



## FESTIVAL OF NATURE

### **Nature in Art - on the Miramichi**

The Miramichi Naturalists' Club would like to extend a warm welcome and invite you to the beautiful Miramichi for the NatureNB Annual General Meeting and Festival of Nature. Join us on June 14, 15 and 16, 2013, for a weekend of fun and learning.

The Miramichi region is rich with history. The Mi'kmaq community of Metepenagiag (Red Bank) on the banks of the Little Southwest Miramichi River is the oldest continuously occupied village in New Brunswick dating back almost 3000 years. It is situated, not surprisingly, in an idyllic setting of salmon-filled waters and a rich productive forest.

This region holds an abundance of natural resources from the giant White Pines of the seemingly endless forests to the spring spawning runs of the Gaspereau and the Smelt. A land long ago coveted by the European superpowers for its fish and forests still holds an abundance of clear rivers, sandy beaches and undisturbed natural forests. None of the many tributaries that feed into the bay is barred from its natural flow, not the Barnaby nor the Renous, not the Dungarvon, the Northwest nor the restless North Pole. The list of course is too long to name every branch and each holds its own history and character.

With a watershed of 13,465 square kilometers, the Miramichi River system drains approximately 20 percent of the province's landmass but contains only 4 percent of its population. It is one fact among others that dictates the character of the region.

Come and join us and discover our corner of New Brunswick.

Questions: Please don't hesitate to contact us at [c-inca@hotmail.ca](mailto:c-inca@hotmail.ca) if you require more information. Our web site is: <http://miramichinaturalistclub.wordpress.com>  
(Please note ... no "s" at end of "Naturalist")

### **Where:**

Headquarters will be at the Chatham Head Recreation and Community Centre at **181 McFarlane Avenue** and all trips will depart from there. As well this is where the Annual General Meeting and the Saturday evening banquet/silent auction will take place. An art gallery will also be set up for the weekend.

### **Getting there:**

Arriving from north and south on Route 11 - take Route 117 (bypass) and drive to the traffic light (intersection with Route 126). Turn right and drive 1 km, turn right on McFarlane Avenue and continue to the end.

Arriving from Fredericton on Route 8 - take the first right at the traffic circle (Route 117 bypass) and drive across the river to the intersection with Route 126. Turn left at the light and drive 1 km to McFarlane Avenue. Turn right on McFarlane Avenue to the end.

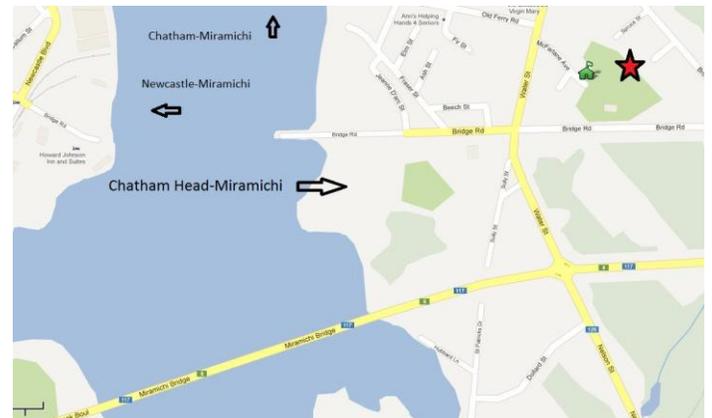
Arriving on Route 126 - continue straight at the traffic light in Nelson-Miramichi and drive 1 km past the intersection. Turn right on McFarlane Avenue and continue to the end of the street.

### **Accommodations:**

Lakeview Inn & Suites	627-1999
Governor's Mansion	622-3036
Days Inn	622-1215
Rodd Miramichi	773-3111
Howard Johnson	622-0302
King George B and B	352-0557
Regent St. B and B	836-7354
Camping Miramichi (tree house cabins)	773-6252
Sunrise Camping	778-2282
The Enclosure	622-8638

For more accommodation information visit:

<http://www.miramichi.org/en/visiting/placestostay.asp>



**Art Exhibit:** Nature in Art - If you are interested in showing your works please include a brief description and photo if possible with your registration form. All efforts will be made to ensure that the exhibit remain secure at all times. We will supply a small tag on which you can include your name, phone number and other information such as if it's for sale, price etc.. Due to the anticipated number of works, it would be appreciated if you could provide your own free-standing display stand or easel.

## Schedule:

### Friday, June 14

4pm - 10pm	Registration and Social		
7pm - 9pm	NatureNB AGM	1pm - 5pm	Half-day Trips (Afternoon)
9pm -	Night Outing	6pm - 9pm	Evening Banquet and Silent Auction

### Saturday, June 15

6am - 7am	Early Bird Outing
7am - 8am	Continental Breakfast
7am - noon	Registration
8am - noon	Half-day Trips (Morning)
8:15am - 5pm	Full-day Trips

### Sunday, June 16

6am - 7am	Early Bird Outing
7am - 8am	Continental Breakfast
8am - noon	Half-day Trips (Morning)
8:15am - 4pm	Full-day Trips
1pm - 4pm	Half-day Trips (Afternoon)

## FIELD TRIP DESCRIPTION/DETAILS

### Friday Evening Outing: 9:00pm

Come and experience the sounds and sights of the wetland at night.

Saturday Early Bird Outing: 6:00am - 7:00am - Location to be announced

### Saturday Full Day Outings: 8:15am - 5:00pm

#### **F-1 Hay Island - Leaders: Dave McLeod and Rick Fournier**

Birding on Hay Island is always rewarding and there is no better time of year to do it than mid-June. This place has it all: ponds, mixed forest, oak forest, salt marsh and sandy beach. A boardwalk affords access to the wet area where shorebirds, ducks and Red-winged Blackbirds do their thing. A place rich in plant and insect life as well as a birding hotspot.

#### **F-2 Point Escuminac Beach Walk - Leader: to be announced**

Explore the rare phenomenon of peat cliffs where Bank Swallows build their nests in holes excavated in solid peat. Here the waves have eroded the land and now the ocean meets the peat bog. See how nature has reclaimed a peat bog after it had been mined out decades ago. Find out what rare plants are now thriving there. There are five kilometres of undeveloped sandy beach and sandstone tidal pools.

#### **F-3 Main Southwest Miramichi - Leader: Denis Doucet**

Explore Birds, Dragonflies, Butterflies and more. This all-day outing will be leaving from the Chatham Head Rec Centre. The tour itself starts at the Blackville Municipal Park. After a visit to Norman Stewart's Arboretum on Lockstead Road, we will check out the Bartholomew River at Bartholomew then head down to the Cains River at Shinnickburn finishing at Upper Blackville Bridge. This should be a great opportunity to see a good variety of species, including the possibility of the rare Pygmy Snaketail dragonfly in its best Canadian habitat, along with plenty of birds in diverse habitat, lots of butterflies, and perhaps a Wood Turtle.

### Saturday Morning Outings: 8:00am - noon

#### **H-1 Miramichi Marsh Birding - Leader: Jim Wilson**

Miramichi Marsh is a Ducks Unlimited project that converted a wet area into ponds and trails. It is now considered the best birding hotspot in the region with a high concentration of waterfowl and a variety of wildlife that increases each year. Adjacent to Retirement Miramichi (formerly CFB Chatham) the trails are used by the local residents as well as naturalists. Rubber boots are recommended due to the less than ideal toilet etiquette of the Canada Geese.

#### **H-2 Miramichi Birding Circuit – Leaders: Members of the Miramichi Naturalists' Club**

Join members of the Miramichi Naturalists Club for a circuit within the city of Miramichi that includes stops at several great birding areas such as Canada Point, Strawberry Marsh, and Ballast Island. We'll also make a stop at the Miramichi Natural History Museum to check out their interesting collection.

### **H-3 Metepenagiag – Leaders: Nelson Cloud and Howard Augustine**

Known as the Village of 30 Centuries, Metepenagiag (Red Bank) was established at the confluence of the Little Southwest (LSW) and the Northwest Miramichi Rivers. You will be welcomed by the aromatic fumes of sacred sweetgrass during a short ceremony led by a Mi'kmaq Elder. Also known as the "People of the Dawn" and/or the "Keepers of the Eastern Door", you will follow their paths to three famous salmon pools. The running of the smelt in June draws eagles and osprey to the skies overhead. Warblers are abundant in the morning in the forests and the busy air traffic of the bank swallows in the red cliff faces of the LSW can make you dizzy! Kingfishers, other bird species and insect life abound. You will want to be on the lookout for wood turtles, beaver and other mammals as well so wear your rubber boots! One of the objectives of the day will be learning the identification and uses of traditional medicinal plants and culturally important trees such as the ash, used in for basket-making. Nelson is a great story-teller and language and legend will be the theme of the day. You'll learn the archeological importance of Metepenagiag's two National Historic Sites: The Augustine Mound and the Oxbow.

#### **Saturday Afternoon Outings: 1:00pm - 5:00pm**

### **H-4 Beaubears Island Flora - Leader: Clayton Merrithew**

Go back in time and see a White Pine forest on the island that was originally called Quoomemeegook\* by the Mi'kmaq First Nation, a name which aptly describes it as "island of the pines"\*. Its present name is derived from Marquis Charles Deschamps de Boishebert, an officer of the colonial militia\* who played a significant role in history at the time preceding and during the Seven Years' War. After more than 100 years without human activity on the island, it is returning to conditions more comparable to the island that the Mi'kmaq would recognize.\* (Additional cost - \$5.00 for boat trip) \* *Fair Winds and Rough Fortunes. A History of Beaubear's Island by Shawn McCarthy*

### **H-5 French Fort Cove - Leader: Jim Saunders**

Truly a jewel of a park right in the middle of the city, French Fort Cove Park has over 20 km of hiking and cycling trails. The back section was razed by fire in 1986 but is now a forest again. Large White Pines that survived the fire now dot sides of the hills. The stream is host to many beaver communities and holds a healthy trout population. Once the site of a French fortification to defend the ill-fated Acadian settlement near Beaubears Island, it then became an industrial stone quarry where sandstone was cut and shipped to build, among other structures, the Langevin block of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. Later it was the site of a mill and the red brick Buckley Burner still stands as a reminder. Over 100 species of birds, 462 vascular plant species, plus many non-vascular species of bryophytes, lichens, and fungi have been identified within the park.

### **H-6 N. Stewart Arboretum – Leader: Norman Stewart**

It began with a Bur Oak acorn from Ontario over 40 years ago when Norman was 18 years old. This Oak is now approximately 40 cm in diameter and accompanying it are over 400 species of trees and shrubs. Most of these will be in flower and the air will be filled with the buzzing sounds of insects. With all the insect activity, birds will certainly be in the area.

**Sunday Early Bird Outing: 6:00am - 7:00am** - Location to be announced

**Sunday Full Day Outings: 8:15am - 4:00pm**

**F-1 Hay Island - Leaders: Dave McLeod and Rick Fournier**

**F-2 Point Escuminac Beach Walk - Leader: to be announced**

**Sunday Morning Outings: 8:00am - noon**

**H-1 Miramichi Marsh Birding - Leaders: Peter and Deana Gadd**

**H-2 Miramichi Circuit – Leaders: Members of the Miramichi Naturalists' Club**

**H-3 Metepenagiag – Leaders: Nelson Cloud and Howard Augustine**

**H-7 Fish Hatchery - Leader: Mark Hambrook**

In operation since 1873, it is the oldest fish hatchery in Canada. A short hiking trail will take you to the cove where the brook enters the Miramichi. Look for rare plants along the shore.

**Sunday Afternoon Outings: 1:00pm - 4:00pm**

**H-4 Beaubears Island Flora - Leader: Clayton Merrithew**

**H-6 N. Stewart Arboretum – Leader: Norman Stewart**

**H-8 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Hal Hinds Memorial Walk at French Fort Cove - Leader: Jim Goltz (colleague of Hal Hinds)**

Hal Hinds wrote the authoritative "*Flora of New Brunswick*" and was curator of the Connell Memorial Herbarium at UNB from 1979 until 2000. He is remembered annually in Miramichi with the "Hal Hinds Memorial Walk" organized by local naturalists Jim Saunders and Dave McLeod.

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Club affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of additional participants \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(please use another copy of this form if additional participants would like different trip preferences than you)

Please Circle your trip Preferences:

**Saturday: First Choice**

Full -day trips: F-1 F-2 F-3

Half-day (am) H-1 H-2 H-3

Half-day (pm) H-4 H-5 H-6

**Saturday: Second Choice**

Full -day trips: F-1 F-2 F-3

Half-day (am) H-1 H-2 H-3

Half-day (pm) H-4 H-5 H-6

**Sunday: First Choice**

Full -day trips: F-1 F-2

Half-day (am) H-1 H-2 H-3 H-7

Half-day (pm) H-4 H-6 H-8

**Sunday: Second Choice**

Full -day trips: F-1 F-2

Half-day (am) H-1 H-2 H-3 H-7

Half-day (pm) H-4 H-6 H-8

**Costs**

<b>Registration</b>	\$	#	Total \$
Until April 30/2013	\$30	___	_____
After April 30/2013	\$35	___	_____
Youth: 12 and under	Free	___	_____0
Youth: 13 - 18 years	\$10	___	_____

***Bag Lunch***

For Saturday \$7.00 \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

For Sunday \$7.00 \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

***Banquet Dinner***

Roast Beef \$25 \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian \$25 \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheques payable to: Miramichi Naturalists' Club

Send to:

Miramichi Naturalists' Club, C/o Pam Watters  
590 Rennie Road  
Miramichi, NB  
E1V 5Z5

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**Billets/Camping-out:** A number of MNC members are willing to open up their homes and properties for FoN participants. Those who would like a home-based experience, be it a guest room, a couch in the den, floor space in the rec room for you and your family to spread out their sleeping bags, one side of the driveway to install your trailer or a soft spot to pitch a tent on the lawn, please note your interest and contact information (emails and phone number) on your registration and a club member will be in touch.