



Fredericton Nature Club/ Club de la nature de Fredericton

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Newsletter

January–May 2008

Welcome to 2008, Fredericton Nature Club Members!

Last year, the Fredericton area moped its way through an almost-green Christmas. This year, we've received – and shovelled – four generous helpings of the white stuff. And it's only mid-December.

The trees are outlined in cotton batten. Their branches cascade snow onto the heads of careless hikers. Energetic children have already erected snowman, and dogs born last April are frolicking through their first glorious experience of snow.

The present newsletter introduces your 2008 Winter–Spring lineup of FNC speakers and outings. It's an eclectic menu. We feature a photographic tour de force by Roger Smith, plant pathologist–turned artist. We take you to the mountains of Mexico and a remote Hawaiian island. We also offer a special gull workshop to help you identify those confusing resident gulls.

In January 2008 Graham Forbes takes over as FNC president. He replaces Glenda Turner, who has devoted many months to keeping our club running smoothly. Graham is full of exciting new ideas. We look forward to his energy and enthusiasm. *GM*

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Nature NB Representative
Newsletter

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Don Gibson
Glenda Turner
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SPECIAL EVENT: A Gull Primer Workshop with Nelson Poirier

Come January, New Brunswick's resident gulls put on their fresh plumage. Two northern species – the Iceland gull and Glaucous gull – also join us for the winter. It's the perfect time to polish your gull identification skills.

This winter, the Fredericton Nature Club is pleased to host a gull primer workshop with Nelson Poirier. Nelson has a unique identification method that really works. And he's keen to share it with us.

The workshop takes place in Blacks Harbour just east of St. Andrews on the Bay of Fundy. Blacks Harbour is a great spot to see gulls and other bird surprises.

When

Saturday January 12, 2008

Schedule

At **9:50 a.m.** we gather at Blacks Harbour Fire Hall in the meeting room. From **10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.** we sit inside learning Poirier's Pointers. At **12:30 p.m.** we break for lunch (bring your own). After lunch, we head down the road to put Nelson's method to the test!

What to Bring, Etc.

Dress appropriately for a field outing on the wintry Fundy coast. Bring lunch, paper, pen, and binoculars. We'll finish early enough to reach home before dark.

Sign Up

To sign up, email turnerg@nb.sympatico or call Glenda Turner at 506.454.9153. Cost is \$5 per person to cover expenses. Consider car pooling.

Outdoor Events

Meet first at main Odell Park parking lot

April [date TBA]

The Courting Woodcock with Jim Goltz

Join one of New Brunswick's most acclaimed naturalists on an evening stroll near Fredericton, looking for the courting American woodcock. Exact meeting date and time (around dusk) will be announced closer to the event.

Saturday April 26

Seeking Waterfowl with Don Gibson

Take our annual excursion to the Jemseg wetlands and environs to see returning spring waterfowl and friends. Trip will be led by FNC stalwart, Don Gibson. Meet at Odell Park at **7:50 a.m.** and leave at **8:00 a.m.**

Saturday May 10

Spring Wildflowers in Bloom with Mary Pugh

Celebrate the return of spring on Keswick Ridge with Fredericton botanist Mary Pugh, a long-time FNC member. We'll try to find flowers such as bloodroot, spring beauty, and Dutchman's breeches. Bring lunch. Meet at Odell Park at **8:20 a.m.** and leave at **8:30 a.m.**

Saturday May 17

Warbler Walk

Join others on a birding exploration of Carman Creek, North Fredericton. We'll see common – and maybe a few rare – warblers and other songbirds returning from their winter habitats. Bring lunch. Meet at Odell Park at **7:50 a.m.** and leave at **8:00 a.m.**

Indoor Events

7 p.m. at Stepping Stone Centre, Fredericton

Wednesday January 2

A Subtle Beauty with Roger Smith

Renowned New Brunswick artist Roger Smith is a naturalist's photographer. His perception-altering work features extraordinary images of the natural world. Most photographs in this show were taken within 80 km of Fredericton. Their subtle details and quirky angles help you to see familiar plants, wildlife, and landscapes as if for the first time. By day, Roger works as a scientific photographer at UNB.

Indoor Events (cont'd)

Wednesday February 6

The Wonderful Monarch Butterfly with Jim Wilson

Monarchs migrate more than 4000 km – the farthest of any butterfly. A fascination with this beautiful and threatened insect led Quispamsis naturalist Jim Wilson and his wife Jean to create their own Monarch adventure. They recently raised and tagged Monarchs, then followed the migrating butterflies south to the mountains of Mexico. Jim's superb slides tell the story.

Wednesday March 5

Wildlife Rarities of Hawaii with Mark MacDonald

Ever want to visit Hawaii? Mark MacDonald (UNB graduate student) did just that. He spent three months on the tiny, uninhabited island of Nihoa, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, studying endangered bird and wildlife species. His photographs show some of the world's rarest land birds – including the Nihoa Millbird, found only on Nihoa – threatened seabirds, Monk seals, and more.

Wednesday April 2

News from the UNB Woodlot with Graham Forbes

The UNB woodlot once held some of the best natural lands in Fredericton. It supported wildlife, outdoor recreation, and nature education. Recent development of the area by commercial and other interests has affected its animals (e.g. killed beavers) and water quality. Graham Forbes of the UNB Biology Department talks about the woodlot controversy, discussing the land's amenities, its proposed management, and other aspects of this valuable property.

Wednesday May 7

Nature NB in Action with Roland Chiasson

Conservation biologist Roland Chiasson is president of Nature NB, the umbrella organization for NB's naturalist clubs. In this presentation, Roland focuses on the educational side of Nature NB. He shows how the group has worked to protect endangered animals on Mary's Point, the Acadian Peninsula, and elsewhere. He also speaks about the Nature NB Young Naturalists program, which guides children – and their parents – to care about the natural world.