

Nominations for the BNS Board

As of November 14, 2022

Please find the following short bios of our current wonderful nominees to the Blomidon Naturalists Society Board. Please take a moment to get to know them if you don't already!

Celes Davar

Location: 448 West Brooklyn Mountain Road, RR#3, West Brooklyn, NS. B4P 2R3
Between Maqapskejijk (Avonport) and Sikunme'katik (Gaspereau River), and northwest of Kluskap (Horton)

My interests and passions, in no particular order:

- Walking, outdoor photography, wildlife viewing, birding
- Learning from the forest about ecology, medicines, systems
- Climate change responses and climate resilience residential building design
- Cooking, culinary herbs, and conversations around food gatherings
- The intersection of global economics, climate change, tourism, and sustainability of communities

Why am I interested in joining the board of the BNS?

- My wish is to be part of a relevant community organization that is at the forefront of biodiversity relevance, habitat protection, climate change monitoring and adaptation, cultural traditions, welcoming newcomers, and conversations not just between members, but more inclusively with those who may not see the BNS as being relevant to them, with visitors, and with our community. If this is the direction of the BNS in an active way, I am interested in learning more, contributing, and leading where there are opportunities to do so.
- I would feel comfortable being part of a standing committee that is acting on a key strategic direction for the BNS. Citizen science, advocacy, and outreach to community with unique long-term projects that engage community, generate revenues, and engage the support of invited partners, is of interest to me. As opposed to "look, see" nature learning (passive), I am interested in a much more activist role for the BNS - to develop unique, community-relevant projects that are not "just for naturalists", but are seen to be the purview of the community, community well-being, and awareness of the life systems that occur here, around which all development, tourism, and economic activities must be nested into.
- I am a results-oriented person; so, meeting for the sake of meeting is a non-starter for me. Committee meetings must be action-oriented, with various committee members actively engaged, involved, doing, and contributing.

Skills/experience

- Worked for Parks Canada as chief naturalist and visitor services manager for 22 years
- Owner/operator of Earth Rhythms, an award-winning experiential tourism company - 27 years
- Climate change presenter (Part of the Climate Reality Leadership Corps), having trained with Al Gore and international scientists on three different locations (twice in Nashville, once in Montreal)
- Experiential and sustainable tourism facilitator, leader, presenter, coach
- National coach, UN SDGs (with Synergy/TIAC)
- Birder (40+ years)
- Naturalist and biologist

Guy Stevens

My name is Guy Stevens. I live in Kentville with my wife (Emily), our daughter (Evie), and our dog (Kofi). I am originally British, although I have spent most of the last 20 years travelling and living all over the World. When the pandemic started, Emily and I were living in the USA, so we decided to move back to Nova Scotia (where Emily grew up) to be close to family. My day-job is running an international marine conservation charity, which I founded in 2005, called the Manta Trust (<https://www.mantatrust.org/>). I am a conservation ecologist, with a doctorate from the University of York in the UK. The Manta Trust is dedicated to the conservation of manta rays and their habitat through research, education, and collaboration. In my spare time, I love to get out into the natural world to walk, take photos of wildlife, and bird watch. Ever since I was a child, nature has always been my passion, so I am lucky to work in a field which I love. However, time is rapidly running out to protect what is left of our planet's biodiversity, and to quote the words of the Senegalese conservationist Baba Dioum, "*In the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught.*" Therefore, I would like to use my skills, passion, and experience to help the BNS make as many people as possible care as much about the natural world as I do.

Keeler Colton

My name is Keeler Colton and I grew up locally between Wolfville and the South Mountain. I am an amateur naturalist, and fly fishing addict with a deep passion for conservation and our local watersheds. I am an active board member of the Jijuktu'kwejk Watershed Alliance and worked as their summer field ecologist in the years of 2020 and 2021. Last spring I finished my undergrad degree in biology at Acadia University and I am now pursuing my masters degree at Acadia in the Coastal Ecology Lab. My research is in collaboration with Clean Annapolis River Project and is focused on acoustically tracking Striped Bass and Atlantic Sturgeon in the Annapolis River. I am also assisting in beach seining in the Annapolis River, Lake Trout tagging in Sherbrooke Lake, and Smolt and Alewife tracking in the Gaspereau River. I have experience with public outreach, righting grant proposals, presenting to organizations and the municipality, teaching, and running workshops. For the past few years I have been a member of the BNS and have been following along with all the great work you've been doing. I am excited at the opportunity to join the BNS Board as I would like to learn from you all and contribute from my aquatic experiences.

Sarah Lavallée

My name is Sarah Lavallée, I grew up on the West Coast in Vancouver, B.C. I came out to Nova Scotia to attend Acadia in 2018 and graduated last April with a Bachelors in Community Development and Environmental Sustainability Studies. I am passionate about community, place, and the intersections with climate justice. I fell in love with the Maritimes and the way that generosity and mutual aid is the social model that governs communities here. I believe that this social model extends beyond human interactions to include the ways that we interact with the environment and the places that hold meaning for our communities. I am excited to join the BNS Board to further explore the intersections between the natural world, social systems, and community wellbeing. I really enjoy working in spaces that overlap with natural science and social justice and I believe that my strengths are as a connector or bridge between the two disciplines. I am extremely grateful and excited for the opportunity to help re-launch Climate Circles and I hope to bring my love of facilitating and my desire to address environmental equity to this work. I completed an Honours thesis on Greenspace Attachment and Community Resilience last year in Wolfville which gave me valuable insights about the community. I continue to reflect and build on this work and I believe that my experience facilitating diverse populations in the community will help me immensely in my role with Climate Circles. I look forward to engaging with the important place-based work that the BNS does. Thank you so much for the opportunity to contribute to the BNS Board– I am very grateful and excited.