



## Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

March 2017

### Past Events



Barred Owl. Photo by Sydney Smith

### Amherst Island Outing January

We had a good turn out of PECFN members to our outing to Amherst Island in January, which was led once again by Joanne Dewey. This beautiful Barred owl was spotted by Cheryl Anderson. It was perfectly camouflaged, in a tree just a few feet off the path in Owl Woods. We were the only people that day in the woods. The owl didn't seem too worried by us, but we did not approach it anyway. We just stood still and took several photos and moved on. These owls are so precious and we are privileged to see them up so close.

Sandra Dowds

### Dates to Remember

March 25th -26th Presqu'île  
Waterfowl Viewing Weekend

March 28th Gavin North, The  
Honey Bee

April 25th Angus Ross, Climate  
Change

May 15th-19th, Spring Birding  
Festival

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

June 15th County Blooms

June 28th, PECFN 20th  
anniversary potluck

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Green Frog. Photo by Susan Banks

## The Community Wildlife Monitoring Program

Terry Sprague came to our meeting on February 28th to speak about the Community Wildlife Monitoring Program. Terry manages this program for Quinte Conservation. Some years ago, Areas of Concern were identified in the Great Lakes. These were areas that had suffered impairment due to environmental pollution. The Marsh Monitoring Program was created in the year 2000 to monitor the remediation program that followed. Terry is coordinator for this program and has over 40 volunteer monitors to coordinate. These volunteers record bird sightings, sometimes standing in muddy waters at night to listen and record frog calls. I am very glad there are people willing to do this and ensure success with environmental remediation. Congratulations to Terry for his work.

Susan Banks

## Tree News

On March 16th, Susan Banks and Gerry Jenkison made a deputation to the Committee of the Whole to encourage the municipality to develop a new tree policy which would see more trees planted and better maintenance of existing trees. A motion proposed by Councillor Epstein, to set up a tree policy advisory group including citizen and municipal representation was passed by the Committee.

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## Upcoming Events



Ducks and Coots

## **Presqu'ile Waterfowl Viewing Weekend March 25-26/2017 10am to 4pm**

Presqu'ile will be hosting their 41st Waterfowl Viewing Weekend, where nature enthusiasts can come and appreciate one of the great natural spectacles on earth – the return of migrating waterfowl to their staging areas along the lower Great Lakes. Presqu'ile is well situated to experience this phenomenon with close viewing and a good variety of species, at least normally. This very mild weather has opened the ice up early and ducks may be well scattered come the weekend. BUT any visit to Presqu'ile is a good one with something to see and on this weekend in addition to returning birds we will have lots of activities and displays to take in. The Nature Centre and Lighthouse Centre, featuring “ducky” displays, artists, Bird Studies Canada rep, Bushnell scope raffle, and children's activities are open 10am to 4pm. The Friends of Presqu'ile will also be there with a BBQ starting at 11am, and the Gift Store will be open.

There is a park admission fee of \$10.00/vehicle.

If you want to come learn about ducks this is a great opportunity. If you are interested in coming out and helping with duck ID or in the Nature Centre, I would be more than happy to hear from you. For more information on the event or on volunteering please contact David Bree at 613 475-4324 ext. 225

David Bree, Sr. Natural Heritage Education Leader  
Presqu'ile Provincial Park

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### **The HoneyBee** **Gavin North** **Tuesday, March 28th,** **Bloomfield Town Hall, 7:00pm**

Gavin North of Honey Pie Hives and Herbals will speak on:

#### The Honey Bee

The European honey bee *Apis Mellifera* is one of many pollinators that sustain our ecosystem, but the only insects that are producers of a major agricultural crop. Recent research into honey bee health has provided valuable insight into 1000s of wild bees, wasps and other pollinators. Gavin North will 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.

Gavin North is Head Drone at Honey Pie Hives & Herbals, an apiary, meadery and herb farm in Prince Edward County. He is a Master Beekeeper certified by the BC Ministry of Agriculture and has been keeping bees since 2000.

In addition to his duties as beekeeper and mazer (mead maker), Gavin teaches an annual Introduction to Beekeeping workshop series at Honey Pie Farm and is a local advocate for pollinator health and farmers' rights.

In the past 17 years Honey Pie Hives and Herbals has been proud to be a part of the renaissance of locally based agricultural and entrepreneurial initiatives in The County. In 2014 Honey Pie Hives & Herbals became licensed to produce and sell mead (honey wine).

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# 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 was born in India and educated in the Channel Islands and England. He semi-retired in June, 2000 after 36 years in the reinsurance industry, ending as the President of the Canadian operations of SOREMA – then a major French reinsurer. He 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. As a member of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy he chaired the task force that created a National Brownfield Redevelopment Strategy for Canada.

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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Redstart photo by Sydney Smith

### *Spring Birding Festival 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.

# Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

## Spring Birding Festival Guided Hikes

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

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.

*Ticks that carry Lyme disease and poison ivy are present in the National Wildlife Area, precautions are advised*

## Other Activities

### 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 .

### 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.

### Birding Tour of the County (Bus trip)

Sunday May 21, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

A bus tour of birding hotspots around the County.



Blackburnian Warbler photo by Sydney Smith.

## 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

#### Hepatica



Hepatica grows in dry woods. Often one of the first flowers to bloom in spring. Flowers range in colour from blue to pink to white. Hepatica leaves were collected and dried to make powders to cure diseases of the liver.

Susan Banks



# Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

## YOU'RE INVITED!

### JOIN US FOR the June 2017 4<sup>th</sup> 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**