



Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

Newsletter, September 2017

edited by Susan Banks

Past Events

Another Successful BioBlitz by Sheila Kuja by Sheila Kuja



The BioBlitz team. Photo by Alan Kuja

The weather was great! Chucky (Chuck-will's-widow) was there on cue. Everything was perfect for our fourth BioBlitz last June 10-11th. With the Miller Family Nature Reserve as our study area, we were ready to document the plants and animals of this Hastings-Prince Edward Land Trust property. The property is just a little to the west of the Ostrander Point Crown Land Block, along the south shore of the county and within the PEC South Shore Important Bird and Biodiversity Area.

We had a great crew help erect the tents on Friday afternoon. Sue and Dave, Borys and Lorie, Alan and I and Dick Bird (of the Land Trust) managed to deal with the wind and tall grass, as we put up the four tents in preparation for the weekend event. Dick enlisted the help of John Lahti of Long Dog Winery, who kindly mowed the metre-tall grass for us, so that we could more easily park cars over the weekend within the reserve, rather than on the road. He also created an open area in front of the tents for our registration, tables, etc. where people could walk, as well as sit on chairs while they enjoyed their meals.

Dates to Remember

Sept 26th AGM
Tim Gray, Forests

Sept 28th Diana Beresford Kroeger, Call of the Forest

October 14th Explore the SouthShore IBA

October 28th PePtBO Dinner and silent auction

October 31st Les Stanfield, Watersheds

Nov 4th Tree Identification Workshop, Milford Town Hall

Nov 28th Pamela Stagg, Impossible Journeys-the new science of migration

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About seventy participants took part in one or more or all of the featured walks with our experts. There were people from Peterborough, Kingston, Oshawa, Trenton and Belleville, to bolster the numbers from the county. It was so encouraging to have energetic youngsters, like Bob and Mary Kay's granddaughters, catching all manner of insects from butterflies to crickets, to show the group and have David Bree identify their "catches". They were very adept with their butterfly nets and were excellent at locating the tiny Monarch Butterfly eggs on Milkweed leaves. Seeing the five children so excited and knowledgeable about insects was a real highlight of the BioBlitz for me. They were all so keen to answer David's questions during the walk.



Studying moths in egg cartons. Photo by Alan Kuja



Children with butterfly nets. Photo by Alan Kuja

There were so many exciting moments, Les' discovery of fish in the freshwater pond, to Tom Mason's Black Widow Spider discoveries, to listening to the Nighthawks, Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-wills-widow calling on Saturday evening. More excitement was experienced during the day when a

Blanding's Turtle and a Blue-spotted Salamander were sighted. Another highlight occurred on Sunday morning, when David Beadle, our moth expert from Toronto, showed us the species that had been caught during the night. He has an interesting system of collecting the moths on egg cartons, where they feel quite safe, so that we could view them by passing around the half cartons and examining the moths. Despite the windy conditions on Sunday morning they stayed in place in their "protected" spots. Their patterns were amazing and many were quite beautiful. One of the species identified is rare in Ontario and two others are uncommon and local.

Many thanks to David Bree, Peter Fuller, Tom Mason, Les Stanfield, Wally Rendell, David Beadle, Terry Sprague, Dale Kristensen and Paul Catling for volunteering as experts for the BioBlitz. Although we don't have the final numbers and lists, we can give an approximate number of species seen for the major groups: Plants – 150; Moths – 76; Birds – 62; Spiders – 40; Butterfly – 19; Beetles – 16; Dragonfly – 9; Mammals – 7; Amphibians – 6; Reptiles – 3; Fish – 4; Terrestrial Snails – 7; other insects – 20+.

Gerry did a fantastic job coordinating food for the Saturday dinner and Sunday lunch. A big thanks to all the contributors: Myrna's (veggie) and Gerry's (meaty) chilis were superb, as were the salads and desserts. The BBQ lunch was a lot of fun to end off the event. We were fortunate in having our two local newspapers cover the BioBlitz with articles in both The Picton Gazette and The Wellington Times. Ramesh did an excellent write up in The Times with beautiful photos and even front page coverage of the Green Darner Dragonfly that Paul Catling had caught and released.

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At the tree planting table. Photo by Gerry Jenkison



Tree News

by Susan Banks

On June 17th, a lovely sunny day in Wellington, PECFN members, who are also involved in **Tree the County**, participated in County Blooms. With the loan of a large tent by Lenny Epstein, we set up a photographic display of 'Awesome Trees' in the County and involved visitors in tree planting and leaf printing. On The Wishing Tree visitors hung their thoughts about trees in the County. There were many positive comments, with many people expressing a desire for more tree planting in the County and better maintenance of municipal trees. We are hoping the Horticultural Society will invite us to their event next year.

Tree the County is also planning a showing of Call Of the Forest on September 28th at St Andrews.



Hanging up the tree photos. Photo by Dave Weaver.

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PECFNs 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ON JUNE 28th

by Sheila Kuja

About 40 members were at the Bloomfield Town Hall on the last Tuesday of June to celebrate the club's 20th anniversary, with a potluck dinner, and presentation of awards to club members.

The lasagnas provided by Dave and Sue, Sheena and Sheila were delicious, but so were the amazing salads and desserts that all the other members kindly brought to share. We could easily have fed another twenty passersby, so I don't think anyone went home hungry. What a great gathering! No worries about fundraising, although T-shirts and Butterfly guides were available if anyone wanted them. Everyone was there to just have a good time, including John Foster who'd come all the way from Oshawa to join in the festivities and act as our photographer.

After dinner Myrna, Terry, Yvette and David and Joanne said a few words about the club's beginnings and described the reasons for starting the club in 1997. Then the Award Presentations took place. In honour of the contribution of these founding members, awards were named for them, as well as long-time active members Gloria and Brian Durell.



Potluck celebration. Photo by John Foster

After assessing the nominations received (we thank all those who filled in and submitted their ballots), the nomination committee was happy to announce the recipients of the awards – as follows:

The Joanne Dewey Member of the Year Award to Lorie Brown (for her regular attendance at meetings and outings; involvement in all fundraising activities over the past several years, providing equipment and help at all the BioBlitzes, suggesting speakers for club meetings and leaders for participation in the BioBlitzes, driving other members to meetings, outings and bioblitzes, etc).

The Gloria and Brian Durell Club Service Award to Cheryl Anderson (for her many years on the Executive Board and as President, her excellent cooperation with PEPTBO and their activities, leading club outings, providing press releases to papers for club events, providing updates on ERT hearing, working with Myrna on South Shore preservation at townhall meetings and writing detailed letters, successfully organizing many fundraising events and auctions as well as continuing to raise money for club activities through her yearly birdathons).



Lori Brown receives award from Joanne Dewey. Photo by Susan Banks

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The Terry Sprague Conservation Award (for a member) to Myrna Wood (for her years of nature advocacy including in depth research for lawyers, inspired writing and speaking out to conserve natural habitat and support biodiversity in the South Shore of PEC, especially at Ostrander Point. As a founding member, she was the driving force behind establishing PECFN in 1997 and working with Nature Canada to have the South Shore declared an IBA in 1998. She was also a founding member of PEPtBO. A dedicated, fearless and determined worker for conservation in the county, she has participated in the Bird Studies Canada Chimney Swift surveys in Picton over the last five years).



Myrna Wood. Photo by John Foster

The Myrna Wood Conservation Award (for non-members) to two recipients: Paul Catling (for creation of public awareness of alvar habitat at Ostrander Point and his long exposure and grilling on behalf of PECFN at the ERT hearing; preparing an annotated list of plants of Ostrander Point (to be sold by and for PECFN); preparing the PEC Butterfly Guide and donating all proceeds to PECFN for conservation work; documenting the natural history of the South Shore by participating in PECFNs BioBlitzes; giving presentations to county groups, including PECFN, on the importance of conserving our butterflies by planting appropriate flowers to support them) and **Kari Gunson** (for her confident testimony on turtles and road ecology at both Ostrander ERT hearings on behalf of PECFN, helping to convince the judges that roads would cause serious and irreversible damage to the Blanding's population at Ostrander Point; for numerous trips to the county to support our fundraising events and participation in our Point Petre and Little Bluff BioBlitzes).

The Yvette and David Bree Education Award to Terry Sprague (for his outstanding achievements in the field of natural history education in the PEC region: as a dedicated field trip leader, a local author popularizing local natural history in newspaper articles, magazines, books and on his Nature Stuff website which also provides information about local presentations and meetings to learn about wildlife, and includes a PECFN site as well as daily reports of bird sightings for PEC and surrounding areas; giving presentations to our club and others around the Bay of Quinte about wildlife, their habitat and shoreline management; teaching volunteers about the marsh monitoring program and keeping them informed, week by week, about what they should be doing and seeing).



Sandra Dowds gives an award to Cheryl Anderson. Photo by John Foster

Other members receiving nominations (but not quite as many as the recipients) include –

Member of the Year - Sydney Smith (attending meetings and outings, beautiful photographs for newsletter, many observations), Molly Mulloy (offering spring wildflowers walks, dedication to protecting the South Shore by sharing information with government and non-government agencies and , as well as urging friends to advocate), Agneta Sand (always being ready to help no matter what the club is doing whether it be fundraising, citizen science projects, using her artistic talents for logos, T-shirts or articles, etc), John Foster (photography and lists for the BioBlitz each year, leading groups at Sacha's afternoon Riverwalk fund-raisers – N.B. he lives in Oshawa), Borys & Gabrielle (helping with website, fundraisers and beautiful photos).

Club Service Award – Sandra Dowds (long time board member and newsletter editor, booking Town Hall rental for meetings, organizing coffee and cookies for meetings, sending out messages for outings and club activities, organizing galas at the Curling Club for Ostrander fundraising),

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Agneta Sand (always helpful, organized, hardworking and involved with many club projects, using her artistic talents for the logo of the club, club swift T-shirts, many drawings for David Bree's annual reports on wildlife in the county), Molly Mulloy (yearly wildflower walks), Bob Simmons (former club President, affiliation with other groups on alien species identification and Ontario heritage land use designations).

Member Conservation Award – Brian and Gloria Durell (their work over the years), Orville Walsh (efforts to keep Industrial Wind Turbines out of the South Shore IBA), Amy Bodman (her work on the Millenium Trail and having Hubbs Creek Marsh designated as a Provincially Significant Wetland).

Non-member Conservation Award – Hastings-Prince Edward Land Trust (acquisition of Miller Family Nature Reserve in SS IBA), Sacha Warunkiw (generosity in hosting the Riverwalks and celebration for PECFN win, giving tours of his property to raise money to protect the IBA), Andy Margetson (help with Stewardship Council, Miller Nature Reserve acquisition, designating Hubbs Creek as Provincially Significant Wetland), Peter Fuller (contribution to our native plant sale, involvement in BioBlitz planning and as a bird leader at BioBlitzes for several years, work as president of PEPTBO to document the biodiversity and protect the IBA), Ted Cheskey (working for designation of South Shore IBA and protection of Ostrander Point, participation in Ostrander BioBlitz), Rick Conroy (educating the community about the importance of the SS for wildlife with his articles in the Wellington Times newspaper and reaching people who might never have otherwise even considered its relevance to them or its need for protection), Paula and Bill Peel (their work at the White Pines ERT to protect the SS IBA from turbine development).

For **Education Award** – Paul Catling (butterfly guide for the county, educational walks on plants and insects during the BioBlitzes, presentations on butterflies to various groups in the county), Pamela Stagg (marvellous and unique radio shows highlighting nature in the county), Myrna Wood (telling us everything she knows).

These nominations might give you some ideas for recipients for next year's awards, if the program does continue. It certainly shows that we have a very dynamic club and we have lots of members to thank for that.

Mission Monarch by Sheila Kuja

On one of those hot, humid mornings in early August, eight of us gathered at Point Petre Rd. and Army Reserve Rd. at 9 AM to conduct a Mission Monarch survey. That week surveys were occurring from Canada to Mexico to assess the population size and life stages of Monarch Butterflies present throughout the distribution area of the species.

The Jacksons (Elaine and Gord) told us about their experience seeing the Monarchs in Mexico last winter – a truly amazing sight. This morning, Lorie Brown, Lise Bois, Sheena Kennedy, Agneta Sand, Karen Harris and I joined them in searching for eggs and caterpillars on Milkweed plants along Point Petre Rd. I had downloaded some pictures of the various instars that we were searching for, but in the end, it was decided that a measurement of the length of the caterpillars was probably the best method of reporting them. After assessing the amount of Poison Ivy along the road, the Jacksons decided that they might be wiser to do their count along the Millennium Trail in Wellington, since Elaine is very allergic to the plant and hadn't come prepared to deal with it.

Sheena and Agneta were our finest observers, and either had the best "territory" or were the most diligent in finding the eggs and caterpillars, as well as butterflies. We were told, according to the Mission Monarch website, that we'd find a single egg or caterpillar per plant but Sheena and Agneta soon debunked that bit of information. They found three plants with two eggs or larva on them; one plant with three eggs/larva present and even one plant with 4 eggs/larvae on it. In each case they were on different leaves but still all on the same Milkweed plant. These keen observers were fortunate enough to see one larva actually emerging from its egg and then eating the top of the egg for its first nourishment.



Butterflies. Photo by Sydney Smith

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Although we all found eggs and larvae, Sheena and Agneta were absolutely the very best at observing and recording them yet even they, after several hours in the strong sun and heat, were ready to say we'd done enough. Only Agneta was smart enough to bring her bathing suit and was prepared to go for a refreshing dip in the lake to cool off from the intense heat while four of us headed into Picton for brunch to end a satisfying morning of data collecting (37 eggs, 14 caterpillars (from 3 to 18 mm long) and 4 butterflies).

Hopefully we'll have someone from the project come to give us a presentation next year so more members can participate and send in their observations to contribute to the success of Mission Monarch.

Future Events

Tuesday September 26th, 7pm
Bloomfield Town Hall

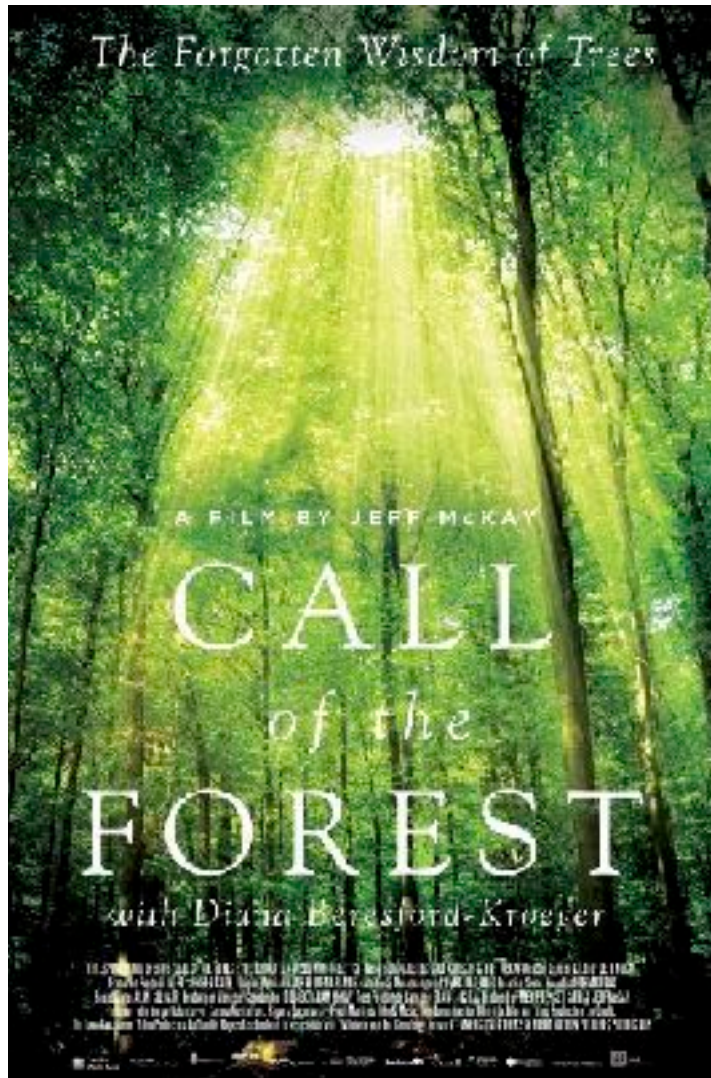
Forests Ontario



Our speaker, **Tim Gray**, will provide a brief of Forests Ontario, an NGO that promotes good forest stewardship through environmental education and awareness. Forests Ontario enables forest restoration through tree planting programs. Tim will focus on the importance of trees in the environment, along with seed collection, matching species to site conditions, site preparation and challenges when growing trees. He will also describe criteria for landowner assistance programs provided by Forests Ontario.

Tim is currently a Field Advisor for Forests Ontario in the Quinte/Bancroft/Gananoque area, where he provides advice and assistance to landowners and organizations that provide tree planting services. Tim is also from a farm background, where continuous farm ownership has been in his family in the Roslin area since 1840.

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Tree the County presents

Call of the Forest

Diana Beresford Kroeger will introduce the film in person.

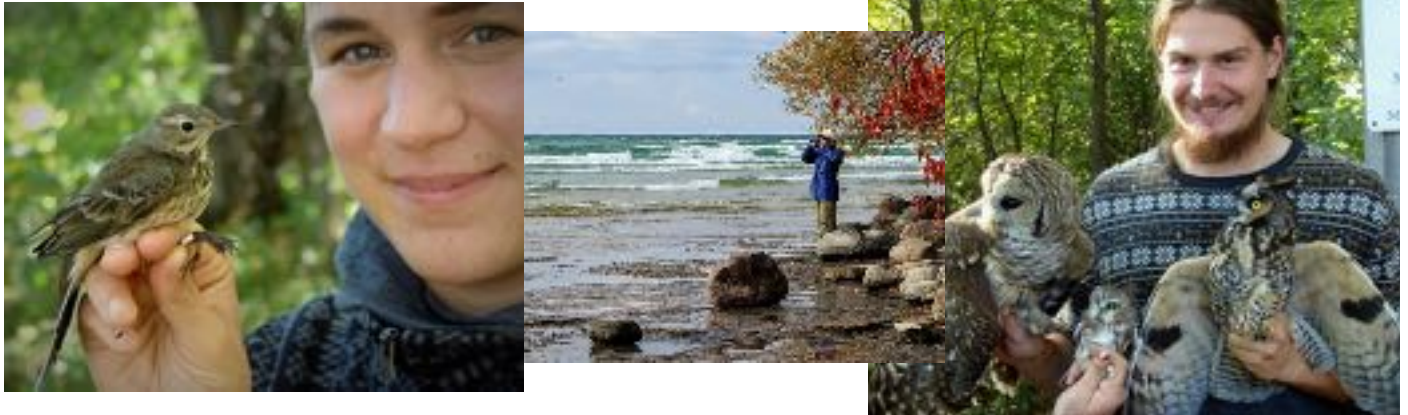
St Andrew's Church, 33 King St, Picton

Thursday, September 28th, 7:30pm

Free Admission

*Donations to Tree the County are welcome
Tree the County is a group of volunteers working
to promote tree conservation*

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Explore the South Shore IBA with the Willow Beach Field Naturalists
Saturday October 14th, 9:00 – 4:00

Hosted by the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists
Hikes led by Peter Fuller, President of the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory

Come meet and explore the South Shore IBA with our neighbours, the Willow Beach Field Naturalists.
Join us for the morning, the afternoon, or the full day.

Schedule:

9:00- 11:30 a.m. - Meet at PEPtBO Observatory to view banding and hike around the harbour area (2km)

11:30-12:30 Lunch Break – Please bring your own lunch

12:30- 4:00 p.m. - Meet at Little Bluff Conservation Area

- Waterfowl viewing from the cliffs
- Drive to Point Petre (waterfowl, migrants, raptors)
- Lighthall Wetlands - migrants, shorebirds (1-2 km of walking)

Please dress for ticks and the weather and bring your own lunch and drinks.



Photo Peter Fuller

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Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory Dinner and Silent Auction

Please join fellow bird enthusiasts at the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory Fall Dinner and Silent Auction. The evening features a delicious buffet, great live music, a chance to win choice items and an opportunity to support PEPTBO. There will be an enlightening talk by



Photo: Elizabeth Gow

Dr. Bridget Stuchbury: Mission Impossible
Tracking the fate of young wood thrushes in a fractured landscape.

Saturday, October 28, 6:00 p.m.
Waring House Banquet Hall
To reserve tickets, go to <http://www.peptbo.ca>

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Watersheds

Les Stanfield

Tuesday, October 31st at 7pm,
Bloomfield Town Hal

Les will be speaking today about the linkage between headwater drainage systems and Ecohealth and will offer some hope for the future development of our landscapes.

Les worked with the Ministry of Natural Resources for 32 years and is now the co-founder of Ecohealth Solutions. He developed the Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol and its associated databases and collaboratives such as the Stream Monitoring and Research Teams to bring science to the challenge of quantifying the cumulative effects of disturbances on stream health.

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Tree Identification Workshop

- sponsored by the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

Saturday, November 4th: 10:00- 3:30, Milford Town Hall, 3076 County Rd 10



Join arborists **Justin and Brittany Dart** , certified ISA arborists, as they teach us all about the native trees of Prince Edward County and how to identify them.....without their leaves on!

Schedule:

9:30 - 10:00	Registration and Coffee
10:00 - 12:00	Classroom Session - Milford Town Hall
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch - please bring your own
1:00 - 3:30	Identification session through a beautiful private woodlot near Milford

As registration is limited, please register in advance at pecfninfo@gmail.com or by calling Amy Bodman at (613) 399-5219

Fee: \$10:00

Please dress for the weather and ticks.

Please bring your own lunch.

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Achlorophyllous Helleborine

The ghostly achlorophyllous helleborine growing in my lawn, alas, didn't get a chance to flower before it crisped (see last photo in attached series). Only one of the green companions flowered nearby (second-last photo). But one summer day about twenty feet away, as I sat reading on my deck beside the bay, I looked down to see a bright green familiar shape poking up between the boards right beside me (Photo 1).

To my delight, in full achlorophyllous flower, a smaller white stalk with pink flowers was blooming nearby (Photos 2 and 3), and not far away was a third one in green with a vigorous double stem of paler white to greenish flowers (Photo 4). I looked under the deck, and their skinny stems stretch up from the ground over a foot below.

Today they've all completed their life cycle and gone to seed. In the background of Photo 5 you can see the white seed pods of the achlorophyllous one.

I guess the dark damp space under the deck is closer to the deep woodland these little orchids need to thrive. How nice that even the fragile achlorophyllous one was able to come to flower and seed. Next year I'll be watching!

Thanks for enjoying these with me.
Molly

