

Blomidon Naturalists Society

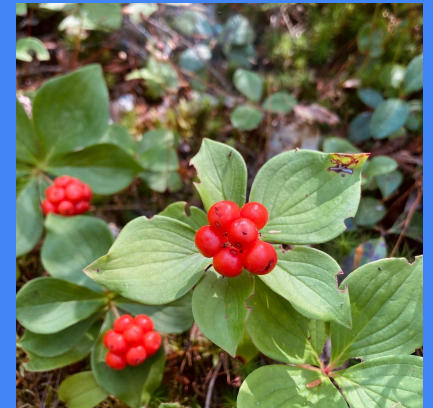


A look back at our 2022 year!

2022 at a glance

- 10 monthly meetings & presentations
- 10+ board meetings
- 5 webinar/workshops
- 9 field trips
- 2 highway clean-ups
- 5 BNS events
- Numerous community events as a support or partner
- 4 full-day courses
- Flying Squirrel Adventures diverse programming for kids, newcomers, and all community members
- Pollinator gardens & education
- New Beyond the Tides print publication
- New podcast series
- E-newsletters, website & social media communication
- Climate Circles project & climate work
- Nature conservation, environmental campaigns, and advocacy
- Collaborative community projects like the FAN project with the WFM and Earth Rhythms
- Network with naturalists and nature groups locally and across the province
- Citizen science, birds counts
- 26th annual Natural History Calendar
- And more!

Unless otherwise noted, photo credits to Caroline Beddoe.



Monthly Meetings

January - **Biodiversity & the Ecological Role of Parasites**
Dave Shutler

February - **Bending the Curve of Biodiversity Loss: The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework** Mike Gill

March - **Lichens of Nova Scotia: Diversity, Conservation and Research**
Dr. Sean Haughian

April - **Biodiversity in the Jijuktu'kwejk Watershed**
Keeler Colton & Jonas Gow

May - **Tales from the cryptic: Hidden treasures and lesser-known stories from the Miner's Marsh hotspot**
James Churchill

June - **Coastal Eelgrass Beds: Hotspots for Biodiversity & Conservation**
Dr. Ryan Stanley

September - **The Sun is not an average star, the Earth is not an average planet**

Patrick Kelly

October - **The Amazing Geological History of Nova Scotia!**
Dr. Sandra Barr

November - **Annual General Meeting & Biology on the Sørlandet with Soren Bondrup-Nieslen**
Board & BNS president Soren Bondrup-Nielsen

*December - **Fundy Fossil Record & the Evolution of Development** - Jade Atkins*



Webinars & Workshops

Reaching 20% protected areas in Kings County

Alain Belliveau

Settler Education Workshop

Dr. Carolyn Campbell, Horizons Community Development Associates

Chimney Swifts in Atlantic Canada: Life History, Conservation, and Trends

Rielle Hoeg, Birds Canada

Bank Swallows: Life History, Habitat & Conservation

Heather Polowyk, Birds Canada

Double-Header Wildlife Webinar: Nova Scotia Herpetofauna Atlas Presentation & Monarch Monitoring

Carter Feltham, MTRI & Noah Hardy, Coastal Action



Field Trips

Getting outdoors together and learning is what it is all about.

Thanks to our trip leaders and participants for all the wonderful field trips this year!

Photo credits from top left clockwise: Celes Davar, Caroline Beddoe, Caroline Beddoe, Caroline Beddoe, Guy Stevens.



Field Trip Fun!

Field trips took us from the Wolfville Watershed Nature Preserve on snowshoes, to the spring woods of Blomidon, to the fundy coastline of Carolina Beach, down by the Gaspereau River in the fall, learning about beaver dams, exploring mudflats, finding fairy shrimp in vernal ponds, preparing for winter in the Wolfville trails, and more!

*Photo credits from top left clockwise:
Caroline Beddoe (1-4); John Burka.*



Events

BNS and community members & partner organizations also hosted numerous events & our two highway clean-ups.

Events included:

- A Swift Night Out: Chimney Swift Count & Event
- Monarchs & Pollinators at the Library – Monarch Talk & Pollinator Plant Giveaway
- Monarch Open House
- Gathering to Remember Jim Wolford
- Spring & Fall Highway Clean-Up

We also participated in Seedy Saturday at the Wolfville Farmers' market & the Kentville Rotary Club's Environmental Day event, and supported other local initiatives.



Full-Day Courses at Ross Creek



We were delighted to partner with Ross Creek Centre for the Arts and wonderful instructors to host 4 full-day in-depth courses this year.

June 5 - **Wildflowers of Nova Scotia**
with Alain Belliveau

June 11 - **Birding by Ear**
with James Churchill

September 17 - **Fun with Fungi**
with Allison Walker & Keith Egger

November 19 - **Lichens of Nova Scotia**
with Alain Belliveau



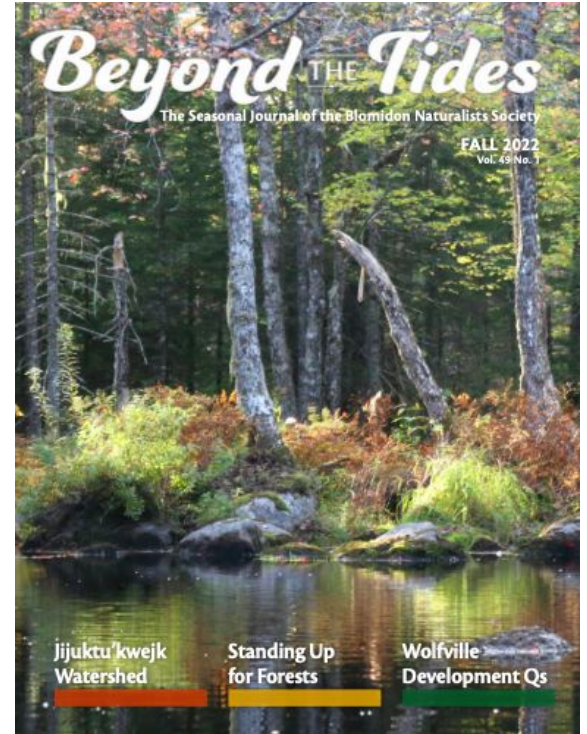
Communications & Publications

It was a year of change for our print newsletter, which has been published since 1974. Earlier in the year, we distributed the last beautiful **BNS Newsletter** printed and bound by Gaspereau Press of Kentville. Thank you for many years of beautiful newsletters (all archived on the website thanks to Larry Bogan).

We now publish a new version of our newsletter, a coloured magazine-style publication entitled, **Beyond the Tides**. The Fall Issue 2022 (Vol. 49 No. 1) came out in late October 2022, with many thanks to editor Alan Warner and all contributors.

We also launched a **podcast** - Blomidon Naturalists in Conversation!

And continue with a monthly **E-Newsletter**, & **social media** communications.

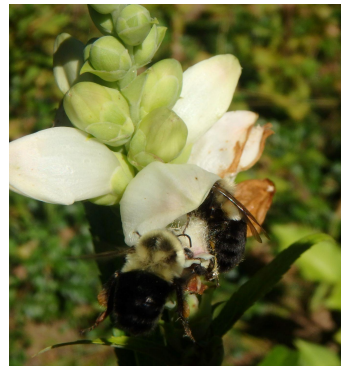


Butterflyway Pollinator Project

The Butterflyway project and related pollinator work and education kept many BNS members busy as bees this year, planting public gardens with native plants, raising awareness about pollinators, sharing educational resources, writing articles and more!

Gardens are in Wolfville, Port Williams, & Kentville. One garden in Kentville was planted with the Flying Squirrel Adventures Girls Outdoor Adventure and Leadership group, at the wonderful Valley Community Learning Association.

Photo credits from top left clockwise: Carolyn Green (1-2), Rachel Cherry-Brannen, Anna Saroli.



Climate Circles

Over the past months, we have been working on (re)launching Climate Circles, **a facilitated and supportive space to meet and work with people who want to take climate action together.**

Climate Circles would serve as a hub for resources and sharing, and a space for dedicated action projects to emerge.

We believe in climate action as a complement to biodiversity protection, environmental education, and nature connection.

Many thanks to Board member Emily LeGrand, the BNS Board, the Climate Circle Advisory Group, Sarah Lavallée, and others who are working on this project.

Climate Circles are launching this winter (November/December 2022), with a few introductory assessment sessions.

We want to know who is wanting to re-engage, what climate action ideas you have, and what needs you have in order to take action. Help design a new climate circles format that meets our community's needs for climate action.

HELP US LAUNCH

CLIMATE CIRCLES

A FACILITATED SPACE FOR CLIMATE ACTION OF ALL FORMS





COME CONNECT WITH OTHERS & SHARE YOUR IDEAS & NEEDS FOR LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION

Pick whichever option works best for you:

Option A: Monday, November 28th from 7-9 pm Location: Wolfville Curling Club	Option B: Tuesday, December 6th from 7-9 pm Online Please e-mail coordinator@blomidonnaturalists.ca for the zoom link
Option C: Sunday, December 11th from 2-4 pm Location: Valley Community Learning Association, Kentville	

EVERYONE WELCOME

For collective care, we request masks at these events



SMALL CHANGE FUND
The next step in change.

Advocacy & Conservation

The BNS remains a strong voice for environmental conservation, biodiversity protection and restoration, climate action, and more. We continue to amplify local environmental struggles and ways to get involved, support ecological campaigns, contribute to policy work (on protected areas, forestry, and more), etc...

This includes:

- supporting work locally to deal with invasive species, like the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in Kentville
- providing our feedback on the protected areas plan for NS
- supporting the Save Species at Risk sign campaign for ecological forestry,
- advocating for an end to glyphosate spraying on forests,
- supporting projects like Space to Roost,
- supporting Nature Nova Scotia in their governmental advocacy (thanks esp. To John Burka for this)
- And more!!



We are grateful to work with others across the province on these issues.

Flying Squirrel Adventures

FSA has supported diverse and numerous people of all ages in engaging with nature in fun, empowering and inspiring ways, and has supported community connection and building through their diverse programming.

Forest Play, Coyote Classroom, Girls Outdoors Adventure & Leadership, Wild Explorations, Trailblazers, and more programming for kids and youth (3-16)

Francophone par Nature french hiking events

Nature for Newcomer events

Youth Leadership - Duke of Edinburgh

Weekly Community Suppers (VCLA Kentville)

Special programming with Nature Canada

Queer and Trans Friendly Hiking Series

Impact report to be circulated with acknowledgements to community partners and funders, and with FSA impact by the numbers!



Collaborative Community Projects

FAN (Food, Art, Nature) Project with the Wolfville Farmers' Market & Earth Rhythms

The Wolfville Farmers Market, the Blomidon Naturalists Society and Earth Rhythms, a local company promoting experiential tourism, were selected by ACOA to receive a one year grant to develop local food and nature based experiential activities, to connect people to the local landscape (ecological, cultural, etc) through storytelling and compelling experiences. Thanks to Soren for your hard work on this project!

We are also exploring a project with **How We Thrive**, to support the development of a modular educational resource specific to Nova Scotia, that strives to amplify positive stories and catalyze environmental learning, connection and action.

Photo credits: Earth Rhythms/Celes Davar.



Other Work & Projects ...

Robie Tufts Nature Centre has a brand new look! Thanks to all contributors for their information, photographs, drawings, etc.

As always, we are so pleased to award the annual **Merritt Gibson Award** to an honours or grad student in environmental studies, environmental science or biology at Acadia University.

We have enjoyed connecting with students, and hope to continue working together.

We have been keen to collaborate with groups across Nova Scotia on environmental awareness and advocacy work.

There are other avenues to continue down, like promoting citizen science opportunities.

We welcome your ideas, engagement & collaboration!



A close-up photograph of a tree trunk covered in various types of lichen. The lichen is primarily green and yellowish-green, with some brown and orange tones. The texture is intricate and porous. The background is a bright, out-of-focus sky.

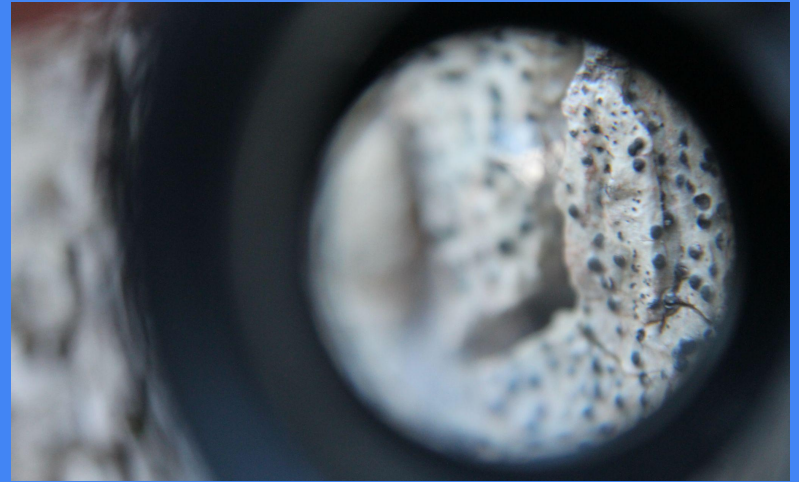
Thank you

For your generous support, your engagement, your ideas, your knowledge-sharing, your curiosity & your involvement with the BNS this year!

Wait there's more!

**The nitty gritty detailed look at our
programming this year...**

**A chance to acknowledge all
presenters, trip leaders and more!**



Details - Monthly Meetings this Year

January 17	Biodiversity & the Ecological Role of Parasites	Dave Shutler	Zoom
February 21	Bending the Curve of Biodiversity Loss: The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	Mike Gill	Zoom
March 21	Lichens of Nova Scotia: Diversity, Conservation and Research	Dr. Sean Haughian	Zoom
April 20	Biodiversity in the Jijuktu'kwejk Watershed	Keeler Colton & Jonas Gow	Zoom
May 16	Tales from the cryptic: Hidden treasures and lesser-known stories from the Miner's Marsh hotspot	James Churchill	Zoom
June 20	Coastal Eelgrass Beds: Hotspots for Biodiversity & Conservation	Dr. Ryan Stanley	Zoom
September 19	The Sun is not an average star, the Earth is not an average planet	Patrick Kelly	Wolfville Curling Club & Zoom
October 17	The Amazing Geological History of Nova Scotia!	Dr. Sandra Barr	Wolfville Lions Club & Zoom
November 21	Annual General Meeting & Biology on the Sørlandet with Soren Bondrup-Nieslen	Board & speaker Soren Bondrup-Nielsen	Wolfville Curling Club & Zoom
<i>December 12</i>	<i>Fundy Fossil Record & the Evolution of Development</i>	<i>Jade Atkins</i>	<i>Wolfville Curling Club & Zoom</i>

Details - Webinars & Workshops

February 2	Reaching 20% protected areas in Kings County	Alain Belliveau	February 2
February 10	Settler Education Workshop	Dr. Carolyn Campbell, Horizons Community Development Associates	February 10
March 10	Chimney Swifts in Atlantic Canada: Life History, Conservation, and Trends	Rielle Hoeg, Birds Canada	March 10
September 28	Bank Swallows: Life History, Habitat & Conservation	Heather Polowyk, Birds Canada	September 28
<i>November 23</i>	<i>Double-Header Wildlife Webinar: Nova Scotia Herpetofauna Atlas Presentation & Monarch Monitoring</i>	<i>Carter Feltham, MTRI & Noah Hardy, Coastal Action</i>	<i>November 23</i>

Details - Field Trips & Events

January 16	Winter on Snowshoes	Soren Bondrup-Nielsen	Wolfville Watershed Nature Preserve
February 27 (rescheduled twice due to weather)	Winter on Snowshoes	Soren Bondrup-Nielsen	Wolfville Watershed Nature Preserve
May 8	Highway Clean-Up	Board & Caroline	Hwy 1 from Wolfville to Deep Hollow Rd.
May 22	Spring Field Trip	Soren. Bernard & other leaders	Blomidon Provincial Park
May 29	A Swift Night Out: Chimney Swift Count & Event	Caroline Beddoe & Rielle Hoeg (Birds Canada)	Robie Tufts Nature Centre, Wolfville
June 12	Monarchs & Pollinators at the Library – Monarch Talk, Plant Giveaway, and Pollinator Pathway Event	John Lelievre, Larry Bogan, Caroline & Wolfville Library	Wolfville Memorial Library
June 25	Black Hole Beach & Falls	Guy Stevens	Black Hole and Carolina Beach
July 31 (rescheduled from July 24 due to heatwave)	Kingsport Intertidal Zone Exploration	BNS members	Kingsport Beach

Details - Field Trips & Events Cont'd

August 7	Monarch Open House	Alison & Larry Bogan	Brooklyn Corner
September 21	Remembering Jim Wolford	Carolyn Campbell, Caroline Beddoe & friends of Jim and Pat	Robie Tufts Nature Centre, Wolfville
October 16	Fall Colours & Gaspereau River Walk	Caroline Beddoe, Bernard Forsythe and others	Gaspereau River Trail
October 23	Life of a Beaver Field Trip & Woods Walk	Carolyn Green	Lorax Woodlands, Black River
November 5	Preparing for Winter	Soren Bondrup-Nielsen	Millennium Trail, Wolfville
November 13	Highway Clean-Up	Board & Caroline	Hwy 1 from Wolfville to Deep Hollow Rd
November 19	Preparing for Winter	Soren Bondrup-Nieslen	Reservoir Park, Wolfville

Details - Courses

May 21 (CANCELLED)	Beginner Birdwatching	Soren Bondrup-Nieslen	All courses held at Ross Creek Centre for the Arts
June 5	Wildflowers of Nova Scotia	Alain Belliveau	
June 11 (rescheduled from May 28)	Birding by Ear	James Churchill	
September 17	Fun with Fungi	Drs. Allison Walker & Keith Egger	
November 19	Lichens of Nova Scotia	Alain Belliveau	



**& more still to come in
2022 and into 2023!**