

NEWSLETTER



Golden-crowned Kinglet/
Sydney Smith



Bay Breasted warbler /*Kathy deGroot*.

Myrna Wood President's Message

Your Executive is very happy these days! PECFN has new members and an increased interest in our walks. People are eager to experience the variety of natural habitats in the County. They are sharing their knowledge with us of plants and flowers, birds, turtles, trees and photography.

We have decided to schedule a walk every Friday morning 10 am, meeting at Army Reserve and Simpson roads. This location will add to our knowledge of species around the Provincial Wildlife Area on the South Shore and provide a base for the Bioblitz planned there June 20-21. Every week we are surprised to see something new. This area of Crown land from Point Petre stretching east almost to Ostrander Point and the Miller Family Reserve is new to many of us. It will benefit from a scientific evaluation of resident and migratory species.

We have learned the hard way that it is up to us to protect the County's natural heritage. That is why there was elation from Consecon to Prince Edward Point to hear that Ontario's Appeal Court had ruled that we were correct to say that an industrial project would cause irreversible harm at Ostrander Point. We feel vindicated in pursuing our Tribunal appeal of Gilead Power's turbine project. We knew that the variety of natural habitats across the South Shore provided critical food and staging grounds for wildlife of all kinds.

We can go on our walks this spring and summer feeling pride in our endeavours. And acknowledge the thanks of the croaking frogs and singing birds!



Dutchman's-
breeches/ *Brian
Durell*



Hermit Thrush, / *Sydney Smith*

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.

Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

Birding Demonstrations
Membership Form
Merchandise
Photography Contest

2015 Spring Birding Festival supported by:
www.falleryplains.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



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 LCBD 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

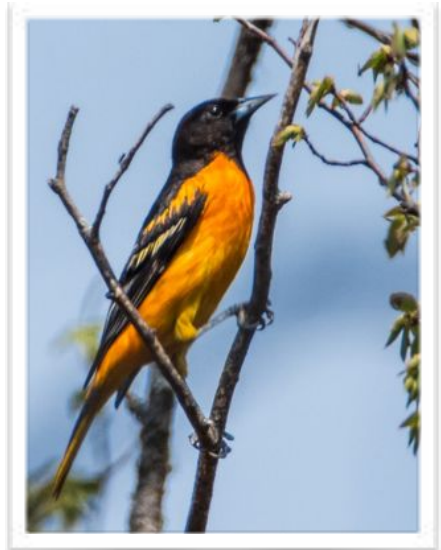
Date and Time to be determined
Please register at phil@philnorton.com
\$10 per person

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
Saturday May 23, 10 a.m. Shore Birds with Walter Wehtje
\$25 per person

Miller Family Nature Reserve Dedication and Celebration

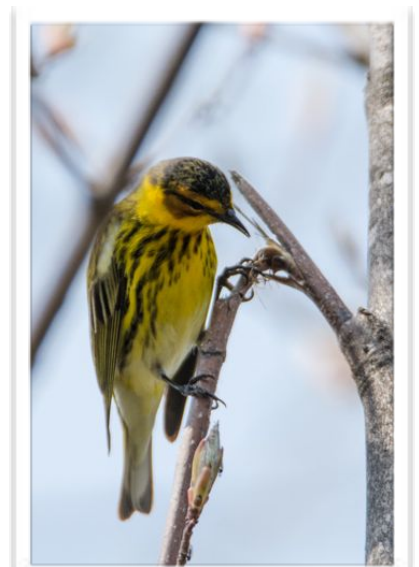
Sunday May 17, 2 pm
Park at Hilltop Rd and Brewer Rd.
For more information and any changes, please check: www.peptbo.ca



Baltimore oriole/ *Brian Durell*



Black throated green warbler/*Brian Durell*



Cape May warbler/ *Brian Durell*

Spring Birding Festival Program



Black and White warbler
Kathy deGroot

May 20 (Wednesday)
8 a.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

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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

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



Redstart/ Tony deGroot



Nashville warbler/ *Sydney Smith*



Blackburnian warbler/
Tony deGroot

Dr. Ryan Norris: PECFN's May 26th speaker



Dr. Ryan Norris, University of Guelph

**Associate Professor
& University Research Chair**

Profile

I'm an ecologist interested in behaviour, conservation, and evolution of migratory animals. Our lab addresses a variety of topics including effects of climate change and habitat loss throughout the annual cycle in seabirds and songbirds, the role of migration networks and seasonal interactions in predicting changes in population size, the development of optimal conservation plans for a range of migratory species, the costs and benefits of migration, and life-history trade-offs between different periods of the annual cycle. My research integrates behavioural and demographic field research with landscape ecology, theoretical and empirical modeling, and biogeochemistry. Our lab conducts field research in a number of locations including Algonquin Park, the BC Pacific coast, Costa Rica, the Bay of Fundy, and right here on the University of Guelph campus.

Last fall Dr. Norris' lab made the news with his work on Monarch migration. Recently the lab was in the news again due to the results of a long term study on Blackpoll Warbler migration using geolocators.

This article from the Globe and Mail explains the work of Ryan Norris, our May 26 speaker for PECFN at the Bloomfield town hall.

Backpacking birds prove long-shot theory

IVAN SEMENIUK

SCIENCE REPORTER — The Globe and Mail

Published Tuesday, Mar. 31 2015, 7:52 PM EDT

Last updated Wednesday, Apr. 01 2015, 7:02 AM EDT

Tiny birds, even tinier backpacks, and a heck of a lot of air miles.

Those are the essential ingredients behind a Canada-U.S. study that appears to have convincingly solved a 50-year-old mystery while at the same time discovering one of the most impressive animal migrations on Earth.

The bird is the blackpoll warbler, a small but tuneful denizen of the boreal forest that can be found in summer months from Alaska to Newfoundland. The mystery has to do with how they get to South America every fall, where they overwinter.

Now, with the help of some clever technology, scientists have the answer: The intrepid warblers take the direct route, flying across the Atlantic for up to 2,800 kilometres at a stretch.

"The idea that a 15-gram bird can fly non-stop over water for days is astounding," said Bridget Stutchbury, a professor of biology at York University in Toronto, who was not involved in the study. "It's the first time anyone's directly proven that that's what these birds are doing."

Researchers say the discovery is important not just because it is an ornithological record setter, but because it may indicate that habitat loss along their unconventional route or in their wintering grounds is the reason blackpolls are losing six per cent of their population each year.

It has long been suspected that the blackpoll – which get its name from the prominent black cap on adult males of the species – is doing something unusual compared to songbirds of similar size. Like other warblers, blackpolls can be seen and heard moving northward every May, passing through the Eastern United States and Canada on their way to their northern breeding grounds. But come fall, it is a different story. Rather than retracing their spring route, the birds head east to New England and the Maritimes, where they devour enough insects to double their body weight in some cases.

At that point, "they disappear," said Ryan Norris, an ecologist at the University of Guelph and the Canadian leader of the study, published on Tuesday in the journal *Biology Letters*. "There's all sorts of sightings of them, and then there are no sightings, or very few."

Eventually, the blackpolls reappear in Colombia, Venezuela and Brazil. Since the 1960s, researchers have speculated that blackpolls bulk up and make a straight shot across the Atlantic rather than take the longer, overland route. The idea was bolstered by stories of the birds showing up in Bermuda after storms or dropping in on ships at sea. But skepticism remained. No such migration over the open ocean had ever been demonstrated in birds so small.

Continued on next page.....

The first chance to do so came in 2013, with the arrival of geolocator devices that are small and light enough for warblers to carry in specially designed backpacks. Bulkier versions have been used in earlier studies to trace the migration routes of larger species.

The devices can record only the passage of time and varying light levels from day to night. Yet, just like an 18th-century navigator equipped only with a ship's clock and a sextant, the geolocators use this information to compute latitude and longitude as an individual bird migrates.

"As soon as these little backpacks became light enough, we were out putting them on blackpolls," Dr. Norris said.

The catch is that the geolocators are too small to transmit their data. Researchers have to recapture the blackpolls after they return the next season to find out where they have been, a task Dr. Norris compares to searching for a handful of flying needles in a forest-sized haystack.

"The odds are somewhat daunting," said Chris Rimmer, a conservation biologist and director of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, which, unbeknownst to the Canadian team, was undertaking a similar experiment.



Blackpoll warbler
Garry Kirsch

The two groups learned of each other and pooled their results. Of the nearly 40 birds they had collectively outfitted with geolocators in 2013, five were retrieved the next year. It was only a handful, but enough to show clearly that blackpolls use an ocean route in the fall. One bird that Dr. Norris' group released in Nova Scotia flew directly to Haiti, nearly 3,000 kilometres to the south.

Other species are known to fly even farther, but as a ratio of body weight to distance, the blackpoll beats them all. Despite the risk of being so far from land, Dr. Norris said, the strategy has benefits, because it allows the warblers to avoid predators and it gets them to their wintering grounds faster.

At some point, Dr. Norris speculates, there were probably two populations of blackpolls, but, over time, the ones that chose the Atlantic flight had a higher rate of survival than their land-leaning cousins. Dr. Stutchbury said she hoped the

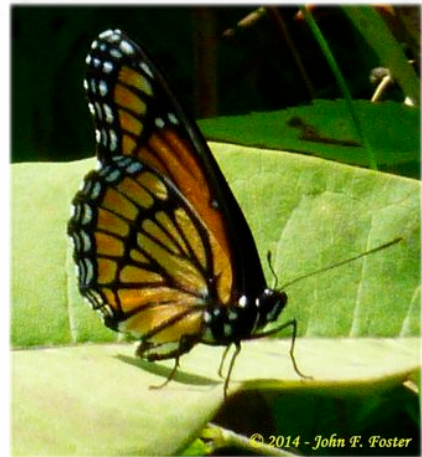


study would raise the profile of blackpoll warblers and lead to more concerted conservation efforts.

"These kind of discoveries give us extra respect for some of these little-known birds, and with that respect comes a responsibility."

Monarchs' incredible journey takes new direction

Guelph researchers discover new route for migrating monarchs that suggests conservation in the Great Lakes region may be important



Monarch butterfly
~John F. Foster



By: Andrea Gordon Staff Reporter, Published on Wed Jul 28 2010

The distinctive orange and black creatures weigh only a few grams and may live a matter of weeks. But the migration patterns of monarch butterflies are so strenuous, it's hard to guess how far the delicate creatures may have travelled by the time you spot one fluttering through your backyard.

Researchers from the University of Guelph and Environment Canada have taken a new step in unravelling the mystery of monarch migration. Their new study, published in the journal *Biology Letters*, will play a part in helping conservationists determined to preserve the species.

The butterflies are famous for migrating thousands of kilometres each year between the Great Lakes region and Mexico, a journey involving millions of monarchs and requiring several generations produced in different regions. By tracking them, the researchers proved that some monarchs also produce a new generation of offspring that head east on a tough trek across the Appalachian Mountains to the eastern seaboard.

"It's a groundbreaking finding," said Ryan Norris, a Guelph professor of integrative biology and author of the study.

He said it solves the long-standing puzzle of why monarchs always appear later on the east coast than the interior. Previously, it had been believed that all monarchs migrated directly north, but it's not as simple as that.

New Monarch migration research by Dr. Norris

PECFN Point Petre Provincial Wildlife Area Biothon/BioBlitz



Leopard frog/
Sydney Smith

From Snowy Owls in January to Blandings and Painted Turtles in mid-April, we're accumulating lots of information for the Point Petre PWA Biothon survey. We've had excellent opportunities to view wildlife and birds: male Wild Turkeys displaying, a Ruffed Grouse standing in the middle of Army Reserve Rd. assuming he was invisible because he was so still, watching white-tailed deer on the trails; and wonderful chances to hear them as well: listening to Snipe winnowing, Ruffed Grouse drumming, Chorus Frogs, Spring Peepers and Grey Tree Frogs singing.

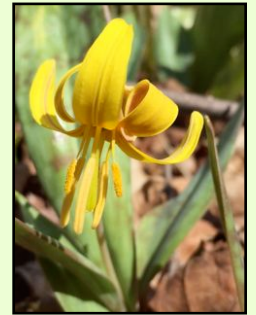


Spring beauty/ *T. Sprague*



Blue cohosh / *M. Mulloy*

On Saturday May 2 we turned our full attention to spring wildflowers and 20 members (including three very new ones) joined in on a Point Petre Woods hike. It was a beautiful sunny day and we were able to enjoy seeing many of our favourites: Spring Beauty, Blue Cohosh, Leeks, both Blue and Yellow Violets, Hepatica, Purple Cress and Yellow Trout Lily. Fourteen species of plants were in bloom and sixteen species of birds recorded. Lovely displays of Dutchman's Breeches, Cut-leaved Toothwort and Bloodroot carpeted the ground but the most exciting plant identified was the Twinleaf. This site represents the only locality known in the county for this Carolinian species and only a few other populations are known for it in the Kingston Region. With leaves that look like butterfly wings and flowers somewhat similar to those of Bloodroot, it is a very interesting



Trout lily *M. Mulloy*

and unusual plant often associated with rich river valleys. Alas, Garlic Mustard is invading this Red Oak-Black Maple woodland and we'll have to work hard to keep it at bay so it doesn't eliminate the native plants.

Last Friday another four spring wildflowers in bloom were added to our list as we investigated Simpson Rd. south of Army Reserve Rd.: White Trout Lily, White Trillium, Meadow-Rue and Phlox. On this walk we saw/heard 36 species of birds (but there were others singing that we couldn't identify), saw three species of butterflies and heard three species of frogs. Brown Thrashers, Eastern Towhees, Yellow Warblers, Yellow-throats, Robins, White-throated Sparrows and Song Sparrows were loudly proclaiming their songs on the glorious spring morning. Our trip to the lake provided a chance to see more Eastern Kingbirds in the tops of willows, a Lesser Yellow-legs on the shore and hear a Loon far out on the eerily calm waters as well as see Red-breasted Mergansers, Cormorants, Long-tailed Ducks, Bufflehead, Mallards and Ring-billed Gulls. It was a great way to spend a Friday morning.



Song sparrow/ *Sydney Smith*

Friday May 8 there was be the regular 10 AM walk meeting at Simpson Rd. and Army Reserve Rd. and at 1 PM another Point Petre Woods hike, meeting at Army Reserve Rd. and Co. Rd. 24, to check on later blooming spring wildflowers and see if any of the plants seen on the first walk are still in bloom.

Please consider participating in the June 20-21 BioBlitz. We definitely need your assistance. Even if you could volunteer for a few hours manning a station or directing people to different locations, that would be a big help. But I'm sure you'll want to join in at least one of the hikes or activities. We'll need help taking registrations on Saturday, telling people where to park their cars, etc. Sheila Kuja

June 20/21 Bioblitz Schedule



BioThon 2014 walk
photo by John F Foster

Time	Topic	Leader	Meet at
11:00	Registration \$5 Simpson Rd. site camp		
12:00 – 2:00	Butterflies	David Bree	
12:00 – 2:00	Turtles and Frogs	Nick & Krista Cairns	
2:00 – 4:00	Pond dipping - invertebrates	Meg O'Mahony	
2:00 - 4:00	Fish	Les Stanfield	
4:00 – 5:30	Lichens / Plants trees etc	Chris Lewis/ Sheila Kuja	
5 – 7:00	Campfire dinner Simpson Rd site camp		
7:00 – 8:00	Small mammal trap setting		
8:00 – 10:00	Evening bird/bat walk	Peter Fuller	
8:00 – 10:00	Moths	Matt Christie/David Bree ?	
7:00 – 9:00	Marsh monitoring	Mike Burrell	
Sunday June 21			
7:00 – 8:30	Bird Walk	Sprague	
8:00 – 10:00	Frogs and Turtles	Dana Buchbinder	
8:30 – 9:00	Trap checks – mammals and fish		
9:00 – 12:00	Birds & Butterflies	Mike Burrell	
10:00 – 12:00	Plants	Dale Kristensen	
12 noon	BBQ Wrap up - submit observations Simpson Rd. site camp		

The **Canadian Audubon** magazine has lessons for us today.

Natural History Column by Myrna Wood

Vol 25, no 2 Mar-Apr 1963

An account by the **Federation of Ontario Naturalists** of a new project – The Bruce Trail. The FON also joined the Canadian Audubon Society that year.

The Society's Annual Meeting reported studies on **Bald eagles being decimated by DDT**. The Whooping crane flock count on their wintering grounds in Texas had been 32, with no fledglings that year due to unusually wet conditions in their breeding grounds in Wood Buffalo Park. The report goes on to discuss oil pollution at sea never imagining the development of the tarsands in that same park.



Whooping crane

Vol26, no 4 Sept-Oct 1964

An editorial by Patrick A. Hardy explains the Canadian and US plan to take eggs from Wood Buffalo nests of **Whooping cranes** and raise the young in Colorado. The aim of the program was to produce up to 100 young cranes per year for release in the wild. At the same time Saskatchewan and Manitoba were opening a hunting season for Sandhill cranes on the same migration route as the Whoopers'. In January 2014 the Los Angeles Times reported that the cranes' population was approximately 600 after 3 had been shot in Texas.

Vol 26, no 1 Jan-Feb 1964

Accompanying an article on the **Albatross, King of the Ocean Skies**, is a report that the US Navy was planning to kill 20,000 Albatross on their nesting grounds at Midway Island where the Navy had built an airfield in ignorance of the danger to their planes from flying birds. Another report from the US military is on a nuclear bomb test at Eniwetok in the Pacific. A film recorded birds rising from roosts due to the blinding light of the explosion. Black birds' feathers were burned by the intensity of the thermal radiation while white coloured birds were able to fly away. What a terrible time.



Albatross

Tree Seed Forecasting Workshop in Prince Edward County



Mark Your Calendars!

Hosted by TreesOntario, the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists and Prince Edward County Stewardship.

When: **Saturday, June 27th - 9:00 – 3:30**. Please arrive at 8:30 for registration.

Where: **Macauley Mountain, 224 County Rd 8, Picton**. In the Parade Square – the green structure adjacent to Birdhouse City.

The workshop is free and will include a light lunch.

The Ontario Government has committed to plant 50 million trees by 2025 to help fight climate change and re-green the province. TreesOntario is conducting these workshops as part of the Ontario Government's 50 Million Tree Program.

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.

If you are interested in attending or learning more about this workshop, please contact Amy Bodman at (613) 399-5219, email: amy.bodman@gmail.com.

Pre-registration will be required as space is limited.

A quote from the Wellington Times article
“Terminator 7: Revenge of the Government” by
Steve Campbell



“You may have common sense, logic, reason engineering studies, health concerns, cautions from the Ontario Power Workers, lots of heart and caring and a keen sense of the value of animals, plants and the earth that serves you, but we have billions of dollars of yours that we will use to crush you!”



Blandings_turtle_Gilles Bisson

“You County fools actually believe the MOE cares about the Environment! But we’re all about Big Money corporate deals, and we’ll kill any living creature that gets in our way.”

.”.....Yes, they’re back. And this time they have a plan. Turtlegates! Yes, that’s right, a lame excuse for a solution, so they can carry on with their extermination. Apparently, the Alliance does not know that the danger to the Blanding’s turtle is from the treads of bulldozers, cranes and concrete trucks—not from the idle vehicular meanderings of the occasional passerby.”

Molly’s wildflower walks



Mountainview wildflower outing April 29

photo Molly Mulloy



Molly points out wildflowers at Mountainview woods

photo Sue Banks

**Minutes of the Executive Meeting
Prince Edward County Field Naturalists
282 Niles Street, Wellington
April 13, 2015**

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

Status Reports

(A) **Membership:** We have 63 paid-up members and 4 honorary members. 36 members are in arrears and Agneta will nudge them.

(B) **Treasurer:**

The following balances were reported:

PECFN: \$2,215.94

OPAF: \$4,194.17

PayPal: \$1,857.62

It was agreed unanimously that Myrna should be reimbursed for the \$52.99 for coloured ink cartridges to print posters for each month's meeting.

(C) **Annual General Meeting, May 26:**

Myrna will draft a notice for circulation to the members asking for volunteers for the Executive. Likely candidates could be approached individually.

(D) **Programs:**

Outdoor programs

The next Biothon will take the form of a Spring Ramble on Friday, April 17, looking for turtles, frogs and other spring emergents. Sandra will circulate a notice asking members to meet at the corner of Charwell and Army Reserve roads (or to carpool from the Marine Museum in cars with four-wheel drive) at 10:30 a.m.

Members will be asked to note the location, and if possible take pictures, of turtles anywhere they happen to be walking, especially on/near the South Shore. Binoculars should be used for searching as they are shy.

Myrna stressed the importance of locating as many sites as possible for our swift-watching program. For instance, the abandoned school on the Heights is a promising site. She will prepare an appeal to the membership. Amy has an illustration of a swift's nest inside a tree that could be part of an attractive presentation. Wednesday evenings will be the weekly day, plus the national dates this year of May 20, 24, 28 and June 1.

Cheryl and Amy will be meeting with Tim Gray of Trees Ontario on April 15 to look into possible sites for the full-day tree seed collection workshop on Saturday, June 27. Sandra has tentatively booked the Bloomfield Town Hall, and Amy will ask about the Milford Town Hall. Trees Ontario will pay for a pizza lunch and we will provide salads.

Sandra will give Borys the names of the PECFN members who would like to sit at a reserved table at the dinner in Terry Sprague's honour on April 18.

The Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) is organizing a visit to the South Shore Important Bird Area on Sunday, April 19. It leaves from the Sobey's parking lot on Main Street in Picton at 8:00 a.m. PECFN members are welcome.

Terry Sprague will lead a full-day outing to the Peters Woods and Alderville on a weekday in September.

Sandra will contact Molly Mulloy about a spring wildflowers walk; Sue Banks would be interested in leading a similar walk in Beaver Meadows later in the summer.

Indoor programs

April 28: Nick Cairns - turtles/frog/snake ecology. Sandra will introduce; Amy will thank. We will give him an honorarium. Sandra will give Sheena some gift cards for holding cheques for speakers. Amy will take Nick, his wife and their baby to dinner beforehand and put them up for the night.

May 26: Ryan Norris - Monarchs and migration. Cheryl will prepare a press release on Ryan's Blackpoll study which has been front-page news recently. Sandra will introduce; Cheryl will thank. It was agreed that two bottles of County wine would be a suitable thank-you gift.

The BioBlitz will be our June meeting.

Amy will ask Stewardship Hastings for name of expert on beavers. She will also ask Marc Seguin if he could make a presentation on lighthouses on either September 29 or October 27. Sheila will ask Dale Kristensen if he will do a PECFN program.

Nov.24: the Deweys - fishing?

Jan.26, 2015: membership night

Feb.23: Chris Reid - lichens?

March 29: Sue Banks ? -- wildflowers in the County, including their medicinal uses

April 26

May 31

Myrna will prepare posters for each meeting. Elizabeth will submit notices to Whattam's column, Ainsworth's (*Wellington Times*), CountyFM and County Live two weeks before each meeting. She will also forward press releases to the *Gazette*.

(D) Fundraising Committee:

April 25 Gala Dinner: Michael Hoy would like a deposit this week for the Gala Dinner of 50% of confirmed attendees. We will give him \$1,200.00. Bluezone has agreed to play for an hour before the dinner. Amy will pick up glasses at Karlo Estates; Cheryl will bring hers as well. Set-up is at 10:00 a.m. on the 25th.

May 9 CSSAGE Garage Sale: Members will be asked to donate items. The sale is happening at 14011 Highway 33, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers will be needed for set-up, selling and take-down.

July 30 Women's Institute Craft Sale: PECFN's table will concentrate on home baking and miniature succulents. Sheena has requested our table.

(E) Ostrander Point and Tribunal:

APPEC will be approaching Council about a project of legal defence of the South Shore to receive tax receipts for donations.

(F) BioBlitz:

Sheila has confirmed a number of leaders for the BioBlitz on June 20-21:

Chris Lewis - lichens

Terry Sprague - birds

Dale Kristensen - vascular plants (Sunday)

Peter Fuller - birds

Mike Burrell -- birds and butterflies

David Bree - insects (butterflies, dragonflies, general) (Saturday)

A former student of Meg O'Mahoney's may be available to look after netting and identification of aquatic invertebrates. Meg has asked us to talk to two classes of her University of Toronto Schools (UTS) students about the BioBlitz via Skype; Sheila and Cheryl will try to arrange this. Cheryl has applied for a \$500 grant from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to go toward the BioBlitz, but so far MNRF hasn't responded.

(G) PEPtBO:

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:

Sheila has notified Lisa that she is unable to attend the spring East region meeting. ON has our Activity Report.

(I) Millennium Trail wetlands

Amy reported no committee meetings. Our concerns about what work might be planned were discussed. PECFN will write a formal letter requesting information.

(J) Newsletter:

The deadline is Monday, May 11.

Next meeting: Monday, May 4, at 10:00 a.m., 282 Niles Street, Wellington

**Minutes of the Executive Meeting
Prince Edward County Field Naturalists
282 Niles Street, Wellington
May 4, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.**

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

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as amended.

2. Status Reports

(A) **Membership:** We have several new members. Agneta will circulate the new list now that her computer is functioning again.

(B) **Treasurer:**

The following balances were reported:

PECFN: \$2,005.45

OPAF: \$9,603.45

PayPal: \$1,43.62

Square Inc.: \$995.00

MOTION:

Moved by Myrna, seconded by Elizabeth:

THAT, once there is \$10,000 in the OPAF account, Sheena will send a cheque in that amount to Eric Gillespie, towards our legal costs.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(C) **Annual General Meeting, May 26:**

Gerry Jenkison, Sydney Smith and Sue Banks have offered to stand for election to the executive. Cheryl will be standing down.

(D) **Programs:**

Outdoor programs

Amy suggested that a garbage clean-up & some weeding of invasive species could be incorporated into a walk at Point Petre. Friday, May 15, at 1:00 p.m., was chosen. Sheila will draft a text to be sent to the membership.

A frog and turtle hike for the Biothon is scheduled for Saturday, May 30, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting point is Army Reserve and Simpson roads. Sheila will see if Nick Cairns or David Nixon would be available to lead it. Myrna will prepare posters about the turtle surveys.

It was decided that there should be a walk every Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. from Army Reserve and Simpson roads, surveying for all species.

Swifts arrived in Kingston on April 30 and have been sighted at Lake on the Mountain. Watches will take place every Wednesday evening from now on, starting at 7:30 p.m., weather permitting. The national watch dates are May 20, 24, 28 and June 1.

The Trees Ontario full-day tree seed collection workshop on Saturday, June 27, will be held in the Quonset hut on MacAulay Mountain. Trees Ontario will pay for a pizza lunch and we will provide salads.

Amy will confirm with Terry Sprague a full-day outing to the Peters Woods, Alderville, on a weekday in September.

Sue Banks will lead a wildflower walk during the Bioblitz and later in the fall.

Indoor programs

May 26: Ryan Norris – Monarchs and Migration. Cheryl will prepare a press release on Ryan's Blackpoll study which has been front-page news recently. Sandra will introduce; Cheryl will thank. It was agreed that two or three bottles of County wine would be a suitable thank-you gift. Copies of the *Butterfly Guide* will be available for purchase. We have 40 copies and may have to reorder.

The BioBlitz on June 20-21 will be our June meeting.

Sept.29: Marc Seguin – Lighthouses. He will be signing his book.

Oct.27: Michael Runtz – Beavers. He will be signing his book.

Nov.24: Sheila will check to see if Dale Kristensen or Chris Lewis are available. (Amy will contact Kendal Dewey in June.)

Jan.26, 2015: membership night

Feb.23: Chris Lewis – Lichens?

March 29: Sue Banks -- Wildflowers in the County, including their medicinal uses

April 26

May 31

(E) Fundraising Committee:

May 9: CSSAGE Garage Sale at 14011 Highway 33, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Amy, Myrna, Elizabeth and Sandra will be there for the set-up, 7:00-10:00. Sheena will be there for the 10:00-2:00 slot. Sheila and Agneta will be there for 2:00-5:00. Members will be asked to volunteer as well, since some proceeds are for OPAF.

July 30: Women's Institute Craft Sale. PECFN's table will concentrate on home baking and miniature succulents, and Sandra will put an appeal for baked goods in the newsletter.

(F) Ostrander Point and Tribunal:

The date and place haven't been set yet. Eric isn't available until July. Myrna has spoken to our MPP, Todd Smith, about a meeting with the Minister of the Environment. She has sent him the reports by Bird Life International and Ontario's Commissioner of the Environment, and it was suggested that last year's BioBlitz report could be useful and impressive too. The *Butterfly Guide* is another possibility.

(G) BioBlitz:

The map and schedule have been prepared, and Cheryl has obtained a \$500 grant from MNRF for the event. Sheila will draft an article for the newsletter. She will also enquire about MNRF netting permits.

Sheila and Cheryl spoke to Meg O'Mahoney's UTS students about the BioBlitz via Skype.

(H) PEPtBO:

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.

(I) Ontario Nature:

Nothing to report.

(J) Millennium Trail wetlands

Myrna hasn't had time to write a formal letter requesting information. Getting the Trail into the Official Plan, a draft version of which may be available this month, is imperative. Myrna and Amy will work out the wording of a proposal to require diversions in sensitive areas. Amy will talk to Tim Trustham at the CA about this.

(K) Newsletter:

The deadline is Monday, May 11. Sandra would like all the announcements and any other material.

3. New Business

- (i) Amy suggested that articles could be submitted monthly, with photographs, to the *Times* and the *Gazette* (which must be feeling the void without Terry Sprague). Getting in contact with local teachers is another possibility for spreading the word.
- (ii) Myrna will send a letter to the PEC Horticultural Society asking if they are interested in creating butterfly gardens. Elizabeth will provide her with the contact info.
- (iii) Cheryl has been speaking to Sacha Warunkiwi, of the Millfalls B&B, about a riverwalk event, perhaps a mid-afternoon in September. People would pay \$25 for wine and cheese and a chance to stroll the riverbed along his property. It was agreed that this sounded like a good idea.

4. Next meeting: The date, time and place of the next meeting (June 2-5) will be determined once the new members of the Executive have been elected at the AGM. A day in the first week of the month will be chosen by consensus. Meetings can be at the Picton Library and/or rotating locations.