

Nova Scotia's Green Frog, *Rana clamitans melanoma*, is somewhat misnamed: It can be yellow, green, bronze, even, rarely, metallic blue, or have black or brown-spotted backs! Common throughout Nova Scotia and eastern Canada, they are an early sign of spring. Tadpoles overwinter in egg masses and appear starting in late April; our earliest adult record was May 1, 1980. Males call during their breeding in June and July; when you hear a sound like an out-of-tune banjo with a single sagging string—that's a lonely—and hopeful—green frog. (JC)

# MAY 2021

Green frogs do not seem to care much about their water quality, living in streams, ponds, lakes, and vernal pools; this one was hanging out with at least six others in a stagnant mud puddle on an ATV trail near the Herbert River. They are just as flexible about food: beetles, bugs, spiders, ants, moth larvae and snails are favoured, but they have also been known to eat their own tadpoles, as well as Spring Peepers. Green Frogs are easily confused with small Bullfrogs. Both have a ridge above their eye, but the Green's extends down their back, and the Bullfrog's curves behind their eardrum. (JC)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 1st Sunrise: 06:06 ADT Sunset: 20:24 ADT Sun's maximum noon altitude is 60°. This month's daily sunlight period gains about 66 min.	APRIL 2021 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JUNE 2021 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30				17:22 14.0 m For low tide + or - 6 h <b>1</b>  Moonrise: 19:04
18:20 13.4 m <b>2</b>  1797: Abraham Gesner (geologist) born at Chipmans Corner.	6:46 13.4 m <b>3</b> 19:21 12.8 m  	7:49 12.9 m <b>4</b> 20:24 12.4 m	8:52 12.5 m <b>5</b>	9:52 12.3 m <b>6</b>	10:47 12.4 m <b>7</b>	11:36 12.5 m <b>8</b>
12:21 12.7 m <b>9</b>  <b>Mother's Day</b>	13:01 12.8 m <b>10</b>  1994: Annular solar eclipse across N.S.	13:40 12.9 m <b>11</b>  	14:18 13.0 m <b>12</b>	14:57 13.0 m <b>13</b>	15:36 12.8 m <b>14</b>	16:17 12.6 m <b>15</b>
16:59 12.4 m <b>16</b>	17:46 12.2 m <b>17</b>  <b>Victoria Day</b> <b>BNS Meeting 7:30 p.m.</b>	6:06 12.4 m <b>18</b> 18:36 12.0 m	6:58 12.3 m <b>19</b> 19:30 12.1 m  1995: N.S. Duck Tolling Retriever named Provincial Dog. 	7:54 12.4 m <b>20</b> 20:27 12.3 m	8:53 12.6 m <b>21</b>	9:51 13.1 m <b>22</b>  <b>Maritime Swiftwatch Roost Count</b> <a href="http://tinyurl.com/swiftwatch">tinyurl.com/swiftwatch</a> 1980: Mount St. Helens ash settles on N.S.
10:48 13.6 m <b>23</b>  1707: Carl Linnaeus (botanist, zoologist) born.	11:43 14.1 m <b>24</b>	12:37 14.6 m <b>25</b>	13:30 14.9 m <b>26</b>  <b>Maritime Swiftwatch Roost Count</b> <a href="http://tinyurl.com/swiftwatch">tinyurl.com/swiftwatch</a> <b>Frogs Croaking Moon</b> 	14:22 14.9 m <b>27</b>	15:15 14.8 m <b>28</b>  <b>Mercury 0.5° from Venus at Sunset. See note.</b> 1890: John S. Foster (physicist & FRS) born at Clarence.	16:09 14.4 m <b>29</b>  1867: Ernest Haycock (geologist) born at Westport..
17:04 13.9 m <b>30</b>  <b>Maritime Swiftwatch Roost Count</b>	5:28 14.1 m <b>31</b> 18:01 13.4 m	1988: Red spruce chosen as Provincial Tree. Moonrise: 20:05	Moonrise: 21:28 	Moonrise: 22:46		

### ENDANGERED: Water-pennywort

Water-pennywort (*Hydrocotyle umbellata*) is a small perennial aquatic herb, Endangered in Nova Scotia and Threatened in Canada. Part of the Atlantic Coastal Plain Community, it is in a disjunct northern extension of its range. Nova Scotia is the only place it is found in Canada. It is known in two nutrient-poor lakes with water levels that greatly fluctuate; one is in Kejimikujik National Park and Historic Site. This small plant ekes out its existence along a small ribbon of habitat, battered by ice-scour and rising and falling waters. Our Nova Scotian population has to rely on asexual reproduction. (IM)

### Two Evening Stars

Last May, Venus and Mercury were in the evening sky, appearing closely together later in the month. They are going to repeat the performance this year! The evening of May 28 will provide an ideal opportunity for anyone who has never been able to spot Mercury. By 9:30 PM the Sun will have set. Above and to the left of the brightest glow from the sunset, you will have no trouble finding Venus. It will be the dazzling white "evening star". At the 9 o'clock position from Venus, look for Mercury. The next night Mercury will be farther from Venus, but directly below it. In the following days, weather permitting, see how long you can still find Mercury as the two evening stars draw apart. (PK)