



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

<p>April 13th to June 15th</p> <p>8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Ptbo Zoo Parking Lot</p> 	<p>Spring Sunday Morning Bird Walks</p> <p>Sunday morning bird walks return for another season! These "walks" last about 2 hours and will be held every Sunday from April 13th to June 15th. From novice to expert, these outings are sure to please anyone interested in seeing, hearing and learning about local birds. Meet in the parking lot of the Peterborough Zoo on Water Street at 8:00 am and we will carpool from there. Bring some change to contribute for gas and don't forget your binoculars! The scheduled bird walk leaders are:</p> <p>May 4 - Tony Bigg May 11 - John Bottomley and Ken Rumble May 18 - Martha Allen and Michael Butler May 25 - Jerry Ball: Special Outing to Carden Plain (further details below) June 1 - Drew Monkman June 8 - John Bottomley: morning bird walk, followed by PFN Family Potluck Picnic (details below) June 15 - Mike McMurtry: Peterborough Museum Property Bioblitz (further details below)</p>
<p>Wednesday May 14th</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Ptbo Public Library</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: Intrigue in Natural History</p> <p>Dr. Tom Hutchinson will talk about intrigue in natural history. In particular, he will discuss the Rhum Affair, a case of botanical fraud, which reads like a modern detective thriller. The detective is Peter Raven, a noted Classics Scholar at Cambridge University with a passion for the British Flora and the villain, a noted British Professor of Botany who allegedly arranged evidence by planting living plants out of place to support his theory about the last glaciation in Europe. Hang on to your seats!</p>
<p>Sunday May 25th</p> <p>7:00 a.m.</p> <p>Sobey's parking lot by Canadian Tire, Lansdowne St.</p>	<p>Carden Plain Important Bird Area (IBA)</p> <p>Guided by Jerry Ball, we will head out to the Carden Plain, a rare alvar habitat that supports an abundance of rare grassland birds. The Carden Plain is a popular destination for bird, butterfly, and plant watchers alike. At only 65 km from Peterborough, it offers globally rare alvar habitat supporting an abundance of grassland birds, including the endangered Loggerhead Shrike and the rare Golden-wing Warbler plus Osprey, Black Terns, Sedge Wrens, Yellow Rails, Upland Sandpipers, Blues Birds, Eastern Towhees, and Brown Thrashers. This is an all day trip, please bring a lunch, water and your binoculars!</p>

COMING EVENTS continued

<p>Sunday June 8th</p> <p>8:30 a.m. (bird walk – carpool from Ptbo Zoo)</p> <p>11:30 a.m. (potluck picnic)</p> <p>1:00 p.m. (woodlot wandering)</p> <p>Cheryl & Wayne Colvert's farm in Cavan</p>	<p>Morning Bird Walk and PFN Family Potluck Picnic</p> <p>Cheryl and Wayne Covert have graciously offered to host the PFN Picnic at their farm (Circle 'C' Farms) in Cavan on June 8, 2008. We are planning a day full of exploring the 100 acres of farmland and forest. Please feel free to join the group at any point during the day.</p> <p>There will be a morning bird walk beginning at 8:30am, for those keen to see the sites and migrating birds before the picnic (there will be 8:00 a.m. carpooling from the Peterborough Zoo), the PFN Potluck Picnic at 11:30 (bring a dish to share and a lawn chair if you can – and please bring your own water), and then an afternoon walk through the property to see the amazing habitat found in the woods, along the stream and around the barn. We look forward to having your family join us for this exciting event!</p> <p>As a bit of a teaser, Cheryl and Wayne have put together a description of the farm: <i>"We have a very long laneway that ensures a quiet environment. Our fence lines are wooded and act as connecting flyways attracting Brown Thrashers, Orioles, Woodpeckers and Warblers. A small stream, that crosses the property, flows year round. The stream and springs feed four ponds. For environmental reasons, and our interest in edible wilds, we have let the area around the stream and the ponds grow naturally. These areas attract a wide variety of bird species from Ducks, Geese, Herons and a Bittern to King Fishers. The barns are a natural attraction for swallows and flycatchers and our bird feeders attract Rose breasted Grosbeaks, Gold Finches and Nut Hatches, to name a few."</i></p> <p><u>Directions to the farm:</u> 2 miles west of the village of Cavan on the 7A Hwy: The farm is at the base of the first hill. There is a sign at the end of the lane that says 'Circle C Farms', it is a long laneway into to the Covert's home. If you go past Tapley Quarter Line, you have gone too far.</p>
<p>Sunday June 15th</p> <p>8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Parking Lot opposite Peterborough Centennial Museum</p>	<p>Peterborough Museum Property Bioblitz</p> <p>Join Mike McMurtry to identify breeding birds, plants and other natural things of interest that are on or adjacent to the Peterborough Centennial Museum property. The museum director has requested PFN assistance in identifying natural heritage features on the property so they can be taken into account as part of any future museum development. A sub-group will be meeting at dawn (5:00 am, contact Mike at 748-5353 if you would like to be part of this group) for breeding bird surveys and the general group will meet in the public parking lot opposite the museum at 8:00 am to observe birds, plants and other fauna on or near the museum property. We expect to be active until about noon. We will spend the morning walking the property and, with permission, also the adjacent Trent Severn Waterway land. Bring your binoculars, field guides and notebook. All levels of birders and botanists welcome. Visit http://www.pcma.ca/visitor_generalinfo.htm to see a map of the museum location. The property can be accessed from Hunter Street East just west of the liftlock.</p>



COMING EVENTS continued

**Saturday
June 28th**

(This is an all
day event)

Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park Excursion

We will depart from the cottagers' docking facility at the landing on Long Lake; travel by pontoon boat west on scenic Long Lake and through the narrows into Loucks Lake, a total distance of 6 km. We will explore the shore at the west end of Loucks Lake and see our first orchids and the rare meadow beauty (*rhexia virginica*). We will dock at cottage # 716, the last cottage on the north shore of Loucks Lake and then take the path to Fair Lake, a distance of 1.5 km. Along the path we will see many wild flowers including orchids and a half dozen ferns. We will climb the high granite outcrop near Fair Lake and have a panoramic view of the park. At Fair Lake we can cool off with a swim and have lunch. The more adventurous can walk on the floating bog where they will see 3 kinds of orchids and many bog plants. We will proceed another 1.5 km further to Poplar Lake. There is no path but the hiking is good. We will use aerial photographs to navigate. We will see more wild flowers, a beaver meadow, an abandoned blue heron rookery, and at the lake, a winter moose yard in a hardwood forest. You will see numerous bear claw marks on the beech trees. Swimming is good in Poplar Lake. We will return to the boats the same way we came, but in much shorter time. The total time from the cars to Poplar Lake and back to the cars should be 6 hours. If some people want to paddle Long Lake in their own canoes they will probably need an additional 1.5 hours.

Please bring a lunch, water, hat, appropriate clothing, hiking shoes and bog walking shoes. Boat space will limit the number of people that we can take to 12. We can take additional people if they have their own boat or canoe. **Please contact Laura Kucey at lkucey@yahoo.com or 705-755-2171 to reserve a spot on the trip.** Travel arrangements and carpooling will be arranged once we know who is going to be participating. Sign up soon!

JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS

**Sunday
May 25th**

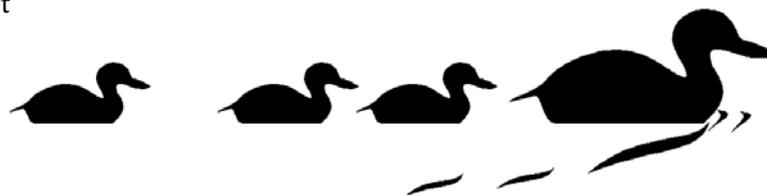
2:00 p.m.

**Miller Creek
Conservation
Area**

Wetland Discovery at Miller Creek

The JFN program will meet at the Miller Creek Conservation area on May 25th for some wetland discovery. Who knows what we'll find? I saw two Sandhill Cranes there in April! Bring boots if you want, nets (I will supply some), and a water bottle. Also, as a special treat, we can taste the maple syrup (with a little ice cream) from the trees that were tapped at Camp Kawartha in March. See you then...Neil

Miller Creek Conservation Area is on the 7th Line of Smith (take Centre Line up from the Peterborough Zoo) and turn left



OTHER EVENTS of INTEREST

Astronomy	<p>Thursday, May 1 - Monday, May 12 - Stargazing: The Buckhorn Observatory presents “the Galaxies of Virgo” on clear nights at 9:30 and 10:30 p.m. at the Observatory (254 County Rd. 507). Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Reservations are required. For more information or to reserve, call (705) 657-7718 to reserve a spot.</p> <p>Saturday, May 10 - Astronomy Day: The Peterborough Astronomical Association and the Peterborough Museum & Archives celebrate International Astronomy Day 2008 from 1 - 4 p.m. and 7 - 10 p.m. at the Museum (Museum Dr., at 300 Hunter St. E., Peterborough). Participants will see star shows in the portable planetarium as well as displays, presentations and telescope viewing. Raffle tickets will be sold with the grand prize of a telescope. For more information, call (705) 743-5180.</p>
Ecology Park Workshops	<p>Thursday, May 8 - Workshop: The Ecology Park hosts a workshop on Backyard Composting from 7 - 8 p.m. at the Ecology Park (Ashburnham Dr. south of Lansdowne, Peterborough). Participants are invited to start the season on the right foot with this refresher for experienced composters or how-to for the novice. Making your own compost is the most sustainable way to build healthy soil. Instructor Paula Anderson will demonstrate the A-Z of backyard black gold. For more information call (705) 745-3238.</p> <p>Thursday, May 15 - Workshop: The Ecology Park hosts a workshop on Choosing the Right Tree 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Ecology Park (Ashburnham Dr. south of Lansdowne, Peterborough). Participants will receive guidance on choosing the right tree for the right place, and be prepared for the plant sale with this personalized exploration of tree personalities and preferences. For more information call (705) 745-3238.</p> <p>Sunday, June 1 - Workshop: The Ecology Park hosts a workshop on Growing a Vegetable Garden from 2 - 3 p.m. at the Ecology Park (Ashburnham Dr. south of Lansdowne, Peterborough). Master Gardener Mary Witalis will lead participants in an exploration of the benefits of home vegetable gardening, including: saving money, fabulous tasting food, and reducing energy consumption at the same time (aka reducing global carbon). For more information call (705) 745-3238.</p>
Environmental Presentation	<p>Thursday, May 22 - Presentation: Trent University and the David Sheperd Family lecture series presents Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on "Our Environmental Destiny" from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Peterborough Memorial Centre (151 Lansdowne St. W., Peterborough). Presented in association with the International Association for Great Lakes Research. Tickets start at \$20. For tickets or more information visit the Memorial Centre online box office or call (705) 743-3561.</p>
Camp Kawartha Fundraiser Event	<p>Sunday, May 27 - Fundraiser: Camp Kawartha hosts a Green in Motion Fundraiser with registration at 9:30 a.m. and a start time of 10:30 a.m. beginning at the pavilion atop Nichols’ Oval in Peterborough. Participants of all ages are invited to use any form of human-powered transportation (bike, rollerblade, walk or run) to raise money to send a child to camp. The event offers a Half Marathon (30km), Heart-in-Action (10km), Muscles-in-Action (5km), or “I can do it” (1km) route along the Rotary trail. The event runs rain or shine. Refreshments and prizes will be awarded. Camp Kawartha is charitable organization offering environmental education, and outdoor camping experiences for children and youth. For more information email info@campkawartha.ca or call (705) 652-3860 or 1-866-532-4597.</p>

OTHER EVENTS of INTEREST

Ganaraska Hiking Club	<p>Bring a lunch and drink for all hikes unless otherwise noted. For more information visit: www.ganaraska-hiking-trail.ca</p> <p>Saturday, May 17 (9:00 am) MODERATE (Kawartha Club) 12 kms Gooderich Loomis CA & Proctor Park CA Hike 9 kms in Gooderich Loomis CA, then we'll go a short distance down the road to Proctor Park CA for another 3kms. Contact: Regina 705-745-6833</p> <p>Wednesday, May 21 (10:00 am) EASY (Kawartha Club) 1.5 - 2 hour walk. Call for details at least one day prior. Contact: Jill 705-745-9713</p> <p>Saturday, May 24 (10:00 am) MODERATE (Kawartha & Pine Ridge Clubs) Ferris Provincial Park 12 kms Discover the hills of Ferris Provincial park. Hike the Drumlin Trail system. Optional walk back to cars past the World's Finest Chocolate Factory Outlet store. Meet at Canadian Tire parking lot, Campbellford. To carpool from Peterborough, meet at Keene Rd carpool lot (across from Burnham Mansion) at 9:15 am. Kawartha contact: Lyn or Linda 705-778-7842</p> <p>Wednesday, May 28 (10:00 am) EASY (Kawartha Club) 1.5 - 2 hour walk. Call for details at least one day prior. Contact: Ausma 705-745-2577</p> <p>Saturday, May 31 (9:00 am) MODERATE (Kawartha Club) Bike the Rotary Trail to Lakefield & Back (approx 30 kms). Meet at Auburn St. and Parkhill Rd at 9:00 am or at north end of Trent U. (Wenjack Theatre entrance) at 9:15 am. Lunch in Lakefield at Tim Hortons. Contact: Rita 705-743-2175</p>
Carden Nature Festival	<p>2nd Annual Carden Nature Festival, June 6th - 8th <i>"Extreme Biodiversity on Your Doorstep"</i> Visit www.CardenGuide.com/Festival for more information.</p>
Dragonflies & Damselflies Workshop	<p>The Friends of Presqu'île have a NatureWorks course on Dragonflies and Damselflies on June 22nd. This is being led by David Bree (Natural Heritage Education Leader at Presqu'île Provincial Park). If you are not familiar with NatureWorks it is an interpretive/ education programme started at Presqu'île a few years ago to offer more in-depth information than can be given in our usual 1 hour programmes. There is a \$15.00 fee to register but that includes the park entry fee. It will go from 10am to 4pm and registration is required by calling 613 475-1688 and leaving a message. Someone will get back to you with details. Participants should bring a lunch and dress for the weather. See page 13 for more information.</p>
Plant Sales	<p>North American Native Plant Society (NANPS) Wildflower Sale, May 10th (10 am - 3 pm) 101 Town Centre Boulevard, Hwy 7 at Warden, Markham, ON, L3R 9W3 There will be hundreds of native plant species to buy including flowers, shrubs, trees, ferns, vines, grasses and sedges. All plants come from ethical growers approved by NANPS. Also there will be books, free speakers and a green expo. Species list available to view at www.nanps.org, members may order in advance. For more information please call 416.631-4438 or e-mail: nanps@nanps.org.</p>

OTHER EVENTS of INTEREST

Plant Sales & Horticultural Events

Tuesday, May 13 - Meeting: The Lakefield and District Horticultural Society hosts its monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Lakefield Marshland Centre (Deyncourt St., Hague Point, Lakefield). Toni Sinclair will speak on demystifying flower shows, in which members display specimen flowers and plants as well as create themed arrangements. For more information call Norma Walker at (705) 877-1082 or Brenda Ibey at (705) 748-0046.

Saturday, May 17 - Plant Sale: The Lakefield and District Horticultural Society hosts its Annual Plant Sale from 9 a.m. - noon. This plant sale is growing every year with more plant donations, more volunteers sharing tips with customers and good 'ol camaraderie! This year promises to be bigger and better yet with a terrific selection of annuals, perennials, vegetables, and maybe even some trees and shrubs. Come to the Lakefield Cenotaph early for the best selection. Just over the bridge in Lakefield. Funds raised help the Society to beautify the Village.

Saturday, May 17 - Plant Sale: Wayside Academy hosts a Spring Plant Sale from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the school (575 Centre line at Woodland, Peterborough). This is the Academy's 2nd annual plant sale, and is expected to include a wide variety of plants, shrubs, herbs, soil and manure as well as BBQ and other food. Craft and garden items will be on sale as well. For more information call (705) 876-1275.

Sunday, May 18 - Plant Sale: The Ecology Park hosts its popular Spring Plant Sale from 1 - 4 p.m. at the Ecology Park (Ashburnham Dr. south of Lansdowne, Peterborough). This is billed as a great place to buy native plants, trees, shrubs, heirloom vegetables and ecologically friendly annuals and perennials. Also a great opportunity to support all Ecology Park programs. For more information call (705) 745-3238.

Saturday, May 31 - Perennial Workshop: Gardens Plus hosts a workshop on "Best Blooming Perennials, Foliage and Containers too," beginning at 9 a.m. at Gardens Plus (136 County Rd 4, Donwood). This is the first in a series of workshops, with proceeds going to the Canadian Breast Cancer Society. The cost is \$7.50, and participants will be entered into a draw for a perennial of value of at least \$9.95. Registration fees will be donated by Gardens Plus to the Breast Cancer Society. Groups welcome. For more information or to register, call (705) 742-5918.



New Members:

*Julie Simard
Helen Perkins*

Welcome!



Fire and the Alderville Black Oak Savanna

by Janine McLeod, Natural Heritage Coordinator, Alderville First Nation

At one time Southern Ontario had over 800 square kilometres of grasslands and savanna but now less than 1% remains. It is one of the most threatened habitats in North America. Located south of Rice Lake on the Alderville First Nation land is the largest remaining piece of Black Oak Savanna and Tallgrass Prairie in east central Ontario. Growing under and around widely spaced Black Oaks are a wonderful diversity of grasses, shrubs and wildflowers, many of them provincially rare or significant.

One threat that has reduced the amount of prairie and savanna is the suppression of fire. The plants that are native to this ecosystem are adapted to withstand fire, whereas most of the introduced, non-native plants do not survive the flames. Controlled prescribed burns are necessary to maintain a savanna/prairie.

Many of the plants introduced for crop production are cool season grasses which come up early and shade out the native warm season grasses. A properly timed fire will reduce the competition and allow more sunlight to reach the native plants. Fire adapted plants are not damaged because their growing points are below the soil surface.

Prairie plants are adapted to thrive in low nitrogen conditions, many can fix atmospheric nitrogen. If dead plant matter were allowed to decay it would return much of the nitrogen to the soil which would benefit plants that are not adapted for low nitrogen levels. After a burn, nitrogen that was locked up in dead plant material is released back into the atmosphere.

Fire also reduces the amount of dead standing material which can prevent much of the rain from reaching the soil and roots of the plants. The water caught on the dead plants just evaporates. The black ash left on the ground after the fire acts as a solar blanket which can raise the soil temperature as much as 17°C (30°F). This gives the warm season plants an earlier start. There is also scientific evidence that elements in smoke encourage seeds of some prairie plants to germinate, even without the heat of the fire.

Regular burning and careful monitoring have helped make the Alderville Black Oak Savanna “the Jewel” of the Rice Lake Plains. For more information about volunteering or to arrange a tour contact Janine McLeod at svannatours@eagle.ca or 705-778-1391.



Update from the Large Woodlands Conservation Cooperative

by Gina Varrin and Erica Nol

The three year, Large Woodlands Conservation Cooperative (LWCC) outreach program drew to an end this April. The aim of the program was to increase the awareness of the importance of large, unfragmented forests, and to help private landowners care for woodlots that are a part of important ecosystems. The LWCC designed and implemented an outreach program based on the results of a survey of landowners completed in 2001. With funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and the help of several partners and landowners, the LWCC has raised awareness of forest management issues through newsletters, information packages, websites, articles in local newspapers, speaking and exhibiting at conferences, and a variety of workshops.

On January 31, 2008, the LWCC hosted a conference on the theme of *Large Woodlands... Essential to Healthy Communities*. Speakers addressed a variety of topics related to the management of large woodlands, including the ecology of large woodlands, working within partnerships, ecological goods and services, identifying and protecting significant woodlands, Alternative Land Use Services, forest conservation by-laws, and forest certification. The conference was attended by landowners, forest professionals, naturalists, conservation authorities, stewardship councils, and representatives from municipal, provincial, and federal government.

The LWCC continued to work with partners to deliver landowner workshops. In the fall of 2007 the LWCC co-sponsored a Peterborough Stewardship Council woodlot management workshop in Norwood. The workshop took place over three evenings and one field day, and covered basic forestry concepts, forest management plans, forest invasive species, selling standing timber, sources of woodlot management assistance, and much more! The LWCC co-sponsored a February 6th presentation and panel

discussion on climate change as part of the Peterborough Green Up Urban Forest Speaker Series. The LWCC also participated as an exhibitor at the Trenton and Lindsay Woodlot conferences, and the Ontario Woodlot Association annual general meeting in Peterborough.

A wetland demonstration project was completed at Windy Ridge Conservation Area in partnership with Kawartha Conservation, Ducks Unlimited, Partners in Wetland Conservation, and Sir Sanford Fleming College. Nestboxes were installed to increase the availability of nesting sites for Wood Ducks and other cavity nesting birds. Some nestboxes are visible from the trail at Windy Ridge Conservation Area, on Mount Horeb Rd near Omeme. Anyone interested in placing nestboxes on their own property can contact Ducks Unlimited at webfoot@ducks.ca or 1-800-665-DUCK (3825) for plans and advice.

In March the LWCC launched a new website at www.lwcc.peterboroughnature.org (hosted by the Peterborough Field Naturalists!). The website includes information on the importance of large woodlands, the activities of the LWCC, forestry news and events, how landowners can get involved, links to other organisations, and a page of maps and resources including the *A Landowner Guide to Large Woodlands and Natural Heritage*.

A Landowner Guide to Large Woodlands and Natural Heritage is a 32 page booklet intended to provide background information and advice to landowners of woodlands in south-central Ontario, including:

- What large woodlands are, and how to keep them healthy;
- The natural features and forest types found in large woodlands;
- Best management practices that will benefit you, your woodlands and the province;
- Threats and challenges, including pests and diseases;
- Where to find more detailed information and assistance;

- Lists of species most likely to be found in south-central Ontario's large woodlands.

The guide is the result of collaboration between the Large Woodlands Conservation Cooperative (LWCC) and students in the School of Environmental and Natural Resources at Sir Sandford Fleming College.

The LWCC would like to thank all of the landowners who attended LWCC workshops and conferences over the years, and who we hope will continue to work for the sustainable use of their land. We have very much enjoyed our involvement with you and hope to see you again soon. We would also like to thank our volunteers, and previous coordinators Danielle Tassie, and Dave Pridham, for their contribution to this program over the past three years. Although the current Ontario Trillium Foundation grant is coming to an end we have applied for subsequent funding to continue conserving large woodlands by providing landowners with information to help them care for their piece.



SSFC students helped install nestboxes at Windy Ridge CA. The students will continue to monitor the boxes annually.

Turtles In A Perilous Time

by Matt Ellerbeck

Turtles have proved that they are one of time's most successful survivors. They have been on this Earth for well over 200 million years. This means that they were here long before the mammals, before the birds, and even before the dinosaurs. They have managed to survive throughout the ages, while countless other species have disappeared around them. Today however, the turtle is living in a perilous time. Around 70% of the world's turtle species are now listed on The World Conservation Union's Redlist of threatened species. For some turtles it is already too late. Several turtle species have already gone extinct. Many more are being pushed to the brink of extinction.

For many people, the term endangered species conjures up images of exotic animals far from home. However, the decline of turtle populations

can be seen right in our own backyards. In Ontario, all eight turtle species that occur here are in decline. Six of these eight turtles are listed as a Species At Risk by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. This is both a despairing and unsettling fact as the turtles' current state is almost completely due to the actions of people! There are several different factors contributing to the endangerment of the world's turtles.

The biggest issue affecting turtles today is the loss and fragmentation of their natural habitat. Turtle habitats of all kinds are being degraded and destroyed at an alarming rate. Wetlands are drained, forests are destroyed, and waterfronts are developed. Turtles are literally losing their homes.

The increase of human activities and recreation on the water and on beaches also affects turtles and their nests in a negative way. Waterfront

developments restrict turtles from prime basking and nesting sites. Contaminants and sewage run off from such developments can also cause harm. Pesticides, oils, chemicals, and industrial pollution may contaminate the habitats of turtles and their local prey items. When the turtles eat contaminated prey, they may become poisoned and die. These developments may also cause water levels to rise which can drown turtle nests. Driving on beaches with cars and four wheelers can destroy nests laid in the sand.

Recreational activities on the water can also have devastating affects on turtles. such as being killed or severely injured when they are hit by boats or water vehicles. Fishermen will often kill turtles for fear of that the reptiles prey heavily on game fish.

Where good habitat does still exist, it is often altered by roads and highways. This leads to the death of countless turtles on roads. Legions of turtles must cross roads when looking for nest sites to lay their eggs. This is particularly detrimental to populations because not only does it lead to the death of a large portion of the breeding population, the female turtles, but the next generation of turtles is also killed off when the eggs are destroyed. This can lead to local populations of turtle species becoming exterminated .

Even if the female turtles do successfully find nesting spots and lay their eggs, the baby turtles only have a very minimal chance of reaching maturity. Nests are often destroyed by predators like raccoons and skunks. While human activities have had negative effects on turtles, they have helped increase these such predators. The

increase in human waste provides an unlimited food source for these nest raiders. This has caused their populations to grow. This surplus of predators takes a very heavy toll on turtle nests.

Turtles, including rare and endangered ones, also suffer from being harvested from the wild at an almost unfathomable rate. Turtles and their eggs are collected for the pet trade, food markets or to be used in traditional medicines. Sometimes the turtles and their eggs are captured right off nesting sites.

Certain turtles, especially the snapping turtles, are often the victims of direct killings by people. Many people believe snapping turtles are dangerous to swimmers and will kill them on site. In truth, snapping turtles are not dangerous if left alone. Witnesses have observed people shooting turtles for "sport" and studies have shown that many times people will purposely hit turtles they encounter on roads.

When all the factors above are combined, it accounts for a massive amount of turtles being lost. These animals are extremely long-lived and it takes them many years to reach maturity. This makes it very hard for turtles to rebound from drastic population declines. Many turtle species are simply not equipped to deal with the many hurdles that people have created for them. Hundreds of species are unlikely to survive without assistance. If we do not take the time to take better care of our natural resources and to reverse our detrimental actions towards turtles, we could lose one of our oldest and most successful creatures. If this happens what hope do other species really have?

**Deadline for submissions for the June Orchid:
Sunday, May 25th, 2008**

Send submissions to:

Rebecca Zeran, P.O. Box 345, Bridgenorth, ON, K0L 1H0,
or via e-mail to: rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca





The ORCHID DIARY for 30 March - 30 April 2008

Compiled by Tony Bigg, 652-7541, tanddbigg@sympatico.ca

Although not yet at its peak the spring migration is building up steam. Note that some reported sightings are omitted when others have seen the same species earlier. Also sightings outside of the county are not reported.

- Mar 31 Randy Smith had ten **Common Redpoles** at his feeder, and also saw a **Great Blue Heron** and a **Turkey Vulture**. Tony Bigg had a **Common Loon**, a **Belted Kingfisher**, and a **River Otter** above Lock 25 on the Otonabee River.
- Apr 01 Tony Bigg watched an **Eastern Phoebe** flicking its tail in a bush on Maniece Ave by the Liftlock Golf Club, and also saw an **Eastern Meadowlark** on Duoro 8th Line. Anne Anthony had a **Cackling Goose** at Mather's Corners
- Apr 02 An **Osprey** was sighted by three groups today - Anne Anthony & Jerry Ball saw it over Little Lake, Everett Hanna at Trent University, and Tony Bigg over the nesting platform in Lakefield. Behind the arena in Lakefield Tony saw two **Cackling Geese**. On Nicholson Rd at Lakeview Jerry Ball & Anne Anthony saw a pair of **Eastern Bluebirds**, a male **Northern Harrier**, and four **Killdeer**. From the end of South Beach Rd in Youngs Point Mike Butler saw a **Canvasback** among about 350 other ducks. He also had a **Belted Kingfisher**. Randy Smith watched an **American Woodcock** walking over the snow in his yard.
- Apr 04 John Bottomley had a **Northern Harrier** at the junction of Hwy 115 and Cty Rd 28. Jerry Ball saw 14 **Northern Pintails** in the run-off pond at Mathers Corners, and a number of **Rusty Blackbirds** on Drummond Line south of Cty Rd 2. Tony Bigg had a **Long-tailed Duck** north of the Lakefield marsh. David and Sherry Hambly counted ten **Great Blue Herons** in the NE corner of Little Lake, and a **Pied-billed Grebe** east of the pier. Everett Hanna reported **Tree Swallows** flying past Trent University over the river. A **Rufous-sided Towhee** visited Tony Bigg's feeder in Lakefield, and a **Sandhill Crane** flew over his head. Martyn Obbard saw four **Great Blue Herons** on their nests at the Sandy Lake colony.
- Apr 05 Maureen Smith & Anne Anthony saw three **Yellow-rumped Warblers** in Maureen's yard by the Indian River in Warsaw. Drew Monkman observed at least 600 ducks on Little Lake, predominantly **Hooded Mergansers** and **Ring-necked Ducks**, but with small 'flocks' of **Pied-billed Grebes**. He also observed a single **Tree Swallow** by Lock 25 on the Otonabee River.
- Apr 06 Drew Monkman & Mike McMurtry found two **Greater White-fronted Geese** at the run-off pond at Mathers Corners amongst about a thousand **Canada Geese** two dozen **Northern Pintails** and eight **American Black Ducks**. Carrie Sadowski saw an **Eastern Phoebe** on the 7th Line of Smith, and listened to an **American Woodcock** peenting and twittering in the field behind her house. A pair of **Tree Swallows** was checking out their nest box in Carrie's yard.
- Apr 07 Myles Falconer heard **Common Redpolls** flying over Trent University and Lake Katchewanooka. He also had a flock of four visit his feeder. A **Common Loon** and two **Horned Grebes** were seen by Anne Anthony on Little Lake, and she saw her first **Groundhog** of the year near Strickland Rd north of Lakefield. Martyn Obbard heard a **Winter Wren** singing off Allen's Rd west of Buckhorn.
- Apr 08 Ken Rumble observed the **Merlin** back in Little Lake Cemetery, and saw a **Great Egret** in the swamp by Johnston Drive south of Hwy 115. On Buckhorn Lake Toni Sinclair saw fourteen **Wood Ducks** and four **American Wigeons**; along 6 Ft Bay Rd two **Eastern Bluebirds**, a **Ruffed Grouse**, a half dozen **Swamp Sparrows** and two **Eastern Phoebes**; and at her home two **Pileated Woodpeckers**, a pair of **Belted Kingfishers**, and a **Fox Sparrow**. Tony Bigg reported about 630 ducks were seen north of the Lakefield marsh, predominantly **Ring-necked Ducks**. The flock included one **Redhead**. One **Bonaparte's Gull** rode by on an ice-flow.
- Apr 09 Myles Falconer heard a **Savannah Sparrow** singing in the alfalfa field behind his house, and a late **Northern Shrike** terrorizing his feeders.
- Apr 10 Carrie Sadowski heard a couple of **Spring Peepers** calling behind her house south of Lakefield.
- Apr 11 Mike McMurtry heard **Chorus Frogs** calling 1km north of Trent in a bush swamp. He also saw a **River Otter** crossing the rail trail in the same area. Michael Butler and Martha Allen saw a male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** in Mt. Julian.
- Apr 13 A **Hoary Redpoll** visited Tony Bigg's feeders in Lakefield. Carrie Sadowski heard a couple of **Chorus Frogs** calling behind her house south of Lakefield.
- Apr 14 A **Snow Goose** was found by Jerry Ball at the Briar Hill Pond on Cty Rd 21.

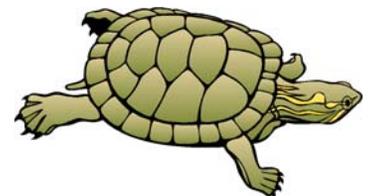
- Apr 15 Michael Butler and Martha Allen reported a **White-throated Sparrow** at their feeder in Mt. Julian, and had **Wood Frogs** calling. They also saw four **Blue-spotted Salamanders** crossing the Mt. Julian-Viamede Rd.
- Apr 16 Two **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were heard by Don Sutherland in the Avenues area of downtown Peterborough.
- Apr 17 Colin Jones had a singing **Chipping Sparrow** in his yard in Lakefield. Don Sutherland had a busy day conducting Chorus Frog surveys and encountered **Pine Warblers** in several locations; a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** with **Tree** and **Barn Swallows** over open water at Buckhorn; **Brown Thrasher** and **Eastern Towhee** in four areas from Ennismore across to Burleigh Falls; a **Blue-headed Vireo** north of Gannons Narrows; a **Fox Sparrow** at the Oliver Property on Pigeon Lake; displaying **Merlin** at seven sites!!; **Field Sparrows** at three sites; and **Vesper Sparrow** at two sites. He also heard good choruses of **Northern Leopard Frogs** and **Wood Frogs** and saw one **Mourning Cloak** butterfly. He saw **DOR Spotted Salamanders** at several sites. Carrie Sadowski encountered a **Northern Red-bellied Snake** crossing the rail-trail north of Trent University. Michael Butler and Martha Allen had twelve **Evening Grosbeaks** at their feeder in Mt. Julian. Jerry Ball had two **Greater Yellowlegs** at Mathers Corners, and five **Red-necked Grebes** on Clear Lake at the end of South Beach Rd.
- Apr 18 An adult **Red-spotted Newt** and a **Spotted Salamander** were seen by Michael Butler and Martha Allen at Mt Julian.
- Apr 19 Drew Monkman and Jerry Ball watched the Lake Katchewanooka **Bald Eagles** feeding their two eaglets in the nest on Picnic Island. They also recorded about twenty **Mourning Cloaks**. Don Sutherland saw a **Broad-winged Hawk** south of Havelock, and heard several **Virginia Rails** north of Havelock. He saw a flock of five **Bohemian Waxwings** in downtown Havelock; **White-throated Sparrows** and **Purple Finches** were singing in a number of locations. Jerry Ball had a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** over the river at Trent University.
- Apr 20 Tony Bigg located a **Merlin's** nest in a tree near the Marshland Centre in Lakefield, and heard two **American Bitterns** in the marsh. Drew Monkman and led an Earth Day Watch nature hike at the Lakefield Marshland noted a **Spotted Sandpiper**, a **Caspian Tern**, a displaying male **Northern Harrier**, and a flock of six blue morph **Snow Geese** flying north. They also noted a **Green Darner** dragonfly alongside the marsh. Michael Butler and Martha Allen saw a pair of mating **Eastern Pondhawk** dragonflies in a cattail marsh near Mt Julian. Carrie Sadowski reorted the first **American Toad** of the year.
- Apr 21 A **Yellow Warbler** was heard singing by Myles Falconer near his home on the Young's Point Rd.
- Apr 22 A **Northern Shoveler** was seen by Jerry Ball at Mathers Corners.
- Apr 24 Tony Bigg and Jerry Ball found five species of butterfly in the Sandy Lake Rd area - 30 **Henry's Elfins**, by far the most ever seen in the county, 24 **Mourning Cloaks**, 12 **Spring Azures**, 8 **Brown Elfins**, and a **Gray Comma**. They also saw a very large **Snapping Turtle** sunning itself on a log.
- Apr 25 A late **Pine Grosbeak** is still coming to the feeder of Paul and Jennifer Burke on University Rd. Don Sutherland saw three **Bohemian Waxwings** on Fenwood Circle in Peterborough.
- Apr 26 Drew Monkman had a very early **Least Flycatcher** in his yard in the west end of Peterborough. He also had a **Red Admiral** in his yard. Micheal Butler and Martha Allen report the first **White-crowned Sparrow** and **Pine Siskins** of the year in their yard at Mt Julian. They also had **Black-throated Green Warblers**, **Blackburnian Warblers** and a **Hermit Thrush** nearby in the woods, and two **Caspian Terns** over Stony Lake. Don Sutherland added **Northern Waterthrush** and **Palm Warbler** to the warbler list hearing them in several areas in the Ennismore-Buckhorn-Nogies Creek region. He also had a **House Wren**. New herps seen were **Green Frogs**, **Gray Treefrogs**, **Eastern Garter Snake**, and a **Northern Ribbon Snake**. on the rail-trail near trent Don also added a **Black-and-white Warbler**.
- Apr 27 Don Sutherland heard an **Ovenbird** singing in The Petroglyphs PP.

PFN Officers and Directors

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Other Volunteers

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FON Rep	Rhea Bringeman	742-1035
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NatureWorks

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Dragons and Damsels

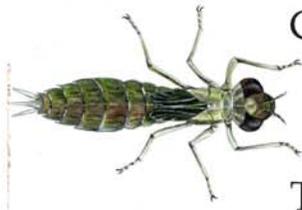
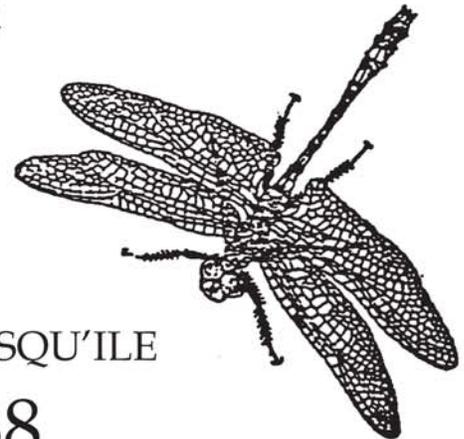
Sunday, June 22, 2008

Discover the world of **Dragonflies** and **Damselflies**. Find out how these flying jewels live, how to find them, catch them, identify them and then let them go. We will look at both adults and larva and find out what exuviae are.



This 6 hour course will consist of both inside and outside adventures. Brings binoculars and dragonfly (butterfly) nets if you have them. Some nets available for use. Bring a lunch.

Fee \$15 per person
(park admission is included.)
Registration is required.



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through the co-operation of Ontario Parks
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MEMBERSHIP

Memberships may be obtained at the monthly meeting or by mailing a copy of the application form below to:
Don Pettypiece, 18 Parkview Dr, Peterborough, Ontario, K9H 5M6

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Tel. Home _____ Work _____ Email _____

Type of Membership and Fee Schedule (2008) – Please make cheques payable to: Peterborough Field Naturalists

- 1. () Student (September through to April) \$15
- 2. () Single (1 adult or 1 child*) \$25

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

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



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

Name _____ age _____ Name _____ age _____
 Name _____ age _____ Name _____ age _____

Main Interests (Tick only 3):

- (a) Birds _____ (b) Butterflies/Insects _____ (c) Wildflowers/Trees/ Shrubs _____ (d) Astronomy _____ (e) Aquatic Life _____
- (f) Geology _____ (g) Field Trips _____ (h) Hiking _____ (i) Conservation _____
- (j) Other (please specify) _____

I (name _____) am knowledgeable in the following area(s) _____ and would be prepared to: () lead an outdoor session, () give an indoor presentation, () prepare an article for *The Orchid*

I am interested in the following:

- () Joining the PFN executive () Sitting on research or conservation committees
- () Working on field projects () Helping with refreshments at meetings
- () Please have a member of the executive call me

Age groups

This information is optional but helps us to understand the needs of our membership. If yours is a family membership, please check for each adult. Under 20 (), 20-24 (), 25-29 (), 30-34 (), 35-39 (), 40-44 (), 45-49 (), 50-54 (), 55-59 (), 60-64 (), 65-69 (), 70-79 (), 80 & over ().

Comments

We are always looking for ways to improve the club. Please attach a separate sheet listing any ideas that you may have.

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

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

Signature _____