

NEWSLETTER



Sheila and Alan Kuja feeding the waterfowl cracked corn in Wellington Harbour in Feb. *photo by Sydney Smith*



Amy Bodman feeding Chickadees in the Owl Woods on Amherst Island
photo Sydney Smith

Myrna Wood President's Message

As Spring approaches on seasonal winds PECFN plans for activities are rising above the melting snow. I hope everyone finds something interesting in this Newsletter to mark on your calendar and invite a friend to join.

- Pamela Stagg's March 31st presentation re. Wetlands p.2
- Nick Cairns April 28th presentation on reptiles and amphibians p.4
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- PECFN BioThon & PECFN Turtle Survey p.11
- PECFN's recommendations: the County's Official Plan p. 7



female Pileated woodpecker *photo by Sydney Smith*



Hear Pamela Stagg 's presentation on WETLANDS
Tues. Mar. 31- 7pm Bloomfield Town Hall,

Once upon a time, wetlands were seen as wastelands. Today, conservation organizations can actually put a dollar value on the services wetlands perform for us. Join Pamela Stagg as she explores the types of wetlands and their value to us.



Sue Banks/photo

**Have you paid your PECFN membership dues for 2015?
Send your \$15 single membership cheque to
Box 414, Bloomfield, ON K0K 1G0**

Spring Birding Festival Program

Guided Hikes \$5 / person

May 16,17,18,23,24 (weekends)
 8 a.m. Traverse Woods
 Meet at the portable toilet
 10 a.m. Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse
 Meet at the Bird Observatory

May 16 & 23 (Saturdays)
 4 p.m. Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse
 Meet at the Bird Observatory
 May 20 (Wednesday)
 8a.m. Hubbs Creek Wetland with the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists
 Meet at the Wellington LCBO parking lot (462 Main St., Wellington)

Photography outing with Phil Norton

\$10/per person

Please register at phil@philnorton.com

Workshops at Jackson's Falls Country Inn \$25 per person

Please register at www.peptbo.ca

Saturday May 16, 10 a.m. Grassland Birds with Mark Read

Saturday May 16, 2 p.m. Nature Photography (including birds) with Phil Norton

Saturday May 23, 10 a.m. Shore Birds with Walter Wehtje

Miller Family Nature Reserve Dedication and Celebration

Sunday May 17 2 pm

Park at Hilltop Rd and Brewer Rd.

For more information and any changes, please check: www.peptbo.ca

Spring Birding Festival
 May 16th - 24th
2015

Join us as we celebrate the annual spring migration.

Experience the rich birding opportunities that Prince Edward County has to offer.

Guided Hikes

May 16
 8 a.m. Traverse Woods - Meet at the portable toilet
 10 a.m. Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse - Meet at the Bird Observatory
 4 p.m. Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse - Meet at the Bird Observatory

May 17
 8 a.m. Traverse Woods - Meet at the portable toilet
 10 a.m. Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse - Meet at the Bird Observatory

May 18
 8 a.m. Traverse Woods - Meet at the portable toilet
 10 a.m. Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse - Meet at the Bird Observatory

May 20
 8 a.m. Hubbs Creek Wetland with the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists - Meet at the Wellington LCBO parking lot (462 Main St., Wellington)

May 23
 8 a.m. Traverse Woods - Meet at the portable toilet
 10 a.m. Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse - Meet at the Bird Observatory
 4 p.m. Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse - Meet at the Bird Observatory

May 24
 8 a.m. Traverse Woods - Meet at the portable toilet
 10 a.m. Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse - Meet at the Bird Observatory
 (Guided hikes are only \$5 per person)

Photography outing with Phil Norton
 Date and Time to be determined
 Please register at phil@philnorton.com
 \$10 per person

Workshops at Jackson's Falls Country Inn
 Please register at www.peptbo.ca
 Saturday May 16, 10 a.m. Grassland Birds with Mark Read
 Saturday May 16, 2 p.m. Nature Photography (including birds) with Phil Norton
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Miller Family Nature Reserve Dedication and Celebration
 Sunday May 17, 2 pm
 Park at Hilltop Rd and Brewer Rd.
 For more information and any changes, please check: www.peptbo.ca

Banding Demonstrations
 Hospitality Tent
 Merchandise
 Photography Contest

2015 Spring Birding Festival supported by:
www.fullerplants.com
 Prince Edward County is an extraordinary birding location with the highest concentration and abundance of migratory birds anywhere on the Canadian side of Lake Ontario.

Information and registration for all workshops online at www.peptbo.ca

IBIA
 IMPERIAL BIRD AREA

Prince Edward County
 Bird Observatory

PECFN speaker for April

Nick Cairns will discuss the natural history of reptiles and amphibians in the region and delve into detail for specific representative or novel species.

I did my undergrad in Brandon MB on snake ecology, my MSc in Ottawa on turtle conservation and am doing my PhD in Kingston on frog evolution.

My current project focuses on the ubiquitous spring peeper and its complicated biogeography and evolutionary history. I use genomics, computer modeling and call analysis to compare between different lineages of this species to look for the signals of reproductive isolation and potential speciation.

Biogeography and community ecology is where I would like to land for my research in the future. Most of my adult life has been spent on the Canadian prairies and so that area is very near and dear to my heart but in the last couple years I've been very excited to learn about the great diversity of herpetofauna found in south-eastern Ontario. As such, I plan to talk broadly about the natural history of reptiles and amphibians in our region and delve into detail for specific representative or novel species.

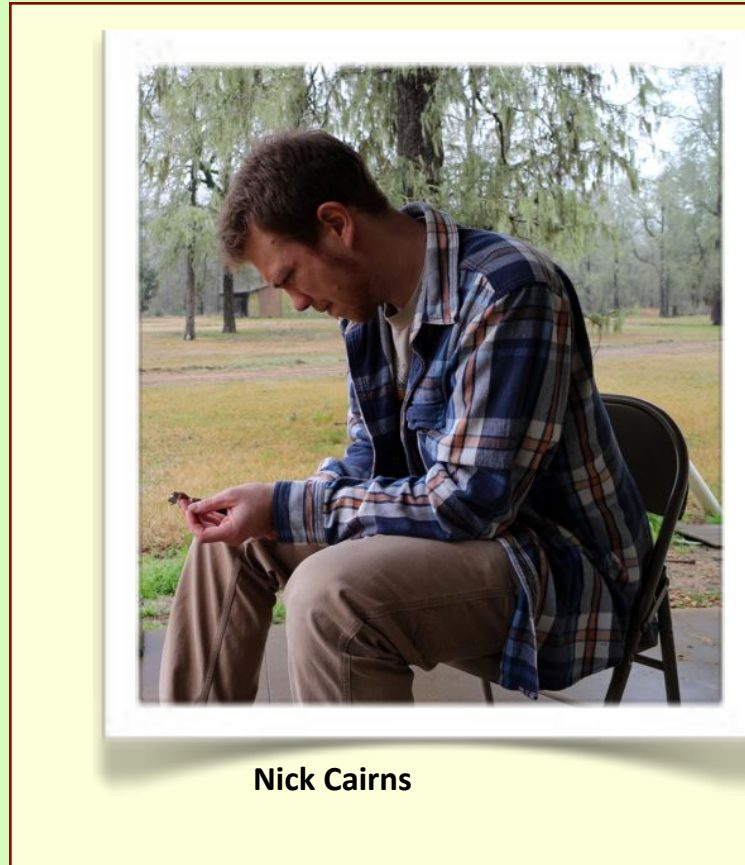


Photo by John F Foster

3rd Annual PECFN Gala Dinner & Art Auction

a fund raising event for the Ostrander Point Appeal Fund



5:30 pm
Saturday April 25, 2015

PEC Curling Club
Picton Fair Grounds

An evening of **Exceptional Food**
Outstanding
Auction Items
and Fun



For reservations call Sheena
613-399-1461

For more information and
to reserve online visit
www.saveostranderpoint.org

Enjoy a delicious meal
prepared by Chef
Michael Hoy
3-Course Dinner
\$75.00

Wine provided with dinner
Includes HST & Gratuity
Vegetarian option available



poster designed by
Borys Holowacz



Photo by Gabrielle Holowacz

OPAF Spring Update



Sheena Kennedy and Treat Hall at 2014 Gala Dinner & Art Auction Auction items on wall behind.



Pottery platter by celebrity potter Bill Reddick in the Koi pattern with deep red reverse. It is a truly beautiful and unique piece.



Spring has arrived and it's time to start planning to attend the third annual OPAF Gala Fund Raising Dinner and Art Auction at the Picton Curling Club on April 25th.

Last year our guests were amazed at the quality of the pieces of art donated to help support the Ostrander Point Appeal Fund. This is your chance to get a beautiful piece at an excellent price and to support the Fund at the same time. For example, you could score an exceptional pottery platter by celebrity potter Bill Reddick in the Koi pattern with deep red reverse. It is a truly beautiful and unique piece.

This evening is not only about the art. The event is a truly fun evening and can get a little raucous at times! (in a distinguished County way of course!) Ian Hanna is returning this year as master of ceremonies and auctioneer. Chef Michael Hoy has devised an innovative plate with beef short ribs (vegetarian option available). We are extremely grateful to County winery donations that allow us to include County wine with your meal. Why not plan to bring a group and join us in celebrating spring and - fingers crossed - success in saving Ostrander Point.

Tickets are \$75 and may be purchased online at www.saveostranderpoint.org or by calling Sheena Kennedy at 613-476-1461.

PECFN's recommendations to The County's Official Plan

by Myrna Wood and Amy Bodman

The review of the County's Official Plan is past due.

Rules governing the County's environment are being written by outside consultants and will be implemented by developers.

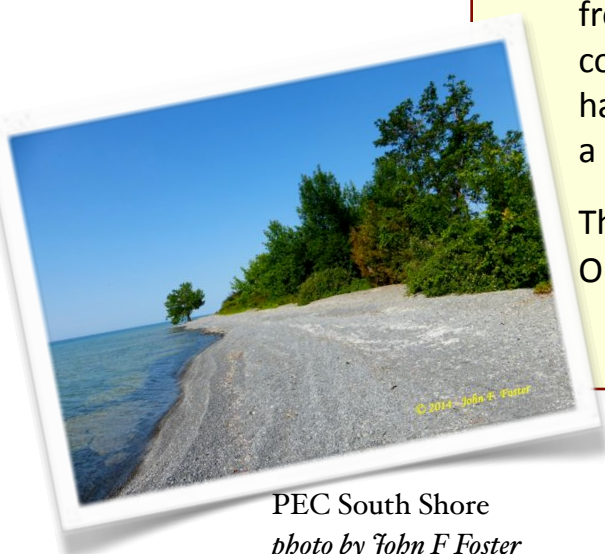
Groups such as PECFN must keep an eye on decisions being made which will impact habitats for many species across the County, especially wetlands,

PECFN will update data on Species at Risk and significant wildlife habitats.

We recommend that:

- The South Shore and its several coastal wetlands, be designated a 'Core area of Conservation Value'.
- The Land Use Designations of Shore land, Outdoor recreational land, and Public land be added to, and enforced as, EP (environmental protected) whose predominant use will be conservation, forestry, wildlife areas, established agricultural and passive residential and recreational uses.
- the County create a 'Site Alteration Bylaw' that would allow the municipality to ensure that development and site alteration shall not be permitted on or adjacent to significant habitat of endangered and threatened species, ANSIs, fish habitat, sensitive ground water features, shorelines of the Great Lakes, river and stream systems, and dynamic beaches.
- a policy that increases the number of woodlots and deters from the loss of interior woodlands. Among the many species that nest in woodland habitat are the 221 known bird hosts to Cowbird nest predation, one factor in the decline of songbird species. 90% of Cowbird locations are within 150-350 metres from forest edges. Woodlots and hedgerows provide essential corridors for wildlife protection between foraging and nesting habitats. Decreasing fragmentation of these habitats should be a priority.

This policy should include a tree planting policy as part of Ontario's plan for an increase of 50 million trees by 2025.



PEC South Shore
photo by John F Foster

Free full day Tree Seed Forecasting Workshop.

Sat. June 27

Sponsored by :

- Trees Ontario
- Prince Edward County Field Naturalists
- Prince Edward County Stewardship

Learn how to identify trees for potential seed collection.

Ontario has committed to plant 50 million trees by 2025 to help fight climate change and re-green the province.

Learn more about this workshop, contact Amy Bodman at (613) 399-5219, email: .
amy.bodman@gmail.com

Tree Seed Forecasting Workshop

Prince Edward County – Saturday, June 27th - Time and Place TBA.

On Saturday, June 27th, Trees Ontario, in conjunction with the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists and Prince Edward County Stewardship will host a full day Tree Seed Forecasting Workshop. The workshop will be free and will include a light lunch.

Trees Ontario are conducting these workshops as part of the Ontario Government's 50 Million Tree Program. The Ontario Government has committed to plant 50 million trees by 2025 to help fight climate change and re-green the province. This is Ontario's pledge to the United Nations' Billion Tree Campaign.

Collecting seeds, tracking their development, and compiling information about availability, location, type and quantity are vital components in strengthening Ontario's tree planting infrastructure. Knowledgeable and dedicated forecasters are invaluable in increasing tree seed inventories and providing the base for more expansive and successful planting efforts across Ontario.

The workshop will teach participants how to identify trees for potential seed collection. Attendees will receive insight into key areas of seed forecasting and collection, including:

- **Seed production:** Discerning various species' flowering patterns and how surrounding conditions might impact flower development.
- **Seed development:** Observing the maturity and development of newly fertilized seeds and potential threats.
- **Crop progression:** Understanding and predicting the amount or size of seed crop that a particular tree(s) will yield.

Forecasting and collecting tree seeds today ensures the planting of tomorrow's forests.

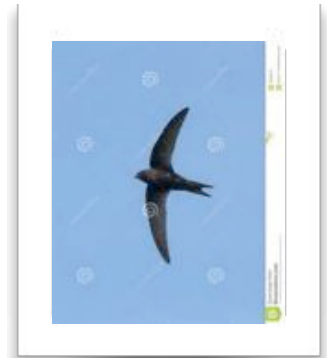
Join us for our tree seed forecasting workshop and help lay the foundation for a greener and healthier future.

Registration will be required as space will be limited.

PEC SWIFT WATCH 2015

The Chimney swifts will be returning to the County at the beginning of April. We hope the numbers of this endangered species will be the same or increased after their long journey to Peru.

A Southern report has come from Oaxaca, Mexico that "...the swifts and swallows are moving north - a week earlier than usual..." We typically see swifts on the Gulf Coast of Texas the first week of March, so here they come!"



This will be the 4th annual watch for PECFN members counting Swifts in downtown Picton. We need to canvas our towns and discover other chimneys where they are roosting. We want to look for chimney roosts in eastern Picton, all of Wellington, and Bloomfield. All that is required is to go outside at dusk, listen for their twittering, and watch for birds dropping 'swiftly' into a chimney. A pleasant pastime for a spring evening.

We have discovered them roosting at Lake on the Mountain so perhaps observers will find them in Milford, Hillier, or Consecon.

Reports or ideas for canvassing can be sent to Sandra Dowds centuryhouse@sympatico.ca

More information can be found at :

<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/research/speciesatrisk/chsw/index.jsp?targetpg=index&lang=EN>





The **Canadian Audubon** magazine has lessons for us today. On the Board in the 1960's were prominent scientists such as James L. Baillie.

In May 1958 Campbell photograph(ed) the first male Rose-breasted grosbeak, and the first male Bobolink, the northernmost records for these species in Ontario and Quebec at that time.

“The ‘control of nature’ is a phrase conceived in arrogance, born of the Neanderthal age of biology and philosophy, when it was supposed that nature exists for the convenience of man.

.....*Rachel Carson in her book ‘Silent Spring’*

Natural History

A new column for PECFN members to write reviews or comments on publications of interest.

I am starting the column with notes on selected 1960s issues of The **Canadian Audubon** donated by Mary and Robert Morris. The Board of Directors included James L. Baillie as well as other prominent scientists. Each issue has knowledgeable articles about different species, important habitats in Canada, and drawings or photos. Every issue has several pages of information and projects meant for youth, but which are as useful for us all now as then. What follows is an eccentric choice of highlights in the issues from 1962.. *Myrna Wood*

Canadian Audubon Society Vol 24, no 4 Sept-Oct 1962

Camera vs. Shotgun by Mitchell Campbell and L.L.Snyder, Curator of Ornithology, ROM

Discusses the relative benefits of bird identification with cameras versus collecting specimens.

Campbell was a recorder and collector for the National Museum of Canada from spring to fall at Sept Iles, Quebec for a number of years. On May 21, 1958 he succeeded in photographing the first male Rose-breasted grosbeak, the northernmost record for the species in Ontario and Quebec at that time. Three days later, May 24, he recorded the first male Bobolink in the area. (Earlier records were in Labrador, 1924 and 1927.)

Vol 24, no 5 Nov-Dec 1962

ARDA and Wildlife by A. T. Davidson. In 1961 Parliament created the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act. It was meant to provide for rural development in some rural areas and also to take over lands that were marginal for cultivation but could be productive for wildlife. This is the program that took over Ostrander Point on the County's South Shore from the DND. At the time, the site would have been seen as habitat for deer and ducks and hunting. One wonders if the important migration function of the South Shore was known by the authorities at the time.

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson reviewed by John A Livingston, Managing Director of Canadian Audubon Society who was moving to the CBC.

He quoted Carson: “The ‘control of nature’ is a phrase conceived in arrogance, born of the Neanderthal age of biology and philosophy, when it was supposed that nature exists for the convenience of man. The concepts and practices of applied entomology - a primitive science which has armed itself with the most modern and terrible weapons, and that in turning them against the insect it has also turned them against the earth.”

Livingston noted a recent warning to hunters in New Brunswick that woodcock were carrying dangerous quantities of chemicals. He urged the members to read and act upon this book's message. “You owe it to the living world you value. You owe it to your children.”



TURTLE SURVEY

PECFN will be surveying for Blanding's and other turtle species across the South Shore this spring.

Emergence from hibernation can vary from late March into April depending on the weather. The waterfowl survey on the South Shore March 28 can double as a turtle watch. We will organize further surveys later.

If you live near other wetlands please look for turtles and report their locations to us or Ontario Nature's Atlas*. When ponds are thawed (50 – 60% ice free) on bright sunny days, with some bare ground patches, they will start to bask.

Searchers need to be stealthy, using binoculars, approaching wetlands slowly and quietly since the turtles will see us and slip into the water. Scan 2-5 metres away from water's edge, or on tussocks or logs within the wetland. It is worth checking ponds of interest 3 or 4 times on warm sunny days before deciding there are no turtles present.

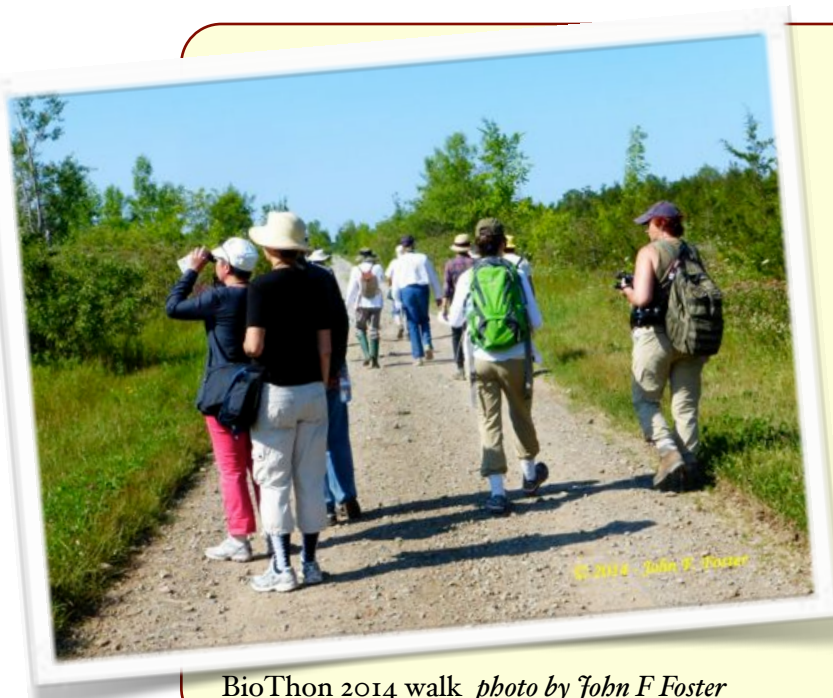
- http://www.ontarionature.org/protect/species/herpetofaunal_atlas.php



Blandings /photo by Gilles Bisson.



PECFN's BioThon....don't forget



BioThon 2014 walk photo by John F Foster

PECFN is sponsoring a 2015 "BioThon" for the Provincial Wildlife Area (PWA) from Point Petre to Charwell Point Rd., south of Army Reserve Rd. This area, in South Marysburgh, lies within the South Shore Important Bird Area. We will be inviting the community to take part in our second BioBlitz to be conducted on June 20-21, 2015 with the Base Camp situated off Simpson Rd. in the PWA.

But... in the meantime

We will be collecting as much biological information as possible **all year long** and we ask that anyone visiting the PWA on their own or with a group send their natural history observations to Sheila Kuja (sanda.kuja@bell.net) with dates and locations for sightings.

Got your tickets yet for Terry's retirement dinner party?

EVENING FOR TERRY SPRAGUE CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

SATURDAY APRIL 18—5:30 PM

HIGHLINE HALL

WELLINGTON DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Savour a delicious meal
prepared by Chef
Michael Hoy**

**3-Course Dinner
\$60.00**

Vegetarian option available
Price includes HST and Gratuity

Book Early and Save!

Honour our very own County
Naturalist, Local Author, Columnist,
Speaker, Hike and Workshop
Leader, and Friend

Enjoy the atmosphere at beautiful
Highline Hall

Social Hour 5:30 — 6:30 pm

Dinner served at 6:30 pm

Guest Speakers

**For more information and
to reserve online visit**

www.terrysprague.eventbrite.ca

**Tickets available by
cash or cheque at
the Picton Gazette**



Photo by Mike Budge

We thank
our sponsors

**The Picton Gazette
The Napanee Beaver**



SCOOP



Ducks at Presqu'île *photo by David Bree*



~ Mute swan and Common Goldeneye. *photo by Sydney Smith*

**Minutes of the Executive Meeting
Prince Edward County Field
Naturalists
361 Main Street, Wellington
February 9, 2015**

Present: Amy Bodman, Elizabeth Cowan, Sandra Dowds, Sheila Kuja, Agneta Sand, Myrna Wood

Regrets: Cheryl Anderson, Sheena Kennedy

1. Status Reports

(A) Treasurer:

The following balances were reported:

PECFN bank account: \$2,421.25

OPAF bank account: \$2,456.67

PayPal account: \$314.99

Insurance premiums have jumped to \$736.00; hall rental as well has gone up somewhat. The members of the Executive discussed whether dues should be raised, perhaps from \$15.00 to \$20.00 and from \$30.00 to \$35.00, so that the club can break even. It was decided that the decision would be postponed until the AGM in May.

(B) Programs:

Outdoor programs

Amy reported that Tim Gray of Trees Ontario could offer a full-day workshop on tree seed collection on Saturday, June 27. Trees Ontario would cover the costs. The ideal number would be about 25 participants. Sandra suggested we should check to see whether any conflicting events are scheduled for that date, e.g. the APPEC fundraiser. Elizabeth will find out about Seedy Saturday, in case we could advertise the workshop there, and look into a posting on the Horticultural Society newsletter.

Terry Sprague would like to lead a full-day outing to the Peters Woods and Alderville on a week day in either June or September. Amy will ask him if September would suit him, as June is already very busy.

Indoor programs

Feb.24: Kyle Blaney, nature photographer – Sandra will introduce. A cheque will be prepared.

Mar.31: Pamela Stagg – wetlands – Amy

April 28: Nick Cairns turtles/frog/snake ecology– Amy will confirm.

May 26: Ryan Norris Monarch study – Cheryl has spoken to him but it's still uncertain whether he can make it.

Nov. 2015: Joanne and Kendal Dewey – Amy will ask them about topics; the consensus was that something on fish (e.g. lifecycle) would be of greater interest to the members than fishing as an industry.

Amy will look into getting someone to make a presentation on beavers next winter.

(C) Fundraising Committee:

Myrna reported on a not-very-satisfying conversation with the former manager of County FM on what constitutes “political” subject matter and whether PECFN is a “protest group”. She will try again with the new manager. In the meantime PECFN will try to have its projects and events mentioned on the station’s news broadcasts.

The menu for the OPAF Gala Dinner has been drawn up by Michael Hoy – it will be different from his dinner the week beforehand in honour of Terry Sprague. There will be 90 spaces available at the Curling Club, at a cost of \$75.00 per person all inclusive. Cheryl has enough art for the silent and bidding auctions. Sandra has arranged to rent a PA system from the County and has offered to pay the rental herself. Amy will approach Stanner’s vineyard about a donation of wine.

(D) Ostrander Point and Tribunal:

Myrna and Cheryl have concluded that PECFN should participate in the effort to have Council set up a fund that would generate charitable tax receipts for donors, as long as all donations go into a single account with the explicit purpose of paying legal costs incurred in protecting the South Shore, rather than accepting donations earmarked for a specific group.

Myrna submitted a paper for discussion, about the Club’s activities in 2015. PECFN should be a leader in conserving the County’s natural heritage. 2015 is an important year because the County is revising its Official Plan, which will govern all kinds of development over perhaps the next 20 years. We need to demonstrate that the County’s economy is based on growing food and wine and on nature tourism. All environmental groups in the County (PEPtBO, South Shore Coalition, Stewardship Council, MNR, Trees Ontario, Trails Ontario, the Land Trust) could be a coalition leading on these issues. PECFN can establish its role in conserving significant wildlife habitats by continuing with activities such as the BioBlitz and biothons and species surveys – it was suggested that at each meeting members be given a list of species to keep an eye out for, along with suggested places they could look. We will look for someone with graphic skills to generate a map of the areas of interest. Among the wetlands under threat are Hubbs Creek Provincially Significant Wetland (ATVs and paving of the Millennium Trail), the Waring Creek headwater (housing development and tree felling), and South Bay Coastal, Big Sand Bay and the South Shore Provincial Wildlife Area (wind turbine projects).

(E) BioBlitz:

Amy has found out the name of a lichen expert (Chris Lewis). Sheila will send A-to-A a copy of the report on last year’s BioBlitz.

(F) Millennium Trail:

Amy reported that a cycling group would like more of the Trail paved, and connected to wineries and other tourist destinations. She would like to arrange for herself and Myrna to meet with Quinte Conservation to discuss the Trail. She would also like to meet with

landowners along the Trail through the Provincially Significant Wetland and see what they feel about the Trail potentially becoming a paved road.

(G) Newsletter:

Myrna suggested that the newsletter could feature a regular review column of reading material of interest to the membership.

2. New Business

Myrna reported that the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists are taking a proposed development on the Burnt Lands alvar near Almonte to the Ontario Municipal Board, and that the Kingston Field Naturalists have been approached by the Association to Protect Amherst Island for help with fundraising.

Next meeting: Friday, March 6, or Monday March 9, 10:00 a.m., 361 Main Street, Wellington. To be confirmed.

**Minutes of the Executive Meeting
Prince Edward County Field Naturalists
361 Main Street, Wellington
March 9, 2015**

Present: Cheryl Anderson, Amy Bodman, Elizabeth Cowan, Sandra Dowds, Sheena Kennedy, Sheila Kuja, Agneta Sand, Myrna Wood

Status Reports

(A) **Membership:** We have 62 paid members and 4 honorary members. 36 members are in arrears and Agneta will remind them.

(B) **Treasurer:**

The following balances were reported:

PECFN: \$2,158.44 (of which \$240 will be transferred to OPAF) \$415 received from Birdathon.

OPAF: \$3,871.67

PayPal: \$1,556.29

(C) **Programs:**

Outdoor programs

The next Biothon will be with the PEPtBO Waterfowl Blitz on March 28. Participants will be asked to look for turtles also. The turtle survey should be around the first week in April, depending on snow cover and weather. We will send out a notice to members.

Amy will meet with Tim Gray of Trees Ontario in April to discuss possible venues for the full-day tree seed collection workshop on Saturday, June 27.

Terry Sprague would like to lead a full-day outing to the Peters Woods and Alderville on a weekday in either June or September. Amy will ask him if September would suit him, as June is already very busy for us.

Sandra will ask Boris about reserving a couple of tables for the PECFN executive and their guests at the dinner in Terry's honour on April 18. Myrna learned the organizers are expecting her to speak.

Swift-watching resumes the week of April 27, with the national dates this year being May 20, 24, 28 and June 1. It was suggested that an e-mail be sent to the membership asking for more participants, so that the number of sites watched could be increased, especially in Wellington.

Indoor programs

Mar.31: Pamela Stagg – wetlands. Sandra will introduce, Amy will thank, and Myrna will get a gift certificate for her from Books & Co. It was suggested that since Pamela’s work is currently being honoured in England, the local papers should take some notice; Myrna will speak to Rick at the *Wellington Times* and Chad at the *Picton Gazette*

April 28: Nick Cairns – turtles/frog/snake ecology. Amy will take him (and possibly his wife and baby) to dinner beforehand and put him/them up for the night if they wish. It would be great if he could participate in the BioBlitz; she will enquire.

May 26: Ryan Norris – Monarch study. Cheryl has spoken to him but it’s still uncertain whether he can make it. It was suggested that Sean Boyle, a PhD student in road ecology and Blanding’s turtle might replace him for this date.

Our June meeting will be the BioBlitz.

Suggestions for presentations in the fall included wild rice; we will ask Terry to ask the speaker from Alderville about his fee, and whether it would help if we could get him publicity in *Watershed* and/or the *Times*.

Sue Banks has told Sheila she would like to do a presentation on wildflowers in the County. Sheila will ask her for dates and a walk in the fall. Sheila will also ask Dale Kristensen to talk about alvars in Jan.

Fall meeting dates: Sept. 29, Oct. 27, Nov .24

Joanne and Kendal Dewey – Amy will ask them about topics. Amy will look into getting someone to make a presentation on beavers next winter.

Elizabeth will try and get our events into the Whattam’s column.

(D) Fundraising Committee:

Sandra brought along the posters for the OPAF Gala Dinner on April 25 for distribution. There was a discussion of which people might be entitled to a free meal (e.g. servers, musicians). There will be a cash bar before the dinner, and wine with dinner. Sandra has a case of wine from Huff Estates and has approached several other vineyards. Amy will approach Stanner’s, Karlo, Hubbs Creek, Rosehall Run and Hillier Creek. She will also try to track down a local guitarist she knows of who could play background music before the meal begins. Cheryl offered to buy another 48 wine glasses, but it was decided that Michael Hoy should be asked first what he could provide. So far 36 tickets have been sold; we need to find more ways to advertise the Gala.

The Women’s Institute Craft Sale takes place on Thursday, July 30. PECFN’s table will concentrate on home baking and miniature succulents.

(E) Ostrander Point and Tribunal:

There is no news yet on the effort to have Council set up a fund that would generate charitable tax receipts for donors.

Myrna and Amy have submitted their detailed recommendations for the Official Plan Review; we will monitor the draft presented to Council members.

- (F) **BioBlitz:**
Sheila would like to hold a meeting of the BioBlitz Committee; Myrna offered to reserve a room at the Picton Library on Thursday, March 12. Chris Lewis, the lichen expert, has agreed to participate in the Blitz.
- (G) **PEPtBO:**
The observatory re-opens on Saturday, April 11, and International Migratory Bird Day is Saturday, May 9. Cheryl mentioned that PEPtBO is always in need of volunteers, preferably well-informed ones, and also of members. She will write it up for the newsletter. The Birding Festival is May 16-24.
PECFN is sponsoring a PEPtBO walk in the Hubbs Creek Provincially Significant Wetland on Wednesday, May 20, starting at 8:00 a.m. from the Wellington LCBO.
- (H) **Ontario Nature:**
The date of ON's Eastern Region meeting clashes with the dinner in Terry's honour. Because bioblitz best practices and protocols are on the agenda, Sheila has offered to go, with the hope of getting back in time for the dinner.
- (I) **Millennium Trail wetlands**
Amy reported no further developments.
- (J) **Newsletter:**
The deadline is Monday, March 23.

Next meeting: Monday, April 6, at 10:00 a.m., 282 Niles Street, Wellington.

