Agenda - Buffers Workshop 2026

DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY - Nov 18

8:30	Venue opens; Coffee, tea and bagels; Poster set up
9:00	OPENING (shalan joudry, L'sitkuk First Nation)
9:30	Welcome and Announcements
9:40	Plenary 1 - Greg Mason, Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii: Engaging the Spirit of the Biosphere - A case study of Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii Biosphere Region - Zones, buffers and working landscapes
10:20	David Sollows and Nick Hill, SNBRA: Getting down to business in the Southwest Nova Biosphere Region
10:35	Break
11:00	Jonathan Sheppard, Kejimkujik NPNHS: The use of zoning and buffers in the management and maintenance of ecological and cultural integrity in Kejimkujik National Park and National Historic Site
11:15	Colette Mesher, Bras d'Or Lakes Bioshpere Region: Bras d'Or Lake: Using Etuaptmumk to strengthen the biosphere
11:30	Sally Steele, MTRI: The power of listening: Creating space for understanding and learning
12:00	lunch
13:15	Matt Miller, MCFC: Reflections after 12 years of community-led, ecologically inspired forestry at the Medway Community Forest Co-op
13:30	John Brazner, Brazner Ecological Services: The influence of clearcut harvesting on bird communities in an adjacent protected area in Nova Scotia: Implications for buffer implementation
13:45	Clare Robinson, CPAWS: Forested buffers in Nova Scotia – complementary or countable?
14:00	Break
14:25	Panel discussion 1: Landscape Scale Buffers. Moderator: Amanda Lavers, Parks Canada. Panelists: Sherilyn Young, Consultation Project Support Officer, Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn; Tara Crewe, Tara Crewe Consulting; Mayor Scott Christian, Region of Queens Municipality; Dave Ireland, Nature Conservancy Canada; and David Sollows, SNBRA
16:00	Poster session. See list of poster presentations on last page.
18:00	Dinner and silent auction
19:30	Announce silent auction winners
20:00	Day 1 concludes

DAY 2 - THURSDAY - Nov 19

8:30	Venue opens; Coffee, tea and bagels
9:00	Welcome, Announcements, and Student Poster Awards
9:20	Plenary 2 - Mark Pulsifer, Edgewood Environmental Services Ltd: Biodiversity buffers: Nearly 40 years of lessons, limits and opportunities for conservation in Nova Scotia's industrial landscapes
10:00	Brad Toms, MTRI: Simple buffers vs. complex buffers: Is it practical to incorporate scientific rigor and flexibility into government management systems and on the ground implementation?
10:15	Sean Haughian, NS Museum: A tale of two buffers: Reducing the impacts of logging and invasive species on the critically endangered boreal felt lichen
10:30	Break
11:00	Cindy Staicer, Dalhousie: Effectiveness of buffers for at-risk forest birds
11:15	Lori Phinney, MTRI: Buffers for bats – A complex question
11:30	Malcolm Fenech, UINR/Dalhousie: Lessons learned: Unsuccessful riparian buffers for Mikjikj-Wood Turtles on private land in Unama'ki-Cape Breton, Nova Scotia
11:45	Nina Newington, Citizen Scientists of Southwest Nova Scotia: Black Ash buffers: a case study

12:00	lunch
13:15	Ben Collison, Dalhousie: Drivers of thermal regimes in Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) watersheds
13:30	Thomas Sweeney - Using beaver dam analogues as a restoration tool in highly impacted watersheds
13:45	Nelson O'Driscoll, Acadia: Examining the export of nutrients, mercury, and invertebrate mercury bioaccumulation in a restored wetland impacted by gull guano on Brier Island, Nova Scotia
14:00	Break
14:20	Panel discussion 2: Site-level Scale Buffer. Moderator: John Brazner. Panelists: Mary Jane Rodger, Nova Scotia Working Woodlands Trust; Levi Cliché, Clean Annapolis River Project; Ben Collison, Dalhousie University; and Makyle McLellan, Management Forester, WestFor
15:40	Break
15:50	Summary and Final remarks (Tom Herman and Nick Hill)
16:15	CLOSING (shalan joudry, L'sitkuk First Nation)

16:30 Day 2 concludes

List of Poster Presentations

Abby Lewis, MTRI: Beyond wetland boundaries: Characterizing forested wetland-upland transitions using LiDAR and passive acoustic monitoring
Ariel Schwartzman-Miles, NS Museum: Vertical patterns in epiphytic bryophyte communities of Nova Scotia, Canada
Ben Gooley*, Acadia: Bioaccumulation of heavy metals into invertebrates at Ponhook Lake
Bridget McPhail*, Dalhousie: Distinguishing Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) songs vs. calls and assessing their patterns of use with passive acoustic monitoring
Carter Feltham, MTRI: Beyond the wetland: Seasonal movements of Eastern Ribbonsnakes (*Thamnophis sauritus septentrionalis*) in Kespukwitk
Jane Vurdela*, Acadia: Effects of insecticidal controls of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid on wild bumblebees in South-West Nova Scotia
Jasper Johnson*, Dalhousie: Who's calling? Vocal distinctiveness in male common nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*)
Katrina J. Cruickshanks, NS Museum: Effects of survey height and tree age on arboreal lichen communities in Acadian hardwood forests of Nova Scotia
Laura Carter, MTRI: When seasonal timing conflicts: Developing BMPs for co-occurring species at risk on private woodlands
Leanne Li*, Dalhousie: Understanding the response of small mammal communities to forest fires in Nova Scotia, and implications for forest management
Sarah Clements, MTRI: North American bat monitoring: 5 years of stationary acoustic data in Kespukwitk,
Shauna Forrestall, CARP: Growing resilience together: Establishing riparian buffer zones and shelterbelts on farms through Living Labs Nova Scotia

* student presentations