



Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

April 2017

Past Events



Gavin North of Honey Pie Hives and Herbals made an excellent presentation to a packed Bloomfield town hall last month.

He describe the characteristics and duties of the different types of honey bees; life inside the hive and the effect of environmental pressures on these important partners in our natural world.

We learned that Gavin is a Master Beekeeper certified by the BC Ministry of Agriculture and has been keeping bees since 2000. Using his extensive knowledge and experience Gavin teaches an annual Introduction to Beekeeping workshop series at Honey Pie Farm. S.D.

Dates to Remember

April 25th Angus Ross, Climate Change

April-May Wildflowers at Mountainview

May 6th APPEC Yard Sale

May 15th-19th, Spring Birding Festival

May 30th, David Okines, Birdathoning the County

June 10th-11th, BioBlitz, Miller Family Nature Reserve

June 17th County Blooms

June 27th, PECFN 20th anniversary potluck

Tree News

PECFN has been working with Councillor Lenny Epstein, the Horticultural Society and the Master Gardeners, along with interested individuals to encourage the County to develop a new tree policy, which would increase the tree canopy in our communities, improve the maintenance of trees and preserve mature trees. A group has been formed called **Tree the County**. We will be involved in public educational activities, to increase awareness of the benefits of trees, as well as giving public input into a new tree policy.

By Susan Banks

Visit The Tree Pavilion at County Blooms.

Prince Edward County Field Naturalists



Amy Bodman, Cheryl Anderson, Jane Baron and Mike Parry at Hubbs Creek. photo by Brian Durell

Birding at the Millennium Trail

At 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday 11 April, five birders checked out the Millennium Trail at the Hubbs Creek wetland just off Danforth road. The rain that was falling, while we drove to our rendezvous point, cleared off as we assembled. We saw and/or heard a total of 31 species. Some of the better finds of the morning were wood duck, blue-winged teal, ring-necked duck, great egret, belted kingfisher, northern flicker, pileated woodpecker, eastern phoebe, common raven, golden-crowned kinglet, chipping sparrow, savannah sparrow, swamp sparrow, and eastern towhee in addition to most of the usual suspects. No raptors put in an appearance, but painted turtles were out in abundance. Almost every log in the wetland was hosting two or three. At one point the trail was flooded and some small turtles were swimming in the shallow water. Perhaps our greatest challenge was in listening for bird calls. Canada geese were honking lustily, spring peepers and leopard frogs added their calls while Wilson's snipe whooped overhead and, of course, red-winged black birds had a lot to say. A delightful morning of birding convinced us that spring truly had arrived.

by Brian Durell

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Tagged Trumpeter Swans in Quinte

Trumpeter Swans were introduced to Ontario through a reintroduction program between 1982 and 2006. The only introduction in the Quinte area was 26 birds released at two locations in Prince Edward County in 2006. All reintroduced birds had big yellow wing tags with numbers on them and for a number of years it was fun to try and keep track of individual swans. My favourite spot was the boat launch on East Lake by Martin's outlet Campground in early spring. But while swans may be long-lived the tags only stay on for about 5 years so after a while Trumpeter swans seen here were untagged.

A retagging program continued to be carried out after reintroductions were stopped. Winter birds were caught and tagged down at Burlington but few of these birds made it up here. The exception was K29, tagged down in Burlington in 2014 it showed up in the park in Jan 2015 and has been seen in the area off and on ever since, usually at Presqu'ile or Barcovan. This is the only tagged bird I had seen in years so I was quite excited to see a second tagged bird, P85, at Barcovan on March 16. I looked up P85 on the Ontario Trumpeter Swan Facebook group. A closed group but anyone can join. And I found that P85 had actually just been banded and tagged at Barcovan on March 5th! The people that tag swans down in Burlington had made a field trip to Barcovan and caught and tagged P85. Pictures of the process can be seen on the facebook page. So now, at least for a little while, there is another tagged Trumpeter Swan in the area.

David Bree
Sr. Natural Heritage Education Leader
Presqu'ile Provincial Park
Brighton, ON.
David.bree@ontario.ca

Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

Upcoming Events

CLIMATE CHANGE A DIFFERENT WORLD



Angus Ross

Tuesday, April 25th, Bloomfield
Town Hall 7pm

Angus Ross's talk will examine the causes and effects of climate change on both a national and a global basis, with some surprising implications.

Angus has been a tireless advocate for the environment for many decades, ranging from climate change, where he was unofficial spokesman for the Canadian insurance industry, to pollution and contamination. He has been a member of the Canadian Climate Programme Board, the Natural Hazards Round Table and was an advisor and contributor to the first National Atlas of Canada natural hazards map.

Over the years he has given numerous speeches on environmental issues to a broad range of audiences, ranging from the United Nations Environment Programme, Federal and Provincial ministers, to school-children.

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David Okines “Birdathoning the County”

Annual General Meeting, Tuesday May 30th, 7pm Bloomfield Town



May is the month to do the Great Canadian Birdathon. This is the event through which bird enthusiasts all across Canada set out to count as many species of birds as they can in a 24 hour period. This helps Bird Studies Canada and other organizations such as PEPTBO and PECFN raise funds for Canadian bird research and conservation efforts.

Come and hear PEPTBO's own David Okines reveal the carefully guarded secret places and hot spots, where he finds the multitude of spring migrants and nesting birds, scattered throughout Prince Edward County for his count each year.

David Okines has been birding for over 45 years. Since 2001, he has been the full-time Bander-in-Charge and Station Manager of the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory (PEPtBO). Consequently, he has a comprehensive knowledge of the birds who nest in and migrate through Prince Edward County. David has been doing his Birdathon within the County boundaries every May for the last 16 years. He is a very dedicated (and extremely competitive) participant of The Great Canadian Birdathon - he usually birds for the full 24 hours without stopping for sleep.

If you wish to support the Great Canadian Birdathon, you can do so in two ways. You can register and participate yourself by going to the Great Canadian Birdathon home page at <http://birdscanada.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1169312>, or you can sponsor another participant by going to the PEPtBO website at <http://www.peptbo.ca/>. A portion of Great Canadian Birdathon funds raised through PEPtBO participants support PEPtBO and PECFN as well.

Prince Edward County Field Naturalists



Redstart, photo by Sydney Smith

PECFN Spring Birding 2017

Birding around the County with the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists
Weekday mornings May 15 – 19

May 15 – 8:00 a.m. – 10: a.m.: Beaver Meadow Conservation Area

Entrance on north side of County Rd. 11, 1 km south-west of the intersection with County Rd. 10. Follow the long lane to the parking area where we will meet.

May 16 - 8:00 a.m. – 10: a.m.: Point Petre Woods and Shoreline

Meet at County Rd. 24 (Point Petre Rd.) and Army Reserve Rd.

May 17 - 8:00 a.m. – 10: a.m.: Sandbanks shoreline from Lakeshore Lodge to West Point

Follow County Rd. 12 to Lakeshore Lodge Rd. Meet at the end of Lakeshore Lodge Rd. near the lake. Park outside the gate unless you have a season ticket to Sandbanks or any other Ontario Provincial Park, then you can park inside the gate.

May 18 - 8:00 a.m. – 10: a.m.: Millennium Trail – Hubbs Creek Wetland System

Meet at the intersection of the Millennium Trail and Danforth Rd., across from “Healing with Horses”.

May 19 – 8:00 a.m. – 10: a.m.: Little Bluff Conservation Area

3625 County Rd. 13. Meet at the circular parking lot at the end of the driveway into the Conservation Area.

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Kingfisher, photo by Sydney Smith

PEPtBO Spring Birding Festival May 13 to 22 2017

PEPtBO Guided Hikes

Saturday May 13 and 20, Sunday May 14 and 21, Monday May 22 - 8:00 a.m. **Traverse Woods** (meet at the portable toilette) 10:00 a.m. from the **Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse**.

Saturday May 13 and 20 and Sunday May 21 4:00 p.m. from the **Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse**.

PEPtBO Night Time Adventures

Friday May 19, 2017 8 p.m. – 10 p.m. Meet at the Municipal Parking Lot in Picton (corner of Mary St. and Elizabeth St.) to see Chimney Swifts in downtown Picton; travel to the South Shore Important Bird area for Whip-poor-wills, and finish off with Screech Owls in Glenwood Cemetery. Carpooling is available

Registration is not required for the hikes above. All hikes by donation (\$5 per person suggested)

PEPtBO Big Day in the IBA

Sunday May 21

Join volunteers as they identify as many species as possible in the IBA to raise funds for PEPtBO – guided walks all day. Free but please register at www.peptbo.ca

PEPtBO Birding Tour of the County (Bus Trip)

Sunday May 21, 8 am to 4 pm

Registration required - \$100 includes lunch and a tax receipt for \$50)

A bus tour of birding hotspots around the County please register at www.peptbo.ca .

Prince Edward County Field Naturalists



Nature Matters!

Nature Matters! is a project organized by the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory (PEPtBO) that brings together local environmental, naturalist and outdoor organizations in a series of public events.

The Prince Edward County South Shore Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) is a globally significant area that comprises over 40km of Lake Ontario shoreline, and 90 square kilometers of land and water habitat.

Join with local groups for a whole season of events and activities. PEPtBO invites the community to appreciate, celebrate and protect the natural world in and around the South Shore IBA.

NATURE MATTERS!!

Copies available at the April PECFN indoor program and throughout the County



Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

SWIFT WATCH

We hope you'll make a commitment to help in this year's National Chimney Swift Survey in Picton and Lake on the Mountain. Please "save the dates" and record on your calendar the following: May 18, 24, 28, June 1 and 5. We need your support to watch the chimneys that we know swifts have used in the past for nesting or roosting. It's a matter of observing from 7:15 or 7:30 to approx. 9 PM depending on the weather. Bring a chair to relax in while you watch. If there are enough people volunteering we won't need to have the same observers out on all these evenings and there can be "partners" instead of "loners" (much more fun). Unless we can cover all known sites on a specific evening, we won't have an accurate idea of the number of swifts present in town. Last year we couldn't watch all the chimneys because not enough people volunteered – so we weren't sure if there really were so few birds or if they just went to one of the other chimneys that wasn't being watched. This is a great way citizen science can be of benefit. Hopefully we'll see more chimney swifts this year. Please contact Sheila Kuja (sanda.kuja@bell.net) to let me know if you can help and which dates would be best for you. Many thanks.

Sheila Kuja

Wildflowers at Mountainview



Bloodroot, photo by Susan Banks



Dutchman's Breeches, photo by Brian Durell

Join Molly Mulloy for the annual early wild flower outing in the beautiful woods at Mountainview.

We will send out an email 'heads-up' about the date and time in late April or early May.

Prince Edward County Field Naturalists



Join us for PECFN's 20th anniversary Potluck and Awards Night, 6pm on Tuesday June 27 at the Bloomfield town hall.

PECFN will provide the main course, members should bring either dessert or salad. RSVP

Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

YOU'RE INVITED!

JOIN US FOR the June 2017 4th Annual PEC



BIOBLITZ



What is a BioBlitz? Community volunteers of all ages (It's family friendly!) join scientists and experts to record all the living species in an area

When and where? Join us for all or part of the 24 hour Blitz at the **MILLER FAMILY NATURE PRESERVE** (noon till noon June 10-11), Hilltop Road east of Brewers Road, Prince Edward County

- Go on guided walks led by experts
- Discover a new dragonfly or beetle for the County
- See Butterflies up close
- Track breeding evidence for birds
- Look for clues of mammals, insects and reptiles
- Identify plants you've always wondered about
- Children can build a bluebird nesting box to take home
- Dinner on Saturday evening and Wrap-up BBQ on Sunday

It's fun, exciting and close by! Learn about biodiversity, help preserve our natural world, and contribute to natural science research

**Registration - \$5 (children accompanied by adults – free)
Registration begins at 11 AM Saturday and continues throughout the event**

**For details of what to wear, what to bring and scheduled walks go to:
[www. Peptbo.ca/BioBlitz](http://www.Peptbo.ca/BioBlitz) or facebook /Prince Edward County Field Naturalists**

Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

AWARD PROGRAM CELEBRATING OUR 20th ANNIVERSARY

In honour of the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists Club's 20th Anniversary, your executive decided that this celebration would be an appropriate time to inaugurate a number of Awards to acknowledge the contribution of specific members and non-members of our club.

We hope that members will fill in their nomination ballots (found at the end of this newsletter) by April 25 and send them to Sheila Kuja (sanda.kuja@bell.net) or bring them to the April 25th meeting and our award committee will meet to confer about the nominations received. You can make nominations for one award, two or all five of them but please fill in all the information requested including the reasons you have suggested the nominee. Only ballots completed with all the information required for a specific nomination will be considered by the committee.

- **PECFN MEMBER OF THE YEAR:** In recognition of the member judged to have contributed the most to the Club's aims and activities in the previous year.
- **PECFN SERVICE AWARD:** In recognition of a member who has contributed significantly to the smooth running of the Club over several years.
- **PECFN CONSERVATION AWARD - MEMBER:** In recognition of an outstanding contribution by a member in the cause of natural history conservation in the PEC area, including work towards the conservation and protection of land, habitats or native species.
- **PECFN CONSERVATION AWARD - NON-MEMBER:** In recognition of an outstanding contribution by a non-member in the cause of natural history conservation in the PEC area, including work towards the conservation and protection of land, habitats or native species.
- **PECFN EDUCATION AWARD:** For a member, non-member or organization, in recognition of outstanding achievements in the field of natural history education in the PEC region. Potential recipients would include dedicated field trip leaders, authors popularizing local natural history or other educators of children or adults.
- The nomination form can be copied and filled in on-line or printed out as a hard copy to bring to the April meeting.

The recipient will receive a framed certificate of the Award and his/her name will be noted on the appropriate award trophy to be displayed at the June Potluck Dinner.

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Nomination Forms for PECFN 20th Anniversary Awards

Name of nominator: _____

Your Email Address: _____ Telephone: _____

MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD: Nominee: _____

Reasons for the nomination:

PECFN SERVICE AWARD: Nominee _____

Reasons for the nomination:

PECFN CONSERVATION AWARD - Member: Nominee _____

Reasons for the nomination: _____

PECFN CONSERVATION AWARD - Non-member: Nominee _____

Reasons for the nomination: _____

PECFN EDUCATION AWARD: Nominee _____

Reasons for the nomination: _____
