

# *The Quinte Naturalist*

*The Quinte Field Naturalists Association is affiliated with Ontario Nature, a non-profit organization sponsoring nature education, conservation and research.*



Photo Courtesy Brock University UNESCO Chair

<https://brocku.ca/unesco-chair/2020/09/18/fall-food-for-pollinators/>

In Ontario there are over 30 species of goldenrod and 34 species of their close relatives, asters. You can find them blooming from August up to the end of October or even later in

milder years. They are essential for pollinators and they are beautiful. What more could you want?

In allergy season goldenrod gets a bad rap. You are unlikely to have a problem with goldenrod unless you stick your nose right into the flowers. What's the real culprit? The clue is in the flowers. Goldenrod pollen is relatively heavy and requires the insects to carry it from plant to plant. It's spectacular clusters of blooms are perfect to attract insects. The real culprit is ragweed. Look closely at ragweed flowers. They couldn't be blaher. They are so blah that I had to use a word that may not even be a word. The plant doesn't need to put effort into producing beauty. Its pollen is light and carried to other plants and your nose by the wind.



Photo Courtesy Minnesota Wildflowers.  
<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/>



*Photo by John Lowry*

You must look closely to see the tiny white flowers on common ragweed. New England Aster is another plant beloved by insects and wildflower gardeners.

# CLUB NEWS

**September Meeting** – To paraphrase Charles Dickens this first meeting of the season was the worst of times; it was the best of times. About 30 minutes before the meeting the speaker phoned me to say that she was having navigation problems and would not be able to get to Belleville on time. Disaster seemed inevitable. Fortunately, Elizabeth, as she so often does, saved the day.

Elizabeth looked over the presentations which she has on her laptop and chose one particularly relevant for QFN, “Pollinator Power.” She and George fascinated us with pictures and explanations of how they have managed their property, Hepatica Hill, to provide for pollinators while also providing humans with healthy food and beautiful plants.

Thank you to Elizabeth and George. No scheduled speaker could have been better prepared or given their message in a more audience-friendly way.

During the discussion period Greg Parsons recommended a website which gives gardening resources specific to your location and conditions <https://birdgardens.ca/>. Gardening for birds is not quite the same as gardening for pollinators but it is quite possible to do both. Locally our native plant nursery is Natural Themes, a little west of Frankford. Check Bea’s catalogue of plants which gives the average height and light and moisture requirements for native pollinator plants. <http://www.naturalthemes.com/>. Talk to Bea for more advice.



***Red columbine, ,Aquilegia canadensis, is one of my favourite native spring wildflowers. It has its limitations because of a short flowering season but it provides pollen and nectar for insects. It also provides nectar for ruby-throated hummingbirds during their journey north. As the birds probe long tubes for nectar they bump their foreheads on the dangling yellow stamens, collecting pollen which will then be carried to other plants. Everybody wins. Photo by Jason King***

# Our October Meeting – Bats, Myth and Reality

**Speaker: Jonathan Balcombe**



Jonathan Balcombe is a biologist with a PhD in ethology, the study of animal behavior. His studies on bats included a MSc from Carleton University, for which he investigated bats eavesdropping on the echolocation of other bats to locate good insect food patches. His PhD (Univ of Tennessee) field work was done in southern Texas where he showed that Mexican free-tailed bat moms can recognize their pup by voice alone.



*BIG BROWN BAT - PHOTO BY JASON KING*

**When: Monday, October 16, 7 p.m.**

**Where: Centennial Secondary School, 160 Palmer Road, Belleville. Parking is on the side of the school by Harder Drive. The shortest route to the Cafeteria is through the door nearest to the old arena, now the Quinte Bay Gymnastics building.**

There will be treats! But please bring your own beverage as we don't have access to a kitchen.

As the world's least understood mammals, bats are the subject of a wide range of misconceptions. In this illustrated presentation, Jonathan will address some of the most prominent of these. There are over 1300 species of bats, making them the most diverse group of mammals, second only to rodents. He will also discuss some of the remarkable ways in which bats live, including how they find food, communicate, parent, and cooperate.

## Shirley Langer Trail Planting Project



*PHOTO BY JOHN LOWRY*

City staff have planted the larger trees. Now it's up to QFN and other volunteers to plant the smaller shrubs and wildflowers. If you can help, 10:00 am to 12 noon on October 10, please contact John Lowry [johnslowry18@gmail.com](mailto:johnslowry18@gmail.com).

Participants are encouraged to bring their own gardening/work gloves and shovels if you have them. Otherwise, there will be extras on hand.

QFN appreciates the support of Bay View Home Hardware and Belleville Home Building Centre and Tree Canada in securing these grants for tree planting in our community. This is a great example of how we can partner with business members in the community and other non-profit organizations for a brighter future for people and wildlife.



**Don't forget another project needing volunteers** - The Quinte Field Naturalists are looking for a few good volunteers! Members will have the opportunity to participate in a forest restoration project at Sandbanks Provincial Park on the weekend of **October 14-15, 2023**.

In a cooperative effort with park staff and the Friends of Sandbanks organization, volunteers can assist in a Buckthorn removal project at West Point. This is the second year of this ongoing restoration effort.

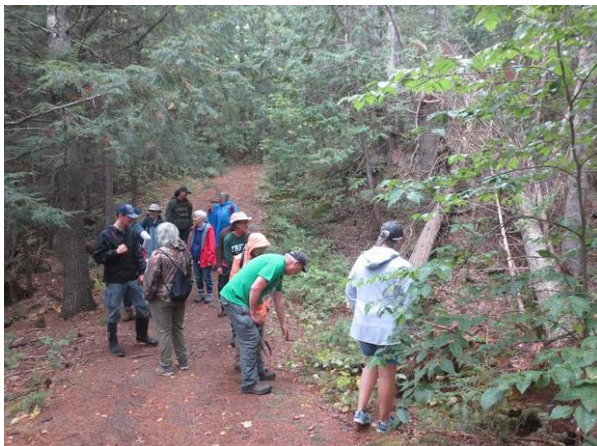
Volunteers are asked to help out from 9 am to 12 noon on one or both days. Work will entail volunteers pulling cut buckthorn branches to a centralized wood chipper where trained staff will chip up the branches. If you would be interested in participating please contact John Lowry at [johnslowry18@gmail.com](mailto:johnslowry18@gmail.com).

## Beaver Creek Outing – September 12



Thanks to Ted Pordham for pictures (Bottle gentian and typical Hastings Junction sights.)

Luke Ridgway from NCC was our guide. He and his two assistants were excellent. It was a little damp but our hard and hearty group had an enjoyable walk. Beautiful property. And of course, a nice lunch afterwards.



## QFN Members at Another Volunteer Project



Photos and story by John Lowry

A group of volunteers from a variety of organizations – including the Quinte Field Naturalists – gathered at Lions Beaver Lake Park on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> to participate in a shoreline restoration project. The volunteers spent the morning planting native plants along the shoreline and then the afternoon cutting and removing phragmites at the same location.

The project is a cooperative venture between the Friends of the Salmon River, Quinte Conservation and the Tamworth and District Lions Club. The multi-year shoreline restoration project, which focuses on the removal of invasive phragmites and the planting of native foliage, is taking place along the shoreline of the Lions Beaver Lake Park, located at the western end of Beaver Lake, adjacent to Highway 41.

A highlight of the day's activities was the 'arrival' of a brand-new Monarch butterfly. The butterfly emerged from its pupa in the middle of the day and immediately made itself at home in the park.



# A New Invader!

Thanks to Denice Wilkins for alerting me to this problem.

The first North American sighting of this nasty insect was in 2014 in Pennsylvania and it has been rapidly spreading out since then.

Spotted lanternflies are a particular threat to the Quinte area. They kill grapevines and ruin orchards.

What should you do if you do find one? Here are some tips from the Invasive Species Centre



PHOTO BY TANYA CAMPBELL, OAKVILLE  
ONTARIO

- Learn to recognize SLF at all life stages (eggs, nymphs and adults) and report all sightings to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Remember to STOP IT, SNAP IT, CATCH IT and REPORT IT.
- STOP IT – In the spring and summer, be on the lookout for SLF nymphs and adults. In the fall and winter, look for SLF egg masses.
- SNAP IT – Try to get clear photographs of the specimen(s).
- CATCH IT – Scrape off egg masses into a plastic bag filled with hand sanitizer or rubbing alcohol and seal it. A plastic bag with egg masses can also be stored in the freezer if hand sanitizer or rubbing alcohol are not readily available. If you find an SLF nymph or adult, try to put it into a sealed container for specimen confirmation. SLF does not bite or sting.
- REPORT IT – Submit precise location and habitat information and any photographs of SLF eggs, nymphs or adults to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at [Contact CFIA online – Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](https://www.inspection.gc.ca/contact-us/contact-us-english).



EGGS  
SEPT – APR



EARLY NYMPH  
APR – JUL



LATE NYMPH  
JUL – SEPT



ADULT  
JUL – DEC

