



Fredericton Nature Club/ Club de la nature de Fredericton

224 Highland Ave.
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E3A 2S6
Contact: Graham Forbes
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Newsletter

September- December 2015

Dear
Fredericton Nature Club Members!

Lets call this newsletter both a historical and futurical (yes, I know its not a word) document. Because I did not get last year's newsletters out, this newsletter will include a summary of last year's presentations, as well as the plans for this autumn. Also, I wish to recognize the contributions of Ron Wilson, who moved to Nova Scotia, in order to see more seabirds - actually, it was for work, and the seabirds are a nice bonus. Ron had been active in the club for many years, and was involved in many capacities, including leading many outings, and recently running the Christmas Bird Count. Thanks Ron!

Note that the Club has cancelled our paid mailbox - it was nearing 160\$/yr, and was rarely used, so Andre and I thought it would save some funds if we simply have any mail delivered to Andre's address.

*Andre Vietinghoff
224 Highland Ave.
Fredericton, NB. E3A 2S6*

Our webpage: fnc.gbnature.com

FNC Executive

President: Graham Forbes
Treasurer: Andre Vietinghoff
Membership: Vacant (G. Forbes)
Newsletter: Vacant (G. Forbes)
Publicity: Vacant (G. Forbes)
Nature NB Rep: n/a/
Meeting Host: Graham Forbes

Location and Meeting Times

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

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Fredericton Nature Club Membership for 2015-2016

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- \$20 Individual Membership
- \$25 Family Membership

Please mail form to:

Fredericton Nature Club
224 Highland Ave.
Fredericton, N.B. E3A 2S6

Calendar of Events

Indoor Stuff

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

October 1
Spiders : A Life on the Web
by Don Vail

Don is a well-known nature photographer from down river who has managed to capture some of the coolest animals on the planet on 'film'

November 5
Odell Park
by Graham Forbes

Several data collection projects are underway in Odell Park, and Graham will provide an overview of activities, as well as an update on issues in the Park.

December 3
Wildlife in Malawi
by Graham Forbes

Graham spent a few weeks in Malawi this May for 'work', but managed to canoe with hippos and walk with warthogs



Outdoor Stuff

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

September 12
A Birding to Trip to the Saint John Area

Join Gilles Beliveau on an outing for birds in the Saint John to Lorne area. Departing 8 am from Odell Park parking lot (the lot near the lodge) and returning around 4 pm. Bring a lunch. Raindate is Sept. 13 - check the FNC webpage.

October 3
A Lovely Cruise to Grand Manan

We will drive to Blacks Harbor, walk onto the ferry (12\$) - see some pelagic birds and sea mammals, and return on the next ferry. Dress in layers! Depart 730 am from Odell parking lot.

October 10
Lichens in Odell Park

Stephen Clayden from the NB Museum will lead a search for little lovely lichens in the forests of Odell Park. Meet at 10 am in the Odell Park parking lot.

December 13
Christmas Bird Count

Take part in a >50 year old tradition of trying to see birds during a blizzard. Contact Arielle Demerchant (Arielle.Demerchant@gnb.ca), count coordinator for details.

PRESENTATIONS IN 2014 - 2015 - A HISTORY !

October - Arielle Demerchant; Natural History Photography

November - Jim Goltz; Lyme Disease in New Brunswick

December - Dave Keighley; Geology of Fracking in New Brunswick

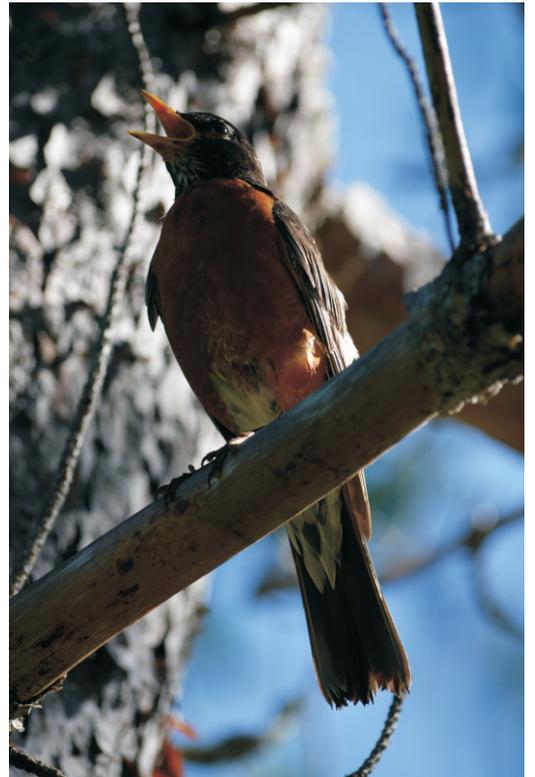
January - Kyle Parkinson; A Summer Working on Prairie Birds

February - Member's Night

March - Jim Goltz; Natural History of the Georgian Bay Islands

April - Dan Harvey; Treatment of Wastewater in the City of Fredericton

May - Jeff Hoyt; Adapting to Climate Change in New Brunswick



Results of the 2014 CBC

American Black Duck	66
Mallard	77
Common Goldeneye	130
Barrows Goldeneye	3
Lesser Scaup	1
Northern Pintail	13
Common Merganser	5
Hooded Merganser	2
Canada Goose	10
Herring Gull	209
Ring-billed Gull	9
G. Black-backed Gull	282
Iceland Gull	10
Glaucous Gull	4
Gull sp.	70
Bald Eagle	70
Red-tailed Hawk	2
Coopers Hawk	1
Ruffed Grouse	3
Northern Raven	58
American Crow	888
Blue Jay	127
Gray Jay	4
Northern Shrike	1
Rock Pigeon	489
Mourning Dove	257
American Robin	4
Hermit Thrush	1
Downy Woodpecker	38
Hairy Woodpecker	30
Pileated Woodpecker	6
Northern Flicker	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
Brown Creeper	3
R.B. Nuthatch	14
W.B. Nuthatch	36
B.C. Chickadee	729
Carolina Wren	1
G. C. Kinglet	20
E. Starling	487
Rusty Blackbird	1
Bohemian Waxwing	102
Waxwing sp.	30
Evening Grosbeak	49
Pine Grosbeak	7
Northern Cardinal	28
House Finch	3
Purple Finch	40
American Goldfinch	223

Pine Siskin	2
Common Redpoll	70
Northern Junco	58
Song Sparrow	8
W.T. Sparrow	3

A total of 4788 individuals of 53 species were recorded during the 2014 Fredericton Christmas Bird Count. Some trends noted in the past continue, notably the disappearance of House Sparrow, and the increase in Northern Cardinal records. Last winter, the Saint John River was mainly frozen during the count (and it was hard to see more than 10 feet in front of you!) and a total of 215 individuals (of which 210 were Mallards) of 2 waterfowl species were recorded. In 2014, the river was open and 307 individuals of 9 species were recorded.

Some notable sightings in 2014 include the Rusty Blackbird, 13 (!) Northern Pintails, and a brave Northern Flicker.



The Ruby-throated Hummingbird was not recorded on the 2015 CBC, which is unfortunate because I took a good photo of one, in July..

Odell Park and Disc-Golf

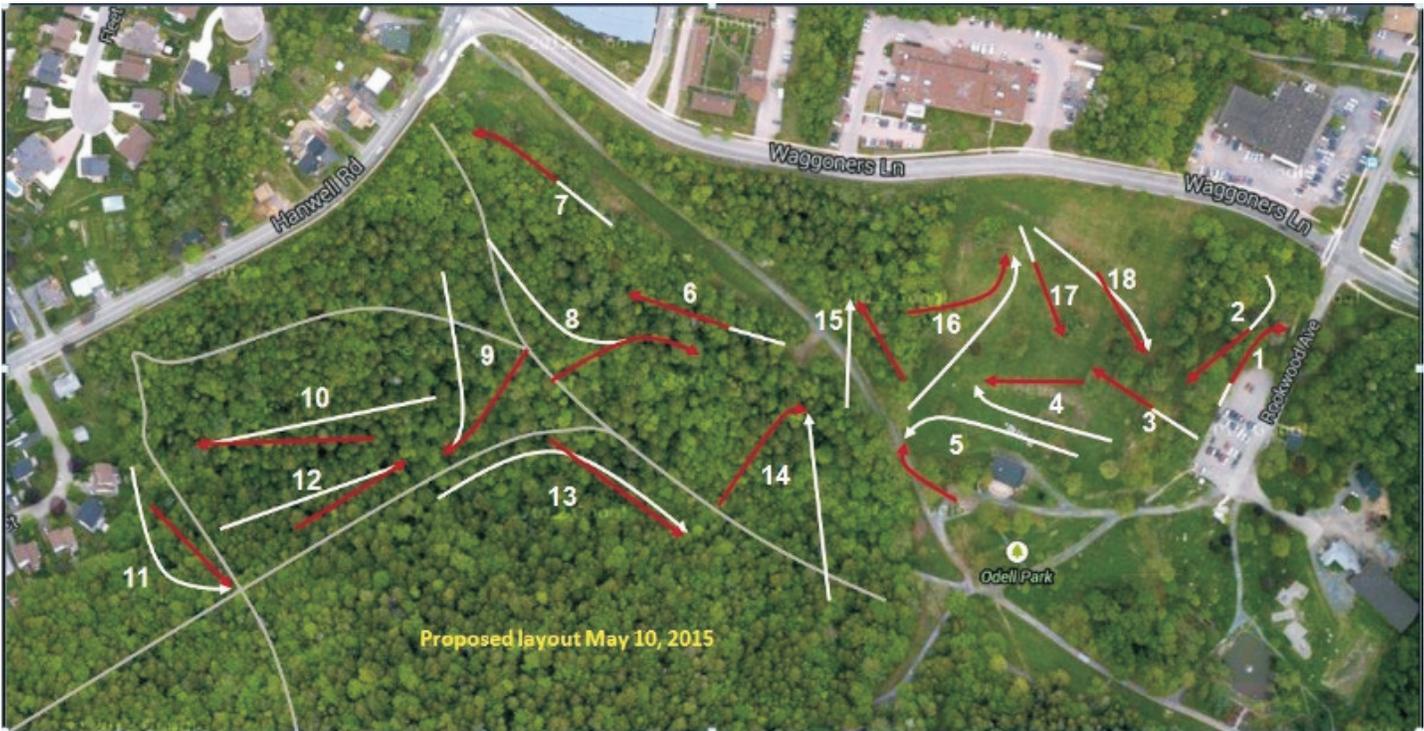
Odell Park is a special place to the naturalist community in Fredericton, and has hosted innumerable Club outings. In spring 2015, I received a few inquiries about the clearing of trees for an expansion of disc-golf course into the forested part of Odell Park. The existing 9-hole course (which involves a 'tee-off' point and a fairway leading to the 'hole' which is a metal cage that the frisbee must land in) is mainly in the cut grass part of Odell, with 1 hole (#6) just into the forest north of the lodge. Proponents of disc-golf were granted permission by a committee of City Council to flag out an additional 9 holes, and City staff modified this layout, and most of the new fairways and holes were made, with an unknown number of trees removed. Most of the trees were small diameter understory trees, rather than individuals in the canopy.

The main concern, from an ecological perspective, is that the expansion represents approximately 2202 sq. metres of soil compaction, mainly in the ancient hemlock grove section of the lower forest. Based on what has occurred in 2 years at hole #6) it is unlikely that there will be any ground cover, moss, leaf litter, salamanders, or tree regeneration in approximately 9% of the lower forest area. The hemlock grove is a unique and special place in the region, and has already been impacted by extensive trail networks. Additional loss of habitat should not occur in such a special place. There also have been concerns expressed over the loss of one of the few places in the southside for people who prefer passive recreation (walking, birding, botanizing, etc..) in a peaceful, safe, natural area, over active use, such as disc-golf, mountain biking etc..

A group, Friends of Odell, was formed, with the objective a promoting the natural value of Odell, and minimizing activities that would hinder those values. Recreational use has a long history in Odell, and there is conflict among users over appropriate activity, and the impacts of recreational use. It is hoped that a management plan will be developed by the City to establish a vision for the maintenance of the natural values of Odell Park. Both Doug Jackson, and myself have been actively involved with the Friends of Odell.

Although most of the holes have been cut, the metal cages are not in the ground and compaction has not begun. A moratorium on the expansion has been requested, and a presentation will be made to the Council committee on September 10.

If you would like to comment on the issue, please contact your local ward councilor, and/or log onto the facebook page, where a petition is available. The facebook address is 'Friends of Odell Community Organization.



Proposed layout of an expanded disc-golf course from existing 9 holes (# 1-5, 15-18 on this map) to 18 holes, with 9 new holes located in the old growth hemlock grove. White lines indicate longer, more difficult fairways, and equate to 12-13 new fairways.



Photo on the left is of existing hole # 6 (re-numbered as # 15 on the above map) which has a compaction zone of approx. 8 m around the cage, and 3 m along the fairway. The picture in the right is of one of the proposed fairways, showing flagged trees.

THE NAMES OF PLANTS

I have always been interested in the common names we have for species - some are obviously well named, while others seem to make no sense. In the last 30 years or so, official committees have been formed (i.e., the Nomenclature Committee of the American Ornithological Union), with a mandate to standardize the common English name. As a result, many of the local common names for widespread species are being labeled with one name, which is then consolidated over time as we use continent-wide field guides. But, even the standardized names often seem odd. The following are a sampling of plant names, as researched in Mary Durant's *A Roving Dictionary of North American Wild Flowers* (1976).

Hawkweed (as in Orange Hawkweed, *Hieracium aurantiacum* from Europe, but all through my lawn): European folklore states that hawks were thought to feed on the juice of hawkweed, which greatly improved the hawk's eyesight (so, it could find more hawkweed to eat).

Joe-Pye Weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*) a native species of wet margins, known to First Nations on the Atlantic seaboard, and named after Joe Pye, one particular 'yarb man' from Massachusetts in the late 1700s.

Loosestrife, as in Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), is a simple translation of the latin *Lysimachus*, a general in the army of Alexander the Great who discovered that the plant can be used to calm work animals. *Lysis* = loose; *machus* = strife. In other words, don't rely on latin to explain any of the defining characteristics of any of the several hundred species in Europe and North America.

Lupine, as in the picturesque *Lupinus polyphyllus* growing wild on the roadsides of New Brunswick is named after the Wolf (lupus, loup, etc..) because it was thought that it ravaged the soil of its nutrients (we now know that is adapted to poor growing conditions, but those crazy ancients thought the plant created the poor soil).

Vipers Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*) a European plant of ditches. Its seeds remind one of a snake head (= viper) but bugloss has nothing to do with misplaced insects. Bugloss is derived from 'bouglossus', which is Greek for 'ox-tongued' and refers to the broad, rough leaves. Kind of disappointing, really.



A Merlin eyes its next meal.....