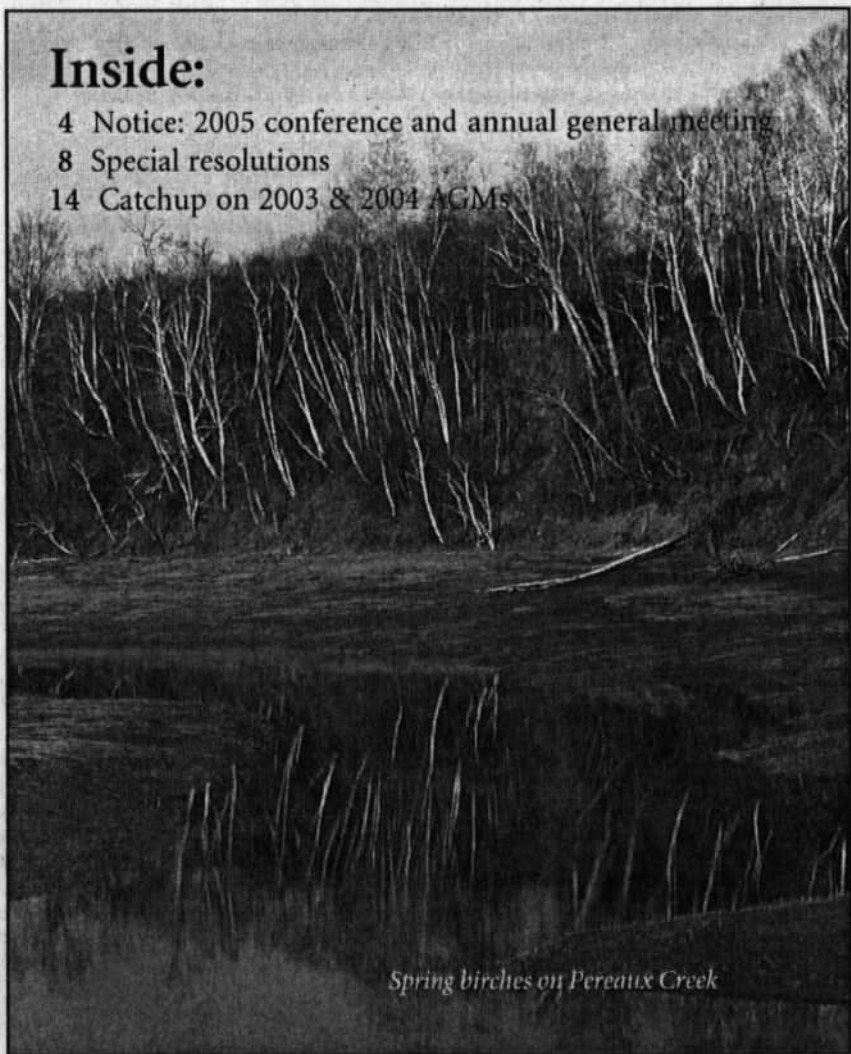


Inside:

- 4 Notice: 2005 conference and annual general meeting
- 8 Special resolutions
- 14 Catchup on 2003 & 2004 AGMs



Spring birches on Pereaux Creek

Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists (FNSN)

Annapolis Field Naturalists' Society (Rep: Jon Percy)

PO Box 576, Annapolis Royal, NS B0S 1A0

Blomidon Naturalists Society (Rep: Larry Bogan)

PO Box 127, Wolfville, NS B0P 1X0

website: <http://www.go.ednet.ns.ca/~bns/home.htm>

Cape Breton Naturalists Society (Rep (temp): David McCorquodale)

c/o Cape Breton Centre for Heritage and Science, 225 George St, Sydney, NS B1P 1J5

Chignecto Naturalists Club (Rep (temp): Tony Erskine)

c/o CWS, Box 6227, Sackville, NB E4L 1G6

Eastern Mainland Field Naturalists (Rep (temp): Randy Lauff)

c/o Department of Biology, St Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS B2G 2W5

Halifax Field Naturalists (Rep: Bob McDonald)

c/o NS Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St, Halifax, NS B3H 3A6

website: <http://chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/FieldNaturalists/fieldnat.html>

Les Amis du Plein Air (Rep (temp): Jean Timmons)

PO Box 472, Cheticamp, NS B0E 1H0

Nova Scotia Bird Society (Rep: Eileen Billington)

c/o NS Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St, Halifax, NS B3H 3A6

website: www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/NS-BirdSoc/

Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society (Rep: Heather Drope)

c/o NS Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St, Halifax, NS B3H 3A6

South Shore Naturalists Club (Rep: Jill Comolli)

c/o Jill Comolli, RR 1, Rose Bay, NS B0J 2X0

Tusket River Environmental Protection Association (Rep: Sue Hutchins)

PO Box 103, Tusket, NS B0W 3M0

Members at large (Rep: Jim Wolford)

e-mail: <jww.triv@ns.sympatico.ca>

Affiliate Members – Cobequid Naturalists Club, SW Nova Environmental Protection Group
Associate Member – Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society

The FNSN purpose is to further communication and cooperation among naturalists and natural history societies in Nova Scotia. We also work toward a coordinated effort on the provincial level to protect our natural environment.

- We promote the enjoyment and understanding of nature by our members and the general public through education via publications, lectures, symposia, field trips, and other activities; through fostering the creation of nature centres and education programs; and by defending the integrity of existing facilities and programs.
- We encourage the establishment of protected natural areas, as represented in such entities as parks, nature reserves, wilderness areas, and

heritage rivers.

- We defend the integrity of existing sanctuaries by exercising constant vigilance against pollution and habitat destruction.
- We promote and engage in funding and research needed for protecting the integrity of all natural ecosystems.
- We encourage and engage in the protection and restoration of threatened and endangered species, with special attention to preserving essential habitats through working for the inclusion of all major habitats in a system of protected areas; encouraging and facilitating the reintroduction of extirpated flora and fauna to their former ranges in the province; and encouraging and facilitating the restoration and enhancement of essential habitats.

FNSN is affiliated with Nature Canada and is a member of the Atlantic Nature Network.

Visit our website at <http://naturens.ca>

or call Doug Linzey at (902) 582-7176 for more information.

FEDERATION OF

FNSN

President – Joan Czapalay
Vice president – Larry Bogan
Past president – Martin Willison
Secretary – Doug Linzey
Treasurer – Jean Gibson



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From the editor

We're back – after a prolonged vacation from publishing *FNSN News*.

In early March, the board held a two-day retreat – a much-needed opportunity to consider the direction and future of your Federation. Sixteen of us, including representatives from all member clubs (both active and inactive), came out of the weekend feeling positive about the Federation and with the basics of a plan for the future in place.

We did many of those jargonish things that people do in planning sessions – missions and visions and issues and SWOTs and objectives and strategies – and in the end we knew a whole lot more about this organization than we did when we started. We knew that there *is* a place for the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists in the environmental community of Nova Scotia. And we knew that we had to change a few of the ways we were doing things.

In summary, we will concentrate immediately on revitalizing the board and improving our communications with, and services to, members. This will include developing a board committee structure, reviving the newsletter, pursuing charitable status, strengthening the annual general meeting, and generating an information base. In the medium term we want to raise our profile in the community, identify potential partners, and find areas of activity in which we can fulfill the public aspects of our mission (see pages 9–10 for our redefined purpose).

This should be good news for you, the Federation members, as we attempt to plot a more relevant course over the coming months. And, as always, the board needs your input and help to make FNSN truly representative of your needs and concerns at the provincial level.

Doug Linzey

Notice of General Meeting

**The Federation of
Nova Scotia
Naturalists will hold
its 2005 annual
general meeting at
10:30 AM, 26 June
2005, in Jenkins Hall,
Nova Scotia
Agricultural College,
Truro.**

The AGM will take place in conjunction with our annual conference (see opposite for program and registration details). Many of you will have received a separate mailing with this information and a registration form. For additional information and forms, please see the 2005 conference page on the Federation Web site: <naturens.ca>.

At the AGM, the board will be putting forward two special resolutions. To be able to vote at the meeting, your membership must be up to date. If your mailing label indicates that your latest membership renewal is 2003 or earlier, you must renew before the AGM, either through your local club or directly with FNSN (see the back cover).

You probably *will* want to vote at this meeting because the resolutions very much affect the immediate and long-term future of the Federation. Please see pages 8–13 for notice of, and details on, the special resolutions.

Most of you reading this are federate members (that is, you've chosen to be a member through your local naturalist society). If you don't know who your representative to the Federation board is, check the inside front cover of this newsletter. It's important that each of our organizational members (the local clubs) has a nominated representative at the AGM. We would very much like to see 100 percent turnout for organizational members.

2005 Annual Conference of the
Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists

The Acadian Forest: Conservation and Restoration

Host: The Federation
Where: Jenkins Hall, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, NS
When: 24-26 June 2005

Contact: Claire Diggins
PO Box 665
Middleton, NS B0S 1P0
Phone: (902) 825-6152 or e-mail: <claire_diggins@hotmail.com>

or

Pat Hawes
91 Wickwire Ave
Wolfville, NS B4N 1W3
Phone: (902) 542-9204 or e-mail: <phawes@eastlink.ca>

Friday, June 24

6:00 PM Registration
7:00 PM Program and reception
Jim Drescher, sustainable forest landowner (Windhorse Farm) – *On the Ground of Nothing Missing: The Possibilities for Uncovering Basic Nature in Nova Scotia*
Wine and cheese
Ross Hall – *A Look at Chimney Swifts*

Saturday, June 25

6:00 AM Early morning walk
8:15 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM Program
Joan Czupalay, FNSN president – Welcome
9:10 AM Alexander MacDonald (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society) – *A Biodiversity Conservation Vision for the Acadian Forest: The Cobequids to Chignecto (C2C)*
10:00 AM Break
10:10 AM Judy Loo, ecological geneticist (Canadian Forest Service) – *Historical Condition of the Acadian Forest: The Impacts*

11:00 AM Jeff Ogden, field entomologist (NS Department of Natural Resources) –
A Look at the Insects of the Acadian Forest

11:45 AM Lunch

12:30 PM Field trips (your choice)

A. **Birding at Davidson's Ducks Unlimited marsh** near Bass River, with naturalist Fran Spaulding. Drive 10 km to meet Fran plus 10 km to marsh. About 2 km of walking, return one hour before banquet.

B. **Living things along the Salmon River**, with Ross Hall, wildlife biologist (Cobequid Naturalists), and Heather Drope (Wild Flora Society). A look at rare plants and more. You will get your feet and pant legs wet. Travel 10–15 km from the college.

C. **Hiking the Gully Lake Wilderness Area**, with Ken McKenna (Pictou Naturalists). Drive 30 km and plan to hike 10 km, mainly for birds. Return one hour before banquet.

D. **Gardening for wildlife**: A visit to naturalist and botanical garden designer Bernard Jackson's garden in Truro. Bernard will show gardening techniques to attract wildlife and express beauty.

E. **A close look at nature in five diverse habitats**, with Jeff Ogden. Follow the Trans Canada Trail in Bible Hill for 2 km (easy to moderate). Side trip to alluvial ravine.

F. **Common families of Nova Scotia butterflies** and what makes them unique, with Peter Payzant (Halifax Field Naturalists). Travel about 3 km.

7:00 PM Banquet

After dinner talk by Rob Rainer, Director of Conservation, Nature Canada
– *Old Acadian Forest: New Conservation Values, Strategies and Imperatives*

Check for chimney swifts

Sunday, June 26

6:00 AM Early morning walk

8:15 AM Breakfast

8:45 AM Lance Bishop, North Mountain Old Forest Society – **How Nova Scotia Forest Policy Influences What Naturalists Value**

9:30 AM Tom Miller, president, NS Woodlot Owners and Operators Association
– *Acadian Forest Restoration: One Man's Vision*

10:15 AM Break

10:30 AM **Annual General Meeting** (see pages 4 and 9–13 for notice and special resolutions)

Noon Lunch

1:00 PM Field trip to a managed woodlot in Earltown, with Tom Miller, president of the Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association

We welcome club or special project displays and posters. The Riverview Room will be available for this purpose (contact Claire or Pat).

Special thanks to Jill Comolli and Ross Hall and the Cobequid Naturalists Club for their immeasurable support.

Registration

The registration fee for the 2003 annual conference of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists is \$55 per person (\$60 after May 24), which includes reception, two breakfasts, refreshments, and a boxed lunch. The Saturday banquet is \$19 per person (note: banquet only by reservation).

There is no charge for attending the AGM only.

Reservations for accommodation in Chapman House (on campus) residence at special conference rates can be made through the registration form.

The registration form, full program, maps, etc., are available on the FNSN Web site: <naturens.ca>

Original Acadian forests tend to be of uneven age and develop and maintain a rich variety species. Natural forests include northern hardwoods, spruce-fir forests, and an array of intermediate types of coniferous, deciduous and mixed forests. Some combination of sugar maple, American beech, and yellow birch characterize most upland hardwood forests; valleys may contain hardwoods and eastern hemlock and low mountain slopes may support mixed forests of red spruce, balsam fir, maple, beech, birch and pine. Conifers dominate flat areas with poor soils while red maples form old stands on richer floodplains and other riparian sites. Old growth forests are important remnants in the bioregional matrix.

For the full article "The Acadian Forest," see the Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society – Nova Scotia Web page <www.cpawsns.org/about_us/af.html>

Notice of Special Resolution

Proposed Amendment to the Memorandum of Association of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists

The board of directors of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists has approved a motion of special resolution to amend the Memorandum of Association of the Society. In accordance with bylaws 45 and 46, notice is hereby given that a resolution to amend section 2 of the Memorandum as proposed in the following pages will be put to the membership at the 2005 annual general meeting to be held 26 June 2005.

The Memorandum is reproduced in whole on pages 9–11. Proposed deletions are printed in ~~striketrough~~ text; proposed additions are printed in *bold italics*. See page 11 for an explanation for the proposed change.

There are no changes proposed to the current bylaws.

Please note that only individual and federate members of the Society are eligible to vote at the general meeting.

Memorandum of Association of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists

1. The name of the Society is the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists.
2. The purpose of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists is to further communication and cooperation among naturalists and natural history societies in Nova Scotia and to work towards a coordinated effort on the provincial level to protect the natural state of our environment. This may include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a) promoting the enjoyment and understanding of nature by our members and the general public by
 - i) educating through publications, lectures, symposia, field trips, and other activities; and
 - ii) fostering the creation of nature centres and nature education programs, and defending the integrity of existing facilities and programs;
 - b) encouraging the establishment of protected natural areas, as represented in parks, nature reserves, wilderness areas, heritage rivers, and other such protected areas;
 - c) defending the integrity of existing sanctuaries by exercising constant vigilance against pollution and habitat destruction within them;
 - d) promoting and engaging in funding and research needed for protecting the integrity of all natural ecosystems;
 - e) encouraging and engaging in the protection and restoration of threatened and endangered species, with special attention to the preservation of essential habitats by
 - i) working for the inclusion of all major habitats in a system of protected areas;
 - ii) encouraging and facilitating the reintroduction, where appropriate, of extirpated flora and fauna to their former ranges in the province; and
 - iii) encouraging and facilitating the restoration and enhancement of essential habitats.

The purpose of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists is to further communication and cooperation among naturalists and natural history societies in Nova Scotia; to promote public interest in nature and conservation; and to work together with

others and share ideas on the provincial level to conserve and enhance the natural state of our environment.

The Federation may

- a) promote the enjoyment, understanding, and appreciation of nature for members and the general public by
 - i) education through such vehicles as lectures, meetings, and field trips.*
 - ii) collecting and disseminating knowledge relating to the natural history and biological diversity of Nova Scotia.*
 - iii) supporting and fostering the creation of nature centres and nature education programs.**
- b) carry out studies and research and present briefs related to the conservation and enhancement of nature and biological diversity.*
- c) take actions to restore and conserve native species and their essential habitats.*
- d) cooperate with like-minded people and organizations to develop and carry out projects for conserving the integrity of natural ecosystems and representative natural areas.*

3. The Federation may, as it becomes necessary or desirable in carrying out its objectives as described in 2 above,

- a) acquire by way of grant, gift, purchase, bequest, devise, or otherwise, real and personal property, and use or apply it to the realization of those objectives;*
- b) buy, own, hold, lease, mortgage, sell, and convey such real and personal property.*

4. The Federation shall not carry on any trade, industry, or business, and shall operate without purpose of gain to any of its members. Any surplus or any accretions of the Federation shall be used solely for the furtherance of its purposes as described in 2 above.

5. If for any reason the operations of the Federation are terminated, wound

up, or dissolved, any property whatsoever that remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities shall be paid to some other non-profit organization in Canada having objects similar to those of the Federation.

6. The activities of the Federation are to be carried out at the registered office of the Federation and throughout Nova Scotia.

7. The registered office of the Society is at 1747 Summer St., Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Why change the purpose of the Federation?

The original founders of FNSN put a lot of thought into the wording of our purpose (section 2 of the Memorandum of Association). The purpose fairly explicitly stated what the Federation does and the means to do it. But when we recently applied for reinstatement of charitable status with the Government of Canada, we were advised that the wording of the purpose did not meet current Revenue Canada requirements: Anything that can be construed as advocacy is not acceptable (to maintain charitable status, an organization can devote no more than 10 percent of its activities to advocacy), whereas education, research, and activities beneficial to the community as a whole are acceptable.

Using the sort of program- and action-oriented language that the government seems to approve of, the board came up with a revised version of our purpose. The proposed change is a little

more general than the original, but it expresses the same concerns and direction. In fact it gives us the opportunity to emphasize our concerns about native species, ecosystem integrity, and biological diversity. A Revenue Canada representative has given tentative approval of the proposed wording.

You might well ask why it's so important to have charitable status, when it's obviously a lot easier not to bother. The main reason is that the federation is often asked to be a conduit for grant money (the herp atlas, for example, or partnering with the World Wildlife Fund on the Endangered Spaces campaign, or establishing the Atlantic Nature Network). Many granting organizations prefer to deal only with other charitable organizations—the due diligence and reporting and accounting burden is much less onerous. Another significant reason is that being able to issue donation receipts makes fundraising easier.

Notice of Special Resolution

Proposed change of name

The board of directors of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists has approved a motion of special resolution to establish a new trade name for the organization. In accordance with bylaws 45 and 46, notice is hereby given that a resolution to change the name to *Nature Nova Scotia – The Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists* will be put to the membership at the 2005 annual general meeting to be held 26 June 2005.

The board proposes that Nature Nova Scotia be the trade name by which the organization will become known, but that the legal registered name (Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists) remain the same. There are therefore no further changes required to the current bylaws. See the page opposite for an explanation for the proposed change.

Please note that only individual and federate members of the Society are eligible to vote at the general meeting.

Nature Nova Scotia

—The Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists—

Why a new name?

At our planning session earlier this spring, the board unanimously voted to change the name of the Federation. This is one of those decisions that should be ratified by the membership, so it's being presented as a special resolution for consideration at the 2005 annual general meeting.

Some background: Last year, after much debate, the Canadian Nature Federation (CNF) changed its public name to Nature Canada. Even after many years of being the premier voice for naturalists and nature conservation in Canada, CNF remained a mystery to a majority of Canadians. Many confused CNF with the similarly named Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF), an organization that has traditionally served the hunting and angling community, and many still wondered whatever happened to the Canadian Audubon Society (a pre-1970s incarnation of CNF). At the same time, the well-known CNF magazine *Nature Canada* has been in publication for more than 65 years. And CNF, despite the name, was never really a true federation, but a national organization with affiliate and individual members throughout the country.

A number of provincial naturalist organizations have also either changed their names or are considering doing so. The only non-conforming one to date is Ontario Nature (formerly Federation of Ontario Naturalists), which for various reasons preferred the initials ON to

NO. Needless to say, Nature Canada is strongly recommending that all provincial federations adopt the Nature X format.

At our own deliberations on the matter, the majority of us were at first wary of becoming a Nature Nova Scotia – for a number of reasons: We *are* a federation of naturalists; we were reluctant to jump onto a bandwagon just because it's there; and, despite its awkwardness, FNSN is a familiar moniker that we're all comfortable with.

But we also recognized the potential benefits of a name change: Despite our own familiarity with FNSN, it's not always easy for the public and the organizations we deal with to get it right; most people understand the concept of Nature, and having it up front in the name should improve recognition and understanding; and being part of a common naming convention across the country (and much of the US) should be to our ultimate advantage.

After sleeping on the matter, we concluded that we liked the simplicity and clarity of the name Nature Nova Scotia (or its short form, Nature NS), but we also didn't want to lose the concept of our being a federation of naturalists. So the obvious solution was to combine the two, with the option of being able to use the Nature NS part for our public face.

Following ratification of a name change by the membership, we will begin to develop a Nature NS logo.

AGM 2004

Minutes of the 2004 Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists

Sunday, 20 June 2004, 8:50 AM
Amherst, Nova Scotia

Present: Joan Czapalay, president; Bob McDonald, vice-president (and Halifax Field Naturalists); Jean Gibson, treasurer; Doug Linzey, secretary; organizational representatives Larry Bogan (Blomidon Naturalists Society), Suzanne Borkowski (Nova Scotia Bird Society), Heather Drope (Wild Flora Society), Tony Erskine (Chignecto Naturalists), James Hirtle (South Shore Naturalists), Jeff Ogden (Cobequid Naturalists), Jim Wolford (members at large); and approximately 30 individual and federate members.

Regrets: Martin Willison, past president, Jill Comolli (South Shore Naturalists Club), Ursula Grigg (Halifax Field Naturalists), Randy Lauff (Eastern Mainland Naturalists), Dave McCorquodale (Cape Breton Naturalists)

1. Call to Order

Joan Czapalay, presiding, called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Patricia Chalmers, seconded by Suzanne Borkowski, that the minutes of the 2003 annual general meeting be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

3. Financial Report

Jean Gibson presented the treasurer's report (the unaudited financial statements for the period 1 April 2003 – 31 March 2004 are appended). Harold Forsyth, the auditor, is currently auditing the statements. Organizational membership forms did not go out to members this year.

Moved by Jean Gibson, seconded by Claire Diggins, that the treasurer's report be accepted as presented.
CARRIED.

4. Appointment of Auditor

Moved by Jean Gibson, seconded by Heather Drope, that Harold Forsyth be appointed auditor for the 2004/05 fiscal year.
CARRIED.

5. Directors' Report

President Joan Czapalay reported on the year's activities (see appended report).

Moved by Eileen Billington, seconded by Bob McDonald, that the directors' report be accepted as presented.
CARRIED.

6. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected by

acclamation for two-year terms:

Secretary: Doug Linzey

Vice-president: Larry Bogan

7. Other business

Doug Linzey reported that there seems to be little interest in helping with the newsletter; hence, the uncertain publication schedule. It was suggested that member clubs could take turns contributing.

8. 2005 AGM

Joan Czupalay reminded members that the 2005 meeting and conference needs a sponsoring group and a venue.

9. Adjournment (McDonald/Bogan)

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.



Organizational Members Reports (2004)

Annapolis Field Naturalists' Society

No report.

Blomidon Naturalists Society

Larry Bogan reported that the club is maintaining regular monthly meetings, an expanded field trip program, quarterly newsletter, and the annual calendar fund raiser. The club provides judges and an award for the annual science fair. Club member Judy Tufts is the Nova Scotia coordinator for the North American Migration Count. BNS contributed to the overlook at Evangeline Beach and the accompanying video highlighting the community of Grand Pre: *How to live with shorebirds without doing harm.*

Cape Breton Naturalists Society

No report.

Chignecto Naturalists Club

Tony Erskine gave us a little history of the club, formed in the late 1960s in a

wave of environmentalism, with the support of Mt. Allison University and the Canadian Wildlife Service. Today, the club is a shadow of its former self, with a total membership of about 30, split evenly between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick residents. As with so many other organizations, the club has trouble finding volunteers. The members do continue to hold monthly meetings and often join the field trips of other groups.

Cobequid Naturalists Club

Jeff Ogden reported that, although the Cobequid club has no official organizational structure, an informal group puts together monthly meetings, a newsletter, and two or three field trips per year. The club is currently an affiliate of the Federation, with no representative on the board.

Eastern Mainland Field Naturalists

No report.

Halifax Field Naturalists

Bob McDonald reported that the most significant event was the passing of Colin Stewart, who had served on the HFN board and executive and conservation committee for more than 20 years. Colin was one of the founders of FNSN. He spearheaded the World Wildlife Fund Endangered Spaces Campaign in Nova Scotia, which gave rise to the 31 protected areas in the province. A real champion for conservation, Colin continued until the end working on management plans for Point Pleasant Park following the devastation of Hurricane Juan.

HFN has created the Colin Stewart Award for conservation in Nova Scotia. Colin was the first recipient.

The club has 10 monthly meetings (first Thursday of the month at the Museum of Natural History), at least monthly field trips, and a quarterly newsletter. This year the club completed facilitating the transfer of the Captain Arnell conservation area (Purcells Cove) to the NS Nature Trust. HFN has been asked to do stewardship and a biological inventory of the site.

Peter and Linda Payzant and Paul Brunelle prepared and published for HFN a field check list of the odonates of Nova Scotia, illustrated by Stephanie Robertson. It is the first generally available dragonfly checklist in Nova Scotia (cost: \$0.50 each from HFN members).

Les Amis du Plein Air

No report.

Nova Scotia Bird Society

Suzanne Borkowski reported that the society is evolving and becoming more

issues oriented (presenting to the OHV task force, habitat protection). It is looking at promoting a new breeding bird atlas for 2012 (the 20th anniversary of the last one). Membership is increasing and there are more field trips. Eileen Billington will become the NSBS representative to FNSN.

Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society

Heather Drope reported that the society continues to meet the fourth Monday of each month at the NS Museum of Natural History and holds a number of field trips each year. The membership is small but representative of the province. And the focus in the coming year will be on coastal plain flora and developing the Web site. For the newsletter (3-4/year), the club alternates editors.

South Shore Naturalists Club

James Hirtle reported that the membership is stable around 65. A local reporter has been covering club activities, which is very helpful to maintain interest in club activities and to provide some natural history to the public through the local media. SSN has had excellent speakers and field trips over the past year (some field trips are shared with Annapolis Field Naturalists). An active issues committee has prepared in-depth reports on the Tobetic, environmental assessment, and off-highway vehicles, to name a few. The club is also involved in a development plan for the Kingsberg Coastal Conservancy.

Tusket River Environmental Protection Association

No report.

FNSN annual financial statement

April 2003 through March 2004

	<u>Apr 03-Mar 04</u>	<u>Apr 02-Mar 03</u>
Income		
AGM (repayment & earnings)	\$1,879.05	\$ 500.00
Deposit interest	0.77	0.90
Donation	0.00	35.00
Dues		
Federate	670.00	782.00
Individual	35.00	67.00
Organizational	<u>355.00</u>	<u>290.00</u>
Total dues	1,060.00	1,139.00
Grant revenue	<u>0.00</u>	<u>400.00</u>
Total income	2,939.82	2,074.90
Expense		
AGM-related expenses	\$ 600.00	\$ 0.00
Bank service charges	3.00	4.50
Incorporation expenses	25.00	150.00
Memberships	0.00	40.00
Newsletter		
Distribution	274.61	500.00
Printing	<u>402.04</u>	<u>788.32</u>
Total newsletter	676.65	1,288.32
Projects		
Grants paid out	0.00	400.00
Herp atlas	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,600.00</u>
Total projects	0.00	2,000.00
Travel and other expenses	<u>301.80</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total expense	1,606.45	3,482.82
Net income	1,333.37	-1,407.92
Bank balance 01 April 2003	\$7,638.88	
Bank balance 31 March 2004	8,576.79	

Respectfully submitted by E. Jean Gibson, FNSN treasurer

AGM 2003

Minutes of the 2003 Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists

Sunday, 15 June 2003, 10:30 AM
Sydney, Nova Scotia

Present: Joan Czapalay, president; Bob McDonald, vice-president; Jean Gibson, treasurer; Doug Linzey, secretary; organizational representatives Daniel Aucoin (Les Amis du Plein Air), Larry Bogan (Blomidon Naturalists Society), Suzanne Borkowski (Nova Scotia Bird Society), Shirley McIntyre (Wild Flora Society), Catherine Sneddon (Cape Breton Naturalists Society); and approximately 35 individual and federate members.

Regrets: Martin Willison, past president, Jill Comolli (South Shore Naturalists Club), Ursula Grigg (Halifax Field Naturalists)

1. Call to Order

Joan Czapalay, presiding, called the meeting to order

2. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Shirley McIntyre, seconded by Michael Downing, that the minutes of the 2002 annual general meeting be approved as presented. CARRIED.

3. Financial Report

Jean Gibson presented the treasurer's report [the audited financial statements for the period 1 April 2002 - 31 March

2003 are included in the 2004 report].

Moved by Jean Gibson, seconded by Larry Bogan, that the treasurer's report be accepted as presented. CARRIED.

4. Appointment of Auditor

Moved by Jean Gibson, seconded by Wendy McDonald, that Harold Forsyth be appointed auditor for the 2003/04 fiscal year. CARRIED.

5. Directors' Report

President Joan Czapalay reported on the year's activities (see appended report).

Moved by Doug Linzey, seconded by Jim Wolford, that the directors' report be accepted as presented. CARRIED.

6. Special Resolution

Moved by Doug Linzey, seconded by Jim Wolford, that amendments to the bylaws of the society, as gazetted in FNSN News, vol 13, no 1, be approved by the membership. CARRIED unanimously.

7. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected by acclamation for two-year terms:

President: Joan Czapalay

Treasurer: Jean Gibson

Director at Large: Jim Wolford
(nominated by Mary Macaulay and Wendy McDonald)

8. Other business

Members expressed concern that despite the provincial government commitment to protect some 12% of the provincial land base, no action has taken place beyond protecting the original 31 candidate sites. In the ensuing discussion, members made it clear that the federation should be encouraging the province to follow up on its commitment, that marine habitats also be considered to the extent possible considering jurisdiction, and that pressure should be put on candidates in the upcoming provincial election. It was suggested that the federation consult with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, the Ecology Action Centre, and other relevant organizations to determine what work has already been done. We were also reminded that the 31 sites selected for protection came from a list of more than 80 recommended sites, and that more had been added in the interim.

Apart from dealing directly with government and politicians, it was suggested that letters to the media and press releases would be useful vehicles for expressing our concern. It was also suggested that we publicly support politicians who seem genuinely supportive of conservation measures.

Moved by Michael Downing, seconded by Bob McDonald: This meeting directs the board of directors of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists to take full advantage of the approaching Nova Scotia provincial election to urge provincial politicians toward honouring the government's commitment to protecting a minimum 12% of the land area of Nova Scotia. CARRIED unanimously.

9. 2004 AGM

Joan Czapalay reminded members that the 2004 meeting and conference needs a sponsoring group and a venue.

10. Adjournment (Downing/ Bouman)

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.



Organizational Members Reports (2003)

Annapolis Field Naturalists' Society

Jon Percy, president of AFNS, was unable to attend the AGM but sent this report:

This year, 2003, marks the fifteenth year of existence of the Annapolis Field

Naturalists Society. In March 1988, 75 people attended a public information meeting to see if there was sufficient interest to form a naturalists group in the area. There was – and the new group was soon launched, with the first issue of its newsletter *Field Notes* appearing that autumn. I am pleased to report that 15 years down the road the Society is

still here and still active. Many of our founding members are still with us. I am pleased to note also that over the last few years we have acquired many new members

The past year has been a busy one, with a diverse array of interesting speaker programs and field activities. As usual the range of topics presented at our monthly meetings was incredibly broad:

- January – The Tobeatic Wilderness Area
- February – Birding and turtling in Trinidad and Tobago
- March – Conservation of coastal wildlife habitat
- April – Threats to the coastal plains flora
- May – The Keji Adjunct
- June – Undersea landscapes
- September – Nova Scotia Nature Trust
- October – Wetlands in the agricultural landscape
- November – Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre & White's Cove Quarry
- January – Canadian sharks
- February – Nova Scotia wildflowers
- March – Aquaculture in Canada
- April – Nova Scotia Power's vegetation management

The program committee also arranged an equally interesting and diverse array of field trips for us, including trips to Cape St. Mary's, the Keji Adjunct, and Keji Park. We also went looking for bobolinks in Belleisle, canoed down the Annapolis River, visited the Irving Environmental Centre at Acadia, and spent a particularly memorable day voyaging

to Isle Haute in the middle of the Bay of Fundy. The annual White Out was a great success thanks to the warm hospitality of Art and Alice White. The Christmas Bird Count was also once again carried out under the capable leadership of Dave Tinker. I feel confident that the program committee will continue to sustain the momentum and provide us with more exciting speakers and activities through the coming year.

Our quarterly newsletter *Field Notes* continues to appear regularly and more or less on schedule. It has a distribution of just over 100, including a number of schools, libraries, and other natural history and environmental organizations.

A number of our members have represented AFNS to various groups dealing with a variety of environmental and other issues. Steven Lewis was our representative on the Tobeatic Advisory group and also kept us up to date about developments related to the Black Bull Mine. Jim Robinson was our representative to the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists, and Murray Covert served on our behalf on the Forestry Advisory Committee of Bowater-Mersey Ltd.

Heartly congratulations to Gini Proulx, who was named the AFNS Volunteer of the Year at the County Volunteer Awards ceremony in April. This is well-deserved recognition of all that Gini has done for AFNS over the past 15 years.

Blomidon Naturalists Society

Larry Bogan reported that the club is maintaining regular monthly meetings, field trips, quarterly newsletter, and the annual calendar fundraiser. The club is

also helping with the herp atlas and contributing to various bird counts, especially the Christmas one.

Cape Breton Naturalists Society

Catherine Sneddon reported that the club is continuing to work on endangered species in the greater Louisbourg area and a bird survey on Scatarie Island. The club continues to host a regular speakers series, field trips, and a Christmas bird count.

Chignecto Naturalists Club

No report.

Eastern Mainland Field Naturalists

No report.

Halifax Field Naturalists

Bob McDonald reported briefly on HFN activities. The club, with approximately 130 members, holds 10 regular monthly meetings (nine with speakers, one members' slides night) and a number of well-attended field trips. The Christmas social was especially popular this past year. The club also publishes a quarterly newsletter. A special project this year involves administration of a donated property (to the Nova Scotia Nature Trust) in the Purcells Cove area.

Les Amis du Plein Air

Daniel Aucoin gave a little history of Les Amis: the first (1981) cooperative association to work with Parks Canada (now there are about 40 across the country); four employees operate the nature bookstore in the Highlands National Park information centre in Cheticamp. The big project of the past two years was the

\$100,000 reconstruction of the Skyline Trail. In summer this trail, the most popular in the park, sees as many as 500 people a day. Projects for 2003 will include work on the Coastal Trail and a plan for interpretive signs on all trails. The association sees one of its main purposes as providing a link between the park and the community. It hosts concerts in the park on Sunday nights and donates nature books to schools.

Nova Scotia Bird Society

Suzanne Borkowski reported on activities. The society began holding field workshops preceding regular monthly meetings and talks. To date, Richard Stern has covered gull identification; Ian McLaren, sparrow identification; Bernard Forsyth, owl boxes; Cindy Staicer, identifying warblers by sound; and Fulton Lavender, flycatcher identification. This successful program will continue. NSBS now has a subcommittee developing conservation policy. Rand Lauff, editor of *NS Birds*, is stepping down; Blake Maybank will take over as editor. NSBS is looking forward to celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2005.

Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society

Shirley McIntyre reported that the society continues to meet seven times per year at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History and twice (May, June) for field trips. It also holds field trips during the summer. The core group of members are very knowledgeable. Last summer, the club did an inventory of plants at the Kejimkujic seaside adjunct.

South Shore Naturalists Club

No report.

TREPA

No report.

Members-at-Large

Report from Mary Macaulay: As forestry liaison for the board, Mary attended Nova Forest Alliance meetings as an observer, participated in the CPAWS project to establish the Acadian Forest Campaign (to educate

Maritimers about the Acadian forest), and participated in a conference on promoting uneven-aged forestry practices, organized by Anna McCarron. Mary encouraged the board to press provincial school boards to pursue school grounds naturalization. She was appointed to Voluntary Planning's natural resources committee and was instrumental in establishing a biodiversity committee to address forestry and fresh water concerns.



Notes on the FNSN 2003 conference

Friday, 13 June 2003, 6:00 PM

University College of Cape Breton campus

Registration, under the capable direction of Betty Gentile, preceded the Friday evening opening at the multipurpose room in the main UCCB campus building.

Following a brief welcome from conference organizer Thomas Bouman in an adjacent lecture theatre, UCCB biology professor Dave McCorquodale gave us a lighthearted and decidedly oddball view of some Cape Breton natural history. He effectively made the point that the natural history of a given area is not static and that it can't be taken for granted. Seeing what is truly in front of us often requires a suspension of com-

monly held belief and a willingness to look beyond the familiar. Dave used two local examples of surprising finds: unexpected species diversity in the notorious tar ponds and a new species in his own back yard.

A wine & cheese reception followed. Many of the visiting participants stayed in campus housing, an affordable and handy short walk from the conference venue.

Saturday, 14 June 2003, 9:15 am

Thomas began the proceedings with a thank you to his conference crew: Catherine Sneddon, Cliff and Alina Crompton, Betty and Rusty Gentile, Dave MacAuley, Terry Power, and four UCCB students, Joyce Ene, Nadine



Lefort, Anthony Mazzocca, and Mark McNeil.

Catherine Sneddon, president of the host club, Cape Breton Naturalists Society, welcomed us to Cape Breton. This is the first time in the history of the federation that CBN has hosted the conference. Catherine told us that the focus over the weekend would be on Eastern Cape Breton, particularly the area commonly known as Industrial Cape Breton, which is not often appreciated for its natural history.

On behalf of the university-college, Cyril Clark told us that our meeting this weekend was especially welcome because UCCB likes to maintain a community focus and puts a high priority on the environment.

Joan Czupalay, president of the federation, welcomed delegates to the conference and AGM.

What's out there?

The first speaker of the day was Pixie Williams, adjunct professor of biology, whose topic was "What's out there?" Pixie's success as an interpreter of Cape

Breton's natural history and as a mentor for countless young people comes from a lifelong curiosity in the natural world, a natural bent for getting out in the field, and a readiness to share her vast knowledge of local plants.

Even by the early 1980s virtually no work had been done on the natural history of eastern Cape Breton, and no one really knew what was out there. As a museum research associate, Pixie began to rectify that situation as she studied the lowlands of Cape Breton. Her work came to the attention of Don Arsenault of the Bras d'Or Institute, who asked her to start a herbarium of the Bras d'Or Lakes watershed. At that time, the college still had no botany grads, and Pixie along with two students spent two years collecting.

From there, she moved on to the coastal boggy barrens of the Balleine shore, with its lichens and sub-arctic species, and then on to Scatarie Island and its storm petrel burrows, where she discovered (in 1993) the first Nova Scotia record of the sedge *Carex rariflora*.

At Usage Bahn Falls, Pixie worked

with Sandra Ferguson, who "knows Cape Breton flora better than most." There they initiated one of the earliest conservation efforts. Because of the diverse flora in the area, the botanists persuaded the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to be very careful with trail development. The government was apparently appreciative of their efforts and proceeded to develop the park, giving high priority to conservation values.

Another location with very diverse flora was the Petersfield estate, originally established in 1787, and now a 56-acre provincial park near Sydney. The extensive plantings, many from the time of JS McLennan, who owned the estate from 1900 to 1942, include species from other parts of North America and the world as well as native plants.

Next on the list was a bakeapple study, in which Pixie was joined by Catherine Sneddon. Following that was a study for DNR of Island Point (off Boularderie), a relatively dangerous and very interesting landscape of karst and sinkholes and alkaline marshes with gypsum caves underlying an extremely thin skin. From there Pixie was off to Black River, again collecting for a DNR study.

In the Louisbourg area, a team led by Pixie catalogued the flora, and a wide-ranging assessment in Irish Cove is ongoing.

Pixie now lives in the United States, but maintains close ties with her colleagues in Cape Breton. Throughout her time in Cape Breton she encouraged and helped a phenomenal number of people to take up careers in botany. Pixie read-

ily admits that she and countless others inspired by her put in a *lot* of work. The results are clear: a newfound respect for the natural history of eastern Cape Breton, a number of protected areas, and a tremendous body of knowledge that just didn't exist a mere 20 years ago. Even the Cape Breton Naturalists Society owes its existence to Pixie, resulting from a winter lecture series that she organized. Now a large number of people continue the work she began, many of them volunteers on their own time.

At the midmorning break, we were encouraged to visit a busy and extremely informative poster session in an adjacent room.

Fenton Isenor on the "Geology of Cape Breton Island"

Cape Breton geology is interesting from a number of standpoints (Fenton made it abundantly clear to his audience that the mainland is relatively boring). For example, the northern tip is host to Nova Scotia's only Precambrian (and therefore oldest) rock — a tiny piece of the Canadian Shield more than one billion years old. Not only does Cape Breton have the largest range of ages in the province, its connection to the rest of the world is second to none. Being on the edge of the continent through a number of continental collisions over hundreds of millions of years, Cape Breton has accumulated rock that can be associated with Europe, Africa, and South America.

Fenton took us on a swift journey from some 400 million years ago to the present and explained (as well as one

can in a few minutes) why the geological map of Cape Breton is so darned colourful. And he showed us a bunch of slides to illustrate the diversity and complexity of Cape Breton geology.

Because the subject is complex – and I (ed.) could never do Fenton's talk justice in these pages – I recommend that everyone read *The Last Billion Years: A Geological History of the Maritime Provinces of Canada*, by the Atlantic Geoscience Society (Nimbus 2001). This well-written and engaging book takes the reader through those billion years fairly painlessly with plenty of maps, drawings, and photos. Apart from a vision of the vast swirling events of geological time, the authors relate the various terranes and soil and rock types to both ancient and modern-day biology, industrial use of geological materials, the economy, and climate change.

I look at my notes from Fenton's talk and I realize that I can't possibly get into detail here without becoming hopelessly mired. Yet Fenton was able to make the story very clear and understandable in just a few minutes. You had to be there.

What's in a Lake?

Tim Lambert, aka "The Fish Man," gave us another kind of virtual tour – of Bras d'Or Lake, from one end to the other and from the surrounding land and over the surface down through the water columns and into the submarine soils. On the surface, Bras d'Or looks like any other large body of water, but a peculiar assemblage of animals and plants and a wide range of habitats in a relatively small geographic area make these waters unique.

A large variation in factors such as depth, salinity, temperature gradient, and oxygen content affects tremendously the populations of flora and fauna from place to place in the lake. Although much of the water is relatively shallow, there are spots that are nearly 300 m deep.

The lake has three connections to the Atlantic Ocean: Great Bras d'Or and Little Bras d'Or to the north and St. Peters Inlet to the south. Most fresh water enters from the west, and the lake is on average less salty than the ocean. Fresh water tends to flow out of the lake on the surface of Great Bras d'Or Channel while saltier water flows into the lake via lower layers. Because the lake is segmented, with some pretty restrictive channels, different parts have hugely different flushing rates. Wycocomagh Bay, for example, has such a low flushing rate that it is highly susceptible to pollution and suffers from anoxia.

Because of the restricted openings to the ocean Bras D'Or has relatively low tidal amplitude, and of course there is a considerable time lag in the lake tidal cycle. The biggest tidal ranges, in fact, result from the inverse barometric pressure effect.

In winter there tends not to be much temperature gradient in the water column, but in summer there can be a large gradient, especially in deeper water. In places like St. Andrews Channel, where the water is deep and turbulence is minimal the surface water can be 20°C while the bottom water is very cold. Because of the stable conditions of temperature and salinity on the bottom, this part of the lake is host to arctic relics such as

certain copepods and tubeworms. And at the other end of the scale, shallower waters that get uniformly warm in summer readily grow oysters. Tim speculates that Bras d'Or may be the only body of water in the world with such a span of warm- and coldwater species.

The lake supports at least 92 species of algae in two assemblages: the coldwater, largely brown algae, and the warm water species, which tend to be red or green.

The Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission has been involved in a number of recent and ongoing surveys of Bras d'Or water quality, plankton, and fish. Their partners include the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Environment Canada, and the Bras d'Or Stewardship Society.

Winter flounder (blackback) is the most common bottom species in shallower water. Northern cod is plentiful and well dispersed. The Bras d'Or cod population spawns earlier than the population in Sydney Bight and, judging by a tagging program, seems to be self-sustaining. Rockling is the most common fish in the plankton layer (in which copepods are the most common food species). Fish caught in trawl surveys are identified, weighed, catalogued, and returned to the water.

Other fish species include yellowtail at intermediate depths, white hake juveniles, winter skate (common), and the fairly rare witch flounder (or gray sole) found only in the muddy bottom of deep water.

Species diversity tends to be greatest in St. Andrews and Great Bras d'Or

channels and lowest in St. Patricks Channel and Wycocomagh Bay.

The material in Tim's talk is all to be found in a new book from the Nova Scotia Institute of Science. It is available from the Bras d'Or Stewardship Society, Box 158, Baddeck B0E 1B0. For a nice summary, see a PDF version of the December 2001 issue of the *Blue Heron*, a publication of the Bras d'Or Stewardship Society: <baddeck.com/bss/News/Vol4/vol4-2.pdf>

Conservation of the Freshwater Lampmussel

Kellie White is with the Atlantic Coastal Action Program—Cape Breton (ACAP-CB), a not-for-profit organization in Sydney. She described this recent and ongoing project.

Freshwater mussels make up one of the most endangered taxa in North America. Dating back to the 1800s, habitat destruction has been progressing apace, through dams, farming, forestry, and bank erosion. Mussels, being immobile, can't escape even small-scale problems. Native species also face competition from invading species such as the Eurasian zebra mussel, which has proven to be devastating to mussels in the Great Lakes.

In 1994 COSEWIC included invertebrates in its listing procedure and formed a group to analyze the status of mussels. In Nova Scotia, four of ten species have been identified as priority.

A special case, the yellow lampmussel (*Lampsilis cariosa*) is found in Nova Scotia only in the Sydney River and in New Brunswick only in the Saint John River (it is also known in

coastal Maine through Georgia, but is listed as endangered or threatened through much of its range). The Saint John River population occurs over a fairly large area: some 500 km of stream. The Sydney river population is limited to about 20 km below the dam.

The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources has examined the yellow lampmussel distribution, and ACAP-CB began a joint conservation project with Environment Canada in 2001. The project has three aims: to produce biological/ecological information, to promote public education, and to establish a volunteer monitoring program. Kellie looked at each of these aims in turn.

Biological and Ecological Information

The larval stage of the yellow lampmussel (*glochidia*) is an external parasite – it clamps onto minnows for about three weeks before dropping off. Therefore, any conservation efforts for the mussel must also conserve the host fish. The mussel uses a mantle lure (via coloration and a waving edge on the margin) to attract fish. At the beginning of the study, the host species was unidentified, but sampling has verified that the required fish is white perch.

The study involved 310 one-square-metre samples on which samplers used viewing buckets while wading and scuba gear for deeper samples. Overall, the population appears to be healthy and actively breeding with a good age distribution (age is determined by counting growth rings). Total population in the Sydney River is about 1 million mussels, at a density of 0.4–0.77 per square metre. The sex ratio is 1:1.

The mussels live in sandy, unvegetated areas at depths between 0.5 m and 6.0 m, but not below the thermocline.

Based on shell middens, muskrat predation of yellow lampmussels does not appear to be a major issue. And testing has shown that human handling during monitoring causes no mortality. Potential threats posed by recreation and dam breaches have not yet been determined.

Public Education

The public education aspect of the project takes three directions. Because people are not generally aware of the existence of the yellow lampmussel, the project will develop a media campaign and flyers for local residents. An effort will be made to promote a conservation ethic. And the program will recruit volunteers from the community. So far, this approach has been successful.

Volunteer Monitoring Program

So far, the project has developed sampling protocols, established monitoring stations, and begun volunteer recruitment and training. This year, volunteers will identify pregnant females with viewing buckets (this guarantees correct species identification).

Kellie finished her talk by reminding us that her project is a good example of the role that community groups can play in species conservation. She also acknowledged funding and help from the Canadian Wildlife Service and the National Water Research Institute.

Nature
Poetry by Emily Dickinson

Pink, small, and punctual.
Aromatic, low,
Covert in April,
Candid in May,

Dear to the moss,
Known by the knoll,
Next to the robin
In every soul.

Bold little beauty,
Bedecked with thee,
Nature forswears
Antiquity.

[This poem appears to refer to
the trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*)
—the Nova Scotia floral emblem]

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