



HALIFAX FIELD NATURALISTS 2024 WINTER PROGRAMME

Except for July and August, HFN's illustrated talks are held on the third Tuesday of every month in the auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History (NSMNH), 1747 Summer St., Halifax, 7:30 p.m. For **field trips** it *may* be possible for the contact person to organise car-pooling for an out-of-city event; a contribution towards fuel costs would be appreciated. For **talks**, there is free on-street parking after 6:00 p.m., and pay-parking in the Museum parking lot. Two hours is usually adequate. **All participants are responsible for their own safety. Always wear suitable clothing and footwear for the weather, the activity, and the terrain. If in doubt, call the contact person. listed for each field trip. Please note – for limited-space events, HFN members will be given first priority.** To join, go to halifaxfield-naturalists.ca, or – mail the form on other side.

CALEDONIA ROAD GREENHOUSE

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12

Jane Rostek, Horticultural Supervisor of the HRM Caledonia Greenhouse Depot at #62 Caledonia Road, will lead us on an enlightening tour of this very busy and productive facility. One of two main greenhouse depots within HRM, it mainly supplies the Dartmouth side of the harbour, while the Halifax depot does the same for the Halifax side. These depots are responsible for the propagation, supply, and planting of both annuals and perennials, with maybe a few tropical plants as well. Jane is a graduate of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro, and as a result her background in both the private sector and HRM promises to make this a memorable tour. **Registration is required – space will be limited. Also, please park at #50 Caledonia Road** (East Dartmouth Community Centre) instead of tying up the depot's limited parking.

Rain Date: Thursday, Feb. 13th
Contact: Bernie McKenna, 902-434-3202, or mckennab197@gmail.com
Time/Place: 9:30 a.m., 62 Caledonia Road, Dartmouth
Difficulty: Easy
Duration: 1.5 hours maximum



TREE IDENTIFICATION



TUESDAY, FEB. 18

Peter Duinker, Professor Emeritus at Dalhousie's School for Resource and Environmental Studies, is going to lead us through the ins and outs of tree identification. After being around trees for about 65 years or so, he feels qualified to help other amateurs at tree identification. He'll cover the various species of both hardwoods and softwoods and how we can identify them by observing the different characteristics of each tree. He'll relate how we can use the following set of tools in this identification process, such as a good reference book, a hand lens, and a good Phone App. Then there are specific tree traits to look for, such as the tree's form, bark structure, buds, leaves, needles, flowers, and fruit. Peter will discuss the easier ID's and some not-so-easy ID's. (Perhaps when he's finished, I'll be able to reliably tell White Birch and Grey Birch apart in the winter – *Bernie McKenna*).

7:30 p.m. at the NSMNH



AGM & MEMBERS SLIDE NIGHT



TUESDAY, MAR. 18

Our Annual General Meeting will be followed by a select showing of members' photos. The AGM 2023 annual reports will be followed by the election of the next Board of Directors, and this year we'll propose a new by-law for members to vote on. Because 2025 is our 50th anniversary year, members are invited to provide images from HFN further into our past, focusing on people and events that newer members will never have had the opportunity to attend. We are aiming for 50 or more contributed photos, and this will be a wonderful way to get a glimpse into HFN's 50-year history. Don Flemming will compile the photos into a slide show, and interested members are asked to submit their photos to Don by February 22nd – by USB stick, by email if five or less, or from a data storage app such as Google Drive or DropBox.

7:30 p.m. at the NSMNH

MEMBERSHIP FORM

New ___ Renew ___ Student \$15 ___ Individual \$25 ___ Family \$30 ___ Supporting \$35 ___ Institutional \$35 ___
I would like to order ___ HFN lapel pins @\$5; ___ Checklists @\$1.00; Butterfly ___ Dragonfly ___ Total \$ ___
Name ___ Phone ___ Email ___
Address ___ Postal Code ___

HFN is a volunteer organisation. Would you share your interests and skills? _____

I could help with: talks/trips ___ board meetings ___ newsletter ___ other _____

MEMBERSHIP: Renewals are due on Jan. 1st. New memberships received from Sept. 1st to Dec. 31st of any year will be valid until the end of the following membership year. Send this application to: **HFN Membership Secretary, c/o Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, NS, B3H 3A6.** EMAIL: hfn.inquiries@gmail.com. WEBSITE: halifaxfieldnaturalists.ca
FACEBOOK: Halifax Field Naturalists, or HFN. For events with limited spaces HFN members will be given priority; and, for the latest programme updates, go to <https://halifaxfieldnaturalists.ca>, menu item 'Walks and Talks'.

HRM ORGANIC WASTE



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

We have an opportunity to view HRM's new and technically advanced facility under the guidance of General manager Sean Hagan. It represents a huge leap forward from the previous two facilities both in design and operation. Open since September of 2024, it serves all of HRM and boasts many advances over the previous two plants, including the following; the whole process is carried out under one roof, with no outside processing, thus minimising outside impacts; high quality compost can be produced in 3 months; it has capacity of 60 tonnes, readily expandable to 75 tonnes; there are new energy efficiencies with lighting, heating, wastewater containment, and treatment; and odour control limits any unwanted effects to its neighbouring communities. There are many other Improvements as well. Designed to operate for 25 years, it will go far in addressing our organic waste situation well into this century. **Registration is required for both communication purposes and potential numbers limitations.**

Rain Date: Thursday, March 27th
Time/Place: 10:00 a.m., 37 Evergreen Place, Goodwood
Contact: Bernie McKenna, 902-434-3202, mckennab197@gmail.com
Difficulty: Indoors, but winter driving conditions may present
Duration: 1 – 1.5 hours



NATURE ADVENTURES...



TUESDAY, APR. 15

...Through Long Distance Walking. This talk by Renée Lyons, Emeritus Professor at Dalhousie University and the University of Toronto, along with her sidekick BIO retired scientist Gareth Harding, will show highlights of their last 10 years of walking the National Trails of Britain. Many companies now support ageing naturalists who prefer the comforts of not having to camp nor carry their gear. Renée says they have become quite addicted to this way of seeing nature, learning about history and meeting folks along the way. They have recently completed a 220 mile walk – the Southern Uplands Way – in Scotland, and next on their list is the Outer Hebrides. They will share some of their adventures and discuss creating such opportunities in Nova Scotia.

7:30 p.m. at NSMNH

INGRAM RIVER

SATURDAY, APR. 12

Join us as Mike Lancaster, Executive Director of the St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association, leads us into this **Proposed Wilderness Area**. No doubt some of you will remember his revealing talk about this very same area last November. We'll walk through only a small portion of the area, but we'll see a variety of trees and plants which, coupled with the area's location, would seem to make it a very special place. The area is a provincially approved clear-cut area, and the area is a provincially approved clear-cut area, both now and in the years to come. **Registration is required, and being some distance away, carpooling is much recommended.** There will be a roughly 10 km drive on woods roads (SUV Passable) to reach the walk area. **Expect wet terrain so dress accordingly; rubber boots are strongly recommended.**

**Postponed until later in the year
-- new date to be determined**

Rain Date: Sunday, Apr. 13th
Contact: Bernie McKenna, 902-434-3202, or mckennab197@gmail.com
Time/Place: 9:00 a.m. at the carpool location, 7071 Bayers Road. **Those traveling directly there will meet up at exit 5A on HWY 103 by 10:00 a.m.**
Difficulty: Moderate; weather dependent
Duration: 2.5 to 3.5 hours (travel time not included)