

Saint John Naturalists Club

Study – Conserve – Educate - Enjoy

Presentations, Workshops, Field Trips, Projects and More



www.saintjohnnaturalistsclub.org

 Nature Saint John

January – February 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 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, January 12, 2015

Speaker: **Karen Vanderwolf**

Subject: **Little Brown Bats**

Karen Vanderwolf will present an update on our Little Brown Bat population decline and potential for recovery.

Speakers for Upcoming Meetings (cont'd)

Monday, February 9, 2015

Speaker: **Sean Haughian**

Subject: **Liverworts**

Sean Haughian, PhD candidate in biology, will present his work on special features of liverworts (spore producing plants that grow in moist shady places).

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.

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".

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 Blacquiére
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

Martina Riordon, a club member, retired guidance counselor from Simonds High School, and member of the Saint John Enthusiasts Club, died in a farm accident in June 2014. Sincere condolences are extended to her family and friends.

Peggy Stephenson of Westfield, a nurse and club member for many years, passed away November 26 in Palliative Care. Sincere condolences are extended to her family and friends.

Events for 2015

The NB Museum is offering a series of open house tours of their collections on **277 Douglas Avenue**. We will be posting the notices on our websites.

Monday, January 19 - Rockwood Park Interpretation Centre - 7-8 pm - **Jim Wilson** will present "Living on the Edge: The Life of a Turkey Vulture." Space is limited, so please call 658-2883 or email connie.browne@saintjohn.ca to reserve a seat.

Monday, February 23 – Rockwood Park Interpretation Centre – 7 pm – **Dr Connie Browne**, Park Naturalist, will present her turtle research at Rockwood Park. Please call 658-2883 or email connie.browne@saintjohn.ca to reserve a seat.

Saturday, March 14 - Rockwood Park Interpretation Centre – 9:30 am - **Jim Wilson** will offer a valuable 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 pm. "The Grandeur of Life" - **Don MacPhail** will use fossil evidence from Stonehammer and other parts of Canada to demonstrate the resilience of life on Earth and show how that is being used in the search for life on other worlds. Please call 658-2883 or email connie.browne@saintjohn.ca to reserve a seat.

Saint John Naturalists' Club
Minutes of Meeting November 10th, 2014
NB Museum, Market Square

The meeting was called to order by our president, Jan Riddell at 7:02 PM with comments about the beautiful day we all experienced.

New faces: There were no new people in attendance who wished to identify themselves. However Jan did welcome any person who was new as well as all the people in attendance.

Sightings: An Orange-crowned Warbler and a Red-bellied Woodpecker were sighted during the trip to Deer Island. Thanks went to Paul Mansz and Hank Scarth for leading the trip to Deer Island last weekend.

Membership Secretary: Maureen Boone has offered to act as Membership Secretary. Jan remarked on Maureen's comfort level with Excel and felt that she would be very helpful with this task.

The Bulletin: Jan requested that any person who did not receive the bulletin contact her after the meeting as there are extra copies. Note that the meeting in December will take place on Dec 8, not Dec 10 as written. Thanks were expressed to Joan Pearce for compiling the bulletin. It was noted that there were many positive comments on the articles and coloured photographs which appeared in the bulletin.

A motion was requested to approve the September minutes as published in the September/October Bulletin. Moved by Suzanne Bonnell and seconded by Carolyn Scarth, motion carried.

A motion was requested to approve the October minutes as published in the September/October Bulletin. Move by Jim Wilson and seconded by Paul Mansz and motion was carried.

The deadline for the December bulletin is December 24, 2014. Contributions can be sent to Richard Blacquiere and coloured photos and

written descriptions are welcome.

It was noted that there were very few photos received for the New Banner Photo Contest and the deadline is 5 days away. Please submit your photos to Hank Scarth or post them on Facebook Nature Saint John. Details are in the bulletin.

Upcoming events were outlined:

1. NB Museum is holding a series of open house tours of their collections on Douglas Avenue.
 2. Monday, November 24, Jim Wilson is presenting "The Monarch - An Amazing Butterfly Story" at Rockwood Park at 7 pm.
 3. December 8th is Members Night and Holiday Social. This gives members the opportunity to share their photos and/or stories related to nature or connections with similar groups. Members are asked to bring their photos on a memory stick for projector display and to see Jan Riddell to get on the list if you wish to share pictures.
 4. Monday, January 19, 2015 7-8 pm Rockwood Park Interpretive Centre - Jim Wilson will present "Living on the Edge: The Life of a Turkey Vulture". Space is limited for both presentations at Rockwood Park and people are asked to register by calling 658-2883 or email connie.browne@saintjohn.ca to reserve a seat.
 5. Walter Emrich, a Board Member and steward for Nature Trust NB has offered to lead field trips in the Nature Trust preserves around Saint John. Please see him after the meeting to express your preferences for particular preserves.
- Nature NB** announced the winners of the third annual "Amazing Bird Challenge". Team Manszter, our own **Paul and David Mansz**, were the overall winners with the most money raised (\$695.00) and the most birds seen (70). "Best Birds" category was a tie: Three Birding Amigos (Little Gull) and Team Manszter.

Minutes - November 10th, 2014 (cont'd)

The Treasurer's Report was displayed on the screen. Current Balances:

SJNC \$10,534.17

PLBO \$ 3,540.90

GMHW \$ 508.96

PLBO – Jim Wilson noted that the fall observation will end November 18th. He also noted that a letter of appreciation was sent on behalf of the Club to NB Power for the work they did in the much needed repairs to the observatory. If anyone would like to volunteer at the observatory, please speak to Cheryl Gass.

GMHW – Hank Scarth noted that the season is winding down and the count will wrap up soon. It has been confirmed that \$4500.00 will be coming from the Sir James Dunn Foundation, enabling the hawk watch to be conducted again in 2015.

The guest speaker, **Jim Wilson** was introduced by Charles Graves. Jim spoke about his experience of **50+ years of Birding in New Brunswick**. Suzanne Bonnell thanked Jim for his very interesting talk and presented him with a gift bag.

The 50/50 draw of \$29.00 was won by Ida McPherson.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Minutes recorded by **Jeannette Perry, SJNC Secretary**

Saint John Naturalists' Club Minutes of Meeting December 8th, 2014 NB Museum, Market Square

The meeting was called to order by our president, Jan Riddell at 7:02 PM.

New faces: Jan welcomed the new people who were in attendance.

Sightings: Saw-Whet Owl, Long Billed Curlew, and Barn Owl were reported.

Jan thanked Jim Wilson and Connie Browne for the Monarch Butterfly presentation at Rockwood Park last month. She noted that this week's CBC TV Nature of Things program featured the monarch migration as Jim had described with his remarkable photos.

Eileen Pike who now lives in Ottawa and continues to work on the PLBO committee sent her Christmas Greetings to the Club members.

The deadline for the November/December Bulletin is December 24th. Please have your submissions to Richard Blacquire by December 24th.

Upcoming Events:

1. The Saint John Christmas Bird Count is set for December 27th. Hampton and Hammond River area, January 3rd.
2. December 30th, there is a family Nature Walk at Rockwood Park Interpretation Centre. Contact Connie Browne at the Park to register please.
3. Our next monthly meeting will be on January 12th and the guest speaker is Karen Vanderwolf who will present an update on NB's Little Brown Bat Population Decline and the Potential for Recovery.
4. Monday, January 19th, Jim Wilson will present "Living on the Edge: the Life of a Turkey Vulture" at Rockwood Park. Please contact Connie Browne (connie.browne@saintjohn.ca) to reserve a seat as space is limited.

PLBO: Jim Wilson reported that the observatory at Point Lepreau and the fall migration bird count finished on November 18th and thanked the volunteers who participated this fall. He mentioned that James Button is doing his honours project at UNB on the bird count.

Minutes - December 8th, 2014 (cont'd)

50/50 draw this month was \$48.00 and was won by Stephen Clayden who donated it back to the club.

Treasurer's Report:

Given by Don MacPhail.

Current Balances:

SJNC \$10,728.67

PLBO \$ 3,776.99

GMHW \$ 122.54

NBWTF report:

Don MacPhail reported on the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund Council. The money from vehicle conservation license plates, plus fees for hunting, fishing and trapping licenses makes up the fund. Council members review grant applications annually for conservation projects throughout NB. At least one of our members has served on this council for the past several years. It is a three year commitment for each Council member.

New Club Banner:

Hank Scarth showed a presentation of the pictures which were submitted and the choices which were made by the executive, including a picture of the new banner. The winning pictures that were used for the banner were submitted by Paul Mansz, Tom Raithby, Karen Vanderwolf and Jane Smith.

Christie Grants:

Dr. Steven Clayden explained the Christie Grants program for the NB Museum and gave examples of researchers who received funding for their particular projects.

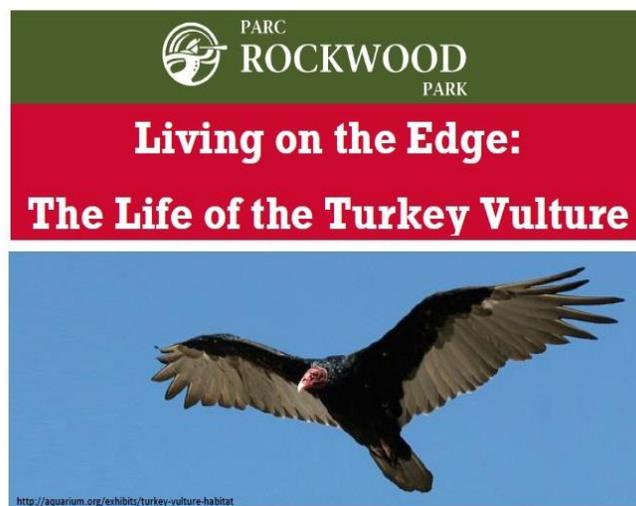
Members' Night:

Presentations were given by Jim Wilson, Don MacPhail, Hank Scarth, Tom Raithby, Jane Smith, Dave McCurdy and Juliet Nowlan. Slide shows of a variety of birds in Iceland, several species of penguins in Antarctica, and birds and mammals of Kenya were enjoyed. Innovative videos of local NB destinations were also presented.

Donated items for door prizes were won by several members throughout the evening. Jim Wilson had milkweed seeds for anyone who wished to start milkweed plants for the Monarch Butterflies.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Minutes recorded by **Jeannette Perry, SJNC Secretary**



Judged by their appearance and how they eat, vultures get a bad rap from almost everyone; however, they are actually very interesting birds, passive and highly intelligent.

Join us for a one-hour presentation by Jim Wilson to learn about this fascinating species!

Date: Monday, January 19, 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.

 SAINT JOHN



Turtle Research at Rockwood



Turtle populations are in decline worldwide and Canada is no exception.

Turtles are extremely sensitive to human impacts and may need extra protection to persist in areas shared with humans. This summer we conducted a research program to assess the status of turtles in Rockwood Park. Join us to find out the results of this research from Park Naturalist, Dr. Connie Browne.

Date: Monday, February 23rd
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.



Saint John Naturalists Club



Counting Raptors

The Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch



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.



Message from Environment Canada: We Want to Hear From You!

The Species at Risk Act recognizes the need for consultation with those who may be affected by or interested in the conservation of species at risk. Environment Canada would like to hear from you because you and /or your organization and its members have been identified as having expertise or interest in species at risk conservation and recovery.

We are looking for your help to ensure the survival and recovery of three birds at risk: Common Nighthawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Canada Warbler. Environment Canada has drafted recovery strategies to help guide the actions we can take together to stop or reverse the decline of these species. A recovery strategy describes what a species needs to live and the ways in which we can reduce the threats to its survival. Please see the attached draft recovery document overviews for these three species. We would be happy to forward full copies of the draft strategies, if requested.

Your input is important to us and for the conservation of these species. As such, we are providing you with an opportunity to share your views on the draft recovery strategies before the proposed documents are posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry (<http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/>) for a 60-day public comment period.

Salmon on a Plate

For many New Brunswickers, salmon is a favourite fish. Baking, broiling, grilling, pan-searing, or poaching; the taste is unforgettable. For those lucky enough to catch a wild salmon in the rivers of New Brunswick, the pleasure of salmon on a plate is increased that much more.

Many of us do not realize that salmon stocks in New Brunswick are threatened by a number of factors along with all other forms of wildlife. Older forests are disappearing and this has had a detrimental impact on birds and deer populations. Temperature increases have been noted in New Brunswick. This has caused earlier leafing of trees and plants over many regions. Species such as Atlantic salmon move further north in search of cooler water. Bird migrations are affected. Snowy owls suddenly appear in our region as well as tufted puffins.

We often discuss these problems at coffee or the dining room table but many of us feel that this is a global problem that has to be handled by governments. The feeling is that an individual can do nothing to solve the problem or assist with a solution.

Wrong! New Brunswickers can put salmon on a plate! Or White tailed deer. Perhaps a chickadee or a purple violet? This plate is the conservation license plate seen on motor vehicles in New Brunswick. Introduced in 1998, over 50,000 car owners have purchased these plates to demonstrate interest and dedication to preservation and conservation of the wildlife in New Brunswick. (The chickadee picture on the license plate was provided by club member Jim Wilson.)

Motorists have the option of putting conservation plates on new vehicles. The plates cost \$7 more than regular plates and that \$7 becomes a yearly contribution to a fund called the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund. People moving to the province and registering an older vehicle also have that option. Those who simply wish to have conservation plates on an existing car can exchange old plates for conservation plates for \$57 with \$7 going to the trust fund. Another option is to make a direct donation to the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund.

The New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund was set up in 1997 to further wildlife conservation in the province. Part of hunting, trapping and fishing license fees goes into the fund along with the money from conservation plates. The fund is NOT managed by the government. A Council of 17 volunteers looks after these funds. These volunteers come from all over the province and represent hunting, angling, trapping, aboriginal, naturalist and environmental groups. Several members and ex-members of the Saint John Naturalists club have served 3 year terms on the Council including David Christie, Donald McAlpine, Stephen Clayden, Don MacPhail, Jim Wilson (Chair 2004-2006) and Hank Scarth (Chair 2007-2009). Katherine Dewar and Ray Riddell are current Council members. One third of the Council is replaced every year and volunteers are encouraged to apply. The Minister of Natural Resources makes annual appointments in December.

Twice a year, the Council meets to review over 200 applications to fund a range of programs for the enhancement of New Brunswick's wildlife. The programs cover fisheries, wildlife, biodiversity, trapping and education.

All applications are studied in great detail and if acceptable are approved up to 75% of the project cost. In 2013, the Council approved 125 projects in an amount totalling \$1,112,735.00. This year (2014) 124 projects were approved and deserving recipients received \$976,565. Included in those projects approved was the Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch. PLBO has been funded in the past. Council members visit the projects throughout the year to ensure the projects are proceeding as planned and objectives are being met. Final reports are required before any further funding is approved and full accounting for funds is mandatory.

The projects approved and the amounts provided are fully explained in an insert in provincial newspapers in the fall of each year. So, next time you purchase a new vehicle, think about the environment and your commitment to conservation. All the dealers have a set of conservation plates on hand at the dealership. The cost is minimal but the impact is enormous.

Put salmon on your plate!

Submitted by **Ray Riddell**

Note: If you are interested in volunteering, please speak to past or present Council Members for additional information.



Volunteer Position

Thinking about doing something new and different in the New Year? Want to work with nature-minded folks toward a valued achievement?

The Naturaliste du NB Naturalist, the nature oriented magazine produced by Nature NB is looking for volunteers to fill the following positions:

1. **English Copy Editor** - reviews English articles for grammar and organization.
2. **French Copy Editor** - reviews French articles for grammar and organization.
3. **Assistant Editor** - acts as a back-up to the Editor-in-Chief, quickly reviews submitted articles and sends them off to the appropriate Copy Editor, helps co-ordinate getting photos for articles, and helps production of each issue to move along.
4. **Special Issue Editor** - works to co-ordinate production of an issue that contains numerous articles focusing on one topic.
5. **Contributing Editor** - Invites authors to write articles on specific topics.

You don't have to be an expert, just someone with some time to donate to ensure that the Naturaliste du NB Naturalist is a quality magazine of interest to everyone.

Please contact either:

Paul Mansz, Editor-in-Chief at
paul@mansz.com

or

Sabine Dietz, President at
sabine.dietz@bellaliant.net