HALIFAX FIELD NATURALISTS
2026 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 **halifaxfieldnaturalists.ca**, or – mail the form on other side**.**

NS NORTH SHORE ECOSYSTEMS TUESDAY, OCT. 20

Dalhousie's Faculty of Agriculture Associate Professor Sarah Stewart-Clark PhD. BSc, (Hon), MSc, will speak on her research of the coastal ecosystems along Nova Scotia's North Shore to see if its native and/or invasive plants grew back after hurricane Fiona came through in September 2022 and cleared out all their vegetation. She'll cover how she examined the areas affected and then evaluated how extensive the erosion had been. **7:30 p.m. at the NSMNH**

OTTER PONDS SUNDAY, OCT. 25

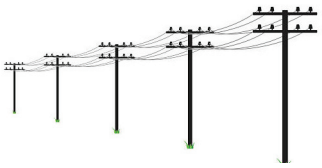
Please Join us as we and the Young Naturalists Club tour the Otter Ponds Demonstration Forest (OPDF), which is a collaborative venture organized by the Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association (NSWOOA). Walk guides will lead us on the Acadian/Wabanaki Forest's trails and discuss the research, education, recreation, and forestry initiatives which have taken place over the past 15 years. The OPDF produce timber using best forest practices while protecting all aspects of wildlife habitat. This is a wonderful opportunity to see first-hand what forestry practices can be like. **Registration is required. Carpooling is recommended. Dress for the weather and be Tick aware!**

Rain Date: **No rain date**
Contact: and registration - Bernie McKenna, 902-434-3202, **mckennab197@gmail.com**
Time/Place: 1:00 p.m. at the Mooseland Fire Hall/Community Centre on your right. Take Hwy 7/107 past Tangier. After crossing Black Brook turn left onto Mooseland Road. Proceed 20 kms to the Mooseland Fire Hall/Community Hall on your right. We will travel together from there.
Difficulty: Moderate, hard, earthen-packed trails, with some roots
Duration: 2.5 hours, travel not included

SILVER SANDS BEACH PARK SATURDAY, NOV. 7

Clarence Stevens will lead us on a **Members Only** walk at this newly opened beachside park. The 1:00 p.m. start time is selected to take advantage of the low tide – it makes for easier walking. The park has a large tidal backwater which is a definite draw for shorebirds of all species to feed and rest. The entrance is located on Cow Bay Road about 500 metres west of the Moose entrance. **Registration is required for this Members Only hike.**

Rain Date: **Sunday, November 8th**
Registration/Contact: Bernie Mckenna, 902-434-3202, or **mckennab197@gmail.com**
Time/Place: 1:00 p.m. at Silver Sands Beach Park
Difficulty: Easy to moderate, with some beach cobblestone
Duration: 2 - 3 hours



CLEAN POWER IN RESERVE TUESDAY, NOV. 17

Join us as Wayne Groszko of Dalhousie University presents on Nova Scotia's and Atlantic Canada's enormous clean, renewable energy potential. He'll discuss how we can greatly reduce our harmful emissions and long, term energy costs. Wayne will explore how it all hinges on developing large scale energy storage and transmission abilities.

7:30 p.m. at the NSMNH

MEMBERSHIP FORM

New ___ Renew ___ Student $15 _____ Indvidual $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_____

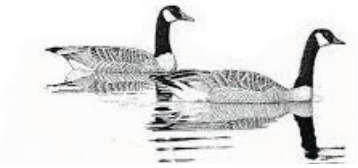
MEMBERSHIP: Renewals are due on Jan. 1st. New memberships received from Sept. 1st to Dec. 31st of any year will be valid until the end of the following membership year. Send this application to: **HFN Membership Secretary, c/o Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, NS, B3H 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'.**

2026 HFN YEAR END REVIEW TUESDAY, DEC. 15

2026 has come and gone and Clarence Stevens will once again lead us through the past year. He will review some of its more significant events from an HFN perspective, hopefully more on the positive side than the negative. Clarence will share some of his impressive photos and elaborate on each. This night is always both an informative and an entertaining evening and makes looking ahead to 2027 a bit more encouraging.

... AND HFN MEMBERS' POTLUCK HOLIDAY SOCIAL

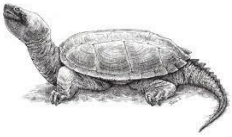
The annual HFN Member's Holiday Social will immediately follow the above 2026 review. This is an eagerly anticipated evening of merriment and friendship in the best spirit of the season. Everyone please bring along your potluck contributions and non-alcoholic beverages for all to sample and enjoy. **7:30 p.m. at the NSMNH**



ANNUAL HFN BIRD WALK SATURDAY, JAN. 16

Our ever-stalwart bird authority Fulton Lavender will provide his accomplished leadership during this much anticipated yearly birding event. Fulton will show us some of his favourite bird spotting locations and reveal a few professional techniques. The day invariably produces a diverse variety of species, and more often than not an unexpected bird or two. It is important to remember this is a Nova Scotia January day – **dress warmly, top to bottom.** Bring along binoculars, scopes, cameras, a thermos of a hot drink and maybe a light snack. **Registration is required for communication purposes and there is a limit of 20 spaces. A non-HFN members walk fee of $10.00 may apply.**

Storm Date: **Sunday, January 17th**
Contact: Fulton Lavender, 902-455-4966
Time/Place: 9:00 a.m. at the Nowlan St. parking lot off Prince Albert Rd., Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth
Duration: 4 hours
Difficulty: Medium, with city sidewalks and trails. It's best to prepare well for snow, ice, and cold.



DECOY / FAKE TURTLE NESTS TUESDAY, JAN. 19

Join us as Dalhousie University students (Alex Bruce doing a BSc in Environmental Science and Ashton Leal doing a Masters of Environmental Studies) detail their unique and innovative project. With nest predation such a major threat to freshwater turtle nests, they are looking at organic conservation methods to help lessen this predation. Alex and Ashton will discuss and demonstrate their system, its initial results, and future planned improvements. **7:30 p.m. at the NSMNH**