

# THE HALIFAX FIELD NATURALIST



No. 145

December 2011 to February 2012



In This Issue.....	2
News & Announcements .....	3
Special Reports/Articles .....	4
HFN Talks .....	5

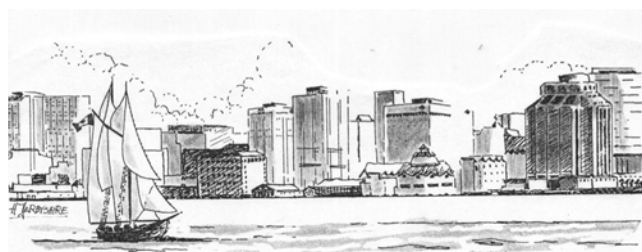
HFN Field Trips .....	8
Nature Notes .....	12
Almanac .....	13
Hfx Tide Table: January to March.....	15

Return address:     HFN, c/o NS Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, NS, B3H 3A6

---



**HFN** is incorporated under the Nova Scotia Societies Act and holds Registered Charity status with Canada Revenue Agency. Tax-creditable receipts will be issued for individual and corporate gifts. **HFN** is an affiliate of Nature Canada and an organisational member of Nature Nova Scotia, the provincial umbrella association for naturalist groups in Nova Scotia. **Objectives** are to encourage a greater appreciation and understanding of Nova Scotia's natural history, both within the membership of HFN and in the public at large, and to represent the interests of naturalists by encouraging the conservation of Nova Scotia's natural resources. **Meetings** are held, except for July and August, on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax; they are open to the public. **Field Trips** are held at least once a month; it is appreciated if those travelling in someone else's car share the cost of the gas. **Participants** in HFN activities are responsible for their own safety. Everyone, member or not, is welcome to take part in field trips. **Memberships** are open to anyone interested in the natural history of Nova Scotia. Forms are available at any meeting of the society, or by writing to: Membership Secretary, Halifax Field Naturalists, c/o N.S. Museum of Natural History. Members receive the quarterly **HFN Newsletter** and **HFN Programme**, and new memberships received from September 1st to December 31st of any year are valid until the end of the following membership year. The regular membership year is from January 1st to December 31st.



## IN THIS ISSUE

<b>News &amp; Announcements</b> .....	3
From the Editor .....	3
2011 NSNT Dinner/Auction .....	3
"12% by 2015" – get involved! .....	3
YNC – Robin Messelman, new Coordinator .....	3
<b>HFN Reports/Special Articles</b> .....	4
Payzants receive well-deserved 2011 Criddle Award ..	4
A Robin Story – Phyllis Bryson .....	4
<b>HFN Talks</b> .....	5
Listening to Nature – we <i>can</i> make a difference .....	5
Kiliminjaro – an 11-day climb .....	6
<b>HFN Field Trips</b> .....	8
White Star Line's SS Atlantic – now memorialised .....	8
McNab's Island – clean-up, history, and more .....	9
Noggins & Kentville Trails – N.S. natural beauty .....	11



<b>HFN ADDRESS</b>	
Halifax Field Naturalists, c/o N.S. Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, N.S., B3H 3A6	
<b>Email:</b> hfninfo@yahoo.ca	
<b>Website:</b> halifaxfieldnaturalists.ca	
<b>NNS ADDRESS</b>	
Nature Nova Scotia, c/o N.S. Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, N.S., B3H 3A6	
<b>Email:</b> doug@fundymud.com (Doug Linzey, NNS Secretary and Newsletter Editor)	
<b>Website:</b> naturens.ca	
<b>EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>
<b>President</b>	Janet Dalton .....443-7617
<b>Vice-President</b>	Vacant .....
<b>Treasurer</b>	Doris Balch.....423-3342
<b>Secretary</b>	Richard Beazley.....429-6626
<b>Past President</b>	Allan Robertson.....422-6326
<b>Directors</b>	Grace Beazley, Elliott Hayes, Bob McDonald, Burkhard Plache, Ingrid Plache, Lillian Risley, Stephanie Robertson.
<b>COMMITTEES</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>
<b>Membership Programme</b>	Lillian Risley .....422-8652
Talks/Trips	James Medill .....405-7446
	Elliott Hayes .....835-9819
	Janet Dalton .....443-7617
	Stephanie Robertson .....422-6326
Design	
<b>Newsletter</b>	Stephanie Robertson .....422-6326
Editor	Stephanie Robertson .....422-6326
Design	Patricia Chalmers .....422-3970
Almanac	Ursula Grigg .....681-1264
Taxonomy	Bernice Moores.....422-5292
Distribution	Doug Linzey .....582-7176
Labels	Regine Maass
<b>Tea Break</b>	Bob McDonald.....443-5051
<b>Conservation</b>	Bob McDonald (Sept. 22 meeting) ....443-5051
<b>NNS Rep.</b>	David Patriquin .....423-5716
<b>YNC Rep.</b>	Jim Medill .....405-7446
<b>PSAs</b>	David Patriquin.....423-5716
<b>Web Design</b>	
<b>FEES 2010/2011</b>	
<b>Student</b> .....	\$15.00 per year
<b>Individual</b> .....	\$20.00 per year
<b>Family</b> .....	\$25.00 per year
<b>Supporting</b> .....	\$30.00 per year
<b>NNS (opt.)</b> .....	\$5.00 per year

<b>Nature Notes</b> .....	12
<b>October</b> – Ring-neck Snakes, Blue Grosbeaks, more	8
<b>November</b> – Strawberries!, a Yellow Leg, rare goose	8
<b>Almanac</b> .....	13
<b>Natural Events</b> .....	13
Interesting seasonal phenomena .....	13
<b>Organisational Events</b> .....	13
<b>Blom. Nat. Soc.</b> – Eagles, Orchids, Sniffer Dogs .....	13
<b>Burke Gaffney Observatory</b> – 1st & 3rd Saturdays ..	14
<b>N.S. Bird Society</b> – New Birders, Sewer Stroll, more	14
<b>N.S. Mus. of Nat. Hist.</b> – Nektukulimk, 3-D Sphere ..	14
<b>N.S. DNR</b> – Winter outings are on their website.....	14
<b>N.S. Wild Flora</b> – 4th Mon. each month .....	14
<b>N.S. Inst. Science</b> – Orchards, oil, gold mining .....	14
<b>Royal Astronomical Society</b> – 3rd Fri. each month ..	14
<b>YNC</b> – Cetaceans, Fish, Astronomy .....	14
<b>Halifax Tide Table</b> – Jan. to Mar.; <b>all times AST!</b>	15

**GRAPHICS** All uncredited illustrations are by H. Derbyshire or from copyright-free sources. **Front Cover** - Maple leaf on frosty stream, G. Ward; **Back Cover** - Pine trunks with snow, Will Smithey Jr.; **Tide Table** - Canadian Hydrographic Service, Fisheries & Oceans Canada.

# HFN NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FROM THE EDITOR

– *Stephanie Robertson*

Are we seeing more and more effects of global warming on our local weather? Record high temperatures occurred in November, and the little brown winter moths were to be seen well into the middle of December around our front door.

The highlight of our fall, at the NSNT's silent auction in September (see item below,) was our successful bid for a Bon Portage boat trip, along with Bob Bancroft, Alice Reed, and Richard and Grace Beazley. I had become intimately acquainted with this island through Evelyn Richardson's *We Keep a Light*, and *My Other Islands*. Dates are as yet undecided, but we are aiming to avoid prolonged stranding by stormy spring weather!

As you can see from our masthead on page two, the space for the Vice President's name is empty. We encourage members to consider joining the board. We are a volunteer organisation, and we need volunteers!

## NSNT ANNUAL DINNER/AUCTION

On Wednesday, September 28th, 2011, The Nova Scotia Nature Trust held its annual dinner and auction, with a coastal theme, at the World Trade and Convention Centre.

The silent auction boasted items from limited-edition Alice Reed prints to a lightning detector to an overnight trip for six to Bon Portage Island. Renowned photojournalist Len Wagg treated everyone to a 'coastal' presentation. He's been photographing Nova Scotian people and landscapes (many unique ones from airplanes) for 20 years. There was also a live performance by well-known silk artist Holly Carr accompanied by the talented pianist J.P. Ellis; she painted a beautiful aquatic-themed silk banner which was later auctioned off.

An important highlight was the presentation of the 2011 Nature Trust Conservation Award. This year it went to Dean of Biology/Vice President of Acadia Dr. Tom Herman and Acadia University itself, for their vision and commitment to protecting some of the most unique and ecologically significant properties through partnership with the Nova Scotia Nature Trust. The first property to be protected will be Bon Portage Island, one of Nova Scotia's last large undeveloped coastal islands, and a critical refuge for birds.

## "12%" – STILL NOT TOO LATE

The deadline for input regarding which wild N.S. lands warrant protection has been extended to February 10th.

Protected places are where families can go to enjoy nature. They support research and education and are part of what makes Nova Scotia such a great place to live, leaving a natural legacy for future generations. Wild spaces give us clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and help to lessen the effects of climate change by capturing and storing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen. Fish, wildlife, and plants can thrive in these protected natural habitats.

In 2007, the provincial government passed legislation that commits to protecting 12% of Nova Scotia's land by 2015. Progress is being made, but there is still a lot of work to do. For more information, and to share your ideas, go to <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/12percent/get.involved.asp>. To help

protect West Ironbound Island, go to <http://www.kccns.org/index.htm>. These webpages will help you understand why we need to protect our land and what you can do to assist. Groups and individuals may make submissions. Get involved!

## YNC REPORT

– *Robin Musselman*

My name is Robin Musselman, the new Young Naturalists Club (YNC) Provincial Coordinator, continuing the great work that Laura Lambie did last year as she has returned to teaching.

It has been an exciting fall for the YNC with the starting of five new chapters around the province – in Wolfville, Lunenburg, St. Margaret's Bay, Stellarton, and Wittenburg! All the chapters have had very successful talks and field trips over the last few months – presentations on Migrating Birds; Owls; the Ecology of the Acadian Forest; the Tides of the Bay of Fundy; Whitefish and Atlantic Salmon; Lichens and Slugs; River Degradation and Restoration; Species at Risk; Beavers; Tree Growth and Identification; Amphibians; and Beach Ecology, with many associated field trips to beaches, forests, woodlots, and museums! Each chapter is led by a local volunteer leader and I work with them to develop a programme that works well for their own individual community.

The Halifax Chapter has had some great presentations and field trips as well. This fall they've explored habitats and plant communities at Conrad's Beach with Dr. Dave Patriquin, and had Walter Regan from the Sackville Rivers Association talk about Atlantic Salmon and other species native to the Sackville River. Sadly, the river field trip was cancelled due to heavy rains the previous night, but they do plan to go back in the spring to see the salmon. In November, Dr. Ron Russell gave an engaging presentation about Amphibians and Reptiles, and Wendy Macdonald led a biology walk on the Suzie's Lake trail. In the new year, plans are afoot to visit the Bedford Institute of Oceanography to learn about deep sea corals and to explore the touch tank, among other excursions.

In 2012 I hope to build stronger relationships with other regional naturalists clubs to seek support for new YNCs in their area. As well, I've been liaising with other YNCs across the country to explore the idea of a national YNC network in cooperation with Nature Canada. We also continue to work with other communities interested in starting a YNC. I've also been updating the website in order to make it more informative and interactive for our members; we'd like them to be able to post their own nature observations, and we'd like also to inform members of any other family- and/or youth-friendly nature activities happening around the province.

We are very appreciative of the Halifax Field Naturalists support, especially with all the great presenters and field trip leaders that volunteer their time. If you are interested in leading a presentation or field trip in any of our chapters please feel free to contact me, 455-5643, or [yncns@yahoo.ca](mailto:yncns@yahoo.ca).

I'm looking forward to another great year of getting children in touch with nature!

# SPECIAL REPORTS/ARTICLES



## THE PAYZANTS RECEIVE THE 2011 ESC CRIDDLE AWARD

On the week of November 6th, 2011, the Entomological Society of Canada (ESC) held its annual meeting jointly with the Acadian Entomological Society in Halifax.

John Klymko gave a presentation on the Maritimes Butterfly Atlas, Chris Majka talked about his extensive beetle work in Nova Scotia, and Andrew Hebda and Jeff Ogden hosted entomologists from across the country in the collections of our Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History.

At this meeting, longtime HFN members Peter and Linda Payzant were presented with one of ESC's major awards, the Norman Criddle Award, presented by the Entomological Society of Canada to nonprofessional entomologists who, through their passion for insects, have made significant contributions to entomology in Canada.

Linda and Peter Payzant are both retired electrical engineers. Linda was born in Ottawa and educated at Carleton University and the Nova Scotia Technical College. Peter was born in Montreal and educated at Dalhousie University and the Nova Scotia Technical College. They met in graduate school and discovered a shared interest in natural history. Peter's interest in insects dates from a childhood meeting with biologist Pierre Taschereau at a YMCA camp, and Linda had had a long-standing interest in birding.

Linda and Peter have made many valuable contributions to entomology and conservation in Atlantic Canada. Initially, they did considerable collecting, focusing mainly on moths. During this period, staff at the Nova Scotia Museum, notably Barry Wright and Fred Scott, were particularly supportive. Their collection was eventually deposited with the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. The Payzants have now switched to using only a camera in their field work.

Peter and Linda were thrilled to be among the first to record the arrival in the province at Waverley, in 1980, of the Large Yellow Underwing, *Noctua pronuba* (L.); and also the arrival at Brier Island, in 1992, of a Common Ringlet, *Coenonympha tullia* (Mueller, 1764).

Both have served on the boards of several amateur naturalist organisations; organised the first Breeding Bird Atlas project for the Maritime Provinces; led many butterfly field trips; conducted yearly NABA butterfly count in the Halifax area for 13 years; and worked on field checklists of the butterflies and the odonates of Nova Scotia, currently maintaining a Nova Scotia butterfly website, [www.novascotiabutterflies.ca](http://www.novascotiabutterflies.ca).

They have combined their interest in entomology with a love of travel. Linda has been stung by an Inch Ant, *Myrmecia* sp., in Australia, and infested with chiggers in Trinidad. Peter has been bitten by a Tsetse fly in Kenya and stung by a Paper Wasp in the Galapagos. Both have marvelled at Birdwing Butterflies in Papua New Guinea and Blue Morphos in Costa Rica.

While they have no formal training in biology, they have derived a great deal of pleasure from their amateur efforts, and look forward to many more years of learning about entomology, and in particular butterflies and moths.

## A ROBIN STORY

– Phyllis Bryson

In the fall and winter of 2007/08, a male American Robin spent a great deal of time around our house and garden, perching in the maple tree beside our kitchen door. He lingered even after winter had arrived, and even after he had eaten all our small rose hips. I put out some blueberries and cut up some raisins in a sheltered spot within my view. He didn't eat the blueberries, but he stayed into April, 2008, becoming accustomed to my presence, and 'clucking' at me to feed him. He didn't return for the following winter of 2008/2009.

However, he did reappear in the late fall of 2009. We made eye contact, and I was sure it was the same bird, and so we resumed the routine of the first year of our acquaintance. Once again he refused blueberries, and he stayed around until the middle of May, 2010.

During the past winter of 2010/2011 he was absent. But, he did reappear on the 2nd of April. I began feeding him again at his request (once again refusing any blueberries!). Ten days later, a female American Robin appeared. I watched the male as he called her in to the place where I put out the raisins for him. He then left, while she stayed to feed upon them. I saw her on two more occasions, now with nesting material in her beak. As the weather improved and they were more able to garner natural food, they became less demanding, but I continued to supply raisins.





# HFN TALKS

## LISTENING TO NATURE 6 OCT.

– Allan Robertson

Bob Bancroft gave an inspiring presentation about habitat protection at our October meeting, writ both large and small. The large part – the poor job the Province is doing in habitat protection; the smaller part – how two people (Bob and his wife Alice Reed) have tried to improve and preserve habitat on their own land.

Most HFN members are familiar with Bob's strengths in wildlife biology and forest management. He's also familiar to many as radio's resident wildlife expert on CBC's Maritime Noon, and because of his volunteer work with river restoration groups. Bob spent 28 years with the provincial government; 15 as a wildlife biologist, and 14 as a fisheries biologist.

He didn't harp on the Province's practices – he simply stated that its record on forestry conservation and habitat preservation was very poor. The degree of clear-cutting is extensive, and wildlife is being stressed because of it. Trees are not allowed to become elderly anymore, and the setbacks from rivers and streams are far too small, with the fragmentation of woodlands reducing wildlife habitat even further.

36 years ago, in an effort to improve just a small part of Nova Scotia's over-stressed woodlands, Bob bought a piece of "crappy" land in Pomquet for a personal attempt at habitat restoration. It's now known as The Reed/Bancroft Property, and stands as an example of how two people can make a difference for the better in the way land is managed. His talk was titled "Action for Wildlife, Aquatic Planning, and Management, based upon 36 years of research at the Reed/Bancroft property at Pomquet, Nova Scotia."

### BOB'S PRESENTATION

#### History

The original Acadian forest land of our property, even the wooded swamp, had been converted to fields and pasture by early settlers. The heavy hooves of farm animals had trampled and destroyed a small brook through the swamp; this had caused silting in of that channel which previously had flowed through the forest.

However, farming was abandoned in the mid-1900's, and by 1975 the forest which had regenerated on open ground was mostly composed of White and Black Spruce, Balsam Fir, Tamarack, Trembling and Large-tooth Aspen, Red Maple, and Wire and White Birch. There were remnant White and Black Ash, Yellow Birch, Beech, Sugar Maple, Hemlock, Red Spruce, White Pine, and young Red Oak from the original pre-settler woodlands.

The forest that had grown back in on the run-out pasture land had too many stems per acre, with trees competing for both light and root space. Where there was mixed forest – grass dominated the forest floor; under softwoods – there predominated a green mat of moss. There was little standing dead wood, and virtually no dead tree trunks on the ground.

## RESTORATION PLAN & WORK

### Forest Restoration Activities

We repeatedly thin the forest to encourage the establishment of species like White Ash from nearby seed sources. Where there is no nearby seed source, we site-prepare (create a gap in the forest canopy) and plant in order to restore shade-tolerant species. Browsing by White-tailed Deer, Porcupines, Muskrats, and Rabbits necessitates the quick protection of new plantings with wire cages; these cages require tending on a regular basis.

Native species that we plant or transplant include Hazel, Hawthorn, Staghorn Sumac, Common Elder, Indian Pear, White, Red, and Jack pine, Red Spruce, Hemlock, Eastern Cedar, Ironwood, White and Black Ash, Yellow Birch, Red Oak, and ferns and other ground cover species. We discovered some young Red Oaks, but no old ones, and the little ones rarely survived. These young trees had been 'Blue Jay-planted' from Red Oaks on a nearby island. Now, as we find the young oaks, we cage them so they do survive. After 36 years, the White ash and Red Oaks are now self-sustaining. We have also planted many apple trees for the wildlife.

When we thin the forest, the poorest wood is felled and left on-site to rot, and some is taken for firewood and posts. Shade-tolerant trees are helped by gradually removing their competition, pruning, and taking the limbs off nearby trees that interfere with their growth. At the same time, we strive to maintain a tall vertical component by using any tree species present while the young trees are growing. We manage a small number of Balsam Fir for Christmas trees for personal use.

### Wildlife Restoration – On the Land

Nest boxes were initially erected as substitutes for old tree cavities to be used by birds, bats, and Flying and Red Squirrels. Three decades later, sufficient holes or cavities exist in the forest, at least for smaller species. A pair of Barred Owls use one of the boxes; the rest are left for bats, they function well for them even when the bottoms fall out!

Coppice (multi-stemmed) Red Maples are managed for cavities, and Aspen are retained for Ruffed Grouse and other species. Standing dead trees are left for nuthatches, chickadees, woodpeckers, and flickers, and brush piles are built during forest operations for Yellowthroats, sparrows, Hares, and mice.

In the beginning, hollow logs were acquired and dispersed through the forest near waterways for use by Mink and Otter. We also created a windfall area for wintering Deer and Black Bear. Now, there are many natural windfalls in several areas as mature softwood trees die. We maintain several special management areas for Barred Owl nesting, Four-toed Salamanders, and Whitetail Deer wintering. Near our house, to help both our organic gardening and the animals, we've made rock piles to provide shelter for Chipmunks and many snakes, including Northern Redbelly, Maritime Garter,



Northern Ringneck, and Eastern Smooth Green Snakes. A section of the barn has become a very well-used area where snakes shed their skins in order to grow larger, so we are maintaining their access to this building. Many years ago, we cut a portion of an old field in order to rejuvenate habitat for Woodcock and Ruffed Grouse. We also thickened the hedges along field/property borders, and we mow fields only in mid-July, to assist Bobolinks that nest there.

We strive to minimise our roadway width so that forest losses due to road construction are also minimised. Spoils from the pond excavations are used to improve the forest road.

### Wildlife Restoration – Aquatic

Plunge pools were created in the brook, in order to remove silt and to restore a natural stone/gravel bottom habitat, by installing rocks and logs. We gradually favoured and planted hardwoods along the stream, since their leaves offer more nutrients for aquatic life.

Three 'dam-free' ponds with running water have been built, creating good trout habitat. Gaspereau, Smelt, Stickleback, Killifish, and many amphibians can also be found in this improved area. Regular visitors also include Otter, Mink, Whitetail Deer, Raccoon, Snowshoe Hare, Great Blue Heron, Bittern, Kingfisher, Willet (nesting), Black Duck (nesting), Wood Duck, and Green- and Blue-winged Teal. The big pond's outlet is used for bathing by many birds, including Bald Eagle and Red-tailed Hawk. Dragonflies, damselflies, and water scorpions abound!

The 'big' pond was designed with varied shorelines, including a private area away from view of the house for a wildlife retreat. It has littoral zones with two- to three-foot, five- to seven-foot, and ten-foot deep areas and it collects water from about 12 acres of wetland. The outlet uses spawning gravel to maintain the pond's level and to provide fish-friendly access to the salt marsh and harbour. Logs salvaged during the pond's excavation were placed in its shallows for frogs, birds, and other wildlife; an island was added for nesting birds – it offers water protection from some predators.

Aquatic vegetation was locally obtained and transplanted, including White Water Lily, Smartweed, a rush, and Pickerelweed. Other plants arrived naturally, some probably on duck feet! We also planted terrestrial vegetation along pond shorelines, ranging from trees to clover. The perimeter of this big pond was planted for shade, for erosion control, and to provide a cool water sanctuary for trout. Solid objects that a beaver could use to anchor a dam were not left near the outlet, and nearby trees were protected from beaver with welded wire. In two ponds, bundles of tree limbs have been sunk to the bottom to provide protection for fish from otter and mink. As well, three vernal or quiet-water pools have been built. There are no fish in vernal pools, so these new ponds have enabled the Four-toed Salamanders to extend their range a half kilometre to the east. They are also breeding habitat for Red-spotted Newt, Yellow-spotted Salamander, Blue-spotted Salamander, Wood Frog, Northern Spring Peeper, Leopard Frog, Green Frog, and Eastern American Toad.



### PLANNING AHEAD

More vernal ponds are planned, which require digging test holes and monitoring water levels. We are carefully considering sites for this activity in the woods and in the alder marsh. We'll also rake more moss and grass areas to disturb the forest floor. This promotes natural seedling establishment.

We strive to maintain diversity as an insurance policy against exotics like the Emerald Ash Borer, an Asian exotic that is traveling eastward from Ontario. At the same time, we're planning for climate change winners such as Red and Sugar Maple, Black Walnut, Hemlock, White Pine, Red Oak, White Ash, Black Ash, and Yellow Birch. We hope to plant some disease-resistant Beech when such stock becomes available, and to continue our silviculture/selection cuts to re-establish more shade tolerant Acadian forest species and more wildlife habitats.

Our woodlands and their habitats are a long-term investment, with potentially high, long-term economic and ecological values. And – it has become a lovely place for many things to live!



### KILIMANJARO

3 NOV.

– Richard Beazley

In January, 2011, Roy McBride had the opportunity to fulfill a long-time wish to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro while raising money for 'Make-A-Wish' Atlantic Provinces. He has been a contributor to this charity for five years because he wants to help "grant wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions, and to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy." Through this programme children are encouraged to 'reach for the stars', so to motivate his preparation activities and climbing, Roy carried a 'dream token' on which those words were engraved. He and seven fellow climbers raised over \$60,000 for Make-A-Wish, and in the end, six of those eight did reach the 'Roof of Africa'.

Kilimanjaro is the highest free-standing mountain in the world. It rises majestically from the Tanzanian plains close to the Kenyan border, just three degrees south of the equator. Even though it stands 5,895 metres (19,340 feet) tall, it can be climbed without technical equipment. Although long dormant, Kilimanjaro remains one of the world's largest volcanoes and technically it is not extinct.

The mountain contains a diversity of natural habitats; the climb to its summit passes through five distinct and remarkable vegetation zones, from savannah grasslands at the lower elevations, to rainforest and moorlands in mid-elevations, to alpine desert, and finally, to a glacial, arctic-like plateau at the summit. The climb is difficult up to 4,267 m/14,000 feet, perhaps like an extremely tough mountain hike. Higher up, especially above 4,572 m/15,000 feet, the climb is extremely exhausting due to thinning air, with just over half the oxygen contained in air that is breathed at sea level. The key to success is to

climb very slowly and to drink lots of water.

Healthy people in good physical and mental condition can accomplish this climb, and Roy enthusiastically encourages such people to 'go for it'. It may be the toughest and most challenging hike of a lifetime, and the most rewarding.

Roy's trip really began in the summer of 2010 when he started preparing for it. An avid lifelong pursuer of outdoor adventures, such preparation was not new to him. He just upped his kayaking, canoeing, bicycling, hiking, walking, and running efforts. Living in Halifax, Roy could not specifically prepare himself for high altitude climbing, but, from previous climbing experience, he knew his body had a high capacity to absorb any available atmospheric oxygen. Roy left Halifax on January 3rd and traveled via Montreal, Amsterdam, and Moshi to Kilimanjaro.

Let's climb with Roy during his 11-day journey on Kilimanjaro's Lemosho climbing route, which is the best route for "acclimatisation, scenery, and summit success." I'll describe the climb on a day-by-day basis and, as much as possible, in Roy's words.

**January 5 and 6** – in Moshi, Tanzania (altitude 914 m/3,000 ft).

Moshi was in the midst of one of its two annual dry seasons. The temperature hovered around 31°C, and the surrounding area looked arid. Nevertheless, the lowland plains surrounding the base of the mountain do provide farmers with ample water, enough to produce three to four harvests per year of vegetables like potatoes and carrots. Wood is a valuable product as well, and the conditions stimulate fir trees to grow three to four feet per year, which means they can be harvested about every five years. Little wonder that these plains at the base of the mountain are called the cultivation zone. I was in Moshi for two days to acclimatise, meet with guides for a detailed climb orientation, and get to know fellow climbers.

**January 7** – to Mt. Mikubwa (altitude 2,795 m/9,170 ft; trek 4 km/2.5 miles; 3-4 hours).

On this morning I witnessed the gear undergoing a final check. After a 45-minute drive, we entered Kilimanjaro National Park and checked in at the Londorosi Gate located on the western side of the mountain. It was chaotic – with government officials, Tusker Trail personnel, porters, and climbers intermingling as the porters' bags were packed, weighed, and repacked until each and every bag contained less than 23 kilograms, and until enough porters had been hired to carry them all.

Leaving Londorosi Gate, we drove 'til the road was impassable. Then we started our on-foot trek. This first day of climbing took us into the forest zone with its lush vegetation, flowering plants like the Alpine sugarbush, *Protea kilimandscharica*, *Helicrysum*, and abundant *Macaranga kilimandscharica* trees. The flora is mostly untouched and grows to the edge of the single-track trail. We saw many colourful birds, and in the afternoon we reached our first camp, called 'Big Tree', at Mt. Mikubwa.

The porters, "the backbone of the climb," arrived at Big Tree ahead of us, and by the time we arrived they had set up the all-weather dining tent with tables; comfortable chairs and gas lamps; two-person sleeping tents with rugged two-inch mattresses and rented sleeping bags with liners; and a toilet tent with a specially designed 'throne'. Porters also travelled up and down the mountain every other day to carry in water and fresh food and carry out human waste and garbage. Each climber carried a day pack

which held his or her day clothes, lunch, snacks, rain gear, water, camera, and a few other items.

**January 8** – to Shira Plateau (altitude 3,505 meters/11,500 feet; trek 8.4 km/5.2 miles, 7-8 hours).

In the morning we left the lush forest and entered the heath and moorland zone where we saw a very large termite nest and *Helicrysum argyranthum*. After lunch, we entered the Shira Caldera, a high altitude desert plateau. Shira is the third of Kilimanjaro's volcanic cones and its second highest, and is filled with lava flow from Kibo Peak. Weather and volcanic action have decimated the crater rim.

As the altitude increased we encountered quickly changing weather conditions, from hot sun to rain, to sleet, and back again to hot sun. We hardly had time to change clothes before the weather changed dramatically. Interestingly, an umbrella proved to be a handy piece of rain gear. Had it been a day without high clouds, we were told we would have had our first views of Kibo, the summit of Kilimanjaro. It was clear enough below the clouds, at times, for us to view beautiful mountain valleys and moorland flowering plants such as *Impatiens kilimanjari*, a plant unique to the slopes of Kilimanjaro. At 3,048 meters/10,000 feet, altitude sickness can begin to affect climbers, but we remained unaffected.

**January 9** – to Moir Camp (altitude 4,160 m/13,650 ft; trek 10.1 km/6.3 miles, 7-8 hours).

We hiked east across the Shira Caldera, stopping for a hot lunch at Fisher Camp, and then on to Shira Cathedral and Moir Camp. This camp is tucked away at the foot of a huge gorge and giant lava flow. We trekked along a single-track path, intermittently through shoulder-high, rather thick bush and sparsely growing knee-high bush. All day we walked on lava-strewn terrain which made for difficult, uneven walking, but provided uniquely beautiful scenes. Shira Cathedral is a large formation of lava rock that stands on the plateau; its sides are steep and high with jagged edges and caves.

Although tired at the end of each day, sleeping was difficult. Having consumed much water during the climb, all climbers had more-than-usual night time trips to the toilet, and we were now camped in relatively unsheltered spots where the wind rattled the tents constantly.

**January 10** – to Barranco (altitude 3,916 m/12,850 ft; trek 10 km/6.2 miles, 7 hours).

In this Alpine moorland zone the plants are extremely hardy, consisting mostly of lichens, grasses, and heather. It is a lava-based, inhospitable landscape, a fitting place for altitude training. Before lunch, we climbed to the Lava Tower at 4,550 meters/15,000 feet, a climb to help our bodies acclimatise to the thin air at higher altitudes. After lunch, we trekked just over 600 meters/2,000 feet down through the Giant Senecio terrain to Barranco Camp. In mountaineering terms, this acclimatisation process is termed 'climb high, sleep low'. The day was one of drifting ground-level clouds, especially around the Lava Tower, with breaks that permitted views of snow-capped peaks.

Barranco is a dry rugged river valley in which walking is very difficult. But there is enough moisture to support plants such as the cactus-like *Senecio kilimanjari*, and the Mountain Thistle, *Carduus keniensis*. At this camp we counted four White-necked Ravens, scavengers that travelled with us hoping to find scraps of food. Before the night was over, I had a visit from a Four-striped Grass Mouse about the size of a Nova Scotian Red Squirrel. Also dur-



ing the night I heard a loud sound, like an onrushing train, which turned out to be a large slide of scree from a not-too-distant mountain side!

**January 11** – to Karanga Camp (altitude 4,023 m/13,200 ft; trek 6.7 km/4.1 miles, 4-5 hours) – a challenging day.

We hiked up the Barranco Wall, a 152-m-high/500-ft-high lava flow. It was not a technical climb, but the narrow switchback trail was along the steeply sloping face of the wall, and at times the climb required hand and foot holds. There was no danger of falling, but a misstep could have led to a bruising slide. On top of the wall climbing became easier and the views of the crags and crevasses of the jagged Kibo Peak were stunning when not obscured by clouds driven by the cold wind. Lastly, we descended into the Karanga Valley with its sheer rock faces and then hiked up the opposite side to Karanga Camp.

**January 12** – at Karanga Camp (altitude 4,023 m/13,200 ft; trek 1.6 km/1.0 mile, 4 hours).

We had now entered the high desert zone and began a day of acclimatisation to even higher altitude to help us prepare for the final two days of climbing. We trekked up to 4,267 meters/14,000 feet and then back down. Beside the path we saw a sign that read, "Quit your bitching and keep walking, 27 Dec. 2010." At camp, I was awakened at 3:00 a.m. by flashing lights which turned out to be a spectacular show of lightening from above the clouds; a wonderful, no-thunder experience.

**January 13** – to Barafu Camp (altitude 4,556 m/14,950 ft; trek 5.4 km/3.4 miles, 4 hours).

The day's climb was all uphill along the rocky slopes of a barren landscape, the only vegetation being tussocks of low-lying grass. In mid-afternoon, we arrived at Barafu Camp, the base camp at which many routes to the summit converge and from which climbers try for the summit. It was a cold place, with freshly falling snow being blown around by the persistent wind. Barafu means 'ice' in Swahili, and it lived up to its name. The campsite was populated by several groups of climbers – a 'tent city', with many tents tucked among the rocks for protection. The low clouds moved around revealing the eroded peak of Mawenzi rising regally from the African plains. Although cold and tired, we experienced a buzz of excitement as we anticipated the toughest day just ahead. The target was in our sights.

**January 14** – to the summit (altitude 5,895 m/19,340 ft; trek 7.2 km/4.5 miles, 11 hours), and Mweka Camp (altitude 3,170 m/10,400 ft; trek 17 km/10.5 miles, 5 hours).

At 5:30 a.m. we began our trek to the summit, a place of

lava rock, glaciers, and snow. This 11-hour climb up steep slopes, over rocky outcrops, and through scree was tough physically and mentally. In the scree it was a two-steps-forward and one-back experience. During the climb we had dramatic views of Camp Barafu below, Mawenzi Peak, the Kibo Saddle, and the tops of clouds. Out of necessity, and as instructed, we climbed very slowly until we reached the rim of the volcano's crater at Stella Point. Here we had lunch and reverently viewed the summit. Then, we hiked for two hours along the rim of the crater to the summit itself, Uhuru Peak (Freedom Peak), arriving at 4:30 p.m. in -10°C temperature. The summit celebration lasted for an hour, and included the unfurling of the Make-A-Wish banner and my placing my 'Reach for the Stars' dream token on the summit marker.

At about 5:30 p.m. we began our descent. We continued along the crater rim and then descended in the light provided by headlamps to Mweka Camp in the heath and moorland zone. Reaching it at 11:30 p.m., at the end of a long and tough yet exhilarating day, we enjoyed a final meal and savoured our last night on Kilimanjaro.

**January 15** – to Mweka Gate (altitude 1,676 m/5,500 feet; trek 10 km/6.2 miles, 4-5 hours) and Moshi (altitude 914 m/3,000 ft; a 30-minute drive).

As we walked down to Mweka gate it was hard to believe that we were back to trees, lush vegetation, flowering plants and noisy monkeys. At the gate we enjoyed snacks and were met by vehicles that took us back to the hotel in Moshi.

**January 16** – Safari.

Having a full free day before catching a plane home that evening, I went on a too-brief safari. What a change it was to be on the Serengeti Plain at 38°C! In this 'Lion King' territory I saw giraffe, zebra, warthog, monkey, baboon, deer (called buck), flamingo, crane, and water buffalo, thereby concluding our wonderful trip to the highest peak in Africa – the stars reached, a wish fulfilled.

(The information in this article came from Roy's presentation to HFN on November 3, 2011; from publications put out by Tusker Trail, the mountain climbing organisation with whom Roy traveled; and The Guide to Kilimanjaro National Park.) For information about Tusker Trail go to [www.tusker.com](http://www.tusker.com). For information about Make-A-Wish Atlantic Provinces, or to make a donation, go to [www.makeawish.ca/chapter/atlanticprovinces](http://www.makeawish.ca/chapter/atlanticprovinces). If you would like to contact Roy, his email is [rmcbride@eastlink.ca](mailto:rmcbride@eastlink.ca).

## FIELD TRIPS

### THE SS ATLANTIC CENTRE

– *Stephanie Robertson*

**Date:** Saturday, September 24th

**Place:** SS Atlantic Centre, Sandy Cove

**Weather:** Foggy, 19°C, light showers

**Leader:** Janet Dalton

**Participants:** 15

It was 1873, and the White Star Shipping Line's SS Atlantic, only two years old, was on her ninth voyage sailing from Liverpool to New York. Like the White Star's



more famous Titanic, she was one of the largest and most luxurious liners of her day. Most of her passengers were immigrant families full of hopes and aspirations for a better life in North America.

But, in the cold and stormy early hours of April 1st, with 954 people aboard, the SS Atlantic smashed against Meagher's Island's unforgiving granite, about one km south of Lower Prospect. Terence Bay and Lower Prospect fishermen were alerted of the trouble only after the SS Atlantic began to sink. Led by Reverend William Ancient, small dories rescued survivors clinging





Photo - Greg Cochkanoff

to the cold and slippery rocks and also those freezing in the rigging of the crippled ship. Meanwhile, the residents of the local communities began to care for those who had managed to make it to shore.

562 of the crew and passengers drowned in the chilly, stormy waters that morning, and the unfortunate ship took four or five days to sink in the 80 - 90 feet of water, the worst nautical disaster in Canada prior to the Titanic. The catastrophe was magnified by the fact that not one woman survived, and also, out of all the babies and children, only one boy managed to be rescued – 12-year old John Hindley. 277 of the unclaimed bodies were buried waterside in a mass grave at Sandy Cove's St. Paul's Anglican Cemetery, just southeast of the village of Terence Bay; 150 of the unclaimed were interred in the Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Cemetery.

Forty-two years later, in 1915, the White Star's owner and founder, Thomas Henry Ismay, erected a commemorative monument at the Sandy Cove burial site. Over the years, the monument became lost among the overgrowing brush and bushes; thankfully however, in 1980, it was rediscovered. The community then made applications for grants to restore the commemorative monument as well as the two burial sites, and, on July 25th, 1981, a re-dedication ceremony was held.

In 1998 Terence Bay and Lower Prospect residents organised the SS Atlantic Heritage Park Society. The Society's intention was originally only to preserve the Sandy Cove site itself. However, over the following years, the Society's successes had far surpassed this first intention, with the addition of a long, pleasant boardwalk which follows Sandy Cove's coastline, and an accompanying gazebo. The area around the old memorial to the victims has been landscaped, and interpretive panels have been installed.

The Interpretation Centre, completed in 2002, contains a small museum of artefacts from the SS Atlantic, more interpretive panels, and a craft shop.

On the day of our trip, we arrived in light fog and drizzle, and gathered in the Interpretation Centre to sit down

to a most delicious lunch of mouth-watering, homemade fish chowder (I obtained the recipe afterwards), followed by a divine gingerbread with either whipped cream or lemon sauce.

We then toured the Centre, stopping at the interpretive panels about this terrible marine disaster, each with its own unique artefacts – from shipboard items to old photographs to newspaper clippings. There was a complete list of the passengers and crew; a history of the SS Atlantic's voyages; a 'below-the-surface' rendering of the area where she sank, showing the very steep drop-off down which most of the artefacts tumbled; the story of the growth of the small community; maps; aerial photos taken at various times over the years; and other informative posters.

We then went out into the drizzle, stopping to chat around the monument then walking on to the gazebo built over the granite boulders of the shoreline. The wooden walkway wound quite a way along the magnificent rocky shore. As I looked out over the foggy water, I could not help thinking about those terrified, freezing, and helpless victims.

This is a unique memorial to the unfortunate passengers whose dreams and aspirations were drowned along with them, by dire navigation errors, in the powerful, stormy waves of the North Atlantic. It is well worth going to visit.

For a well-written and detailed account of this mostly forgotten calamity, see SS Atlantic The White Star Line's First Disaster at Sea, by Greg Cochkanoff and Bob Chaulk, Goose Lane Editions, 2009.



## McNAB'S FALL CLEAN-UP

– Janet Dalton

**Date:** Sunday, October 16th

**Place:** McNab's Island, Halifax Harbour

**Weather:** Windy, with bright sunshine

**Leaders:** Faye Power and others of Friends of McNab's

**Participants:** ±100 (including a group of Brownies)

The foliage was past its colourful prime when we arrived at McNab's Garrison Pier and walked up to the site of the Tea House. But, there we turned to look out over the water and the view was spectacular! Due to hurricane Juan and the blow-down of many trees, one can now see right across to York Redoubt.

We were asked to join one of five different hiking trails, each led by a member of the Friends of McNab's Island Society. I chose the hiking group which travelled to the north side of the Island. This group was led by Faye Power who grew up on McNab's. Her father, Colin Cleveland, was the lighthouse keeper from 1932 to November 5th, 1957.

Many people do not realise that there were two light-houses on McNab's Island, and Faye told us many other interesting facts and stories about her childhood there as we walked along the trail. We soon came to a concrete basement, complete with water cistern. Here Faye explained that the 'lighthouse' was a family home with the lighthouse itself standing in the middle. Its location was on a high hill not far from the Mathew Lynch house, and it could be seen for 17 miles at sea. Although it was abandoned in 1957 when electricity replaced oil; it was not torn down until 1976. Recently the lighthouse has been replaced by two small red lights on metal towers.

We then walked to the Mathew Lynch House. Matthew Lynch was Jack Lynch's father, and was the lighthouse keeper before Colin Cleveland. We took a look in the windows; the kitchen looked like time had stood still for 40 years – there in the room was a stove in the harvest gold colour so popular in the 1960's.

We were told that people could not enter any of the three houses because of mold inside. There had been no heat in them for years, and therefore it was unsafe to enter.

We walked past the Davis Conrad House with its first and second floor verandahs. As we stood by the Jack Lynch House we were told that Jack had worked at one of the Findlay's concessions as a young boy. The Findlay's Pleasure Grounds rivalled Woolnough's which was famous for its dance pavilion. However, the Findley's Pleasure Grounds out-lived the Woolnough's dining and dancing pavilion and picnic grounds because of their rides and games. The most popular ride was a steam-driven merry-go-round.

In 1925 Bill Lynch bought out the Findley's establishment, took the rides and games off the island, and started the Bill Lynch Shows. Bill returned to the island in the winter and kept his ponies there. In the off-season some of the dwarf employees of the Lynch Midway Shows lived in a log cottage called 'The Dwarf House' where the cabinets and furnishings were of low height. By 1996 the Dwarf House had pretty well tumbled down.

Faye then took us down to Ives' Cove to see the many abandoned barges. At one point in the past there were so many abandoned wrecks and rotting hulks that the residents complained the 'ship graveyard' was a hazard to small craft and a also serious eyesore. Today you can still see the ribs of some of the submerged coal barges, schooners, and tugs.

We traveled on to Fort Ives which was said to be the 'linch-pin' that held together the outer and inner fortifications. It was equipped with nine rifled, muzzle-loading guns. If an enemy had attempted to reach the inner harbour these guns would have fired and hit the broadside of any ship. The guns had enough range to fire across the end of Point Pleasant Park.

In WWI 160 men were garrisoned at Fort Ives, and in 1943 the barracks were still being used. It is the only fort on the Island that still has guns on their original emplacements. Our hike ended at the officers' barracks just above the Fort. The barracks once had an elaborate verandah facing Halifax, and its most interesting feature was a glass roof held up by iron posts with ornate brackets on each side supporting the roof. Today the glass is gone but one can still see the grid that held the glass panes.

Each guide carried with them a binder full of pictures of buildings in their heyday. We saw a picture of this barracks with its glass roof verandah. It was apparent that the offi-

cers' housing was luxurious compared to the men who lived in the fort's cold stone barracks.

From this point on we were on our own, and many walked on to Fort McNab. An interesting site inside this Fort was the graveyard of the early McNab family. It is often referred to as the best guarded graveyard in Canada.

There is so much more to see on McNab's Island that it would take several visits to see it all.

## A BIT OF HISTORY



Joseph Howe was married to Susan Ann McNab, and the golden era for McNab's Island was during the Victorian period when picnics, the study of nature, and outdoor recreation were popular. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of the city of Halifax, a picnic was held on McNab's and was attended by an estimated 6,000 people.

A list of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and vegetation can be found in the [Discover McNabs Island](#) published by The Friends of McNab's Island Society.

We returned to the Garrison Pier by 4:00 p.m. The day was still windy, but now the sun was hidden by clouds and it looked like it was about to rain. Everyone was happy to board the boat back to Murphy's wharf.

## MCNAB'S SPECIES

### Plants

Cinnamon Fern		<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>
Black Spruce		<i>Picea mariana</i>
Tamarack		<i>Larix laricina</i>
White Pine		<i>Pinus strobus</i>
Rhodora		<i>Rhododendron canadense</i>
European or Common Ash		<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
False Holly		<i>Nemopanthus mucronata</i>
Red Maple		<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Downy or Mountain Alder		<i>Alnus crispa</i>
Day Lily		<i>Hemerocallis</i> sp.
Wild Rose		<i>Rosa acicularis</i>
Scotch Elm		<i>Ulmus glabra</i>
Linden		<i>Tilia</i> sp.
Horse Chestnut		<i>Aesculus</i> sp.
Apple		<i>Malus</i> sp.
Cherry Trees		<i>Prunus</i> sp.

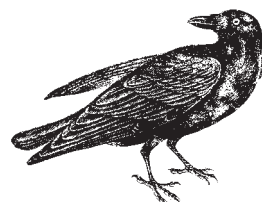
### Animals

Toad		<i>Bufo americanus</i>
Garter Snake		<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>
(caught by one young Brownie!)		
Beaver		<i>Castor canadensis</i>
Red Squirrel		<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>

### Birds

Blue Jays	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
Crows	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
Black-capped Chickadees	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>
Sparrows	Fringillidae
Red-winged Blackbirds	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>

The most interesting tree we saw was a Copper Beech planted by the Perrin family around 1885. Sadly, this Copper Beech is half dead.





## NOGGINS CORNER HISTORIC WALKING TRAIL & KENTVILLE RAVINE TRAIL

### NOGGINS CORNER HISTORIC WALKING TRAIL

– Elliott Hayes and Grace Beazley, (with some help from Richard Beazley)

**Date:** Saturday, November 12th

**Place:** Noggins Corner Farm, Greenwich

**Weather:** Mixed sun/cloud, moderate west wind, 5°C

**Leaders:** Elliott and Judi Hayes

**Participants:** 15

The day was overcast and cool as our group met at the Noggins Farm parking area, and the west wind certainly caught our attention as we prepared to start our journey through history. The trail began with a steep downhill walk on a carpet of wet leaves, with a rope to help slow our descent. Quickly we found ourselves at the first site designated on the Trail Map, the Gristmill, operated from 1760 to 1785 by John Bishop Sr., the original owner of the property.

We were greeted by Mallard Ducks as we made our way across the bridge leading to the remains of Acadian cellars vacated in 1755. From there we made our way toward the magnificent old-growth pine and hemlock forest. On our way we passed over an abandoned railway with the tracks still intact but showing obvious signs of neglect. Some in our group considered whether we might wait for the next train, but thought that it might be some time before we heard the whistle.

The feeling as we walked through the grove of pine and hemlock was that of being in an open-air cathedral, very sheltered and calm, with some trees dating back to between 1896 and 1920. Several of us were delighted by the appearance of two Raccoons in their home high in one of the trees, and all were awed by a large Bald Eagles' nest. On the other hand it was disappointing to see the number of trees that had succumbed to recent storms. On leaving the grove we moved into an area of deciduous forest with some leaf colour still showing and a carpet of leaves underfoot, a noticeable transition from the needle carpet of the coniferous grove.

One of the most poignant sites on this trail is the Poor Farm Cemetery with the unmarked graves of the deceased residents of the Municipal Poor Farm in Greenwich, dating from 1896 to 1920. Members of the group stopped for a few moments of quiet reflection, thinking about what life was like in those times at that place. After these few respectful moments, we moved down the trail to view the Cornwallis River and the aboiteau in the dyke wall. Aboiteaux are wooden sluices that allow excess fresh water to drain from fields with swinging doors; these doors also prevent the re-entry of salt water. The dykes were first built by Acadians before 1755, maintained later by the Planters, and currently by the Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Administration (MMRA).

As we travelled through history on this trail, we were accompanied by a fairly strong wind. One of our members noted that it seemed appropriate to the day and surroundings – 'the winds of time'. We passed by a

site where, as late as the 1920s, First Nations people returned to camp to fish and to make baskets for sale. We re-entered the hardwoods, passing through the edge of a small orchard. Several of our group enjoyed the apples, some of which were still on the trees.

Near the end we arrived at a culvert that runs under the railway tracks. This culvert had replaced the old wooden trestle that was made of 10 ft by 10 ft posts which had been installed when the first rails were laid in 1885; the trestle had allowed the farmer to continue to hay and graze cattle on the dykeland. This site provided a great opportunity for a group photo as we waited for the train to come by! On leaving the trail we passed by a large cornfield, which provided another photo-op.

We'd walked approximately three km through more than 250 years of history, with many variations in terrain. We had seen Bald Eagles soaring across the meadows along with other birds in their forest and dykeland habitats. Happy with our historic hike, we walked back to our cars and moved on to the Kentville Ravine for another hike after lunch with Richard and Grace Beazley.

### NOGGINS TRAIL SPECIES

#### Birds

Mallard Ducks

Bald Eagles

Red-tailed Hawk

Ring-necked Pheasant

Herring Gull

Mourning Dove

Downy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

Blue Jays

American Crow

Common Raven

Black-capped Chickadee

American Robin

Song Sparrow

*Anas platyrhynchos*

*Halæetus leucocephalus*

*Buteo jamaicensis*

*Phasianus colchicus*

*Larus argentatus*

*Zenaida macroura*

*Picoides pubescens*

*Colaptes auratus*

*Cyanocitta cristata*

*Corvus brachyrhynchos*

*C. corax*

*Pœcile atricapillus*

*Turdus migratorius*

*Melospiza melodia*

#### Mammals

Raccoons

*Procyon lotor*

### KENTVILLE RAVINE TRAIL

– Elliott Hayes and Grace Beazley, (with some help from Richard Beazley)

**Date:** Saturday, November 12th

**Place:** Kentville Ravine Trail, Kentville

**Weather:** Mixed sun/cloud, moderate west wind, 5°C

**Leaders:** Richard and Grace Beazley

**Participants:** 17

On an increasingly sunny day with an end temperature of 7°C, most of the hikers, who were HFN members, enjoyed the majestic Kentville Ravine. This part of the HFN Valley Excursion was a first for many. The trail leads down into the ravine to Elderkin Brook and then follows it upstream, crossing three concrete bridges en route to three waterfalls. There was lots of water in the Brook due to the very heavy rains on the two previous days.

This is an easy-to-moderate 30-minute walk on a wide, easy-to-follow trail through stands of large old-growth Red Hemlocks, with a sprinkling of Red and White Pine. We witnessed the terrific wind damage to many trees along the ravine from the big winds of December 13th, 2010. The trail was fairly wet and muddy, and covered with leaves in many spots. Most of the leaves were down, but there was one area when we first descended the side hill into the ravine that was spectacular; the sun highlighted the golden yellow Maple leaves against the evergreens on the hill in the background.

As we walked along the brook with its more-than-usual gentle flow and larger rapids, the steep-sided ravine narrowed to the location of three waterfalls within 100 metres. All three falls could be called water slides rather than falls; they were of limited height, like many waterfalls in Nova Scotia. We viewed the first two as they came into view at about the same time. The first one was about two m high and the second one, about 20 m upstream, is the largest of the three falls, at about eight m high. The bottoms of both falls were strewn with debris from the December wind storm, as were the smooth, sheer rock faces of the south-facing ravine wall.

We did not go to the third falls, only another 80 m upstream, but instead turned so that some members of the group could go down to the base of the largest waterfall for better picture taking. We enjoyed the return trip through the ravine and up the hill to the trailhead. The sun was shining brilliantly through the trees; the ravine was very picturesque. Cameras were busy and only footprints were left!

There is a second trailhead as well beginning at the far end of a parking lot located beside the sign near the the Kentville Agricultural Centre entrance. But, after about 100 m, the trail can be very wet and muddy for awhile.

The Kentville Ravine Trail, owned by Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada, is open year-round and trail use is free of charge. "Limited access to the ravine has kept the trail untouched by commercial development. This inaccessibility has preserved the ecosystem ...". (Source: Angela Chisholm, in a Kentville Ravine Trail article in *Starting Line*, Winter issue, pp. 15).

Local people enjoy the trails, and some were seen with their dogs that also enjoy the area. For lovers of winter, Angela Chisholm recommended snowshoeing along the trail. For a map and more information, go to [www.trails.gov.ns.ca](http://www.trails.gov.ns.ca).



## NATURE NOTES

### OCTOBER

Stephanie Robertson saw a **newly-hatched Ring-necked Snake** in PPP, about 10-12 cm long. She shooed it off the pathway into the safety of the bushes. She also saw two gentians; returning for a picture the next morning, she found that they had been picked!

Carol Klar reported that a **Ring-necked Snake** living on her property for the past four years wintered in her lawnmower this year and emerged in the spring. Fortunately it emerged before the mower was used. It was coral-coloured on the bottom. She questioned whether it actually was a Ring-necked Snake, though, as it could possibly have been a Red-bellied with an indistinct ring.

Jim Wolford said that Bernard Forsyth reported seeing **Blue Grosbeaks** in Miners Marsh in Kentville. Carol Klar noted that at Liscombe Lodge last year she saw a Blue Grosbeak in breeding plumage.

Leslie Jane Butters saw a **small Ring-necked Snake** in Point Pleasant Park as well, and a **Green Snake** in Albany New.

Michael Downing took a North West Passage cruise from Kugluktuk (quite far north) on the southerly route to Iqaluit. In traversing the Gulf of Boothia he saw the only sea ice on the entire trip, and at that it was only 50% coverage. It used to be wholly iced-in. Even Franklyn couldn't get through. On a brighter note, he saw 71 **Bowhead Whales**.

Pat Leader saw a very **large Porcupine** only 200 metres from the Bedford Highway, and **four Deer** at Fernleigh Park. Shirley MacIntyre noted a Red Fox with a white-tipped tail, and Bobbie Wilson, who lives in Lake Echo, saw **three Ring-necked Snakes** in rocks near her house.

Hannah Minzloff saw **Turkey Vultures** on the beach with the gulls on Brier Island, while Dennis Hippert saw one in Cole Harbour a week ago.

### NOVEMBER

Grace Beazley reported that on October 13th she saw **strawberries and bunchberries in bloom** in Cape Chignecto Provincial Park.

Leslie Jane Butters saw a **Yellow Leg** in a puddle near Halifax Harbour during a significant storm. It was very windy, and when the wind took it, it was gone lickity-split. She also saw some **small red damselflies**, both in Halifax and near her cottage in Albany New. A possible **Harrier Hawk** was after them in the latter location. She noted that red damselflies are males, while females are yellowish brown.

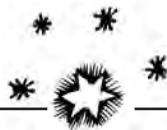
Bob McDonald saw a **rare goose** near Windsor and Falmouth. It was pink-footed and was probably part of the Greenland population. Many birders had visited it over the previous week.

Someone noted seeing a large flock of small birds on the Tantramar Marches acting like starlings, but they were fat, like junkos. They were short in body and light brown in colour. It was generally agreed that they were no doubt **immature starlings**.





# ALMANAC



This almanac is for the dates of events which are not found in our HFN programme: for field trips or lectures which members might like to attend, or natural happenings to watch for, such as eclipses, comets, average migration dates, expected blooming seasons, etc. Please suggest other suitable items.

"Wolves and coyotes were howling. The cabin was surrounded by Riding Mountain's wilderness forest: black bears were hibernating in nooks and culverts; moose and elk were browsing willow shoots; beavers were weakening the ice around their lodges, preparing dens for the summer's kits... I had stolen a march on the snow geese and would sit tight for as long as it took."

– William Fiennes, *The Snow Geese: a story of home* (2002)

## NATURAL EVENTS

- 14 Dec.** -5 Jan. Audubon Christmas Bird Count period.  
**22 Dec.** Winter Solstice at 1:30 AST: Winter begins in the Northern Hemisphere. But though the temperature drops, the days begin to lengthen.  
**26 Dec.** Venus and the Moon are visible in the evening's twilight.  
**27 Dec.** -31 Dec. Latest sunrise of the year at 7:51 AST.  
**7 Jan.** Daily maximum temperature at Shearwater goes below 0°C.  
**9 Jan.** Full Moon.  
**13 Jan.** -24 Jan. "January Thaw" (the temperature stops falling, and the average actually rises 0.2°C).  
**28/29 Jan.** -4/5 Feb. "Eagle Days" in Sheffield Mills, King's County; two weekends of organised events.  
**6-8 Feb.** Coldest days of winter (average daily minimum -9.4 degrees).  
**7 Feb.** Full Moon.  
**9 Feb.** Average temperatures start increasing.  
**19 Feb.** Eighth anniversary of "White Juan", the record-breaking snowfall.  
**28 Feb.** Daily maximum temperature rises above 0°C.  
**8 Mar.** Full Moon.  
**11 Mar.** Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 AST: turn clocks ahead one hour.  
**20 Mar.** Vernal Equinox at 02:14 DST: Spring begins in the Northern hemisphere.

– Sources: Atmospheric Environment Service, Climate Normals 1951-80 Halifax (Shearwater A) N.S.; United States Naval Observatory Data Services.

## SUNRISE AND SUNSET ON WINTER AND EARLY SPRING SATURDAYS FOR HALIFAX: 44 39 N, 063 36 W



<b>3 Dec.</b>	7:33	16:35	<b>7 Jan.</b>	7:51	16:50
<b>10 Dec.</b>	7:40	16:34	<b>14 Jan.</b>	7:49	16:58
<b>17 Dec.</b>	7:46	16:35	<b>21 Jan.</b>	7:44	17:07
<b>24 Dec.</b>	7:50	16:38	<b>28 Jan.</b>	7:38	17:17
<b>31 Dec.</b>	7:51	16:43			
<b>4 Feb.</b>	7:30	17:27	<b>3 Mar.</b>	6:48	18:05
<b>11 Feb.</b>	7:31	17:37	<b>10 Mar.</b>	6:35	18:15
<b>18 Feb.</b>	7:11	17:46	<b>17 Mar.</b>	7:22	19:24
<b>25 Feb.</b>	7:00	17:56	<b>24 Mar.</b>	7:09	19:32
			<b>31 Mar.</b>	6:56	19:41

## ORGANISATIONAL EVENTS

**Blomidon Naturalists Society:** Indoor meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month, in the auditorium of the K.C. Irving Centre, University Avenue, Wolfville. Field trips usually depart from the Wolfville Waterfront, Front Street, Wolfville. For more information, go to <http://www.blomidonnaturalists.ca/>.

- 16 Jan.** "The Breeding Bird Survey: Past, Present, and Future"; speaker Becky Whittam, Canadian Wildlife Service.  
**28-29 Jan.** "Eagle Watch Weekend, I", Sheffield Mills. The Community Hall will host its annual pancake and sausage breakfast with naturalist displays and info about where to see the Bald Eagles; [www.eagles.ca](http://www.eagles.ca).  
**4 Feb.** "Winter on Snowshoes"; leader Soren Bondrup-Nielsen, 902-582-3971.  
**4-5 Feb.** "Eagle Watch Weekend, II", Sheffield Mills; another breakfast, naturalist displays, and where to see the Eagles.  
**11 Feb.** "Orchid Display and Sale" with the Valley Orchid Group, K.C. Irving Environmental Centre, Acadia University.  
**20 Feb.** "Annual Show and Tell Night." Contact Patrick Kelly, 902 472-2322, [patrick.kelly@dal.ca](mailto:patrick.kelly@dal.ca).  
**19 Mar.** "Using Sniffer Dogs for Biology Field Work", speaker Simon Gadbois, Dept. of Psychology, Dalhousie University.  
**24-25 Mar.** "Along the Fundy Shore", leader Wayne Neily, 902-765-2455, [neilyornis@hotmail.com](mailto:neilyornis@hotmail.com).

**Burke-Gaffney Observatory:** Public shows at the Burke-Gaffney Observatory at Saint Mary's University are held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, except from June through September when they are held every Saturday. Tours begin at 7:00 p.m. between November 1st and March 30th, and at either 9:00 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. (depending on when it gets dark) between April 1st and October 31st. For more information, 496-8257; or go to <http://www.smu.ca/academic/science/ap/>.

**Nova Scotia Bird Society:** Indoor meetings take place on the 4th Thursday of the month, September to May, at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 7:30 p.m. For more information, Chris Pepper, 829-3478, [cpepper@ymail.com](mailto:cpepper@ymail.com); or email the trip leader; or go to <http://nsbs.chebucto.org/>.

- 7 Jan.** "New Birders' Walk at Point Pleasant Park"; leader Bonnie Carmichael, [bonniecarmichael@hotmail.com](mailto:bonniecarmichael@hotmail.com).
- 8 Jan.** "Sewer Stroll – Halifax/Dartmouth Area", leaders Bob McDonald, 443-5051, [bobathome@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:bobathome@hfx.eastlink.ca); Suzanne Borkowski, 445-2922, [suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca](mailto:suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca).
- 4 Feb.** "New Birders' Walk at Point Pleasant Park"; leader Bonnie Carmichael, [bonniecarmichael@hotmail.com](mailto:bonniecarmichael@hotmail.com).
- 4 Mar.** "Valley Birding, Kings County"; leader Patrick Kelly, 494-3294(w), 472-2322(h); [patrick.kelly@dal.ca](mailto:patrick.kelly@dal.ca).

**Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources:** Many outings that will take place in Provincial Parks are listed in the "Parks are for People" Programme. The most current information is on the web at <http://www.novascotiaparks.ca/>.

**Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History:** For more information, 424-7353; or go to <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mnh/>.

**All Year** "Nektukulimk"; experience the sights, sounds, and smells of a Nova Scotia forest!

**All Year Every Wednesday evening**, presentations around the new permanent exhibit, "Our Amazing World". The NSMNH is the first museum in Canada to feature Science on a Sphere®. This room-sized system displays environmental, geographic, and atmospheric data in shows that are both entertaining and educational.

**Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society:** Meets on the 4th Monday of the month, September to May, at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 7:30 p.m. For more information, Heather Drope, 423-7032, or go to <http://www.nswildflora.ca/>.

**Nova Scotian Institute of Science:** Meets 1st Monday of the month, September to April, usually at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 7:30 p.m. For more information, go to <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Science/NSIS/index.html>.

- 9 Jan.** "100 Years of Research in the Orchard"; speaker Dr. Charlie Embree, Atlantic Food and Horticulture Research Centre, Kentville, N.S.
- 6 Feb.** "Burning Rocks: The History of the Petroleum Industry in Canada & the Maritimes"; speaker Dr. Grant Wach, Dalhousie University.
- 5 Mar.** "Canadian Marine Science from the Titanic to BIO"; speaker Dr. Eric Mills, Dalhousie University.
- 2 Apr.** "A Noble Legacy: The History, Geology, and Future of Gold Mining and Exploration in Nova Scotia"; speaker Dr. Jacob Hanley, Saint Mary's University.

**Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (Halifax Chapter):** Meets 3rd Friday of each month in Room L176 of the Loyola Academic Building at Saint Mary's University, 8:00 p.m. For more information, go to <http://halifax.rasc.ca/>.

**Sable Island Green Horse Society:** Annual Public Meeting at Saint Mary's University. Watch for more info at <http://www.greenhorsesociety.com/>

- 27 Mar.** "Annual Update"; presentations on research, operations, and the island's status.

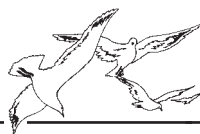
**Young Naturalists' Club:** A fun, free nature club for children eight and older. Meetings take place usually every 3rd Saturday of the month, **excepting July and August**, at the **Maritime Museum of the Atlantic**, 1675 Lower Water St., at 10:00 a.m. Field trips take place every 4th Sunday, at 1:00 p.m. For more information, Laura Lambie, 431-0207; or go to <http://nature1st.net/ync>.

- 10 Dec.** "Whales & Dolphins", Marine Gallery, 10:30-12:00 a.m., NSMNH, with Dalhousie Graduate Researchers Joana Augusto and Catalina Gomez.
- 21 Jan.** "Tuna & Swordfish – Awesome Fish Hunters!"; speaker Marine Biology Professor Dr. Boris Worm at the Museum of Natural History.
- 29 Jan.** "Guided Tour of BIO"; BIO's 'wet labs' with all their animals, 3:00 p.m.; Andrew Cogswell, Ecosystem Research.
- 18 Feb.** "Astronomy Workshop" at the Museum of Natural History, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- 26 Feb.** "Planetarium Field Trip"; learn more about astronomy, 1:00 p.m.

– compiled by **Patricia L. Chalmers**



# HALIFAX TIDE TABLE



## January-janvier

## February-février

## March-mars

Day	Time	Feet	Metres	jour	heure	pieds	mètres	Day	Time	Feet	Metres	jour	heure	pieds	mètres	Day	Time	Feet	Metres	jour	heure	pieds	mètres
<b>1</b>	0108	<b>5.6</b>	1.7	<b>16</b>	0036	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	<b>1</b>	0159	<b>5.2</b>	1.6	<b>16</b>	0211	<b>5.6</b>	1.7	<b>1</b>	0107	<b>5.2</b>	1.6	<b>16</b>	0156	<b>5.2</b>	1.6
	0821	<b>2.0</b>	0.6		0748	<b>1.3</b>	0.4		0904	<b>2.0</b>	0.6		0937	<b>1.0</b>	0.3		0811	<b>2.0</b>	0.6		0922	<b>1.0</b>	0.3
SU	1331	<b>4.9</b>	1.5	MO	1302	<b>5.2</b>	1.6	WE	1443	<b>4.6</b>	1.4	TH	1505	<b>4.9</b>	1.5	TH	1349	<b>4.6</b>	1.4	FR	1456	<b>4.9</b>	1.5
DI	2011	<b>2.0</b>	0.6	LU	1957	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	ME	2107	<b>2.3</b>	0.7	JE	2158	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	JE	2025	<b>2.6</b>	0.8	VE	2150	<b>1.6</b>	0.5
<b>2</b>	0159	<b>5.2</b>	1.6	<b>17</b>	0129	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	<b>2</b>	0258	<b>4.9</b>	1.5	<b>17</b>	0326	<b>5.6</b>	1.7	<b>2</b>	0202	<b>4.9</b>	1.5	<b>17</b>	0315	<b>5.2</b>	1.6
	0911	<b>2.0</b>	0.6		0849	<b>1.0</b>	0.3		0955	<b>2.0</b>	0.6		1039	<b>1.0</b>	0.3		0906	<b>2.0</b>	0.6		1022	<b>1.0</b>	0.3
MO	1431	<b>4.6</b>	1.4	TU	1406	<b>4.9</b>	1.5	TH	1557	<b>4.6</b>	1.4	FR	1631	<b>4.9</b>	1.5	FR	1504	<b>4.6</b>	1.4	SA	1622	<b>4.9</b>	1.5
LU	2102	<b>2.3</b>	0.7	MA	2059	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	JE	2203	<b>2.3</b>	0.7	VE	2301	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	VE	2123	<b>2.6</b>	0.8	SA	2251	<b>1.6</b>	0.5
<b>3</b>	0255	<b>5.2</b>	1.6	<b>18</b>	0231	<b>5.6</b>	1.7	<b>3</b>	0401	<b>4.9</b>	1.5	<b>18</b>	0442	<b>5.6</b>	1.7	<b>3</b>	0310	<b>4.9</b>	1.5	<b>18</b>	0434	<b>5.2</b>	1.6
	0959	<b>2.0</b>	0.6		0951	<b>1.0</b>	0.3		1046	<b>1.6</b>	0.5		1138	<b>1.0</b>	0.3		1002	<b>1.6</b>	0.5		1119	<b>1.0</b>	0.3
TU	1539	<b>4.6</b>	1.4	WE	1520	<b>4.9</b>	1.5	FR	1703	<b>4.6</b>	1.4	SA	1738	<b>5.2</b>	1.6	SA	1620	<b>4.6</b>	1.4	SU	1723	<b>5.2</b>	1.6
MA	2156	<b>2.3</b>	0.7	ME	2204	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	VE	2257	<b>2.3</b>	0.7	SA				SA	2219	<b>2.3</b>	0.7	DI	2348	<b>1.6</b>	0.5
<b>4</b>	0352	<b>5.2</b>	1.6	<b>19</b>	0340	<b>5.6</b>	1.7	<b>4</b>	0458	<b>5.2</b>	1.6	<b>19</b>	0000	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	<b>4</b>	0419	<b>5.2</b>	1.6	<b>19</b>	0533	<b>5.6</b>	1.7
	1045	<b>1.6</b>	0.5		1052	<b>0.7</b>	0.2		1137	<b>1.3</b>	0.4		0545	<b>5.9</b>	1.8		1056	<b>1.3</b>	0.4		1213	<b>1.0</b>	0.3
WE	1644	<b>4.6</b>	1.4	TH	1638	<b>4.9</b>	1.5	SA	1754	<b>4.9</b>	1.5	SU	1233	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	SU	1717	<b>4.9</b>	1.5	MO	1810	<b>5.6</b>	1.7
ME	2249	<b>2.3</b>	0.7	JE	2308	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	SA	2346	<b>2.0</b>	0.6	DI	1830	<b>5.6</b>	1.7	DI	2313	<b>2.0</b>	0.6	LU			
<b>5</b>	0445	<b>5.2</b>	1.6	<b>20</b>	0450	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	<b>5</b>	0548	<b>5.6</b>	1.7	<b>20</b>	0055	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	<b>5</b>	0515	<b>5.6</b>	1.7	<b>20</b>	0039	<b>1.3</b>	0.4
	1131	<b>1.3</b>	0.4		1152	<b>0.7</b>	0.2		1225	<b>1.0</b>	0.3		0637	<b>5.9</b>	1.8		1147	<b>1.0</b>	0.3		0622	<b>5.6</b>	1.7
TH	1739	<b>4.9</b>	1.5	FR	1746	<b>5.2</b>	1.6	SU	1838	<b>5.2</b>	1.6	MO	1323	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	MO	1803	<b>5.2</b>	1.6	TU	1301	<b>1.0</b>	0.3
JE	2338	<b>2.3</b>	0.7	VE				DI				LU	1916	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	LU				MA	1851	<b>5.9</b>	1.8
<b>6</b>	0532	<b>5.2</b>	1.6	<b>21</b>	0010	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	<b>6</b>	0033	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	<b>21</b>	0144	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	<b>6</b>	0004	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	<b>21</b>	0124	<b>1.3</b>	0.4
	1215	<b>1.0</b>	0.3		0552	<b>5.9</b>	1.8		0634	<b>5.9</b>	1.8		0724	<b>6.2</b>	1.9		0605	<b>5.9</b>	1.8		0705	<b>5.9</b>	1.8
FR	1826	<b>4.9</b>	1.5	SA	1248	<b>0.3</b>	0.1	MO	1310	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	TU	1407	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	TU	1235	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	WE	1343	<b>1.0</b>	0.3
VE				SA	1843	<b>5.6</b>	1.7	LU	1918	<b>5.6</b>	1.7	MA	1957	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	MA	1844	<b>5.6</b>	1.7	ME	1929	<b>5.9</b>	1.8
<b>7</b>	0022	<b>2.0</b>	0.6	<b>22</b>	0107	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	<b>7</b>	0120	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	<b>22</b>	0228	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	<b>7</b>	0055	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	<b>22</b>	0205	<b>1.0</b>	0.3
	0616	<b>5.6</b>	1.7		0648	<b>6.2</b>	1.9		0717	<b>6.2</b>	1.9		0808	<b>6.2</b>	1.9		0652	<b>5.9</b>	1.8		0746	<b>5.9</b>	1.8
SA	1258	<b>1.0</b>	0.3	SU	1340	<b>0.3</b>	0.1	TU	1353	<b>0.3</b>	0.1	WE	1447	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	WE	1320	<b>0.3</b>	0.1	TH	1421	<b>1.0</b>	0.3
SA	1908	<b>5.2</b>	1.6	DI	1934	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	MA	1958	<b>5.6</b>	1.7	ME	2036	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	ME	1925	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	JE	2005	<b>5.9</b>	1.8
<b>8</b>	0104	<b>2.0</b>	0.6	<b>23</b>	0200	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	<b>8</b>	0206	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	<b>23</b>	0308	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	<b>8</b>	0144	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	<b>23</b>	0241	<b>1.0</b>	0.3
	0659	<b>5.9</b>	1.8		0739	<b>6.2</b>	1.9		0801	<b>6.2</b>	1.9		0849	<b>5.9</b>	1.8		0737	<b>6.2</b>	1.9		0826	<b>5.9</b>	1.8
SU	1340	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	MO	1428	<b>0.3</b>	0.1	WE	1434	<b>0.3</b>	0.1	TH	1523	<b>1.0</b>	0.3	TH	1404	<b>0.3</b>	0.1	FR	1453	<b>1.3</b>	0.4
DI	1948	<b>5.2</b>	1.6	LU	2021	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	ME	2038	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	JE	2114	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	JE	2007	<b>6.2</b>	1.9	VE	2040	<b>5.9</b>	1.8
<b>9</b>	0145	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	<b>24</b>	0250	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	<b>9</b>	0253	<b>1.0</b>	0.3	<b>24</b>	0346	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	<b>9</b>	0234	<b>0.3</b>	0.1	<b>24</b>	0314	<b>1.0</b>	0.3
	0741	<b>5.9</b>	1.8		0827	<b>6.2</b>	1.9		0844	<b>6.2</b>	1.9		0930	<b>5.9</b>	1.8		0824	<b>6.2</b>	1.9		0905	<b>5.6</b>	1.7
MO	1421	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	TU	1512	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	TH	1516	<b>0.3</b>	0.1	FR	1555	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	FR	1449	<b>0.0</b>	0.0	SA	1520	<b>1.6</b>	0.5
LU	2027	<b>5.6</b>	1.7	MA	2104	<b>6.2</b>	1.9	JE	2118	<b>6.2</b>	1.9	VE	2150	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	VE	2050	<b>6.6</b>	2.0	SA	2115	<b>5.9</b>	1.8
<b>10</b>	0228	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	<b>25</b>	0336	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	<b>10</b>	0343	<b>1.0</b>	0.3	<b>25</b>	0422	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	<b>10</b>	0325	<b>0.3</b>	0.1	<b>25</b>	0345	<b>1.3</b>	0.4
	0822	<b>6.2</b>	1.9		0912	<b>6.2</b>	1.9		0929	<b>6.2</b>	1.9		1009	<b>5.6</b>	1.7		0911	<b>6.2</b>	1.9		0943	<b>5.6</b>	1.7
TU	1502	<b>0.3</b>	0.1	WE	1553	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	FR	1600	<b>0.3</b>	0.1	SA	1623	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	SA	1536	<b>0.3</b>	0.1	SU	1546	<b>1.6</b>	0.5
MA	2106	<b>5.6</b>	1.7	ME	2145	<b>6.2</b>	1.9	VE	2159	<b>6.2</b>	1.9	SA	2226	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	SA	2134	<b>6.6</b>	2.0	DI	2150	<b>5.9</b>	1.8
<b>11</b>	0313	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	<b>26</b>	0420	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	<b>11</b>	0435	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	<b>26</b>	0459	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	<b>11</b>	0418	<b>0.3</b>	0.1	<b>26</b>	0418	<b>1.3</b>	0.4
	0904	<b>6.2</b>	1.9		0955	<b>5.9</b>	1.8		1015	<b>5.9</b>	1.8		1048	<b>5.6</b>	1.7		0959	<b>5.9</b>	1.8		1020	<b>5.2</b>	1.6
WE	1542	<b>0.3</b>	0.1	TH	1632	<b>1.0</b>	0.3	SA	1649	<b>0.3</b>	0.1	SU	1654	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	SU	1629	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	MO	1615	<b>2.0</b>	0.6
ME	2145	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	JE	2224	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	SA	2242	<b>6.2</b>	1.9	DI	2303	<b>5.6</b>	1.7	DI	2219	<b>6.2</b>	1.9	LU	2225	<b>5.6</b>	1.7
<b>12</b>	0401	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	<b>27</b>	0505	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	<b>12</b>	0531	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	<b>27</b>	0540	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	<b>12</b>	0515	<b>0.3</b>	0.1	<b>27</b>	0455	<b>1.6</b>	0.5
	0946	<b>5.9</b>	1.8		1037	<b>5.9</b>	1.8		1102	<b>5.9</b>	1.8		1126	<b>5.2</b>	1.6		1047	<b>5.6</b>	1.7		1057	<b>5.2</b>	1.6
TH	1625	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	FR	1708	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	SU	1743	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	MO	1732	<b>2.0</b>	0.6	MO	1729	<b>1.0</b>	0.3	TU	1653	<b>2.3</b>	0.7
JE	2225	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	VE	2303	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	DI	2327	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	LU	2340	<b>5.6</b>	1.7	LU	2306	<b>6.2</b>	1.9	MA	2302	<b>5.6</b>	1.7
<b>13</b>	0453	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	<b>28</b>	0550	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	<b>13</b>	0631	<b>1.0</b>	0.3	<b>28</b>	0626	<b>2.0</b>	0.6	<b>13</b>	0615	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	<b>28</b>	0539	<b>1.6</b>	0.5
	1030	<b>5.9</b>	1.8		1118	<b>5.6</b>	1.7		1151	<b>5.6</b>	1.7		1207	<b>4.9</b>	1.5		1138	<b>5.6</b>	1.7		1135	<b>5.2</b>	1.6
FR	1711	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	SA	1744	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	MO	1844	<b>1.0</b>	0.3	TU	1822	<b>2.3</b>	0.7	TU	1835	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	WE	1745	<b>2.3</b>	0.7
VE	2306	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	SA	2342	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	LU				MA				MA	2356	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	ME	2340	<b>5.2</b>	1.6
<b>14</b>	0549	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	<b>29</b>	0637	<b>2.0</b>	0.6	<b>14</b>	0014	<b>5.9</b>	1.8	<b>29</b>	0021	<b>5.2</b>	1.6	<b>14</b>	0718	<b>0.7</b>	0.2	<b>29</b>	0630	<b>2.0</b>	0.6
	1117	<b>5.6</b>	1.7		1201	<b>5.2</b>	1.6		0733	<b>1.0</b>	0.3		0717	<b>2.0</b>	0.6		1232	<b>5.2</b>	1.6		1217	<b>4.9</b>	1.5
SA	1802	<b>1.0</b>	0.3	SU	1825	<b>2.0</b>	0.6	TU	1245	<b>5.2</b>	1.6	WE	1253	<b>4.9</b>	1.5	WE	1942	<b>1.6</b>	0.5	TH	1848	<b>2.6</b>	0.8





### **NEXT DEADLINE**

**21st of February for the March, 2012 Issue**  
**Send contributions to 'Newsletter', c/o NS Museum of Natural History, or**  
**email submissions to [sdhaythorn@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:sdhaythorn@ns.sympatico.ca)**