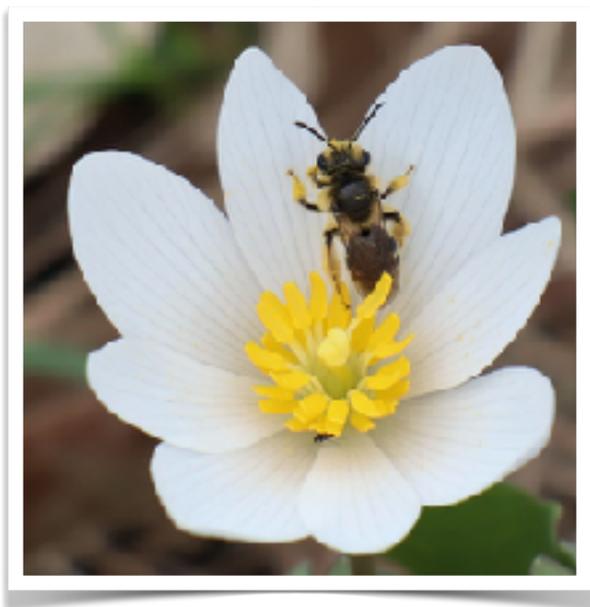




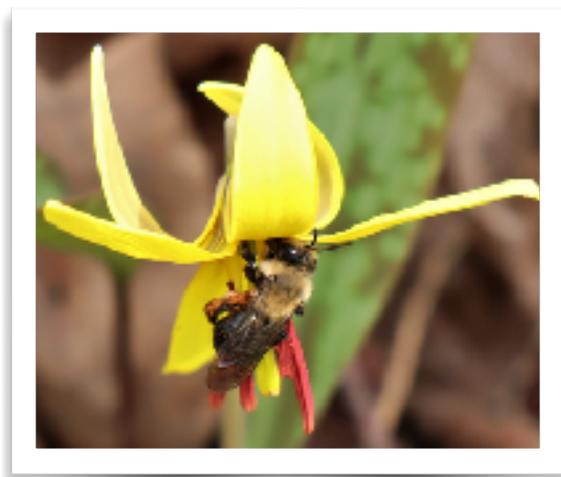
PECFN NEWSLETTER

May 2022



Bloodroot and Yellow Trout Lily
with pollinating bees at
Massassauga Point

April 25/22. John Lowry



What's Inside?

- p. 2. PECFN Gen. meeting May 31: Eastern Wild Turkey
- p. 3. PECFN Advocacy: LeHigh Cement
- p. 4. & 5. PECFN Advocacy: Green Point Escarpment

- p. 6. & 7. PECFN Advocacy :
 - Lost Lake Wetland officially recognized as a Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW).
 - Irth, Loyalist Landing, & Cressy Bayside developments

- p. 8. May 22 World Biodiversity Day, 'Wild Thing'
- p.9. Outing to the Ameliasburgh Heritage Museum with Terry Sprague
- p. 10. Geology Tour with Mark Forget
- p. 11, 12 & 13. Members' Sightings
- p. 14. Neighbourhoods
- p. 15. & 16. American Eel notes from John Lowry presentation
- p. 17. Request for White Trout Lily Observations

- p. 18.
 - Calling all Chimney Swift Watchers
 - BioBlitzers

- p. 19.
 - Turtle Alert!
- p. 20.
 - Turtle Incubation Protectors
 - Quinte Conservation outing
- p.21. Spring Birding Festival

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

PECFN general meeting on Zoom

Tuesday May 31. 7pm

Jennifer Baici

The Eastern Wild Turkey in Ontario

Wild turkeys were hunted to extinction in Ontario in the early 1900's, and were only reintroduced in the late 1980's. Because Ontario's turkey population has grown and changed rapidly since reintroduction, understanding how many individuals there are and where they are distributed is essential to ensuring the long-term persistence of this species in the province.



The Eastern Wild Turkey in Ontario Jennifer Baici

I am an ecologist currently completing my PhD at Trent University in Dr. Jeff Bowman's lab where I study the social structure and behaviour of the eastern wild turkey. Prior to this I studied biocontrol of invasive species at the University of Toronto in the Master of Forest Conservation (MFC) program.

My research interests include avian ecology, nesting behaviour, insect ecology and human-animal conflict mitigation, although I'm nerdy about anything and everything to do with conservation biology. I hope to apply my skills and knowledge to promote the conservation and preservation of earth's amazing biodiversity, particularly under valued and under appreciated species.

Most of my PhD research questions are related to the behaviour and social structure of Ontario's reintroduced wild turkey population. I am interested in understanding wild turkey flock and nest genetics, factors influencing nesting success, kin selection, and the current distribution of Ontario's turkeys. This project involves rocket netting, tagging, and tracking wild turkey movement, survival and nest success throughout the year.

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

APPLICATIONS AND ADVOCACY by PECFN

1. Greenwash in the County

Lehigh Cement Plant, on the shore of the Bay of Quinte, is holding public info sessions to qualify for an investment tax credit announced in the federal Emissions Reduction Plan. Environment Canada admits that we have not yet even begun to lower our total national emissions of more than 730 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Lehigh is joining with high emitting corporations (including oil and gas sector) around the world that intend to use CCUS (carbon capture, utilization and storage) technologies to qualify for the tax credit. They will substitute **non-recyclable wastes**, plastics, papers and wood for some of the fossil fuels in their production in addition to the high levels of natural gas they have always used. So far, some of these methods have been found to be emitting more carbon than they capture.

- Cement production is one of the highest emitting industries.
- the cement industry is responsible for 7% of overall CO2 emissions worldwide
- 2/3 of the CO2 released in cement production comes from the chemical process of creating "clinker" from limestone, which is the fuel used to make cement, and only 1/3 is released during the heating process;
- burning the non-recyclable garbage in the kilns still produces CO2; it is just offset by the corresponding reduction of emissions in the landfills

It appears the only goal being met by replacing fossil fuels with garbage in the kilns is to reduce the amount of landfill -- not the reduction of CO2 emission in cement production.

Locally, a major negative impact of incinerating garbage is the smoke produced includes **acid gases, dioxin & furans (carcinogens), particulates, heavy metals, and nitrogen oxide**. These gases are poisonous to the environment and to human health.

CCUS is not economically viable. Even if it were financially practicable, it would take precious resources away from other proven technologies such as renewable energy. In other words, by the time we develop new CCUS to a scale where it would have any significant impact, it will likely be too late.

If the government is going to commit over \$9 billion towards climate action, it needs to be targeted to programs that will quickly and effectively reduce emissions.

Myrna Wood
PECFN

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

more. APPLICATIONS AND ADVOCACY by PECFN

2. We've recently lost a little more of our natural heritage in the County – can we do something to prevent it happening again?

Entering the County along Hwy. 49, as you come over the bridge you look at green forest on both sides of the road covering the area to the top of the escarpment. It was a reassuring thought that this was a County that felt strongly about protecting its environment. Well, that was the case until fairly recently when an oak-hickory forest was clear-cut on the east side of the road, so there is now a large bare spot where that forest occurred.

This was a portion of the Green Point Escarpment Forest Candidate Provincially Significant ANSI and the Oak-Hickory forest there was fairly mature and typical of what formerly covered the landscape from Green Point to Ameliasburgh on the Farmington Loam soil. It's possible to see the size of the large trees that were removed by the length of a few logs still remaining but more so from the diameter of the boles left at ground level.

I have included a photo of this site as I witnessed it on Saturday April 30, looking south toward the escarpment. This is a tragic loss to the County and the whole region.

According to the MNRF Life Science Checksheet from 2000 compiled by D. Kristensen: *"Although other escarpment forests are represented in Prince Edward County (.e.g. Cape Vasey, Lost Lake), this site contains the largest submature/mature forest (>1000 ha) in the site district. The combination of ecological features and functions arising from a forest area of this size, age, condition and contiguity is unique for the site district (i.e. Ecodistrict 6E-15 extending from Presqu'île to Napanee).*

*This site features a well developed escarpment, sloping toward the Bay of Quinte and Long Reach on its north and east sides, respectively, and running the length of the largest submature/mature forest in the site district; the dominant vegetative cover is deciduous forest (maple-oak-hickory); isolate patches of the regionally *Quercus muehlenbergii* occur but life science inventory information is largely lacking; this is a PROVINCIALY SIGNIFICANT ANSI."*

Should the Municipality recognize the importance of this land and identify a means of imparting its significance to the landowners or to new landowners acquiring the land (i.e. this is part of Natural Core Area D identified in the PEC Official Plan and is designated as part of a candidate Provincially Significant ANSI). I realize that the PEC



Destroyed section of Green Point Escarpment Forest Hwy 49 photo S Kuja

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PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

Planning Department does not have a biologist on staff to recognize the importance of this area in the Ecodistrict but surely there is some sense of responsibility to protect such a unique asset for the County, since it is basically a living museum of what the landscape was like prior to settlement.

The Endangered Four-leaved Milkweed was recently found within this Core Area and may exist in areas within the ANSI. I have identified unusual species found only at this site, or one or two other locations in the County, at the edge of the forest on top of the escarpment. I had never visited the Oak-Hickory forest that has been lost so cannot comment on rarities, except that I did notice a few Golden Corydalis flowering by the fence-line when I was taking the photos last weekend. This was the first time I'd seen it in the County but knowledgeable naturalist, David Bree, recently retired from Presqu'île Prov. Park, has only ever seen it at Prince Edward Point. It is very sad to consider what other unusual plants have been lost at this site.

With all our planting of tree seedlings – what a tremendous set back this is for climate change to have removed almost 20 acres of mature deciduous woodland – that most likely contained no ash trees, only oak, maple and hickory which could have acted as seed



unusual Golden Corydalis that was by the fence line

photo Sheila Kuja

sources
for
planting

when our ash trees disappear in the very near future due to the emerald ash borer. The fact that this was a living museum of the type of forest that existed across much of the northern part of the County and at many other locations further south including the South Shore is noteworthy and it is really distressing to have lost it, despite it having been identified as a significant life science feature of the County and the Ecodistrict.

Our Planning Department can only stop major developments from being situated in Natural Core Areas, so clear-cutting of an area (even within an ANSI) is beyond their scope. Does this mean that we can lose all our significant natural features that are in private hands, as long as a major development is not planned? It appears that the oak-hickory forest was removed simply for the wood products. It was bought for \$225,000. about a year ago but the value of the forest is beyond measure since it might take another 100 years to replace it, if it can be replaced at all.

Is there any recourse to make sure that something like this doesn't happen in the future? Surely, something can be done to safeguard the rest of this ANSI and not allow it to disappear piece by piece.

I suppose it's up to us to let the powers that be know that we don't want this to happen.

Sheila Kuja

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

more APPLICATIONS AND ADVOCACY by PECFN

3. We begin with good news. As you may recall, IRTH's application to the County for a resort hotel and spa on Lost Lake in North Marysburgh jump-started our efforts to have Lost Lake Wetland officially recognized as a Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW). In late March a landowner in the Cressy area received a letter from the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF) confirming its new PSW status. According to the letter: "The Ministry. . .has reviewed and approved a re-evaluation to the Lost Lake Swamp wetland, undertaken by JDH Environmental on behalf of the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists. This re-evaluation resulted in a status update from non-provincially significant to provincially significant."

This is a victory for the County's natural heritage system, for which all credit is due to Jacki Hansford of JDH Environmental Services. Jacki put many hours into this project, donating her professional expertise as well as all the time involved in conducting "on-the-ground" wetland surveys and completing detailed wetland evaluation forms. We are fortunate to have had Jacki working on this project and are grateful for all her help.

The IRTH application was subsequently withdrawn but there's no lack of other applications to take its place. Some of these applications are of great concern in their potential for long-lasting impacts. In our last newsletter we discussed the proposed Loyalist Heights subdivision in Picton, which is located directly within the Waring's Creek Watershed. Another application currently under review is Cressy Bayside Estates in North Marysburgh, about 3 kilometres east of Lake on the Mountain. This proposal involves constructing eight single detached homes on the escarpment fronting on Adolphus Reach.

There are numerous concerns with this proposal too. The Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) has noted their concern regarding developing in the flood plain; the loss of protection of the buffer and shoreline due to mown lawns and the application of herbicide/pesticide/fertilizer over the years; the impacts of vegetation removal including erosion; the protection of the turtle nesting area; the potential for seasonal well declines; and the presence of blue-green algae along the shore of the property and its potential toxicity to humans and animals.

There are additional concerns as well. We note, for example, that the Turner Hill Cemetery, a pioneer cemetery adjacent to the Lake Ontario shoreline, is located on one of the lots, which raises the question whether the cemetery could be sealed off permanently to the public. Since the access road in the subdivision is a private road, the cemetery could potentially become completely inaccessible to the public.

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PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

It also seems to us that the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) may contain inaccuracies regarding wetlands. If this is indeed the case, there are potentially implications for certain other conclusions in the EIS, including the conclusion that Blanding's turtles would not be present at this site.

The proponent's Environmental Impact Study notes the presence of 18 butternut trees on the property and that preliminary assessments "indicate that (only) six of the trees are retainable". It is also worth reflecting on the likely fate of the jack-in-the-pulpits, the white trilliums, and the red columbines – all of which are found on the property and all of which will most certainly disappear in short order - if not during construction, then afterwards.



Wild Columbie. *Photo by Tery Sprague*

This development is not permitted under the Official Plan due to its location in one of the County's protected Natural Core Areas. And for that matter, it's not permitted under the former Official Plan either, which is why the developer needs to apply for an Official Plan Amendment (OPA). Although each of these Plans give their own reasons, they can both prevent developments from being put in inappropriate locations if we let them.

Paula Peel
PECFN

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS



The Prince Edward County Field Naturalists is one of several groups joining the Department of Illumination and the South Shore Joint Initiative to host Wild Thing: a celebration of biodiversity on **Sunday May 22 – World Biodiversity Day** from 1-4 PM at Benson Park. This free, family-friendly event is the culmination of The Department of Illumination’s partnership over many months with [South Shore Joint Initiative](https://www.ssji.ca), whose community and educational components have included art workshops in schools and community craft sessions where participants have learned about and made depictions of the fabulous biodiversity that can be found in Prince Edward County.

Please come to the event and check out live music from KASHKA and That's What She Said, plus crafts, puppets, and a dress-up community procession of wild things! The Department of Illumination will also be unveiling the incredible banner of species at risk that was created by their embroidery club, The Society of Stitchers. Get beastie with us and let's all work together to conserve this beautiful place we call home.

To register for Wild Thing, please go to: https://www.ssji.ca/wild_thing

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS



Outing to the Ameliasburgh Heritage Museum with Terry Sprague Thursday, June 23 10:00 – 1:00, rain or shine

Cost: \$4.00 – Museum admission

Please join us on this outing to explore the Ameliasburgh Heritage Museum with Terry Sprague and with support from Janice Hubbs, on-site curator. We will also tour the recently created DeVries Natural Heritage collection comprised of over 500 beautifully preserved taxidermy specimens. This outing will give us a wonderful opportunity to explore the relationship between our natural and cultural heritages from the mid-19th century on.

Terry was a great friend of Jake deVries and a champion of his work as a taxidermist and of his passion to use taxidermy as a means to educate people about our natural world and the importance of preserving it. Janice was in charge of putting this wonderful and thoughtful display together. They both worked for years to advocate for the preservation of Jake deVries' careful work and legacy. The collection is considered one of the finest private collections of taxidermy in the province.



Please dress appropriately and bring a packed lunch. We will start touring the site at 10:00 when it opens and end with a bring-it-yourself picnic.

To register, please email:

pecfninfo@gmail.com

Space is limited.

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

Geology Tour with Mark Forget 'Marmora and Lake'

Thursday, May 26 and Sunday, May 29

Meet at the **Millside Park parking lot on Water St. in Marmora** 10:00 a.m.
Rain or shine.

Marc will meet us at Millside Park and spend about an hour discussing the geology of the area. We will then car caravan to the parking lot at the entrance of the Hasting Trail - a level rail bed and begin a walking tour of 4 km. – 2 out and 2 back. This tour was designed by Marc and won a tourism award and those who attended his Gibson Mountain presentation will look forward to this tour.

For more information go to Marmora and Lake website.

The total time should be just under **4 hours** including driving time between stops.

In the event of rain umbrellas and rubber boots work well.

Bug spray needed and netting and gloves a good idea for mosquitoes.

Be aware of possible poison ivy.

Binoculars suggested as there have been plenty of raptors seen in the swamp – redtails, eagles, peregrines and osprey.

Reserve your spot on either day through **Sheena Kennedy by phone 613 399 1461 or by emailing sheenakennedy@sympatico.ca.**



Pileated Woodpecker
Photo John Lowry

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

Members' Sightings

These are photos taken by John Lowry at the Maple Forest in Hanley Park that we visited with him last fall. Unfortunately the Belleville Council decided to go ahead with the housing development - but this forest might be saved. A lot of the Environmentally Protected Land was changed to Residential.



White Trillium



Yellow Trout Lily,



Wood
Anemone



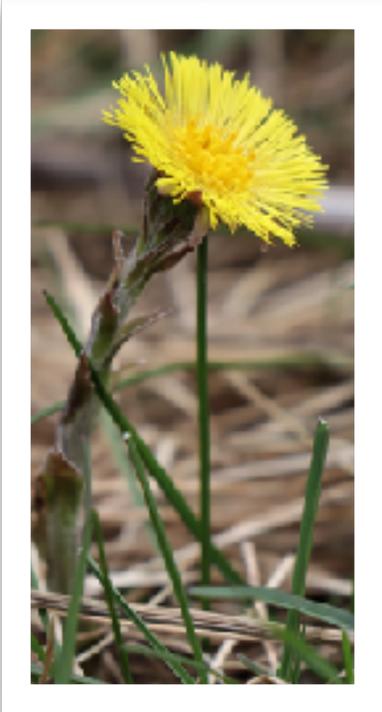
Spring Beauty

more Members' Sightings

Early Spring Photo Essay of Massassauga Point Conservation Area by John Lowry – April 25-26/22



Narrow-leaved Spring Beauty



Coltsfoot flowering
(an introduced species)



Dutchman's Breeches



Early Saxifrage



Pussy Willow – male catkins

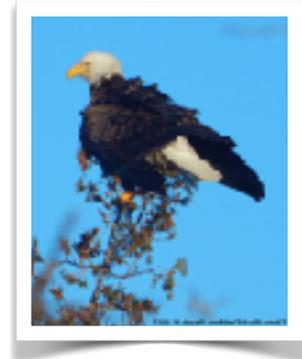
more. Members' Sightings



March 21/22. Rick Matthews - I was out for a hike on the Millenium trail recently and saw a pair of Sandhill Cranes flying (see photo). Although more common out west, we have a small population in the County that are seen and heard from time to time but are still quite an exciting bird to come across.

March 22/22. Marc and Marj Seguin – we hadn't seen Snowy Owls this winter but then saw them this week, spotting two across the bay, a young one and an adult, perched in the shrubs on the spit at Wellers Bay but we didn't get a photo.

March 29/22. Mark Paddison – we had this Bald Eagle come for a visit in the bluff side cedar tree near Prince Edward Point Wildlife Area (see photo).



April 17/22. Dani Taylor – this was a first for me at around 2 PM - seeing a Wild Turkey swimming in Hayward Long Reach! She eventually swam to shore (see photo).

April 20/22. Allen Kuja - There were no Rainbow Trout below the dam at Port Hope today which is quite an unusual situation for the middle of April. It is usually a "rite of spring" to see the Rainbows attempting to go upstream to spawn but because of the few warm days in March there may have been an earlier run this year.

April 22/22. Allen Kuja – I noticed a pellet (regurgitated by an owl) on the rain barrel at the side of our house, probably from the Long-eared Owl that spent an afternoon in our yard in March. The bones were not of a mouse as expected, but included the heads of two small birds – so now we know why he was sitting beside the bird feeder!

Neighbourwoods®, the Bloomfield Tree Inventory, Resumes in June

If you spend much time in Bloomfield this summer, you're likely to see teams of volunteers working on our Neighbourwoods® tree survey. We kicked it off in 2018, after training on the details of the protocol, and continued in 2019. Unfortunately, Covid-19 sidelined us until this summer, but we think village residents will mostly be ready to welcome us back into their gardens.

In 2018 and 2019, we estimate that we surveyed about two-thirds of the village trees. We hope to complete the project this summer.

As well as being a valuable educational experience for volunteers, Neighbourwoods® revealed which were the most numerous species of tree, their health, and many other interesting details. Combined results showed that Manitoba Maples dominated the species list, at about 16% of the total tree count, followed by Norway Maples at 10%, and Black Walnuts at 7%. Aiming for a more diverse tree canopy of native species helps promote biodiversity. So knowing which are the less represented species might help you decide what to add to your garden. If you wish to know more about our results so far, please email Gerry.jenkison@icloud.com.

Neighbourwoods® is a protocol developed in 1995 by Dr W A Kenney and Dr D Puric-Mladenovic of the University of Toronto Forestry department. Since then, many cities, towns, and villages in Ontario and across Canada have become Neighbourwoods® communities. We are proud to be one of them.

Gerry Jenkison



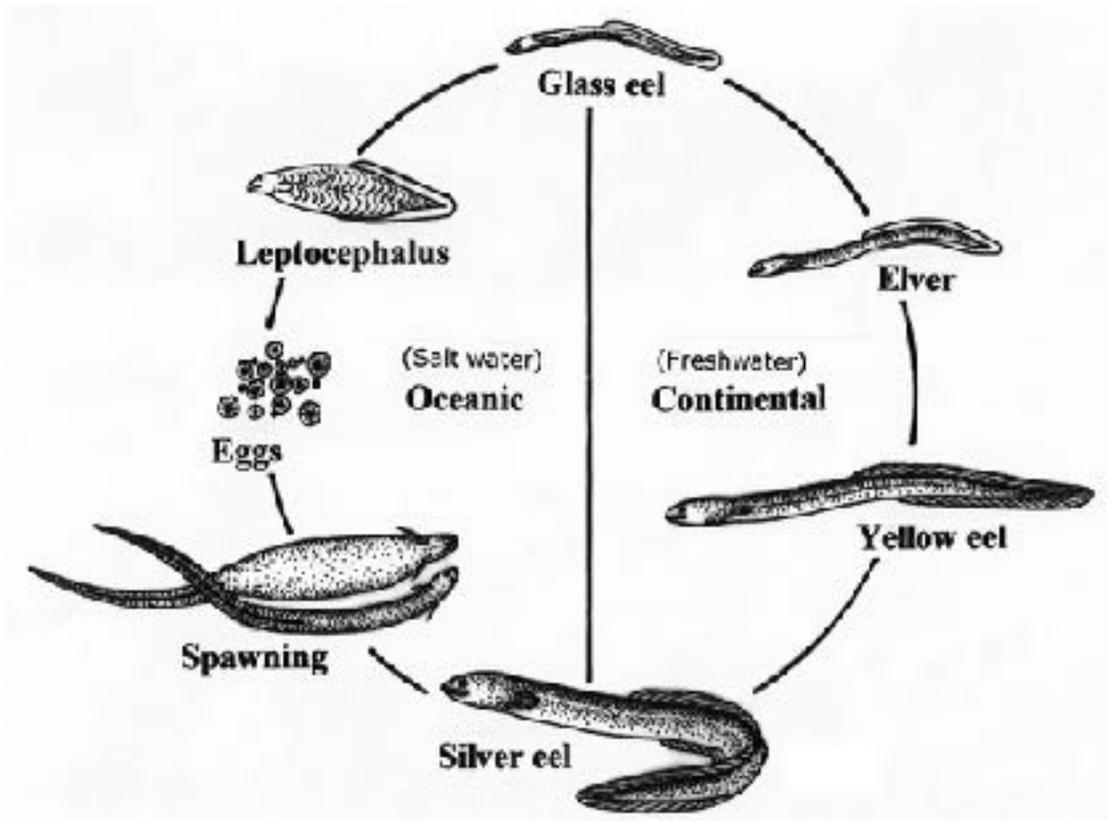
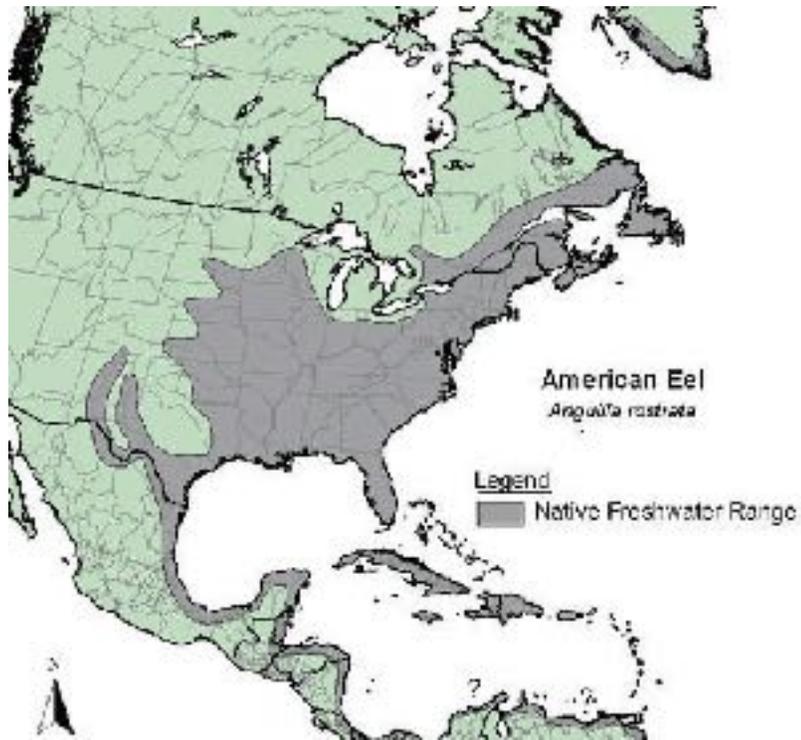
American Eel Notes by John Lowry

(*Anguilla rostrata*)

Unfortunately, PECFN was unable to record the excellent talk given by Tim Johnson, Head Research Scientist at the MNR's Glenora Fisheries on the American Eel at our March meeting. Member John Lowry has generously agreed to share the notes he took on it. One fact John didn't note is that over 90% of the American Eel population historically found in Lake Ontario was female!

- A freshwater fish that is native to Lake Ontario
- Has a slender snake-like body (visually very similar to the Sea lamprey – but has gills); they have a long dorsal fin and small pectoral fins; body is covered with a mucous layer
- Exist in various colourations – olive green, brown, greenish-yellow and have light grey or white on the belly
- Range from Venezuela to Greenland
- Considered benthic (bottom dwellers); diet changes as it evolves through various stages of development
- Feed on crustaceans, aquatic insects, small insects and aquatic organisms
- Are nocturnal – hunt at night; hide during the day, including hiding in the mud, sand or gravel close to shore
- During the winter they burrow under the mud and enter a state of torpor
- Can grow up to 4 feet in length and weigh up to 17 lb; females are generally larger than the males
- Once mature – migrate back to the sea to spawn
- Spawns in the Sargasso Sea ; females lay millions of eggs; females die after laying eggs
- Early stage – leptocephalus grow into glass eels then elver become yellow eels then silver eels
- Juvenile eels move towards North America - drift with ocean currents; migrate inland via streams, rivers, lakes; this journey may take years to complete
- Will live in Lake Ontario until mature – in range of 20 – 25 years before migrating back, down the St. Lawrence River, to the Sargasso Sea to spawn
- Population in Lake Ontario has dropped significantly; Numbers being affected by habitat fragmentation, pollution, overfishing and climate change

Fresh water range. American Eel



A Request for White Trout Lily Observations

If you should happen to see any White Trout Lilies when you are enjoying the wildflowers this spring, please send me an email (sanda.kuja@bell.net) to let me know where you saw them. I've been mapping their whereabouts in the County and beyond, so I'd appreciate any additional observations. The Yellow Trout Lilies are much more common while the White, which are a completely different species, with a more southern distribution, do quite well in the county. Most of the flowers in the photos here are White Trout Lilies (with white flowers) but I've included a Yellow Trout Lily (yellow flowers) with unusually non-mottled leaves for comparison. One photo shows the two species side by side in bud, so the flowers aren't open yet, but you can still distinguish their future colours and the differences between the leaves (pale bluish glaucous tinge in the White Trout Lily vs. typical green; both may show mottling of the leaves to various degrees). The close up of the flowers show a yellow and a white with differences in petal (tepals) colour as well as the shapes of the styles and stigmas for the two species. Observations of Yellow Trout Lily locations will also be welcomed. Many thanks for your help. Sheila Kuja



photos by Sheila Kuja



PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

Calling all Chimney Swift Watchers



We are once again going to be involved in **Swiftwatch** this spring, so hope you can join us. The pandemic made these gatherings impossible for a year or so but “we’re back in business”. There will be a series of province-wide survey nights to count Chimney Swifts at the end of May and beginning of June. Picton will be our survey area. The Armoury chimney has not as yet been opened, so one of our best chimneys to observe is still unavailable to the swifts. More and more chimneys in Picton are being capped which is not good for our visiting swifts. A few years ago we were fortunate enough to see 100 swifts enter a chimney, swirling about and then dropping right in. It can be very exciting.

We will begin with a special pre-count day on May 21 to see where we stand and then begin in earnest on May 25, May 29, June 2 and June 6. If you’d like to participate meet in the parking lot behind the Old Town Hall/Firehall at 7:45

PM – see you there! The swifts have usually “gone to bed” by nine, so you won’t be out much later than that.

Sheila Kuja

BioBlitzers!

PECFN and Quinte Conservation with Quinte Field Naturalists, Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory and Naturehood are sponsoring the **Macaulay Mountain Conservation Area BioBlitz** on Friday June 17 and Saturday June 18 from 2 PM till 2 PM. All are welcome, no experience necessary, just enthusiasm and a willingness to see all the plants and animals that live in the Conservation Area. Walks by experts, aquatic studies of the pond and stream and a chance to roam and find things on your own. Discover the biodiversity of this interesting natural area, that’s right on your doorstep – 343 Co. Rd. 8 just south of Picton at Birdhouse City.

If you would like to volunteer in some capacity, even for a few hours, that would be terrific. We will need a member at the registration booth at all times, so coming for a few hours would be a big help to prevent one person from having to stay in one place for the entire event. Bringing a friend helps pass the time more enjoyably. If you can help with food, either making some chili or goodies for the Friday dinner or a salad for the Saturday BBQ – that would be amazing. Many hands make the work light – so please consider helping in some way. You’ll enjoy an opportunity to see a very interesting park with many varied habitats and species while interacting with fellow members and meeting others interested in nature. Bringing a cell phone with the iNaturalist app will set you on a path to learn your birds, plants and insects while providing information for the BioBlitz. There will be experts there to help you too! If you’d like to see some of our previous bioblitz reports, just check our pec naturalist website.

Please contact Sheila (sanda.kuja@bell.net) – I’d really appreciate your help!

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

Turtle Alert!

Kelly from the Think Turtle Conservation Initiative has asked QFN to pass along her request for volunteers to help monitor turtle activity in Belleville between May and October. Activities would include monitoring nesting turtles and hatchling activity, retrieving turtles stuck in parking lots and/or assist turtles looking to negotiate challenging terrain along the banks of the Moira River. These efforts are important to protect and conserve Belleville's resident turtle species.

Any amount of time you have available would be well spent and greatly appreciated! Please call Kelly at 647-606-9537 for more information and/or offer assistance. If you are not able to volunteer time but you know someone in the Belleville area that may be able to help, please share this information with them.

Background Information

The Moira River runs through the heart of Belleville's business district and connects with the Bay of Quinte. This contributes to concentrated turtle activity in some areas along this path. Historically turtles would have had plenty of suitable nesting grounds available to them. Over the years however, land development has caused habitat loss and fragmentation significantly reducing the amount of suitable nesting grounds available to turtles in Belleville. Despite these challenges every year turtles exit the Moira River to nest where their ancestors did. They are faced with less-than-ideal nesting sites like narrow strips of soil around the perimeter of parking lots, because that is all that is available.

Turtles need our help! All 8 of Ontario's native turtles are at risk and declining in numbers.

Thanks so much for caring,
Denice Wilkins
Quinte Field Naturalists

AND

Kelly Wallace, Managing Director
Think Turtle Conservation Initiative
Cell/Text: 647-606-9537
E-mail: thinkturtle@yahoo.com
Facebook: thinkturtleci
Username: Wallace Kathleen Kelly
Website: thinkturtle.ca



Painted turtles Danforth Marsh
photo S. Smith

P.S. If you or anyone you know has turtles nesting on their property, please contact Denice for information on how to protect the nests and/or to buy a QFN turtle nest protector so the next generation will survive to waddle their way down to the water!

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

Turtle Incubation Protectors

If you see a turtle laying eggs on your property it is a really good idea to protect those eggs from predators such as foxes, coyotes, raccoons or skunks. This is especially true for Blanding's Turtles but all turtles are threatened, so others, including Snapping Turtles and Painted Turtles need your help too. **You can borrow a turtle incubation protector** to keep the eggs safe from being dug up and eaten. The club bought a number of these screened devices from the QFN a couple of years ago and are happy to let people buy (\$12) or borrow them. Please send your request to pecfninfo@gmail.com or sanda.kuja@bell.net and we'll get back to you ASAP. The sooner you have a protective barrier over the eggs the better. There is a distinct odour that is given off soon after the eggs are laid and predators key into that, so you have to act quickly. The young can safely exit these devices through small holes and then the wooden frame can be removed.



Blandings Turtle
Photo by S. Smith

A message from Robert Ormston at Quinte Conservation (and a QFN member):

You are invited to an excursion for QFN and PECFN members to the **Cassidy block property near Tweed** to introduce members to the area and get people involved in doing some citizen science there.

The date of the outing will be Thursday May 12 – meeting at the Cassidy Block colonization road entrance for 10 am. Time can be flexible, but be prepared for 2 hours of walking. The hiking conditions are expected to be moderate to high difficulty, with deep mud puddles along the trail, and uneven ground. Participants can expect to help spot, identify, and record some species, as well as learn from other participants. This event will be very casual, we are not doing any formal surveys this time. If you are interested in participating – please contact pecfninfo@gmail.com and we'll send you the information about where to meet.

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

Come and enjoy the birds, and watch the amazing banding team in action, take in a banding demo and have a lovely stroll to the lighthouse. Enjoy the beauty of this lovely part of Prince Edward County.



Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory is happy to announce an in-person Spring Birding Festival for 2022. The Festival will be held from Saturday May 14 to Monday May 23.

- an evening event – Nighttime Sounds and Sky – with Pamela Stagg and Ramesh Pooran and a wine and cheese with a well known author!
- early morning guided hikes at Traverse Woods,
- banding demonstrations
- a Hospitality Tent.
- Masks will be mandatory in the tent and at the banding demos.
- On Wednesday May 18 we will host an evening webinar.
- special children’s activities on weekend days. This year we are encouraging everyone to do a Great Canadian Birdathon as part of their May birding activities. The funds raised from the Birdathon form an important part of the financial support for the Bird Observatory.
- **For more information and to register for hikes go to:**
- **Please go the PEPTBO website to sign up for any events:**

<https://peptbo.ca/sbf/>