

# Blomidon Naturalists Society



FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER

Volume 38 · Number 3





RICK WHITMAN

*Sanderling*

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❖ THE BLOMIDON NATURALISTS SOCIETY ❖

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*The primary objective of the Society shall be to encourage and develop in its members an understanding and appreciation of nature. For the purpose of the Society, the word "nature" will be interpreted broadly and shall include the rocks, plants, animals, water, air, and stars. — FROM THE BNS CONSTITUTION*

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Darrell Slauenwhite 684-0430

Jean Timpa 542-5678

Barry Yoell 542-9240

The Blomidon Naturalists Society is a member of the Sable Island Preservation Trust and the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists (Nature Nova Scotia) and is an affiliate member of the Canadian Nature Federation (Nature Canada). The Blomidon Naturalists Society is a registered charity. Receipts (for income-tax purposes) will be issued for all donations. (Registration number: 118811686RR0001)

THE BLOMIDON NATURALISTS SOCIETY

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**BNS Newsletter**

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BLOMIDON NATURALISTS SOCIETY  
members are encouraged to share unusual or  
pleasurable nature stories through the pages  
of the *BNS Newsletter*. If you have a particular  
area of interest, relevant articles and stories  
are always welcome. Send them to Jean Timpa:

1 – 25 GASPEREAU AVENUE  
WOLFVILLE, NS B4P 2C5  
*jtimpa@ns.sympatico.ca*

Digital photographs should be submitted to  
*doug@fundymud.com*

**Submission deadline for Winter:  
December 4, 2011**

## *Out and About*

Jean Timpa, editor

Now that NewPage Corp., the paper company, has gone into receivership here in Nova Scotia and the parent company in Ohio has declared bankruptcy, we can only wonder at the magnitude of stupidity in having any association with this organization after all the well-documented warnings foretold so accurately of its impending collapse. We even gave them millions of Nova Scotia taxpayer dollars toward the rusty old boiler that was supposed to generate electricity from left-over wood. Now we are asking for our money to be returned. What a sick joke! Maybe that will happen when the moon turns to Swiss cheese with plenty of holes in it.

Last week the loggers/truckers were frantically hauling in as much as they could of the spindly excuse for logs to the mill storage area to stock up for the biomass project. This is not left-over wood, but young trees that ought to be left to grow, like any young life, so it can amount to something. It was hardly waste scrap on those long trucks, but whole logs, skinny as they were. As for all the jobs and spin-off jobs that are being lost, well, there are really good, dependable jobs, and then there are jobs based on very flimsy economics that go through cycles of hitting the bottom of the barrel, as the jobs at this mill have done on more than one occasion. Why do we keep trying to resurrect a dying product – paper – when the electronic technology of the world is rapidly taking over its function? We've known for some time that paper was on the road to obsolescence. The end of that road is ever nearing, resulting in the need to close such mills for good and find something else, much better, much more deserving of the people along the Strait of Canso. They need stable, long-term jobs instead of tentative political shams put in place with little

thought just to win quick votes. There are all sorts of value-added uses for wood, but biomass burning is very definitely not on a realistic biological green list, but more likely on a political agenda instead.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks for many things:

- for your patience, especially with all the mixed-up program room changes for which we still do not seem to have a stable answer (but we are working on it!)
- for all the thought and hours of work you may have done in so many capacities to keep us puttering along
- for helping to renew memberships and finding new BNS members, a very important task
- for supporting the Green Dragon camps this past summer, a great success and enjoyed by many young, enthusiastic campers in eastern Kings County
- for buying our BNS calendars, books, badges, hats, and other items
- for showing up to talks and field trips, suggesting new possibilities, and saying “yes” when we have asked for help

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#### NOTICE

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## *2012 BNS Natural History Calendar*

THE 2012 edition of our wonderfully informative and gorgeous BNS calendar will be available from mid-November.

It will be featured at the annual Acadia Craft Fair (November 18, 19, 20 this year). And as usual it will be available for purchase at

Elderkin's Farm Market, Hennigar's Farm Market, and Noggins Corner Farm in Greenwich, Shur Gain Feeds & Needs in Port Williams, Herbin Jewellers, EOS Fine Foods, and Blomidon Inn in Wolfville, and R&G Family Restaurant in Hants Border.

And of course you can always buy a handful of these marvellous Christmas gifts at any of the next three BNS meetings, where you might even meet the creators: Sherman Williams, Pat Kelly, and Roy Bishop.

These exceptional calendars go for a mere \$15 each. What a bargain!

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CLUB NOTES

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## *Upcoming Events*

### MEETINGS

*Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at 7:30 p.m., usually on the third Monday of each month, in the auditorium of The K.C. Irving Environmental Science Centre on University Avenue, Wolfville. Parking is available at Wheelock Dining Hall, along Crowell Drive immediately east of the Irving Centre, at the Acadia Arena, Festival Theatre, the Student Union Building, or on Westwood Avenue. Everyone is welcome.*

**Monday, September 19, 2011** – *The Bloody Creek Group: Evidence for a Multiple Impact Event in Southwestern Nova Scotia, Canada*, by Dr. Ian Spooner. The Bloody Creek structure (BCS), a 0.4-km-diameter elliptical structure located near Bridgetown, Nova Scotia, was confirmed as an impact crater in 2009. A cluster of smaller craters located approximately 1 km north of the BCS has also been identified. This Bloody Creek Group is the 178th known impact structure on the Earth's surface. Its age is not known, though evidence suggests that

it could post-date the last ice age, in which case the event would have had a significant impact on life in Atlantic Canada and beyond. Dr. Spooner will talk about the research that he and his colleagues have been doing at the site over the past four years.

Ian Spooner has been a professor at Acadia in the Earth and Environmental Science Department for 17 years. His primary research focus is the reconstruction of past climate, using lake sediment and bog records. He currently has active research programs in northwestern BC, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. He is particularly interested in the effects of past global climate change on regional climate systems.

**Monday, October 17, 2011 – *Important Bird Areas in the Bay of Fundy***, by Sue Abbott. The IBA program is a worldwide effort to identify areas that provide critical habitat for birds facing risks from habitat loss and fragmentation. The Bay of Fundy contains a number of IBAs. Sue will explain to us why these areas have gotten global attention. She will also talk about her recent trip to the Bahamas to conduct a census of Piping Plovers, one of the better-known endangered species in Nova Scotia.

Sue Abbott has worked for over 10 years on bird monitoring, research, and conservation projects. Understanding the effects of human disturbance on birds and habitats and using outreach as a tool to mitigate this threat are two threads that link much of her past and present work. Sue is a program coordinator for Bird Studies Canada, a national non-profit dedicated to increasing the appreciation, understanding, and conservation of Canada's birds. She coordinates the Piping Plover Conservation program and the Important Bird Areas program in Nova Scotia. [NOTE: THIS MEETING WILL BE IN ROOM BAC 241 (BEVERIDGE ARTS CENTRE).]

**Monday, November 21, 2011 – *Restoring Wildlife Habitat***, by Bob Bancroft. Bob will be presenting a personal story of 36 years of stewardship to restore the ecosystems on 56 acres of old farmland in Pom-

quet, Nova Scotia. He will also discuss the current activities of Nature Nova Scotia.

Bob Bancroft is a biologist who lives in woodland overlooking the harbour at Pomquet. For 36 years he has been studying nature's ways, with an eye to maintaining and rehabilitating forests, their wildlife habitats, and waterways. Bob has served as chair of the Nova Scotia section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, as president of the Nova Forest Alliance (the Nova Scotia model forest), and as chair of the Colin Stewart Forest Forum, which brought industry and environmental groups together. He was recently lead on the Department of Natural Resources strategic planning (Phase 2) forests panel. He is currently president of Nature Nova Scotia. Bob has a small consulting company that manages private lands for wildlife. [NOTE: THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN ROOM BAC241 IN THE BEVERIDGE ARTS CENTRE.]

**Monday, December 12, 2011** – *Population Biology and Impending Issues of Conservation and Management of Maritime Bats*, by Dr. Hugh Broders.

“Bat species that are year-round residents of temperate areas like Nova Scotia have a number of interesting characteristics in common. Despite their small size, they have a life expectancy of decades, have low reproductive rates, are highly social, and are active for only 25–30 percent of the year. Over the last decade or so, my students and I have been trying to better understand the resource selection, movement dynamics, and population structure of this group of animals. I will discuss bat population biology and what we know about bats in the region, and I will talk about a major impending threat to our bat populations: white nose syndrome, the condition of bats that are affected by a fungus that grows on the nose of bats and since 2005 has wiped out millions of bats in the northeastern United States and Canada. Based on the rate of spread of the condition, it seems unlikely that the Maritimes will be spared from its ravaging effects.”

Originally from Tilting, Newfoundland, Dr. Broders is a popula-

tion ecologist with specific interests in bats and the biology of small populations. He earned his PhD from the University of New Brunswick and since 2003 has been a faculty member in the Department of Biology at St. Mary's University, where he teaches courses in ecology, evolution, and conservation biology. Together with keen and enthusiastic students, he does research on a variety of species and subjects, most notably the social and population structure of bats. [NOTE: THE VENUE FOR THIS PRESENTATION IS NOT YET DETERMINED.]

**Monday, January 16, 2012** – *The Breeding Bird Survey: Past, Present, and Future*. Becky Whittam of the Canadian Wildlife Service will discuss the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and its relevance to the Maritimes as a tool for monitoring bird populations. Initiated in 1966, the BBS is North America's longest-running bird monitoring program and involves volunteers and professionals from across North America. Becky's talk will include stories and pictures from Maritime volunteers, a dedicated and hardy bunch whose work has contributed greatly to our knowledge of bird population change over the last half century. Becky will also discuss both regional and national results of the survey and how these results have informed a variety of conservation initiatives. Plans for future analyses and potential expansion in the Maritimes will also be outlined. The BBS is a cooperative effort between the U.S. Geological Survey's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service.

**Monday, February 20, 2012** – *Annual Show and Tell Night*. Open to all. Come to view or bring along slides, pictures, specimens, collections, fossils, videos, computer stuff, favourite books and magazines, or anything that might be of interest to fellow naturalists. If you have digital images and would like to submit them in advance, contact Patrick Kelly (472-2322, patrick.kelly@dal.ca).

## FIELD TRIPS

*Unless otherwise indicated, all field trips will begin at the Wolfville waterfront. Everyone is welcome.*

**Every Thursday until October 13** – *Acadia University Woodland Trail Noontime Hikes*. Watch the seasons change at the Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens. Join us on a weekly lunchtime hike of the Gardens and Woodland Trails. No registration needed; just put on a pair of comfortable walking shoes and show up! Hikes will be led by Gardens staff and Katimavik students. Hikes will last approximately one hour. Feel free to pack a picnic to enjoy in the Gardens before or after the hike. Meet in the main lobby of the K.C. Irving Centre at noon.

**Saturday, October 1, 2011** – *Cloud Lake Wilderness Area Canoe Trip*. Larry Bogan (678-0446, [larry@bogan.ca](mailto:larry@bogan.ca)) and Patrick Kelly (472-2322, [patrick.kelly@dal.ca](mailto:patrick.kelly@dal.ca)) will lead a canoe trip in the Cloud Lake Wilderness Area. This should be a great time of year to see the autumn colours reflected in the water. The trip will be at about five hours long. Bring a hearty lunch, water, drinks, and, of course, life jackets, canoe, and paddles. If you have access to a life jacket but not a canoe, there will likely be extra room in one of the canoes. Check with a leader to be sure. The trip will cover one of the waterways in the Cloud Lake area, with the possibility for Peter Lake / Shell Camp Lake or, if it is windy, the Shell Lake Stream stillwater. You can now see high-resolution pictures of the Cloud Lake–Frog Lake area on Google Maps or Google Earth, although there is hazy cloud over the area. Larry has also compiled a list of canoeing areas, including a location overlay for Google Maps that shows the entry points ([www.blomidonnaturalists.ca/node/102](http://www.blomidonnaturalists.ca/node/102)).

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot of Avery's Market on Highway 1 in South Berwick.

**Saturday, October 8, 2011** – *Blomidon Provincial Park: Blomidon Park Hikes*. Join the Chebucto Hiking Club for a moderate 13-km

hike at Blomidon Provincial Park. This hike is suitable for all ages and is rated 4c: a good deal of significant hill climbing, and a significant part of the walk takes place on somewhat difficult terrain (rocky, rooted paths). Meet at the lower parking lot at 11 a.m. Please bring water, snacks, and hiking shoes or boots. Contact Shanna at 826-9384 or visit [www.chc.chebucto.org](http://www.chc.chebucto.org).

**Saturday, December 17, 2011** – *Wolfville Christmas Bird Count*. The Christmas bird count has been an annual tradition since 1900, now with over 50,000 participants from all across North America. A vast pool of bird data has been created on the status and distribution of early-winter bird populations. The count area is a 24-km-diameter circle (centred on Hennigar's Farm Market) in which volunteers count all the birds they see on the count day. All levels of birders are invited to participate in the Wolfville count. You may be assigned your own area within the circle or join with others who may be more experienced. To participate, contact Alison Bogan, the compiler, at 678-0446 or [alison@bogan.ca](mailto:alison@bogan.ca) or at a BNS meeting before the count. As always, there is a \$5 fee for all participants over 19 to help cover the cost of generating materials for compilers, producing the annual CBC summary issue, and maintaining the CBC website and database.

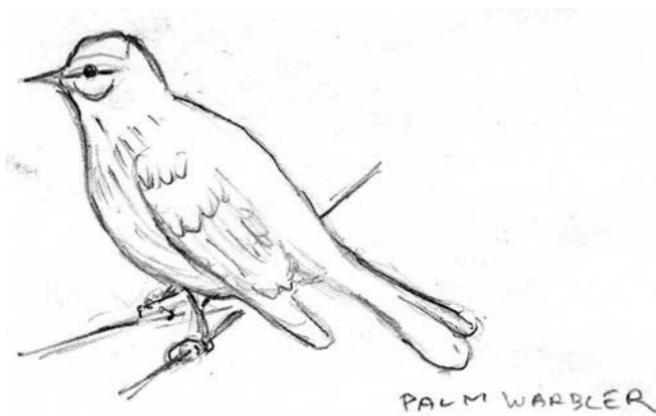
For those with bird feeders in the count area who prefer to count from home, you are invited to keep track of the birds at your feeders for all or any part of the count day and get that information to Jim Wolford at 542-9204 or [jimwolford@eastlink.ca](mailto:jimwolford@eastlink.ca).

Following the count, around 5 p.m., all participants are invited to Richard and Liz Stern's for a tally count and chowder/chili supper. The address is 317 Middle Dyke Road, north from the lights at the intersection of Belcher Street and the Middle Dyke Road, just south of Chipmans Corner. Richard and Liz can be reached at [rbstern@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:rbstern@ns.sympatico.ca) or 678-1975. There is lots of room for parking and everyone is welcome.

**Wednesday, December 21, 2011** – *Winter Solstice Family Frolic*. We invite everyone to welcome the winter season and continue the

5,000-year tradition of celebrating the return of the Sun after the longest night of the year. We will meet around a roaring bonfire at Noggin's Corner Farm and set off for a hike through the centuries-old pine and hemlock forest. We will pass an 18th century Acadian cellar, Poor House graveyard, and a huge Bald Eagle nest. We will look for tracks and signs of wildlife, call for owls in the deep woods, and view the stars from the dikes (weather permitting). We will make our way back to the bonfire for hot apple cider and share a toast to a winter season full of light and good cheer to all. Charlane Bishop (542-2217) and Harold Forsyth (542-5983) will be the leaders. Meet at Noggin's Corner Farm in Greenwich at 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 28, 2011 – West Hants Christmas Bird Count.** Patrick Kelly (472-2322, [patrick.kelly@dal.ca](mailto:patrick.kelly@dal.ca)) will be compiling the count again this year. All are welcome to participate, but please contact the compiler as soon as possible so that you can be included in the planning. Following the count, around 5 p.m., all participants are invited to Frank and Beth Wollavers' house near Brooklyn for a tally count and potluck supper. There is a \$5 fee for all participants over 19 to help cover the cost of generating materials for compilers, producing the annual CBC summary issue, and maintaining the CBC website and database.



MARY PRATT

## *Tuberclad or Pale Green Orchids*

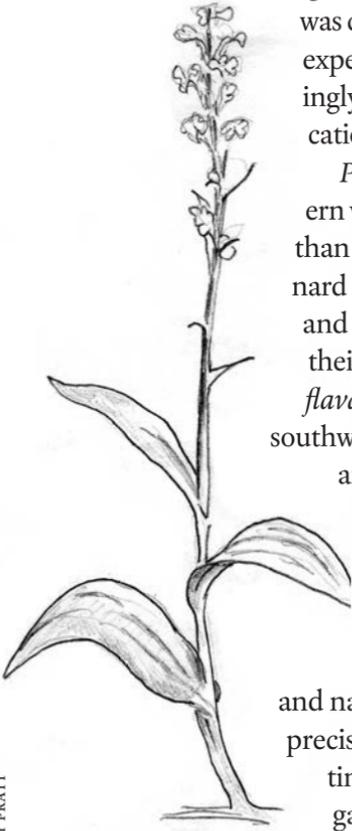
by Jean Timpa

WHEN asking Mary Pratt if she would sketch a few “creatures” for our fall newsletter, she told me about some orchids she had seen in a lightly wooded area, along the path, at the back of her Ridge Road property here in Wolfville. The location

was convenient, as Bernard Forsythe, our orchid expert and nearby neighbour of Mary’s, obligingly checked them out and gave us an identification and, of course, some interesting details.

*Platanthera flava* var. *herbiola*, the northern variety, is more common on Wolfville Ridge than anywhere else in the Valley, although Bernard has found a few along the Gaspereau River and in the White Rock area. They like to have their feet in damp soils. The southern variety, *P. flava* var. *flava*, is found on the coastal plains of southwestern Nova Scotia, especially in Yarmouth and Shelburne counties. Variety *herbiola* has bracts (the tiny leaves beside the flowers) twice as long as the flowers, while the southern-dwelling plants have bracts not quite as long as the flowers.

As you can see, correct identification and naming in the living world can become very precise, and it is always changing. Names sometimes do not often “stick” very long – fun and games for curious and patient sleuths.



TUBERCLAD ORCHID

MARY PRATT

2010–2011

*Report to the Membership*

by Bob Bancroft, for the directors of NNS

ST. ANNS, NS, JUNE 5, 2011, Annual General Meeting of the society – The issue of the relevance of Nature Nova Scotia to its member naturalist clubs has been raised repeatedly over the year, and we have spent considerable time discussing ways of better servicing the groups. Declining memberships, burnt-out volunteers, and a general malaise about tackling the environmental issues of the day seem to be themes to overcome.

Not that one person has the answers, but letters were sent to each member club asking if President Bob Bancroft could attend one of their meetings and make a presentation.

The Nature Nova Scotia website ([www.naturesns.ca](http://www.naturesns.ca)) has made steady improvements, with more information and links. Board meeting minutes will be posted once they have been approved. There is now a blog site open for member contributions. Larry Bogan has also established a Facebook page, which seems to have been adopted by the NatureNS e-mail list members as a site for posting photos.

Our participation in the Canadian Nature Network continued with Joan Czapalay doing an excellent job of representing the Nova Scotia naturalist community. We supported her nomination and election to the board of Nature Canada.

We have maintained watching briefs on a number of policies of importance to the province. With the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, this has been done through the Nova Forest Alliance (Doug Linzey) and through the strategic planning exercise

(forests, biodiversity, and parks). The Nova Scotia Coastal Coalition (Larry Bogan and Sue Abbott) has been dealing with coastal development. Other initiatives include wind power, tidal power, aquaculture, mink farming, and biomass exploitation.

On April 13, Elder Albert Marshall, Ray Plourde (Ecology Action Centre), and I addressed a press conference in Halifax regarding important forestry issues. Individuals representing 54 groups attended the press conference and proceeded to participate in a rally at Province House. They demanded a stop to current forest practices that degrade the environment. Jim Wolford represented Nature Nova Scotia and Joan Czapalay represented Nature Canada. A letter to the editor was written, approved by the Nature Nova Scotia board, and published in the Chronicle-Herald Opinion page, entitled "Masts to Moonscapes."

A closer working relationship has been established with Laura Lambie and the Young Naturalists Club. This needs to be continued!

Sue Abbott has kept us abreast of developments with Important Bird Areas and the activities of Bird Studies Canada. Sue helped me to write a letter to the Environment Minister, Peter Kent, with comments and recommendations regarding amendments to the list of wildlife Species at Risk.

Nature Nova Scotia financially supported the tour of Bridget Stutchbury.

We continue to discuss ideas for using the funds attained through the 2007 Nature Canada conference in Wolfville, which we sponsored and organized.

Joan Czapalay is doing a fine job representing Nature Nova Scotia on the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Board.

The Nature Nova Scotia board meetings provide an opportunity for club representatives to give updates on the activities of their respective clubs.

Much of our work and discussion takes place between the face-to-face meetings on a very active board e-mail list. Physical meetings (other than the annual general meeting) take place three times a

year. The last three were in Wolfville, Truro, and Halifax. Any member is welcome to attend.



The Nature Nova Scotia conference and AGM for 2011 was held June 3–5 at the Gaelic College in Cape Breton. It could be more accurately described as a social, educational, and multiple field event for naturalists, with an AGM that took up part of one morning. The 68 participants agreed that an excellent time was had by all. Special thanks to Jim O’Brien of the Bras d’Or Stewardship Society, and to Jean Gibson Collins and Doug Linzey for helping organize this fine weekend.

Nature Nova Scotia currently has six active organizational members and about 130 federate and individual members.

Thanks also to all the directors for their enthusiasm and participation.

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FIELD TRIP REPORT

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## *Moon Over the Water*

by Patrick Kelly

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2011 – There is a saying that the third time is the charm. That seems to have been the case for this field trip, the weather not cooperating at all for the first two attempts. In contrast, this year the evening was calm, warm, and clear, with just a small amount of distant haze in the east. Many people had already arrived by 7:45, and more than a few had crossed the street to secure an ice cream. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that they actually had one of my favourite flavours; blueberry. That alone made the trip worthwhile.

The Moon was late rising, as it had to clear the haze, which also made it a bit hard to pick out at first, but it was soon a prominent object. By this time there were close to two dozen members there to admire the sight. Richard Stern had brought his spotting scope, and I had brought along my small refracting telescope. The view in the spotting scope was very sharp and had a lot more eye relief and wider apparent field than my telescope. Richard also brought along one of his digital cameras and was able to take some very impressive images through the spotting scope.

As it gradually darkened and the brighter stars started to appear, some clouds blew in from the west, but the Moon was mostly unaffected. As it got closer to 9 o'clock, the telescope had a trick up its sleeve; I was able to show people Saturn, which was low in the western sky. The ring system is close to being edge on, so it looked somewhat like a pickled onion on a toothpick, but was still an impressive sight, especially for a few people who had never seen the ringed planet before. Rick Whitman and I were the last to leave, around 9:30 or so. Perhaps the sky will be favourable again next year!

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FIELD TRIP REPORT

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## *Palmeters Woods*

by Rick Whitman

**J**UNE 25, 2011 – On this grey and damp-looking morning, a very small group, led by Bernard Forsythe and Rick Whitman, undertook this rain-or-shine outing. There was no actual precipitation, so we went as far as we wanted. We did have to pass the significant clear-cut going up over the hill toward the existing gravel pit. It appears that the additional area is being exposed for extraction and that this area will not likely be suitable for future field trips.



*Black-bellied Plover*

I have left the writing of this too long to make comments on the details of our observations, but Bernard (the plants) and I (the birds) did prepare lists of all the species observed, studied, and enjoyed. Many of the birds were singing on territory and many of the plants were in bloom.

Birds noted were Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Eastern Wood Pewee, Alder Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher (including a female on a nest), Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Common Raven, Veery (and a fledged young), American Robin, Grey Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Black and White Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow.

Plants noted were Choke-cherry, Pin-cherry, Serviceberry, Hawthorn, Red Osier and Alternate-leaved Dogwood, Beaked Hazelnut, Bayberry, American Beech (young trees showing no cankers yet), Meadow-rue, Bush-honeysuckle, Fly-honeysuckle (with red fruits), Bedstraw, Clematis or Virgin's-bower, Common Speed-

well, Cow-wheat, Narrow-leaved Plantain, Common Mullein, Wild Sarsaparilla, Bracken, Cinnamon, Interrupted, and Sensitive Ferns, hawkweed, Starflower, Bluebead Lily, Wild Lily-of-the-Valley, False Solomon's Seal, Red Oak (three very large trees admired).

You can see we had a fine time.

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FIELD TRIP REPORT

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## *Herbert River Trail*

by Patrick Kelly

**S**ATURDAY, JUNE 18 –This trip always tends to be a nice mix of birds and plants. A total of 38 species of birds were seen. As in past years, we saw both Rose-breasted Grosbeak (a male flew right

past our group) and a Broad-winged Hawk that circled overhead on two occasions. While

we saw a number of warblers, the Blackburnian and American Redstart drew the most attention. We got

some really good looks at a Swamp Sparrow, which took far too long to find, given the number of people

looking for it. Several Cedar Waxwings also posed nicely. At the riverside, we saw a

pair of Spotted Sandpipers and a White-breasted Nuthatch that was carrying

food (alas, the atlas is over). The only species seen, but not identified

was a family of ducks spotted while we were returning – we just saw the



ROLAND'S FLORA (1998)

*Witch-Hazel*



*Beaked Hazelnut*



*Speckled Alder*

ROLAND'S FLORA (1998)

ducklings scurrying under some ferns on the far side of the pond. The most unusual bird was actually not a local one. One of the participants came from the Truro area and brought along a dead bird recently found on a path around a local pond. I hadn't a clue what it was, but the more experienced in the group quickly recognized it as a Sora, although it looked to be on the small side.

We did see one mammal on the walk, a beaver swimming in one of the ponds. I hadn't realized that there were beavers in the area, and the few times I have seen something swimming there in the past, I had always thought of it as a muskrat and not paid more attention to it. Lesson learned.

Plants in bloom included Blue Flag iris, Fragrant Water Lily, and Yellow Hawkweed (to which I once had a severe allergy, but with allergy shots I had in high school I no longer see them as evil incarnate). I had not been aware that the Blue Flag was in that area, but that is one advantage of having this walk on different dates each year. Also in bloom were three types of cherry (black, pin, and choke). Thanks to having a trio of Forsyth(e)s – Bernard, George, and Harold – with us, we also identified quite a few plants that were either not in bloom or not conspicuous. These included Pointed-leaf Tick Trefoil, Feverwort, Broad-leafed Helleborine, and Jack-in-the-Pulpit.

At the riverside, George discovered three similar species growing side by side (Speckled Alder, Witch-hazel, and Beaked Hazelnut), which made for a great way to differentiate them.

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FIELD TRIP REPORT

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## *Cornwallis River Greenway*

by Murray Colbo

**S**ATURDAY, JULY 9, 2011 – It was a warm but light-rainy morning for a walk along a section of the Cornwallis River Greenway. It is a wheelchair-accessible, smooth trail on the old railbed that runs from the western boundary of Kentville to the Sharpe Brook bridge just east of Cambridge Road in Cambridge. More information about the trail can be found at [www.cornwallisgreenway.ca](http://www.cornwallisgreenway.ca), with a link to a Google map and satellite image. The trail has four sites with benches, three with picnic tables and interpretive signs.

Four of us headed west from South Bishop Road, parking behind Coldbrook Shopping Centre, which is about mid-trail. As noted last year, there are at least 20 species of trees and tall bushes here, including representatives of less-common Eastern Larch, or Tamarack (*Larix laricina*), and Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*), both in small fens beside the trail.

A variety of plants were in flower, and a few mushrooms were evident – other than the easily identified Chanterelles (*Cantharellus cibarius*), they were left simply as “little brown mushrooms.” However, the wet conditions indicated that there could be a good variety of mushrooms along the trail later in the summer and fall.

A number of common bird species were spotted or heard by Bernard Forsythe, Nancy Nickerson, and John Belbin, but I missed most

of them, as many songs are now out of my hearing range (unless the bird is sitting on my head).

As the rain increased in intensity, we turned around and went back when we reached the fens about halfway to Cambridge. I would encourage all to consider this trail for a walk at any time of year; it is an easy walk for all in summer, and ATVs are banned from it. Even in winter it can be very pleasant; it's groomed by the snowmobile club, which makes it easy walking, and often there are few or no snowmobiles.

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VALLEY BACKROADS

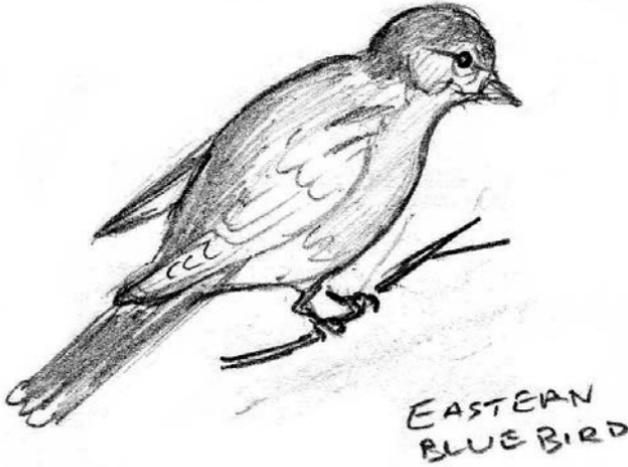
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## *Methals Lake*

by Bernard Forsythe

THE Methals Road, belonging to Nova Scotia Power, has been open to public use for many years. It follows the northwest side of Black River Lake from Hollow Bridge Canal to the dam at Methals Pond. Many people have used the road for access to a large area for hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, and field trips.

My first visit to Methals Dam was almost 50 years ago. One memory goes back to 1971, when I caught a Smallmouth Bass by the ring tag no. 186 in its jaw. It had been taken from Elliott Lake in Annapolis County and stocked at Methals in 1968. A few years later, I introduced Sam Vander Kloet to Mud Lake Bog, where he helped me identify many of the orchids and other bog plants I had been admiring. He led the first of several BNS field trips to this picturesque bog north of Methals Road. It became the site where many of his Acadia students learned how interesting and valuable bog wetlands can be. BNS also held field trips by canoe into Methals Lake Bog.

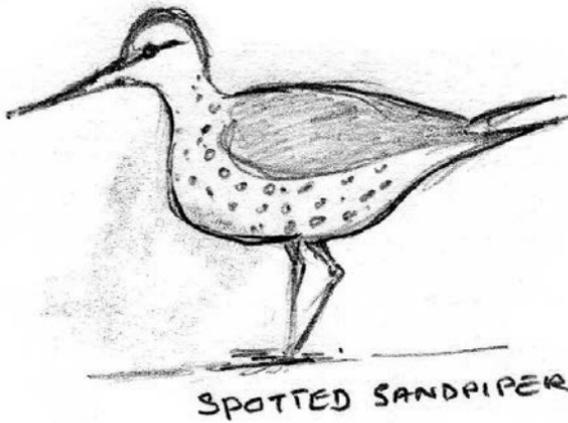


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Over the years, the number of people going to Methals increased, with many camping at the dam. Fires were lit even when the woods were closed to fires. A few would leave garbage and broken bottles behind. Nova Scotia Power had liability concerns and for several years threatened to close Methals Road. In April 2011, the gate was locked permanently.

For me, the canoe trips to Methals Lake Bog are over. Spring and summer will not be the same without the bog orchids, Palm Warblers, Grey Jays, Spruce Grouse, Rusty Blackbirds, and Lincoln's Sparrows – not to mention the nestboxes I monitor at my favourite bog. One summer, a male Eastern Bluebird sang to me as I enjoyed the bog orchids.

For many years, Methals Lake has been the area I cover for the spring migration count, including a visit to the bog. With the road closed, a trip to the power company's office in White Rock was worth a try. I was kindly provided with a key for a one-day pass through the gate, so my problem was solved – or so I thought. At the gate early on count day – May 14, 2011 – my vehicle access was rudely halted. The key and lock had the same ID number, but no amount of twisting, turning, pounding, or choice words would open the lock. My Jeep



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and canoe were left near the gate, and I walked to Methals dam and on through the woods to the lake.

It turned out to be a pleasant day for a hike, with no concern that my concentration on bird songs would be interrupted by road noise or people. Bird species I recorded include Common Loon, Wood Duck, American Woodcock, Spotted Sandpiper, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Grey Jay, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Ruffed Grouse, and Swamp Sparrow. Other species with high counts included Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-headed Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Parula Warbler, Ovenbird, White-throated Sparrow, and Junco. It was rewarding to add 11 warbler species to my list.

Eating lunch at Methals Dam proved relaxing. The Bald Eagle soaring overhead seemed to be eying the can of fish I was enjoying. Looking across the calm water reminded me that my canoe was back at the gate. Any future visits to enjoy the Methals Lake Bog orchids will involve long, difficult overland hiking – all because a few individuals abused the privilege of public access to the road. However, I was well satisfied with the results of this day's count of 52 species of birds during the 8 hours of my 14 km walk.

## *Rearing Monarch Butterflies on Brooklyn Street – 2011*

by Alison and Larry Bogan

**S**EPTEMBER 11, 2011 – We released our 31st Monarch butterfly today. We have only two more left to raise. This is earlier than in previous years, when we had our last releases in October. We discovered the final two while walking our field today.

We have a 2.3 hectare hayfield that is infested with Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), and it attracts Monarchs every year in early summer. We have let the field go wild and only cut it regularly at the edge to keep trees from invading. Because the milkweed is very invasive of agricultural fields, especially in our sandy soils, we have it cut late summer so the flowers do not develop seed. Common Milkweed also spreads by roots and is slowly covering the field.

Our first milkweed was up by May 27, and we saw our first Monarch fly in on May 31. The first Monarchs do not normally start laying then but wait until July. We saw one Monarch on July 19, then two on the 23rd, and we discovered two eggs and a tiny caterpillar on the 24th. We have a small area of the field planted in special flowering plants to provide nectar to butterflies (our butterfly garden) and watched the laying of eggs on young milkweed there on July 25. On the 29th, two Monarchs were flying around attached in copulation, showing that the fertility season had started. In all, we never saw more than two female Monarchs trying to lay in our field.

The flowers of the milkweed are sweet and rich in nectar, attracting all sorts of bees, butterflies, and other insects. Unfortunately, the plants are attractive to spiders, earwigs, ants, ladybird beetles, and other predators. This year we collected 34 eggs and small caterpillars



LARRY & ALISON BOGAN

*Monarch caterpillars feeding on milkweed*

from small milkweed plants and protected them inside the house. Of these, all but one were raised to adult butterflies. We left some eggs and larvae in the wild, but we didn't see a single chrysalis or wild Monarch emerge in the field.

The eggs of the Monarch are almost always laid on the underside of the upper leaves of the smaller milkweed plants. I suppose this



*Adult Monarch nectaring on Coneflower*

gives the very-small first instar a more tender leaf to eat. Before each moult the caterpillar becomes restless and moves to another plant to shed its skin and begins eating there after a quiet period (they are most vulnerable at this time).

We have lots of milkweed and, except for the very first stages, brought in fresh plants nearly every day. The eggs and first instars are so small they are difficult to find, and it is best not to disturb them at that stage. We keep all cut milkweed in water to maintain its freshness as long as possible. Once the caterpillars are larger and roaming more, we put them in screened-in boxes or large jars. Here, they eventually pupate and we end up with boxes of anywhere from one to eight chrysalises hanging from the upper surface. The last instar

can roam far and wide, and two escaped captivity to attach on the top of one of our window frames. There they stayed until the adults emerged.

This year we registered our location with Monarch Watch as way-station number 5020 and obtained 25 tags for marking the emerged Monarchs. We found no wild Monarchs to tag. Six others we raised were released, two in Fredericton, New Brunswick, on a visit. The sex ratio so far is 21 males to 9 females, with one undetermined. Most of the released adults left immediately, and only a few stayed around for a couple of days before disappearing.

We have taken many pictures of our Monarchs, but a special one was the video of the emergence of the first instar from its egg. That video is viewable in a three-minute video on the Nature Nova Scotia Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/pages/Nature-Nova-Scotia/183810795000696](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nature-Nova-Scotia/183810795000696)).

Ours is not the only field with Common Milkweed growing abundantly in the Cambridge-Coldbrook area. The plant has spread prolifically and we have done brief surveys of at least one other field and found caterpillars. Hopefully, more Monarchs were produced in the wild there, since ours was a small number of releases compared to previous years.

#### WEB RESOURCES

*Monarch Watch* ([monarchwatch.org](http://monarchwatch.org); [facebook.com/monarchwatch](http://facebook.com/monarchwatch)): These sites promote the study and raising of Monarchs and other butterflies. It is a good place to find out what is going on with the Monarchs all over North America.

*Journey North* ([www.learner.org/jnorth](http://www.learner.org/jnorth)): This site provides maps and reports of sightings as the migrations move north – very interesting to follow.

*Blomidon Naturalists*  
*Young Naturalist Program 2011*

by Naomi Crisp

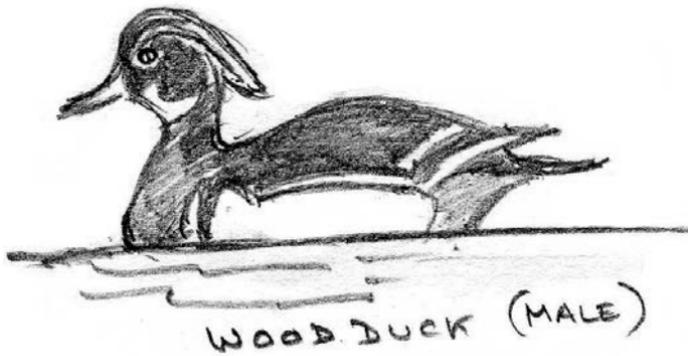
WE, Naomi Crisp and Sarah Vezina, had an absolutely wonderful summer working for the Green Dragon Nature Camp. You could not ask for a better job, working outside in this beautiful area we live in and sharing the experience with children. Living in the Annapolis Valley and seeing the scenery as we do every day, it is easy to take it for granted, so we would like to thank the Blomidon Naturalists Society for providing such an important service in reminding us (camp leaders) and the children how amazing this land is. We offered four different sites to take the groups: Smileys Provincial Park, Penny's and Blue Beach, the Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens and Acadia Science Buildings, and Blomidon Provincial Park. Over the course of the summer we took six different summer camps from around the Valley – New Minas Children's Centre, New Minas Recreation, Wolfville Recreation, Kentville Recreation, Aldershot Recreation, and Apple Tree Landing in Canning – to these exciting sites.

Smileys Provincial Park is located just past Windsor, hidden behind some fields and back roads. We would start the day by walking down the river, sharing how full of life it is and why a river meanders and what happens when it does. Then at the end of our walk we would use our nets and buckets to catch minnows, water skippers, frogs, beetles, water snakes, and other fascinating creatures. The kids absolutely loved sharing their finds and the cool facts they learned about them. All this activity called for some well-needed lunch and a break on the grass, but then it was soon time to go again. We would then spend the rest of the afternoon exploring a hollow pine tree,

which the children could search for porcupine quills (often leaving with at least one each) and going to the beaver dam. The beaver dam was always a hit, as the kids could swim and learn about the beaver and its home. There was a great opportunity to discuss the power of the weather, as there were many fallen trees in the river; the kids were incredibly impressed that storms could be so strong.

Tuesdays were spent in Wolfville at the Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens, the Acadia Biology Building, and the Acadia Science Building. We split the groups in two and spent the morning at the biology museum and the geology museum. Fred Scott, a professor at Acadia, would take a group of kids to the biology museum, where he would show them how they prep and stuff animals for research purposes. This led to many eager questions and a lot of excited chatter between the children. While one group was with Fred, the other would go up to the third floor of the Huggins Science Building, where we would look and learn about all the different rocks and how special they all are. There is the world's oldest rock, and also a few meteorites, which some lucky kids were able to hold; this obviously was amazing to all the children. We even had one boy state that he wanted to live there because he loved it so much. We would then go back to the gardens to have our lunch on the grass in the shade. Once we were all full and ready to go, the gardeners of the K.C. Irving Centre would give us a very interactive tour, in which the kids got to use all their senses (touch, taste, smell, sight, and sound) to learn about the native plants of the Acadian Forest Region and the different habitats within it. After this fun and factual tour it was time to go home and get ready for our next day of exploration.

Along Bluff Road in Avonport is Penny's Beach, where we started our Blue Beach day. We spent the morning walking along the red sand searching for shells, crabs, and cool rocks. As we made our way down the beach, we would take the opportunity to talk about tides and see how far they go out and where the water would be if it was in. We would spend a few minutes looking at the small lighthouse at the top of the cliff before making our way to Blue Beach. Chris Mansky, the owner of an incredible fossil museum, was always ready to start



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our fossil exploration with a detailed and fun explanation of how they were formed and what Blue Beach looked like 350 million years ago. After hearing this talk, the kids were eager to search for their own fossils down on the beach, which we did until the end of the day. No one went home empty-handed; in fact we had to enforce a rule that everyone can only take three fossils the size of their hand home, or we would end up taking the whole beach with us.

On our final day of the week, we went to Blomidon Provincial Park, starting at the picnic grounds at the top of the park, where we played a few games and used the only flushing toilets in the park. We then made our way to the trail, talking about the different senses and what they could hear, see, feel, and smell. We would then start our way down the trail, learning about plants and the nature trails themselves. The kids loved to stop at the lookoff, where they could see where they would end up at the end of the day. At the end of the trail, we would enjoy eating lunch on the grass with a view of the ocean. The rest of the afternoon was spent on the beach, where the kids waded in the ocean searching for shells, mermaid purses, and crabs – or enjoying the waterfall’s chilly stream. Here, they loved building dams and investigating the brook’s course as well as checking out small caves along the beach. The Blomidon day is always a favourite, as it is relaxed and generally a fun day for exploring.

Overall, it has been a great summer, full of new experiences and memories. We feel it was a great opportunity for the kids to truly see the world they live in and really appreciate the great outdoors. The

Perry Rand bus driver, John, was very helpful and patient with the kids, and Woods Limo were also a great addition to our service providers. This whole summer wouldn't be possible without the support and commitment from the Blomidon Naturalists Society. We hope the children have learned new and exciting facts about where they live and that they now have a greater appreciation for the Annapolis Valley.

*The Green Dragon program was made possible by generous funding from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Municipality of the County of Kings, Michelin Canada, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, and members of the Blomidon Naturalists Society.*

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NATURAL HISTORY

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## *Apples and Bears*

by John Belbin

I WAS doing a web search in preparation for an upcoming trip through a number of U.S. national parks when I happened to look at an announcement from Yosemite inviting people to join the park staff for the annual apple picking. Intrigued, I read the details. The crux of the plea was as follows:

“Help Keep Yosemite’s Bears Wild. Ripe apples attract bears to developed areas and alter their natural diets. By removing apples, bears will return to their natural food sources in the park and not be exposed to humans and their food.”

A noble concept no doubt, but these guys are delusional if they think such a simple exercise will solve the bear-human contact problems in the fall. If you go to the Bear Nova Scotia website, you will find a great deal of relevant information. During summer and fall our Black Bears can consume up to 20,000 calories a day trying to

gain the weight that will enable them to den successfully over the winter. They are utterly driven to consume huge amounts and will do whatever it takes to acquire food. When the natural supply is not enough, they are forced to come into contact with humans in their search for edible material. Their lives depend on it. The major cause of death in young bears is starvation.

All over North America, the majority of human/bear conflicts occur in late summer and fall. All over North America, bears enter orchards at this time, causing extensive damage and risking their lives in the process. The Yosemite bears are raiding the historic orchards of Curry Village because their natural food sources in the park are clearly inadequate. If you take the apple option away they must find something else. You have merely shifted the problem, not solved it.

Another concern is the notion that apples are not natural food for bears. How ridiculous! Apples may not be found in the narrow and artificial confines of Yosemite and other parks, but clearly apples have always been a natural food for bears wherever they can get them. Bears have been eating apples far longer than humans have, and they are a very important source of food if they are available anywhere within reach. If you own an orchard you will be visited by bears, period. Protect the trees as best you can and hope the animals go somewhere else. From the bears' point of view, apples are bear food that has been appropriated by humans; good luck keeping the two apart.



In fact, the bear was critical to the development of the modern apple. If it weren't for bears, apples as we know them would not exist, and probably a great deal of our cultural history would be entirely different. If you like apples, thank a bear!

The contribution of bears to one of our most ancient and basic foodstuffs was first detailed by Barrie E. Juniper in his landmark and comprehensive study called "The Story of the Apple." Juniper was a Leverhulme emeritus research fellow in plant sciences at Oxford University. His detailed and painstaking study was a result of years of work on the ground and extensive DNA testing to eventually zero in on the origin of the modern apple in the Tien Shan region of Central Asia. The Tien Shan (Heavenly Mountains) are a system of east-west ridges and valleys running through Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. They were never glaciated and have seldom been visited until recently. Research teams have now paid them some attention, searching and finding ancestors of the modern apple so that resistance can be bred back into our over-hybridized orchards.

The bear's part in selecting and dispersing ever-more-desirable apples was critical. As a result, they developed from their original very small sizes until they formed a large and nutritious fruit that became a mainstay of the bear's diet. Bears, horses, and other animals were able to migrate slowly westward from the original fruit forests along the ridges and valleys, spreading the apples as they went. Humans then accelerated the trend, and the western world was introduced to our most important fruit.

The core of an apple contains a number of inhibitors that prevent the seeds from germinating. This ensures that the apples that simply fall off the tree will not result in brutal competition with the parent for resources. The seeds must be transported somewhere else and physically separated from the core by being eaten. Obviously, any animal that could destroy the entire apple in its digestive system is not suitable; neither is one that simply swallows the entire fruit and allows it to pass through the body. The seeds will never get to germinate in either case.

Bears will simply swallow small apples but they rip larger ones

apart. The seeds are separated from the core and deposited in a fine compost of scat, usually a long way from the original location. As the larger apples are far more desirable, the bear selects them and ensures that they are widely dispersed. Passage through a bear's body can take 48 hours or so, and the dispersion can be highly significant when repeated over the years.

All this may explain why we continue to find viable apple trees miles from any known human habitation, and of course this is a good thing. The bears are ensuring their future food supply – one for which they don't have to compete with humans to obtain.

Perhaps the park authorities in Yosemite and elsewhere should rethink this entire apple removal program; the bears will eventually create their own apple stands anyway. Bears and apples go together in the natural world; the parks people are on the wrong side of this one.

#### READING

Juniper, B.E., and D.J. Mabberley. 2006. *The Story of the Apple*. Portland, OR: Timber Press. [www.timberpress.com](http://www.timberpress.com)

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#### BIODIVERSITY

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## *Conserving Biodiversity*

by Martin Willison

**A**LMOST everyone has a sense that nature is precious and beautiful. On a summer's day, children sit on the ground and wonder at the ants and beetles that wander about, while their parents stare at the sky and marvel at a hawk in pursuit of prey. Whether we see this diversity of life as a creation of natural evolution, or as God's special

creation, we are bound to be struck by its wonderful richness. Furthermore, we know that in order for it to hang together as a whole it must be rich and diverse. An ecosystem consisting only of wheat, cows, and humans could not exist.

For all that we may not understand the functional role of a strange-looking beetle, or even know that a slippery protozoan exists, we are intuitively aware that these are necessary for ecosystems to function. While some parts of the life-system may be disposable in theory, others are not, and we have no idea which parts are technically redundant. Furthermore, we have no moral ground for regarding any part as redundant. After all, if there is such a thing as an ecosystem part that is not functionally necessary, then why should that unnecessary part not be the human? We do not consider humans to be disposable, and so we should also not consider any other species or sub-species to be disposable.

While it is easy to conclude that we should care about biological diversity and strive to maintain it, it is less easy to know how to achieve its conservation. We are inextricably a part of nature. We cannot stand apart from nature and “preserve” it like a pickle in a jar – because we are also in the jar. This is the meaning of conservation – living along with something, and using it but not destroying it. The very fact that humans exist as a part of Earth’s living system means that we use it all in one way or another – for its integrity keeps us in existence. Indeed, the wisest way to use Earth’s life system is to use it as sparingly as possible, for its integrity is currently in jeopardy as shown by the rapid and fundamental changes that are currently occurring as a result of human actions in the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and even the superficial layers of the geosphere.

#### VISIONING THE FUTURE

Robert Costanza is an influential ecological economist who has examined “the importance of visioning” in our personal philosophy. Regardless of what we do, we will change the world by what we do, so it is better done with a vision in mind.

In a fascinating research report, Costanza argued that people today tend to have a worldview of either technological optimism (technological progress will deal with all future challenges) or technological skepticism (technology is limited and ecological carrying capacity can be exceeded).<sup>\*</sup> Having recognized this, he asked: what will happen if the technological optimists are correct, or incorrect, in their prediction; and what will happen if the skeptics predict correctly, or incorrectly?

Costanza approached several selected groups of people with these choices by asking them to rate four scenarios of the future that are based on this two-by-two matrix (optimism and skepticism, correct and incorrect). He then analyzed the outcome using basic game theory in order to recommend a rational path forward. His conclusion was clear – it is safer to be a technological skeptic. In his wise words, “a cooperative, precautionary policy set that assumes limited resources is shown to be the most rational and resilient course in the face of fundamental uncertainty about the limits of technology.”

*This article is extracted with permission from Willison, M., 2006, “Conserving Biodiversity: Why We Should and How We Can,” pp. 21–29 in D.M. Lavigne (ed.), Gaining Ground: In Pursuit of Ecological Sustainability. International Fund for Animal Welfare, Guelph, Canada, and the University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland, 425 pp.*

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<sup>\*</sup> Costanza, R. 2000. “Visions of alternative (unpredictable) futures and their use in policy analysis.” *Conservation Ecology* 4(1): 5 [online] [www.consecol.org/vol4/iss1/art5](http://www.consecol.org/vol4/iss1/art5)

## *Fundy Tides to be Featured*

By Roy Bishop

FOR five days in September, a film team from the United States was in the Wolfville area to obtain images of the tides of Fundy for a major astronomy film entitled *Moonrise*. When presented at its opening in Chicago in November, the film will be accompanied by a live orchestra playing classical music. The producer and photographer is Dr. José Francisco Salgado, an astronomer and visual artist at Chicago's Adler Planetarium.

Dr. Salgado's astronomy-related films have been presented with orchestral accompaniment more than 50 times in 13 countries around the world. His mission is to use multimedia works to communicate science through art, to provoke curiosity and a sense of wonder about Earth and the Universe.

The central character in his new film is the Moon. To record the Moon's most dramatic influence upon our planet, Dr. Salgado came to the Bay of Fundy to record its famous tides. From September 10 through 14 he recorded high/low images and time-lapse sequences of the tides at Hantsport, Avonport, Evangeline Beach, Scots Bay, Baxters Harbour, and Halls Harbour, plus videos of tidal bores on the St. Croix, Herbert, and Kennetcook rivers. Several of those images will appear in the film, which will open with a beautiful moonrise over Minas Basin.

On September 10, Dr. Salgado very kindly gave a presentation to Minas Astronomy Group, at Acadia University. He and his assistant, Ann Barlow, had never been in Atlantic Canada before. They were impressed by the unspoiled, quiet beauty of the Minas Basin region, and they were astounded by the tides.

## Summer 2011 – Eastern Annapolis Valley

by Larry Bogan

THE summer of 2011 progressed like a normal summer once we got through the cool, wet start in June.

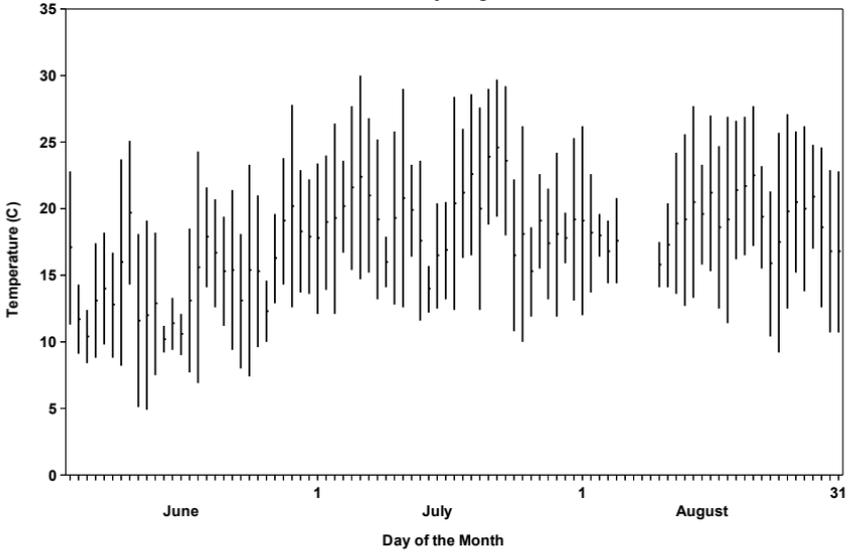
	Temperature			Rainfall
	Max (°C)	Min (°C)	Mean (°C)	(mm)
<b>June</b>	19.5	9.8	14.7	120
(30 yr. average)	(21.6)	(10.5)	(16.1)	(81)
<b>July</b>	24.6	14.0	19.3	97
(30 yr. average)	(24.8)	(14.0)	(19.4)	(88)
<b>August</b>	24.1	13.8	19.0	77
(30 yr. average)	(24.2)	(13.5)	(18.9)	(86)
<b>Season</b>	22.7	12.5	17.6	294
(30 yr. average)	(23.6)	(12.7)	(18.2)	(255)

Source: Environment Canada, Kentville. 30 yr. averages apply to years 1971–2000

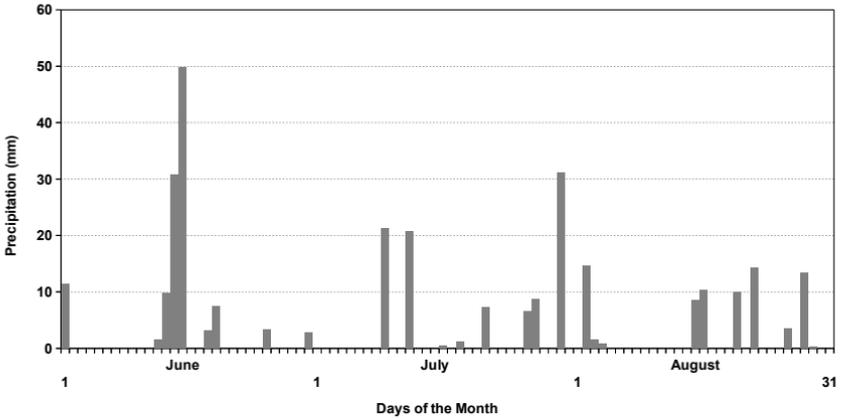
### TEMPERATURE

June was cooler by 1.5 °C than an average June month. After that, temperatures in July and August matched the averages, and the season as a whole was only about 0.5 °C below the norm. See the temperature chart for the summer season.

**Daily Temperatures  
June, July, August 2011**



**Daily Precipitation, Kentville, NS  
June, July, August, 2011**



## PRECIPITATION

Most rain in June fell in the period from the 12th through the 19th. Only two of those days had no rain, and the total for that period was 102 mm. The net accumulation for June was 50 percent above the 30-year average rainfall. July was a little above average, and August a little below average. July's rainfall was spread over the whole month, but the heaviest was on July 30, with 31 mm. August also had well-distributed rain, with about 15 mm falling each week on one or two days. This is shown in the chart of daily rainfall.

## WIND

Summer is the time of the lightest winds of the year. However, Hurricane Irene made landfall in the USA and was a tropical storm by the time it passed west of Nova Scotia on August 29. That day we had wind gusts of about 60 km/h. The windiest parts of the other months were on June 18 and 19, with 48 km/h maximum gusts; July 15 and 23, with 44 km/h gusts; and August 22 and 28, with 50 km/h gusts.

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## CLUB NOTES

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### *BNS Endowment Fund Status*

FOR a number of years, a very dedicated group within the Society has produced a superb Natural History Calendar that has attracted donations for printing assistance and has sold well, generating a good cash flow to expand our coffers and on occasion to assist other Society projects. Most of the money resides in the BNS Endowment Fund.

For a few years, the Endowment Fund was invested in mutual funds and fixed income investments, with a later practical move into

equities, and after the recent financial crisis and the maturity of the fixed income investments, a hiatus in cash only was in order.

More recently, your financial committee considered placing all endowment funds into Canadian equities if the equities stood the tests of being well established, high quality, and with a superior track record of paying reasonable dividends. This was accomplished several months ago, and the Endowment Fund now holds four Canadian stocks in our TD Waterhouse self-directed account. The dividend income per year is just over \$2,500. We respect the fact of the considerable risk with any stock investment but also feel that the dividend income is very much less risky and should remain strong each year.

The financial committee does not wish to sell any equity from this account but does challenge the BNS directors to use, on a yearly basis, the \$2,500 annual dividend income to support desirable BNS causes.

Your financial committee,  
Roy, Pat, and Ed  
*October 2011*

# SOURCES OF LOCAL NATURAL HISTORY

Compiled by the Blomidon Naturalists Society

TOPIC	SOURCE	OFFICE OR HOME TELEPHONE
<b>Amphibians &amp; Reptiles</b>	Sherman Bleakney	H: 542-3604
	Jim Wolford	H: 542-9204
<b>Astronomy</b>	Roy Bishop	H: 542-3992
	Sherman Williams	H: 542-5104
	Larry Bogan	H: 678-0446
<b>Birds – General</b>	Bernard Forsythe	H: 542-2427
	Richard Stern	O: 678-4742 H: 678-1975
	Gordon & Judy Tufts	H: 542-7800
	Jim Wolford	H: 542-9204
	Jean Timpa	H: 542-5678
<b>Butterflies &amp; Moths</b>	Jean Timpa	H: 542-5678
<b>Fish &amp; Wildlife</b>	NS Department of Natural Resources	O: 679-6091
<b>Flora:</b>	Ruth Newell	O: 585-1355 H: 542-2095
<b>Fungi:</b>	Nancy Nickerson	H: 542-9332
<b>Hawks &amp; Owls</b>	Bernard Forsythe	H: 542-2427
<b>Indian Prehistory &amp; Archeology</b>	James Legge	H: 542-3530
<b>Mosses &amp; Ferns</b>	Ruth Newell	O: 585-1355 H: 542-2095
<b>Mammals</b>	Tom Herman	O: 585-1358 H: 678-0383
<b>Rocks &amp; Fossils</b>	Geology Dept., Acadia University	O: 585-2201
<b>Seashore &amp; Marine Life</b>	Sherman Bleakney	H: 542-3604
	Jim Wolford	H: 542-9204
	Michael Brylinsky	O: 585-1509 H: 582-7954

# BLOMIDON NATURALISTS SOCIETY

## 2011 Membership Fees & Order Form

Members receive four issues of the BNS newsletter annually. As a registered charity, BNS issues receipts for all donations. Members may also join Nature Nova Scotia through BNS and will receive FNSN News, the federation newsletter. (Neither BNS nor NNS membership is tax deductible.)

NAME

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ADDRESS

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POSTAL CODE

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E-MAIL

TEL

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*In signing this membership application, I/we hereby waive & release the Blomidon Naturalists Society, its executive committee and members, from all claims for injury and/or damage suffered at any function or field trip organized by the Blomidon Naturalists Society.*

SIGNATURE

DATE

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No.	Description	Price	Total
_____	Individual/ Family Membership	\$20.00	\$ _____
_____	Junior (under 16 years) Membership	\$1.00	\$ _____
_____	Nature Nova Scotia Membership	\$5.00	\$ _____
_____	2011 BNS Calendar	\$15.00	\$ _____
_____	Natural History of Kings County	\$14.00	\$ _____
_____	Within the View of Blomidon	\$20.00	\$ _____
_____	Checklist of Kings County Birds	\$5.00	\$ _____
_____	Blomidon Naturalist crest	\$5.00	\$ _____
_____	Blomidon Naturalist hat	\$15.00	\$ _____
_____	BNS Calendar Photos (Screensaver)	\$10.00	\$ _____
	Postage: (calendar \$2) (parcel \$6)		\$ _____
	Tax-deductible Donation		\$ _____
	(Registration number: 118811686RR0001)		

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address cheques or money orders to Blomidon Naturalists Society for membership and other purchases to: **Ed Sulis, 107 Canaan Avenue, Kentville, NS B4N 2A7.** Due date is January 1 of current year.





BROWN  
CREEPER