

QUINTE FIELD NATURALISTS

September 26, 2016 Meeting Minutes
Bridge Street United Church, Belleville, ON

1. Welcome: George Thomson, Pres.

- a) New: Please sign in at each meeting: red clipboard for current members, blue clipboard for visitors or new members. Please include your email address if you wish to receive minutes, newsletters, and other notifications
- b) We are requesting two volunteers to serve as Nominating Committee assisting with nominations for individuals to serve on next Executive, in January 2018
- c) Sharron Blaney requests volunteers to provide snacks for future general meetings – two per meeting. If you wish to participate, please sign the chart being circulated tonight.

2. Financial Report: Doug Newfield, Treasurer

- a) Bank Balance is \$6049.82 so we're in good shape. Projection for year-end: \$800.00 to the good.
- b) A bequest of \$1000.00 is coming from the estate of Katharine Mills, a QFN member since 1954 who passed away earlier this year. We want to use these funds to create a lasting memorial in her honour. We welcome suggestions from members, particularly those who knew Katharine and her interests. Please write suggestions on slips of paper provided at back table and place in the box, or contact a member of the executive.

3. Bernadette Hymus:

- a) 2017 calendars will be available at a cost of \$20; proceeds going to Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre. www.sandypineswildlife.org This organization is well worth supporting. Please indicate to Bernadette your interest so that adequate numbers of calendars will be available.
- b) QFN is on Facebook. We would appreciate your "liking" and "following" our page. You do not need to belong to Facebook to access the QFN page.

4. Outings: John Blaney

- a) A visit to the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory, PEPtBO, to observe Northern Saw-whet Owls will take place on Friday, October 14, 2016. Meet at the PetroCan lot, 5529 Hwy. 62 south in Prince Edward County, just past the Bay Bridge, at 7 p.m. Return time, approximately 10:30 p.m. In the past we have sometimes seen many owls, or just one.
- b) On October 17th the Salmon River Field Naturalists will be hosting a presentation by John and Janet Foster, "More Stories from the Wild". An email with details on this & other events will be sent soon.
- c) Apologies for not sending the QFN Newsletter before the meeting.
It did go out – somewhere ... Will make another attempt asap.
- d) We are planning to donate birdseed to the H.R. Frink Centre for a one-year trial period, as their budget cannot cover this. Hundreds of students and members of the public visit there and love to see the birds feeding. If you wish to donate to this initiative, please see John Blaney or Doug Newfield.

5. Denice Wilkins, Publicity/Environmental Officer

- a) New members? – heard about QFN by word-of-mouth
- b) Next meeting, October 24th, speaker Lanna Desantis will present "The Puzzling Biology of Flying Squirrels". Check QFN Facebook page for updates.
- c) On October 3rd the Quinte Branch of the United Nations Association presents "Boiling Point", a talk by Maude Barlow, Chairperson of the Council of Canadians at Eastminster United Church, 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12. Please see Denice for email address to sign up in advance.
- d) QFN brochures are available for distribution. If you can assist, please sign up, stating how many you can take and where you will place them.

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6. Sightings

Kathy Felkar notes that, starting in August at PEPTBO, there have been many sightings of birds beginning to move southward. A great team of people is available there to offer information and assistance in observing. George noticed conical/funnel-shaped pits in the sand made by an insect called the ant-lion that is green with golden eyes and lacy wings. The nymph lies at the bottom flicking up sand to catch ants that slide down. John mentioned that ant-lions can often be spotted near the Sandbanks Park Store, and also at Frink. Elizabeth saw a doe with two fawns walking from the edge of the woods on their farm toward the kitchen window, then suddenly racing away across the field. Susan saw a frog with a giant water bug attached to it. Penny and Denice helped into the car a large snapping turtle that seemed unresponsive and in distress, until it suddenly revived and tried to get out of the recycling box. At that point, they returned and placed it by the river ... very carefully! Among many other sightings were redheaded woodpeckers and woodthrushes.

7. Elizabeth Churcher: Correspondence

- a) Submitted input on the federal government's management plan for the Snapping Turtle asking that they direct Ontario and Saskatchewan to prohibit the hunting of the Snapping Turtle. This is the second round and will support Ontario Nature.
- b) Will be writing to the Ontario Government requesting that hunting and trapping of Algonquin, or Eastern, wolves not be allowed. Hunting and trapping them is in contravention of the Endangered Species Act. Ontario Nature is taking the government to court for contravening this act: there should be no exceptions. It is important to support Ontario Nature in such endeavours.
- c) In future, letters written on behalf of QFN will be posted on Terry Sprague's website, www.naturestuff.net. A summary will be included in the QFN Newsletter.

8. John Poland: Speaker.

Introduced by Denice Wilkins: John is an Emeritus Professor from Queen's University where he spent 26 years. A member of the Kingston Field Naturalists and the Kingston Horticultural Society, he has published a "Pictorial Pocket Guide to the Butterflies of the Kingston Region" and received a United Way "Volunteers Grow Community" award for his work in developing community vegetable and butterfly gardens. John explained how to identify local butterflies, ways to attract them to your yard, and how to access data and contribute to science by reporting your sightings.

Thanked by Kathy Felkar who noted highlights she gleaned from the presentation: "If you plant it, they will come", the importance of biodiversity and the specific plants to attract butterflies, and the benefits of others learning from John's efforts and expertise. Thanked John for sharing his knowledge.

9. Adjournment: George Thomson

Thanks for coming. Please stay for snacks and social; thanks to Doug Newfield for refreshments; please contribute \$2 for bird-friendly coffee supplied by Kathy Felkar.

Next meeting: October 24th.

Addendum re attendance tonight: 42 Addendum re refreshments: also supplied by Nancy Stevenson

Addendum re Errors/Omissions: Please let me know if you find any!