee Balm, Echinacea, New Jersey Tea, Butterfly Milkweed, Crocus, and Snowdrop. Along with planting, the Juniors added mulch to the gardens and pulled out some weeds. We had a great bunch of hard workers out to participate!



Photo: Stephanie Collins

## Outing Report for September 29: Walking the Millbrook Valley Trails

Submitted by Don McLeod

Fourteen members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) were led by Lynn Smith on a nature walk along the Millbrook Valley Trails. This was the first time for an outing along the trails which followed Baxter Creek. We started our walk at the MNR Provincial Fishing Ponds. There were a few people trying to catch a trout but no one appeared successful with only one more day left in the fishing season. Pausing briefly at the deck along one of the ponds, we then ventured along the Grand Trunk Pathway to view the old railway bridge, which is actually a well-built stone culvert located at the bottom of the railway berm overpass. Dated at 1865, this structure has withstood the passage of time much better than our modern concrete bridge structures which seem to need repairs after only a few decades.



PFN Group at start of Millbrook Valley Trail. Photo: Don McLeod



Jack in the Pulpit that has gone to seed. Photo: Don McLeod

The main part of our walk was along the Baxter Creek trail. Lynn had assigned homework to the members which was to come prepared with iNaturalist or Seek apps installed on smart phones. The goal was to use these apps to identify a few plants. This was met with varying success but we had fun trying it out and gained enough experience to venture on our own. One limitation along the trails was poor cell phone service down in the valley and under thick tree cover. We did observe a variety of plants, trees and fungi. There was a division of effort between plant ID and bird ID so there was something for everyone in the group. Bird ID was best along the Baxter Creek trail.

Mammal sign included Beaver dams, American Mink scat and a Star-nosed Mole molehill. Birds observed by sound and/or sight included



28 species: Mallard (10), Ruffed Grouse (1), Mourning Dove (1), Ring-billed Gull (1), Double-crested Cormorant (2), Turkey Vulture (2), hawk sp.(1), Belted Kingfisher (1), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1), Hairy Woodpecker (1), Northern Flicker (1), Blue-headed Vireo (2), Red-eyed Vireo (1), Blue Jay (16), American Crow (8), Black-capped Chickadee (14), Golden-crowned Kinglet (1), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (2), White-breasted Nuthatch (4), American Robin (5), American Goldfinch (11), Song Sparrow (3), Swamp Sparrow (2), Common Grackle (20), Northern Parula (1), Blackburnian Warbler (1), Yellow-rumped Warbler (3), Black-throated Green Warbler (2). Thanks to Cathy Douglas for submitting the bird list to eBird and then sharing it.

## Outing Report October 5: Rocks and Geology

Submitted by Kathryn Sheridan

On Saturday, October 5, forty enthusiastic PFN members gathered at the Riverview Park and Zoo to do something we as a group don't ordinarily do: look at rocks. Judging by the numbers, it was high time we did. Ken Lyon and Dr. Alan Brunger led this afternoon road trip, with the assistance of Kevin Kidd.



Ken and Kevin helping others identify fossils. Looks like a good find! Photo: Don McLeod



Bryozoan colony (topmost fossil) and brachiopods (the shell fossils). Photo: Don McLeod

Our first destination was the Ontario Speed Skating Oval just outside Lakefield. This is an excellent spot to find fossils since the oval is surrounded by accessible, fossiliferous limestone nearly all the way around. The fossils in the limestone date back to the Ordovician geological period approximately 488 to 444 million years ago when most of the world's landmass could be found in the southern supercontinent called Gondwana. Ken talked for a bit about sedimentary rocks and fossils and then let us loose. What fun! We didn't have any luck finding trilobites, but we did



Galesburg Inlier Unconformity. Photo: Ken Lyon

find lots of crinoid (sea lily) stems, brachiopods (bivalved molluscs) and bryozoan colonies (you could think of them as being somewhat analogous to modern day coral). The next stop was to view the Galesburg Inlier Unconformity, which is an unusual outcrop in which old Precambrian (> 1 billion years old) granite is surrounded by younger Ordovician (~450 million years old) limestone. It is called an unconformity because a large chunk of time is missing between the two rock formations: about 500 million years have gone unrecorded. All kinds of crazy things could have happened there during that time and we just wouldn't know.



Gilchrist Bay outcrop. Photo: Ken Lyon

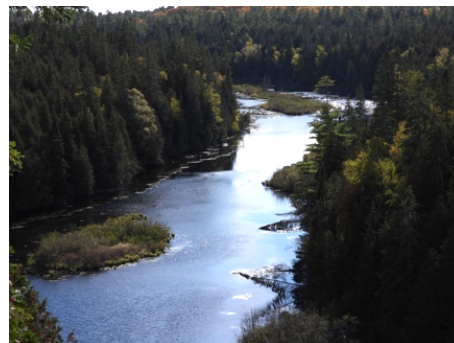
After Galesburg, we headed to Gilchrist Bay to gaze upon a neat outcrop consisting of metamorphic rock which had been fractured and then invaded by igneous magma that had cooled to form granite. The



fracturing of the metamorphic rock is presumed to be due to movement of the Earth's tectonic plates. This rock outcrop records events that took place deep underneath the ancient Grenville mountains, which have long since weathered away.

Our last stop was the Warsaw Caves Conservation Area. At the lookout, we had a good view of the Indian River and an ancient glacial spillway that connected the ancient incarnation of Lake Huron with the ancient incarnation of Lake Ontario. This spillway may have once handled similar water volumes as Niagara Falls does today.

Ken and Alan prepared a fascinating and thorough road trip guide for this outing, complete with odometer readings. Anyone who wasn't able to attend is welcome to download a copy of the guide from the PFN website and hit the road, magnifying glass at the ready. Please note: The speed skating oval is private property and you should get access permission (contact info in the field road trip log).



Ancient spillway at Warsaw Caves.  
Photo: Don McLeod

The guide can be found here: <https://peterboroughnature.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2019/08/LyonRoadTrip-RevisedOct11.pdf>

Ken also prepared a very interesting presentation about the geological history of this area for the PFN meeting. It can be found here: <https://peterboroughnature.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2019/08/Presentation20191011Compressed.pdf>

## Outing Report for October 6: Mushroom Workshop and Field Trip

Submitted by Sue Paradisis

On Sunday, October 6, twenty-seven people enjoyed a lovely, fall afternoon learning to appreciate the complexity of fungi in Burnham Woods. Susan Chow and Radek Odolczyk were our leaders and they started us off in the lab at Trent University. The identifying characteristics of the various groups of fungi were explained and some samples passed around. We learned the difference between cup, jelly, coral, tooth, bracket, boletes and gill



Radek identifying a fungi.  
Photo: Don McLeod



Bear's Head Tooth fungus. Photo: Sue Paradisis

mushrooms. We were then able to look at some specimens under a microscope. The handouts we were given can be downloaded from our website at [peterboroughnature.org](http://peterboroughnature.org). Go to Events, scroll to the bottom and choose Previous Events. Find the Mushroom write up and click the links.

Following the hour in the lab, we headed to the woods to look for examples of the different groups we had learned about. Burnham Woods was at its peak fall colour and was beautiful. Due to recent rains, there were lots of mushrooms and we were able to find examples of all the groupings. The most plentiful were the bracket or shelf fungi including Resinous Polypore. We found lots of stumps and a snag (dead tree) covered with them doing their job breaking down the wood. We were fortunate to find the intricate

tooth and coral mushrooms that are completely different from the brackets. Several Dead-man's Fingers, a sac mushroom, were found poking out from under a decaying log and bright orange jellies were found along the tops of logs.



Resinous Polypore bracket fungus.  
Photo: Sue Paradisis

While searching the forest for fungi, we also came across a Spring Peeper, American Toad, Leopard Frog, Wood Frog, 2 Blue-spotted Salamanders and numerous Common Garter Snakes. Lovely Maidenhair Ferns were still green and stood out among the leaf litter.

A big thank you goes out to Susan and Radek for sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm. Those who attended would really like to repeat the outing next fall.

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## Outing Report for October 19: Hawks Over Cranberry Marsh

### Submitted by Maxwell Matchim

Led by Martin Parker, fourteen members of the PFN visited Whitby's Cranberry Marsh for the Hawk Watch on October 19. We had close fly-bys from a Sharp-shinned Hawk and three Northern Harriers, and got to see some impressive kettles of Turkey Vultures, some of over sixty individuals. Veteran hawk-watcher Jerry Ball was on hand to help us with raptor identification.

Cranberry Marsh had a wonderful variety of marsh birds and waterfowl. Great Egrets, Pied-billed Grebes, American Coots, Northern Shovelers, American Wigeon, Gadwall, American Black Ducks, Green-winged Teals, Buffleheads, and Trumpeter Swans were all on view. Later in the day, a few of us popped by Whitby Harbour to see a Fish Crow that had been reported there. We saw a nesting pair of Trumpeter Swans with three juveniles at the Darlington Nuclear Waterfront Trail. The family of swans approached us closely, giving us wonderful views.

We all enjoyed ourselves tremendously, and thank Martin for another wonderful trip.



Female Northern Harrier. Photo: Don McLeod



From left: Male and immature Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon x Gadwall hybrid, and Pied-billed Grebe. Photos: Don McLeod

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## Giving Tuesday is on December 3

A new Christmas tradition is to remember your favourite charity through a donation on Giving Tuesday. Considering giving a gift to the PFN on this year's Giving Tuesday. The Peterborough Field Naturalists is a registered charity with Canadian Revenue Agency. The donation can be either to the Peterborough Field Naturalists or the PFN Legacy Fund.

The PFN Legacy Fund is an endowment fund managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough and, in accordance with CRA regulations, provides an annual income to the PFN. This income is used for special initiatives such as the recently announced grant programme, citizen-science projects and youth initiatives. If the donation is to the PFN Legacy Fund, please indicate at time of



donation. Donations can be made online through Canada Helps at [peterboroughnature.org/donate/](http://peterboroughnature.org/donate/) or by cheque at the November and December meetings of the PFN or by mail to Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, K9J 7H7.

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## ONTARIO NATURE Lake Ontario North Regional Meeting

October 19 at Kinmount Community Centre. Hosted by the Kawartha Field Naturalists



**Submitted by Lesley Hale**

### Kawartha Field Naturalists – Flora of the Kawarthas

The hosts of the regional meeting gave a presentation of a ten-year project that will culminate with the publication of Flora of the Kawarthas. The project was an initiative of the Kawartha Field Naturalists to document the plants that grow in the City of Kawartha Lakes. Over 198 volunteers, 90 landowners, 111 properties and 42 Fleming students have been involved in this project and, as a result, 2051 species of plants have been collected and pressed to be deposited at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) where they will be available for study by the scientific community worldwide. The collections have confirmed new species for the area and also some species that were considered extirpated. The book is set to be published in 2020 but if you are interested in seeing some of the plant lists now, you can see the first product, *Checklist Flora of the Former Carden Township, City of Kawartha Lakes*, here: <https://kawarthafieldnaturalists.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/carden-checklist-PDF.pdf>

### Ontario Nature Update

Mark your calendars! Ontario Nature's 89<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting will be held June 5 to 7 at the Evergreen Resort in Red Bay on the beautiful Bruce Peninsula.

Ontario Nature is currently campaigning to raise \$700,000 to purchase 3 properties totaling 169 hectares in the Frontenac Arch to expand the Lost Bay Nature Reserve. Securing these three properties is critical to protecting a connected core of habitat for migrating birds, insects and animals with large home ranges, such as moose, wolves, fisher, and black bear. You can contact Kate Douglas at 1-800-440-2366 x 233 to learn more or to donate online.

### Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas (ORAA) at Ontario Nature. During that time, over 400,000 expert-vetted observations have been collected. However, the ORAA will now transition to the analysis phase. As a result, the ORAA app is no longer active (as of mid-August 2019). However, Ontario Nature still encourages you to continue submitting your observations through other channels such as:

1. Until December 1, you can submit a spreadsheet to [atlas@ontarionature.org](mailto:atlas@ontarionature.org).
2. Download the iNaturalist app and submit your sightings to the 'Herps of Ontario' project by clicking the 'add observations button' on the project home page.
3. Submit your species at risk observations to the Natural Heritage Information Centre 'NHIC' project on iNaturalist by clicking the 'add observations button' on the project home page.

### Youth Summit for Biodiversity

The Youth Summit for Biodiversity celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> year in 2019! From September 20 to 22, environmental leaders from across the province came together at YMCA Geneva Park near Orillia for the annual youth summit. The event hosted 102 youth – all sponsored by local clubs – from 70 communities to participate in a number of workshops including:

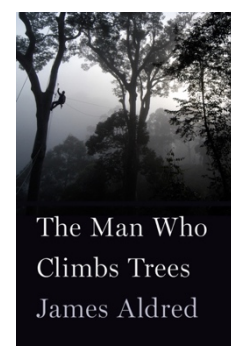
- Biodiversity and youth action
- Discovering nature
- Power to affect change
- First Nations medicine
- Traditional environmental teachings
- Freshwater ecology
- BioBlitz competition
- Environmental visual communication
- The urgency to address climate change
- Migratory birds
- Leadership insights
- Careers in conservation
- Zero waste living

Our club has sponsored students to attend this event every year but the feedback from past participants has been so overwhelmingly positive that we decided to sponsor two students this year. Emma Booth and Hannah Grills will be writing about their experiences at the Youth Summit so watch for their article in next month's issue!

## Book Review: *The Man Who Climbs Trees* by James Aldred

Reviewed by Marilyn Freeman

*The Man Who Climbs Trees* is a page turner, alternating between the serene and the horrific. James Aldred, tree climber and nature cameraman, has had a career that includes working with the BBC, Sir David Attenborough, and others on nature documentaries. Although he's been climbing for over 25 years, he says there are trees that "rise above the fog of memory" and that's how this book is organized. Starting his climbing as a teen, his first tree is dated 1991 in New Forest, England. From there he travels the world through time and space, ending back at his favourite tree, Goliath, in New Forest in 2017.



And what adventures along the way! The tree canopy is the most botanically diverse ecosystem on the planet. The creatures of the canopy provide fascination and revulsion. In the Congo, Aldred becomes infested with bot flies that have burrowed under his skin on every part of his body. But he still waxes lyrical on seeing the beauty of the dawn from the top of the canopy! So in spite of being fly invaded in the Congo, stung to the point of "becoming a bag of histamine" in Borneo and almost conked on the head by a Brazil nut pod the size of a small cannonball in Peru (he was wearing a helmet), overwhelmingly this book leaves the reader with a sense of wonder vis a vis the natural world.

All the amazing encounters don't only occur in the canopy. Aldred tells of a very young calf elephant nuzzled into the gap of its mother's front legs suckling. "When it wasn't drinking milk, it was twirling its tiny trunk around and around like a propeller...it seemed fascinated by the floppy thing attached to its face."

The reader gets an idea of what a camera crew has to go through just to get platforms built and cameras in place so high up, not to mention the safety of the "star" on camera who will only be on site for 30 minutes! Weather plays a significant role. In Costa Rica, while trying to set up a site for Attenborough, the rain continuously poured down as if it was a waterfall. Trying to see anything while looking up was impossible. "Swimming goggles would have been ideal but, funnily enough, somehow they weren't the first things I thought to pack for a month in the jungle."

Aldred is very aware of interrelationships between vegetable and animal, particularly the human animal. In spite of human-caused degradation, he has hope for the resiliency of nature and for the wisdom of the indigenous people like the Korowai in Papua who have an intensely intimate relationship with their forest. Trees provide them with almost everything they need: materials, fuel, refuge, food and culture.

"To sit back and watch the natural world carry on around you as if you weren't there is one of the real joys of being in the canopy."



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Borrowable from Murray Palmer

## 68<sup>th</sup> Peterborough Christmas Bird Count - A Christmas Tradition

Sunday, December 15 - all day

The Peterborough Christmas Bird Count (CBC), now in its 68<sup>th</sup> year, is the longest running wildlife survey in Peterborough County. The Peterborough CBC participants cover an area contained within a circle with a diameter of 24 kilometers, centered on the intersection of Chemong Road and Sunset Boulevard. This total count area is divided into smaller areas and a team of participants is assigned to each area.

Organization of the count has commenced and members and friends of the PFN are invited to participate in this year's count. There are 10 areas within the count circle, each which will be covered by a specific group of participants. The area party may divide into smaller field parties to cover the area. At the end of the day, all participants are invited to the count wrap-up and compiling of the results.

If you are unable to participate in one of the field parties you can still assist by registering your feeder and counting the birds which visit during the day.

A map showing the count circle and areas is available on the PFN website [www.peterboroughnature.org](http://www.peterboroughnature.org)

The areas and confirmed area leaders are as follows:

Chemong/ Bridgenorth .....	Don McLeod
Miller Creek/Selwyn.....	Brian Wales & Drew Monkman
Lakefield/Otonabee East .....	Dave Milsom
Douro Wedge.....	Bill Crins & Mike Oldham
Burnham.....	Warren Dunlop & Janet Kelly
Stewart Hall/Landfill.....	Joan DiFruscia
Airport.....	Matthew Tobey
Cavan Swamp.....	Chris Risley and Erica Nol
Jackson Park.....	Jerry Ball
Downtown .....	Martin Parker



READY FOR THE TRAIL - Binoculars and lunches at the ready, members of the Peterborough Naturalists Club struck out this morning on the annual bird census. Their count of birds will be duplicated across North America as part of a yearly program aimed at keeping tab on the welfare of all bird species. Gerry Seabrooke, Martin Parker, Roger Chambers, Robert Duyker and Harland Brown make last-minute equipment checks in Confederation Park. Peterborough Naturalists are members of one of 50 groups across the province affiliated with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists [now called Ontario Nature]. From Peterborough Examiner, Dec. 30, 1967

This is the 120<sup>th</sup> year that the Christmas Bird Counts are being held across North America. Plan now to register and participate in this Peterborough Christmas birding tradition and citizen science project. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about our winter birds.

To register, contact Martin Parker (count compiler) as soon as possible by phone 705-745-4750 or by e-mail at [mparker19@cogeco.ca](mailto:mparker19@cogeco.ca).

## Project FeederWatch: Small Gifts of Time Go a Long Way for Birds

### From Bird Studies Canada

Whether they're visiting a feeder on your apartment window or checking out your crab apple tree, birds keep us amused with lively antics all winter. For 33 years, participants in a program called Project FeederWatch have been reporting quick counts of their feathered visitors throughout the colder months. Scientists then use these observations to bring to light important stories of what's happening with North America's winter bird populations.

"Over its long lifetime, the survey has shown the increasing good fortunes of birds such as Cooper's Hawks," says Kerrie Wilcox of Bird Studies Canada, Canadian Leader of Project FeederWatch. Results from FeederWatchers add to evidence that many birds of prey are recovering from population declines suffered in earlier decades. We have learned that certain hawks, including Cooper's Hawks, are doing well even in some urban environments, where they have adapted to hunting city-dwelling prey as their original forest habitats have been replaced. Further research may illuminate what specific features we can enhance to make cities even better homes for the birds living there.

Project FeederWatch observations have also helped raise the alarm that some species are in decline. For example, FeederWatch participants have tracked decreasing numbers of Evening Grosbeaks and shrinkage of the geographic range they cover in North America. Detecting these patterns is the first step towards addressing the challenges faced by this species, which may include loss of nesting habitat and food sources.

Thank you to all those who have participated in Project FeederWatch over the past 33 years! By dedicating time and effort to this project, you have been making meaningful contributions to bird research and conservation.

### How to join Project FeederWatch:

You can contribute by watching feeders for as little as 15 minutes every few weeks and submitting your counts during Project FeederWatch season. The upcoming 2019-20 season runs from November 9, 2019 to April 3, 2020. Anyone can take part – current participants represent a wide range of ages and skill levels. FeederWatch makes an equally great learning experience for young families as it does a fun relaxation activity for the experienced birder.

In Canada, you can get involved by making a donation of any amount to Bird Studies Canada. Visit [birdscanada.org/feederwatch](http://birdscanada.org/feederwatch) or call 1-888-448-2473 to learn more and join.

FeederWatchers in Canada will receive a poster of common feeder birds, a calendar, last season's results, and access to online data tools. Those making a minimum donation of \$50 can also choose to receive the quarterly magazine BirdWatch Canada, produced by Bird Studies Canada. You also have the option of participating in the online community at [facebook.com/groups/feederwatchcanada](https://facebook.com/groups/feederwatchcanada) or on Twitter @PFWCanada.

### About Project FeederWatch:

Project FeederWatch is a joint research and education project of Bird Studies Canada and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Armstrong Bird Food and Wild Birds Unlimited are national sponsors of Project FeederWatch in Canada.





### **Time Travel of the Erratic Kind**

On an open-wooded rock ridge, atop this ancient granite erratic,  
I survey the hushed wetland vista below, which renders me ecstatic.  
Autumn's last hurrah is in the air, and I hear no call or plaintive cry;  
Most trees have lost their grandeur, and the woods hold back a sigh.  
Up here I get a euphoric feeling that I can see almost everywhere;  
My senses are set for adventure – I feel goose bumps and prickled hair.  
Could it be the sudden drop at the edge of this rock to the forest floor,  
Or the raw beauty of life claiming it, begun innumerable years before?  
Shed by a melting glacier, this and other great boulders remain today  
As monuments to a force of Nature that reshaped the land in its way.  
On its bare surface grew lichens, attached tenaciously to the rock;  
Mosses and liverworts were followed by plants with leaf and stalk ...  
Gradually, after much fragmentation and decay of countless generations,  
Vascular plants like pine and oak took root in accruing soil formations.  
I marvel at the springy carpet of lichen aptly named reindeer moss,  
And at the trees surviving here despite thin soil and moisture loss.  
I look past the empty sylvan crowns to the dark-watered stream below,  
And acknowledge the legacy single-celled algae did long ago bestow.  
Look into this photograph; though you may think this time travel crude,  
While contemplating life forms on this rock, I found peace and solitude.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2011



Photo: Murray Palmer

## From the Archives: A Brief 50 Years History

### Submitted by Martin Parker

From *The Orchid*, May 1990, Volume 36, Number 5

*Editorial Note: This issue contained a summary of the achievements of the PFN since its inception on May 20, 1940. A couple of years are reproduced in this article. In future issues, additional years will be highlighted leading up to the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PFN in May of 2020. Pat Dunsire was responsible for preparing this summary.*

1968 Dudley Hewitt (President) and Harry Williams (The Orchid Editor) remained in the 1967 positions. Members of the club did some rock-hounding in Bancroft.

1969 President was Gerry Seabrooke and Dudley Hewitt took over the job of Editor on *The Orchid*.

1970 Gerry Seabrooke and Dudley sitting in the 1969 chairs. The club honoured Dr. Smith and Dr. Hinton of Peterborough Pet Hospital for their great assistance, free of charge in Larry and Kay McKeever's work with the owls. Unfortunately, that was the year the McKeevers left these parts to carry on their great work in the Niagara area.

(Note: We are very fortunate to be having the McKeevers coming to our May 1990 meeting to share some of their experiences with us.)

PFN Board of Directors				Other Volunteers	
President & Co-webmaster	Dylan Radcliffe	dylan.radcliffe@gmail.com	991-0422	Membership Secretary	Jim Young 760-9397
Vice-President	Vacant			Orchid Editor	Kathryn Sheridan orchid@peterboroughnature.org
Past President	Ted Vale	tedandmarion@sympatico.ca	741-3641	Orchid Mailing	Mary Thomas
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Community Partners Liaison	Lynn Smith	smithfam@nexicom.net	944-5599	Orchid Diary, Citizen Science Projects	Martin Parker
Meeting Coordinator	Phil Shaw	pshaw78@hotmail.com	874-1688	Environmental Protection Committee	Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Martin Parker, Ted Vale, Sue Paradisis
Meeting Coordinator	Marie Duchesneau	duchesneau13@hotmail.com	874-5739	Harper Park Stewardship Committee	Dylan Radcliffe, Lynn Smith, Rene Gareau, Marilyn Hubley, Ted Vale
AGM Coordinator	Reem Ali	reemest@hotmail.com	868-0060	Webmaster	Chris Gooderham webmaster@peterboroughnature.org
Digital Comms Co-coordinator	Marilyn Hubley	maykeema@hotmail.com	760-9378	Peterborough CBC	Martin Parker
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Outings Coordinator	Sue Paradisis	sueparadisis@hotmail.com	559-2061	Peterborough Butterfly Count	Jerry Ball
Ontario Nature Representative	Lesley Hale	lesleyhale@hotmail.com	917-0373		
Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7					





## The Orchid Diary



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

Please submit your interesting observations to Martin Parker

at mparker19@cogeco.ca or phone 745-4750

Sept 14	Chris Risley had an early arriving Fox Sparrow at feeders on Assumption Road.
Sept 15	A late Great Crested Flycatcher was spotted on Indian River Road by Patrick Scanlon. Late Barn Swallow at the Lakefield Lagoon by Iain Rayner.
Sept 16	Great Egret was still present on the Peterborough Landfill wetland pond on Bensfort Road according to Cathy Douglas and PFN outing. A late Eastern Kingbird was along Indian River Road by Patrick Scanlon.
Sept 17	Orange-crowned Warbler along the Otonabee River between Trent U & Lakefield by the Trent U. Ornithology class. Late departing Yellow Warbler in the Millennium Park area by Iain Rayner. Jerry Ball had a Milbert's Tortoiseshell on the Lang-Hastings Trail - Cameron to 38.
Sept 20	Late Great Crested Flycatcher in the Carveth Drive area, Millbrook by Jeff Stewart.
Sept 21	Late departing Warbling Vireo in Beavermead Park by Daniel Williams.
Sept 22	Iain Rayner had a Ruddy Duck on the Lakefield Lagoon, still present Sept 24 by Bill Crins. Participants on the PFN outing at the Otonabee Gravel Pit Conservation Area led by Matthew Tobey observed 27 species of birds including 12 Killdeers, 4 Wilson's Snipe, 3 Solitary Sandpipers, 2 Greater Yellowlegs, and 24 American Pipits (flying over). The Great Egret was still present on the Peterborough Landfill wetland pond on Bensfort by Cathy Douglas and others. Matthew Tobey had a late departing Wood Thrush in area of Mark Street boat ramp.
Sept 24	Three Solitary Sandpipers were still present in the Otonabee Gravel Pit Conservation Area by Brody Crosby, Andrew Brown and Erica Nol. Late departing Barn Swallow in the Rotary Park area by Matthew Gavin.
Sept 25	A late departing Warbling Vireo in Millennium Park area by Iain Rayner.
Sept 26	Ken Fulsang reported an Eastern Whip-poor-will within Kawartha Highlands Park. Phil Shaw observed a Red Fox in the Marsdale area of the City. A very late Ruby-throated Hummingbird was reported by Scott McKinlay from Cavan. Dave Milsom had a Clay-coloured Sparrow in the Scollard Drive area.
Sept 28	A late departing Chestnut-sided Warbler at Carveth Road in Millbrook by Jeff Stewart.
Sept 30	A very late departing Eastern Kingbird in the East Bank area of Trent U. by Sabrina Dopking. A late departing Northern Waterthrush along Trent U. section of Rotary Trail by Andrew Brown. Cathy Douglas had a late departing Wilson's Warbler along the Trent U. Rotary Trail.
Oct 3	Great Egret still at Peterborough Landfill wetland pond by Cathy Douglas and Ken Fulsang.

	Dave Milsom had late departing Eastern Wood-Pewee in the Thompson Bay area of the Trent Canal.
Oct 6	Sue Paradisis reported that the participants of the PFN fungi outing to Burnham Woods observed the following reptiles and amphibians: Spring Peepers, Leopard Frogs, American Toad, 2 Blue-spotted Salamanders and many Eastern Garter Snakes.
Oct 7	Red-eyed Vireo was present in Millennium Park by Hendrique Pacheco with another individual at Beavermead Park by Bill Crins. A late Swainson's Thrush was in Carveth Dr. area, Millbrook by Jeff Stewart. Late Northern Parula include one Luke Burg's yard near Parkhill Rd & George St, Hendrique Pacheco had one in the same area south of Parkhill Road and Bill Crins had one in Beavermead Park
Oct 8	Drew Monkman had a Red-eyed Vireo & Northern Parula in the Jackson Park area. Jeff Stewart had a late House Wren in the Carveth Dr. area, Millbrook
<p>Reports given at regular PFN meeting on October 9:</p> <p>Marie Duchesneau reported both Lesser &amp; Greater Scaup were present on the Lakefield Lagoon.</p> <p>Mary-Beth Aspinall reported that Red-backed Salamanders are also present in Burnham Woods.</p> <p>Susan Weaver reported a Red Fox wandering the Rotary Trail in the TASS area and feeding on the discarded lunches by the students.</p> <p>Randy Beacher had a female Black Bear and two cubs in his driveway near Kinmount.</p> <p>Don McLeod reported the immature Common Loon which was raised in the Fowler's Bay area is still present and one day chased away a Double-crested Cormorant.</p> <p>Marilyn Freeman reported observing a free flying adult Emerald Ash Borer.</p> <p>Steve Paul reported the pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers at his property near Keene now have a juvenile bird.</p> <p>Dylan Radcliffe reported that while canoeing on Anstruther Creek, he observed thousands of spiders drifting over the lake on silk threads.</p>	
Oct 9	Hendrique Pacheco & Hannah Dodington had 6 Cackling Geese in the flock of Canada Geese on the Peterborough Landfill wetland pond, and a Green Heron. Pacheco & Dodington and Bill Crins had 2 Solitary Sandpipers at the Otonabee Gravel Pit Conservation Area. Ben Taylor had a Spotted Sandpiper at Bottle Lake, Kawartha Highlands Park.
Oct 9 & 10	Dave Milsom had a Northern Parula & Pine Warbler at Thompson Bay, Trent Canal. Rene Gareau spotted a Swainson's Thrush in the McNaughton's Bay area, Stoney Lake.
Oct 12	Donald Sutherland observed a Golden Eagle in the Lang Pioneer Village area. A Red-eyed Vireo was at Thompson Bay, Trent Canal by Dave Milsom. A juvenile Great Blue Heron with a 10" Bullhead in its bill was observed by Don McLeod along the shore of Lower Chemong Lake. After catching the fish and jabbing at it repeatedly, the heron failed and lost it in the water.
Oct 13	On the PFN Sunday morning outing with leaders Dave Milsom & Matthew Tobey, the group observed off Fothergill Causeway 1 Blue-winged Teal, 1 Redhead & 2 Surf Scoters. J. Philpott reported three Trumpeter Swans (1 adult, 2 immature) in the area of Kawartha Hideaway, north Buckhorn Lake.
Oct 14	Ken Fulsang reported 6 Cackling Geese are still present on the Landfill Wetland Pond.

	Fulsang also had a Swainson's Thrush at the Otonabee Gravel Pit C.A. Iain Rayner reported two Mute Swans were present in the Lakefield Marsh. He heard they had been there all summer. Seen by other observers since. Tyler Miller had a Black-backed Woodpecker in the area Petroglyphs Prov. Park.
Oct 15	A very late Osprey was reported at Trent U. west bank area by Jon-Marie Gorte.
Northern Saw-whet Owls Banding resumed again this year in October. Carrie Sadowski reported that on Friday, October 18, they banded 8 individuals. The next night they had 13 individuals with 13 again on Sunday night, October 29 (the nets were open for four hours each night).	
Oct 18	Jerry Ball spent most of the period counting hawks at Cranberry Marsh. On this date, they had 12 species and over 2,200 hawks passing over
Oct 19	Daniel Williams had a Black-backed Woodpecker within Petroglyphs Prov. Park. Iain Rayner had 1 Tundra Swan near his residence south of Lakefield near the river.
Oct 20	Dave Milsom photographed a Canvasback at the Lakefield Lagoon.

## Orchid Diary Study Now Published

### Submitted by Martin Parker

In the winter of 2017/8, 4<sup>th</sup> year biology student, McLean R. Smith, under the supervision of Dr. James A. Schaefer and Martin J. Parker, reviewed past issues of "The Orchid Diary" back to the 1950s to determine if changes in bird populations were being documented. "The Orchid Diary" is based on casual observations by members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists and considered as unstructured citizen science. These observations were compared with the results of Christmas Bird Counts and Breeding Bird Surveys, considered structured citizen science, over the same period of time. The results of the Smith study were presented at a PFN meeting and a summary was published in *The Orchid*.

The results were published this summer in the *Journal for Nature Conservation*. The *Journal for Nature Conservation* is a scientific journal focusing on methods and techniques used in nature conservation.

The authors were grateful to the Peterborough Field Naturalists for their dedicated observations and longstanding contributions to *The Orchid*, the basis of this study.

The published paper can be viewed at:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1617138119300457>



Tagged and reported Trumpeter Swan with cygnet in Clarington on Oct. 19.  
Photo: Steve Paul

### Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, November 22

Send submissions to Kathryn Sheridan via email: [orchid@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:orchid@peterboroughnature.org)

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





# 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:

- ☐ Natural Environment ☐ Reptiles and Amphibians ☐ Botany  
☐ Birds ☐ Aquatic Life ☐ Geology  
☐ Insects ☐ Astronomy ☐ 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:

- ☐ Join the PFN board ☐ Sit on research or conservation committees ☐ Help with the Orchid publication  
☐ Assist with meetings ☐ Work on field projects ☐ Lead an outing  
☐ Help the Junior Naturalists ☐ 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: \_\_\_\_\_