



Fredericton Nature Club/ Club de la nature de Fredericton

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Newsletter

September -December 2010

Dear Fredericton Nature Club Members!

Its our 51st year!! The first 50 is over. Can you imagine what Fredericton will be like at our 100th Anniversary? The UNB woodlot will be a car dealership (but they will only sell hybrids), Mactaquac Dam will be owned by Maine Power and still have summer construction delays (but that allows for a leisurely scan for waterfowl or eagles), and the Christmas Bird Count will be done in t-shirts (but you will see painted bunting in a sycamore).

So, before all that happens, come out on some hikes. We have a mushroom walk, some birding and some waterfalls. We have a range of presentation subjects and so if you can't get to the trips, come to the talks.

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

Our webpage: fnc.gbnature.com

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 2010-2011

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.

**October 6: Biodiversity Stewardship Project:
Engaging New Brunswickers in Conserving our
Natural Heritage** with Gregor Jongsma.

Greg leads a Nature NB project that facilitates members of the public wishing to be involved in projects to monitor biodiversity in the province. Come hear how the first year went and plans for the future.

November 3: Bird Photography and Parkinsons
with Merv Cormier.

Merv Cormier contributed fantastic photos for the new Birding in New Brunswick, written by book by Roger Burrows. He also is dealing with Parkinsons, which makes a difficult task that much harder. Merv will discuss his experiences with nature photography and Parkinsons.

December 1: Properties of the Nature Trust with Renata Woodward

The Nature Trust of NB has acquired many wonderful properties over the years. Renata will provide an overview of many, and discuss how they are acquired, and how they are managed.



Outdoor Stuff

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

Sunday September 19
Fall Birding

We haven't been to Wilkins Field in a while but it can be good for a range of birds. Maybe Hurricane Earl blew in the last Bachman's Warbler from the Carolinas! Meet at Odell Park parking lot at 11am. Bring a lunch.

Sunday October 2
Fall Mushrooms

Join expert David Malloch for a search for mushrooms at New River Beach Provincial Park. We will depart Odell Park at 8:00am and meet David at 11am at the Barnaby Head Trail. This will give time for some birding ,and botanizing before the mushroom walk. Bring a lunch so you aren't tempted into eating mushrooms!

Sunday October 24
Fall Water (Waterfalls!)

Nicholas Guitard presented at the club last year, has produced 2 great books and so we have no excuse. Join Doug Jackson and Graham Forbes for a slow hike to several of the area's waterfalls. Should be lovely with the autumn colours. Meet at Odell at 9:30. Bring a lunch.

Sunday December 19
Christmas Bird Count

A highlight of the year...counting chickadees!!!! Looking in stranger's backyards with binoculars and hoping the police don't drive by. Hoping for a hawk owl (so you can brag at the potluck) but coming in with 50 chickadees. Ah, the Christmas Bird Count. Just have to do it! Ron Wilson has taken the reins from Don Gibson. (Thanks Don and Ron!).The potluck will be at the Stepping Stone Centre, details to follow.

Note: We might get an outing to Greenlaw Mountain for a hawk watch and if we can arrange it, you will be notified by email.

Message from the President

A SUMMARY OF MEMBER'S NIGHT

Most importantly, we had cake. And it looked even nicer than the photo below until Peter Pearce knocked a corner off during the festivities. Last March the club celebrated our 50th year with a member's night. Attendance was great and we had a contest on identifying wildlife from really bad pictures (usually mine) and the winner for the most correct answers was Jim Goltz. Jim won a Robert Bateman print of a Prothonotary Warbler. Other prizes included various books on birding and nature and a cheap mug from the Dollar Store.



Cake.



The underside of a Hawk Owl, honest.



Don Gibson, Jim Goltz and Peter Pearce with gifts from the club in appreciation of their years of service.

The highlight of Members Night was the recognition of 3 naturalists who have made the club a success. From either establishing the club, to running the executive, and offering countless field trips and presentations, Peter Pearce, Don Gibson, and Jim Goltz have been much of the driving force of the Fredericton Nature Club. In appreciation, each were awarded locally-made crafts - Hudsonian Godwit carvings for the birders and Moccasin Flower for the botanist. Thanks Guys.

SUMMER RECAP

The spring meeting in Gagetown was quite a success. As co-host with the Celebration of Birds, FNC and Nature NB held the annual meeting for the province in sunny Gagetown, May 22-24. The temperature was more like Phoenix in July but we all agreed that was better than rain. Numerous members attended and some led outings, including Ron Wilson to Sunpoke Lake. At Black Duck Marsh, willows were being studied through microscopes and turtles through spottelescopes. Peregrines were spotted at Nerepsis Hills and bat boxes were built in one of the workshops. Jim Goltz led a morning nature walk and helped with the Enid Inch Memorial Service. Nicholas Guitard entertained the Saturday dinner ceremony with his talk on New Brunswick waterfalls, and a significant amount of cash was raised at the silent auction. (I now own a lovely hat with a puffin on it). A big 'thankyou' to Glenda Turner who did much of the organizing for the event, along with several members of the Celebration of Birds and Nature NB!



BUTTERFLY ATLAS TAKES OFF

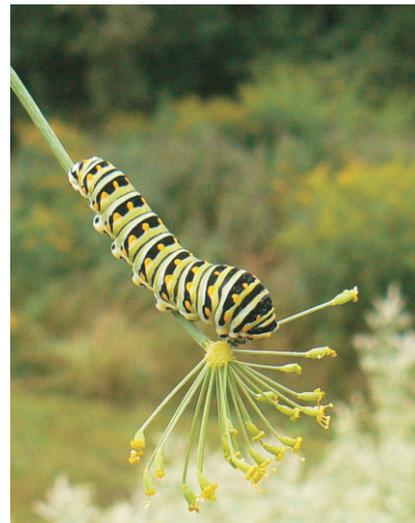
The 5-year Atlas of butterflies located in the Maritimes got underway this spring. The warm April (30C!) made chasing butterflies sweatier than it should but what fun (I mean "what good science to help conservation"). Katie Leger, Greg Jongsma and myself sampled my square near the St. Croix River in May. Several FNC members have squares and we have experts like Tony Thomas and Reg Webster in the area. If you wish to get involved, check out the web page, and grab a net (but only for science; no laughing at people flailing in meadows!).



Katie Leger chasing butterflies in a bog at Kings Brook Lake, near St. Stephen.



A patriotic tree swallow on the Gagetown ferry.



Black Swallowtail larva eating my wife's Dill. I love my wife but hate Dill, so I am torn on this one.