



Fredericton Nature Club/ Club de la nature de Fredericton

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Newsletter

January - May 2010

Dear Fredericton Nature Club Members!

Happy Holidays.....I trust everybody worked off those extra calories by getting outdoors - we should have lots of sightings to talk about at our next meeting!....A thankyou to all who were able to participate in the Christmas Bird Count, and an extra thanks to Don Gibson for organizing it. After my rather dismal outings over the past few years, I can't but wonder if the few birds I saw is atypical, part of a real trend, or some bias. The number of active bird feeders seems less each year and although feeders likely create an artificial distribution of winter birds, I wonder if the decline in supplemental food leads to population declines or just re-distribution of birds to the country and out of sight. My route had only 2 active feeders, but the forests were also quiet. The value of the CBC is its longevity - the results of 1 winter can be compared to the long-term average. And so, well done to all who keep slogging through the cold and snow, to see a chickadee

And, please don't forget to renew your annual club memberships.... GJF

Our webpage:

FNC Executive

President: Graham Forbes
Treasurer: Jo-anne Stillwell
Membership: Vacant (G. Forbes)
Newsletter: Vacant (G. Forbes)
Nature NB Rep.: Glenda Turner
Publicity: Vacant (G. Forbes)
Our Genial Monthly Host: Don Gibson

Location and Meeting Times

Date: First Wednesday of each month (starting in October)
Location: The Stepping Stone Centre
15 Saunders Street
Fredericton
Across the road from YMCA
Lots of parking
Easy access
Time: Monthly meetings start at 7 p.m.

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Fredericton Nature Club Membership for 2009-2010

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- \$20 Individual Membership
 \$25 Family Membership

Please mail form to:

Fredericton Nature Club
PO Box 772, Station A
Fredericton NB E3B 5B4

Calendar of Events

Indoor Stuff

All talks take place at
The Stepping Stone Centre, 7 p.m.

January 13: Waterfalls of New Brunswick: The Story Behind the Book with Nicholas Guitard.

The recent book on waterfalls in our province is a real gem. Come here the stories about finding these well-hidden spots and enjoy some of the lovely photographs that make up the book.

February 3: Maritime Butterfly Atlas with John Klymko.

John is an invertebrate specialist with the Atlantic Conservation Data Centre (ACCDC) and is leading the effort to collect data for a new atlas on butterflies in the Maritimes. Interested members should sign up!

March 3: 50th year Celebration Night!

This will be a special member's night event to celebrate the Club's 50th year. We will have a range of activities and there are real prizes!!

April 7:- Arctic Fairies: Breeding Ecology of Sabine Gulls and Arctic Terns in the High Arctic with Kelly Boadway.

Kelly is a UNB graduate student with Tony Diamond and has spent several summers in the High Canadian Arctic studying the behaviour of these little Arctic aerialists.

May 5: A Trip to Churchill for Polar Bear with Tony & Ursula Lampart.

Club members Ursula and Tony will recount their memorable trip to see polar bears and other wildlife in Churchill, Manitoba.



Outdoor Stuff

Most outings begin at the Odell Park
parking lot. Times vary - check below.

Saturday February 6

Hawks, Owls, or Blizzard

In our annual attempt to find hawks and good weather at the same time, we will search the fields and skylines for rough-legged hawks, snowy owls and snow buntings (did you notice the multiple references to 'snow'?). Hoping for good weather, lets meet at 10 am at Odell. Bring a lunch (and survival gear).

Saturday March 27

Who Gives a Hoot ?

Last year's owl prowls was great fun when we found an owl, and very cold when we didn't. We will depart Odell Park at 8:00pm.

Saturday April 10

Annual Floodplain Folly

What better way to bring in spring than getting your feet wet looking for waterfowl and everything else along the flooded Saint John River! Bring a lunch. We meet first at Odell Park at 7:50 a.m. and leave at 8:00 a.m. sharp.

Saturday May 8

A Little Vernal Pool

We will visit the small wooded pond behind Graham's house for an after-dark look for several species of salamander and frogs breeding in the pond. Meet at 815 Charters Sett. Rd at 9 pm. The pond is easily accessed, no boots needed (unless its raining?).

Summer Events

May 22-23. Numerous outings with the Nature NB Annual Meeting, Gagetown..see next page.



Message from the President

1. 50th Anniversary.....

Our 50th year as a club began this January and to celebrate this worthy event, we will be undertaking several special activities.

A) The initial plan for a Nature Day at Odell Park has been replaced with the club's involvement in co-hosting the Nature NB Annual meeting May 21-23 at Gagetown. You may recall our offer to help Nature NB with the annual meeting, in part because there was interest and opportunity to work with the Celebration of Birds group in Gagetown. The Celebration of Birds programme attracts hundreds of people and, in conjunction with the large numbers attending the Nature NB meeting, we thought there might be some collective synergy and increased exposure for the Fredericton Nature Club. See next page for more information on the weekend of events.

B) **A History of the Fredericton Nature Club.** It is not clear if this project will go ahead because I have only a limited amount of material to work with. To date, I have 1 anecdotal story and a few photos. We thought it would be appropriate to document and present an overview of the Club's activities over the last 50 years. There have been many members, executives, field trips and presentations. Please let me know if you pictures, or stories; I don't want to give up on this project yet!

C). **Member Involvement.** The club has been active for 50 years and several people have done the lion's share of the work to keep it going. At our March 3 meeting, we will recognize some of these people and thank them for the years of dedication. If you wish to nominate a member, please email me at forbes@unb.ca.

3. **And speaking of involvement.....**If you can, please offer to help out with some activities or governance of the Club. There are several vacant positions on the 'executive' and all positions are open for election. Glenda represents the club with Nature NB and Joanne handles the finances. Gilles runs the webpage. Presently, I am doing membership, newsletter, outings, and President - my kids say that I like being a dictator, (which is true) but we should get some extra ideas and people into the mix.



DRAFT AGENDA FOR OUTINGS - MAY 22-23, 2010

The final schedule will be released in February, but, as a heads up, here are some of the activities being offered at the Annual Meeting of Nature NB, and the Celebration of Birds at Gagetown, this spring.

Insects Galore - Reggie Webster will lead a half-day outing each afternoon in search of dragonflies, beetles, grasshoppers, pill bugs, leafhoppers, butterflies, moths, and maybe even an ant or two.

Plants on the Meadows - Gart Bishop will lead a group to explore the numerous plant species typical of flooded forest and field, and marsh.

Plants and Restoration in the Coal Beds - Liz Mills of UNB Biology leads a trip in the Minto area to discuss successful and unsuccessful efforts to bring the slag heaps back to productivity.

Sunpoke Pokeabout - Ron Wilson will lead this exploration of the sights and sounds of wildlife in the Sunpoke Lake area.

Nerepis Hills - Deanna McCallum, biologist with CFB Gagetown will lead a tour of the Nerepis Hills section of Base Gagetown - an area with nesting Peregrines and other lovely sights, usually off limits to the public.

Lichens - Stephen Clayden of the NB Museum will lead an outing in search into the fascinating and sometimes minute world of lichens.

Mosses and Liverworts - Kate Frego of UNB Saint John can tell you all about where and why moss grows in the forest.

General Nature Walk - Jim Goltz, as you know, knows all there is to know, and so, will lead a general walkabout in the Gagetown area.

River Birding - Graham Forbes will lead a group in search of birds up river from Gagetown and Kier Gigeroff will do the same, but downriver.

There also will be workshops, a banquet, and a silent auction. So, keep the May 21-23 weekend open, register for the meeting, and come out for a weekend of events.

