



March 2012

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Sandra Dowds

President's Message

Bob Simmons



Welcome to an early spring after a mild winter. Is this an indication of weather changing? It would seem so. It is not surprising given the decrease in ice in the Arctic which allows the Arctic waters to become warmer. We will experience fewer polar plunges allowing for more Gulf of Mexico warmth to invade us.

We have seen the effect with the water fowl migration almost over. Kaiser Cross Road fields full of water are empty of the usual numerous flocks of water fowl. There are only a few stragglers. There are reports of birds that we usually see a few weeks from now. The spring peepers are providing their evening chorus. Pussy Willows are out along with the crocuses and snow drops. Robins and Doves are going through their mating rituals.

The wind turbine debate continues now with WPD Canada's White Pine Project that also impinges on the Important Bird Area and the coastal wetlands. There is no news yet on Ostrander Point. It is still being reviewed by the Ministry of the Environment.

Our AGM in May is coming closer. We do need more members on the executive if some step down. Nominations are open.

Bob

Newsletter Highlights

- Page 1 • President's Message
- Page 2 • Molly Mulloy Talk March 27
- Page 3 • April 24th Speaker: John Rogers: Bluebirds
- Page 4 • Ted Cheskey Talk May 16
• Ticks by Karen Smith
- Page 5 • Spring Birding Festival
- Page 6 • Millenium Trail Walk: Terry Sprague, Pamela Stagg
- Page 7 • Letter of thanks to PECFN members
- Page 8 • Ontario Nature Magazine
- Page 9-10 • PECFN Exec.Meeting Minutes



Terry Sprague photographed this quick-moving wood frog, one of the earliest frogs to call in the spring.

PECFN's March 27 speaker, Molly Mulloy
A Memorable Trip through Canada's North West



Molly Mulloy

You are invited to take a trip across Canada through British Columbia's interior to the coast, up the Alaskan 'panhandle' to Yukon, with a side trip to Atlin in northernmost B.C. We'll travel by rail (including one of the 5 engineering wonders of the world), bus, the 'Alaska Marine Highway' ferry, car, truck, plane, and on foot. For a month last spring Molly Mulloy and her parents experienced the vast flooded prairies, interior B.C., remote Alaskan and Yukon towns and villages, gold rush routes, and spectacular ocean, river and mountain vistas. This journey gives a wonderful, accessible perspective into the grandeur and vastness of our homeland, especially the northwest

Don't miss Molly's Annual Wild flower Walks at Mountainview

- Wed. April 25 at 2 pm (rain date April 26) for early wild flowers.
- Wed. May 9 at 2 pm (rain date May 10) for later wild flowers.



Red Trillium



Hepatica-acutiloba



Uvularia-grandiflora

PECFN's April 24th speaker

"All About Bluebirds - and More."
by John Rogers



Eastern Bluebird *photo courtesy Terry Sprague*

John's Rogers' presentation includes the life history of the Eastern Bluebird, nest box management, other birds that commonly nest in bluebird boxes, and more. The focus is on bluebirds, but John also shares his passion for the natural world in hopes the audience will absorb some broader and deeper messages about nature - and life. Also included are a just a few wildflowers, butterflies, and quotes by some great naturalists of the past. With visually beautiful photographs, sounds, and a sincere, enthusiastic presentation style, this program is of interest to anyone who appreciates nature.



John Rogers

John Rogers' presentation encompasses the life history of the Eastern Bluebird, nest box management, other birds that commonly nest in bluebird boxes, and more. The focus is on bluebirds, but John also shares his passion for the natural world in hopes the audience will absorb some broader and deeper messages about nature - and life. Also included are a just a few wildflowers, butterflies, and quotes by some great naturalists of the past. With visually beautiful photographs, sounds, and a sincere, enthusiastic presentation style, this program is of interest to anyone who appreciates nature.



Eastern Bluebird on nesting box at Lucks Crossroad
photo by David Stuckey

May 16 Ted Cheskey of Nature Canada 7pm in Bloomfield Town

Hard Travelin':

The role of Important Bird Areas in protecting key habitat for migrating birds

Speaker: Ted Cheskey, Nature Canada

Wednesday May 16, 7 pm at Bloomfield Town Hall

Coffee and Treats: Introduction to and sampling of PEPTBO "shade grown" coffee

In spring the birds we see in the South Shore Important Bird Area have come from their wintering grounds as far south as the southern cone of South America to their breeding grounds as far north as the arctic. Ted will focus on key areas along these migration pathways.

Ted will lead a bird walk to Ostrander Point the next morning Thursday May 17.

Meet at Elizabeth St parking lot for carpooling 8 am or at the corner of Helmer and Babylon Road 8:30.

Edward (Ted) Cheskey, MA, BES

Cheskey is Manager of Bird Conservation Programs for Nature Canada where he applies his passion for nature and knowledge of avian conservation and ecology to conserving Canadian birds. Some of his accomplishments since year 2000 include authoring 20 Important Bird Area Conservation Plans for the Important Bird Area program, participating in several aspects of the Ontario Breeding bird Atlas, designing and implementing 14 years of research on the impact of urban growth on forest birds, guiding birding trips in Central America, and co-founding the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory.

TICKED OFF

Information about Ticks from the article by Karen Smith in her Blog

Spring -- it's a great time to hike. But be careful! Ticks lurk in bushes and tall grass. They're most abundant in the spring (and fall) and these days, they can carry Lyme disease.

Blacklegged ticks are tiny...a dozen or more could fit on a dime. They feed by attaching to birds, animals or humans and become larger as they feed. Their bite is painless, but about 10% are infected with Lyme disease.

To protect yourself, wear a hat, long sleeves, closed shoes and gaiters. Button your shirt and tuck pants into socks or boots. Ticks show up better on light-coloured clothing. Apply insect repellent that contains DEET to clothing and boots. Perform regular "tick checks". (Have your partner view your entire body back and front, using a magnifying glass). Adult ticks wander around the body and choose warm hairy places, so run your fingers through your hair and examine your scalp. Ticks can also attach in the groin, under the arms, in or behind the ears, or under women's breasts. Don't forget to check children and pets.

Remove ticks within 18-24 hours to reduce the risk of infection. Apply a blob of petroleum jelly (Vaseline), covering the tick completely – it will be smothered and fall off. Wash the bite site with soap and water, and/or disinfect it with hydrogen peroxide, alcohol or household antiseptic.

Contact a doctor immediately if you develop symptoms of Lyme disease : a circular rash at the site of the bite after 3 days or more; fatigue; chills; fever; headache; muscle and joint pain; swollen lymph nodes. If untreated, the disease can cause serious and recurring arthritis and neurological problems, even paralysis. Fortunately, fatalities from Lyme disease are rare. *edited by Pamela Stagg*



Prince Edward County Spring Birding Festival 2012 May 12 – 21, 2012



Yellow-breasted chat
photo by Terry Sprague

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.

Join us as at the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory as we celebrate the annual spring migration, and experience the rich birding opportunities that the County has to offer.

Opening of the Festival at the Observatory, Saturday, May 12, 10 am

Guided Bird Walks and Tours

May 12 – 21: Daily guided bird walks (approx. 2 hours) begin at 8:00 am in the **Point Traverse Woods**. The walks focus on songbird migrants including up to 30 species of warblers. Learn to identify by sight and sound. There is a charge of \$5/person.

May 12 & 19, Saturday afternoon hikes to the Lighthouse: 4 – 6 pm, \$5/person

Sandbanks Hikes: (all walks are free, but a park permit is required):

May 13, 9 am, Mother's Day Bird Walk, meet at Lakeshore Lodge Day Use Area

May 13, 2 pm, Mother's Day Wildflower Walk, meet at Visitor Centre

May 20, 1 pm, Dunes Walk, meet at Dunes Beach Day Use Area

May 17, Thursday, Guided Bird Walk with Ted Cheskey at Ostrander Point

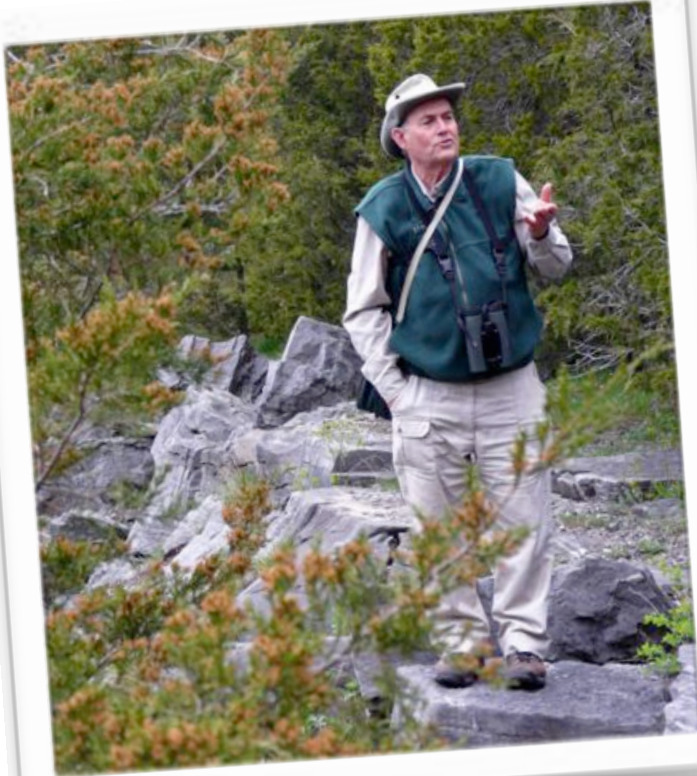
Meet at Elizabeth St parking lot in Picton for car-pooling at 8 am, or at the corner of Helmer and Babylon Road at 8:30 am (limited parking available). Wear appropriate footwear and bring insect repellent.

May 20, Sunday, Birding the County Tour with Prince Edward County Field Naturalists Cheryl Anderson and Myrna Wood. Meet at the **Mariners' Park Museum**, 2065 County Road 13 at 8:00 am. The tour will highlight some of the County's best birding spots, and will last until noon. (\$5/person)



Cheryl birding on County Rd. 13, on way to Prince Edward Point *photo by Sarah Lowe*

Free Millennium Trail Hike, May 27th at 10:00 am



Terry Sprague
photo by Henri Garand

The Hillier Recreation Committee is sponsoring a 6.7 km hike from Greer Road to Connolly Road, guided by Terry Sprague and Pamela Stagg. Meet at Hillier Hall any time after 9:15 for free refreshments before the hike. There will be a free shuttle bus to and from the trail and a rest stop with a toilet midway through the hike. Come explore the section of the trail chosen by Wellington Rotary for their trail improvement project.



Pamela Stagg
photo by Donald McClure



Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust

Hastings Prince
Edward Land Trust
PO Box 20042
Belleville, Ont K8N 5V1

Dear *P. E. Field Naturalists Member,*

23 February 2012

Re : Miller Nature Reserve

I am writing to express my sincere thanks to you for your contribution to the Stewardship Fund for the Miller Nature Reserve , and for contributing to the success of our fund-raising campaign . With your help , the Land Trust has been successful in purchasing this new Nature Reserve , which we could not have completed without the strong support of our community .

Together we have protected 490 acres of land on the Lake Ontario shoreline in Prince Edward County , including a Provincially Significant Coastal Wetland , a substantial part of the Important Bird Area on the south shore of the County , and a diversity of habitats for a wide variety of flora and fauna , including habitat for several species at risk . This acquisition represents a milestone in the protection of a highly significant part of the natural heritage of the County , and the Land Trust is pleased to have succeeded in our mission to help the community to conserve biodiversity on this part of Lake Ontario .

The Land Trust wishes to recognize the support of our donors by hosting a reception to be held on Thursday , 29 March at 7:00 p.m. in the old Picton Town Hall to celebrate our success . You are cordially invited to attend and share in some refreshments to mark this special occasion . Please RSVP to info@hpelt.org or 613 962-4648 by 19 March .

On behalf of the Land Trust Board of Directors and Executive , thanks again , and we look forward to seeing you at our reception .

Sincerely ,

Stewart Murray , President HPELT

Are you a "paid up" PECFN member? Send cheque for \$15 to PECFN, Box 414, Bloomfield, ON K0K 1G0

ONTARIO NATURE Magazine Subscription

Ontario Nature continues to protect wild species and wild spaces through conservation, education and public engagement. From spearheading the creation of a wilderness area in Algonquin Park in 1934 to the creation of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan in 2001; advocating for Ontario's original Endangered Species Act 1971 to pushing for its timely revision in 2007, Ontario Nature has been at the forefront of the conservation movement in this province. Currently it is working to preserve the Bobolink, Blanding's and Snapping turtles as well as a new addition of a large nature reserve on the Bruce Peninsula.

Today, Ontario Nature's voice is sustained by a Nature Network of more than 140 member organizations and 30,000 members and supporters.

Recently, in order to streamline internal processes and reduce administrative expenses it has made some changes:

- The magazine *ON Nature*, will no longer be sold on newsstands. It will be an exclusive benefit of your membership. This will allow ON to provide us with a charitable tax receipt for 100% of our memberships. If you would like an additional copy to give as a gift or would like to purchase a gift of membership for someone just ask.
- All members will be encouraged to renew at the same time of year in late winter early spring. Cards will be produced internally and save costs.
- Everyone who donates \$10 or more will be considered a member of Ontario Nature. However, donations of \$50 or more will include the benefit of receiving *ON Nature* except for students and seniors who will continue to receive it for their \$40 memberships.

Membership cost categories

Member	\$10 (without <i>ON Nature</i>)
Bronze	\$50 +
Silver	\$150 +
Gold	\$500 +
Student/Senior	\$40
Family Members	\$55
School/Library	\$45

PECFN donates a subscription to the PEC Library annually.

In order to join go to http://onf.r-sourcecenter.com/Event/Reg_form.asp?Event_ID=2

Or call **1-800-440-2366**.

Minutes March 12, 2012
Executive Meeting, Prince Edward County Field Naturalists
Picton Library

Present: Sandra Dowds, John Brett, Bob Simmons, Myrna Wood, Cheryl Anderson, Agneta Sand, Sheena Kennedy, Pamela Stagg.

Absent: Karen Smith

1. Agenda was approved.
2. Minutes of Feb. 13 were approved.
3. Status Reports

A. Membership Report

John reported that we now have 46 paid members. We discussed the idea for a PECFN display to raise our profile. We should have it done for the May Birding Festival. A committee of Cheryl, Bob, and Myrna will recruit others at the March meeting. Suggestions for both paper and power point. All members are invited to attend the Miller Trust reception Mar 29 7pm at Picton Town Hall.

B. Treasurer's Report

Bank statement \$1095. We have paid all our bills including the Hall rental for the remainder of 2012. The new County Hall policy is that Community Groups will pay \$60 per rental or a maximum of \$300 per year. John will write a budget for 2013 with approximate expected costs and income.

C. PEPtBO

Cheryl reported that banding will start Easter weekend. Members can register to do a Birdathon online before May 1. PECFN's event will be May 16 at Bloomfield Hall for Ted Cheskey to speak on our IBA's role in inter-continental migration. It will also have bird-friendly coffee and treats. We will have a display for Nature Canada as well as PECFN.

D. Networking

Ontario Nature will no longer sell the magazine in stores. It will be available through memberships. We will put a notice in the newsletter.

Sheena and Pamela announced a Millennium Trail walk May 27 10 am. They will be making presentations to Rotary on the plan for surfacing it. County staff used wood choppers to widen the trail last year. They have an annual budget of \$20,000 to maintain the trail. If we join the Rotary and Trail users to become involved in a plan to maintain the trail, we can curtail the use of their machinery, and keep the removal of vegetation to the minimum.

E. Turbines

Cheryl and Myrna reported on the wpd White Pines project. In preparation for its Mar 22 public meeting at the high school they have studied the report, toured the sites and put a notice on the blog. On the weekend they observed a number of sites have already started cutting trails for access roads. At the same time the company slightly changed the locations of some of the turbines, apparently to avoid the Black Creek Valley ANSI. We will continue to monitor the project's plans.

F. Newsletter. Deadline is March 15.

4. Outings

- Kaiser Crossroads Migrants Friday Feb 23. Meet at Bob's 2705 County Rd #7 at 1pm rain or shine.
- Molly will notify us for spring wildflowers in the woods.
- May 27 Millennium Trail Walk.
- Barbeque and walk at Bob Simmons' Sat. June 16. Walk 2pm, BBQ at 4pm.
- We will postpone the Frontenac Park idea until fall.

5. Indoor Programs

March 27 – Molly Molloy – Trip to Yukon and Alaska

April 24 - Bluebird speaker John Rogers

May 29 – AGM Joe Nocera, Trent, on Bobolinks.

Sept 25 – Coastal Wetlands speaker – Bob will investigate

Oct 30 – Bob Simmons –TBA

Nov 27 – Pamela Stagg – “How plants adapt to the sub-Arctic”.

Cheryl will look into a program by Point-to-Point.

6. New Business

We will approach members who might join the Executive.

7. Next Meeting Mon. April 2, 2012 2-4 Picton Library confirmed.