

The Orchid

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Blackburnian Warbler in a white birch on May 16. Photo: Don McLeod.

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Welcome new PFN members!


- Nic Gagliardi, Jason Stabler & family
- Sarah Gencey, Rob Wilkes
- Emily Myhr
- David White, Joanne Arnott & family
- Madison Sayers
- Rita Granada
- Nancy Comtois



Nesting season for birds. Clockwise from top: Ospreys on nest (Marilyn Hubley), Hairy Woodpecker in nesting hole (Sandy Garvey), eggs of Killdeer in nest (Steve Paul), and nesting burrow of Kingfisher (Don McLeod)

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Monday, June 3 8:15 to 9:00 p.m. Downtown</p>	<p>Chimney Swift Roost Watches</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. Meet on the top floor (parking is free in the evening) at 8:15 p.m.</p> <p>Contact Chris Risley (risleych@gmail.com) for more information. Registration is not necessary. Accessibility: Easy</p> <p><i>Chris wrote an article for the Peterborough Examiner on the roost watches. You can read it here: https://rb.gy/btpu3g</i></p> 
<p>Sunday, June 9 10:30 a.m. to noon Camp Kawartha Environment Centre, 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>Event for the Junior Naturalists: Insect Safari</p> <p>Our adventure will begin indoors at the Environment Centre to expand our knowledge about beetles and other insects. Then we'll head out to the great outdoors with sweep nets and other safari techniques to look for interesting mini-beasts! Bug boxes and microscopes will be available for a closer look before releasing our 6 legged discoveries back into the wild.</p> <p>To register, please contact Shelley King at juniors@peterboroughnature.org</p> 
<p>Thursday, June 13 Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Hybrid meeting Camp Kawartha 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Fossils and the Incredible Stories They Tell Us</p>  <p>Trilobite</p> <p>Among other things, this presentation by Ken Lyon is about ancient life forms and nature stretching back four billion years. He will discuss the Paleozoic mass extinctions and the implications for today's biodiversity loss. He'll also tell us about the shallow inland sea that once existed over Peterborough when trilobites ruled.</p> <p>Ken is a professional geoscientist with over 45 years of experience in the environmental sector. He is currently teaching environmental geology at Trent University and is past president of the Kawartha Rock and Fossil Club.</p> 
<p>Saturday, June 22 1 to 4 p.m. 15 participants</p>	<p>Meadows Matter</p> <p>Meadows are complex ecosystems dominated by grasses and wildflowers. One acre of a wildflower meadow on a single summer day can contain up to 3 million flowers. Such a bounty attracts and supports a wide variety of species, from the insects that feed on the flowers and lay their eggs on the plants, to the birds and small mammals that in turn feed on those insects. Established meadows also have complex root systems which stabilize the soil and act as giant sponges, filtering water and mitigating flooding by holding on to rainwater during heavy rain storms. In short, meadows matter.</p>  <p>Philadelphia fleabane</p>

PFN Coming Events	
	<p>Join us as we explore the wildflowers and grasses of the hilltop meadows at John Earle Chase Memorial Park, overlooking Pigeon and Buckhorn lakes. Lou Smyrlis will lead this afternoon outing. Be sure to bring a sun hat as well as binoculars and a camera if you like as there should be plenty of bird life and butterflies to view.</p> <p>To register, contact Lou at lousmyrlis@icloud.com. Further details will be provided to those who register. Accessibility: Easy</p>
<p>Saturday, June 22 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Dance Nature Sanctuary (directions will be sent at the time of registration).</p>	<p>Event for the Junior Naturalists: Summer Celebration</p> <p>Celebrate the start of summer with a fun afternoon at Kawartha Land Trust’s Dance Nature Sanctuary. Enjoy games, crafts, and a nature hike through fields, forests and wetlands, then relax with a cool drink (please bring your own cup). Hand in your passports for a chance to win some nature-themed prizes. This will be our last event before September, so we hope to see you and your family there!</p> <p>To register, please contact Shelley King at juniors@peterboroughnature.org</p> 
<p>Sunday, June 23 8 to 11 a.m. 20 participants</p>	<p>A Morning Walk Around Ashburnham Memorial Park in Nogojiwanong/Peterborough</p> <p>Ashburnham Memorial Park is an iconic landmark in Peterborough, and one of the tallest drumlins in the area. It is known locally as “Armour Hill,” but it is much more than just a tobogganing hill or a look-out. It is a 15-acre urban park, home to 276 species (iNaturalist) and 114 bird species (eBird). It is a birding and nature hotspot!</p> <p>PFN members are invited to join Steve Paul and the Ashburnham Memorial Stewardship Group (AMSG) as they collaborate for a walk around this beautiful urban forest. This is an opportunity to help AMSG add species to their iNaturalist project and to learn about some of the current issues facing this forest. You will learn how this space came to be a WW1 Memorial Park. There will be an opportunity to share your ideas for future infrastructure changes on Armour Hill.</p> <p>To register: Contact Steve at stevepaul70@gmail.com. Confirmation and final meeting details will be sent to registered participants. Please dress for the weather, wear sturdy walking shoes and bring binoculars and your iNaturalist App. Accessibility: Moderate difficulty (walking on uneven terrain, unofficial trails, up and down a drumlin)</p> <p>The AMSG is grateful to their current funders and supporters, including a City of Peterborough community grant, a Rotary Environmental Innovators Fund from the Rotary Club of Peterborough, Trent Community Research Centre support and a recent award for Community Commitment to Student Learning.</p> 
<p>June 24 to 27 Silent Lake P.P.</p>	<p>PFN's Second Annual Camping Trip</p> <p>Please be advised that this year’s camping trip is now full.</p> 

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Thursday, June 27 6:00 to 7:30 or 8 p.m East City</p>	<p>Pride Walk with Pride Outside</p> <p>Calling all LGBTQ2S+ nature lovers! PFN and Pride Outside, a local outdoor adventure group for LGBTQ2S+ folks and allies, are organizing a joint outing for Pride Month. Join us as we get to know local flora and fauna and have a fun evening with other LGBTQ2S+ nature lovers and allies in the beautiful nature of East City. We will meet at Roger’s Cove for 6 p.m. in the grassy area between the splash pad and Little Lake. We’ll wander over to Beavermead and Ecology Park, marvelling at interesting plants and birds along the way. After a nature-themed scavenger hunt, anyone interested can join for ice cream and/or beverages at Silver Bean (Canoe Museum) to cool off. No registration required. Please send any questions to Tamara Brown at tamaraeabrown@gmail.com.</p> <p>Note: The outing will be on a mix of paved/dirt/gravel paths, at times uneven with a total distance of 1.5 - 2 km. There is a ramp to get across the waterway at Lock 20. Parking is available at Roger’s Cove as well as a #4 bus stop.</p>
<p>Saturday, July 6 10 a.m. to noon 12 participants</p>	<p>Butterflies Along the Lang-Hastings Trail & Picnic Lunch</p> <p>This outing is an introduction to butterfly watching and identification along a section of the Lang-Hastings trail near Hastings. The focus will be on learning how to distinguish between the different species present in early July. Join outing leader Colleen Lynch for this enjoyable colourful event. Participants are invited to bring lunch and enjoy a picnic at Asphodel Park afterwards.</p> <p>Please contact Colleen Lynch @ clynch166@gmail.com to register for this outing. Further details will be provided to those who register. Accessibility: Easy</p>
<p>Saturday, July 13 Rain day July 14 1 to 5 p.m. Maximum of 10 boats</p>	<p>Van Nostrand Wetland on Indian River</p> <p>Cattail marshes are highly productive ecosystems that include an abundance of plants and wildlife. And there’s no better way to explore them than from the intimacy of a canoe or kayak. Join us for a rare water outing as we paddle to Kawartha Land Trust’s van Nostrand wetland located on the shoreline of Rice Lake at the mouth of the Indian River. The property lies within a Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) and also contains a portion of the regionally significant Indian River Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).</p> <p>Aside from the iconic stands of common and narrow-leaved cattails, a cattail marsh includes many other colorful and fascinating emergent plant species, as well as free-floating and submergent ones. We may even find some carnivorous ones! Insects, turtles and many species of marsh birds inhabit the area and the area north of it. We will be on the lookout for all of them in what should be a highly informative afternoon on the water.</p> <p>Lou Smyrlis and Steve Paul will be co-leading this outing. Bring your kayak or canoe and all legally required equipment (life jacket for each person and a safety kit for each boat), sunhats and sunscreen, water, snacks, and binoculars and</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  <p>Pickerel weed</p> </div>

PFN Coming Events	
	camera if you wish. There will be lots to see! To register, contact Lou at lousmyrlis@icloud.com. Further details will be provided to those who register.
Saturday, July 20 10 a.m. meet-up 10:30 am ride out Auburn St. at Parkhill Rd. E.	<p>Nature By Bike Group Ride B!KE</p> <p>This is a collaboration ride with the local community bike shop, B!KE. Join B!KE and PFN on a casual ride up the Rotary Greenway Trail towards Trent University. We'll stop to enjoy some of the nature areas along the way with different nature activities. Bring your bike, helmet, bell and water. No registration required. Stay tuned on B!KE's social media for more information, or e-mail Tamara Brown at tamaraebrown@gmail.com.</p> <p>Note: The outing will be along a flat paved trail, shared with pedestrians. Parking is available along Auburn St. The #9, #6 and #7 buses stop nearby.</p>
Saturday, Aug. 10 8:45 to 10 p.m. 15 participants	<p>An After Dark Exploration of Jackson Park</p> <p>Paul Elliott will host an evening outing at Jackson Park. Participants will use ultra-sonic detectors to find and listen to bats, an ultra-violet flashlight to spot plants whose colours are beyond our visual range, and be ready for any other wildlife encounters. Wear sensible shoes for walking after dark, bring bug repellent and, if you wish, a flashlight. Accompanied children will be welcome.</p> <p>Please contact Paul at paulelliott@trentu.ca to register for this outing. Further details will be provided to those who register. Accessibility: Easy</p>
Saturday, Aug. 17 1 to 4 p.m. 15 participants Location: TBD	<p>Searching for the Subtle and the Secretive</p> <p>By mid-August, the loss of summer's vibrancy has begun. Yet the sun still feels warm on the skin, the background hum of crickets and cicadas permeates, and there are wildflowers still in bloom if you know where to look. Late August is a time for the subtle and the secretive. Join us as we explore the late blooming wildflowers along riparian zones and meadows and learn about their fascinating adaptations.</p> <p>Lou Smyrlis will lead this afternoon outing. Be sure to bring a sun hat as well as binoculars and a camera if you like as there should be plenty of bird life and butterflies to view along with wildflowers. To register, contact Lou at lousmyrlis@icloud.com. Location TBD. Further details will be sent to those who register. Accessibility: Easy</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  <p>Cardinal flower</p> </div>
Saturday, Aug. 24 8:00 a.m. to noon 15 participants	<p>Birding the Rotary-Greenway Trail</p> <p>Join co-leaders Stewart MacDonald and Ben Taylor as we traverse south along the Rotary Greenway Trail searching for late summer migrants and other species. Target species include warblers, wading birds, sparrows, gulls and other migrants. A bird list of over 50 species is certainly possible! This outing will proceed <i>rain or shine</i>. Participants will receive an e-mail a few days before the excursion which will give you the opportunity to ask any questions. Bring your</p>

PFN Coming Events

binoculars, water, sunscreen, insect repellent and snacks. There are washrooms nearby.
Please contact Stewart at stewjmacdonald@aol.com to register for this outing. Further details will be provided to those who register. Accessibility: Easy


Friday, Sept. 6
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
20 participants

Presqu'ile Shorebirds and Butterflies
Celebrate World Shorebird Day by joining fellow PFN members for an outing to Presqu'ile Provincial Park. Outing leaders Don McLeod and Colleen Lynch will guide the group in observing shorebirds and butterflies. The beaches are a famous stopover for migrating shorebirds, and the nearby meadow is a butterfly hotspot. We will stop at a picnic area so folks are encouraged to pack a lunch. We will meet in Peterborough for carpooling. A park day-pass will be required. Please contact Colleen Lynch at clynch166@gmail.com to register for this outing. Accessibility: Easy


Thursday, Sept. 12
Doors open 7 p.m.
Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Hybrid meeting
Camp Kawartha
2505 Pioneer Road

Monthly Meeting: Migratory Fish and Brook Trout

Nick Jones's presentation will cover two separate fishery studies: "How Resource Subsidies from Migrating Fishes Increase Stream Productivity" and "Past and Present Brook Trout Habitat in the Lake Simcoe Watershed." The phenomenon of how natural resource subsidies support stream productivity is well-known in the Pacific Northwest where salmon return from the ocean to spawn. In doing so, they import nutrients and energy that supercharge the ecosystem. Does this also happen in the Great Lakes? The presentation on Brook Trout in the Lake Simcoe watershed will evaluate factors that drive their distribution.



Nick is a research scientist with the Aquatic Research and Monitoring Section of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and also an Adjunct Professor at Trent University and U of T. Nick has expertise in the ecology and management of flowing waters including monitoring, the ecology of hydropower rivers, the interaction between streams and lakes, and he has studied many species, including brook trout, sturgeon, redbreast dace, and lake trout.




Brook trout

Note: Most recordings of past PFN Zoom meetings can be viewed on PFN's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAgbbqgr4ujZ16qba23LTQQ> under the playlist menu.

How can you get more involved with the PFN? Consider leading some outings!

Now that you have seen all the outings the PFN is offering over the summer, you might have an idea for a fall/winter outing you wish you could attend or even help lead. Our PFN member outings offer many opportunities for members to experience the joy of nature with other interested individuals of all ages. We are so grateful for all our trip leaders who share their local knowledge and expertise. We are always looking for new experiences to share. If you are interested in helping with PFN outings, please e-mail Linda and Steve: linda.sunderland@gmail.com and stevepaul70@gmail.com

Other Events of Interest

<p>Sunday, June 9 10 a.m. to noon KLT's Ballyduff Trails, Pontypool Capacity: 40</p>	<p>The Power of Pollinators – Protect Insects, Protect Birds Join Junaid Shahzad Khan of Creators Garden Birds on a walk that focuses on the unseen creatures that feed the world around us – pollinators! As an Ecologist and Anishinaabemowin learner, Junaid looks to inspire folks to recognize and support Indigenous language revitalization through the exploration of the land around us. Come along to KLT's Ballyduff Trails to learn about the importance of insect conservation for migratory bird populations, and how you can participate in helping local insect and bird populations thrive. To register, go to: https://kawarthalandtrust.org/events/</p>	
<p>Saturday, July 20 10 a.m. to noon KLT's Christie Bentham Wetland near Burleigh Falls Capacity: 24</p>	<p>We Love Turtles (and Other Herptiles) Join Laura Browning from the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre (OTCC) for a leisurely nature walk at KLT's Christie Bentham Wetland to learn about local turtle species, their habitats and behaviours, and how to help them survive and thrive. You will also learn about the work Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre does, why the work Kawartha Land Trust undertakes is so vital to turtle conservation, and ways people can help protect turtle populations. To register, go to: https://kawarthalandtrust.org/events/</p>	
<p>Saturday, Aug. 24 1 to 3 p.m. KLT's Hammer Family Nature Preserve near Buckhorn Capacity: 24</p>	<p>Finding Poetry in Nature Renew and reinvigorate your relationship to nature through poetry. Join poets Samantha Banton and David Seymour for an afternoon of poetry workshoping that will draw inspiration from the Hammer Family Nature Preserve, enabling participants to channel, challenge, and convey their emotional reflections and intellectual observations through an encounter with the beautiful natural surroundings. The afternoon will begin with a short stroll, followed by a series of writing prompts and poetry exercises designed to activate the imagination, and re-establish a connection to the natural environment through composition. To register, go to: https://kawarthalandtrust.org/events/</p>	

Exciting Opportunity for Youth Between 14 & 20 Years of Age!

Submitted by Shelley King

Each year, Ontario Nature and its many partners, offers an opportunity for 90 youth across Ontario aged 14 to 20 to attend the Youth Summit for Mother Earth. This year the Summit runs from September 13 to 15 at the Tawingo Outdoor Centre in Muskoka.

If a weekend of hands-on, outdoor education and land-based learning opportunities gets you excited, you can find more information at ontarionature.org/events/youth-summit

The Peterborough Field Naturalists will sponsor one youth from Peterborough to attend the Youth Summit by covering the \$450 registration fee. "Expression of Interest" emails/letters/essays must be received by June 10 and can be e-mailed to juniors@peterboroughnature.org. The "Expression of Interest" should include your name, contact information, previous involvement in environmental projects, and the reasons why you would like to attend. Following the Summit, the PFN will request a brief report or presentation from the sponsored recipient, to share the experience with our membership.



Outing Report for April 21: Nephton Mine Hawkwatch

Leaders: Cathy Douglas & Dave Milsom

Dave and I were joined by a group of 17 PFN members for our outing on April 21. We were met at the gate of Covia Canada's Nephton Mine, by Cale Reeder, the Nephton Mine environmental consultant. We boarded a school bus and were toured through the mine site, stopping at three overlooks where we were able to get out and watch for migrating birds.

While touring through the mine, Cale and his team explained about what was being mined, the mining process, and the various efforts that are being taken by the company to protect the natural



Peregrine Falcon. Photo: Cathy Douglas



Photo: Cathy Douglas

environment and various species that are living within the mine site.

A total of 34 bird species, which, to name a few, included 42 Turkey Vultures, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Broad-winged, Red-tailed, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, and a nesting pair of Peregrine Falcons. The Peregrines were nesting on a ledge within the mine site and were seen dive-bombing the Osprey. In addition to the various bird species, a milk snake and two deer were also seen.

PFN wishes to thank Cale Reeder and his team at Covia Canada Ltd. for helping to organize our visit, and for escorting us to the various overlooks throughout the day.

Outing Report for April 28: Spring Ephemerals with Louis Smyrlis

Submitted by Madhupreeta Muralidhar

It was a somewhat warm, cloudy day on April 28 that saw 12 participants gather with Louis Smyrlis to witness, learn and admire the beauty of spring ephemerals at John Earle Chase Memorial Park. This 400-acre conservation site that overlooks Pigeon Lake is managed by Kawartha



Trout Lilies. Photo: Madhupreeta Muralidhar

Land Trust and hosts several trails open to the public.

The conservation site has diverse habitats, ranging from cedar stands to mixed wood forests to wetlands.

Our very first spring ephemeral sighting was of a coltsfoot, right next to the parking lot area. Coltsfoot, belonging to daisy family can easily be confused with a dandelion. One easy way to tell them apart is by observing whether the central disc is

distinct (=coltsfoot) or not (=dandelion). Louis also shared interesting trivia: Coltsfoot was named thus because it used to grow on the trails used by horse carriages!



Lou showing us the biennial basal rosettes of a common mullein. Photo: Kathryn Sheridan



Sharp-lobed hepatica. Photo:
Madhupreeta Muralidhar



Rhodobryum moss
Photo: Madhupreeta
Muralidhar

We found plenty of trout lilies (above), Hepatica (left; oh, the shade variations!) and yet-to-bloom trilliums. Louis also shared some interesting strategies employed by the ephemerals to ensure early flowering and seed dispersal, right after a harsh season. Some, like Hepatica, possess overwintering leaves that change colouration and continue to make and store energy throughout winter whereas others such as trout lilies use carbohydrate rewards for efficient dispersal. Seeds that have such rewards are called elaisomes, and ants, the earliest of the animals to be active in spring and able to access these ephemerals, are the best dispersing agents.

As we walked, Louis shared interesting tidbits on identifying plants and trees, anecdotes, and stories of other naturalists along with fun trivia. One that I'm compelled to share is regarding the hawthorns. In Celtic mythology, hawthorn is believed to be a symbol of love and the home of fairies. In another part of the world, hawthorn is believed to ward off Dracula, as it is protected by the thorny crown of Christ! It was personally interesting to know that hawthorn wood is so hardy that it was

carved into tools and weaponry! As we made our way through the forest, we also saw/heard the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Dragonfly, Blue Jays, Rhodobryum moss (left; identified using Seek app from iNaturalist) and Warbling Vireo. While we admired the complexities of algae-fungus relationship in lichens, Louis hit us with another trivia bit: the study of lichens led to the origin of the concept of symbiosis!

We ended the two-hour walk with a quick trip down to Pigeon Lake on the west side of the property in search of two more spring ephemerals. The sightings of early meadow rue, blue cohosh (right) and a spread of trout lilies made the perfect ending for the beautiful afternoon it was! Thank you, Louis!



Blue cohosh. Photo:
Rhodobryum Moss

Outing Report for May 11: World Migratory Bird Day at the Otonabee Gravel Pits

Submitted by Marilyn Freeman

The weather for the morning at the gravel pits turned out perfectly: not too cold, not too hot and a bit of wind to keep the early black flies at bay. To celebrate World Migratory Bird Day, a group of 13 gathered and were led by Steve Paul with a few other experienced birders and butterflyers helping out.

Interestingly, more than half the group were new or newish to birding so the morning stroll turned into an excellent learning and teaching opportunity that included identification tips as well as explaining the differences and cross-overs between Merlin and eBird. Steve had guaranteed the group 50 bird species which is generally a dangerous thing to do but 51 species were recorded so Steve's reputation is safe. Many thanks to the teachers of the day: Steve Paul, Don McLeod and Colleen Lynch.



Photo: Don McLeod

Bird Highlights: Broad-winged Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Green Heron, Baltimore Oriole, House Wren, Savannah Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Northern Waterthrush, Nashville Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Pine Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Chestnut-sided warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 3 species of swallows (Barn, Tree, Northern Rough-winged), Hooded Merganser and many more!



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Photo: Don McLeod

Plant Highlights: Pretty yellow and purple violets, lots of trillium and wild strawberries

Butterfly Highlights: American lady, silvery blue, northern azure, red admiral, juvenal's duskywing

Other Notables: Lots of damselflies, very few blackflies



American Lady butterfly. Photo: Don McLeod

Outing Report for May 12: Mother's Day Nature Hike

Submitted by Lynn Smith

The day started in the 49-acre Langley Park Scout Reserve. This Park is owned by the Peterborough Rotary Club but is managed by Scouts Canada. Our contact person, Deryck Robertson, welcomed our group of 12, requesting a species list after we explored the property.

Our walk began with the Wood Thrush's flute song accompanied by the background percussion of a drumming Ruffed Grouse. The serenade continued with a variety of warblers including Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush and Mourning Warbler. Not to be outdone by warblers, the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Northern Cardinal, Great-crested Flycatcher, Baltimore Oriole, and persistent Ovenbird added to the harmony. One unexpected sighting was a White-Crowned Sparrow sitting at the very top of a maple tree. Red and white trilliums, pussytoes and purple and yellow violets were blooming. Canada mayflower, false Solomon's seal and mayapple weren't far behind. We left Langley Park concluding that a return visit would be worthwhile.



Larva of a predaceous diving beetle. Photo: Lynn Smith

Part 2 of our hike was a few kilometres down the road overlooking a hay field, beside a cemetery. We were entertained by several Bobolinks fluttering over the field showing off their display flights. Savannah Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks and Barn Swallows were present. A well-hidden Wild Turkey startled us when it suddenly burst up out of the hay in front of us.

Part 3 of our hike was overlooking a small marsh. We tried to convince a Virginia Rail to make an appearance but we had to be satisfied with its ki-ki-ki song and secretive movement amongst the cattails. Swamp Sparrows and Red-Winged Blackbirds had no problem with showing themselves. A 'mystery



Savannah Sparrow. Photo: Don McLeod

creature' was found along the road and identified through iNaturalist as the larval form of a predaceous diving beetle.

A total of 50 bird species were identified on this three-part hike. It was such an enjoyable start to the day in the company of friends, exploring the many sights and sounds of nature.

Outing Report for May 18: Wildflowers of Warsaw

Submitted by Cathy Boothby

On Saturday, May 18, Lou Smyrlis and Sue Paradisis led the Wildflowers of Warsaw spring walk. There were 16 participants in total, including a few new faces. Lou began by reviewing the definition of ephemerals and their strategies for success.

First up, we saw many white trilliums. We learned that historically, they were called Douro lilies and also white death flowers. Lou explained that trilliums need up to seven to ten years to mature enough to flower. They can live for up to 25 years and the flower gets pinker as they get older. Next, Lou pointed out wild sarsaparilla with its beautiful flowers that look spherical, almost like bursting



Wild columbine growing in a crevice on the alvar. Photo: Sandy Garvey

fireworks. Along the roadside, we saw a great deal of wild columbine. Their flowers were red on the outside and yellow on the inside, designed specifically for feeders with long tongues. We saw several yellow large flowered bellwort plants and Lou pointed out how the stem grows right through the leaf!



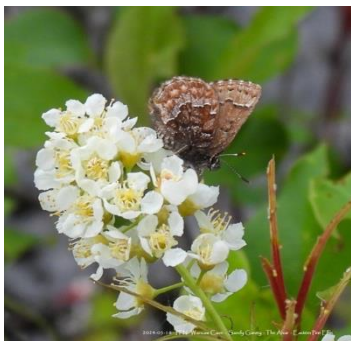
Yellow lady's slipper. Photo: Kathryn Sheridan

At the creek, we saw watercress which Lou told us was edible with the disclaimer that we couldn't blame him if we got sick from anything he told us we could eat. 😊

As we continued along the road, we saw white baneberry in flower, foam flowers on their feathery stalks, Solomon's plume, wild lily of the valley, small flowered buttercup, Virginia water leaf, two-leaf miterwort with super tiny flowers on upright stems that looked like delicate little snowflakes, and fringed polygala. We also saw coltsfoot that had already flowered and now had grown its leaves, as well as red trilliums which had already flowered. Everyone was super excited to also see yellow lady's slipper and Jack-in-the-pulpit!



Flowering red baneberry bush. Photo: Kathryn Sheridan



Columbine duskywing on a chokecherry bush. Photo: Sandy Garvey

Once we walked out on the alvar, we saw several butterflies including Eastern pine elfin, columbine duskywing, and several little blue butterflies which were too busy for us to identify. We also saw a wood frog. The open flat limestone plain had very interesting fissures in the rock and we saw early buttercup and field chickweed.

Throughout our walk, we heard many bird songs, including the Ovenbird, Veery, Northern Waterthrush, Winter Wren, Song Sparrow, and the Nashville Warbler.

On our way back to the parking lot, Lou pointed out the plants we had talked about earlier and gave us all an exit quiz. I'm happy to report that we all

passed! To conclude, Lou questioned whether ephemerals really were the sprinters of the wildflower world? Perhaps they were actually long-distance runners? What do you think?

Outing Report for May 19: Lang Hastings Rail Trail - Part 2

Submitted by Steve Paul

On Sunday May 19, five PFN members joined me on a beautiful walk along the Lang Hastings Trail between Cameron Line and County Road 38. As I have been personally getting more involved with pollinators and capturing records for iNaturalist, this 2 km section of trail was definitely a great place to slow down, watch and document birds, butterflies, bees and plants along the trail. There was a lot to see!



Photo: Steve Paul

In regards to pollinators, we saw common eastern and two spot bumble bees, as well as a variety of small solitary bees. We documented nine species of butterflies, including clouded sulphur, pink-edged sulphur, mustard white, cabbage white, red admiral, question mark, harvester, northern azure, silvery blue. We also saw a presumed Canadian tiger swallowtail (versus eastern tiger swallowtail), but it wouldn't sit still for a photo to confirm which species we saw. We also found a glaucous honeysuckle in full bloom, which allowed all of us to watch a couple of beautiful hummingbird clearing moths move around from flower to flower.



Silvery blue butterfly. Photo: Sandy Garvey

This trail goes through several habitat changes, and as a result we saw a total of 46 bird species. Highlights include hearing or seeing five different



Morel mushroom. Photo: Sandy Garvey

sparrows (Song, Swamp, Field, Grasshopper and White-throated), and coming across easily heard species such as Rose-breasted Grosbeak, House Wren, Blue Jay, Gray Catbird, Baltimore Oriole, Belted Kingfisher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird. We were also able to share company with multiple beautiful Veery, who wanted to share their cheery flute-like song and also come out for some photos.

It was great having both Sandy Garvey and Cathy Garvey at the back of the group. They get the award for the most interesting finds like a newly hatched Wild Turkey egg shell, some type of weird deer bones, and a morel mushroom. If you ever have a chance, check out this trail. It will not disappoint, especially with summer butterfly season on our doorstep.

Strategic Plan News

The PFN's 85th anniversary in 2025 is on the horizon! To recognize this significant milestone, the Board of Directors embarked on a strategic planning process in 2023/24 to reflect on our past success and to plan for PFN's future.

As part of this process, we took the opportunity in the fall of 2023 to engage those who are most invested in our work: our members and partner organizations. We gathered stories, experiences, and ideas, and were inspired by what was shared. With an understanding of what members value and the unique role that PFN

plays in the local environmental community, during the first quarter of 2024, we worked with Arising Collective to draft a strategic plan.

We are excited to let you know that the PFN Directors approved the PFN's first strategic plan at the May, 22, 2024 Board meeting. At this time, we can share that we have established three strategic priority areas, refined our mission and identified new vision and values statements to guide our work. What is important to note, is that we are not making great changes to what we do. The strategic plan will instead provide clarity on where we should focus our resources and volunteer efforts.

As we work to conclude all of the pieces of the strategic planning project and prepare our report to the Community Services Recovery Fund, which funded our work, we look forward to sharing all the details of the Strategic Plan with you after the summer hiatus when we resume monthly meetings in September. Please mark Thursday, September 12, 2024 in your calendars for a special PFN evening gathering. Details will be provided by e-mail to all PFN members in late August, 2024.

~PFN Board of Directors

Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Spring Regional Meeting

Submitted by Steve Paul (with excerpts from Ontario Nature meeting notes)



The 2024 Ontario Nature spring regional meeting was held on April 13 in Toronto. The meeting was hosted by High Park Nature Centre and attended by 16 people in-person and 6 virtually. Twelve clubs were represented at this meeting, including the PFN.

Three presentations were given, including:

1. Chris Borowski from the City of Toronto gave an interesting and informative presentation on the 188-year history of High Park, including the environmental significance of the various ecosystems, stewardship and management of invasive and non-desirable species, and how traditional and prescribed burns are used to manage the land.
2. Anne Bell from Ontario Nature gave a presentation on the one-year timeline regarding changes to Ontario's Wetland Evaluation System, and how it is contributing to a loss of wetlands. Preliminary research shows Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) losses in 17 municipalities, including 55 hectares to the Goulbourn Wetland Complex in the City of Ottawa. However, cities like Guelph, Richmond Hill and Brampton have stepped up to include additional protection measures and specific wording in their by-laws and official plans. Groups are encouraged to be vigilant and contact Ontario Nature with any information about wetland loss in their areas.
3. James Kamstra, Lesley Rudy, Dan Shire and Kurt Kroesen all assisted in discussing a proposed change in the Ontario Nature Board and how Nature Network Regional Directors are affected. A 20-member board is very large for a governance board when compared with other organizations in the sector. Many organizations have moved to smaller boards which usually increases board engagement and effectiveness. The new Ontario Nature Board size would be reduced down to a more manageable size of 12 to 16 members. They would keep the four Officer positions, but reduce the total number of Regional Director and Director-at-large roles.

Group Activity Updates

Brodie Club

They had a speaker on fisheries that shared that salmon are an indicator species and that many rivers could support Atlantic salmon but don't because of dams. These dams are probably relics and should be

dismantled. There was an article on Thundering Waters, a 500-acre forest and PSW in Niagara Falls. Activists were able to protect about 78% of the area and stop roads going through wetlands. They also got the official plan changed. This experience shows that if you do get people involved, you can still win some victories.

Durham Region Field Naturalists

They are an aging club, trying to maintain basic activities of monthly outings and meetings, but can't do much beyond that. They had to change their venue which was an extra challenge. Outings are well attended. They get lots of interest in the group and are trying to convert that to actual membership and more active membership.

Friends of Second Marsh

Their focus is on phragmites management as part of the Let's De-Phrag the Marsh Project. They treated new management units and retreated management units that were originally treated last fall. Some of these units were mowed and some were mulched. Plant stewardship included buckthorn management - girdling, cutting and pulling. They received a small grant from the Invasive Species Centre for this project.

High Park Nature Centre

They gave input on a proposal that would allow speed cycling in the park at 6 a.m. Some people do speed-training on the loop in the park, so users are warned to be cautious. The Turtle Protectors also spoke against the proposal. Off-leash dogs are also an issue throughout park. There is a related but free-standing group called Paws for Parks. They are doing public education, trying to shift the social norm about this issue, hoping that it will follow the route of smoking. They are doing point counts of on- and off-leash dogs, and asking people to take an online pledge to protect the park and their dog. They have done a lot of groundwork, but there is a lot of bureaucracy.

High Park Stewards

The High Park Stewards was previously volunteer-led but is now run by the city. They have events every other Sunday starting in May. The program helps get the community involved in things like plantings and invasive species removals. They limit numbers due to sensitivity of ecosystems. Sharon Lovett shared information about a native plant initiative called Project Swallowtail. The project focuses on connecting people who have or want native plant gardens to connect with each other and provides information on how to obtain native plants. The leaders of the neighbourhood groups are called Block Ambassadors and are responsible for creating activities and relationships with those near them.

North Durham Nature

One issue they are involved in is the planned Uxbridge Urban Provincial Park and a proposal to put a dumping area next to it. One member of the group is working closely with Lafarge installing bluebird boxes at a pit they own. The pit should have been restored to grassland but it was planted with conifers. Pits are required to have a plan for after use, which usually is mostly tree planting and not always good tree planting. However, they have some good contacts with this pit and are hopeful that they may be receptive to doing things differently. At one point, the company brought in fill which bank swallows immediately took up residence in. This fill was removed but Lafarge built another nesting area.

Peterborough Field Naturalists

PFN has three main areas of focus:

1. A new 5-year strategic plan will support the PFN in moving ahead with a clearer vision, signal stability to its stakeholders, and ensure succession of the club for future naturalists. Key components of the strategic plan will include a communications strategy, governance training, and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI)

education. The project team is nearing completion on the final draft, with the project expected to be completed by May 2024. Funding for this project was courtesy of successful grant application to Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund.

2. The Junior Naturalist program, where currently there are 63 children enrolled. Four of eight junior events for 2023 occurred during this last four months. Events include combination of outings and naturalist activities, and collaboration with community partners, learning about their organizations and further connecting with nature.

3. Working with local company Gooderham Productions to establish a secure digital database for the PFN membership records. This not only protects the membership information, but allows for a variety of targeting messaging opportunities to our members, from quick blasts to all members, or specific e-mails based on specific interests.

Pickering Naturalists

Their major concern is maintaining and finding executive members. A lot of their executives are "getting on" in years. They are working on ways to get younger people involved in the executive and in the club as a whole. They have had lots of great speakers, and have also held two recent outings for young birders in cooperation with Toronto Region Conservation Authority. They appreciate advocacy with Ontario Nature and regularly sign-on to joint letters. They expressed concern that the clock is ticking on climate change and that Canada is moving much too slowly.

Thickson's Woods Land Trust

They are working on a submission to the Protected Areas Project (30x30), as well as how to get funding to be able to hire summer students. Volunteers (including Sunrise Rotary) are working to repair boardwalks in low-lying areas, and meeting with the knowledgeable Board members to plan the projects. Also working with CLOCA (Central Lake Ontario Conservation) to set up a terrestrial monitoring site in Thickson's Woods as part of a project to gain an understanding of the state and health of our forests.

A Great Horned Owl found injured in Thickson's Woods, taken to Toronto Wildlife, later died of suspected rodenticide poisoning. A Board member developed a petition to go to Durham Region requesting banning the use of rodenticide.

Toronto Field Naturalists

They have restarted their Nature Arts program, where TFN members who enjoy nature drawing get together monthly. They also had another successful Nature Images Show, with 12 participating photographers showing their work from around Ontario. TFN's 100th anniversary events continue with centennial walks that retrace the steps of historical TFN walks. Their Board President did a presentation at Downsview Park on ethical nature viewing and photography. And a trail camera program at their nature reserves photographed a curious black bear checking out the camera.

Toronto Nature Stewards

Most work days focus on the removal of invasive species, but they also do some native herbaceous plantings, litter pickup, and nature walks. The 2023 season finished strong and will continue to grow into the 2024 season. TNS more than doubled the number of planting sites in 2024 from 8 to 17, and will be planting at least 700 native herbaceous plants this season. They are also piloting seed-sowing and seed-sitting initiatives to find alternative ways to encourage native plant growth. They have approximately 40 newly trained Lead Stewards who will graduate from their training course this April and will support both new sites and existing sites in organizing and running events.

Willow Beach Field Naturalists

On March 25, they hosted a “tech savvy” meeting through Zoom. In it they walked members through how to use nature apps like iNaturalist, eBird, and Merlin. It included how to get the apps on their device and how to use them. They highly recommend this to others to enhance the ability of people in their group to contribute to community science.

They have held lots of field outings including waterfowl viewing at Presqu’île. One of their committees improved the final draft of their new bylaws, which is going to the membership for approval at their next meeting later this month.

Nature Almanac for June - Endless Days and the Urgency of Life

By Drew Monkman

“Generous June is a wonderful time to be alive and know this sweet land.” - Hal Borland

After the hectic days of May, June ushers in a time of relative calm for those who enjoy observing the natural world. There is still much to be seen, but the pace of change has slowed. It’s a little easier now to keep up with all that is new. The frenzy of spring bird migration has finally ended and most of our trees have already flowered and come into full leaf. We can now turn our attention to gentler pursuits such as dazzling moths and butterflies and breathtaking orchids

The June sun arches higher overhead than at any other time of year giving more than 15 hours of daylight and conveying a sense of unending time. Hal Borland, the former New York Times nature columnist, spoke of the month as “long, sweet days we bought and paid for with long, cold nights and short, bitter days at the dark turn of the year in December.” This is a month to be savoured.

Although many of June’s events can be observed in your own backyard or neighbourhood, a few may require a short drive or some special searching.

- 1) The annual roadside flower parade begins with mustards and buttercups blooming first.
- 2) In downtown Peterborough and Lakefield, chimney swifts are putting on quite a show. Pairs can be seen in courtship flight as they raise their wings and glide in a V position. Swifts nest in colonies inside the walls of old chimneys. Like their swallow cousins, they are in serious decline.
- 3) Common carp are spawning. They can be seen thrashing at the surface of shallow rivers, bays and backwaters. The fish sometimes jump right out of the water.
- 4) Dragonflies become quite common. Sometimes, thousands of individuals of the same species will emerge on the same day and fill the air around cottages and along country roads.
- 5) Mother chipmunks force their young to leave the den and to find their own territories. This dispersal is accompanied by a constant barrage of “chuck-chuck” sounds.
- 6) Birdsong is at its most diverse. Make a point of getting up and listening to the “dawn chorus,” the fervent birdsong that takes place each morning before the sun comes up. Robins usually lead off the show - at least in the city - but a myriad of other species soon joins in.
- 7) At just about any time this month, adult mayflies emerge from lakes and streams and form large mating swarms. They are most often seen in the evening or early morning.



Calico pennant dragonfly. Photo: Robert Pratten

- 8) Small-mouth, large-mouth, and rock bass, along with pumpkinseeds and bluegills, are spawning and can be seen guarding their shallow-water nests.
- 9) Painted turtles and snapping turtles are often seen along roadsides and other sandy locations laying their eggs. Please slow down in turtle-crossing zones and, if safe, help the reptile across the road.
- 10) On warm, still nights, giant silk moths are sometimes attracted to white lights. They may be seen flying around the light or sitting on the pole or ground. Watch especially for the Cecropia.
- 11) Serviceberries (Juneberries) are the first shrubs to boast ripe fruit. Silver maple keys ripen about now, too, and fall to the ground in huge quantities.
- 12) The gray treefrog chorus of melodious, two-second bursts of bird-like trills reaches its peak.
- 13) Ox-eye daisies and dame's-rocket bloom in fields and along roadsides.
- 14) Male hummingbirds can be seen doing their pendulum courtship flight, almost as if suspended from a string. They fly in wide arcs above and to both sides of the female.
- 15) Black cherries and black locusts come into flower. Locust flowers are extremely aromatic.
- 16) The green frog's banjo-like "poink" is a widespread sound in wetlands both day and night.
- 17) The male cones of white and red pines release their pollen. Decks, picnic tables and shorelines look like they've been powdered with a yellow dust.
- 18) The first monarch butterflies of the new year are usually seen sometime during the first half of June. These are usually the "grandchildren" of the monarchs that flew to Mexico last fall.
- 19) June through early July is a critical time for loons. The birds are very vulnerable to disturbance by humans as they attempt to nest and care for their chicks.
- 20) When the weather is dry enough, usually thanks to drying north winds, the first cut of hay takes place. Unfortunately, this often kills the babies of field-nesting birds such as bobolinks.
- 21) The summer solstice occurs on June 20, 21, or 22, depending on the year. The sun will rise and set farther north than on any other day of the year. At about 1 p.m., it is at its highest point in the sky of the entire year and casts shorter shadows than at any other time.
- 22) More than 20 species of orchids bloom this month. Among them is the spectacular showy lady's slipper.
- 23) The summer stars have arrived. The three stars of the Summer Triangle, Vega, Deneb and Altair, can be seen low in the eastern sky soon after dark.
- 24) Black bears can sometimes be found in hay fields, grazing on clover and alfalfa.
- 25) Warm, late June nights are wonderful for firefly watching. The magical flashes of light from the male serve to attract a female. She will respond with her own luminous signal.
- 26) Crows and red-winged blackbirds have now finished nesting and reform flocks.
- 27) Butterfly-watching is usually at its most productive in early summer since the greatest number of species is aflight at this time. Tiger swallowtails, white admirals, and tiny Dun and European skippers are particularly noticeable.
- 28) Baby loons usually hatch in the last week of June or the first week of July.
- 29) Look high overhead for Arcturus, the star that heralded the arrival of spring. It is now the brightest star in the sky.
- 30) Common elderberries, along with cattails, bloom along wetland edges.



Gray treefrog.
Photo: Kim
Muzatko

Nature Almanac for July – Summer at Its Height

By Drew Monkman

“Live in each season as it passes: breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit.” – Henry David Thoreau

July, the seventh month of the year in the Gregorian calendar, represents summer at its height. It is our warmest month with hot, humid and often thundery weather. Roadside flowers are at their most colourful and diverse. The scent of milkweed and basswood flowers fills the air as cicadas buzz in the background. Many bird voices, however, fall silent this month and won't be heard again until next spring. Blackbirds and swallows flock up and, as a cruel reminder of time's relentless march forward, the first southward-bound shorebirds start to pass through.



Larvae of milkweed tussock moth chomping away at a milkweed leaf.
Photo: Kathryn Sheridan

July was named in honour of Julius Caesar who was born in this month. The Anglo-Saxons called the month, 'Moed-monad' or Mead-month, from the meadows being then in bloom. Similarly, in Finnish, July is called heinäkuu, meaning "month of grass." Astronomically speaking, the sun begins the month in the constellation of Gemini and ends in the constellation of Cancer.

- 1) Having completed their nesting duties, European Starlings, Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles and American Crows reform flocks. Flocking provides many advantages to birds such as protection. When the flock is feeding, it only takes a few individuals to watch for enemies. This allows the other birds in the flock to spend their time feeding and preening rather than having to constantly look out for danger.
- 2) Ox-eye daisies usually dominate roadsides in early July. They are accompanied by other non-native wildflowers such as birdsfoot trefoil, chicory, orange hawkweed and viper's-bugloss. However, this year, many roadsides have already been taken over by Queen Anne's lace and white sweet clover, two species that usually flower later in the month.
- 3) If you're out for an early morning walk alongside a wetland, watch for large, circular spider webs called orbs. Constructed vertically to the ground, a big orb web can be two feet in diameter and have 15 or more "spokes" reaching to the hub where the owner usually sits. Many different species of orb-weaver spiders exist. Dew-covered webs in the morning can make for great photographs.
- 4) Common milkweed is in flower, and its rich, sweet scent fills the early summer air. Watch for monarch butterfly caterpillars on the leaves. They are striped in black, white and yellow. The number of monarchs reported so far this year appears quite encouraging, especially in light of the heavy die-off they experienced on their Mexican winter grounds.
- 5) Tiny, moth-like butterflies called skippers are by far the most abundant butterflies this month. They get their name from their fast, erratic style of flight. Watch especially for the European skipper which is easily identified by its brassy, burnt-orange wings. It is usually very common in open grassy places with scattered flowers. Many other similar skipper species can also be seen right now, particularly on the margins of wetlands where flowers abound.
- 6) American Goldfinches breed later than most other birds in the Kawarthas. They usually wait until sometime in late June or early July when thistles have produced their downy seeds. Not only is thistle down used to line the nest but regurgitated thistle seeds are fed to the young.
- 7) Wetlands are alive now with blooming elderberry, swamp milkweed, white water lily, Joe-Pye weed, purple loosestrife and, by mid-month, jewelweed. Watch also for tall meadow rue in the same habitat. Growing up to six feet tall, the male plant's flowers have numerous, white, thread-like stamens which make the plant look like it's covered with fuzzy balls.

- 8) The buzzy, electric song of the cicada is now filling the void created by the decrease in bird song. Drum-like organs in the near-hollow abdomen vibrate to create the sound. On hot days, males do their best to attract silent females with this signature sound of summer.
- 9) Cottage roads can be surprisingly good for birding in July and August. Look for trees and shrubs with ripe fruit where birds may be feeding. If you hear call notes, stop and “pish.” You’ll be amazed at all of the birds – including many recently-fledged young – that will pop up to see what the strange noise is. Most will probably be warblers.
- 10) There is more to the black-eyed Susan flower than meets the eye – the human eye that is. The ultraviolet vision range of bees sees the yellow petals of the flower as three concentric bull’s eye rings surrounding the brown centre. This pattern serves as a guide to lead the bees to their reward of nectar and pollen in the central disk flowers.
- 11) Family groups of Common Mergansers are often seen feeding and travelling along shorelines on lakes in the northern Kawarthas. The mother protects the chicks, but she does not feed them. They dive to catch all of their own food.
- 12) With the abundant precipitation we had during June, mushrooms should start to be quite common this month. Watch especially for boletes. Although they are the same size and shape as other mushrooms, they have no gills under the cap, but rather an underside surface full of tiny pores. It’s fun to make mushroom spore prints with boletes. Go to: http://www.mushroomexpert.com/spore_print.html for instructions.
- 13) The ear-splitting chorus of spring peepers and gray treefrogs has now been replaced by the lazy, laid-back calls of the green frog. Named for the green colour that usually appears on the head or face, this species produces a plucking sound which is remarkably like the twang of a loose banjo string. Green frogs are most vocal at dusk and dawn.
- 14) As the nesting seasons wraps up, there is a marked decrease in bird song. It’s easy to forget that the primary reason for song is that males want to advertise themselves, be it to declare ownership of territory or to attract a mate. Singing requires a huge amount of energy, so if there is no reproductive imperative to do so, it’s to a bird’s advantage to remain quiet.
- 15) Signs of the changing season are already upon us as swallows start congregating on roadside wires, especially in the vicinity of farms. Only ten years ago, these flocks used to number in the hundreds of birds with tree and barn swallows dominating.



Midland turtle pile-up at the edge of the Otonabee River. Photo: Steve Paul

16) Along cottage roads, watch for thickets of purple-flowering raspberry. A small shrub, it has maple-like leaves and rose-purple flowers about 3 – 5 cm across. The raspberry-like fruits have a nice flavour but tend to be extremely seedy. This species also makes a nice addition to a native wildflower garden.

17) The first southward-bound shorebirds begin to pass through. Watch especially for Semipalmated Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers and Yellowlegs. The Otonabee Gravel Pit Conservation Area is often a good place to see shorebirds in Peterborough County. However, Presqu’île Provincial Park offers our area’s best shorebird-watching opportunities.

18) Watch for the uncommon map turtle basking on rocks in larger lakes such as Stony. They often do their sunbathing piled one on top of the other!

19) July is a great time to take a break from birding and to turn your attention to our many species of butterflies. Among the most common July species are the European skipper, Dun skipper, eyed brown,

northern pearly-eye, clouded sulphur, cabbage white, great spangled fritillary, northern crescent, white admiral, red admiral, and, of course, the monarch. Close-focusing binoculars and a guide book are a must. You may also wish to take a picture of the butterfly with your digital camera and then use the digital zoom feature to get a close-up look at the various field marks. A good website for butterfly identification can be found at <http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/>

20) Identifying and photographing dragonflies is also a wonderful way to spend a summer afternoon. You should have no trouble finding the dot-tailed whiteface, common whitetail, four-spotted skimmer, and chalk-fronted skipper. Go to <http://www.odonatacentral.org/> for pictures of all the North American dragonflies and damselflies.

21) The days are slowly growing shorter. Sunset (8:50 p.m.) is only about 10 minutes earlier now than it was at the summer solstice in June. Sunrise (5:49 a.m.) is just 20 minutes later.

22) Local lakes reach their warmest temperatures this month. The average is about 23 °C. This warm water sits on top of much colder water that remains at 4 °C all summer long, thereby creating two “separate lakes” which do not mix.

23) Deer flies are very common throughout July. Slightly larger than house flies, they are mostly yellow or black with dark markings on the wings. They have brilliant green or golden eyes. Deer flies persistently buzz around your head until they decide to land and dine!

24) Solitary Sandpipers are now passing through the Kawarthas after completing nesting duties in the far north. As its name implies, this species is always found alone, often along the edge of small wetlands.

25) The branches of cherries, honeysuckles and dogwoods bow over with ripe berries. Many bird and mammal species gorge themselves accordingly.

26) Being opposite the high-riding summer sun, the summer moon is always low in the sky. This means that summer moon shadows are much longer than those of winter. The low moon also makes for romantic, long moonbeams over the water.

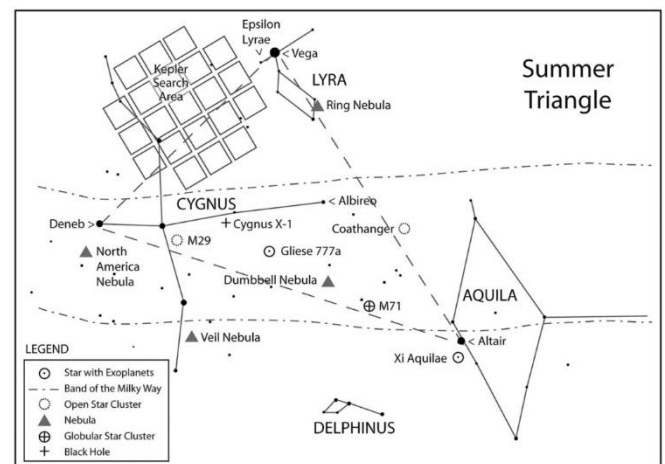
27) The margins of shallow bays turn purple in late July and early August when pickerel weed flowers. It is thought that the name “pickerelweed” comes from the fact that this plant shares its shallow-water habitat with the fish of the same name.

28) If you are out in the early morning, watch for dew droplets sparkling on the leaves of jewelweed, hence the name. When the seeds are ripe, the inch-long pods explode when touched, scattering seeds in every direction. This explains the plant’s other common name of touch-me-not.

29) The Summer Triangle and Milky Way dominate the night sky. As for the Big Dipper, it is suspended high in the northwest. The two stars that form the handle-end of the Dipper’s bowl point almost directly to Vega, the brightest star of the Triangle.

30) If you’re lucky, you may find scarlet cardinal flowers in bloom along lake shores and the margins of wetlands. They are highly sought by nectar-seeking hummingbirds.

31) Pegasus, the signature constellation of fall, becomes visible along the northeastern horizon in the late evening. It reminds us to enjoy summer now because it won’t last!



Summer Triangle from cnyo.org. Once you spot the Summer Triangle, you can explore the cosmic treasures found in this busy region of the Milky Way. Make sure to “Take a Trip Around the Triangle” before it sets this fall! Find the full handout at bit.ly/TriangleTrip

Wild Sarsaparilla: Beauty Literally Hidden Just Beneath the Surface

Submitted by Lou Smyrlis

There's a teaching in Confucianism that everything in nature has beauty but not everyone sees it. I find that teaching particularly telling when it comes to wild sarsaparilla.

The plant itself is quite noticeable, growing about a metre tall in moist, shaded parts of the woods, and forming colonies through horizontal creeping roots called rhizomes, with many plants connected. But its flowers are easy to miss. In fact, I missed them for many years, walking right by without noticing.

Wild sarsaparilla is a member of the ginseng family. When the plant first emerges in the spring, its oval-shaped, pointed leaves have a shiny, reddish tint to them. If you're walking by quickly and not paying close attention, they can easily be mistaken for poison ivy, which also comes out at around the same time and inhabits many of the same habitats. As they age, however, wild sarsaparilla leaves are finely serrated whereas poison ivy has smooth or coarsely toothed leaves.

Wild sarsaparilla stems grow straight up from the ground and divide into a whorl of three shorter stems, which fan out and form three to seven (usually five) leaflets. What's most enthralling, and well hidden from the casual glance, is its globe-shaped clusters of greenish-white flowers. These clusters are produced on a leafless stalk arising directly from the base of the plant. The stalk bearing the flowers is considerably shorter than the leaf stalk, so the flower clusters are hidden beneath the plant's leaves, which serve as a sort of covering from the elements and inattentive observers.

The globe-shaped flower cluster consists of about twenty to forty tiny flowers, each about 3 mm wide. Each flower has five petals that curve back and downward and five white-tipped stamens that stick out from the centre. They look like tiny versions of the globular fireworks that usually conclude the Canada Day celebrations.

While we humans may miss them, the wild sarsaparilla flowers are no secret to a variety of insects, birds, and mammals. Both long-tongued and short-tongued bees, as well as some species of flies and beetles, have no trouble frequenting the flowers while moose and white-tailed deer browse the plants.

Over the summer, wild sarsaparilla's flowers will develop into fruit, appearing initially as a cluster of small green berries, eventually turning dark purple or blue-black. The berries are consumed by several thrush species (Wood, Hermit and Swainson's Thrush), Ruffed Grouse and White-throated Sparrow.

The berries are also eaten by skunks, chipmunks, red foxes, and black bears. In fact, studies of bear scat in Ontario and Quebec found that wild sarsaparilla berries were an important food source for black bears during July and August. And humans have used wild sarsaparilla root bark to make tea and root beer.

The utilitarian uses for wild sarsaparilla have long been figured out; appreciating its hidden beauty requires a slower pace and a keener eye. Sometimes beauty is, literally, hidden just beneath the surface.



Wild sarsaparilla. The globe-shaped flower cluster consists of about twenty to forty tiny flowers with white-tipped stamens sticking out from the centre. They look like tiny fireworks. Photo: Lou Smyrlis

Tick Season is Upon Us

Submitted by Donald Sutherland

Just a reminder that we're well into tick season, as evidenced by this eastern black-legged tick (right, *Ixodes scapularis*) embedded in my abdomen. I picked it up in a city park in Peterborough on April 26. I somehow missed it during my daily tick-check, but it was quite a bit more obvious the next morning! With such a mild winter, ticks are apt to be just about everywhere!

Editor's note: The black-legged tick, also known as the deer tick, can carry Lyme disease, which is probably the biggest reason you really don't want one of these ticks embedded in your skin. A helpful article on how to avoid ticks and how to remove ticks can be found here: ontarionature.org/stay-tick-free-blog. Essentially, stay on trails; wear long sleeves, pants, socks, and closed shoes; tuck pants into socks; wear light-colour clothing to see ticks better; and use insect repellent containing DEET or Icaridin. To remove ticks, hold tweezers parallel to skin, grasp tick and pull straight up. As the article says, "the presence of ticks should not prevent people from partaking in summer activities. Being aware is the best form of protection. If you're paying attention, you'll see them."



Adult female tick on April 26 in Peterborough. Photo: Donald Sutherland

Steve's Swan Sightings

Submitted by Steve Paul

It has been a pretty quiet spring for Trumpeter Swan sightings around the local Peterborough area. The untagged, unbanded (UTUB) pair that stayed around all winter were seen quite often on the Television Road pond, but they have since moved on. Sadie (X66) and her UTUB (untagged and unbanded) mate, Chip, who raised their first family around Peterborough in 2022, were seen on Chemong Lake in March, and made a brief visit to Thompson Bay (where they first arrived in 2021) at the end of April, but haven't been seen since. Sadie was born on Sturgeon Lake, so my guess is they are back on the Kawartha Lakes somewhere, and will turn up with a family later this year.



V68 and family in the Port Severn area on May 10. Photo: Susan Currie

I wanted to share a cute but important photo. The photo shared with this article was taken on May 10 in the Port Severn area. It is of V68, UTUB partner and five cygnets. My best guess is the cygnets hatched around May 8 or 9. This is the earliest recorded hatch of Trumpeter Swan cygnets in Ontario - clearly a result of the lack of winter ice and then a warm spring which allowed swans to return to their breeding grounds early.

As I usually mention a couple of times a year, sharing your sightings of Trumpeter Swans is very important in conserving and protecting this species. Please consider reporting all sightings of Trumpeter Swans that you see. There are many different ways to do this:

- Report using eBird.
- If you are registered for Atlas-3 (now in year four of five), you can report using the NatureCounts app or the Atlas website.
- Report through Trumpeter Swan Conservation Ontario (aka TRUSCO). They are easily found on Facebook. Joy Poyntz is the main data tracker. She will ask you to share the location privately to keep the nesting location confidential.
- Report through the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre. (Google "Wye Marsh Swan Sightings")

- Report through the Trumpeter Swan Society. (USA-based but will direct data to the TRUSCO).
- You can also report them to me via e-mail, and I will pass that information along.

Please send as much detail as possible: date and time, the specific location you saw them (even with GPS coordinates if you have them), and definitely report if you see yellow/black wing tags, which are used for identification and tracking. Confirmation photos are very helpful as well.

If you have any additional questions, please reach out to me at stevepaul70@gmail.com.

The Bluebird Blue That Never Fades

Submitted by Marilyn Freeman

Think of a blue bird like, say, an Eastern Bluebird or a Cerulean Warbler. The blue of these feathers is outstanding BUT the colour has nothing to do with the normal absorption of light that produces colour as is usual. It's all about the shape of super tiny, disordered structures in the barbs of the bird's feathers. Think nanoscale level formations that bend and bounce different light wavelengths in different ways.

Many readers of *The Orchid* are generally familiar with the structure of a feather. The barbs that extend out from the stiff centre of the feather are comb-like fronds that stick together to form the vane. Researchers of bluebird feathers have discovered that the barbs are made of long strands of a protein called β -keratin that are tangled together with air in-between. The tangles scatter different wavelengths of incoming light evenly, creating a single color that looks the same from whichever angle it's being viewed. This is different from the iridescent light which a birder would see on the throat of a Ruby-Throated Hummingbird or the head of a Grackle. Because iridescent light is reflected unevenly in different directions, it appears to our eyes as now-you-see-it, now-you-don't.

The nanostructures that create the blue of the Bluebird feathers are similar to the shape that – you won't believe this – large molecules take when separating out of a solvent like how oil forms spheres when mixed with water. Scientists think that this configuration arises during the feather's development in just this way. First the developing cells produce the β -keratin which then form long chains. At a certain genetically determined point the molecules start linking to each other in a way that causes the separation to stop. The point at which the separation stops determines the colour produced. If the observer of the bluebird blue is another bluebird of the opposite sex and if the configuration is right, the two may mate and pass on the genes that regulate this process.

There is a lot to be learned from nature here. What if paint could be made by taking a structural approach to creating colour through the configuration of molecules rather than through pigments? This could be used to create more sustainable, fade-resistant, non-polluting paints. What if learning about directing the flow of light could be used to improve solar panels and lasers?



Male Eastern Bluebird.
Photo: Lorraine
Topping

From the Archives: Information on Plants of the Region

Submitted by Martin Parker

Since its creation in about 1970, the PFN Archives contains a variety of documents and reports dealing with various aspects of nature in the Peterborough region. The following is a summary of the reports on file which deal with the vascular plants of the Peterborough region.

1998 Peterborough County Natural History Summary, March 1999 by Peter S. Burke, Colin D. Jones, Jennifer M. Line, Michael Oldham, Peter J. Sorrill, published jointly by the Peterborough Field Naturalists, Natural Heritage Information Centre, and Trent University. Contains a summary of the Vascular Plants.

Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park, October 1983. The Orchid Press, Peterborough Field Naturalists. This list was prepared utilizing data provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Copies were made available to members at the time of printing.

Our Wild Orchids: Trails and Portraits by Frank Morris and Edward A. Emes. 1929. Charles Scribner's Sons. This was the first popular book on Orchids published in the continent. Frank Morris was the leading naturalist in Peterborough and was the founder of the Peterborough Nature Club which is now the Peterborough Field Naturalists.

Photo Album of Orchids, circa 1975. This photo album is a collection of prints from the original negatives used in the book 'Our Wild Orchids'. The album was originally prepared by Gordon Berry from archival material provided by the widow of Frank Morris. The original material was deposited in the Archives of Trent University. The photo album was relocated in 2023 and restored by Dorothy McCord.

Wildflowers of the Kawarthas, by Dorothy Hunter, circa 1970. This photo album contains colour prints of numerous wildflowers common in this region. This album was funded by donations to the coffee fund and was displayed at meetings of the Peterborough Field Naturalists.

Citizen Science Opportunities -- 2024 Butterfly Counts

Submitted by Martin Parker

The North American Butterfly Association coordinates butterfly counts across the continent each summer following the same format as Christmas bird counts. A typical count covers an area contained within a circle of 7 ½ miles radius, the same as Christmas bird counts. For each count, the circle is divided into smaller units which are covered by individual field parties. In structuring the field parties, the count compiler will have an experienced butterfly counter lead each field party. Results of these counts provide valuable information about populations of our native butterflies. Participating in a butterfly count provides an excellent opportunity to discover these colourful summer flyers.

The butterfly counts in this region are:

Petroglyphs -- Saturday, July 20

This is the 24rd year for this count which covers the eastern end of Stoney Lake north to Apsley and the Sandy Lake Road fens. Traditionally, it has one of the highest diversities of any count held in Ontario. The compiler for this count is Jerry Ball, with Martin Parker providing computer support.

Fenelon Falls -- Monday, July 22

This count is a joint effort with the Kawartha Field Naturalists. This is the 8th year for this count, which covers the Fenelon Falls area and northward. The compiler for this count is Martin Parker.

Both of these counts are conducted in accordance with procedures established by the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) and are published in their annual summary.



Red Admiral butterfly. Photo: Sandy Garvey

How to Participate

If you are interested in participating in one or more of these butterfly counts, please contact Martin Parker by e-mail (mparker19@cogeco.ca) or by telephone 705-745-4750 so field parties can be assembled in advance of the count day.

You Gibber, We'll Jabber

It's been such a drag confined to this snag in our nest for long days upon days,
 But, fed grubs fat and juicy, I'm feeling kind of loosey, and changing in so many ways.
 Stabbed with tongues like barbed needles, wood-boring beetles and ants are thrust
 Into our delicate craws without injury or pause, and no one is ever disgusted.
 It's every kid's goal to cling to the hole, waiting for a beakful of bug salad to swallow;
 Still, I'm not loving all the pecking and shoving used to gain the top of this hollow.
 All our begging and crying sends Ma and Pa flying until we finally surrender to sleep.
 Our waking cacophony adds to the biophony as morning chorus begins with a cheep.
 In dead trees or live, Ma and Pa hunt for us five, or in logs and stumps on the ground.
 Their excavations spectacular are totally whackular; we love that loud, knocking sound.
 Its head-swinging blurred, a nine to twelve ounce bird is a striking presence to all –
 Its cuk-cuk calling, big chips falling and low-pitched drumming never fail to enthrall.
 I mustn't forget mention of Nature's great invention, the gelatin-coated fecal sac.
 How my parents can retrieve our poop in a sleeve in a cramped space so deep and black!
 When the birds are suddenly quiet, you can sometimes spy it – a predator on the prowl.
 Our enemies are few, but we pileateds do fear squirrels, a few hawks and hoot owl.
 Such are the joys and strife of a woodpecker's life; now, here's what I want you to do:
 It would be so grand if people let stand big, old trees that feed and shelter us, too.
 During my internment, it's been my discernment that the forest isn't as it should be –
 So many trees cut down, the expanding town will spell the end for my nestmates and me.
 If there's no pileated, a forest is not rated as old growth where dependent species thrive.
 These birds of a feather need sanctuaries joined together to be healthy and to survive.
 Dryo in Dryocopis is tree, and copis dagger, so you see I'm a red-capped tree stabber.
 We're intelligent birds with our own kind of words; if you want to gibber, we'll jabber.



Pileated Woodpecker.
 Photo: Murray Palmer

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2012



The Orchid Diary



A summary of noteworthy observations by PFN members and others in Peterborough County. Information compiled from eBird's rare bird sightings, Drew Monkman's Sightings website and individual submissions. Please submit your interesting observations to orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org

Apr 22	<p>The Barnacle Goose, originally sighted by Jake Nafziger on April 19, foraging among a large flock of Canada Geese, continued in a flooded field on Blezard Line for several more days, allowing many PFN members and other birders to observe it.</p> <p>A Cackling Goose was also observed in this location by Leo Weiskittel.</p> <p>The Least Bittern along the Lang-Hastings Trail between Technology and Keene Rd also continued to call and be seen and heard by many.</p> <p>Dave Milsom saw a Short-eared Owl on Scriven Rd.</p>
Apr 23	<p>A Great Egret was spotted by Laurie Healey in the Keene Rd Marsh and by Iain Rayner flying over his Lakefield yard.</p>
Apr 24	<p>Iain Rayner observed a small group of Northern Pintails in the Lakefield Marsh.</p> <p>Some Long-tailed Ducks were seen flying over on Asphodel 8th Line by Don Sutherland.</p> <p>Red-breasted Mergansers, which have been seen regularly throughout the winter, were seen on Pigeon Lake at John Earle Chase Park by Martyn Obbard.</p> <p>A Red-headed Woodpecker was heard by Martyn Obbard in a traditional nesting location near Harcourt.</p> <p>Marsh Wrens were heard by Angela Mattos on Douro 4th Line and Don Sutherland on the Johnston Drive Ponds. The Least Bittern that had been detected earlier in April in these ponds was heard again by Don.</p>
Apr 25	<p>Dave Milsom saw 4 Redheads on Pigeon Lake at the end of Kerry Line.</p> <p>A Great Crested Flycatcher was heard by Angela Mattos in her Douro yard.</p> <p>Jeff Steward saw and heard an early Grasshopper Sparrow near Millbrook.</p> <p>A pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared in Laurie Healey's Keene Rd backyard; Ainsley Boyd saw another on her backyard feeder, Parkhill Road West.</p>
Apr 27	<p>Matt Tobey encountered one Red-headed Woodpecker on Fothergill Island, Pigeon Lake, and a second on Sandy Point Road, Pigeon Lake.</p> <p>An early White-crowned Sparrow was seen by Matt Garvin in his East City backyard. Many more were seen by others over the next week, migrating through.</p> <p>Sascha Dho noted a male Baltimore Oriole feeding at oranges in her Lang yard.</p>
Apr 28	<p>Early Eastern Kingbirds were found by Marilyn Hubley near Squirrel Creek Conservation Area and by Lynn Cotton at the Brown Line Pond.</p> <p>Many arriving Warbling Vireos were spotted today including at Meadowvale Park by Scott Gibson, in Millennium Park by Connor Thompson and Dan Williams and along the Indian River by Sascha Dho.</p> <p>Marilyn Hubley detected a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at the Squirrel Creek Conservation Area.</p>
Apr 29	<p>Brenda Kidd saw a very early Ruby-throated Hummingbird at her feeder on 5th Line Selwyn.</p>

	Randy Beacler had a large Black Bear at his birdfeeder in Kinmount.
Apr 30	<p>The beautiful fluting song of Wood Thrushes was heard today by Tim Haan on Corrigan Hill and by Kim Bennett on 11th Line Selwyn.</p> <p>Migrating warblers were active today. Northern Parulas were spotted on Corrigan Hill (Tim Haan), Oriole Dr (Sarah Jamieson), Rotary Park (Matt Garvin), and near Lake Catchacoma (Peter Burke). Peter also saw Blackburnian Warblers and Matt saw Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided Warblers. A Black-throated Blue Warbler was heard by Kim Bennett on 11th Line, Selwyn.</p> <p>Another Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen by Cathy Douglas in Millenium Park.</p>
May 1	<p>A Long-tailed Duck was spotted on the Otonabee just north of Little Lake by Scott Gibson and Leo Weiskittel.</p> <p>Leo Weiskittel found a Dunlin in the flooded fields on Assumption Road.</p> <p>A Bonaparte's Gull, still in non-breeding plumage, was seen by Dan Williams on the Otonabee River north of Little Lake.</p> <p>Dan Williams also made another amazing find of a Lawrence's Warbler, the hybrid between Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers! This bird was bright yellow with a black eye mask and throat, singing the Blue-winged Warbler song. This bird was seen along the railway just west of Maria St., and stuck around long enough for many keen birders to get out and see him.</p> <p>Other more typical migrants were moving through today, with Cape May Warblers making their first appearances at Beavermead (Leo Weiskittel) and Meadowvale Park (many sightings).</p>
May 2	<p>Least Bitterns detected in the Cunningham Boulevard Stormwater Wetland by Talon Stryker and Samantha Welsh and by Gerry Bird and Linda Sunderland at the Sawyer Creek wetland from Lynches Rock Road.</p> <p>Clay-coloured Sparrows were detected at the Lakefield Water Tower trails, where they have occurred in previous years, by Bill Crins, and at the Mark Street Boat Launch by Dan Chronowic.</p> <p>Arriving American Redstarts were seen and heard by Marilyn Hubley and Sue Paradisis at the Cunningham Boulevard Stormwater Wetlands and at Meadowvale Park.</p> <p>Red Admiral Butterflies were seen in abundance in Douro-Dummer by Marilyn Freeman.</p>
May 3	<p>Cathy Dueck detected a Red-eyed Vireo singing up on County Road 44 north of Havelock and Laurie Healey heard one at the Trent University Wildlife Sanctuary.</p> <p>An Orchard Oriole was seen by Colin Jones at Bellemere Winds Golf Club.</p> <p>Golden-winged Warblers were seen by Tim Haan on Corrigan Hill, Cathy Douglas on Hubble Road, and Colin James at Bellemere Winds Golf Club.</p> <p>Leo Weiskittel saw a couple of Blue-winged Warblers on Jones Quarter Line, Cavan and Cathy Douglas saw one on Hubble Road, north of Havelock.</p> <p>A Mourning Warbler was seen and heard by Scott McKinlay in Cavan Woods.</p>
May 4	<p>Laurie Healey spotted the Orchard Oriole on the Lang Hastings Trail near Dillon Road in the same spot it had been seen by many in 2023.</p> <p>A Coyote was seen by those on the PFN outing at Ingleton Wells.</p> <p>This May seems to be a good one for Yellow Morels. Lucy Blouin found some in her Peterborough backyard, Pam Martin found (and ate) many in her Lang yard and there were also some out on the Fleming College trails. Many others were growing out on the drumlin on the Trent campus. Plenty of rain in the first 2 weeks were possibly beneficial to their abundance.</p>

May 6	<p>A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen at John Earle Chase Park by Martyn Obbard.</p> <p>Laurie Healey heard an Eastern Wood-Pewee on the Lang Hastings Trail near Redmond Road and a second one on the trail near Drummond Line.</p> <p>A Yellow Rail was heard by Leo Weiskittel at Miller Creek Wildlife Area. A second one was heard at the same location calling simultaneously a couple of days later by Leo and others.</p>
May 8	<p>Don Sutherland saw a Short-billed Dowitcher at the Assumption Road meltwater ponds.</p> <p>Another Red-headed Woodpecker was heard at Trent University Wildlife Nature Area by Leo Weiskittel and Cathy Douglas, and Chris Lemieux also saw one at Duncan's Line, Keene.</p>
May 9	<p>Another Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen by Cathy Douglas on Mervin Line.</p> <p>An early Orange-crowned Warbler was seen by Ken Fulsang at Cavan Swamp.</p>
May 11	<p>A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted by Hayden Wilson on the Hammer Family Nature Preserve and one was spotted by Leo Weiskittel on Mervin Line.</p> <p>More Clay-coloured Sparrows were seen, on Douro 3rd Line fields and on Jones Quarter Line by Don Sutherland and one on Dummer Alvar by Jake Nafziger.</p> <p>Eric Snyder noticed a Black Bear track in the wetland along the Lang-Hastings rail trail.</p>
May 12	<p>A Wilson's Phalarope was found by Meg Heft at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.</p> <p>Don Sutherland found a Great Egret in a pond on Brown Line, Cavan.</p> <p>An Alder Flycatcher was seen and heard on the Lang-Hastings trail near Fife Line by Amy Semple.</p>
May 13	<p>A Pectoral Sandpiper was found by Jerry Ball at the Assumption Road meltwater ponds. Later observations at this location include another Wilson's Phalarope, a Semipalmated Sandpiper, and a Black-bellied Plover.</p> <p>Orchard Orioles were seen on Scriven Road by Alice Hodges, at the Mark St. boat launch by Dan Chronowic, on Bailieboro Second Line by Matthew Tobey and in Lakefield by Travis Cameron.</p>
May 14	<p>Angela Mattos noted 2 Olive-sided Flycatchers in her Douro yard.</p> <p>A Northern Mockingbird was seen by Colin Jones on Park St. and Colin also heard a Common Nighthawk at Bellmere Winds Golf Club.</p>
May 16	<p>A large flock of close to 90 Brant was spotted in flight by Don Sutherland at Sandy Point, Pigeon Lake. Another flock of 100 was seen by Don from Scriven Heights, flying over Rice Lake.</p> <p>Iain Rayner heard a Willow Flycatcher at May's Creek Marsh.</p>
May 18	<p>A Tufted Titmouse was seen at a bird feeder on Belmont Lake, by Matt M.</p>
May 19	<p>Don Sutherland noted a first-year male Ruddy Duck at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.</p>
May 20	<p>A Northern Mockingbird was spotted on Parkhill at Wallis by Don Sutherland.</p>
May 22	<p>Luke Berg noted a Solitary Sandpiper at Assumption Sport Horses ponds.</p>
May 24	<p>Another 2 Black-bellied Plovers were seen at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons by Meg Heft.</p> <p>A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was heard by Don Sutherland at Petroglyphs Park.</p>






PFN OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Sue Paradisis	sueparadisis@hotmail.com	705-559-2061
Past-President	Rene Gareau	rene.gareau@sympatico.ca	705-741-4560
Vice-President	Fiona McKay	fcmckay@peterboroughnature.org	705-875-2317
Secretary	Anda Rungis	secretary@peterboroughnature.org	613-298-9062
Treasurer	Sandy Garvey	treasurer@peterboroughnature.org	705-768-0904
Directors	Tamara Brown	tamaraebrown@gmail.com	613-620-5726
	Cathy Douglas	cddouglas77@gmail.com	905-751-5292
	Shelley King	shelleyfletcherking@gmail.com	705-957-9030
	Steve Paul	stevepaul70@gmail.com	705-930-8370
	Philip Shaw	pshaw78@hotmail.com	705-874-1688
	Linda Sunderland	linda.sunderland@gmail.com	705-768-7857
	Ted Vale	tedandmarion@sympatico.ca	705-741-3641

KEY CONTACTS

Membership	Cathy Douglas	membership@peterboroughnature.org, ph: 905-751-5292
Outings Coordinators	Steve Paul and Linda Sunderland	stevepaul70@gmail.com
Ontario Nature Rep	Steve Paul	stevepaul70@gmail.com
PFN Juniors	Shelley King	juniors@peterboroughnature.org
Social Media	Marilyn Hubley	media@peterboroughnature.org
The Orchid	Kathryn Sheridan	orchid@peterboroughnature.org
Orchid Diary	Pamela Martin and Marilyn Hubley	orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org

PFN on Social Media:

 Instagram	@PtboNature	 YouTube	peterboroughnature
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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			



Stop the 413 - Taken from Nature Network News

Calling on Nature Network groups – please invite your members to sign our Action Alert opposing the proposed Highway 413. This six-lane, 52-kilometre highway would have devastating impacts on nature and farmland. We need the Government of Canada to swiftly ensure the proposed highway undergoes a federal environmental assessment and that it fulfills its obligations to protect waterways, at-risk species, migratory birds and fish.

PLEASE ASK YOUR MP TO MAKE THE PROPOSED HIGHWAY UNDERGO A FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<https://ontarionature.good.do/stopthe413/email/>



Youth Summit by Ontario Nature

Exciting Opportunity for Youth Between 14 & 20 Years of Age!

Each year, Ontario Nature and its many partners, offers an opportunity for 90 youth across Ontario to attend the Youth Summit for Mother Earth. This year the Summit runs from September 13 to 15th at the Tawingo Outdoor Centre in Muskoka. If a weekend of hands-on, outdoor education and land-based learning opportunities gets you excited, you can find more information at <https://ontarionature.org/events/youth-summit/>.

The Peterborough Field Naturalists will sponsor 1 youth from Peterborough to attend the Youth Summit by covering the \$450 registration fee. "Expression of Interest" emails/letters/essays must be received by June 10, 2024 and can be emailed to juniors@peterboroughnature.org. The "Expression of Interest" should include your name, contact information, previous involvement in environmental projects, and the reasons why you would like to attend. Following the Summit, the PFN will request a brief report or presentation from the sponsored recipient, to share the experience with our membership.

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Thursday, August 22. 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. Please send submissions to Kathryn Sheridan at orchid@peterboroughnature.org or mail submissions via post to: PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7



Junior Naturalist News



peterboroughnature.org

email: juniors@peterboroughnature.org

June 2024



INSECT SAFARI on June 9th!



Our adventure will begin indoors at the Environment Centre to expand our knowledge about beetles and other insects. Then we'll head out to the great outdoors with sweep nets and other safari techniques to look for interesting mini-beasts! Bug boxes and microscopes will be available for a closer look before releasing our 6 legged discoveries back into the wild.

Wear a sun hat, sensible footwear and plenty of sunscreen.

This fun and engaging workshop will be led by guest presenter, Paul Elliott. Paul is an insect enthusiast and emeritus professor of the School of Education and Professional Learning at Trent University.

DATE: Sunday, June 9th

TIME: 10:30am to noon

LOCATION: Camp Kawartha
Environment Centre, 2505 Pioneer
Road, Peterborough

REGISTRATION:

Contact Shelley King at
juniors@peterboroughnature.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
for the
**"PFN Juniors
Summer Celebration"**
on Saturday, June 22nd!
from 1:30 to 4:30pm

Celebrate the start of summer with a fun afternoon at Kawartha Land Trust's, Dance Nature Sanctuary. Enjoy games, crafts, and a nature hike through fields, forests and wetlands, then relax with a cool drink (please bring your own cup). Hand in your passports for a chance to win some nature-themed prizes. This will be our last event before September, so we hope to see you and your family there!

More information is coming to your
inbox soon!



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:	How do you hope to participate?
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Environment <input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles and Amphibians <input type="checkbox"/> Botany <input type="checkbox"/> Birds <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Life <input type="checkbox"/> Geology <input type="checkbox"/> Insects <input type="checkbox"/> Astronomy <input type="checkbox"/> Mammals Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Outings <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen Science <input type="checkbox"/> Meetings <input type="checkbox"/> 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: _____