



HALIFAX FIELD NATURALISTS

2025 SPRING 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.

HALIFAX TREE IDENTIFICATION

SATURDAY, APR. 26

Professor Emeritus Peter Duinker of Dalhousie University will lead us on a short tour of Halifax streets to view and discuss the various urban trees found along the way. The walk starts at the NSMNH parking lot and proceeds on foot from there, viewing as many tree species as possible and discussing what signs signify each tree's species/genus identity. This tour follows and complements Peter's comprehensive presentation on Tree Identification delivered to the Halifax Field Naturalists on Feb. 18th at the NS Museum of Natural History. **NOTE:** This tour also coincides with the dates of the City Nature Challenge and participants are encouraged to use their iNaturalist app to capture and identify as much diversity as possible along the way. **Registration is required for communication purposes.**

Rain Date: Sunday, April 27th at 1:00 p.m.

Contact: Bernie McKenna, 902-434-3202, mckennab197@gmail.com

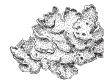
Time/Place: 10:00 a.m. at the Nova Scotian Museum of Natural History parking lot

Difficulty: Easy; a sidewalk surface, but dress for the weather conditions

Duration: 1 to 1.5 hours



BELCHER'S MARSH



SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Dr. Sean Haughian, Curator of Botany and plant ecologist at the NS Museum of Natural History is leading this walk in conjunction with the 2025 Canadian Nature Challenge. Extensive experience and knowledge makes Sean an ideal leader to introduce these forest- and marsh-dwelling plants, lichens, and mosses, and to discuss the forest ecosystem they need to prosper. Along the way he will reveal previously (perhaps unnoticed) marsh and forest dwelling subjects for those hoping to increase their species count on the iNaturalist 2025 City Nature Challenge. This walk is an excellent opportunity for all to learn more about these marsh inhabitants. **Registration is required for attendance.**

Rain Date: None; this is the last day for the 2025 CNC

Contact: Bernie McKenna, 902-434-3202, mckennab197@gmail.com

Time/Place: 1:30 p.m. at Belcher's Marsh Trailhead just north of 429 Parkland Dr. Park on the side of Parkland Drive.

Difficulty: Easy, hard-packed earthen surface. The hike is 2.5 km each way.

Duration: 2.5 hours



DRUMLIN TRAIL WALK

SATURDAY, MAY, ²⁴~~18~~

We'll walk on one of seven excellent trails within Uniacke Estate Museum Park. At 2.1 kms in length, it travels through mature trees along the north shore of Lake Martha. At the end of this trail it starts to rise then loop back on itself through a generally open and mixed coniferous and non-coniferous woods before reaching the top of the drumlin itself. From this higher vantage point, there is a panoramic view of the estate buildings and the lake. The trail is wide, with firm footing. However, it may be wet, and it does have many large roots crossing it. The bird app 'Merlin' is worth having here as there are generally more birds to be heard than seen. As this is spring dress accordingly; **waterproof hikers** would be a very good idea. **Registration is required for communication purposes.** The hike leader is to be announced at a later date.

Rain Date: Sunday, May, ~~19th~~ ^{25th}

Contact: Bernie McKenna, 902-434-3202, mckennab197@gmail.com

Time/Place: 10:00 am, #758 Highway 1, Uniacke Estate Museum Parking Lot

Difficulty: Easy, lower trail may have wet spots

Duration: 2 hours

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'.



SPRING BIRD TALK

TUESDAY, MAY 20

Long time HFN member and bird authority Clarence Stevens will give a detailed talk on the colourful array of birds which visit our urban parks during the spring migration period. He'll provide a wealth of information as to which of our urban parks to visit, and just as importantly, when to visit certain parks in order to fully enjoy these spring migrants. He will also provide specific information about the bird species which can be found in our city parks and our own backyards during the breeding season. It should be noted that Clarence has a published book on the more prolific birding spots in the area.

7:30 pm, at the NSMNH



Sunday

HRM 'FIRE' WALK

SATURDAY, JUN. 8

Sean Haughian, Curator of Botany and plant ecologist at the NS Museum of Natural History, is leading another HFN walk, this time in an area of historic wildfires. Sean will share his knowledge and expertise as we travel through this evolving environment, and he'll point out the amazing postfire regenerative abilities of plants, lichens, and mosses. Sean will explain how the ecosystem has shifted because of these fires, and how this is an advantage for some and a distinct disadvantage for other organisms. This venture is a wonderful chance to learn first-hand how this process works after such a drastic event. **Registration is required.**

Rain Date: Saturday, June 22nd

Contact: Bernie McKenna, 902-434-3202 or mckennab197@gmail.com

Time/Place: 1:30 p.m., Shaw Wilderness Park Trail. Parking is at 2379 Purcell's Cove Road.

Difficulty: Moderate; mostly crushed rock over dirt, with a ~50 m elevation change from start to finish. Trip length is 1.5 km one way so a total of 3 km with the return.

Duration: 2.5 – 3.0 hours



THE CANADIAN BEAVER

TUESDAY, JUN. 17

Halifax Field Naturalist' long-time good friend Biologist Andrew Hebda will once again present a talk, this time on the Canadian Beaver *Castor canadensis* which is in its 50th year (March, 24, 1975) as Canada's National Animal. Andrew, with his broad research experience as a retired Curator of Zoology at the NS Museum of Natural History, is eminently qualified to present this talk. No stranger to HFN, Andrew has been very generous in sharing his knowledge with us. The Beaver was very influential in Canada's national development, especially in the early fur trade of the 1600's. Andrew will cover all three species of the Canadian beaver, including their pre-history, history, natural history, and more. He'll examine our intimate and natural relationship with this member of the Rodentia, and also where the European beaver fits in. As in all Andrew's talks and field trips this promises to be a fascinating look at our national animal.

7:30 p.m. at the NSMNH