



HALIFAX FIELD NATURALISTS 2026 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.**

AGM & MEMBERS SLIDES TUESDAY, MAR. 17

The Annual General Meeting is a two-part evening. The first part is the AGM itself, and as per last year, only the President's and Treasurer's Reports will be given. The other reports will be available on our website. This will followed by a vote on two Special Resolutions, which is in turn followed by the election of the new Board of Directors and a new President and Vice President. After this we'll have the annual slide night where members display and discuss some of their favourite nature photos. Each presenter has an 8-10 minute time slot to present and discuss their photos. Up to three members who have not shown before have priority in doing so. If interested, please contact Don Flemming by February 17th at 902-240-8832, or donjane.flemming.com. **7:30 p.m. at the NSMNH**



GRAVES ISLAND



SATURDAY, MAR. 21

Gareth Harding, our HFN Newsletter Morar Notes contributor and reliable HFN walk leader, has once again agreed to lead a wal – this time to Graves Island Provincial Park. As a late March walk, it has all the makings of excellent seabird and waterfowl viewing, along with some more common birds thrown in. The well-treed, 3 km Graves Island Coastal Trail overlooking Mahone Bay should make for a wonderful outing. This walk may well take some of our long-time members back to the days when this type of event was often the norm. **Note; binoculars, cameras, warm clothing and footwear plus a good thermos are all recommended. Registration is required, and a non-member \$10:00 fee will apply.**

Rain Date: Sunday, March 22nd

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

Time/Place: 10:30 a.m., Graves Island Provincial Park, 230 Graves Island Road, East Chester

Difficulty: Variable. **As it is late March in Nova Scotia; snow and wind may well apply; dress accordingly**

Duration: 3 hours, travel not included



BANK SWALLOWS

TUESDAY, APR. 21

Presented via Zoom by Heather Polowyk of Birds Canada. Bank Swallows are Aerial Insectivores, a group of birds that eat insects while flying. They are the second most declining bird group in Canada. The population has diminished by more than 90% since 1970 due to habitat loss, reduced insect populations, and climate change. But, it is not too late to help Bank Swallows persist into the future!

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. **Please note: for events with limited spaces, and during COVID restrictions, Halifax Field Naturalists members will be given priority.**



LANDFILL RECLAMATION WALK SATURDAY, APR. 25

This late spring outing is a two-part event at a 1984 decommissioned West Hants landfill. The first part is a walking view of the landfill itself, which has been reclaimed and is now an excellent soccer field facility. The second is the 1.6 km Glooscap Trail loop. This trail follows a well-wooded course of gentle elevation changes on a well packed and wide earthen surface. It features a small water course and a few vernal ponds. Being late April, we may expect a few lingering snow patches and some wet spots. A previous walk proved the 'SEEK' and 'Merlin' apps were a definite benefit. **Appropriate footwear is recommended. Registration is required and a \$10:00 non-member fee will apply.**

Rain Date: Sunday, April 26th

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

Time/Place: 10:30 am, 151 Irishman's Road, Windsor. We'll meet at Exit 5 off of Hwy # 101

Difficulty: Variable, but easy, the trail is well packed with gentle slopes

Duration: 3 hours, travel time not included



ST. CROIX RIVER DYKE WALK

SATURDAY, MAY 23

This walk is in lieu of the Truro Chimney Swifts Night which conflicted with our regular monthly museum meeting. The St. Croix River is 34 Km long, is sourced at Lake Panuke, and flows into the Avon River. This walk will take us along a section of the river dyke system. Here we'll see the impressive gypsum cliffs close-at-hand, the dyke drainage system layout and its aboiteau, the plant and bird life of the area and the river flow itself. Note: Registration is required for communication purposes. Tick precautions are suggested and car-pooling is recommended.

Rain Date: Sunday, May 24

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

Time Place: 11:00 am / Take Exit 4 Hwy 101, left onto Hwy # 1, right onto Rocks Road, park at Weir Brook Bridge

Difficulty: Minimal, grassed walking surface

Duration: 2.5 hours, travel excluded



SPRING BIRD TALK

TUESDAY, MAY 19

Long time HFN member and bird authority, Clarence Stevens will give a detailed talk on the colourful array of birds that visit our urban parks during the spring migration period. He will 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. This presentation will also provide specific information about the bird species that can be found in our city parks and our own backyards during the breeding season. It should be noted Clarence has a published book on the more prolific birding spots in the area.

7:30 p.m. at the NSMNH