

# The Orchid



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## *Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists*

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



A Fisher on April 16 near Stoney Lake. Photo: Shayla McIsaac

**Inside:** Nature in April  
Presidents' Messages  
Book Review: A Sand County Almanac  
Horsetails: Living Fossils  
Ways to Help Wildlife  
Planting for Pollinators... and much more!



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Clockwise from top: A monster-sized (18" diameter) lacquered bracket or *Ganoderma lucidum* at Catchacoma Lake (Karen MacDonald), Osprey building nest near Pigeon Lake on April 11 (Shayla McIsaac), and Dutchman's Breeches in bloom along the Stoney Lake trails on April 23 (Kathryn Sheridan).

### Welcome new PFN members!

- Marie Legrow
- Katie & Simon Treviranus
- Margaret Marchen
- William Petrie
- Sam Clapperton
- Malcolm Marcus
- Rebecca Reimer & James Duncan
- Kim Erskine & Rob Brown
- Maryann Twomey
- Scott Cecchin
- Jason Smyrlis

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Sunday, May 7 8 to 11 a.m. 10 participants <b>Outing is now FULL</b></p>	<p><b>Lang-Hastings Rail Trail</b></p> <p>Steve Paul will lead a walk along the Lang-Hastings Trail (LHT), from Keene Rd to Technology Drive and back. This section of the LHT travels through two beautiful marshland sections with a deciduous forest in the middle. This mixed habitat is great for seeing all that spring has to offer and provides a chance to see lots of returning birds. Be sure to bring your binoculars and dress for the weather of the day. Register by email to <a href="mailto:stevepaul70@gmail.com">stevepaul70@gmail.com</a> (or call 705-930-8370) after March 4. Details on the meeting place will be sent when Steve confirms your spot.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy walking along a level rail trail. 2.6 km</p>
<p>Thursday, May 11 Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting starts 7:30 p.m. Hybrid meeting: Zoom + in-person at Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road Maximum 45 attendees</p>	<p><b>PFN Monthly Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Presentation #1: Maela Kaminski on "Variations in the Brood Sex Ratios of Tree Swallows in Response to Environmental Quality."</b></p> <p>Maela is in her fourth year of Biomedical Science at Trent University and intends to pursue a masters degree in Public Health. Maela's project compares the nestling sexes of tree swallow broods to the environmental quality pre and post laying. Her long-term data set was created using unmanipulated nests from past field seasons, alongside her 2022 field season, which had only unmanipulated nests. Small blood samples were taken from these nestlings, with protocols approved by Trent University Animal Care. Lab work was then performed on these blood samples to determine if each nestling was male or female to create the sex ratios.</p> <p><b>Presentation #2: Sarah Jamieson on "Urban Ecology"</b></p> <p>Much of Dr. Sarah Jamieson's career involved traipsing around the globe studying bird behavioural ecology in remote settings like the Alaskan tundra and offshore islands. However, she now calls Peterborough home, where she works as an Assistant Professor in the Biology Department of Trent University. Her current research focuses on the wildlife that also call Peterborough home. She will be discussing how the urban environment provides both opportunities and challenges for wildlife and she will share some of her student's research on Robin nesting ecology and mesocarnivore (and birds!) scavenging behaviours.</p>  
<p>Sunday, May 14 8 to 11 a.m. Omeme 15 participants</p>	<p><b>A Walk on the Hogsback Trail, an Esker near Omeme</b></p> <p>Join Scott McKinlay for a birding and nature hike along the Hogsback Trail, Omeme Esker. While on our way there, we will be making a couple of stops in the Cavan hills and swamps. The 2.5 km Hogsback trail is hilly and rocky in areas and can be muddy after a rainfall, so wear sturdy footwear. For those that are comfortable with carpooling we will employ cars at both ends of the trail to ferry our way back to the beginning. Those NOT comfortable with carpooling will</p>


PFN Coming Events	
	<p>need to turn back on the trail at some point. Bring binoculars and wear weather-appropriate clothing. We will be meeting at 8:00 a.m., WEST of Peterborough. Contact Scott at smckinlay59@yahoo.ca or 705-944-5522 for further details and to register. Please indicate your preference for carpooling or not at that time. Accessibility: moderate to challenging.</p>
<p>May 20, 24, 28, June 1 or 5 8:15 to 8:45 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Chimney Swift Roost Watches</b></p> <p>PFN members are invited to see Chimney Swifts gather, circle and then dive into their roost as part of Birds Canada's annual monitoring of their numbers. The outing takes place on the top level of the King Street parkade on any of five nights (May 20, 24, 28, June 1 and 5). Meet on the top floor (parking is free in the evening) at 8:15 pm. Contact Chris Risley (risleych@gmail.com) for more information. Registration is not necessary. Accessibility: Easy</p> 
<p>Sunday, May 21 8 to 11 a.m. 15 Participants</p>	<p><b>Spring Birding in the Catchacoma Old Growth Forest</b></p> <p>The Catchacoma Old Growth Forest, located in the Northern Kawarthas, is well known for its giant eastern hemlocks (some of which are over 300 years old) as well as its numerous moss-covered granite boulders, lichens and fungi. It is also a sanctuary for many bird and animal species. This outing, led again by Stewart MacDonald, will focus on searching for spring migrants including warblers and other songbirds known to breed and pass through the Kawarthas. The meeting place will be the Forest Parking Lot off Hwy 507. Stewart will provide more details upon registration. The outing is on uneven and occasionally muddy trails and would be considered of moderate difficulty. Good walking footwear is recommended. Participants should dress for the weather of the day and be prepared for the arrival of spring insects. Please e-mail Stewart at stewjmacdonald@aol.com to register. Accessibility: moderate.</p> 
<p>Sunday, May 28 8 to 11 a.m. 15 participants</p>	<p><b>Exploring Cavan Back Roads</b></p> <p>Enjoy a spring nature hike in the Cavan area. We'll walk along a quiet road, some wooded trails and edges of farmland. We'll watch out for 'all things nature' so bring your knowledge of plants, mammals, birds, insects, tracks etc. and we'll learn from each other. Accessibility easy for the most part but some spots moderate because of a few hills. Bring binoculars, bug spray and wear comfortable footwear. Please register with Lynn Smith smithfam@nexicom.net. Further details will be sent to those who register. Accessibility: easy to moderate</p>
<p>Saturday, June 3 8 a.m. 20 participants</p>	<p><b>Birds, Butterflies and Botany - Carden Plain</b></p> <p>Join us for an all-day visit to the wonderful Carden Plain. This is an unusual alvar habitat that is home to an abundance of rare grassland bird species, butterflies and plants. Carden Plain is a globally rare habitat 65 km west of Peterborough. Significant bird species include Loggerhead Shrike, Golden-winged Warbler,</p>





## PFN Coming Events

	<p>Osprey, Black Terns, Sedge Wren, Yellow Rail, Upland Sandpiper, Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Towhee and Brown Thrashers. Butterflies and flowering plants add extra delight to the trip. Bring lawn chairs, lunch, water, camera and/or binoculars. Leaders for this outing include Sue Paradisis, Martha Lawrence, Colleen Lynch and Don McLeod. To register for this event after May 4, please contact Sue Paradisis at 705-559-2061 or sueparadisis@hotmail.com</p> <p>Accessibility: easy. Some driving on a gravel road.</p>
<p>Tuesday, June 20 10 to 3 p.m. 10 participants and Wednesday, June 21 10 to 3 p.m. 10 participants</p>	<p><b>Algonquin Park Day Outings</b></p> <p>The April Orchid announced our first annual PFN camping trip to Algonquin Park, June 19 to 22, which is now full. Campers will be contacted directly by email with the camping agenda.</p> <p>Day outings for PFN members will be offered June 20 and 21 from 10 to 3 p.m. Day trip participants will be joining the campers for walks on trails ranging from 1 to 2 km along the Hwy 60 corridor with birds, butterflies, trees and botanizing being the highlights. Leaders will include Don McLeod, Colleen Lynch and Sue Paradisis for all or most outings. While weather will dictate the exact schedule, our stops should include (but are not limited to):</p> <p><b>Tuesday, June 20.</b> Accessibility: Easy  10:00 a.m. - Meet in Algonquin Logging Museum Parking Lot for park history and nature walk.  12:00 p.m. - Park Visitors Center, lunch, birding, lookout, shopping  1:00 p.m. - Mew Lake Old Airfield birding &amp; butterflying  3:00 p.m. - Independent activities</p> <p><b>Wednesday, June 21</b>  10:00 a.m. - Meet in Lookout Trail Parking Lot off Hwy 60 for morning outing.  Accessibility: moderate  12:00 p.m. - Park Visitors Center, lunch, birding, lookout, shopping  1:00 p.m. - Spruce Bog Boardwalk trail, birding and botany  Accessibility: Easy  3:00 p.m. - Independent activities</p> <p>Please contact Colleen Lynch at clynch166@gmail.com 705-868-4262 after May 5 to register for day outings and indicate which day(s) are preferred.</p> <p>Reminder for Day Participants: Permits must be reserved by calling Ontario Parks reservation service at 1-888-668-7275 or online at OntarioParks.com</p> <p>Bring your lunch, binoculars, bug spray, sunscreen and dress suitable for weather conditions.</p>
<p>Note: Recordings of past PFN Zoom meetings can be viewed on PFN's YouTube channel at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAgbbqgr4ujZ16qba23LTQQ">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAgbbqgr4ujZ16qba23LTQQ</a> under the playlist menu.</p>	



Other Events of Interest	
<p>Saturday, Apr. 29 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jackson Park</p>	<p><b>City of Peterborough Bioblitz</b></p>  <p>PFN is excited to be partnering with the City of Peterborough to participate in the global City Nature Challenge competition to record nature sightings within communities. From Friday, April 28 to Monday, May 1, people are encouraged to report all their nature sightings on iNaturalist. On Saturday, an in-person bioblitz will be held in Jackson Park with naturalists searching for as many species as they can find. Teams will focus on a specific theme such as birds, plants, insects, trees and shrubs or life in the creek. Volunteers are needed to lead or help with a team throughout the day. Participating in a bioblitz is a great way to learn while contributing to citizen science. A good inventory of the biodiversity of the park can be useful in protecting it from encroachment.</p> <p>In addition, volunteers are needed to lead short hikes throughout the day to share their enthusiasm about nature to citizens who come to learn. A good knowledge of iNaturalist and general knowledge of nature is all that's needed as people will be learning to use iNaturalist to identify what they find. For more information on how you can participate, contact Sue Paradisis at 705-559-2061 or sueparadisis@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Saturday, May 13 1 to 4 p.m. Peterborough Public Library 345 Aylmer St. N.</p>	<p><b>Join Us for the 2023 World Migratory Bird Day Celebrations!</b></p> <p>On this year's World Migratory Bird Day on May 13, Bird Friendly Peterborough (BFP) will be celebrating two key initiatives with Peterborough Public Library. The first is the launch of birding kits that will be available to the community to encourage birding and other outdoor activities, primarily funded by the Peterborough Field Naturalists through a generous donation by the Hunter family. The second is the grand reveal of the Library's window decal installation, making it the first City building to do so in collaboration with BFP. Councillors, City staff, First Nations representatives, and BFP funders will be invited to celebrate the day with us, as well as our community partners in environmental protection and climate action, with speeches planned and activities scheduled for the entire community, including a live bird show. BFP will also be announcing the winner of the drawing competition, Who's Blue, that's been running in schools to promote our official City bird, the Great Blue Heron. We hope you'll be able to join us on May 13 at the Library from 1 to 4 p.m.</p> <p><i>Please see page 27 for advertisement of Juniors event on this day</i></p>
<p>Sunday, May 7 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. KLT's Ballyduff Trails Pontypool</p>	<p><b>Immersive Nature Outing: Emergence</b></p> <p>Enjoy wandering a Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) property while learning mindfulness-based techniques for deepening your connection with nature. We will learn how to sharpen our observational skills, strengthen our sense of connection to other beings and their habitats, and experience the ordinary magic of sense perceptions. The session will be held for three hours, with the option of staying the rest of the day to explore this beautiful property further.</p>

	<p>To find out more and to sign up, please visit:  <a href="https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/immersive-nature-outing-1-emergence-tickets-620200645827?lang=en-ca&amp;locale=en_CA&amp;status=30&amp;view=listing">https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/immersive-nature-outing-1-emergence-tickets-620200645827?lang=en-ca&amp;locale=en_CA&amp;status=30&amp;view=listing</a></p>
<p>Saturday, May 20  10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  Ecology Park</p>	<p><b>Annual Spring Opening Event of GreenUP Ecology Park Native Plant &amp; Tree Nursery</b></p> <p>The nursery in Ecology Park is located at 1899 Ashburnham Drive in Peterborough. Parking is in the south end of the Beavermead lot off Marsdale Drive. Walk down the Trans Canada Trail from there.</p> 
<p>Saturday, May 20  9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  Toronto</p>	<p><b>Native Plant Sale by the North American Native Plant Society</b></p> <p>Please see advert on page 10 for more information.</p> <p>Plants provided by NANPS-approved ethical growers. Knowledgeable volunteers available for assistance.</p>
<p>May 26 to 28  Friday to Sunday  South Bruce Peninsula</p>	<p><b>Bruce Peninsula Nature Weekend</b></p> <p>Limestone cliffs and sand beaches, hardwood forests and cedar swamps, fens and alvars – this variety of ecosystems on the Bruce Peninsula makes it a special place to explore.</p> <p>After a hiatus of three years due to COVID-19, South Peel Naturalists' Club (SPNC) is again hosting its annual Red Bay Weekend. This event provides the opportunity to explore the Bruce with knowledgeable leaders, share time with fellow naturalists and enjoy accommodations on the shore of Lake Huron.</p> <p>The cost for the weekend is \$20 per person registration fee to cover cost of bucket raffle prizes and lodging for our volunteer leaders - payable in advance by cheque or e-transfer to mail@spnc.ca – plus \$139.59 per person/per night (minimum two nights) accommodation at Evergreen Resort, Mar, ON (includes all meals and snacks). For further information, write to mail@spnc.ca or contact Audrey at 905-820-2571 (oswalda@sympatico.ca)</p> 
<p>Friday, June 9 to  Sunday, June 11  Sudbury</p>	<p><b>In-Person Ontario Nature Annual Gathering</b></p> <p>Ontario Nature has announced it's extending the registration date for its 2023 Annual Gathering and 92nd AGM! This event will be hosted at Collège Boréal in beautiful Sudbury, the City of Lakes, from June 9 to 11. To reserve your spot, register by May 15.</p> <p>The weekend will feature inspiring speakers, expert-led nature workshops and guided field trips to some incredible natural and restoration areas. This is an opportunity to spend time in unique and inspirational venues, Dynamic Earth and Collège Boréal. It's the perfect opportunity to connect with fellow nature lovers and have a memorable weekend.</p> <p>For more information and to register go to <a href="https://ontarionature.org/events/annual-gathering">ontarionature.org/events/annual-gathering</a></p>

## **Volunteer Corner**



### **Call for Board Members**

The Board of Directors is responsible for making all the good things happen that you enjoy as a PFN member. We organize meetings, outings and programs; and carry out advocacy to protect the environment that we love.

Are you interested in helping to manage the PFN as it faces the challenges of the next year, which include:

- a return to live services after the COVID-19 epidemic fades;
- continuing our transition to the world of digital communications;
- advocating to protect our natural environment in the face of pressures from development and climate change;
- involving more young people in PFN objectives and activities.

If so, the Board is looking for new members to join our group of volunteers committed to the PFN. We are anticipating two vacancies this year and would like to bring the Board up to full complement. If you are interested, please contact Ted Vale, the Chair of the Nominating Committee at [treasurer@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:treasurer@peterboroughnature.org)

### **Tech Support for Hybrid Meetings**

As we continue to offer our monthly meetings through a hybrid model, we are looking for volunteer(s) to provide in-person tech support during these meetings at the Environment Centre. This is a perfect opportunity for anyone who wants to volunteer a little bit of their time with the PFN and also happens to regularly attend our monthly meetings. Tasks include getting the speaker and their presentation set up on the laptop that's available and ready to go at the Environment Centre, and starting and monitoring the Zoom portion of the meeting using the same laptop. A document with detailed directions will be included. If interested to learn more or to sign up, please email Reem Ali: [reemest@hotmail.com](mailto:reemest@hotmail.com). She will walk you through all of the steps and answer any questions you might have about the process.

### **Seeking Volunteers for Turtle Guardians**

The Land Between runs a variety of community science programs that allow community members to survey for turtles, and contribute to keeping these at-risk populations safe. Volunteers are an integral part of this work.

Through Turtle Guardians Community Science, volunteers have the opportunity to gain skills and experience helping and handling wild turtles, learn about turtle biology, spend time outside, connect with other turtle lovers, and SO much more! The programs run from approximately the middle of May to the end of September. Volunteers can participate at any age, from almost anywhere in the province, for as much or as little time as they would like. Free training is provided prior to starting volunteer work.

For more information and to register as a volunteer for the Turtle Guardians Community Science program, please visit: <https://www.turtleguardians.com/volunteering/>



## President's Message



At the first Board meeting after our Annual General Meeting, I was chosen to be the next President of the Peterborough Field Naturalists. I am honoured that my fellow Board members have given me their support. It is a role that I will take seriously. I have been a member most of my life and believe strongly in our motto which is to "Know, Appreciate and Conserve Nature in all its Forms." The PFN means a lot to me, and I will work hard for all it stands for.

COVID-19 brought many changes to our organization - most notably limited opportunities to gather but also a great increase in membership. Through involvement in outings and in-person meetings, I am gradually getting to know some of you and I look forward to meeting many more. I hope you will enjoy your membership.

At the Board level, we will be working on a strategic plan to guide our future. This is an opportunity for some of you to contribute by joining the Board and having a say. There are still two vacancies to fill. As we continue to grow, more help is needed in other areas as well and by volunteering, you will be working along with other naturalists who share your values and love of the environment. If we all pitch in, we can accomplish a lot in 2023. The Board members are listed in the Orchid. Please feel free to reach out to us with suggestions or comments.

Sue Paradisis, PFN President

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## Apply for a PFN Community Projects Grant for Your Special Project

### Submitted by Martin Parker

The Peterborough Field Naturalist (PFN) Community Projects Grant initiative was created to support members or community partners in enhancing the naturalist community or natural environment in Peterborough and the Kawarthas. This year the PFN is able to offer a limited number of grants up to \$300. Each application will be reviewed by the PFN Grant Selection Committee. Please attach any supporting documents such as letters of permission if your project is on private or public lands.

PFN Community Projects Grant is available to a member of the PFN or non-profit group for the purposes of completing projects or research that:

1. Enhance understanding of nature through education or research
2. Restore or conserve habitat through stewardship or restoration

When a grant is awarded, it is requested that:

3. Projects are completed within 8 months.
4. Upon completion, a short project report is submitted to the PFN bulletin, "The Orchid". Pictures are encouraged.

Grants may be used to cover project expenses such as supporting volunteer involvement, material costs, printing, data analysis, field equipment or supplies. Overhead expenses such as payroll or salary are not eligible.

The application form is available on the PFN website [www.peterboroughnature.org](http://www.peterboroughnature.org) or by contacting Martin Parker at [mparker19@cogeco.ca](mailto:mparker19@cogeco.ca). Please submit a completed application to the attention of Martin Parker at [info@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:info@peterboroughnature.org). Applications will be reviewed by the PFN Grant Selection Committee who will submit a report to the Board.

## PFN Award Recipients at 2023 Peterborough Regional Science Fair

### Submitted by Martin Parker

For many years, the Peterborough Field Naturalists have sponsored four special awards at the annual Peterborough Regional Science Fair. The awards are for the two best projects in the Elementary Category (Grades 4 to 6) and the Junior Category (Grades 7 & 8). The PFN Special Awards are for projects that increase interest and stimulate study of nature and wildlife, environment, conservation, or pollution research. This year, the Peterborough Regional Science Fair returned to an in-person fair for the first time since 2019.

### In the Elementary Category (Grades 4 to 6) the two winning projects were:

#### Gray is the New Green, Reusing Gray Water to Grow Plants by Claire Sehn

The purpose of this project was to determine if gray water can make plants grow. The hypothesis is that grass and African Violets will survive when watered with laundry water, dishwater, and shower water, when compared to clean tap water.

#### Erosion in Motion by Addison Hancock

The hypothesis was that rock would be the most effective ground cover to reduce soil erosion. An experiment involved pop bottles containing soil, and alternate forms of groundcover including grass, rock or mulch and then documenting qualitative observations and quantitative measurements of the amount of water collected as water was poured on each example. The runoff was collected on each sample. Erosion occurred more slowly where soil contained living grass relative to the other alternate groundcovers tested.

### In the Junior Category (Grades 7 and 8) the two winning projects were:

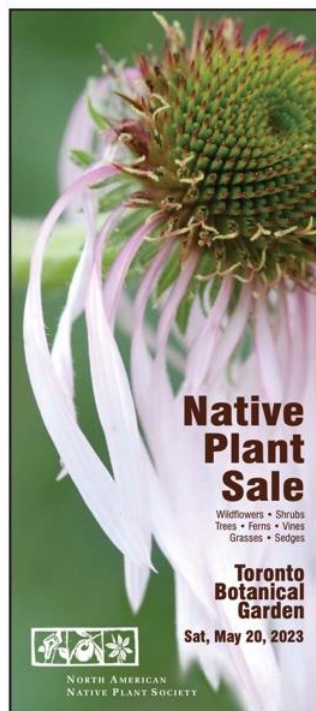
#### Superfood for Superworms by Corbin Kretschmar-Ford and Leo Weiskittle

This project involved superworms, the larvae of darkling beetles (*Zophobos morio*) and looked at their ability to digest cardboard and Styrofoam. Their project was to determine which material is the most successfully recycled by superworms.

#### Purifying Chlorinated Water with Carbon by Eli Sehn

The purpose of this project was to develop a filtration system to remove chlorine from water using activated charcoal and filters. She used a variety of filters and measured the level of residual chlorine.

Each of these four winning projects received a cash award of \$40. Funding for these awards was from the annual grant from the PFN Legacy Fund, managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough.



## PFN Members Receive Special Recognition and Appointments

### Submitted by Martin Parker

Over the past few months, several members of the PFN received recognition for their contribution to natural history. They are as follows:

Dr. Erica Nol was awarded the Distinguished Ornithologist Award at the 2022 Annual Meeting of Ontario Field Ornithologists. This has been awarded most years since 1997 by the Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) to individuals who have made outstanding and authoritative contributions to the scientific study of birds in Ontario and Canada, who have been a resource to OFO and the Ontario birding community and whose research on birds has resulted in new ornithological knowledge.

Mike Oldham was awarded the John Goldie Award at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Field Botanists of Ontario. This is FBO's lifetime achievement award given to an individual in recognition of their contribution to the knowledge of Ontario's flora. Mike is recognized as one of the foremost experts on Ontario flora and is known throughout North America. Mike's life-long interest in natural history started with his participation as a youth in PFN activities.

Ian Attridge was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship at the Annual Awards night of the Peterborough Rotary Club in November for his role as an environmental spokesperson and leader in the Peterborough region.

Pam Martin has been appointed a co-editor of the journal 'Ontario Birds' of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. Pam has retired from a long career with the Canadian Wildlife Service and returned to the Peterborough area. As a youth member of the PFN, she participated in the Peterborough Christmas Bird Counts in the 1970s.

Mike V.A. Burrell was appointed in January as the Provincial Coordinator of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas 3. The Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas is a joint project of Birds Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ontario Field Ornithologists and Ontario Nature.

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## President's Address at 2023 AGM



By Rene Gareau (now Past-President) on Thursday, April 13

Good evening to all of you, and welcome to our PFN Annual General Meeting. This year's meeting is being conducted live and in-person in front of you for the first time in the past 3 years, and it's great to see so many of you here tonight! I also want to welcome those of you who are joining us via Zoom tonight as well. It's great to be able to connect with all of you!

Once again over the past year, as with all of you individually, the PFN has also had to adapt and cope with the many challenges presented by the Covid situation. Having said that, I would characterize the past 12 months as having been a period of ongoing transition and progress for the PFN. Just five weeks ago on March 9, we conducted our first ever "hybrid members' meeting" at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre ("hybrid" in this case, meaning that it was conducted simultaneously both in-person and on Zoom). That meeting seemed to go fairly well, and so we will likely continue with hybrid members' meetings for the foreseeable future. This means that you will have the option of attending our members' meetings in-person or via Zoom.

I'd like to make a couple of general observations, and also recap just a few of the many highlights for the PFN over the past year. In the interest of time, I won't go through the full list of highlights, but I would encourage you to review the PFN's 2022 annual report which is provided on pages 9 through 14 of the April edition of *The Orchid*, if you haven't yet had a chance to do so.



As you're all aware, the motto of the PFN which was formulated when our club was originally founded some 83 years ago is: "To know, appreciate, and conserve nature in all its forms." Let's examine that in today's context. It's probably never been easier for us to know whatever we're interested in knowing about nature. We have ready access to various sources of information on a wide range of websites on the Internet. A good variety of field guides and other nature-related books are also readily available at your local bookstore, and you're likely able to access a number of nature-related programs on TV as well. If you participate in our PFN nature outings, your trip leader (as well as other outing participants) can be helpful in identifying a wide range of flora and fauna as well. And all of these sources of information will help you to appreciate nature, which is the second part of our motto.

But the biggest challenge that we face today is the "conserve" portion of our motto. As you're all no doubt aware, nature in all its many forms is very much at risk on a world-wide scale, due to land encroachment and deforestation, severe weather events related to climate change, as well as massive forest fires, just to name a few. With the PFN, much of the advocacy effort relating to conservation issues originates with Ontario Nature, the provincial organization with which the PFN and most other naturalist organizations are affiliated. Our club fully supports most of the Ontario Nature initiatives in this regard. On a local basis, we very much appreciate and support the initiatives of the Kawartha Land Trust, an excellent organization which has succeeded in acquiring and protecting several natural areas in this region, or in some cases, entering into land management agreements with land owners. On a broader scope, we have also supported the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Going forward, the PFN will continue to support and collaborate with these organizations and others, to ensure that our own natural areas are protected and preserved for future generations to appreciate.

My hope is that in some way, the PFN will continue to help each of you cope with the significant challenges and disruptions that you've all had to deal with due to the pandemic. What we all have in common is that we're all part of a community that loves and appreciates nature. Whether through our monthly members' Zoom meetings featuring a great variety of guest speakers, or through the regular publication of our Orchid newsletter, or through the various outings that we were able to undertake, our over-riding objective this past year has been to help keep you all connected as much as possible to each other, and to nature. I would encourage all of you to continue finding peace and enjoyment within the natural areas that surround us here in Peterborough County. I want to mention just a couple of other noteworthy areas of involvement for the PFN:

- Important citizen science initiatives: many PFN members participated in very successful Christmas bird counts (in Peterborough, and in Petroglyphs provincial park), as well as the Petroglyphs-area butterfly count.
- We've made ongoing improvements to our digital presence, with a significant increase in social media followers.
- We continued to advocate for nature by providing our perspective on issues such as the Trent Lands developments and the challenges facing Harper Park.
- We provided donations to the Kawartha Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy of Canada for their very worthwhile natural area conservation activities;
- We also supported a range of Ontario Nature initiatives aimed at protecting natural areas in our area, and throughout the province of Ontario.

As you will hear tonight from our Treasurer, Ted Vale, our financial situation continues to be very solid, thanks in large part to your continued support. I can assure you that your board of directors have continued to take our fiduciary responsibilities very seriously. We have also benefited from an Investment Fund and Legacy Fund which were set up with a substantial donation bequeathed to the PFN from the Rhea

Bringeman estate years ago. Many of you have made supplemental member donations to our club this past year, and I want to thank all of our members for their ongoing support.

And so, in closing, I can assure you that your PFN board of directors has put a lot of effort into adapting to the many challenges that we've had to deal with this past year, and we will continue to do so going forward. I want to once again thank each of our directors and all of our dedicated volunteers for their ongoing efforts. And I also want to thank all of you, our valued PFN members, for your ongoing interest and support.

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## PFN Annual General Meeting Report

### Submitted by Shelley King

The Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) enjoyed a successful Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the evening of Thursday, April 13 at the Peterborough Golf and Country Club. It was wonderful to gather in-person again and to share an evening of hors d'oeuvres, business, bucket draws, a silent auction and guest speakers, Jenny Jackman and Gerry McKenna of Willow Beach Field Naturalists (WBFN). Their presentation, "Saving Wesleyville" was informative, educational and inspiring.



Photo: Steve Paul

Seventy-five people attended the meeting in-person and with members who joined by Zoom, total attendance for the Annual General Meeting was almost one hundred participants.

Thanks to the generous support of donors and participants, the 2nd annual AGM Online Auction was a huge success. Close to 100 items were donated, providing lots of bidding fun both online and at the AGM. In total, \$1,304 was raised online and an additional \$304 was raised from the bucket draw and silent auction tables at the AGM, for a total of \$1,608. The online auction is the primary fundraiser for the PFN.

### Certificates of Appreciation

Each year the PFN recognizes those people who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. This year we recognized and honoured the following with a Certificate of Appreciation:

**Marilyn Hubley** - Marilyn recently resigned from the Board after serving for eight years as a Director. She has always been cheerful and willing to help with many different activities. She maintained the PFN website for many years and was instrumental in developing a PFN presence on social media. Up to the time of the pandemic, Marilyn was the presence behind the snack table at member meetings and turned it into a profit centre for the Club. Marilyn promises to remain active in club activities and has been coordinating the Orchid Diary.

**Martin Parker** - We acknowledge Martin Parker's contributions to the PFN through decades of service as a Director and dedicated member and volunteer. His jovial approach to life and animated stories have brought many a smile to the faces of PFN members. As a student on April 15, 1971, Martin and others succeeded in obtaining a Charter that created the charitable, not for profit corporation which is the Peterborough Field Naturalists. Since that time, Martin has served the PFN as a director including service as President and many other roles.

Martin resigned from the Board in June of 2022. Martin's commitment to the PFN and his passion for nature continues in the role of PFN Archivist, through participation on committees, contributions to *The Orchid* and in continuing to coordinate the Peterborough Christmas Bird Count.

**Jim Young** - Jim has been a stalwart member of the PFN for over 25 years. During that time, he served on the Board of Directors for at least ten years. He created the PFN's first website, was Treasurer from 2001 to 2011 and has been Membership Secretary since 2011. Always a willing volunteer, Jim was on the Miller Creek maintenance crew, was involved in advocacy around the Lily Lake subdivision plans, and attended Council meetings whenever the PFN was making presentations. Jim is an inspiration for all of us who are members of the PFN.

**Brenda Ibey** - Brenda opened the Avant-Garden Shop over 20 years ago. Originally the focus was on gardening but over time it expanded to include all kinds of birding products such as books, feeders and high-quality seed. Brenda also has a bi-weekly segment on CHEX TV's Morning Show and often discusses educational and informative bird related topics.

A long-time supporter of the PFN, Brenda has donated items for PFN bucket draws, sells our publications, keeps sample copies of *The Orchid* on her counter for customers, all the while providing us with an excellent local store for birding products. We very much appreciate Brenda's continuing support



Jenny Jackman and Gerry McKenna of WBFN giving their presentation. Photo: Steve Paul

**Cameron Douglas** - Cam is the founder and program director of Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board's Youth Leadership in Sustainability (YLS), a program for Grade 11 and 12 students run in partnership with Trent University and the Kawartha World Issues Centre. Students are prepared for leadership roles in sustainability issues at local and global levels. The current class had the opportunity to attend the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) in Montreal where they presented their vision, and met with the Peterborough mayor and councillors to encourage the city to integrate the global biodiversity deal into city decision making.

Cam has been an educator for over 20 years and focuses his teaching on social justice and sustainability challenges. He was awarded the OSSTF James Forester Human Rights Award and the Ontario Teachers Federation Secondary Teachers award for creating the YLS Program. Cam's classes empower his young students to speak up for change and advocate for the environment with creative solutions, something we can all appreciate.

**Bird Friendly Peterborough** - All across Canada, municipalities, nature groups, and other community groups are working with Nature Canada to reduce threats and make local environments safer for birds. Peterborough was certified in May 2022, and is one of ten communities in Ontario and 19 communities across Canada that have been officially recognized as meeting "Bird-Friendly City" standards. Locally, the Peterborough Bird Friendly Team is led by five partner organizations: Kawartha Wildlife Centre, Riverview Park and Zoo, GreenUp, Camp Kawartha and the Peterborough Field Naturalists.

Since its inception, Bird Friendly Peterborough (BFP) has been working hard to create educational programs for all ages, for people from all backgrounds and levels of experience, including raising awareness on the importance of bird conservation, proper cleaning of bird feeders, distributing bird feeder kits, and how to create bird-friendly spaces and co-exist with wildlife. As we all know how important birds are to the PFN, we look forward to seeing our BFP team continue to be a role model for others, setting the standard for community engagement and outreach, and inspiring other communities to become certified as well.

In receiving their certificate, BFP representatives Zachary Steele and Tom Luloff invited everyone to join them in celebrating World Migratory Bird Day at the Peterborough Public Library on May 13.

The Peterborough Field Naturalists is very fortunate to have so many dedicated and generous members and community partners who take time out of their busy schedules and provide the club with much needed assistance. We're grateful to every one of you!



## Ways to Help Wildlife

### From Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre (SPWC)

#### ORPHANED WILDLIFE

First, make certain that the animal is truly an orphan. About 75% of orphans are not truly so but are kidnapped by humans. Some parents frequently leave their young unattended while they look for food. If you think a bird has fallen from a nest, try to put it back. The assumption that a parent will reject its baby if handled by a human is not true. If well-feathered, place the bird in a bush, or a protected location. For birds, observe the orphan for an hour or two to see if a parent returns. For mammals, you will have to watch for signs of a parent (contact a rehabilitator for help). This may seem like a lot of effort, but the parent can raise its young much better than a rehabilitator can. The amount of time and effort involved in feeding and caring for orphans is tremendous.



An admission to SPWC in mid-winter: a juvenile Virginia opossum found emaciated and looking for food.

#### INJURED WILDLIFE

Injured animals are often in shock, a life-threatening condition. Wildlife with broken bones must be handled carefully to avoid further injury and pain. "Less is best" when handling an injured animal. The stress of being held, along with the injury, may result in added shock, possibly leading to death. Immediately place an injured animal into a box or pet carrier, and place in a warm, dark, QUIET area. DO NOT GIVE ANY FOOD OR WATER to any animal. Contact your nearest rehabilitator for instructions.

#### WILDLIFE RESCUE

- Sick or injured wildlife require immediate care. Any delay reduces their chances of recovery. Follow these steps:
- Approach from behind and cover the animal with a large towel, blanket or jacket. Anticipate a struggle. Lack of struggling is a sign of shock or a serious condition.
- Mammals have sharp teeth and may bite. Mammals may also carry infectious diseases such as rabies, so use heavy gloves to protect yourself. Contact the rehabilitator for capturing instructions.
- Place the animal in a cardboard box or pet carrier. Do not use wire cages as further injuries may occur. Small birds can be placed in a paper bag. Make certain cage doors and tops are secure, even if the animal appears to be comatose. Line with newspaper strips, carpet squares or paper towels. Add air holes for ventilation.
- Orphans need warmth. Warm water bottles can be used, but make sure the animal is not in direct contact with the heat source. A towel may be used to insulate the bottle. Check the animal often for overheating.
- Do not allow children to handle or hold the animal.
- Transport immediately in a dark (cover pet taxi with a towel), quiet environment (turn car radio off) to wildlife rehabilitator.

#### VOLUNTEER/ DONATE

Wildlife rehabilitation centres greatly appreciate donations. They receive no government funding. All funds come from donations, bequests, and fundraising events. Donations of time are also appreciated. SPNC volunteers do their fundraising, transport animals to SPWC and help release them when they are ready to go back to the wild. You can visit their respective websites to learn more about donating and volunteering.

**Editor's Notes:**

**Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre** has been in operation for 25 years and is located near Napanee. Founder, Sue Meech, is licensed by both the OMNRF and by Canadian Wildlife Services to provide care and shelter for all native and migrating wildlife. Sue has created a passionate team around her to help care for approximately 5,000 wild animals a year. For help or advice, the centre can be reached at 613-354-0264. Please do not email about patients in distress!

Peterborough's closest wildlife rehab centre is the newly established **Kawartha Wildlife Centre (KWC)** in Ennismore, which has been accepting intakes since 2020. KWC prefers e-mail; their phone lines are not monitored. Send e-mails to [Info@KawarthaWildlifeCentre.ca](mailto:Info@KawarthaWildlifeCentre.ca)

If you have found an injured **turtle** anywhere in Ontario, please contact Peterborough's own **Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre** by calling 705-741-5000. They ask to *not* be e-mailed about injured turtles. (This is true of most wildlife rehab centres as communication is more efficient verbally – especially in a time of emergency.)

If you are further afield and need to contact a local wildlife rehabilitator, please visit one of the following websites to find a centre and see what species they can handle:

<https://www.ontariowildliferescue.ca/wildlifecentres/>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/find-wildlife-rehabilitator>

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**May Nature at a Glance****From the Book *Nature's Year in the Kawarthas* by Drew Monkman**

May is the finest month of the year for birding. Songbird migration peaks, northward-bound Canada Geese continue to pass over. Expect "your" hummingbirds back early in the month as well.

A host of mammals give birth this month, fox-watching is at its best and, if you want to see Moose, head up to Algonquin Park. Female White-tailed Deer drive their male fawns from last year away as they prepare for fawning.

The American Toad, as well as nearly all of our local frog species, can be heard calling at some time this month. Garter and Northern Water Snakes mate and Midland Painted Turtles basking in the sun are once again a common sight.

This is a great time of year for fish-watching! Members of the sunfish family usually begin to spawn, as do many of the non-game species such as the beautiful Iowa Darter. Walleye and pike season opens and fly-fishing for Brook Trout is at its best.

Blackflies and mosquitoes make their presence known this month but so do graceful dragonflies and damselflies as well as a variety of beautiful "spring ephemeral" butterflies. June beetles crash into screen doors by night and tent caterpillars forage in trees by day.

Almost all of our native trees leaf out, providing a beautiful spectacle of pastel colours. Serviceberry, cherry and Lilac flowers brighten roadsides, while trilliums and other spring wildflowers carpet woodlots. Dandelions are everywhere.

The last frost occurs this month and cool weather and even snow are still possible. Near-summer warmth, however, is more typical. The average daily temperatures are a maximum of 10 °C and a minimum of 6 °C. In mid-May, the sun rises at about 5:45 a.m. and sets around 8:35 p.m.

The spring sky is still dominated by the constellation Leo. Look for Arcturus, the brightest of the spring stars and Spica, a star of the constellation Virgo. The Big Dipper is high in the northeast.

## "Nish" Bird Words

Submitted by Marilyn Freeman

In the spirit of reconciliation and allyship, know where you are by learning some vocabulary of those who have been stewards of our area for millennia. So ... let's venture into a little language learning, into the world of Anishnaabemowin! (Nish, for short.) And, because birds are the "gateway drug" into appreciating and loving nature, we'll start with a few bird names. A plant name too. The unique thing about many Nish names is that they embody something about the bird (or the plant), its habits and/or its environment. Sometimes even its uses. They are not named after some dead guy.



A migrating male Bobolink on May 17, 2021. Photo: Don McLeod

Sometimes the name is purely onomatopoeic:

Raven: Kaakaabishinh (Kaa-kaa-bisheenh) the bird that says Kaa-kaa.

Chickadee: Jigjigaaneshinh (Jig-jig-ga-nesheenh) the bird that says jig-jig or chik-chik.

Frequently, the name of the bird tells you something about the bird.

American Crow: Aandeg. (Aan-deg) Aan refers to a change that has occurred. Dekaa means cold. When crows begin to play together it signifies a change in the seasons. The maple sap is running and the cold days are ending.

Bobolink: Zhigaakoowabineshiinh. (Zhi-gaa-koo-bi-nesheenh) Zhigaak is a skunk. The white markings on the black parts of the bobolink are reminiscent of a skunk. Therefore, the skunk bird!

Sometimes a name represents something physical about the item:

Strawberry: odémin. Odé means heart and imin means berry so we get the berry that looks like a heart.

And here is a useful question:

Wenesh aw? What's that?

Credit to Creators Garden & Joe Pitawanakwat for inspiration and information.

## Outing Report – Sounds of Spring

Submitted by Linda Sunderland

On a warm Saturday evening of April 15, sixteen participants of all ages joined trip leaders Sue Paradisis and Rachel Baehr for a wonderful walk along Hooton Drive in the Cavan Swamp. Sue started the evening by explaining how 3400 acres of swamp became protected over the years and how vital these wetlands are for incubating wildlife and as a starting point for Jackson Creek. Sue also used the Merlin App to let us listen to the calls of the birds we hoped to see on our outing. Rachel introduced many of us to the "Adopt a Pond Citizen Science" App and let us hear and see the frogs we might encounter.



Participants checking out the critters of Cavan Swamp. Photo: Linda Sunderland





Group walking down Hooton Drive. Photo: Linda Sunderland

We were not disappointed. The frogs were very active and Rachel and our youngest participant Nora saw a Wood Frog and 2 Leopard Frogs. The rest of us heard lots of loud Spring Peepers, Wood Frogs and Western Chorus Frogs, a species at risk, as well as American Toad. A keen-eyed participant spotted two leeches and animal tracks of deer, racoon and different birds. We also saw a big muskrat splash into the water.

As the light waned a number of participants saw three bats flying over. The bats were probably enjoying the many mosquitos who came out as the sun went down. We headed back to our cars and arrived just in time to hear two American Woodcocks. We heard both the "peent" calls of the birds on the ground and a number of people also saw and heard the fluttering wing beats of one of the birds flying high around his territory in his courtship display. Very impressive.

Birds observed: 4 Canada Goose; 2 Mourning Dove; 2 American Woodcock; 1 Northern Flicker; 1 Blue Jay; 4 American Robin; 1 White Throated Sparrow; 2 Song Sparrow; 3 Swamp Sparrow; 5 Red-Winged Blackbird; 6 Common Grackle; and 8 unidentified ducks flying over.

## Outing Report – Early Spring Birding in the Petroglyphs Forest

Submitted by Cathy Douglas

On Sunday, April 16, eleven members of the PFN gathered at the gate of Petroglyph Provincial Park to hike the access roads in search of spring birds and wildlife. The weatherman was very cooperative and provided us with a beautiful, unseasonably warm, sunny day for this time of year.



Hermit Thrush. Photo: Cathy Douglas

We had a total of 27 species of birds, mostly heard rather than seen, however some were singing up a storm. The most notable were 6 Winter Wren, 10 Pine Warblers, a Red-Shouldered Hawk, a Purple Finch, several Song Sparrows, and a Hermit Thrush that came in and posed for pictures. We were also very fortunate to see two White-tailed Deer.

Overall, a good day was had by all on this 6 km hike through the woods.

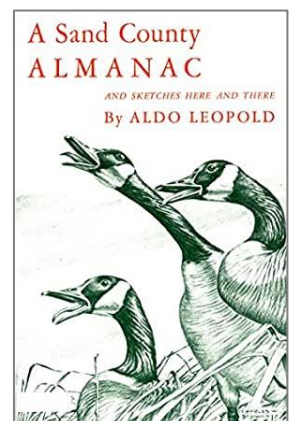


Photo: Cathy Douglas

## Book Review: A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There

Reviewed by Marilyn Freeman

Seeking escape from the ever-depressing state of the world, I decided to go back in time and read something by Aldo Leopold. Leopold was considered by many to be the "father" of ecology and was a conservationist, forester, philosopher, educator, writer, and outdoor enthusiast. A Sand County Almanac was published in 1949. I thought I was in for a 'changing of the seasons' type of read and, in fact, the first section is just that. This section, following the seasons on his farm in Wisconsin, is poetically written. "I was starting to doze in the sun when there emerged from the open pool a wild red eye, glaring from the head of a bird. Finding all quiet, the silver body emerged: big as a goose, with the lines of a slim torpedo. Before I was



aware ... a second grebe was there, and on her broad back rode two pearly-silver young, neatly enclosed in a corral of humped-up wings."

But Leopold was a wily, if somewhat flowery-for-our-times, writer. Amongst the beauty he sneaks in messages about the mess we humans make. "The life of every river sings its own song, but in most the song is long since marred by the discords of misuse. Overgrazing first mars the plants and then the soil. Rifle, trap, and poison next deplete the larger birds and mammals; then comes a park or forest with roads and tourists. Parks are made to bring the music to the many, but by the time many are attuned to hear it there is little left but noise." Recreational development should not be about building roads into lovely country but about "building receptivity into the still unlovely human mind."

This book is divided into three sections. The first is the "almanac" with nature observations for each changing month. The second section highlights human-caused environmental changes over time in various parts of the USA and Canada. Just looking at one example, examine what's happening in the American southwest concerning water and drought today. Leopold called it out back in the late '40s.

It's the third section that most resonated with me. Entitled "The Upshot", Leopold gets into his philosophy of conservation which he called "The Land Ethic". I kept having to remind myself how long ago this was written because these ideas are the base of what we know today. All we've added in time is detail. "Land is not merely soil; it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants and animals. Food chains are the living channels which conduct energy upward; death and decay return it to the soil. The circuit is not closed; some energy is dissipated in decay, some is added by absorption from the air, some is stored in soils, peats, and long-lived forests; but it is a sustained circuit, like a slowly revolving fund of life." When a change occurs in one part of the system, many other parts have to adjust. "Man's invention of tools has enabled him to make changes of unprecedented violence, rapidity and scope."

Leopold's land ethic is as valuable today as it was when he first wrote about it – maybe even more so now. While he doesn't talk about the Indigenous approach to land, he comes very close to putting it into settler terms. "Quit thinking about decent land use as solely an economic problem ... A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

## Horsetails: Living Fossils From Our Distant Past

By Jason & Lou Smyrlis

Pale in color, thin of shape and devoid of the bright flowers typical of the spring plants growing around them, it's easy to dismiss horsetails. Even when growing in thick masses in wetlands and sandy areas along rivers, streams and ponds, their reed-like stalks rarely engender awe. Yet the two species of horsetails growing in our area – rough horsetail and field horsetail – are a connection to our distant past.

Horsetails are representatives of a primitive class of land vegetation that proliferated on our planet more than 300 million years ago, during the Carboniferous period. Rough horsetail's medium to dark green reed-like stalks top out at less than a metre in height. The field horsetail barely gets to a third of that. Back in the Carboniferous, however, horsetail's ancestors were among the giants of the humid primeval forest, towering to 20 metres with



Left: horsetail plant. Right: horsetail spore cap.  
Photos: Lou Smyrlis

hollow trunks made of wood. Their size may have changed dramatically but many of their other traits have not, indicating that when Nature hits upon a successful design, it remains loyal to it.

While today's horsetails are living fossils, their ancestors were pioneers. We would not recognize the planet's first plants, so different were they from what we are used to today. They had no seeds, flowers, or fruits. The ancestors of the horsetails reproduced via spores, a method used by plants before the evolution of seeds, and one still used by horsetails today. The field horsetail has two stages: a fruiting (sexual) stage and a vegetative (asexual) stage. In spring an ashy-gray to light brown, hollow, jointed shoot breaks through the ground with a brownish, spore-producing cone at its top. Once the cone sheds its spores, the stems wither and die down, making way for a second shoot. Still slender, hollow and jointed, but now green in color, the new shoot forms the familiar horsetail plant.

The ancestors of horsetails also evolved a second way to reproduce, which has carried on unchanged through the millennia: reproduction by an underground network of rhizomes. Unlike roots, a rhizome is a stem of the plant capable of growing underground, usually horizontally. Since it's a stem, a rhizome has nodes from which to grow other stems, usually straight up and above the ground. These are clones of the original plant. The ancestors of horsetails were the first trees of the Carboniferous period known to be capable of producing a clone.

Hikers may not readily notice these ghosts from our past, but they do often pause to admire their most frequent visitors. Horsetails are a favourite landing spot for dragonflies - likely another trait shared with their ancestors from a world long forgotten.

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## Help Me Support the Conservation of Canada's Birds!

**Submitted by Mike Burrell**

It's hard to believe, but May is just around the corner, and you know what that means...birds! And birdathons! This year will mark the 25th consecutive year that I will be participating in the Birds Canada Birdathon, the oldest sponsored bird count in North America, raising money for bird research and conservation. Over the past 24 years I have participated in the Birdathon with my Dad and my brother, Ken. We have collectively raised over \$65,000 and look forward to adding to that total this year, with your help.

The money raised by Birdathons go to support the work of Birds Canada and a variety of bird conservation organizations and projects. This year, I'll be directing a portion of the funds raised to a project that is very close to my heart - the third Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas which is in year three of five for collecting data.

For the first time since 2019, Ken, my Dad and I will be doing our Birdathon our traditional way - a big day in May around Point Pelee. In the past, on this route we usually see between 130 and 150 species. If you sponsor our Birdathon, I'll send you a report of the day along with some photos of the birds we were lucky enough to find. All donations of \$10 or more come with a tax receipt for income tax purposes.

Please consider donating to this important cause by visiting my personal fundraising page:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/bird-studies-canada/p2p/birdathon23/team/whimburrells/captain/mike-burrell/>

A huge "thank you!" to everyone who helps us reach our fundraising goals and supports bird conservation and specifically Atlas-3.



Greater Yellowlegs in marsh along the Lang-Hastings Trail on May 2, 2022.

Photo: Robert Difruscia



## Planting for Pollinators

Submitted by Martin Parker

In the past few years there has been extensive discussions on the value of planting native species of plants to aid in maintaining healthy populations for pollinators. The following chart is from the recently released 'How to Create a Pollinator Garden' by the North American Native Plant Society ([nanps.org/wp-content/uploads/NANPS-How-to-Create-a-Pollinator-Garden.pdf](https://nanps.org/wp-content/uploads/NANPS-How-to-Create-a-Pollinator-Garden.pdf)). It is based on the work of entomologist Dr. Doug Tallamy and his University of Delaware research team, and pollinator conservationist Jarrod Fowler. The table will provide some guidance in selecting landscaping plants for your planting this planting season. Planting pollinator friendly plants helps to ensure the health of our natural environment.



### 15 Keystone Native Plants that Attract Pollinators -- Eastern Temperate Forest Region

Trees	# Caterpillar Species That Use This Plant as a Host Plant	# Bee Species That Rely on This Plant
<i>Quercus</i> - oak (white, black)	436	
<i>Prunus</i> - black cherry, chokecherry, American plum	340	
<i>Betula</i> - birch (river, sweet)	284	
<i>Populus</i> - eastern cottonwood	249	
<i>Acer</i> - box elder, silver maple, sugar maple	238	
<i>Malus</i> - crabapple (southern and sweet)	237	
<i>Carya</i> - hickory (bitternut, pignut, mockernut)	213	
<i>Pinus</i> - pine (pitch, eastern white, Virginia)	200	
<b>Shrubs</b>		
<i>Salix</i> - willow (prairie, black)	289	14
<i>Vaccinium</i> - blueberry bush (northern highbush, black highbush, hillside)	217	14
<b>Flowering Perennial Plants</b>		
<i>Solidago</i> - goldenrod (stiff leaf, Atlantic)	104	42
<i>Symphyotrichum</i> - asters (blue, wood, smooth)	100	33
<i>Helianthus</i> - woodland sunflower	66	50
<i>Rudbeckia</i> - black-eyed Susan, green-headed coneflower	20	29
<i>Heterotheca</i> - camphorweed		24

Table from [www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants/keystone-plants-by-ecoregion](https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants/keystone-plants-by-ecoregion)

For more information on native plants and planning of native species, consult the North American Plant Society website at <https://nanps.org/>

## Steve's Swan Sightings

### Submitted by Steve Paul

In April of 2022, we started seeing evidence that local pair X66 Sadie and her untagged, unbanded (UTUB) partner Chip were going to raise their very first family here in Peterborough. As I reported before, they hatched five cygnets on a local pond on June 10, and by last October they were down to two. All four Trumpeters remained together over the winter, and were seen various times in the city near Beavermead or Auburn Reach, along the open waters up near Lakefield or Young's Point, and even up on Chemong Lake in late March when the ice started

breaking up. Statistics show that less than 50% of cygnets make it into their second year, so seeing these two cygnets survive the winter gives me confidence they have a good chance to raise their own families one day.

Now as we are more than halfway through April, Sadie and Chip are still here, and in my head I always assumed they would nest in the same spot again. But as the Trumpeter Swan population continues to grow, so too does the competition for nesting locations. There is another untagged, unbanded pair that is staying around Peterborough too, and it looks like they may try to nest here as well. How do I know? For a couple of days I saw them check out Sadie and Chip's old spot, and they even started adding material to the old nest, yet I haven't seen Sadie and Chip visit their old pond once. What does this mean? Since both pairs are still local, in the coming days we should see if Sadie and Chip will reclaim their old pond or decide to move to a new location, and whether we will have one or two families being raised in Peterborough this summer.

You may be asking, "How do I tell the difference between the two local pairs?" Sadie is the only one tagged: she has a big yellow tag with black lettering on her left wing only; the right one fell off. This means you can only see her tag when she is moving left. I actively check *all* Trumpeter Swans on both sides before I decide if they are untagged. Several times I have quickly thought "untagged" only to have them turn left and then see the "X66" tag which identifies her as Sadie. One other subtle difference is the local untagged pair (as shown in the photo) both have rusty coloured heads, which is due to them feeding in waters with a high iron content. Sadie and Chip's heads are more traditionally white in colour.

One thing I ask as an official volunteer for Trumpeter Swan Conservation Ontario (TRUSCO), in order to protect *any* Trumpeter Swan family nesting location, is please do NOT publish exact locations on social media, and maybe delay reporting into eBird, NatureCounts, iNaturalist, etc. Whenever possible, make the location private/confidential, only sharing it with the proper people who record/track Trumpeter Swan data. Gary Lane and Joy Poyntz are the main data trackers for TRUSCO. Any questions, reach out to me at [stevepaul70@gmail.com](mailto:stevepaul70@gmail.com), and I can help connect you. You can also review the April 2022 Orchid where I provide a whole list of ways to report any swans you see. There have been times when Trumpeter Swans have abandoned their nesting sites due to unnecessary attention, and I would like to do everything possible to make sure our local Trumpeter Swan population remains healthy for years to come.



Local pair of untagged Trumpeter Swans near Nassau Mills Bridge on April 22, 2023. Photo: Laurie Healey



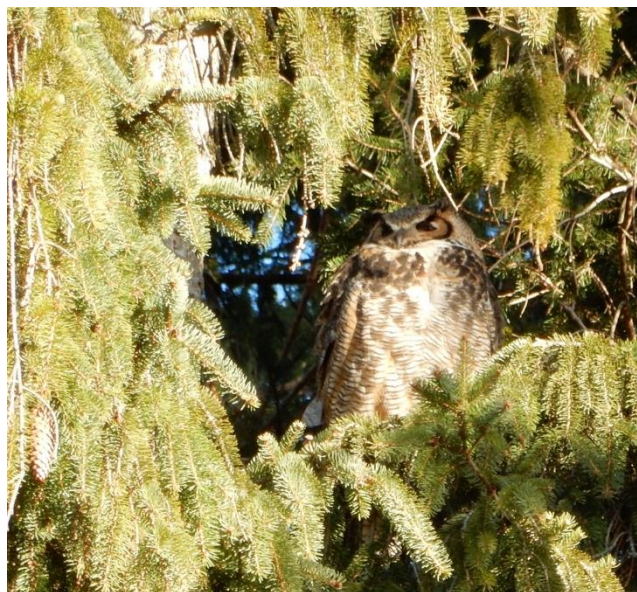
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	Instagram	@PtboNature		TikTok	peterboroughnature
	Twitter	@PtboNature		Facebook	Peterborough Field Naturalists
Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7 General e-mail: info@peterboroughnature.org Newsletter e-mail: orchid@peterboroughnature.org Website: www.peterboroughnature.org					



PFN member, Ken McKeen, was in London, Ontario in early April. He sent in these photos he took of some owlets in a nest in an old willow tree, and a proud-looking, watchful Great Horned Owl parent in a tree nearby. This nest is in a park near the downtown. While most owls are not happy with being photographed while they are trying sleep, eat or care for their young, these ones don't seem to mind too much. Ken says they've been nesting in this park for years!



## The Orchid Diary



A summary of noteworthy observations by PFN members and others in Peterborough County. Information compiled from e-bird, Drew Monkman's Sightings website, PTBO Sightings and individual submissions. Please submit your interesting observations to Marilyn Hubley and Pamela Martin at [orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org)

Mar. 21	1 <b>Boreal Chickadee</b> , Whitfield Road, Otonabee-South Monaghan, Peterborough, seen by Tony Barrett continuing at the feeders. At the Feeders from Feb 22 to April 10. 1 <b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b> , Peterborough, heard by Jeff Stewart Distant tooting at 8:15 p.m.
Mar. 22	1 <b>Rough-legged Hawk</b> , Lakefield Rd, seen by Iain Rayner: adult light morph Flying NW.
Mar. 23	1 <b>Red-breasted Merganser</b> , Lakefield Marsh, seen by Iain Rayner. 1 <b>Blue-winged Teal</b> , Crescent St. Parkettes, Peterborough, seen by Scott Gibson.
Mar. 24	3 <b>Wilson's Snipe</b> , Peterborough Airport Ponds (Moncrief Line), seen by Matthew Tobey. 1 <b>Fisher</b> , Peterborough Airport, seen by Marilyn Hubley, Sue Paradisis and Jane Kroes.
Mar. 25	1 <b>Rough-legged Hawk</b> , Wallace Point Road, Peterborough, seen by Marilyn Hubley. It was feeding on a kill in a field beside the road. Got a good look at the dark belly.
Mar. 26	1 <b>Eastern Phoebe</b> , Bridgenorth Trail, seen by Cassandra Robillard. 1 <b>Double-crested Cormorant</b> , Rotary Park & Walkway, Peterborough, seen by Trevor MacLaurin.
Mar. 28	1 <b>Osprey</b> , Riverview Park and Zoo, seen by Andrew Brown. He wrote: "A nice early surprise, flying south downriver past the frisbee golf course. White head with a black stripe over the eye, gull-like wing shape. Lucky fella was carrying a fish facing straight forward in its talons to seal the deal. I guess the early bird gets the fish? Found again further down the river enjoying its snack in a tree." 5 <b>Killdeer</b> heard, then observed near rainwater ponds on front lawn of Holy Cross school on Lansdowne St. by Rene Gareau who was surprised to see them there. Shelby Cohen wrote, "I saw a <b>Pileated Woodpecker</b> at the Trent canal, on a hydro pole on March 28, at about 8:30am."
Apr. 3	19 <b>Tundra Swans</b> , Douro Eighth Line, Peterborough, seen by Mike Burrell: a single flock fairly high heading NW at 0855, calling. 1 <b>Eastern Towhee</b> , Keene Road, Peterborough, clearly heard singing Drink-your-tea song by Laurie Healey.
Apr. 4	7 <b>Muskrats</b> in two different openings on the ice at Rice Lake, seen by Marilyn Hubley. 2 <b>River Otters</b> , Halls Landing, Rice Lake, seen by Marilyn Hubley. 1 <b>Savannah Sparrow</b> , Drummond Line, Peterborough, heard by Marilyn Hubley. Marilyn Freeman wrote, "Today on my afternoon bike ride <b>Eastern Meadowlarks</b> were sighted and heard, Pinehill Rd. Bridgenorth. Also just blooming today - <b>Coltsfoot</b> along Hilliard north of Woodland and on Garthorne in Bridgenorth. Spring is coming!"



Apr. 6	<p>1 <b>Swamp Sparrow</b>, Douro Eighth Line Yard, heard by Mike Burrell.</p> <p>1 <b>Barn Swallow</b>, Water St to Mark St Loop, Peterborough, seen by Daniel Williams.</p> <p>1 <b>Snow Goose</b>, Brown Line, Peterborough, seen by Marilyn Hubley. Was seen on Apr. 7<sup>th</sup> too.</p> <p>1 <b>Barn Swallow</b>, Briar Hill Bird Sanctuary, Peterborough, seen by Matthew Tobey.</p>
Apr. 7	<p>1 <b>Virginia Rail</b>, Moncrief Line, Cavan, Peterborough, heard by Marilyn Hubley, heard calling an interaction call.</p> <p>Marilyn Hubley wrote, "Heard my first <b>Spring Peeper</b> at Mather's Corners."</p> <p>1 <b>Chipping Sparrow</b>, Basterfarm, Peterborough, seen by Mark Basterfield.</p> <p>1 <b>Greater White-fronted Goose</b>, Mather's Corners Meltwater Pond, found by Cathy Douglas, seen by many.</p> <p>Pam Martin wrote, "Saw my first <b>Groundhog</b> yesterday April 6th up at Clear Lake. My first <b>Tree Swallows</b> checking out the boxes."</p>
Apr. 8	<p>1 <b>American Bittern</b>, Nostrand Property (Kawartha Land Trust), Rice Lake, seen by Tim Haan.</p> <p>2 <b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>, Bailieboro - Second Line flooded fields, Peterborough, seen by Brendan Boyd &amp; Alexandra Israel.</p>
Apr. 9	<p>1 <b>Golden Eagle</b>, Highway 7, Cavan, seen by Marilyn Hubley. Very large and dark juvenile. Saw white and black tail band for easy ID.</p> <p>Lou Smyrlis noted that <b>Coltsfoot</b> was in bloom along roadsides in the Sandy Creek area.</p>
Apr. 10	<p>Kim Zippel and Sue Paradis were walking in Jackson Park and saw their first <b>Mourning Cloak</b> Butterfly and a <b>Bat</b>. Also spotted 5 <b>Painted Turtles</b> sunning around the pond.</p>
Apr. 11	<p>Michael Gillespie wrote, "This morning I was joined on the front lawn by a <b>Northern Crescent</b>; the first "fly" of the season."</p> <p>Shayla McIsaac wrote, "Watched a pair of <b>Osprey</b> building their nest on a platform next to Frank Hill Rd near Pigeon Lake."</p> <p>1 <b>Great Black-backed Gull</b>, Hall Landing, Rice Lake, seen by Donald A. Sutherland.</p> <p>Lou Smyrlis saw an <b>Eastern Comma butterfly</b> in woods in Sandy Creek area</p>
Apr. 12	<p>1 <b>American Bittern</b>, Beloporine Marsh, Peterborough, seen by Donald Sutherland.</p> <p>Isa Prophet wrote, "I saw my first of the year <b>Midland Painted turtles</b> yesterday, April 12 at 1:00 pm in a wetland near University Road!"</p>
Apr. 13	<p>Michelle Young wrote, "My daughter and I were enjoying a beautiful hike in Earl Chase Memorial Park and found a couple of salamanders. The larger was a <b>Blue Spotted Salamander</b> and smaller an <b>Eastern Red-backed</b>. We also saw a lovely <b>Deer</b>, many <b>Ducks</b>, <b>Loons</b>, a <b>Bald Eagle</b> with a catch of some kind, <b>Eastern Meadowlarks</b> and more. It was an amazing day."</p> <p>Karen MacDonald wrote, "I was lucky to find a <i>Ganoderma lucidum</i>, or <b>Lacquered Bracket</b>. A common fungus but this is the largest one that I have ever seen... it is 18 inches across. Found at Catchacoma Lake. Has been growing for quite some time... first noted last spring (and it was large then!)"</p>

	<p>1 <b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>, Second Line Rd Flooded Fields, Bailieboro, Peterborough, seen by Scott McKinlay and Tony Barrett.</p> <p>Ken McKeen saw 3 Eastern <b>Red-backed Salamanders</b> on April 14 at Lower Buckhorn Lake.</p> <p>Lou Smyrlis noticed <b>Hepatica</b> in bloom in Sandy Creek area.</p>
Apr. 14	<p>10 <b>Tundra Swans</b>, and 10 <b>Red-necked Grebes</b> at Hiawatha (Herkimer Point), Rice Lake, seen by Luke Berg</p> <p>Christopher Eaton wrote, "I saw a rather plump <b>Eastern Garter Snake</b> on April 14 on Lansdowne Street W. I wonder if the snake uses the bait box to keep warm (it was on a south facing wall) or if it eats the mice inside. If that is the case, I wonder if the poison that kills the mouse, kills the snake."</p> <p>Stewart MacDonald wrote, "Male <b>Pine Warbler</b> at 1:44 today, Catchacoma Lake. Feeding at peanut feeder."</p> <p>Shayla McIsaac wrote, "Had my first sighting of two <b>Mourning Cloak</b> butterflies in Jackson Park."</p> <p>Barb Saunders and Robert Pratten wrote, "Mature <b>Snapping Turtle</b> sunbathing on rock where Camp Creek enters Anstruther Lake. 1st sighting of year at this location. On Mon. April 10, that area still had ice cover."</p> <p>Lou Smyrlis noticed <b>Water lily</b> leaves visibly pushing through creek mud in Sandy Creek area.</p>
Apr. 16	<p>Margaret Eaton wrote, "<b>Trout lily</b> in bloom. Saw a group in a sunny spot in Sherbrooke Woods on Sunday, April 16th at 11.00 a.m. Beautiful!"</p> <p>1 <b>Carolina Wren</b>, Mount Julian – Viamede Resort, Stony Lake, seen by Kristyn Ferguson.</p> <p>1 <b>Palm Warbler</b>, LHT – Drummond Line to Heritage Line, Peterborough, seen by Luke Berg.</p> <p>Shayla McIsaac wrote: "I have been very lucky to have some first of the year and first ever for me sightings recently! Extremely fortunate to see an <b>American Bittern</b> and a <b>Fisher</b> while walking the trails north of Viamede Resort (the Bittern was in the beaver pond in the Ingleton Wells section and the fisher was further north in the Jeffrey Cowan Forest Preserve)."</p> <p>Barb Saunders and Robert Pratten wrote, "Loon Call Lake access point "<b>Colt's Foot</b> " plants. Mature <b>Snapping Turtle</b> basking on log in pond near Anstruther Lake. Pond still had 1/3 surface ice covered."</p>
Apr. 17	<p>1 <b>Sora</b>, Preston Road, Cavan, heard by Marilyn Hubley.</p>
Apr. 18	<p>1 <b>House Wren</b>, Ecology Park, seen by Dan Chronowic.</p> <p>Barb Saunders and Robert Pratten wrote, "<b>Tree Swallows</b> - hundreds over the Otonabee River in Lakefield and also more just downriver past the Power House."</p>

### Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, May 19.

Please send submissions to Kathryn Sheridan at [orchid@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:orchid@peterboroughnature.org)

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

Submissions can be articles, photos, anecdotes, nature book reviews, poems, outing reports, nature news, recommendations, interesting things you've learned or observed about nature etc.



What's this  
all about?



It's not a  
very  
interesting  
name



Let's get  
some  
help!



## JUNIOR NATURALIST NEWS

[peterboroughnature.org](http://peterboroughnature.org)

email: [juniors@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:juniors@peterboroughnature.org)

May 2023



### IDEAS WANTED!

This page is for you - our Peterborough Junior Naturalists! It's a place to share ideas, learn about future events & activities, and discover new books, resources, games and projects related to nature.

#### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO NAME THIS NEWSLETTER?

Email your ideas to  
[juniors@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:juniors@peterboroughnature.org).

### DID YOU KNOW?

This is the perfect time to get to know your frog songs! frogwatch.ca is a great website for frog identification with clear photos and excellent recordings of every kind of frog and toad across Canada.



## COMING EVENTS

### World Migratory Bird Day

PFN Junior Naturalists are invited to attend World Migratory Bird Day! Learn how to help make Peterborough more bird-friendly. Stop by the Peterborough Field Naturalists' booth to "learn the language" of some local birds and join in on some fun bird games! There will also be a live bird demo by a falconry expert!

#### Date & Time

Saturday, May 13, 2023  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### Location:

Peterborough Public Library  
345 Aylmer St. N.  
Friends of the Library Community  
Room - Lower level





# 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 ☐ Email ☐ 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.** For E-Transfer go to <https://peterboroughnature.org/membership/join-online/>

I have included a donation with my membership fees:

☐ Yes or ☐ No

If yes, amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

1. Single Adult \$30 ☐

2. Single Student or Youth \$15 ☐

3. Family \$40\* ☐

**\* 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. Are you interested in any of these activities?

☐ Join the PFN Board

☐ Sit on research or conservation committees

☐ Lead an outing

☐ Assist with meetings

☐ Work on field projects

☐ Help with the Orchid publication

☐ 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: \_\_\_\_\_