


Saint John Naturalists Club

Study – Conserve – Educate - Enjoy

Presentations, Workshops, Field Trips, Projects and More



www.saintjohnnaturalistsclub.org

 Nature Saint John

March – April 2015 Bulletin

Club Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the second Monday of each month, September to May, in the auditorium of the NB Museum at Market Square.

Membership Dues

This is a reminder to those who have not paid their annual membership fee. You may pay at the monthly meetings or by post to the club at:

PO Box 207, Saint John, NB E2L 3T5

Individual Membership \$ 20
Family Membership \$ 25

Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

Monday, March 9, 2015

Speaker: Dr. Remi Rochette

Subject: Lobsters and coastal habitats

Dr. Remi Rochette will present his research findings on lobsters and coastal marine habitats in eastern Canada.

Monday April 13, 2015

Speaker: Dr Tony Diamond

Subject: Puffins and other seabirds at Machias Seal Island

Dr Tony Diamond will present his research on Puffins and other seabirds at Machias Seal Island.

Upcoming Field Trips

Field Trip: Spring Migrants around Saint John

April 18, 2015, Saturday

7:50 AM– 1:00 PM

Leader: Jim Wilson

This will be an excursion to find as many spring arrivals around the Greater Saint John area as we can in the morning.

Meet at the parking lot of the (old) NB Museum on Douglas Avenue at 7:50 AM. We'll condense vehicles and visit a number of birding hot spots in the area to see who's back this spring. Bring binoculars, field guide(s), and a notebook and be prepared to see some "firsts" for the spring.

We'll go rain or shine unless the conditions are absolutely terrible. An optional sign-up sheet will be available at the March and April club meetings so Jim can contact you in the event of a weather cancellation.

Field Trip: Jemseg Waterfowl and Spring Migrants

May 9, 2015, Saturday
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Leader: Paul Mansz.

Large numbers of waterfowl are expected, and we hope for a variety of other early Spring migrants. We always enjoy a surprise or two as we travel the river course.

Meet at the Brundage Point River Centre, Ferry Road, Grand Bay-Westfield. Depending on water levels and reported species we will either (1) work our way up the river towards Gagetown with stops at Nerepis, Hibernia, and points in between, or (2) head straight up through Oromocto and over to Highway 105. We will then work our way from Maugerville on to Jemseg and then Lower Jemseg. Flood/freshet levels will determine our exact return route, depending on the Jemseg ferry service and if it is operating.

Please bring a lunch, binoculars, field guide(s), and a notebook and dress for a variety of weather conditions, as it can be quite variable over the course of the trip.

Meetings, workshops and outings are open to one and all without charge, Saint John Naturalists' Club members or not. For more information on the upcoming activities and on the SJNC, visit www.saintjohnnaturalistsclub.org and follow us on Facebook as "Nature Saint John".

Suggestions?

If you have a suggestion for a presentation or field trip please speak to Jan Riddell at a meeting or contact her by email from the SJNC webpage, click on the About Us tab and then the President link.

Executive and Committees

Executive

President: Jan Riddell
Past President: Charles Graves
Vice President: Hank Scarth
Secretary: Jeanette Perry
Treasurer: Don MacPhail

Program Committee

Mary Sollows
Chuck Perry
Curt Nason
Hank Scarth
Jan Riddell (ex-officio)

Bulletin Editors

September: Paul Mansz
November: Joan Pearce
January: Richard Blacquiere
March: Cheryl Gass
May: Charles Graves

Membership Secretary: Maureen Boone

Bulletin Distribution: Maureen Boone (print)
Jan Riddell (electronic)

GMHW Committee

Hank Scarth
Jim Wilson
Joanne Savage
Jan Riddell (Ex-officio)
Don MacPhail (Ex-officio)
Todd Watts (Counter)

PLBO Committee

Jim Wilson
Eileen Pike
Bill Gentleman
John Redstone
Hank Scarth
Jan Riddell (ex-officio)

Social Coordinator: Jean Wilson

Nature NB Representative: Jim Wilson

Webmaster: Pattie McKerral

Notices

The Saint John Naturalists' Club has lost two long-time members within the past few weeks. Former President **Ross Ellis** passed away on February 11th and **Hank Deichmann** died on February 17th. Both were long-time members and strong supporters of our Club and our sincere condolences are extended to family and friends.

Nature NB's annual **Festival of Nature** will be held in Sackville, NB the **weekend of June 5-7th**, in collaboration with Nature NS. It promises to be a great event. Details will be available on the Nature NB website: www.naturenb.ca. It is best to sign up early for field trips and other events, as space on some may be limited.

Upcoming Events

NB Museum is hosting a series of open house tours of their extensive collections at 277 Douglas Avenue. We will be posting the notices on our websites as we receive them.

Monday March 2, Rockwood Park Interpretation Centre, 7-8 pm. **Hank Scarth** will present The Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch, an important project monitoring the annual hawk migration in Charlotte County. He will describe with stunning photographs how the data contributes to international conservation initiatives. Please register as space is limited by phoning 658-2883 or emailing connie.brown@saintjohn.ca.

Monday March 9 Monthly meeting at NB Museum, Market Square, 7-9 pm – **Dr Remi Rochette** will present his research on lobsters and coastal marine habitats in eastern Canada.

Saturday March 14 - Rockwood Park Interpretation Centre – 9:30 am - **Jim Wilson** will offer a 3 hour workshop, "**Birding 101: An Introduction to Birding**". Please call 658-2883 or email connie.browne@saintjohn.ca to reserve a seat.

Monday March 30 Rockwood Park Interpretation Centre. 7-8 p.m. **Don MacPhail** will present "**The Grandeur of Life**". With fossil evidence from the Stonehammer Geopark and other parts of Canada, he will explore the resilience of life on Earth. As seating is limited, reserve ahead at 658-2883 or email connie.browne@saintjohn.ca

Monday April 13 - Monthly meeting at NB Museum, Market Square, 7-9 pm – **Dr Tony Diamond** will present his research on **Puffins and other seabirds at Machias Seal Island**.



For five years, the Saint John Naturalists Club has been counting birds of prey at the Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch in Charlotte County. Hank Scarth will introduce us to this important conservation project and will discuss how, where and why hawks are counted and how the data contribute to international conservation initiatives. Supported by stunning images from the hawk watch, Hank will tell us about the mix of species observed and their conservation statuses.

Date: Monday, March 2, 2015
Time: 7:00pm – 8:00pm
Location: Rockwood Park Interpretation Centre

Space is limited,
please call 658-2883 or
email connie.browne@saintjohn.ca
to reserve a seat.



Saint John Naturalists' Club Minutes of Meeting

January 12, 2015

NB Museum, Market Square

The meeting was called to order by our president, Jan Riddell, at 7:05 PM and she wished everyone a Happy New Year.

New faces: There were quite a few new people in attendance and they were asked if they wished to be identified and let us know how they found out about our Club. Six new people identified themselves and some mentioned that they heard about the club through the West Side Tides – the community newspaper - while others heard about our club through a mutual friend. All were welcomed.

Sightings: a moose, a one legged Dark-eyed Junco; a bobcat was seen on the Peninsula; an increase in the numbers of Evening Grosbeaks are returning to our feeders with one member spotting at least a dozen over two different days; 12 Wild Turkeys were also spotted.

Bulletin: The deadline for the next Bulletin will be mid-February and Cheryl Gass will be publishing it.

Jan also asked if anyone had not received the November/December bulletin, to see her after the meeting. Maureen Boone had extra copies of the latest bulletin.

Announcements: Jan acknowledged two club members for their exceptional volunteer commitments in managing our two important projects. Jim Wilson manages the Point Lepreau Bird Observatory for documenting migrating sea birds and Hank Scarth manages the Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch for the fall migration of raptors. They write annual grants to keep these projects going, they manage the projects together with Richard Blacquiere and Todd Watts, both of whom are also knowledgeable, experienced, dedicated observers. Together with Richard and Todd, Jim and Hank share the data with like-minded researchers. They teach students and nature lovers how to observe and record the data, they submit regular reports to various agencies, invite our members to get involved and they present their findings to our membership on a regular basis. Their dedication and knowledge base is significant. Together they help make our club a strategic and very important player in eastern Canada and US data collection and conservation measures. If you feel you can help them on their committees, please step up and become part of this important work. It can be a lot of fun and very rewarding. The membership showed their appreciation for Jim and Hank's dedication and expertise with warm applause. The February meeting will be chaired by Charles Graves because Jan, our President will be away.

Upcoming events: The NB Museum is holding a series of open house tours of their collections on 277 Douglas Avenue. The notification for these tours will be on our website as we receive them.

January 19, - 7 – 8 PM at Rockwood Park Interpretive Centre, Jim Wilson will be presenting "Living on the Edge: The Life of a Turkey Vulture". Please register as space is limited by phoning 658-2883 or emailing connie.brown@saintjohn.ca.

February 9 – 7 PM - the monthly meeting at the NB Museum, Market Square. Sean Haughian, PhD candidate in biology will present his work on special features of liverworts.

March 2, 7 – 8 PM at Rockwood Park Interpretation Centre, Hank Scarth will introduce The Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch, an important project monitoring the annual hawk migration in Charlotte County. He will explain how the data contributes to international conservation initiatives. Please

register as space is limited by phoning 658-2883 or emailing connie.brown@saintjohn.ca.

March 9th – our Monthly meeting at the NB Museum at Market Square. Dr. Remi Rouchette will present his work on lobsters and coastal marine habitats in Eastern Canada.

March 14th – Jim Wilson will be presenting a 3 hour workshop on "**Birding 101 – an Introduction to Birding**" at the Rockwood Park Interpretation Centre beginning at 9:30 AM. Please register by phoning 658-2883 or emailing connie.brown@saintjohn.ca as space is limited. It was also mentioned that if weather permitted, there could be a bird walk after the session so bring a lunch and dress for the weather.

March 30th at the Rockwood Park Interpretation Centre Don MacPhail will be presenting "The Grandeur of Life" from 7 – 8 PM. Please register by phoning 658-2883 or emailing connie.brown@saintjohn.ca as space is limited.

Nature NB Report: Jim Wilson, our representative for Nature NB, the umbrella organization for all the Naturalists Clubs in NB, encouraged our members to visit the **Nature NB** website. He also mentioned that the Annual Festival of Nature will be held this year on the weekend of June 5, 6 and 7th.

Treasurer's report: Don MacPhail explained the following current balances in the three accounts:

SJNC \$10,978.77

PLBO \$3,578.19

GMHW \$153.81

Don also mentioned that he was coming to the end of his term and briefly explained the duties of the Treasurer and encouraged those in attendance to consider this position.

Minutes of November 2014 and December 2014 meetings: A motion to accept the November minutes as posted in the Bulletin was made by Joanne Savage and seconded by Carolyn Scarth. Motion passed.

A motion to accept the December minutes as posted in the Bulletin was made by Suzanne Bonnell and seconded by Charles Graves. Motion passed.

Social Committee report was given by Jean Wilson. She asked for a volunteer to make the coffee and tea for the February meeting as she would not be in attendance. Joanne Savage volunteered. As well, Jean asked for donations of sweets, breads, squares and cheese and crackers.

50/50 draw: \$28.50 was won by Shokat Keshavarzi who donated her winnings back to the club.

Guest Speaker Karen Vanderwolf. Introduced by Dr. Don McAlpine, Karen shared her research on the White Nose Syndrome which is affecting our bat population in New Brunswick. Chuck Perry thanked Karen for the very informative and interesting talk and presented her with a gift bag. Jan Riddell also expressed her thanks to Karen and asked if we could post a link to her blog on our website.

Jan added that two short videos, one on the SJNC trip to Machias Seal Island and another a Saw-Whet Owl sighting were produced by Penny and Tom Raithby and presented at our December meeting. They have very kindly offered them to be posted to our website.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Minutes recorded by Jeannette Perry, SJNC Secretary

Saint John Naturalists' Club Minutes of Meeting

February 9, 2015

NB Museum, Market Square

The meeting was called to order by our Past President Charles Graves at 7:07 PM in the absence of our President who was out of the country. Charles explained to those in attendance that 10 people from our club were in Costa Rica during this time and shared some comments and a few photos of them enjoying their sunshine in relevance to our giant snow accumulation which we had recently experienced. He assured those in attendance that he had made these people aware of the tribulations we are experiencing as they bask in the sunshine.

New Faces: After relieving his frustrations and causing a few chuckles, Charles asked if there were any new people in attendance. There was no one who wished to identify themselves as being new.

Sightings: Evening Grosbeaks are still in the area along with Common Redpolls, Purple Finch, Pine Siskins and one person has a Red-bellied Woodpecker.

Minutes: There were no minutes to be approved but the January and February minutes will be

posted in the March-April Bulletin and will be approved at the next meeting.

Treasurer's report: The balance of the accounts is as follows:

SJNC \$10,817.85

PLBO \$3,578.44

GMHW \$153.82

Upcoming events: February 23rd at 7 PM, Connie Browne will be giving a presentation on Turtle Research at Rockwood Park. Please register by phoning 658-2883 or emailing connie.browne@saintjohn.ca as space is limited.

March 9th, Dr. Remi Rochette will be giving a presentation on Lobsters and Coastal Marine Habitats at our next club meeting.

Program committee: It was noted that because of the time of the year, there was not much happening and therefore there are no outings to report.

PLBO: No report was available (Jim is away). Not much is happening due to the time of the year.

GMHW: No report was available (Hank is away). Not much is happening due to the time of the year.

Bulletin: Cheryl Gass will be compiling the next Bulletin and the deadline for submissions is February 24th. Charles pointed out that anyone can submit something to the Bulletin.

Nature NB: There was no report (Paul is away).

Social Committee: Joanne Savage gave the Social Committee report in the absence of Jean Wilson and asked for Volunteers for the March, April and May meetings to help prepare coffee and snacks.

50/50 draw was won by Jeanne Finn-Allen and was \$26.00.

Stephen Clayden introduced the guest speaker, Sean Haughian, M.Sc. who gave a presentation on "Liverworts: Specialists in the Very Small". Sean answered questions after his presentation and Cheryl Gass thanked the speaker, presenting him with a gift bag from the Club.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35 PM.

Minutes recorded by Jeannette Perry, SJNC Secretary

Attention Parents and Keen Teen Birders!

Doug Tarry Bird Study Awards

Young Ornithologists' Workshop August 1 to 9, 2015

Location: Long Point Observatory's Doug Tarry Natural History Camp: North shore of Lake Erie, Ontario, in the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve.

The goal of the Doug Tarry Bird Study Award is to foster the interests and development of ornithology in Canadian teenagers. The Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists' Workshop is a major component of the observatory's educational program. Many of Canada's talented field biologists got their start here since its inception in the mid-1970s.

Space is limited to six participants, ranging in age from 13-17 years old.

Deadline for Applications: 30 April 2015

Participants will receive hands-on training in field ornithology including bird banding, monitoring, field identification, birding trips, preparing museum specimens, guest lectures, and more! Six of Canada's most promising ornithologists will receive the Doug Tarry Bird Study Award to cover all on-site expenses (accommodation, meals, travel while at Long Point and professional instruction). Recipients are responsible for their own transportation to and from Long Point, though a small travel grant may be available.

Afternoon field trips to places of biological interest within the Biosphere introduce participants to the flora and fauna of the region. Evening programs include slide presentations and nocturnal fieldwork.

Prospective participants are invited to download and complete the application form (www.birdscanada.org/lpbo).

Completed applications should be sent to the Doug Tarry Bird Study Awards - Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario N0E 1M0 (fax 519-586-3532), E-mail: lpbo@birdscanada.org, by 30 April 2015



For three-quarters of our planet's existence, life has not merely survived. Life has thrived, surviving asteroid impacts, colliding continents, the "Oxygen Catastrophe" and "Snowball Earth".

Join us with Donald MacPhail as he uses fossil evidence from the Stonehammer Geopark and other parts of Canada, to explore the resilience of life on Earth. Recently discovered "Extremophiles" are among the most successful examples of life on Earth and are guiding the search for life beyond our planet.

Date: Monday, March 30, 2015
Start Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Interpretation Centre

Space is limited,
please call 658-2883 or
email connie.browne@saintjohn.ca
to reserve a seat.



Volunteer at the PLBO March 15 - May 9

If you would like to spend a few hours counting sea ducks at the Point Lepreau Bird Observatory (PLBO), you can reserve your space now. You can sign up for one or more sessions at the March meeting of the Club or by sending a message to plbo@saintjohnnaturalistsclub.org

Volunteers with security clearance (via Criminal Record Check) are required every day from Sunday, March 15 to Saturday, May 9. Richard Blacquiere will be working as the dedicated observer on weekday mornings from March 27 to May 7. If you would like Richard's help in identifying sea ducks in flight, sign up during one of his sessions.

You may volunteer for morning sessions (8 am to noon) or afternoon sessions (noon to 4 pm). If nobody else has signed up for the next session, you may stay beyond your allotted time. We need at least 48 hours advance notice to add an observer to the schedule.

For more information about the PLBO, see Jim Wilson at the March club meeting or check this web page: <http://saintjohnnaturalistsclub.org/plbo.htm>

2014 Christmas Bird Count Results for Saint John, Quispamsis - Hampton, and Lepreau

Species	Saint John	Quispamsis - Hampton	Lepreau	Species	Saint John	Quispamsis - Hampton	Lepreau
Canada Goose	7	25		Pileated Woodpecker	5	5	
Gadwall	3			<i>Woodpecker Species</i>		1	
American Wigeon	1			Eastern Phoebe		1	
American Black Duck	359	19	68	Northern Shrike	1		1
Mallard	393	133	39	Gray Jay	4	2	
<i>Black Duck x Mallard Hybrid</i>		1		Blue Jay	43	224	37
Northern Pintail	6		3	American Crow	967	705	133
Green-winged Teal	12			Common Raven	44	41	10
Ring-necked Duck	5	C.P.		Black-capped Chickadee	865	1,585	113
Greater Scaup		C.P.		Boreal Chickadee	2	2	2
Lesser Scaup	1			Red-breasted Nuthatch	64	50	7
<i>Scaup Species</i>	25			White-breasted Nuthatch	14	23	
Common Eider	42		267	Brown Creeper	2	1	
Harlequin Duck			2	Carolina Wren	1	1	
Surf Scoter			16	Golden-crowned Kinglet	17	19	
White-winged Scoter			5	Hermit Thrush	C.P.	1	
Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw)			9	American Robin	5	4	6
Bufflehead	277	C.P.	53	Northern Mockingbird	2		
Common Goldeneye	62	18	3	European Starling	1,135	399	3
<i>Duck species</i>	3			Bohemian Waxwing	C.P.	38	
Hooded Merganser		2		American Tree Sparrow	22	37	12
Common Merganser	6	11		Fox Sparrow	C.P.		1
Red-breasted Merganser	75		21	Song Sparrow	10	11	3
Ruffed Grouse	7	C.P.	2	Savannah Sparrow			2
Red-throated Loon			2	White-throated Sparrow	44	14	8
Common Loon	6	C.P.	47	Dark-eyed Junco	91	268	6
Horned Grebe	2	C.P.	27	Snow Bunting			20
Red-necked Grebe			1	<i>Sparrow Species</i>	3	4	
Great Cormorant	1		1	Northern Cardinal	45	117	1
Turkey Vulture	11	17		Baltimore Oriole		C.P.	
Bald Eagle	26	22	10	Common Grackle	8	C.W.	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	1		Pine Grosbeak	C.P.	3	
Cooper's Hawk	2			Purple Finch	2	2	
Red-tailed Hawk	1	1		House Finch	7		
Rough-legged Hawk	1			Common Redpoll	C.W.	1	1
Merlin	1			American Goldfinch	168	402	
American Coot	2			Pine Siskin	1		1
Ring-billed Gull	96	8	13	<i>Finch Species</i>	1	6	30
Herring Gull	4,710	90	177	Evening Grosbeak	17	5	
Iceland Gull	173	45		House Sparrow	33		
Glaucous Gull		1					
Great Black-backed Gull	279	2	6	No. of species (Count Day)	65	49	47
<i>Gull species</i>	562	1		Total Individuals (Count Day)	11,682	5,067	1,268
Razorbill			5	Add'l species (Count Week)	1	1	
Black Guillemot			4	Add'l species (Count Period)	4	7	
Rock Pigeon	621	130	40	Total Participants incl. feeders	60	121	10
Mourning Dove	222	462	72	Party hours by car	59.25	62.5	15.5
Snowy Owl	1			Party hours on foot	47.25	8.5	3
Barred Owl		1		Nocturnal counting		(2)	
Belted Kingfisher			1	Total party hours	106.5	71	18.5
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	8		Kilometres by car	642.5	763	212
Downy Woodpecker	41	44	5	Kilometres on foot	76.5	21	2
Hairy Woodpecker	13	52	2	Total Kilometres	719	784	214
Northern Flicker	1	1		Count Date	Dec 27, 2014	Jan 3, 2015	Dec 20, 2014

C.P. & C.W. = seen during Count Period or Week (but not on Count Day)