

PECFN NEWSLETTER



Caspian Tern family at Wellington Beach
photo Sydney Smith

What has PECFN been up to this summer?

In addition to the ongoing fight against industrial wind turbines in sensitive areas (the Ontario government recently approved another two projects for Prince Edward County and Amherst Island), PECFN has been active in discussions of the future and role of the Millennium Trail and of the region's Official Plan.(p.8) We held a second successful BioBlitz on the South Shore (p.4). and hosted a tree seed forecasting workshop.(p.8) We have approached other community groups about establishing Monarch waystations this spring, (p. 7), and we're interested in joining U.S. Audubon to put pressure on the federal government to update the *Migratory Bird Act*.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What an exciting time we have had. As we go to press most of you will have heard about the breakthrough we made at the Tribunal hearing on Friday Sept 4. The MOE witness from the MNRF, Joe Crowley, who has been involved with identifying Blanding's turtles and their habitats for years and who initiated the Ontario Nature Atlas for Amphibians and Reptiles, admitted that the Endangered Species Permit to kill, harm and destroy habitat given to Gilead for the Ostrander Point Approval was against his advice. The result of his evidence is that the Tribunal hearing will be extended to Sept 23-25. The Tribunal has ordered the MOE to release all paper and electronic documents, including correspondence, relating to the access roads and the Blanding's turtle and the Renewable Energy Approval.

As you know from the beginning several years ago, PECFN was astounded that the Ministry of Natural Resources would issue a permit that allowed development of a site as important to species at risk as Ostrander Point. Over the years we continually reminded the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources that their responsibility to protect species at risk was being ignored by allowing development across our South Shore.

Our Bioblitzes last year, this summer and the continuing weekly walks at the Provincial Wildlife Area have begun a data base of species found on the crown lands of the South Shore. We think that the primary responsibility of Field Naturalists is to document the natural riches of our area, while enjoying ourselves. This has proven to be an important task when outside developers are allowed to move into the County with their destructive machines and given access to the wildlife habitats that are the basis of our lifestyle and livelihoods.

Continuing on from the Appeal Court ruling in our favour, we now know that our rocks thrown at Goliath are having an effect.

Myrna Wood



Northern Flicker *photo by S. Smith*

**Marc Seguin PECFN speaker for Tuesday September 29
7pm Bloomfield Town Hall**

Save Our Lighthouses
lighthouses@ontariohistory.ca

Marc Seguin brings his lifelong interest in history together with a passion for Canada's built heritage in his new book, "For Want of a Lighthouse", a comprehensive account of the building of the early lighthouses of eastern Lake Ontario. His degree in History from the University of Western Ontario and his years working at historic sites have been assets in Marc's involvement with local heritage groups and the founding of the lighthouse preservation organization "Save Our Lighthouses". Marc lives on the shores of Wellers Bay in Prince Edward County, Ontario, with his wife and two sons.



LIGHTHOUSE TALK

No safe harbours for steamboats or sailing vessels could be found along an isolated 70-mile stretch of eastern Lake Ontario, dominated by the irregular-shaped Prince Edward County peninsula. Frequent storms, rocky reefs and sandy shoals were among the many dangers facing 19th century mariners. So many shipwrecks mark one narrow and shallow underwater ridge in the region that it became known as the "graveyard of Lake Ontario." It was on these shores, from Presqu'ile Bay to Kingston harbour and on the Bay of Quinte, that a network of more than forty lighthouses and light towers was built between 1828 and 1914.

There is now a race against time to save the few original towers that are still standing.



photo G. Holowacz

PECFN 2015/2016 membership is due at the September 29th meeting at Bloomfield Town hall or...Send your \$15 single membership cheque to Box 414, Bloomfield, ON K0K 1G0

PECFN speaker for October 27th Michael Runtz

Michael Runtz and beavers

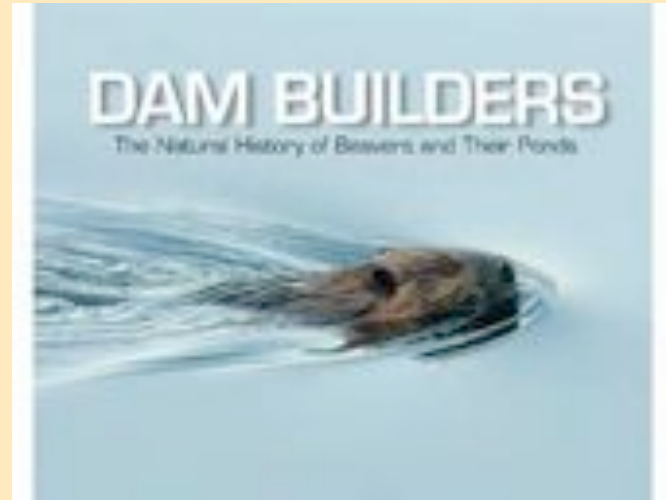
by Pamela Stagg

A White-winged Dove introduced me to Michael Runtz and his beaver book. The rare bird was visiting my yard and Michael phoned to see if he could visit, too. I was super-impressed when he arrived before 7:00 am the next day – from Ottawa. Another friend was also there to see the dove and when we had all admired the bird, Michael turned to us and said, “Are you interested in beavers? I’ve got my laptop in the car. I can show you some photos I took at Algonquin Park.” We didn’t realize, yet, what a wonderful teacher Michael was. That all changed when he opened his laptop, called up the photos and gave us an impromptu lecture on the beaver. He focused on the animal’s tail slap since the pictures from his new digital camera showed the tail slap in minute detail. It changed his ideas about the way beavers use their tails. It was an education for us.

Needless to say, Michael’s lecture in my dining room was fascinating; my friend and I were sorry when it came to an end.

Fast-forward half a dozen years. Michael e-mailed me to say that those wonderful photos had finally become a book on beavers. He was giving a presentation on the book way north of Belleville, Marilyn and I had been impressed enough with Michael’s lecture that the two of us drove through a blizzard last winter to attend. Those early images, now seen on a giant screen, were as breath-taking as we remembered. Soon, I had my own copy of *Dam Builders: The Natural History of Beavers and their Ponds*. It is, quite simply, spectacular. There are over 400 images from 300+ locations. Michael’s skill with a camera shines out of every photo.

I can’t wait to see Michael’s presentation again. Those glowing images and his colourful anecdotes will make this an evening to remember.



PECFN's November 24th speaker

“Lichens are not Moss” an Introduction to the Study of Lichen in Ontario by Chris Lewis

Chris Lewis began studying lichens in 2003, while completing an undergraduate degree in Biology at Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario. Since then he has developed and maintained a broad interest in lichen taxonomy and distributional ecology, and has written or co-authored roughly 20 reports on lichens and published 5 papers in refereed journals. Currently, Chris Lewis a management Biologist with the Kemptville District of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Chris maintains a special interest in the ecology of rare lichens, as well as, lichen taxonomy of Ontario. Most of his lichen collections are on deposit with the major North American herbaria including University of Guelph (OAC), Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), Canadian Museum of Nature (CANL), and New York Botanical Garden (NYBG). Chris has served on the lichen subcommittee of COSEWIC and as a research associate at the Museum of Nature in Ottawa since 2010.



PECFN BIOBLITZ JUNE 2015 - Point Petre Provincial Wildlife Area

By Sheila Kuja

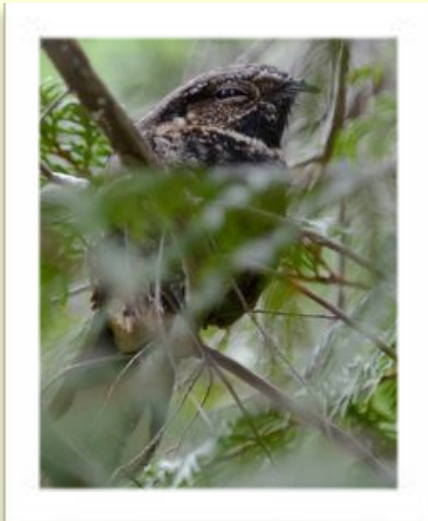


Blanding's turtle
photo by S. Smith



photos B. Durell

For those of you who didn't make it to the BioBlitz or didn't read about it in the Picton Gazette, the June 20-21 Point Petre Bioblitz was a great success: in terms of species identified; enjoyable learning experiences with outstanding leaders; and overall, it was just plain fun. Sitting at the Simpson Rd. Base Camp on Saturday evening after roasting our wieners on sticks over the campfire, eating Myrna's delicious baked beans and listening to the loon's lament as it flew over, was like escaping on a northern holiday with a group of good friends. We'd already found three Blanding's Turtles in the afternoon but to cap off a perfect day, the Whip-poor-wills serenaded us as we were setting up the sheets for "nothing". The only downside was the number of mosquitoes who came to visit us after dark!



Whip-poor-will *photo by J. Moore*

This year we attracted two high schooled students and hopefully they'll be more next year. Many thanks to all the excellent leaders who gave up their weekend to help us. The report will be coming out soon – just waiting for some more photographs to document this exciting and worthwhile event.

OLD TIME COUNTY PIG ROAST

Wear your straw hat, and plaid shirt!

FRIDAY OCTOBER 2
6:00 PM

HILLIER CREEK ESTATES WINERY
46 STAPLETON RD, HILLIER



Type to enter text

Tickets \$100
For more information and
to reserve your spot visit
www.countypigroast.eventbrite.ca
Ticket sales end September 27

Buffet Dinner
Rotisserie Roasted Pig
Delicious Salads
Roasted Vegetables
Homemade Desserts
Coffee and Tea

Cash Bar



Celebrations
by Linda May

SPONSORED BY HILLIER CREEK ESTATES, CELEBRATIONS BY LINDA MAY AND GRAMPA'S GOODTIME GANG

A FUNDRAISER FOR
ALLIANCE TO PROTECT PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY AND
PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS
ALL PROCEEDS TO THE LEGAL COSTS OF THE ERT APPEALS

**Our next
Fund
Raiser
for Save
Ostrander
Point**

Saturday, Sept 26 – All day PECFN outing

Northumberland County: Alderville Nation Black Oak Savanna Prairie Day Celebration & Peter's Woods

Fee: \$10:00 (donation to the Alderville Nation).....Pack a lunch, water and dress appropriately! **RSVP**

A day to explore and celebrate trees, tall grass prairies, savannas and the things that live in and around them. In the morning we will attend the opening ceremony of the Alderville Nation Black Oak Savanna Prairie Day Celebration and then go on a guided tour of the site with Rick Beaver. After lunch, we have several options: we can drive over to Peter's Woods and explore its virtually untouched Maple-Beech forest, then leave for Essroc. Or we can participate in one or more of the outstanding guided walks planned at the Prairie Day, possibly going to Peter's Woods. Or we can part ways after lunch, combining any of the afternoon options and arriving back at Essroc at different times, depending on the carpooling.

This outing is the brainchild of our beloved Terry Sprague who unfortunately cannot make it this time but will be there in spirit. Schedule:

8:30 - Meet at the Essroc Arena Parking Lot on Co. Rd 2 (Belleville Rd) in Wellington, 1 block north of Hwy 33, in order to carpool.

10:00 - Opening Ceremony of the Prairie Day

11:00 - Tour of Black Oak Savanna and Tall Grass Prairie with Restoration Coordinator Rick Beaver

12:30 - Break for lunch

Option 1- 1:30 – 3:00 – Explore Peter's Woods (about 15 minutes away)

Option 2 – 1:00 - Guided tour of NCC's Hazel Bird Property – a remnant Tall Grass Prairie and Savanna site currently under restoration. The tour will highlight the success of the restoration so far.

Option 3 - 2:00 – Guided Acorn tour – Caleb Musgrave from Canadian Bushcraft will explore the traditional harvesting methods and uses of the acorn

4:30 – 6:00 - Arrive back at the Essroc Centre **RSVP**

Saturday, September 26th 2015 • 10am-4pm

Alderville First Nation and the Nature Conservancy of Canada

NATURE CONSERVANCY CANADA

present the

8th Annual Prairie Day

at the Alderville Black Oak Savanna.

Nature workshops, hikes, art sale, entertainment, food and fun!
Join us for this family friendly event!
Admission by donation.

Contact us about volunteer and vendor opportunities.

Please No Pets

Contact 905-352-1008 or visit www.ricelakeplains.ca

Like Prairie Day on Facebook

A Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative

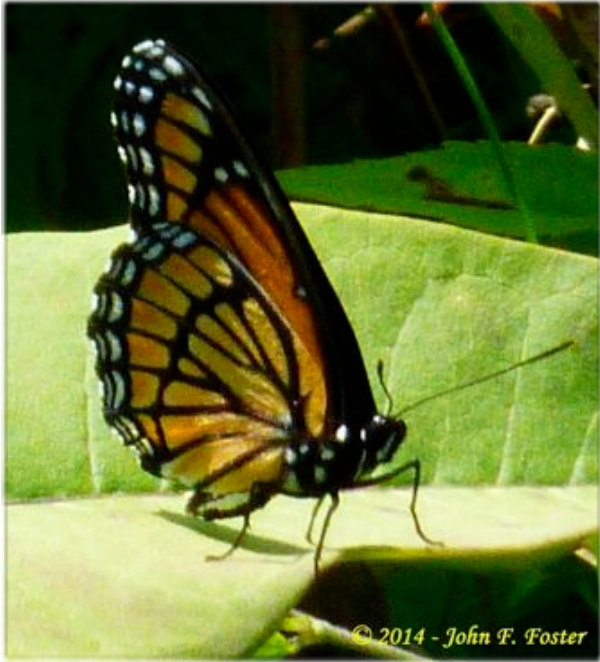


Peter's Woods remains a virtually untouched maple-beech forest. It was named after a member of the Willow Beach Field Naturalists, the organization that helps maintain the woods as a nature reserve.

There is a one kilometre walking trail that begins at the parking lot, passes through an open field, and circles the forest. It gives you a glimpse of the magnificent hardwood forests that once covered much of southern Ontario. Because of the care with which this trail was developed – recognizing that the wet soils, spring banks, and delicate small plants are easily damaged – nothing has been lost.

Butterfly Gardens across the County?

by Myrna Wood and Elizabeth Cowan



Monarch *photo by John F Foster*

Monarchs need all the help they can get these days. There are huge-scale projects, like MonarchWatch (<http://www.monarchwatch.org/>) and the I-35 corridor proposal in the United States (<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/migrating-monarch-butterflies-might-actually-take-to-the-highway-180955436/?no-ist>), and small-scale projects, like that buddleia in your garden. What about a PECFN project? We could partner with other community groups and individuals to create butterfly gardens all across the County. Our inspiration came from the newsletter of the Friends of the Experimental Farm in Ottawa (<http://www.friendsofthefarm.ca/pdf/spring15.pdf>), which gives tips on how to get started. We know that County people appreciate Monarchs and other butterflies, because they keep buying our *Butterfly Guide*! This would be an opportunity for us as field naturalists to further knowledge about natural plantings as well as bring beauty and enjoyment to every ward and community. If you have ideas about plots of available land (they don't have to be big), please tell somebody on the executive. In the meantime we'll be reaching out to other groups – if you have suggestions, please let us know about those too. Let's do everything we can to help the Monarchs!



Hummingbirds visiting Sydney's garden in Wellington September 17th

photo S. Smith



Millennium Trail wetland *Photo by S. Banks*

PECFN made presentations to the consultants writing the Review draft recommending that the Official Plan specifically protect the South Shore as a Core area of Conservation. We also recommended stronger protection for wetlands and woodlands be written into the Official Plan.

**OFFICIAL PLAN
REVIEW
By Myrna Wood**

The PEC Official Plan Review draft has been released. Copies are available on the County website at:

http://www.pecounty.on.ca/government/eng_dev_works/development_services/official_plan_review.php

PECFN's recommendation to designate the South Shore as a Core area of conservation seems to have been agreed to. There is a list of 11 Natural Core Areas shown on the Schedule B- Natural Features and Areas map. In addition these Natural Core Areas have been joined by Natural Core Area Linkages. These Linkages denote corridors for wildlife to move from one Natural area to the next.

We will need to study the text explaining the parameters of protection accorded to these Natural Areas and Linkages before we attend public meetings about the Draft and Council meetings that will be held to accept the Plan, **however it appears to be an improvement over the old Official Plan written 20 years ago.**

TREE SEED WORKSHOP By Amy Bodman

On June 26th, PECFN partnered with Trees Ontario and PEC Stewardship to host Prince Edward County's first Tree Seed Forecasting workshop. In a field laboratory setting at Macaulay Mountain, the 21

participants learned the basics about forecasting *seed production*: discerning various tree 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, and *crop progression*: understanding and predicting the amount or size of seed crop that a particular tree(s) will yield. The hands-on workshop was fun and informative. A great day was had by all!



photo A. Sand



photo A. Sand

Many thanks to the Prince Edward Air Cadets for letting us use their Parade Square for the workshop and to Tim Gray and the folks at Trees Ontario for running the workshop.

**SPECIAL DRAGONFLY BIOTHON WALK LEAD BY DAVID BREE AT POINT PETRE
PROVINCIAL WILDLIFE AREA JULY 18**

by Sheila Kuja

One of the highlights of my summer was the July 18th Dragonfly walk lead by one of our own members, David Bree, Senior Naturalist at Presqu'île Provincial Park. First we watched and then examined closely an Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, learning how to distinguish it from the later flying Canada Tiger Swallowtail. Within minutes we'd seen a Crescent butterfly, a Skipper and a Bowl and Doily Spider's web but even before this we'd discovered the secrets of the sexual contortions of Dragonflies and Damselflies to fertilize the female's eggs; also how to distinguish Dragonflies from Damselflies by the way they hold their wings at rest: Dragonflies horizontally, Damselflies vertically and just to show that there's always an exception, the Common Spreadwing holds his at a 45 degree angle. Later we saw this beautiful metallic green Damselfly on a Dogwood twig. We soon learned that Bluets are very pretty but not so easy to tell apart, so out came the chart that David had provided.

We identified a number of Dragonfly species: Green Darners, Common Whitetails, Widow Skimmers, Twelve-spotted Skimmers, and Halloween Pennants (with their wings fluttering in the wind as their name suggests).

It was intriguing to watch as female Skimmers laid their eggs in the pools below the Lighthall DU berm and the males stood guard to defend them and the area from other males. There was certainly lots of activity with males darting here, there and everywhere while the females delicately dropped fertilized eggs into the water, over and over again.



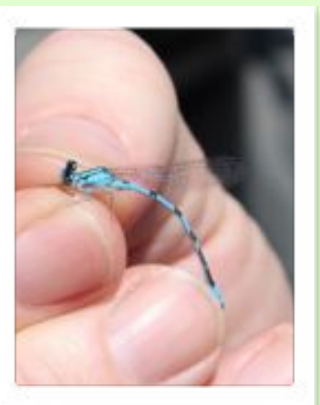
Swallowtails search for minerals
photo S. Banks

Vultures and a Spotted Sandpiper.

Thank you David. We really enjoyed our walk and learned so much about insects on that spectacular summer day; plus, we were able to gather information for PECFNs Point Petre inventory.



David Bree leads the walk at Point Petre
photo S. Banks



Marsh Bluet-Damselfly
photo S. Banks

We were able to compare our tiniest Damselfly, the Sedge Sprite, to the Eastern Foxtail, both with exquisite emerald colouration.

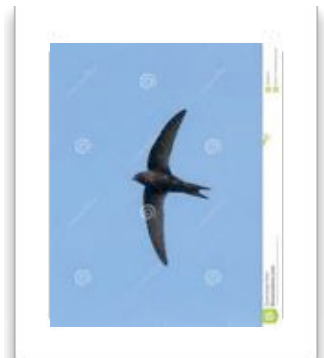
David took a video of four or five Swallowtails congregating around a decomposing mammal. We learned that they were attracted because they can absorb essential minerals from the carcass which aren't available from their nectar food sources.

We heard Black-billed Cuckoos calling below the berm and Marsh Wrens chattering in the marsh; saw three Great Blue Herons (a family?), Turkey

SWIFTING 2015

by Sheila Kuja

After our very successful four day (between May 20-June 1) National Chimney Swift Survey, with 103 swifts counted on June 1, the highest number we've ever recorded, our well organized survey didn't sustain it's momentum, except for Agneta's efforts at the Lake on the Mountain school chimney which remained constant for the remainder of the season. For most of the time there were a pair of swifts present there but on July 15 ten spent the night and on Aug. 12th there were five (the resident family?).



This year, the swifts arrived in the county on or a little before May 6 with seven observed at the Yellow Chimney and the Armoury and two at Lake on the Mountain (none seen the week before). They departed sometime between Aug. 12 and 18th (no swifts on Aug. 19). We're not exactly sure what the situation was after June 1 because we couldn't check all the chimneys. The swift numbers seemed to change quite erratically. On June 8th there were only 20 swifts at the Armoury (down from 90), 7 on the 17th, 9 on the 24th, 20 again on July 15 but 7 on July 17th, and then 41 on the 22nd. Two weeks were missed and on Aug. 12 two swifts were seen entering the Armoury (at 8:13 and 8:16) but observations didn't begin until 8:12 PM (Sheila was late ... again) by which time a number of swifts may have already entered, or there were no other swifts; we can't be sure. On Aug. 19 when I did arrive early there were no swifts around anywhere in town but Cecile saw four flying around the Armoury although none went into the chimney. These could have been migrating birds. In previous years the Yellow chimney and the Books and Co. Chimney had attracted large numbers of swifts. This year the maximum number seen in each was only a couple of birds. On July 5, five entered the Legion chimney and on July 15th three entered while Amy saw two swifts using the controversial convenience store chimney (of uncertain future) in Wellington this summer.

Here's the dilemma: in Picton we can't determine whether the swifts were moving between chimneys or whether they had established a new roosting chimney that we weren't aware of, leaving lots of questions to be answered for next year.

Many thanks to all the members who came out to help this year.



Chimney Swift News from Audubon.org

Between 1966 and 2007, the number of Chimney Swifts in the United States declined 53 percent. During the same time, Canada's population dropped 90 percent. The downward spiral is due to a housing crisis: Chimney capping and a large-scale switch to other heat sources has robbed the birds of their homes—and their namesake. Meanwhile, logging and farming operations are decimating their wintering sites in the tropics.

The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences' Ecostation in West Raleigh is celebrating the completion of a 30-foot brick structure. The new Prairie Ridge Roost Tower, one of the first of its kind, can accommodate thousands of swifts and could become a key rest stop for migrating birds. Researchers from Quebec and New Brunswick have reached out to get advice on their own swift housing projects.

"Time is of the essence," Rick LaRose, the president of Wake Audubon, says. "No other species of American bird is so dependent on humans, our homes, and the physical structures we provide. Right now there aren't any birds occupying the Prairie Ridge Tower, and it could take a few years to establish a colony." He says that a pair of swifts nested in the tower soon after it was completed. "Now it's a matter of advertising." One way to lure in new tenants is by using sound recordings from swifts—a "vacancy" sign of sorts. They have already noticed birds checking out the site.

The birds set off on their migration to the Amazon in August and September. And anyone who already plays host to the acrobatic birds can help out simply by letting them be: "Fighting to keep existing swift sites is the way to go—if only for costs alone," Wake Audubon says.

Perhaps Wellington and Prince Edward County residents can take heed of this advice.



I need a chimney, pal!

THE PECFN BIOTHON CONTINUES By Sheila Kuja



Yvette Bree leads PECFN walk at South Shore
Aug.16/15 photo B. Durell



Wasp on
goldenrod
photo
B.Durell



juvenile/Long-
BilledDowitcher_
B. Kostiuk



Monarch
caterpillar on
Swamp
milkweed
photo B. Durell

The Point Petre PWA Biothon continues with our weekly visit every Friday at 10 AM meeting at Simpson Rd. and Army Reserve Rd. Sometimes it's pretty lonely on my walks and the more eyes looking, the more is seen, so please consider coming down to join me. After Thanksgiving the walks may be every second week, so please contact me before you come down to make sure I'll be there. It's fine if you want to explore on your own though, just send me the list of what you observed (sanda.kuja@bell.net).

So far we have discovered a marsh (fen) along Charwell Point Rd. with some interesting plants including Bog Bean and Buttonbush, as well as a nesting Sedge Wren. In August, one of the exciting birds that we saw feeding in the ponds below the Lighthall berm was a Long-billed Dowitcher. Our list of Dragonflies and Butterflies also continues to grow. Cardinal Flowers and Bottled Gentians are a couple of the more spectacular wildflowers that we've discovered. Five species of orchids have been seen so far.

We planned several special Biothon walks over the summer. On July 18, David Bree took us on a dragonfly and other insect walk that you can read about in this newsletter. It was an amazing outing.

On Aug. 16, Yvette Bree took us down Lighthall Rd. in search of plants, birds and insects. We learned about the beetle and weevil that are keeping Purple Loosestrife in check, found Kalm's Lobelia at it's peak flowering which seems to be earlier (climate change) than records that Yvette has been keeping since she began working at Sandbanks; and among the butterflies she identified were the Bronze Copper, Eastern-tailed Blue and Great Spangled Fritillary. We were able to closely inspect these and others that Allen was catching with one of the butterfly nets that Myrna had made for the BioBlitz! All fifteen of us on the outing had a most enjoyable morning thanks to Yvette and a beautiful day!



photo B. Durell

This past Sunday (13th) eight of us (four members and four non-members) braved the wet weather to discover wildflowers along the Simpson Rd. berm road. We occasionally had a misty shower and needed to pull our hoods up but for the most part the walk was dry, except underfoot. Although everyone was impressed with the tall Bottled Gentians and Ladies-tresses orchids, the highlight of the walk wasn't a plant at all but a very, very cute red eft – a new species for our Biothon inventory list, crossing over the stones of the berm road (a tiny red salamander which will become an Eastern Newt).

**Minutes of the Executive Meeting
Prince Edward County Field Naturalists
Picton Library
August 4, 2015, at noon**

Present: Sue Banks, Amy Bodman, Elizabeth Cowan, Sandra Dowds, Gerry Jenkison, Sheena Kennedy, Sheila Kuja, Agneta Sand, Myrna Wood

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

2. Status Reports

(A) Membership

There have been no changes to the membership list.

(B) Treasurer

The following balances were reported:

PECFN: \$1,434.14

OPAF: \$5,108.34

PayPal: \$1,012.86

The WI Craft Sale brought in \$942.80.

(C) Programs

Outdoor programs

All walks and programs should go on Terry Sprague's calendar as well as in the local media. The membership should be reminded of them a week in advance, with the exception of the Alderville trip: it will need earlier notice because carpooling will have to be arranged.

Amy will write a report on the June 27 Tree Seed Forecasting Workshop for the September newsletter, with Agneta supplying a photo.

Sunday, Aug. 16: Yvette Bree will be leading a general walk along the Charwell Road, starting from Army Reserve and Lighthall. Rubber boots are advisable.

Sunday, Sept. 13: Sue and Sheila will lead a wildflower walk somewhere on the South Shore. Myrna will prepare a poster for the libraries; she needs the info by Aug. 31.

Saturday, Sept. 26: Carpooling will need to be organized for the Peters Woods/ Alderville trip. Terry unfortunately won't be able to attend. Amy suggested charging \$10.00 per person and giving the proceeds to the Alderville First Nation. She will write up a description of the outing and circulate it to the Executive.

Indoor programs

Sept.29: Marc Seguin – Lighthouses. He will be signing his book. Amy will set up the hall for him; Sandra said it can be open at 6:15. Amy will check with Cheryl about the technology required. Gerry will buy wine (\$50.00 max) as Marc's honorarium, and Sandra will thank him.

Oct.27: Michael Runtz – Beavers. He will be signing his book. Amy will check with Cheryl on a suitable honorarium.

Nov.24: Chris Lewis – Lichens

Jan.26, 2016: Membership night

Feb.23: Amy will contact Kendal Dewey to see if he can speak about the fishery.

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

April 26: George Reid: Aboriginal history in the County

May 31: AGM: any ideas for a speaker gratefully received

(D) Fundraising Committee

Sept.5, 3:00-5:00 p.m.: Mill Falls House B&B RIVERWALK event. Cheryl has arranged for Mary Kay Morris and Colleen Galway to provide flute and keyboard music. County wine will be served, so Sandra will speak to Jim and Jacquie. Cheryl will provide five trays of canapés. Sheena will organize squares and other sweets. Members will be needed to lead walks.

Oct.2: Pig roast at Hillier Creek Estates Winery. The proceeds will be shared with APPEC. It was suggested that a square dance might be fun.

A teleconference with Eric and APPEC is planned to discuss a broader fundraising campaign.

(E) Ostrander Point and Tribunal:

The hearing will be held in the Demorestville Town Hall on Sept.2-4. Gerry will organize the lunches for about 15 people (cold meat, cheese, bread, fruit, water); Amy will make muffins; Myrna will provide tea; Kathy Felkar will sell Peptbo coffee. Myrna will order a screen and projector from the library.

Myrna is working with APPEC on their White Pines appeal, which will probably not be heard for a year.

The Land Trust has written to the Minister offering to take over the area as a conservancy, but there has been no reply yet.

(F) Official Plan Review

The draft will be available shortly and public meetings may be organized for the month of October.

(G) BioBlitz

Sheila has the data she needs for the BioBlitz report but no photos yet. Deadline is Halloween.

(H) NatureHood

Sheila will attend the next meeting on Aug.17.

(I) Ontario Nature

The Eastern Region meeting is being held in Kingston on Oct.3. Several people expressed an interest in attending. Elizabeth will forward the agenda and arrange carpooling.

(J) Millennium Trail

Myrna will be speaking to Council's Committee on the Whole on Aug.13 at 9:30 a.m., reminding them that the County must enforce its policies and protect the wetlands. She would be glad of moral support.

(K) Newsletter – suggested deadline Sept.7

3. New Business

(i) Butterfly gardens: Elizabeth has got nowhere with the Horticultural Society. She needs to find the names of contacts on the various local recreation committees.

(ii) Picton and Milford fairs: Myrna will circulate a schedule for volunteers.

(iii) Native plant sale: Sue noted that native plants would tie in well with the butterfly garden project. She has spoken to Alice Kong of the North American Native Plant Society, which holds a huge sale in Markham every year. Getting plants from suppliers like Peter Fuller on consignment would be the safest way. A site like Macauley Mountain, where a little earth doesn't matter, would be good. It was suggested that the sale could perhaps be held in conjunction with the Stewardship Council's tree and shrub sale - we wouldn't be competing as we would be selling mainly flowers and vines.

4. Next meeting

Tuesday, Aug.25, from noon to 2:00, in the upstairs public room at the Picton Library.

**Minutes of the Executive Meeting
Prince Edward County Field Naturalists
Picton Library
August 25, 2015, noon-2:00 p.m.**

Present: Amy Bodman, Elizabeth Cowan, Gerry Jenkison, Sheena Kennedy, Sheila Kuja, Agneta Sand, Myrna Wood

Regrets: Sue Banks, Sandra Dowds

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

2. Status Reports

(A) Membership

One new member brings us up to 72 paid members, four honorary and 35 in arrears.

(B) Treasurer

The following balances were reported:

PECFN: \$2,813.44

OPAF: \$9,408.34

PayPal: \$1,370.00

MOTION:

Moved by Amy, seconded by Sheila:

THAT Sheena send Eric Gillespie a cheque for \$8,000.00 toward our legal costs.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Sheena asked that people tell contractors that all invoices must be made out to PECFN and mailed to her.

(C) Programs

Outdoor programs

Fifteen people attended Yvette Bree's walk.

The chimney swifts seem to have left for another year.

Sunday, Sept.13: Sue and Sheila will lead a wildflower walk on the South Shore. Sheila will send Myrna all the information needed for a poster for the libraries by this Saturday (Sept.29).

Saturday, Sept.19: Tamara Segal has offered to lead a medicinal plants walk, for which she normally charges a fee.

Saturday, Sept.26: Carpooling will need to be organized for the Peters Woods/Alderville trip, so Amy will write a message for Sandra to send out to the membership on Sept.14. Amy offered her backyard for cars not taken, while Sheila wondered if the parking lot at the Wellington-on-the-Lake medical centre might be available, since the centre isn't open on weekends. Amy suggested leaving Wellington at 8:30 in the morning, to arrive at the Woods by 10:00; spending two hours there, followed by an hour for lunch (everyone to bring his/her own); then to Alderville by around 1:30 in the afternoon. The cost will be \$10.00 per person so that we have \$100.00 to give the Alderville First Nation. Amy will write up a description of the outing and circulate it to the Executive.

Indoor programs

Sept.29: Marc Seguin – Lighthouses. He will be signing his book. Amy will ask what he needs in the way of technology. Sandra will thank him and Cheryl will provide a couple of bottles of wine as an honorarium.

Oct.27: Michael Runtz – Beavers. He will be signing his book. Cheryl has wine to use as an honorarium.

Nov.24: Chris Lewis – Lichens

Jan.26, 2016: Membership night

Feb.23: Amy will contact Kendal Dewey to see if he would speak about the fishery and perhaps cormorants.

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

April 26: George Reid: Aboriginal history in the County

May 31: AGM: any ideas for a newsworthy speaker gratefully received

- (D) Fundraising Committee**
Sept.5, 3:00-5:00 p.m.: Mill Falls House B&B Riverwalk event. Everyone who can will prepare unmessy canapés. Sheena will organize squares and other sweets. Cheryl suggests arriving at 1:00 p.m. to set up. Myrna will talk to Borys about his idea of personally thanking all attendees who also donate.
- Oct.2:** Pig roast at Hillier Creek Estates Winery. The proceeds will be shared with APPEC. Cheryl and Amy are investigating the location or it could be postponed to the spring. Gerry knows of callers and said they charge \$200-\$300.
- Cheryl attended a meeting with APPEC to discuss the possibility of broader-based fundraising now that White Pines has been approved. PECFN will continue fund raising for Eric.
- (E) Ostrander Point and Tribunal:**
The Waring House has spontaneously and generously offered free accommodation for our legal team. Myrna wrote a thank-you letter. Amy will put up Kari Gunson and Bill in her cottage and Fred will stay at Cheryl's. Kari, Bill and Fred Beaudry will have lunches with us. Myrna has ordered the library projector, Kathy Felkar will see to the coffee, and Gerry is looking after lunches for the team. There will be more than enough muffins. Amy offered to bring chocolate and Myrna was reminded that Eric only drinks Lemon Zinger tea. We don't know whether a PA system has been requested.
- Those wishing to attend should be there by 9:30, wearing their turtle t-shirts.
- (F) Official Plan Review**
Myrna said she had requested a copy and been told it wasn't available yet.
- (G) BioBlitz**
Sheila has the data she needs for the BioBlitz report but is still waiting for photos. Deadline is Halloween.
- (H) NatureHood**
Fifteen people applied for the advertised position, four were interviewed and one has been selected, to start work Sept.1. Ten school visits to the Bird Observatory will have to be organized by Oct.31 to meet the funding criteria.
- (I) Ontario Nature**
Elizabeth will prepare the submission, forward the agenda and arrange carpooling. Myrna has suggested that PECFN could offer to make a presentation on the cumulative effects of turbine projects in the County and on Amherst and Wolfe islands. If someone wants to put something together we could ask Kingston Field Naturalists representatives to join us.
- (J) Millennium Trail**
Millennium Trail
The problem of explaining the need for ATV diversion and a boardwalk across the wetlands portion of the Trail was discussed. Gerry offered to help Amy with a PowerPoint presentation that would make the Where, Why and How clear.

(K) Newsletter - suggested deadline Sept.8

3. New Business

(i) Butterfly gardens: Elizabeth has asked Shire Hall to circulate a message to all the recreation committees. We may need to look into getting swamp milkweed, since it apparently has a better protective effect on Monarchs than the other kinds.

(ii) Fairs: Picton (Sept.11-13) and Milford (Sept.19): Myrna will circulate a schedule for volunteers.

(iii) Native plant sale: Sheila reported that Peter Fuller will undertake to provide 500 plants for a May sale if we will help with the potting.

4. Next meeting

Tuesday, Oct.6, from noon to 2:00,