

PECFN NEWSLETTER



What's inside?

Page 2 September 26 PECFN Members Meeting: Speaker Ian Barker

Page 3 October 31 PECFN AGM: Speaker Sheila Kuja

Page 4 November 28 PECFN Members Meeting by ZOOM : Speaker Terry Sprague

Page 5 October 18, 7 pm PEPtBO webinar 'What an Owl Knows': Jennifer Ackerman

Page 6 October 14, 6pm South Shore Joint Initiative's Night of the Monarch

Page 7 From the past: PECFN's past Potluck and Members-Night Meeting last June 27

Page 8 From the past: TREE PARADISE: OUR TRIP TO TIM GRAY'S FARM in June 2023

Page 9 South Shore Joint Initiative: Monarch Point Conservation Reserve

Page 10 Eurasian Tree Sparrow – A New Species for Prince Edward County – Paul Jones

Page 11&12 Hudgin House Log Cabin Quilt

Page 13 PECFN calendar by Paul Jones for sale

Page 14 Oct. 10 Quinte Field Naturalists Tree Planting



PECFN calendar by Paul Jones



2024 Monarch Point Conservation Reserve Calendar

PECFN Members Meeting

Tuesday, September 26, 7pm

Bloomfield Town Hall in Person

Ian Barker presents

“Emerging Wildlife Diseases I Have Known”



Ian Barker is a University Professor Emeritus of pathology and wildlife diseases at the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph and the Founding Director of the Ontario/Nunavut Region of the Canadian Wildlife Health Co-operative.

Throughout his career, Ian Barker has been involved in surveillance for and research on problems potentially impacting free-living and captive wildlife, domestic animals, and human beings, many of which are emerging diseases or likely to be affected by climate change. In this talk he will explore many of the wildlife diseases and trends he has encountered.



A Bufflehead looking for his next meal.

October 31 – AGM and PECFN speaker

Sheila Kuja 7pm, Bloomfield Town Hall in person

Biodiversity in Prince Edward County.



**The Endangered
Four-leaved
Milkweed with
all three
remaining
localities in
Canada – in
PEC.**

*Photo by J.S.
Lowry*

Biodiversity in Prince Edward County.

Most residents don't realize what a significant place PEC is in terms of protecting biodiversity and in maintaining so many plant communities and species that have already been lost in the rest of the province, especially southwestern Ontario. Due to pollution and industrialization of that area, very few locations can harbour the many Endangered and Threatened Species that once occurred there. The County, because of its relative lack of pollution, particularly in aquatic habitats, and lack of development and industrialization for terrestrial species, is key to the impressive number of Species at Risk in PEC. Add to this it's position where northern and southern elements come together; it's geographical position, protruding into L. Ontario making it an important migratory stopover area, and the land itself, often with minimal soil over limestone – all contribute to protecting plants such as the Endangered Four-leaved Milkweed; fish such as the Endangered Eastern Sand Darter; reptiles such as the Endangered Spiny Softshell Turtle and birds such as the Endangered Red-headed Woodpecker. And this is just the tip of the iceberg when the Threatened Species of Special Concern – and the plant communities are also considered. The list is impressive. The burning question is “What can we, in PEC, do to protect this biodiversity?”

Sheila Kuja

Grew up in Scarborough, close to the Bluffs. She did her undergraduate and graduate work at University of Toronto with a short interlude teaching at the high school in Ingersoll before beginning her PhD in the Botany Department studying the Sand Cherry complex. She later worked for the Natural Heritage Information Centre when it was located in North York. She and her husband, Allen, bought a house in the County in 2010 and moved here full time in 2011. She became a member of PECFN and soon the PECFN Executive, just in time for the Ostrander Point Tribunal. She volunteered at PEPTBO until the spring of 2017 and continued the PECFN Chimney Swift surveys until Covid interfered. In 2013 she began coordinating and compiling the annual PECFN BioBlitzes, first on the South Shore and then, at Macaulay Mountain Conservation Area. Still a member of the Executive, her favourite pastimes are birding and botanizing in the County.

PECFN Members Meeting
Tuesday November 28. 7pm by Zoom.
Terry Sprague



Terry Sprague is a well known naturalist who lives on Big Island. His weekly columns on nature appeared in local newspapers for 50 years. He has held positions at Glenora Fisheries Research and as an interpretive naturalist at both Sandbanks Provincial Park (8 yrs.) and Quinte Conservation (17 yrs.). He is recipient of the 2002 Pioneer Conservationist Award from Conservation Ontario, the 2004 Richards Education Award from Ontario Nature, and the 2015 Gold Quill Award from the Canadian Community Newspapers Association.

COME FLY WITH ME

When Terry Sprague operated an outdoor interpretive program some 20 years ago at Quinte Conservation, in addition to hiking and paddling events, he offered aerial tours out of First Nations Air Service at Deseronto. In fact, they became so popular, he ended up hosting 23 in the first year alone. In this presentation, he shares some of the photos he took over Prince Edward County and nearby areas of the diversity of natural features with which we have been blessed.

**PEPtBO presents virtually on Wednesday October 18th at 7:00 PM
a webinar focussing on the new book by Jennifer Ackerman,
What an Owl Knows: The New Science of the World's Most Enigmatic Birds (Penguin, June 2023).**



What an Owl Knows: An Evening with acclaimed author Jennifer Ackerman

The Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory's month-long program, "Starry Nights with Saw-whets," is fast approaching! PEPtBO is thrilled to announce an evening with Jennifer Ackerman — bestselling author of *The Genius of Birds* and acclaimed science writer. Join her and PEPtBO virtually on Wednesday October 18th at 7:00 PM for a webinar focussing on her new book, *What an Owl Knows: The New Science of the World's Most Enigmatic Birds* (Penguin, June 2023). The book, a deep dive into the world of owls and the people who study them, has received rave reviews in a variety of media including *The Globe and Mail*, *The New York Times*, and *The Guardian*. Here's an opportunity to listen to Ms. Ackerman's stories, to see her remarkable photos, and to have the exclusive chance to ask questions following her presentation.

To register (\$10), please visit: peptbo.ca/ackerman
(Purchasers may contact Cristina Petrucci, comms@peptbo.ca with further questions, as needed.)
Facebook: [PEPtBO](https://www.facebook.com/PEPtBO)
Instagram: [peptbo](https://www.instagram.com/peptbo)
X (formerly) Twitter: [PEPtBO](https://twitter.com/PEPtBO). To see other fall program offerings from PEPtBO please visit: www.peptbo.ca

Night of the Monarch celebrates South Shore Joint Initiative's 5th anniversary!

Sat. Oct. 14@6pm



The poster features a dark blue background with a starry sky and a monarch butterfly in the upper right. A yellow banner at the top left reads "DINNER & VARIETY SHOW SAT OCT 14 @ 6 PM NORTH MARYSBURGH TOWN HALL 2699 COUNTY ROAD 8, WAUPOOS". The main title "NIGHT OF THE Monarch" is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below the title, a white circle contains the text "JOIN US TO CELEBRATE 5 years OF PROTECTING THE SOUTH SHORE & THE NEW MONARCH POINT CONSERVATION RESERVE!". To the right of this circle is the SSJI logo and the text "TICKETS \$150 EA GET YOURS AT SSJI.CA". At the bottom, there are logos for sponsors: Elizabeth Crombie Real Estate Team, Magpie Clothing, and Prince Edward County Field Naturalists. A QR code is also present. Four starburst shapes contain details about the entertainment: "RETRO MUSIC BY MARYKAY MORRIS, MARK DESPAULT & MICHELLE FOUND", "IMPROV BY COMEDY DUO LENNY EPSTEIN & GAVIN NORTH", "LOCAL MUSICAL SENSATION JENICA HAMMETT", and "DELIGHTFUL 3 COURSE DINNER BY CHEF TOMAS CROSSLEY COUNTY WINE & BEER CASH BAR". At the very bottom, it says "REGISTERED CHARITY #76995 9081 RR0001".

To celebrate five successful years of advocacy as well as the designation of Monarch Reserve Conservation Area, South Shore Joint Initiative (SSJI) presents Night of the Monarch at North Marysburgh Hall on October 14 at 6:00 pm.

Night of the Monarch is a dinner and variety show fundraiser. Guests will enjoy a three-course dinner prepared by local chef extraordinaire Tomas Crossley. Comedians Lenny Epstein and Gavin North will be joined by musicians Jenica Hammett, Mark Despault, Michelle Found and MaryKay Morris to create a fun filled and joyful evening.

Since 2018 SSJI has advocated for the designation of Point Petre Provincial Wildlife Area and Ostrander Point Crown Land Block as a Conservation Reserve. This designation was achieved in June of this year. Conservation Reserve status protects these public lands from development. It preserves these areas for recreation as they have been used by generations of County people. It also recognizes these area's amazing biodiversity as well as their critical importance to thousands of migrating birds, bats and butterflies and the other wildlife that live there.

"It is time for us to celebrate," comments SSJI president John Hirsch. "We've worked hard to inform, educate and engage people in our rare and beautiful South Shore and are proud of our success in getting these nearly 4,000 acres permanently protected."

Sponsors Magpie Clothing, Elizabeth Crombie Real Estate Team and Prince Edward County Field Naturalists join South Shore Joint Initiative to create this festive event. Tickets are available at www.ssji.ca. Ticket price is \$150 which includes a \$50 tax receipt, taxes and gratuity.

For more information:

Cheryl Anderson
Cheryl.anderson@ssji.ca
613-849-7743

From the past:

PECFN's Past Potluck and Members-Night Meeting last June 27 - Sheila Kuja

With so much delicious food, good company and interesting member presentations, what a great last meeting of the season for PECFN – on June 27th at the Bloomfield Town Hall. There were so many amazing and unusual salads – all delicious! Combine those with the veggie and meat lasagne's, plus a table full of incredible desserts, all provided by members, and wow, it was a buffet-style feast for all to enjoy!!! Rows of tables replaced the usual chair “format” of a typical meeting, so that we could all enjoy a meal together before the presentations began.

Our president, Amy Bodman, introduced the evening as one of celebration – for the Monarch Point Conservation Reserve being designated after much hard work by SSJI, PECFN being one of their partners – and just being able to gather again as a group after the long years of Covid that have kept us apart.

Dale Smith gave us a terrific slide show highlighting the birds he saw along the southern Texas coast last winter. Of special note, from his many beautiful and characterful pictures, were his photos of the Whooping Cranes – that he remembered learning about in school when they were on the brink of extinction. Happily, they are a “good news” story now and due to conservation efforts, are doing much better. We noticed that they are really big birds! Next Henri Garand took us to Panama to see the antics of the monkeys that he and Faye observed during a river exploration organized from their cruise ship in the area last winter. Pamela gave us a recap of her excellent presentation on the evolution of horses and everyone had to endure my talk about a birding tour we took to Costa Rica last December – at least the bird photos were stunning. All in all, an amazing and delightful evening of comradery, ending a great season of club programming. Thank you to all who attended and those members who presented.

We're hoping that even more members will join us next year to chat and enjoy one another's company in a relaxed setting with a feast laid out for them, and by them. Maybe consider giving a short (10-15 minute max) slide show of an interesting place or plant/animal you have encountered at next year's Members Night. Till then, see you at a PECFN meeting this fall!

From Costa Rica: Left: Silver-throated Tanager; Middle: Red-headed Barbet; Right: Resplendent Quetzal



Photos by Allen Kuja

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

From the past:

TREE PARADISE: OUR PAST TRIP TO TIM GRAY'S FARM in June 2023

Tim Gray has been raising native trees from seed on his farm in Roslin for decades. In June, PECFN members enthusiastically accepted Tim's invitation to see his amazing collection of at least 45 species. Many are Carolinian – including Paw Paw, Kentucky Coffee Tree, and Sassafras. As Earth heats up, they've become increasingly comfortable away from their home in SW Ontario and the Eastern United States.

This was surely one of PECFN's most well-attended outings. We love our trees and appreciate their importance to human and planetary health, as well as their unparalleled beauty.



One of several Paw Paw trees



Pecans



Tim introduces his decades-long project to PECFN guests

South Shore Joint Initiative

Monarch Point Conservation Reserve



If you haven't heard about this wonderful news yet, here is your chance to catch up with the newly created conservation reserve on Prince Edward County's south shore - Monarch Point. Here is the link to the web page we have created where you can find the press release and links to the media coverage we have been attracting: https://www.ssji.ca/monarch_point_conservation_reserve



In celebration of this great news we have been engaging in several activities this summer. We have shown an awarded documentary by Kim Smith - *Beauty on the Wing: Life Story of the Monarch Butterfly*. The film was shown virtually to school children and individual viewers. Outdoor educator, Cheryl Chapman has visited 10 local classes to talk about Monarchs and engage the students in Monarch themed exercises. Classes were encouraged to complete Monarch quizzes and tasks. We are very thankful for a grant from the Stark Family Foundation, which made these activities possible.

In keeping with the Monarch theme, the 2023 SSJI T-Shirt is emblazoned with Gerry Jenkison's Monarch Life Cycle drawing. The T-shirts are available for sale [online](#) and at SSJI events. Please contact Cheryl Anderson at cheryl.anderson@ssji.ca or call 613-849-7743.



Monarch roost that John Lowry found at Point Petre (Monarch Point C.A.)

photo John Lowry

Eurasian Tree Sparrow – A New Species for Prince Edward County – Paul Jones

On May 30, 2023, two Eurasian Tree Sparrows appeared at my bird feeder on Long Point Road in Prince Edward County, Ontario, Canada. This was a shock as the species is non-migratory and its small North American breeding range is 1300 kilometres away in the US Midwest. Before these two showed up, there were no previous sightings of this species in the County and only a handful of records in Ontario as a whole. Quebec has had a single sighting and New York State none.

So how did these birds end up in my backyard? The story begins over one hundred years ago in April 1870 when a shipment of twelve Eurasian Tree Sparrows from Germany was released in St. Louis, Missouri. The idea was to ease the homesickness of newly settled European immigrants by providing the company of a familiar bird. For similar reasons and twenty years earlier a related European species, the House Sparrow, was introduced in New York City.

By 1900 House Sparrows had spread across the continent and are now present (although undergoing a population decline) in much of North America. In contrast, the Eurasian Tree Sparrow proved more sedentary and, except for the occasional stray, only established a small beachhead around St. Louis.

History aside, the more immediate circumstances of my backyard sparrow event relate in part to Prince Edward County's geography. Prevailing winds from the west push birds along the north shore of Lake Ontario, funneling them east down the County's southern shoreline and concentrating them on Long Point. This makes it an excellent sentinel location for monitoring the passage of birds. While wandering Eurasian Tree Sparrows could show up anywhere in southern Ontario, the County's geography increases the likelihood of encountering one here.

In addition to highlighting the County's ideal location for bird watching, the sighting also reflects the population dynamics of Eurasian Tree Sparrow in North America. After more than a century of stability, the species appears to be finally colonizing new areas near its introduction site. Pioneers are also



setting out on longer forays, with vagrants appearing as far away as New Brunswick and Saskatchewan.

The placement of my bird feeders is the last and most specific factor relating to the sighting. Rather than taking them down at the end of winter I left them up longer than usual and they continued to attract birds late into spring. On the morning of May 30, I looked out the back window and beneath the feeders noted two unfamiliar birds picking at seed on the ground. My first thought was they were House Sparrows but checking through binoculars I was stunned to see a black spot on their cheeks. House Sparrows don't have this mark, but it is a key feature of Eurasian Tree Sparrow. The birds also had solid chestnut caps (divided brown and grey on House Sparrow) and complete white collars (incomplete and grey on House Sparrow). Trying to stay calm, I grabbed my camera and secured a few blurry images through the window. To avoid the obstructing glass, I slipped outside and was able to obtain much clearer photographs. After double-checking some bird books to confirm the identification, I put the word out to other birders. The sparrows remained below the feeders for about twenty minutes, but then flew off in a panic when a Merlin swept by. I assumed they would return, but they never did.

From an ornithological perspective, Prince Edward County's first record for Eurasian Tree Sparrow poses some interesting questions. Will this new species eventually settle in the County, and what impact might its presence have? Why is the Eurasian Tree Sparrow population increasing in North America at the same time its numbers are dropping in western Europe? Is the House Sparrow's decline in North America relevant to the Eurasian Tree Sparrow's increase here? The Long Point record does not answer these questions, but it does add a small piece to the larger scientific puzzle. It also highlights why the Prince Edward County South Shore Important Bird and Biodiversity Area is such a special place. Any final lessons? Always keep an eye on your bird feeders. And maybe keep them up a bit longer in the spring. You never know what might show up!

"PECFN is pleased to reprint the following article about the Hudgin House Log Cabin Quilt made by PECFN members Paula Peel and Myrna Wood. It first appeared in The South Shoreliner Vol.4 No.4, A publication of the South Shore Joint, Initiative, Prince Edward County, Ontario."

Hudgin House Log Cabin Quilt

Paula Peel

About a year ago, Myrna and Paula decided to collaborate on a quilt to help fundraising for the Hudgin House Restoration Project. From the start, they wanted a traditional style of quilt that evoked the era when the Moses Hudgin Log House was built. The log cabin quilt pattern was perfectly suited to their project, based on its name alone! But the historical roots of this quilt pattern also made it a good choice. Although it's unclear where and when log cabin quilts first began to be produced, the earliest known written references to log cabin quilts date back to 1863. The Hudgin Log House was built two years later, around 1865. As it turns out, there is yet another historical tie-in. One of those 1863 references is to a quilt on display at a fundraising bazaar for Union soldiers, which means that log cabin quilts were being used for fundraising 160 years ago!

In addition to their intrinsic beauty, log cabin quilts were also utilitarian. The log cabin quilt pattern made the most of "leftover [scrapbags](#) full of mixed fabrics". This was important at a time when nothing ever went to waste. Worn-out clothes could be cut into strips and reused in quilts. Myrna and Paula were happy to follow that tradition, using leftover fabric pieces, both their own and donated by the Prince Edward County community.

There are many different layouts for log cabin quilts, but they all have in common a square block consisting of a centre square surrounded by rectangular strips or "logs". In vintage quilts, these centre squares are in various colours including black and red. Over time red came to symbolize the homes' hearth or fireplace.

The "Barn Raising" layout used in the Hudgin House log cabin quilt, with its square-within-a-square design, is probably the most recognizable layout of all. The quilt that is up for auction consists of 120 blocks in total. Each block is made up of 13 pieces (a centre block surrounded by 12 "logs"), resulting in a total of 1,560 pieces in this quilt. During the quilt-top piecing process, two sides of the blocks are sewn using light-coloured fabrics and the other two sides using dark fabrics. The magic happens in the way these blocks are oriented to form multiple diamond shaped patterns.

The quilt measures 91"X 108". The quilt backing is a vintage-pattern style single piece of fabric without any seams. While in 1865 when the log house was built, the quilts in use would have been much smaller, this quilt has been designed to be used for either a queen or king-size bed.

This vibrant, multi-coloured quilt will suit just about any bedroom. It will provide warmth and comfort for its new owner(s) or make a fabulous gift. Most importantly, you will have contributed to the restoration of the Hudgin Log House.

See next page.



QUILT AUCTION IN SUPPORT OF THE HUDGIN LOG HOUSE RESTORATION

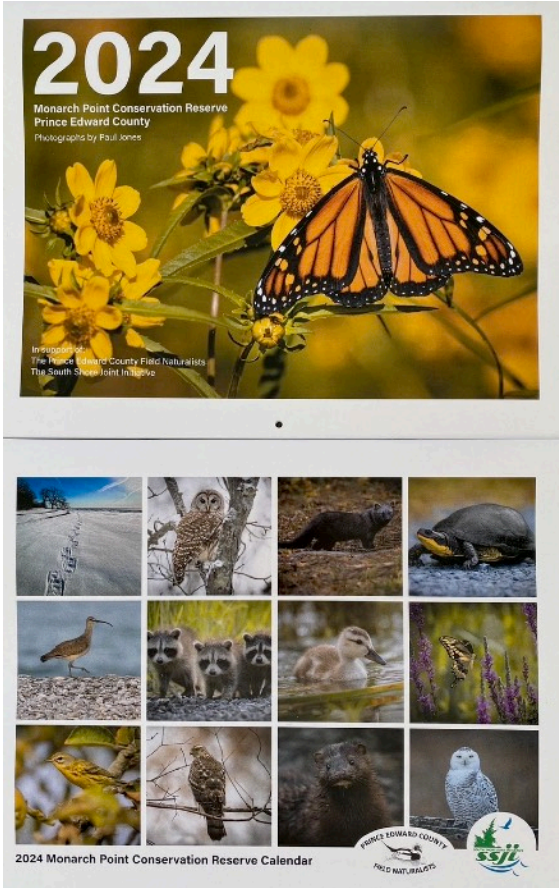


**KING/QUEEN LOG
CABIN QUILT
HAND MADE AND
QUILTED BY
MYRNA WOOD
AND PAULA PEEL
VALUE \$2500**



**OPENING BID \$1000 | CURRENT BID \$1400
INCREMENTS \$100
BIDDING CLOSSES AT *NIGHT OF THE MONARCH*
OCTOBER 14
BID BY EMAIL:
CHERYL.ANDERSON@SSJI.CA**

PECFN items for sale



PECFN is pleased to announce that Paul Jones has created a new 2024 Calendar as a fundraiser for PECFN and the South Shore Initiative featuring thirteen of his beautiful photographs that celebrate the rich biodiversity of the new **Monarch Point Conservation Reserve** on the County's South Shore. Paul's calendar of the **Birds of PEC** was a great hit last year and sold out, so get your copies now! pecfninfo@gmail.com.



Pocket Guides. These wonderful guides featuring the turtles, frogs, snakes and salamanders of Ontario are available at cost.

Both items will be available for sale at PECFN Members meetings or you can order them for delivery by emailing pecfninfo@gmail.com.

Quinte Field Naturalists Tree Planting Oct. 10



Tree Planting Update: What's being planted October 10 on The Shirley Langer Trail!

The list of trees we'll be planting is in. It's an exciting and diverse list. All are native, and many are Carolinian species. With climate change, experts expect to see more species, historically found in southwestern Ontario, the Niagara Peninsula, and Prince Edward County, do well along the north shore of Lake Ontario. Planting these trees now sets us up for a healthy, and resilient stand as the climate warms. Here's the list: American Basswood, Eastern Cottonwood, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Ohio Buckeye, Pin Cherry, Showy Mountain Ash, Swamp Oak, Tamarack, and White Pine! This will create a great new home for our feathered and furred friends!

Come lend a hand on October 10 to plant the small potted trees, shrubs and perennials. The City of Belleville will be planting the larger ones.

If you are interested in participating, meet at the parking lot at 10 am, on the east side of Herchimer Avenue

This is a cooperative effort between the City of Belleville, the Quinte Field Naturalists, TreesCanada and Home Hardware. We are grateful for their support!

Hope to see you there!
Quinte Field Naturalist Board

Hi Friends of Nature, We need YOU!

WHY? Quinte Field Naturalists have raised monies to plant native trees, shrubs, and perennials on Belleville's **Shirley Langer Trail** and we need your help to get them in the ground! All levels of experience and ability welcome! See poster for more information on what will be planted and why.

WHEN? Tuesday, October 10th from 10 a.m. - noon

WHERE? Meet at the parking lot at the bottom of Herchimer Ave. on the lake shore. The area being planted is a field adjacent to the trailhead and near the parking lot.

<https://www.google.ca/maps/place/Shirley+Langer+Trail/@44.1638601,-77.3545945,17z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x89d62f38389d0a55:0xc2be7437c00ba3aa!8m2!3d44.1646875!4d-77.3520625!16s%2Fg%2F11rd4xbr3t?entry=tту>

BRING: Gardening/work gloves, knee pads, shovels and trowels if you have them. Extras will be available for those that don't.

Please contact **John Lowry** at johnslowry18@gmail.com to sign-up to participate.