



HALIFAX FIELD NATURALISTS

2025 AUTUMN 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.



BELL PARK FIELD TRIP



SATURDAY, NOV. 1

This small, Mount Uniacke woodlands park (55 acres) on Hwy#1 is a 2.5 km. loop trail, with one main side trail to view the West Lake narrows. It has good plant diversity – all the way from lofty conifers down to lichens, mosses, and the prostrates. The gorgeous views of West Lake are perfect for photos and would fit well into our members' photo nights. Flies should not be a problem, but ticks are a 12-month occurrence now. This trail is firm, earthen packed, and mostly level. 'Seek' and 'Merlin' apps are definite advantages here for plant and animal identification. **Registration is required, and a non-members fee of \$10:00 will apply.**

Rain Date: Sunday, November 2nd

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

Time/Place: 10:00 a.m., Bell Park, **Mount Uniacke, #412 Hwy#1 (may appear as #414 on Google Maps)**

Difficulty: Easy; trail is firm, fairly level, with a hard packed earthen base.

Duration: 1-1 1/2 hours



NOVA SCOTIA NATURE TRUST (NSNT) TUESDAY, NOV. 18

Keith Spafford, NSNT's Landowner Outreach Lead, and Jaime Morozoff, NSNT's Director of Conservation, will combine to give a detailed talk on what NSNT does and how they do it. They'll cover numerous campaigns, programmes, and projects – both past and present. They'll also talk about the roles of private land conservation, land prioritisation, focus areas, stewardship, and critical habitat conservation. Since NSNT's start 30 years ago it has saved more than 190 wild spaces which will be now preserved forever. This talk promises to be an enlightening presentation by this unique and wonderful nature preservation organisation.

7:30 p.m. at the NSMNH



2025 HFN YEAR END REVIEW ...

TUESDAY, DEC. 16

Clarence Stevens Jr. will again lend his talents to this year's nature review from an HFN perspective. He'll highlight some of the more positive happenings and maybe a few that were not quite as positive. As in past years he'll show some of his excellent photos and give us a short commentary on each. This review and summary of the year past always gives us reason for optimism and hope for the coming year.

... AND HFN MEMBERS' POTLUCK HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Our annual Member's Holiday Social immediately follows the above meeting. It always makes for a very amiable and pleasant evening. Please bring your potluck sweets, snacks, and goodies, as well as non-alcoholic drinks for this social sharing. **Note: there are no facilities for heating food.**

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'.

ANNUAL HFN BIRD WALK

SATURDAY, JAN. 17

Accomplished bird authority Fulton Lavender has once again graciously offered to lead this well attended birding outing. He'll take us to a number of the more productive bird watching locations. No doubt, as in past years, we'll find a good mix of seabirds, raptors, and a number of land birds, and hopefully – some less common ones. Remember, it is January, so dress appropriately warmly – head to toe! Bring your binoculars, scopes, or cameras; a thermos with a hot drink is also a good idea. **Registration is required and there is a limit of 20 spaces. Non-HFN members will be charged a \$10:00 walk fee.**

Storm Date: Sunday, Jan. 18th

Contact: Fulton Lavender, 902-455-4966

Time/Place: 9:00 a.m., Nowlan St. parking lot off of Prince Albert Rd., Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth

Duration: 4 hours

Difficulty: Medium, with city sidewalks and trails. It's best to expect and prepare for snow and ice.



THE MORE-THAN-HUMAN CITY

TUESDAY, JAN. 20

Dr. Caitlin Cunningham, Assistant Professor in the Teaching Stream of the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto will present this talk via Zoom. Caitlin explains that while cities are described as human spaces, this is not so and never has been. Using Halifax as an example she details how urban spatial patterns affect city life, both for non-human and human animals alike. The reality of this fact has recently become increasingly more evident to every one of us. The NSMNH auditorium will be used as per normal for the meeting, with all regular pre-talk procedures being carried out prior to Dr. Cunningham's talk.

7:30 p.m. at the NSMNH



STEELE OCEAN SERVICES TOUR

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4

Marine ecologist Boris Worm, Professor in the Marine Conservation Biology at Dalhousie's Marine Department, will lead this tour of the facility, including the live aquarium and the Blue Whale Exhibit, going into Blue Whale biology and perhaps a look into their future. He'll also talk broadly about the biodiversity in our waters. This tour promises to be a very informative and enlightening experience. **Registration is mandatory and HFN members have priority; anyone not registered may be denied entrance. A Dalhousie fee of \$8:00 may apply; no HFN fee will be charged.**

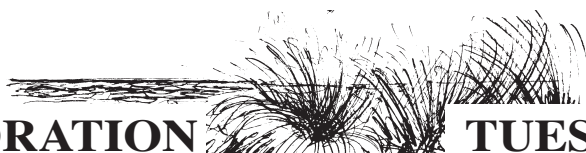
Rain Date: Thursday, February 5th

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

Time/Place: 2:00 p.m. at the Dalhousie Ocean Services Building, 6375 Edzell Castle Circle.

Difficulty: Easy; however, winter conditions will apply.

Duration: 2 hours



SALT MARSH RESTORATION

TUESDAY, FEB. 17

CB Wetlands and Environmental Specialists' (CBWES) Geomatics and Field Technician Tom Johnson will present this overview of his Nova Scotia-based company's work in habitat restoration and environmental research. Specialising in the restoration of coastal wetlands, they work with nature-based solutions to create climate resilience in coastal systems. Tom will cover salt marsh physical features, ecology, plants and fauna, succession/evolution, and the part humans play in all of this. Here in our coastal province this information should be very beneficial to us all.

7:30 p.m. at the NSMNH