



The Orchid

Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

"Know ♦ Appreciate ♦ Conserve Nature In All Its Forms"

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Regular monthly meetings are held the 2nd Wed. of the month in the downstairs auditorium of the Peterborough Public Library at 345 Aylmer Street N.

COMING EVENTS

70th PFN Annual General Meeting

Join us for the PFN's Annual General Meeting – a tradition you won't want to miss. Keep up to date on club business, elect the next executive, enter the raffle for fabulous prizes, enjoy a delicious meal and stay for an entertaining presentation. Social hour begins at 5:30, supper starts at 6:00, meeting at 7:00, raffle at 7:30 and speaker beginning at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$25 per person, which includes admission and large dinner (vegetarian option available). **To reserve your tickets, call Don & Emily Pettypiece at 750-1145, or purchase them at the December meeting.**

Friday
January
22nd

5:30 pm
Baker's
Hill
Centre

Guest speaker: John Etches

"Whales In The Desert, The Wadi el Hitan World Heritage Site, Fayoum Depression, Egypt"
Fossils of ancient whales found in the Sahara Desert have helped unlock the secrets of whale's evolution from land to sea. Geologist and environmental educator John Etches will guide you through this fascinating story and spectacular landscape via his work developing the educational experiences for the site with the United Nations Development Program.

It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

Membership in the Peterborough Naturalists gets you: a yearly subscription to the Orchid, enrollment in the Junior Field Naturalists for your children, notices advising you of interesting presentations and nature outings, knowledge that you are supporting a long-standing local club focusing on the appreciation and conservation of nature. Membership fees are used by the club in many ways, including the support of local initiatives that research, rehabilitate, and protect nature in all its forms.

Note: this issue is a combined Jan/Feb edition of the Orchid – the next newsletter will be published in March

COMING EVENTS continued

Wednesday February 10 th 7:30 p.m. Ptbo Public Library	PFN Monthly Meeting: "Antarctica First Journey" Jeff Carpentier, a former longtime member of the PFN, has recently written a resource guide titled "Antarctica - First Journey". He is a veteran expedition guide and will tell us about the wildlife and the many, varied and interesting sites to be seen in Antarctica. Jeff will have copies of his guide for sale.
A Sunday in March (final date TBD) 6:00 a.m.	Birds of the Lakeshore Join Tony Bigg on a day of winter birding along the Lake Ontario shore, beginning around Cobourg and heading towards Ajax. There is usually a good variety of birds to be found in those areas, often including winter rarities not seen in the Peterborough area. Bring a lunch and binoculars, and meet in the Tim Horton's parking lot in the Canadian Tire/Sobey's shopping complex on Lansdowne St. W. We will carpool from there. Call Tony at 652-7541 to confirm date and time of outing and to obtain more information.
Sunday March 21 st 8:00 a.m.	The Return of Waterfowl at Presqu'ile Provincial Park Jerry Ball will lead us on a trip to Presqu'ile for some early spring birding, which should include opportunities for viewing the 1000's of ducks, geese and swans that use Presqu'ile as a resting spot on their return to their breeding grounds. Bring a lunch, binoculars and scope if you have one. Meet at the Country Style at the junction of Old Keene Road and Highway 7. Entry fee per vehicle. Contact Jerry Ball (705-745-3272) for more information.
Weekend in March or April (date TBD)	PFN visit to the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) Would you like a guided tour of the new Shad Biodiversity Gallery at the Royal Ontario Museum? Would you like a look behind the scenes at the museum's work and a chance to meet some of the natural history curators? Arrangements are afoot for a PFN visit to the museum one weekend in late March or early April. Details of the visit are still to be finalized, but look out for them at the AGM, on-line and in the next issue of the Orchid.

Other Events of Interest

Wednesday Jan 27 th 7:30 p.m.	Peterborough Horticultural Society's hosts their monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 27th at the Peterborough Public Library, 345 Aylmer Street N. at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 7 for socializing and refreshments. This month's guest speaker will be Kyle Griffin of Griffin's Greenhouse, who will be speaking about "Photography in the Garden".
Wednesday Feb 24 th 7:30 p.m.	Peterborough Horticultural Society's hosts their monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 24th at the Peterborough Public Library, 345 Aylmer Street N. at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 7 for socializing and refreshments. This month's guest speaker will be Cathy Dueck, who will be speaking about "Trees and Plants to Attract Birds and Butterflies".

JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS

Sunday January 24 th 1:30 p.m.	Cross-country skiing at Camp Kawartha Come on out JFN's for some fun in the snow! On January 24th at 1:30, we will meet at Camp Kawartha for some cross-country skiing and/or snowshoeing (depending on what snow conditions dictate). Equipment will be provided unless you need ski boot sizes under 2. Bring a mug for some hot chocolate which we can enjoy afterwards. See you then! Call Neil at 292-6185 for more information.	
Friday February 29 th 6:30 p.m.	Explore the Winter Night at Camp Kawartha Let's howl at the moon or hoot like an owl. Come experience the still of the night! JFN's will have fun on a night hike on Friday February 29th at Camp Kawartha. We will meet in the parking lot at 6:30. Come dressed very warmly...we'll be out for an hour & 15 minutes or so. See you then! For more information please call Neil at 292-6185.	

Doug Sadler Memorial Library

The PFN are creating a nature library in memory of the late Doug Sadler at the new Camp Kawartha Environment Centre. The collection includes books from Doug's collection that his family has generously donated and we will be adding new titles to the library through the coming years. We are also accepting donations from PFN members who might want to donate additional books to the library. If you would like to contribute a nature-oriented book to the library, please send us an e-mail

(michael.mcmurtry@sympatico.ca)

with the name and author of the book you would like to donate. We'll check it against our list and let you know if it's an appropriate title for the library.

This year our AGM will feature one of Kelly's pieces in our silent auction:

Title: "Moonlighting"

Artist: Kelly Dodge

Details: Ltd edition paper giclee, 9 x 4 3/4

Framed Retail Value: \$90.00

Description: The species portrayed in this piece is a Gray Tree Frog. Although these frogs do sing at all hours of the day and night, I've chosen to depict this little fellow at night. We got to know him quite well as he spent several very late nights performing solos on our patio.



WHALES in the DESERT

The Wadi el Hitan World Heritage Site,
Fayoum Depression, Egypt

Fossils of ancient whales found in the Sahara Desert have helped unlock the secrets of whale's evolution from land to sea. Geologist and environmental educator, John Etches, will guide you through this fascinating story and spectacular landscape via his work developing the educational experiences for the site with the United Nations Development Program.



January 22nd

Baker's Hill Centre
\$25/per

5:30PM Reception
6:00PM Dinner
7:00PM AGM
8:00PM Guest Speaker,
John Etches



For more info, visit:
www.peterboroughnature.org

John Etches, Geologist,
Environmental Educator



2010 YOW: Teen Birders Invited to Apply!

- *Bird Studies Canada, Latest News, www.bsc-eoc.org, 8 January 2010*

The 2010 Doug Tarry Natural History Fund's Young Ornithologists' Workshop will be held at Long Point Bird Observatory near Port Rowan, Ontario, from Friday, July 30 to Sunday, August 8. Participants will receive hands-on field ornithology training, including bird banding, censusing, field identification, birding trips, preparing museum specimens, guest lectures, and more! Six of Canada's most promising ornithologists between the ages of 13-17 will be selected to attend, and will receive the Doug Tarry Bird Study Award to cover all on-site expenses. For those traveling long distances, special grants may also be available to help offset air travel costs. Applications are due April 30, 2010. For more information and an application form, contact our Landbird Programs Coordinator at lpbo@birdscanada.org, or visit the **Bird Studies Canada website**.

PIF: 20 Years of Bird Conservation

- *Bird Studies Canada, Latest News, www.bsc-eoc.org, 8 January 2010*

This year, **Partners in Flight (PIF)** is celebrating 20 years of bird conservation activity. Launched in 1990, PIF arose in response to concerns over declines among neotropical migrant landbirds (which breed in North America and winter in Latin America and the Caribbean). PIF's main message has been that the resources of public and private organizations in this hemisphere have to be combined, coordinated, and increased to conserve our shared bird populations.

Events throughout the year will highlight the PIF anniversary. For example, PIF will share the spotlight in the **International Migratory Bird Day** theme, "The Power of Partnerships." There will also be a **Special Session** at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Milwaukee on March 22-27, 2010.

Bird Studies Canada is a member of the National Working Group for PIF-Canada. As a member of the PIF Science Committee, Andrew Couturier (BSC's Senior Analyst, Landscape Ecology and Conservation) is participating in the development of "Saving our Shared Birds: The Partners in Flight Tri-National Vision." Stay tuned for details!

Northern Saw-whet Owl Article Published

- *Bird Studies Canada, Latest News, www.bsc-eoc.org, 8 January 2010*

An article co-authored by Debbie Badzinski, Bird Studies Canada's Ontario Program Manager, has been published in the *Journal of Ornithology*. "The numerical response of breeding Northern Saw-whet Owls suggests nomadism" used data from BSC's **Ontario Nocturnal Owl Survey** and from **Long Point Bird Observatory's** Northern Saw-whet Owl banding. Authors Jeff Bowman (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources), Debbie Badzinski (Bird Studies Canada), and Ronald Brooks (University of Guelph) assessed the numerical response of the owls to small-mammal prey species, and found that the finite rate of increase of breeding owls was directly related to estimates of red-backed vole abundance. To learn more, visit the **Journal of Ornithology website**.

Black-capped Chickadees

- by June Hitchcox, for The Apsley Voice (www.apsleyvoice.com)

There are so many words to describe a Black-capped Chickadee: small (5"); friendly, inquisitive, tame, intelligent; trusting; energetic; gregarious. Who can help but have spirits lifted when greeted by their cheery "chickadee-dee-dee. Ontario has 2 species of Chickadees – Black-capped and Boreal. The brown-capped Boreal, creeping through Black Spruce forests, may come as far south as Algonquin Park. The Black-capped live in a broad band north of Lake Ontario, around Georgian Bay, and to some extent, Lake Superior. Sometime in August, family duties over, they begin gathering in small flocks of 6 to 10, defending a 20 acre winter territory. Chickadees are experts at finding food and are soon joined by other birds: Blue Jays, excellent at spotting danger; Woodpeckers that expose insects in rotten wood for others besides themselves to eat; Brown Creepers; Nuthatches – all having different ways of finding food so less competition but together finding it safer in a flock. As it becomes colder, Chickadees begin hiding food for emergencies. In the wild, they eat larva, insect eggs, berries, seeds, often hanging upside down under the smallest of twigs to find food, especially if the topside is snow-covered. They love to come to feeders for suet and all kinds of seeds – sunflower, pumpkin, bits of nuts – and will even tap on your window when the feeder is empty. They come easily to your hand for seeds. It is always a thrill for me to feel their tiny feet as they check out the seeds, perhaps by weight, and fly away to hammer open the chosen one for the precious "meat" inside. Feeding is serious business. If they do not find enough food from dawn to dusk, they will not have enough energy to survive the night, although they have evolved a neat way to help survive freezing nights - being able to drop their internal temperature by 20 degrees F. (12 C.), thereby conserving about 25% of the energy that would be used to maintain their regular temperature. When you hear their song change to "Sweetie" (high then low note), you will know that they are looking for a mate and establishing a nesting territory. Spring is on its way!

Don't forget to check out Kelly's blog!

Kelly Dodge returned from a Galapagos Expedition and has uploaded numerous photographs and video top the internet. The pictures depict the various wildlife she observed and sketched while there. The information is below, including an image of the Artists for Conservation Flag. Interested people can go to Kelly's web-site and click on the flag. This will take them to the blog.



Kelly Dodge

Artists for Conservation Flag Expedition # 10

Galapagos: Forty Days and Forty Nights

An Artist's Sojourn

Sept. 28 - Nov. 6, 2009

Follow the Journey

www.natureartists.com/dodgek.htm

New Members

Don & Karin Finigan
Julie, Amy & Bev Smith

Welcome!

Northern Goshawk

- by June Hitchcox, for The Apsley Voice (www.apsleyvoice.com)

The first thing I learned about a Goshawk was that it isn't a Gosh-hawk, it is a Gos hawk! It is a large hawk - 20"- 26" long; long tail, short wings; *conspicuous white stripe from the base of the bill, over the red eye, to the back of the head; black cap and cheeks; pale under parts; dark, blue-gray back. Hawks are raptors -birds of prey. Goshawks are 1 of 3 North American forest-dwelling raptors - called Accipiters - Sharp-shinned, Cooper's and, the largest, Goshawk, bigger than a Crow (17 1/2"). Females are larger than the males. Its name being Northern Goshawk, encouraged me to think that it would be in the far north, perhaps moving south in the winter if food was scarce - grouse, squirrels, hares. However, several things changed that assumption: the Audubon Bird Book, 1977: "they are extending their range to the south"; Doug Saddler, in his 1983 book: "they can be found in any part of Peterborough County, year-round" and the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas 2001-5 showing the main breeding areas to be from just north of Lakes Erie and Ontario to about Lake Nipissing with sparse breeding to Hudson Bay. There have been several summer sightings in the Oakville area, one with my relatives at their home that backs onto a large town-owned forest. Because Goshawks hunt at low levels in the forest, they are not often seen and they are a rather rare and secretive bird. Perhaps the best time to hear and see them is in the Spring. The female, in early March, in the previous year's nesting area, begins her screaming "kak, kak, kak" to attract her former mate. When he arrives, they both scream, sometimes as a duet. The male attends to the nest; eggs are laid; the birds are quiet. The male brings all food to the female - for her and for her to feed the chicks. You might see the adults at this time. Wear a hard hat! If you get to within 100 metres of the nest, both screaming parents may dive-bomb you and may even strike! March is a month away - perhaps you will hear and see them then.

ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Deadline for submissions for the March issue: Monday, February 22nd, 2010

Please send all submissions to: **Rebecca Zeran, PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough, ON, K9J 7H7**
or via e-mail to: rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca

PFN Officers and Directors

President	John Bottomley	johnbottomley@sympatico.ca	742-1524
Treasurer	Jim Young	jbyoung@persona.ca	292-5444
Secretary	Emily Pettypiece	donem.pettypiece@sympatico.ca	750-1145
Membership	Don Pettypiece	donem.pettypiece@sympatico.ca	750-1145
Newsletter Editor	Rebecca Zeran	rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca	743-2660
Program (indoor)	Roger Jones	rjones@trentu.ca	742-0132
Program (outdoor)	Paul Elliott	paulelliott@trentu.ca	740-0501
Jr. Naturalists	Neil Fortin	nkfortin@sympatico.ca	292-6185
Special Projects	Mike McMurtry	michael.mcmurtry@sympatico.ca	748-5353
Webmaster	Chris Gooderham	webmaster@peterboroughnature.org	740-2081
Member @ Large	Janine McLeod	janine@sdf1.net	778-1479

Other Volunteers

Book Sales	Anne Storey	743-0345
FON Rep	Janine McLeod	778-1479
Orchid Diary	Tony Bigg	652-7541
Orchid Mailout	Bob Quinn	
JFN Trip Leader	Neil Fortin	





Pine grosbeaks. Bridgenorth, winter 2008. Photographs by Rebecca Zeran



ONTARIO NATURE'S WRITING AND ART CONTEST

This year's topic is: Wild species and wild spaces: why biodiversity is important to me.

The year 2010 has been declared the year of biodiversity. Biodiversity is the variety of plants and animals in the world, or in a particular area. If the earth's living systems are to remain strong, those systems must have a high level of biodiversity. Our well-being depends on it.

New this year!
Our contest now includes artwork submissions. Prizes will be given to the top three essays AND the top three paintings or drawings.

What to write: Send us an essay or story that is a maximum of 700 words in length. Your submission should be typed and double-spaced. Please be sure that your submission reflects the topic.

What to draw or paint: Send us your artwork on an 8.5" x 11" sheet. Drawings or paintings should reflect the topic.

Include: An official entry form with your name, address, telephone number, email address, your parents' or guardian's name and signature, your grade and the name of your school. **To download your entry form, visit www.ontarionature.org.**

Entry is limited to grade 7 and 8 students.

You can send us a written submission or a piece of artwork or both. A panel of judges will review all submissions. The three winning entries for each category (writing and art) will be published in our award-winning magazine, *ON Nature*.

The grand prize for each category is a \$500 Canada Savings Bond and \$250 for the winner's class to go toward a nature-based activity. The prize for 2nd and 3rd place in each category is a mountain bike. All winners will receive a prize pack containing a gift certificate courtesy of Mountain Equipment Co-op, a one-year family membership to Ontario Nature and other cool stuff. The winners will also be honoured for their achievement at Ontario Nature's Annual General Meeting on May 29th, 2010, at Lambton College in Sarnia.

To see last year's winning entries and for more information on the contest, visit Ontario Nature's website at www.ontarionature.org.

Deadline: February 26th, 2010

SEND YOUR ENTRIES TO:

Youth Writing and Art Contest
Ontario Nature
366 Adelaide Street West, Suite 201
Toronto, ON M5V 1R9
Email: lenoren@ontarionature.org

Sponsored by:





PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

www.peterboroughnature.org

membership application form

Memberships may be obtained by mailing completed form and cheque to Peterborough Field Naturalists PO Box 1532, Peterborough, ON K9J 7H7

CONTACT

Name (s):		Home Tel:
Address:		Work Tel:
		Email(s):

MEMBERSHIP TYPE & FEE SCHEDULE

Please make cheques payable to *Peterborough Field Naturalists*

1. Single (one adult or one child*) \$25

*Membership with the PFN automatically includes membership in the Junior Naturalists

2. Family (couple or family with children) \$30

Please give the names and ages of the children you wish to be enrolled in the PFN Junior Naturalists

Name	Age	Name	Age

MAIN INTERESTS

<input type="checkbox"/> Birds	<input type="checkbox"/> Butterflies/insects	<input type="checkbox"/> Botany (Wildflowers/trees/shrubs)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Astronomy	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Life	<input type="checkbox"/> Geology	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips
<input type="checkbox"/> Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	

I (name _____) am knowledgeable in the following areas _____ and would be prepared to

- lead an outdoor session give a presentation prepare an article for The Orchid

I am interested in the following:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joining the PFN Executive | <input type="checkbox"/> Sitting on research or conservation committees | <input type="checkbox"/> Working on field projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with refreshments at meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Please have a member of the executive call me | |

AGE GROUP

This information helps us to understand the needs of our members. If a family membership, please check for each adult

<input type="checkbox"/> Under 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 20-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 30-39	<input type="checkbox"/> 40-49	<input type="checkbox"/> 50-59	<input type="checkbox"/> 60-69	<input type="checkbox"/> 70-79	<input type="checkbox"/> 80+ over
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DONATIONS

Membership fees cover the general operating costs of the club while other sources of revenue are needed to fund special projects such as ecological restoration. You can assist the club by making a donation to help further our work in such areas. The PFN is a registered charity and issues receipts for income tax purposes. All donations are gratefully received and any member of the executive will be happy to speak to you concerning the use of such funds.

LIABILITY WAIVER

In consideration of the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) accepting this application, I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns forever release and discharge the PFN, their officers, directors, servants and agents from any liability whatsoever arising from my participation in PFN activities, whether by reason of negligence of the PFN or its representatives, or otherwise. I affirm that I am in good health, capable of performing the exercise required for field trips or other activities in which I participate, and accept as my personal risk the hazards of such participation. As a member of the PFN and/or as a parent/guardian of a member under 18 years of age, I have read and understood the above, and accept its terms on behalf of all of my underage children.

Signature: _____