

# Natural Landscapes



NOVA SCOTIA NATURE TRUST

Fall 2004

Preserving Nature on Private Lands

## Celebration Marks Purcell's Cove Land Donation by the Field Family *by Duncan Bayne*

*A butterfly flaps its wings in one hemisphere and creates a hurricane in another!! The sequence of events that define any human life leave us to wonder at the "coincidences" and "what ifs" that result in the actualities of our experience and our influence on the lives of others.*

*Did a ruptured appendix establish a chain of events that culminated in the permanent protection of a green wildlife jewel on the periphery of Halifax?*

Kenneth Carstairs Arnell was a sailor who made his first voyage at the age of 14. In 1917, at the age of 25, after spending 11 years at sea, Captain Arnell suffered a ruptured appendix in Halifax. During his convalescence, the longest time he had likely been in one place in those 11 years, he asked a local Haligonian, Helen Armitage, for her hand in marriage — hence the Halifax connection! Although the family lived in Bermuda, in 1929, Captain Arnell purchased 30 acres of land at Purcell's Cove so that his family could escape the Bermudan hot summer. That land eventually passed to one of his daughters, Mrs Jill Alexander and, subsequently to her



*left to right back: Rob, Nigel, Peter front: Chris, Mrs. Alexander, Nick*

seven sons, Christopher, Kenneth, Nicholas, Nigel, Peter, Robert and Roger Field. The Field brothers have generously donated this land to the Nature Trust for its permanent protection.

On Sunday May 16, over 150 people, largely local residents, gathered in the Purcell's Cove Social Club to join the Nature Trust in celebration of this amazing wildlife legacy. After an illustrated slide show of the conservation lands, speeches and the presentation of plaques to the Field brothers and flowers to Mrs. Alexander, the

celebration culminated in two guided walks in which over 60 participants enjoyed the beauty of the Trust's newest acquisition.

The rugged granite coastal headlands which underlie the new property support an unusually high diversity of wildlife habitats including mixed conifer forest, developing hardwood forest, bog, granite barrens with rocky granite outcrops, and freshwater lakes and shorelines. Forest types include uncommon Jack Pine and Black Spruce conifer forest, White Pine, Eastern Hemlock and Balsam Fir forest, and hardwood stands with Gray Birch, Red Maple and Alder.

The property encompasses parts of the undeveloped shorelines of Purcells Pond and Flat Lake. Both lakes lie within completely undisturbed watersheds. The land donation was facilitated under

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*Nature Trust supporters enjoy a walk on the property*

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# Nature Trust News

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## ... Field Celebration continued from Front Page

Environment Canada's Ecological Gift Program, which enables individuals and corporations to obtain enhanced income tax benefits by directly contributing towards Canada's environmental heritage.

Our thanks go first to the Field brothers (Christopher, Kenneth, Nicholas, Nigel, Peter, Robert, and Roger) and their families whose love of the land and remarkable family cooperation resulted in this generous donation to the Trust, and their wonderful legacy to all Nova Scotians. Second, to the Halifax Field Naturalists who generously donated

\$5,000 towards securement costs, Go for Green Active Living who provided a grant to support the Celebration and HRM for new signage. Third, to the many different people and groups whose support made this Celebration one of the most wonderful days in the Trust's history: Leslie Armstrong and the Purcell's Cove Community Heritage Society; Fred Holtz; the Purcell's Cove Social Club; the walk leaders – Bob MacDonald, Pat Chalmers, Tyler Field and John Zuck; Jon Stone and Tamara Gates-Hollingsworth from Environment Canada; and local MLA Michele Raymond and HRM local councillor Linda Mosher.

Thank you, too, to all the individuals that have already made donations to the

Endowment Fund for the permanent stewardship and protection of these our newest conservation lands. Through the help of these donors, \$4,200 has been raised for the Fund (Donations are welcome). *Our sincere thanks to you all!*



## FOUR NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE BOARD

We are pleased to announce the addition of the following new Board members:

### Thomas Owen Boyne, Q.C.

*Senior Commercial Partner, Boyne Clarke*

Thomas is the Senior Commercial Partner of Boyne Clarke, a leading law firm situated in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Appointed Queen's Counsel in 1988, he is an active volunteer professionally and with many community organizations. He is the former Director of the Board of Trustees of the IWK Grace Health Center, and is the current Director of the Northwood Foundation, which provides assisted living services for older adults. He completed both his undergraduate degree and his LL.B. at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

### Liz Crocker

*Entrepreneur*

Liz Crocker is a businesswoman, writer, teacher and environmentalist. She is a highly regarded and successful entrepreneur (Woozles, P'Lovers) and volunteer with longtime leadership in environmental, educational, children/youth and cultural causes within Nova

Scotia and nationally. Among her extensive volunteer activities, she has been on the Boards of the IWK, Neptune Theatre, and Shakespeare by the Sea. Committed to issues of sustainable development, she is a member of the Board of the Sierra Legal Defence Fund and was formerly a member of the National Round Table on Environment and Economy and the Ecology Action Center Board of Directors. Liz holds a BA in History and Political Science from Dalhousie University and an MEd in Special Education from the Atlantic Institute of Education.

### Michael de la Ronde

*Manager, Environment Canada, Retired*

Mike is recently retired from Environment Canada where he mostly held senior management roles both regionally and nationally in occupational health and safety. Prior training, degrees, and experience include surveying, hydrology, facilitation and mediation. Among his volunteer activities he is Vice Commodore, Royal Nova Scotia Yacht

Squadron, a member of the Planning Advisory Board for the City of Halifax, and has served on the Boards of Genesis House and Church of Saint David.

### Tom Soehl

*Director of Negotiations, N.S. Dept. of Aboriginal Affairs*

Born in Germany, Tom grew up on a farm near Middle Stewiacke. An avid outdoor enthusiast, Tom has a BSc in geology and a Masters in Resource and Environmental Management.

Tom worked as a land use planner in northern BC, which included the responsibility to oversee the identification and protection of representative ecosystems and provincially significant natural features. He has extensive experience in collaborative planning processes involving a wide range of interest groups. This experience, as well as Tom's training in negotiation and conflict resolution, fit well with the Nature Trust's philosophy of protecting Nova

# Nature Trust News

Scotia's natural legacy through partnership and cooperation.

## Hugh Wright

*Attorney, McInnes Cooper*

Hugh is an attorney and holds management roles at McInnes Cooper, one of the region's leading barristers and solicitors firms. His areas of specialty are litigation, pensions and employee benefits. He is actively involved in community volunteer activities among which he is President of the Metro Immigrant Settlement Association.

## WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

**Alan Chilton** joins us as a volunteer on the Newsletter committee and the Climbathon organizing committee. A self-confessed computer geek, Alan is unleashing his newfound talent in layout design for the newsletter (Bev said it would be fun!). Alan was introduced to the Nature Trust through his wife Joanne and the Spirit of Place project, carrying her camera equipment all over the Mabou Highlands and keeping her from getting lost (good thing too!). **Lauren Allen** is a fourth year student at Dalhousie University, completing a BSc in Biology with a

minor in Environmental Studies. For the past three summers, Lauren has worked as a field assistant for the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, doing research related to endangered species, including the piping plover, freshwater mussels, and the wood turtle population in the St. Mary's River Watershed. Lauren first heard about the Nature Trust through a Nature Conservation course, and became interested in the work of the organization. In her spare time, Lauren enjoys gardening, kayaking, and hiking.

**Mary-Jo Monk** returned to her native province of Nova Scotia from Toronto about a year ago as a Policy Analyst with the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services, she is very happy to be back home, spending time with family and reacquainting herself with all the province has to offer. She began volunteering with the Trust, joining the Newsletter Committee this summer and has since then joined the Annual Dinner Committee. Mary-Jo had a great time in the planning stages and at the dinner itself, working with staff and other volunteers to make the night as fun and successful as possible. She continues to be a member of the Dinner Committee and is excited to expand her volunteering to other aspects of the Trust's work.

**Jim Dorey** joins NSNT as Public Relations Committee Chairman. Mr. Dorey is Founder of General XML, a consulting business now based out of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Jim brings a broad experience in pragmatic marketing, project management and high level strategy to the Trust and is currently working to align the marketing tactics of NSNT's committees with the long term strategy of the Trust. He is keenly engaged in public awareness, fund raising and strategy for the Trust. Jim resides with his wife and daughter in Dartmouth.

## OTHER NEW VOLUNTEERS

**Planned Giving Committee:** *Gregg Knudsen*, Will and Estate Planning with Scotia Trust Private Client Group

**Fund-raising:** *Kevin McNamara*, CEO of South Shore Health; *Lisa McClafferty*, Manager, Revenue Development for the Canadian Diabetes Association; and *Doris Cameron*, past interim Executive Director, NSNT and Manager of Donor Relations for the Red Cross



## Volunteer Opportunities

Want to help make a difference?

We are currently seeking energetic individuals to fill various positions at the Trust.

- Volunteer Coordinator
- Membership Drive Coordinator
- Donations Management/Database Coordinator and assistant
- Annual Dinner & Auction Committee: *Committee Chair, Sponsorship Coordinator*
- Newsletter Committee: Coordinator, Writers, Layout and Design Support (layout utilizing Adobe PageMaker)
- Climb for Conservation: public relations and promotions coordinator, and assistants (& other Climb team members)

# Nature Trust News

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## Climbing to New Heights! - 2nd Annual Climb for Conservation

by Heather McKinnon

This year's *Climb for Conservation* was a swinging success! On June 5<sup>th</sup>, 15 teams with climbers ranging from age 3 to at least 63, attempted to climb to the height of Mt. Everest. The Climb for Conservation, held at the Beyond Gravity Climbing Gym in the Bayers Lake Industrial Park, raised \$9,000 for the Campaign for the Coast, an initiative to protect important coastal habitat across the province.

This year featured some great prizes for the participants, including an endless list of door prizes. The big winners are as follows:

**Early bird draw (6-month Nubody's membership)** — Megan Deveaux

**Top fund-raisers (White Point Beach Resort weekend romance package, Keltic Lodge adventure weekend package)**— Bridget Belzevik, Oliver Maass and Richard Nickerson

**Top team fundraisers (Mahone Bay yacht cruise for 4)** — The Monkey Wrench Gang

**Top youth team fundraisers (Guided climbing day trip for 4 by Climb Nova Scotia)** — The Cougars

**Top Youth Climbing team (Ski Martock ski/snowboard packages)** — The Bluenosers

**Top Adult Climbing teams (Mountain Equipment Coop outdoor gear, "Nova Scotia Rock" by Sean Cassidy, Climb NS membership and T-shirt, The Adventure Outfitters backpack, compass, and travel mug, Ski Wentworth ski passes)**— The Lab Rats

A heartfelt thank you to the prize donors and sponsors. A special thanks also goes out to all the volunteers that made this event possible: Genevieve Tingley (Shaklee representative), Lauranne MacNeil (Communications Officer with the Institute of Marine Biosciences), Jennifer Wyatt (Owner, Beyond Gravity Climbing Gym), Scott Snyder, Maggie Moss and to the babysitters Erin McKinnon & Laura Fraser.



Above: No - the camera wasn't tilted!  
This man really is climbing on the ceiling!

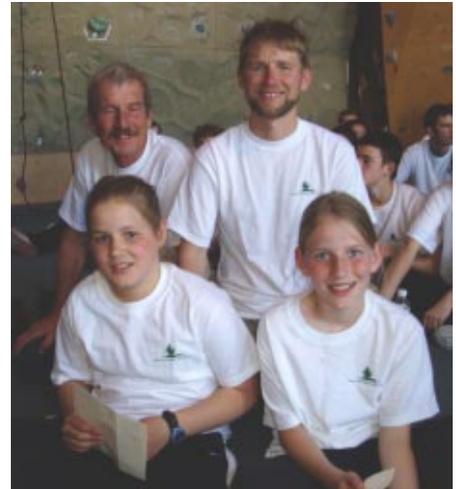


Right: Climbing participant, Cian Cassidy (3-years old)





Top Left:  
'The Cougars'



Top Right:  
'The Bluesosers'



Bottom Left:  
'The Lab Rats'



Bottom Right:  
'The Money Wrench Gang'

**Our Sponsors & Prize Donors:**



**Health Promotion  
Sport and Recreation**



**MUNICIPAL CONTRACTING**



Shaklee \* Wentworth Valley of Snow \* NS Museum of Natural History \* The Rock Court \* Ski Martock  
The Adventure Outfitters \* The Galley Seaside Restaurant & Lounge \* Mary MacInnis & Sam Lamey

# Nature Trust News

## ***Spirit of 10 Years of Trust – Spirit of Place Photographic Exhibition Opening***

by Heather McKinnon

Joanne Chilton's Spirit of Place photographic exhibit opened on April 22 at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History and successfully captured the natural beauty of the Isle of Barra in Scotland and MacKinnon's Brook, a 2000 acre area that will be the largest privately-held protected area in the province when completed. Inspired by NSNT's Celtic symphonic collaboration *MacKinnon's Brook Suite* (by Ian McKinnon's and Scott MacMillan), Chilton created the exhibit in honour of Nova Scotia Nature Trust's Tenth Anniversary.

The exhibit was created to follow a journey beginning on the Isle of Barra in Scotland in 1817, where a Scottish family leaves their homeland to begin life in the New World. Continuing the

journey to MacKinnon's Brook and the Mabou Highlands, we experience the spirit of this magical place through four seasons of spectacular images, inviting us to contemplate what it might have been like for these Scottish immigrant families.

The evening began with speeches by Calum Ewing, Director of Museum operations, Marty Janowitz, President Nova Scotia Nature Trust, Peter Underwood, Deputy Minister Department of Natural Resources, Kerry Morash, Minister Department of Environment and Labour, Joanne Chilton and Kelliann Dean, Deputy Minister of Department Tourism Culture and Heritage. Afterward, attendants were invited to view Chilton's creation while they listened to selections from *MacKinnon's Brook Suite* played by Scott MacMillan and Ian McKinnon and the Jubilee Quartet.

Thank you to all who participated in the evening's raffle, which raised \$500 for the Nova Scotia Nature Trust. Marilyn Peers was the lucky winner of the Chilton



*'Spirit of Place'*

print.

The NSNT would like to extend many thanks to our sponsors: Clearwater, Second Gallery and Daily News, also David and Margaret Fountain, Linda Peers, and John and Marilyn Peers.

The Spirit of Place exhibition was on display at the Natural History Museum from April 22 to May 25 and at University College of Cape Breton, in Sydney, from September 17 to October 29. Many thanks to the Cape Breton Post for sponsorship of the Sydney opening event. If you missed the showings, you can still see the exhibit and order prints on-line at [www.mindfulcreations.com](http://www.mindfulcreations.com).



*Nature Trust President, Marty Janowitz, presents a bouquet of roses to Joanne Chilton*

Thank you as well to the in-kind sponsors: Scanway, Margo Grant Graphic Design, Atlantex, and Bromoc Print. Also thank you to the volunteers who helped bring it together: Linda Peers, Maggie Moss, and Joanne and Alan Chilton.

Linda Peers  
John and Marilyn Peers  
David and Margaret Fountain



Atlantex



# Nature Trust News



*Admiring the photos*



*Ian McKinnon and Scott Macmillan mug it up for the camera*



*...and the music played on.*



*Left to right: Marty Janowitz, Peter Underwood, Kelliann Dean, Joanne Chilton, and Kerry Morash follow-up after the speeches.*

*Send loved ones a piece of the Spirit of Place Exhibit this holiday season!*

You can purchase a Spirit of Place print through the Nature Trust or on-line at [www.mindfulcreations.com](http://www.mindfulcreations.com)

Beautiful note cards and screensaver featuring Spirit of Place photographs are available at the Nature Trust office. Contact us to purchase yours today!

# Nature Trust News

## Kevin McNamara to Lead Nature Trust's Development Program

The Nature Trust is pleased to announce that Kevin McNamara has stepped into the new role of voluntary Chair of Fund-raising and Development. Mr. McNamara, Chief Executive Officer of South Shore Health, brings tremendous leadership and development skills to his role with the Nature Trust. His 23 year career includes serving as Deputy Minister for the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour, Vice President of Human Resources for the QEII Health Sciences Centre and Executive Director of the Cobequid Multi Service

Center in Lower Sackville. He was instrumental in raising \$1 million through a capital fund-raising campaign for the Sackville centre. He is a strong community supporter and has served as president of Symphony Nova Scotia, Chair of Phoenix House Youth Programs, and is an active member of the Canadian College of Health Care Executives. He is a certified Fund Raising Executive. We welcome Kevin to the Nature Trust, and look forward to his leadership for our fund-raising programs.

## Help Protect Even More Land Become a Conservation Guardian!

There are now two ways for you to become a member of the Nature Trust. The Nature Trust has recently launched a monthly giving program, the *Conservation Guardians Monthly Donor Program*. Signing up for this program makes your dollars go further in protecting critical conservation land in Nova Scotia by:

- Lowering administrative costs
- Providing a steady, reliable source of funding for the Nature Trust, which allows us to become more efficient, plan long-term and therefore put more dollars directly towards conservation
- Allowing us to respond quickly to threatened properties that need protection
- Using less paper to process your monthly gift

For just \$10/month, the Nature Trust can accomplish important things such as:

- Preserve forever, one acre of nationally endangered plant habitat
- Create signage for a property to ensure users respect the land
- Conduct a formal monitoring visit of a conservation easement property to ensure compliance with easement restrictions
- Provide a training session for a team of volunteer land stewards to help protect one of our conservation sites

It is quick, easy and convenient to sign up. After you join, an amount you choose will automatically be deducted from your bank account monthly. You can cancel, increase, decrease or pause your monthly gifts at any time. Also, when you become a Conservation Guardian, *you will receive a beautiful screensaver and note cards of our Spirit of Place photographic exhibition*. Contact us at 425-5263 or nature@nsnt.ca for more information on this exciting opportunity.

## 10 Years of Trust – Membership Drive Report by Beverly Ramos

A sincere thank you to all those that participated in this year's membership drive by becoming a member, renewing a membership, and/or recruiting new members. This year's drive was the most successful to date, raising over \$12,000 in just four months.

*New members and returning members qualified to win prizes:*

- **1<sup>st</sup> Prize** (North Face Boulder 3-person tent donated by The Trail Shop) was won by Ian McKinnon
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** (Guided tour of the Mabou Highlands with Bob Bancroft and Alice Reed, and one-night accommodation for two at the Clayton Farm Bed & Breakfast) was won by Michael Baker
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** – Nova Scotia Nature Trust Package (t-shirt, MacKinnon's Brooke Suite CD, and a package of Nature Trust note cards) was won by Eric Cooke.

Current members who recruited new members or bought gift memberships also qualified to win a \$100 Coastal Adventures gift certificate (gift certificate donated by Coastal Adventures). This prize was won by Andrew Casey.



Special thanks to the staff at the Trail Shop who not only donated a prize, but helped to sell memberships at their store for the duration of the drive. Thank you as well to Bob Bancroft and Alice Reed, Clayton Farm Bed & Breakfast, and Coastal Adventures for prize donations.

*Please note that the donor list will no longer be included in the Natural Landscapes newsletter. A complete donor list will be included in our Annual Report*

# Friends of the Nature Trust

## Landowner Profile - John Gutting

by Mary Jo Monk

Given that his first time in Nova Scotia was at the age of thirteen in 1956, the Gold River Lake conservation easement seems to have been a lifelong process for John Gutting, the person who spearheaded this project. At the time, John was visiting from the United States for a camping trip with his family. He was taken with the beauty of the province and continued to think about it through the intervening forty-six years.



Left to Right: Bonnie Sutherland, Marty Janowitz, John Gutting, and Suzanne Gutting

His next visit was not until January 1999. It was then that he first saw Gold River Lake. Five years later, Mr. Gutting and four friends made what Nova Scotia Nature Trust has referred to as a “landmark conservation deal”. The easement protects 600 acres of wild land encompassing the entire shoreline of Gold River Lake and the headwaters of the Gold River in Kings and Lunenburg Counties. The area supports important wildlife habitats, including rare old growth forest, a wetland complex and Atlantic salmon spawning habitat.

Mr. Gutting sees conservation easements as the only way to protect land on a permanent basis from the potential damage of development or inappropriate handling. In the mid-Atlantic region of the United States in which he lives, he has designed a number of “conservation subdivisions” for private landowners who want to protect their property in perpetuity. In return for this protection, they receive some financial security by carefully including a limited number of building lots that they will be able to sell. Each of these projects required large areas of ecological repair through reforestation and other wildlife habitat methodologies. They all incorporated an umbrella

type of easement protector similar to the Nova Scotia Nature Trust. These easement projects are only one aspect of how John Gutting demonstrates his principles of conservation. Since 1970 he has earned his living as a landscape architect, designing a variety of different types of physical spaces, yet working within nature’s decree. His designs are

**“We are part of, not owners of, nature. The air, water, soil, sunlight and all living things are not ours. They never have been and never will be.”**

committed to the preservation and reintroduction of native flora and to applying things seamlessly into the existing conditions of a landscape and the owner’s needs. His design process is an intuitive response to his surroundings rather than the imposition of preconceived ideas of what the surroundings should look like.

This makes John unique in his profession — most landscape designs involve the importation of exotic vegetation and the ridding of native plants in favor of sweeping lawns or parking lots. The interdependency between humans and other living things will be lost in such a

practice. While in the short and near-sighted term this method of “de-naturalizing” a place may seem practical, Mr. Gutting suggests that we are really fouling our own nests and that the things we are doing to all of the natural systems have been coming back to us for many years as serious detriments.

John has received a lot of attention for his progressive designs, both from clients and the media. He has won awards, not only for his professional work, but for his own home as well. In 1987, he received the Heritage Award for New Home Architecture and Design for his house in Church Hill, Maryland on land that he protected with his initial conservation easement in 1979.

While carrying on a full-time private design practice, John built the house by himself. These eighty to ninety hour work weeks continued for five years in order to ensure that the structure would be as much a part of the wooded acreage as possible. Most of the construction was completed by 1985 and it is where he and his wife raised their family and still reside.

From his professional work as a landscape architect, to his personal time and effort with such endeavors as Gold River Lake, to the very house in which he lives, John Gutting is a wonderful example of living according to one’s principles and motivations. “We don’t own any of this”, he says. “We are part of, not owners of, nature. The air, water, soil, sunlight and all living things are not ours. They never have been and never will be.” From that perspective, conservation easements such as that on Gold River Lake, serve to protect not only the land, but ourselves.

# Project News

## 2004 Atlantic Coastal Plain Walks – IT’S A BOG’S LIFE!

By Jennifer Pinks

In August 2004, the Nature Trust held their annual Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora walks in south west Nova Scotia. In total, there were three guided walks, namely, Swaines Road Bog on 14 August; Quinn’s Meadow Bog Walk on 15 August; and the CRK Allen Nature Reserve Walk at Gillfillan Lake on 21 August.

The Trust co-hosted the Swaines Road and Quinn’s Meadow walks with Department of Environment and Labour (DEL). David MacKinnon of DEL led the back to back walks. Dave commented on the unique and rare characteristics of the Atlantic Coastal Plain plants, noting that several of the noted species are found only in SW Nova Scotia.

The ‘feature’ attraction at Swaines Road and Quinn’s Meadow was the Thread Leaved Sundew *Drosera filiformis*. The Thread Leaved Sundew is listed as *Endangered* by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and is a provincial Red listed species.

At Swaines Road, the group was keen to catch its first glimpse of Thread Leaved Sundew yet these plant enthusiasts were easily diverted enroute to observe, key out, and photograph other ‘bog notables’. Other notables included

the Curly Grass Fern *Schizaea pusilla* and Screw Stem *Bartonia paniculata* species observed by Duncan Bayne of the Trust. Soon following, the Thread Leaved Sundew was encountered and all gathered round for photo ops. We continued our walk to the eastern end of the bog, making general observations and discussing Sundew distribution and habitat characteristics. The walk ended with the sun popping out from the day long overcast skies and with a brilliant burst of yel-



Participants of the Quinn’s Meadow Bog Walk

low from the Horned Bladderwort in bloom.

At Quinn’s the next day, there were ‘six repeat customers’ from the previous day’s walk and two new folks. Again, speed was not on the agenda and several stops were made to observe other plants, as well as arachnids and their intriguing webs, damsel flies, meadow hawks, and of course undertaking extensive blueberry taste tests. Once the group identified the Sundew, we found it widespread in its distribution in several

places and we were all acutely aware of watching our step!

Dave chose our Quinn’s Meadow route carefully to end with a walk finale, namely the observation of Long’s Bullrush *Scirpus longii*. Long’s Bullrush is a COSEWIC listed species of *Special Concern* and grows in unique circular patterns. Often, the circular pattern is partial or interrupted, making it difficult to detect at times. However, Dave was able to find a few excellent (almost!) intact examples for us.

The Gillfillan Lake walk, very ably led by TREPA member Ms. Carol Jacquard, was attended by a small yet enthusiastic group of plant enthusiasts. Carol impressed everyone with her knowledge and enthusiasm for the protection of the plants. The highlight of the trip was the Plymouth Gentian *Sabatia kennedyana* in bloom at several locations along the shoreline. This beautiful pink flower is a photographer’s delight. A good range of Coastal Plain species were observed. Special species of note observed at Gillfillan Lake included Dwarf Chain Fern, Pale Green Orchid, and two species of uncommon panic grasses, *Panicum longifolium* and *P. spretum*. Fortunately, all walk participants were able to side step the nasty Cat Brier and made it back to their vehicles without incident!

## Plants on the Edge Update: What’s Blooming New?!

By Jennifer Pinks

The conservation and recovery of Atlantic coastal plain flora in SW Nova Scotia remains a core priority for the Trust. The project, now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year and aptly named *Plants on the Edge*, continues its work on landowner contact, stewardship, outreach and education, monitor-

ing and most recently, a new emphasis on habitat securement.

The 2004 field season has focused primarily on the formal securement of coastal plain wetland habitats. From June 2004 to present, staff have been

busy with numerous landowner meetings and site visits in anticipation of formalizing a coastal plain site conservation easement and/or acquisition. Staff have logged many kilometers of freshwater shoreline, dodged Poison Ivy, had (too) close encounters with prickly

# Project News

Cat Brier, and have watched boots disappear into knee deep mud - all to reap the reward of discovering Plymouth Gentian in flower! With the poor weather in July, site visits in August became particularly important as many of the coastal plain species began to flower. Such visits verify our data on the species, distribution, and health of the coastal plain populations, and habitat conditions. The Atlantic Coastal Plain Recovery Team has been helpful in refining our search for high quality sites suitable for securement.



*Jennifer Lusk and Duncan*

As with other Nature Trust conservation properties, the securement process for

coastal plain sites is detailed and lengthy. This past summer the Trust has taken the critical steps necessary to work toward our securement goal. We happily report that the formal protection of our first coastal plain site is expected in the very near future.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of: Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund, The Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species At Risk, Environment Canada and World Wildlife Fund

## More Nature Trust News

### nsnt.ca Redesign Underway

*by Greg Lukeman*

Thanks to a volunteer web designer, Google and a touch of serendipity, the Nova Scotia Nature Trust is well on its way to launching a brand new website.

For the last number of years, aside from sitting on the Board of Directors, I have been responsible for designing and maintaining the Nature Trust web presence, nsnt.ca. While the site has proven a valuable means of communication between the Trust and our supporters, with the hectic schedules of both myself and staff, updates haven't been nearly as frequent as we would like. I quickly came to realize that it would take a great degree of vigilance for the current site to keep pace with the activity of the Trust. I also knew the technologies existed to make the site easier to update, I just didn't have time to learn them.

That's where a bit of serendipity came into play. While browsing the web one afternoon, I had entered a Google search for information on Bud Inglis'

backcountry travel book, 'Through Deepest Nova Scotia. One of the hits that was returned was a website called the.kinetic.experiment. Intrigued, I explored further. The site turned out to be the online wilderness travel journal of Matthew Hogg. Recently featured on CBC Radio, this was where Matthew recorded his memories, advice, and inspirations collected during his amazingly frequent forays into the wilds of Nova Scotia.

Vast repository of hiking information aside, I quickly noticed that the website was also beautifully and meticulously designed and highly functional. And for good reason. Matthew's day job is web designer for Internet Solutions, a Halifax based web technologies and design firm.

Thinking Matthew may be able to provide some solid advice about improving nsnt.ca, I dashed him off an email. A few correspondences later, Matthew had agreed to redesign our site from the ground up as volunteer! It turns out he

had been thinking for some time about helping a non-profit with their web presence and the mission of the Trust resonated well with his love of Nova Scotia's natural beauty. Much work and many months later the new design, along with lots of new content, is nearly ready to go live. The site will be far easier for staff to update, will include a mailing list visitors can join, and will provide a central archive of all of the Trust's publications.

The Nature Trust would like to extend its deep gratitude to Matthew for all the hours dedicated to this project and for his ongoing efforts towards its completion. We expect the site to come up later this fall, with new features, such as an interactive property browser, rolled over the next year. In the mean-time, check out Matthew's site, littlewoodenman.com. Guaranteed to have you lacing up your boots and heading trailward.

**E-newsletters: The paperless alternative:** You can now opt to see the pictures in colour online and feel good about reducing the use of a precious natural resource. Starting this year, e-newsletters will be available in place of mailed newsletters. To take advantage of this great option, please contact us at e-mail [nature@nsnt.ca](mailto:nature@nsnt.ca) or phone (902) 425-5263

# 2004 AGM Report by Beverly Ramos



Mary Jane Lamond

On April 29, 2004 Nature Trust supporters gathered at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History for our Annual General Meeting. Along with an inspiring PowerPoint presentation showcasing our land conservation successes over the last 10 years, guests were invited to a free viewing of our 10-year anniversary commemorative photographic exhibition, 'Spirit of Place', and tours of the exhibit with the artist, Joanne Chilton.

Through photographs, Ms. Chilton captures the beauty and spirit of MacKinnon's Brook, Cape Breton whilst following the journey of the early Scottish settlers from the Isle of Barra, Scotland to Nova Scotia (see page 6 & 8).

To end the evening, guests were treated to a special presentation/performance by Juno and East Coast Music award winner, Mary Jane Lamond. As a perfect complement to the photographic exhibit, Ms. Lamond led us through the journey of early Scottish settlers, through Gaelic story and song. Ms. Lamond is one of very few in Nova Scotia who is dedicated to preserving the Gaelic heritage of Cape Breton.

Thank you to all those who made this year's AGM possible, especially Joanne Chilton, Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History staff, and Mary Jane Lamond.



**Board of Directors**  
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**Honorary Directors**  
 Alex Colville  
 Alice Reed

**Executive Director**  
 Bonnie Sutherland

**Staff**  
 Duncan Bayne  
 Mark McIntosh  
 Jill Pasquet  
 Jennifer Pinks  
 Beverly Ramos  
 Alen Simpson  
 David Trudel

**Newsletter Committee**  
 Beverly Ramos (Staff Coordinator)  
 Emma Boardman  
 Janet Brown  
 Heather McKinnon  
 Lisa Chisolm  
 Alan Chilton

Send submissions for  
 Natural Landscapes to:

**Nova Scotia Nature Trust**  
 P.O. Box 2202  
 Halifax, NS B3J 3C4  
 phone: (902) 425-5263  
 fax: (902) 429-5263  
 email: nature@nsnt.ca

## Nature Trust Calendar of Events 2004-2005

### DECEMBER

Remember the Nature Trust when thinking of gifts for loved ones this holiday season

### JANUARY 2005

Don't forget to renew your membership. If unsure about your membership status please call the Nature Trust office 425-5263.

### APRIL 2005

**April 22/23**  
 Climb for Conservation  
**April (TBA)**  
 Annual General Meeting

## Donation/Annual Membership Form

**OPTION 1**  I would like to become a Conservation Guardian. Please sign me up for Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) for which I authorize the Nova Scotia Nature Trust to withdraw a monthly donation of:  \$100  \$50  \$25  \$10  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

*Please withdraw the above amount from my chequing account to which I have enclosed a voided cheque (Note: Your donation will be withdrawn from your bank account on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month).*

**OPTION 2**  I would like to make a single gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**Membership** - I would also like to become a Nova Scotia Nature Trust member

\$15 Student  \$30 Individual  \$50 Family  \$50 NGO  \$100 Supporter/Corporate  \$500 Friend  \$1000 Benefactor

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Prov \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

VISA # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a tax receipt for income tax purposes (Charitable #89627691RR0001)

I would like to volunteer  I would like information on protecting my land  I would like information to pass along to my friends

I would like information on including the Nature Trust in my will and other planned giving options

*Please make cheque or money order payable to: Nova Scotia Nature Trust P.O. Box 2202, Halifax, N.S. B3J 3C4*