

Quinte Field Naturalists
General Meeting of the Membership
September 15, 2025 @ 7pm
Maranatha Church

Attendance: 43

1. **Welcome:** Elizabeth Churcher
2. **Land Acknowledgement:** Elizabeth
3. **Housekeeping items:**
 - Directions to washrooms
 - Next meeting October 20, 2025: Gary Magwood/Steven Burr present "Preserving Our Dark Skies- Hello Darkness"
 - Snacks available after meeting thanks to Cathy Lake and Nancy Stevenson
 - Sign-up sheet to bring snacks to other meetings on snack table
4. **Financial Report:** Dan Guenther reported a bank balance of over \$20,000 noting that half of that is for planting projects with the remainder for management and support of QFN. He reminded members of QFN donations made to date: \$300 to Sandy Pines in honour of Denice Wilkins, and \$500 to help send a student to Ontario Youth Summit. There is over \$3000 left to be donated to projects that match our goals. Dan suggested anyone with ideas of how this money should be used should email QFN.
5. **Tree Committee Report:** Greg Parsons wearing his bright yellow bucket hat explained that 20 such hats had been purchased for use by QFN members working at tree plantings and events so others at these events know which person to ask for advice or information. Greg reported on the phenomenal success of the May plant sale which raised over \$10,000 all of which is used for tree/plant projects. Tree committee members also organized watering parties 6 times during the summer to help the plants through the very dry summer. Greg outlined details of fall plantings at Cascade Park on Sept 19 and at Clifford Sonny Belch Park on October 3 and 4.
6. **Volunteer Recruitment:** Lori Borthwick explained the many ways in which members can assist QFN: sitting at QFN table at events; weeding and watering existing gardens, working at plant sale, tech support for Instagram and Facebook, building turtle nest protectors. October 18-19 there is a buckthorn blitz at Sandbanks Provincial Park

where volunteers remove buckthorn branches cut by park staff; this event regularly has several QFN members participating. If you would like to assist QFN in its attempts to better service nature in our area please sign up with Lori.

7. **Outings and Wildflower Update:** John Lowry reported that he will still collect alcohol containers but not cans. Funds raised will be donated to Nature Conservancy on December 2, 2025. Outings were enjoyed at Stocco Fen, Goodrich-Loomis CA and Nellie Lunn Trail in Coe Hill. Next outing to be at Ferris PP on Sept 25.
Nature Minute: John presented beautiful images of New England Asters, Canada Goldenrod, Fringed Gentian and Nodding Beggar Ticks.
8. **Sightings:** John Blaney reported that by using the Merlin app at night he learned that numerous Swainson's thrushes were migrating over Belleville. Greg Parsons had seen lots of monarchs on his blazing star plants. There was a report of 50 turtles rescued over the summer behind McNabb Towers. A crow and a rabbit were reported playing together. John Lowry saw 2 deer at the Hemitite Rd. property he visited. George Thomson reported bats in the attic of their home.
9. **Guest speaker:** Elizabeth Churcher introduced Katie Church from the Invasive Species Centre who spoke about water soldier and how it is being treated in Bay of Quinte where fortunately it is not yet as big a problem as it is in Lake Simcoe. Summer students monitor it here. Boaters can help by not boating through it, cleaning boats after use and disposing of any plants far away from any bodies of water. Sightings of water soldier should be reported to EDDMAPS, an on-line mapping system, giving details and exact co-ordinates. Beth Ormston thanked Katie and her assistant for their clear presentation of this invasive plant and its status in our area.
10. **Closure:** Elizabeth thanked everyone for attending.
Minutes prepared by Sharron Blaney