



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION SHOWCASE

2025 MTRI Annual Fall Gathering

Saturday, November 22

NSCC'S Centre of Geographic Science (COGS), 50 Elliott Road, Lawrencetown, NS

Agenda (presenter's name is in **bold**; student presentations are indicated by an *)

8:00 AM	Registration desk opens. Poster presenters can hang their posters. Silent auction items will be on display in the Gymnasium.
9:00 AM	Opening (Larry Peters, Glooscap first Nation, Mi'kmaq Grand Council) (Location: Theatre Room 135)
9:10 AM	Welcome (Cindy Staicer, MTRI Board Chair) (Location: Theatre Room 135)
9:15 AM	Oral Presentation Session 1 (Chair: Leif Helmer) (Location: Theatre Room 135)
	Lesley Farrow and Kimberly Huskins: <i>The Landscape of Our Work: The Collective Impact of the Kespukwitk Priority Place for Species at Risk.</i>
	Ahniya Ustymenko: <i>Implementing priority conservation actions for the Kespukwitk/ Southwest Nova Scotia Priority Place; Agricultural ecosystem target.</i>
	Andrew Boyne, Tara Crew: <i>DNR Wildlife Division – project summary.</i>
	Chad Simmons, Donna Hurlburt: <i>Shared landscapes, shared responsibilities: a path forward for private land species at risk conservation in Nova Scotia.</i>
	Megan N. Crowley, Megan B. Landry, Matthew J. Smith, Darien Ure, Garielle Beaulieu: <i>Parks Canada's multi-species, site-based approach to recovery planning efforts for species of conservation concern and species at risk.</i>
10:30 AM	Health break (Location: Gymnasium)
10:55 AM	Oral Presentation Session 2 (Chair: Jane Barker) (Location: Theatre Room 135)
	Zach Zimmermann, Nicholas Boyce, Andreas Hamann: <i>A deep learning approach to species distribution modelling for North American tree species; implications for assisted migration.</i>
	* Samantha M. Chu: <i>Planting the seeds for knowledge exchange in Canadian forestry: perspectives from forest professionals on trust, barriers, and preferences.</i>
	Abigail Lewis, Kevin Keys, Ryan Dickie, Maggie Davidson: <i>Integrating a bird nesting season protocol into the Family Forest Network ecological forest management research trial- reflections on the first season.</i>
	Shawn R. Craik: <i>Uncovering the secret lives of Northern Saw-whet Owls: a community effort.</i>

	* Linda J. Hutchinson , Marie Louise Aastrup, Rielle Hoeg, Sue Abbott, Dave Shutler: <i>Public opinion of Leach's storm-petrels and artificial light at night in Shag Harbour and Barrington, NS.</i>
12:15	Presentation of MTRI's Clapp and Mockford student Awards (<i>Theatre Room 135</i>)
12:20 PM	Lunch break (<i>Location: Cafeteria</i>)
1:05 PM	Oral Presentation Session 3 (Chair: Tom Herman) (<i>Location: Theatre Room 135</i>)
	Nina M. Newington , Lisa M. Proulx, Karen S. Achenbach, Jonathan A. Riley: <i>Citizen science on a peninsula at Goldsmith Lake.</i>
	Jason I. Airst , Sarah Spencer: <i>American marten occupancy in southwestern Nova Scotia.</i>
	Carter E. Feltham , Lori Phinney, Ben Herringer, Jessica Ferguson, Justin Dagley: <i>Passive monitoring of cryptic Eastern Ribbonsnakes: a glimpse at behavioral insights with PIT tag technology.</i>
	James L. Churchill , R. Troy McMullin, Frances Anderson, Chris Miller, C. Sean Blaney, Caitlin Porter, Katrina Cruickshanks: <i>Hot for macrolichens: Kespukwitk/Southwest Nova Scotia yields several new species for Nova Scotia and Canada.</i>
	* Rachel A. Kendall , Daina Budde, Mathew Vankoughnett: <i>Weaving together Indigenous wisdom and Western science to increase accessibility of sweetgrass to Mi'kmaq communities.</i>
2:20 PM	<i>Health break (Location: Gymnasium)</i>
2:45 PM	Oral Presentation Session 4 (Chair: Russell Easy) (<i>Location: Theatre Room 135</i>)
	Graham Daborn, Lorraine Whitman, Steven Cooke, Andrea Kirkwood, Sarah Hines, Nick Hill , Ian Spooner, David Garbary, Brad Toms, Alain Belliveau, John Brazner: <i>Threats facing lakes in Kespukwitk and strategies to protect lake health and biodiversity.</i>
	* Ben Gooley , Ian Spooner, Nick Hill, Nelson O'Driscoll: <i>Bioaccumulation of Hg and As in freshwater invertebrates from Ponhook Lake, Nova Scotia: effects of historical gold mine tailings.</i>
	* Lucy S. Boyne , Mark Mallory, Gretchen M. McPhail, Nelson J. O'Driscoll: <i>Quantifying the mercury:calorie ratios of aquatic invertebrates from two lakes in Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site, Nova Scotia.</i>
	Felix Sauriol , Brittni Scott: <i>Kejimikujik's Angler Diaries Program: engaging visitors and monitoring fish populations.</i>
	Brad Toms : <i>What if we took conservation seriously in Nova Scotia.</i>
4:00 PM	Poster Session - Open to the Public (<i>Location: Gymnasium, 4:00-6:00 PM</i>)- see next page for list of poster presentations
6:00 PM	Student awards for best oral and poster presentations (<i>Location: Gymnasium</i>)
6:10 PM	Closing (Larry Peters , Glooscap first Nation, Mi'kmaq Grand Council) (<i>Location: Gymnasium</i>)

List of Poster Presentations (Alphabetical by presenter)

Jenn Chivers: <i>From curiosity to conservation: inspiring local stewardship through youth nature engagement.</i>
* Summer Carroll, Nick M. Hill, Ellie M. Goud: <i>Effects of liming on lake shoreline plant communities.</i>
Amos A. Creaser, Matthew D. Molyneux: <i>LaHave River watershed project.</i>
Maggie Davidson, Abby Lewis, Peter Bush: <i>Old forests: identifying and protecting rare ecosystems on private woodlots in Nova Scotia.</i>
* Sarah D. Doyle, Kendre D. Sampson, Allison K. Walker: <i>Trap cultures and spore isolation of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi from Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia salt marshes.</i>
Keith N. Egger, Allison K. Walker: <i>How citizen science is advancing macrofungal conservation in Nova Scotia.</i>
* Anita Feng, Lydia Jocius, Sophie Edgar, Neil K. Hillier, Jeff Fidgen, Martin Williams, Lucas Roscoe: <i>Phenology, prey preference, and hybridization of Leucotaraxis argenticollis - A biocontrol agent for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (Adelges tsugae).</i>
Cameron J. Frail, Shayla M. Nickerson, Mykal D. Koloff, Jennika E. Hunsinger: <i>Forest management for maple syrup production and biodiversity conservation: assessing OECM compatibility in Nova Scotia working forests.</i>
* Emily A. McLean, Heather A. Cray, Tony R. Walker, Peter H. Tyedmers, Dan Kehler: <i>Honey as a bioindicator of environmental health across Nova Scotia.</i>
* Carys McMurray, N. Kirk Hillier, Christopher B. Edge: <i>Non-target effects of neonicotinoid insecticides on insect communities in eastern hemlock (Tsuga canadensis) forests in Nova Scotia.</i>
Jeffie A. McNeil, Thomas B. Herman, Carter Feltham, Trevor Avery, Norman W. Green, Matthew J. Smith: <i>Hatching success and variability in three Blanding's Turtle sub-populations in 2025.</i>
Jesse Mihevc: <i>Examining the need for Forested Wetland buffers in Southwest Nova Scotia.</i>
* Tedi C. Pollak, Sarah D. Doyle, Allison K. Walker, Zoe Panchen: <i>Investigating lousewort species for parasitism and mycorrhizal associations.</i>
* Wimanshika R. Ranathunga, Ellie M. Goud, Jeremy Lundholm: <i>Ecophysiological responses of Atlantic heath shrubs across coastal gradients.</i>
* Avery Scott, Sarah Vascotto, Tony Walker: <i>From Wildfire to Wildflowers: how wildfires affect Nova Scotia's native bumblebees.</i>
Cindy Staicer, Abby Lewis: <i>Finding natural Chimney Swift (Chaetura pelagica) nests through passive acoustic monitoring.</i>

Delbert Swinemar, Brendan Ward, Erin Pearson, Gabrielle Beaulieu, Matthew Smith: *Evaluating canopy health impacts of hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) in untreated and treated eastern hemlock stands (*Tsuga canadensis*) (2020-2025) in Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site, Nova Scotia.*

Brad Toms: *The state of the Boreal Felt Lichen (*Erioderma pedicellatum*) population in Nova Scotia.*

Brad Toms: *Human impacts on Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora Lakes (2010-2025): Ten years of change.*

Jacob Walker, Matthew Smith, James Churchill, Stephen Gullage, Cynthia Staicer: *Protection of mature forest in Kejimikujik National Park, Nova Scotia, Canada allowed breeding bird populations to thrive relative to regional trends, 2003-2024.*

Mariya Tsehtik, **Noah Hardy**, Megan MacKenzie, Olivia Bennett, Taylor Wilson, Jordan Veinot: *Landowner biodiversity program.*

Notes about meals and snacks: Lunch and health breaks are covered by registration fees.

Thanks to the members of the Knowledge Committee and Local Organizing Committee:

Jane Barker, Crystal Doggett, Russell Easy, Lesley Farrow, Scott Jerney, Emilie-Rose McBeath, Jeffie McNeil, and Cindy Staicer. We would also like to thank the judges for the Best Student Oral Presentation and Poster Awards.

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