

Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society -- Parrsboro Excursion -- June 16th to 18th, 2017

Our focus for this excursion is investigating the world of bog plants. Mid-June was chosen as the average date for the blooming of Arethusa, Pitcher Plant and Labrador Tea. Also of interest are the nine rare arctic/alpine plants present at Cape d'Or. Those blooming include: Milk Vetch (*Astragalus robinsii*), Small-flowered Cardamon (*Cardamine parviflora*), Roseroot (*Sedum rosea*), Hare-bell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) and Draba (*Draba arabisans*).

Additional guided activities include:

- fishing weir
- tidal energy visitor centre
- tour of a fish farm
- evening campfire
- rare plants at a waterfall site
- Zodiac excursion to Cape Split and Cape Blomidon for gems (about \$45)

This plan is subject to change. Walks may be modified by weather conditions and members interests.

Friday June 16th

- 7 to 9 pm : Social Meet and Greet - at the Fundy Geological Museum
- orientation to the weekend of events
 - light snacks provided

Saturday June 17th

- 9 to 10:30 : How Fundy Fish Respond to Tidal Turbines
- * meet at the Fundy Geological Museum
 - * travel 10 km to the FORCE visitor centre to discuss the effects of tidal turbine(s) on marine mammals, fish, seabirds and lobsters
 - * exhibits and videos explaining tidal development at this site

- 10:30 to 12 : Why Fishermen Oppose Tidal Energy Development
- * return to Partridge Island where local fishermen are tending their weir at low tide to hear their concerns
 - * Bald Eagles perch on nearby cliffs hoping for a fish snack
 - * we may see lumpfish, Sea Ravens, flounder, eels, squid, skate

12 to 2 : LUNCH

- 2 to 4 : Rare Plants at Cape d'Or
- * meet at the Fundy Geological Museum
 - * travel to the Cape d'Or lighthouse (1 hour)
 - * we will look for nine rare arctic alpine plants growing on the rocky cliffs

* Peregrine Falcons nest nearby and will be visible and audible

4 to 5 : Canaqua Seafoods Fish Farm

* drive from Cape d'Or to Advocate Harbour to tour this facility where they raise salmon, halibut and Arctic char

5 to 7 : SUPPER - some of us will stay in Advocate and eat at the Wild Caraway
- some of us will return to Parrsboro for supper

8 to 9 : Randy Corcoran's Carvings

* meet at the Fundy Geological Museum

* drive to Randy's log-cabin home 4 km south of Parrsboro, near Partridge Island, to see a display of his carvings and folk art

9 to 10 : Storytelling Around the Campfire

* on the beach at Randy's, members of the Parrsborough Shore Historical Society will thrill us with tales of rumrunning and legendary ship captains

* those so inclined are welcome to camp overnight on this beach

Sunday June 18th

9 to 12 : There are two concurrent events, both beginning from the Fundy Geological Museum

A) Zodiac Excursion on the Bay of Fundy

* drive to Partridge Island to board the Explorer I

* Randy will take us to Cape Blomidon to search for gemstones, and then to Cape Split to experience the power of the tides in a safe way

* cost for the trip: about \$45

* maximum number of participants : 6

B) Rare Plants at Hidden Falls

* drive to the falls about 6 km east of Parrsboro

* a short 10-minute easy walk will bring us to the falls

* mosses, liverworts and ferns adorn the wet cliff faces

* the rare species are: Fragrant Wood Fern

: Fir Club-moss

: a sedge (*Carex atratiformis*)

* if time and interest permits, we will drive to Jeffers Falls, 6km north of Parrsboro to continue our discovery of interesting plants

12 to 2 : LUNCH

2 to 4 : Bog Orchids, Carnivorous Plants and Dragonfly Sex

* meet at the Fundy Geological Museum

- * drive 15 km westwards to a pair of kettle bogs with ponds
- * Arethusa and Pitcher Plants are in full bloom
- * both dragonflies and damselflies are mating and defending territories
- * salamander eggs are ready to hatch
- * last year we had two blue-coloured Green Frogs here

ACCOMMODATIONS

1. Ballymena Farm Cottage - 902-216-0966 ballymenacottage@gmail.com
2. Evangeline's Tower B+B - 902 254 3383
3. Gillespie House Inn - 902-254-3196
4. The Maple Inn - 902-254-3735 office@mapleinn.ca
5. The Parrsboro Mansion Inn - 902-254-2585
6. Sunshine Inn Motel and Cottages - 902-254-3135 thesunshineinn@gmail.com
7. Riverview Cottages - 902-254-2388 info@riverviewcottages.ca
8. The Mad Hatter Hostel - 902-254-3167
9. Glooscap Park and Campground - 902-254-2529 glooscapcampground@outlook.com

Participants will need to arrange their own accommodations.

WHAT TO BRING

1. **WARM CLOTHES** : On a hot 25 degree Celsius day in mid-June, a cool breeze off the Bay of Fundy will be welcomed. But, we can get a cool 10 degree day which will help you to appreciate the sweater and windbreaker you brought with you. And temperatures in the evening will drop to below 12 degrees on most nights, sometimes dropping to just above freezing, even in mid-June.
2. **RUBBER BOOTS AND RAIN GEAR** : Rubber boots will be required for our visit to the herring weir at low tide, for our exploration at the waterfalls where we will cross a brook and travel up a brook to reach the waterfalls. And also for our visit to the kettle bog. We can check the weather forecast on Friday morning to assess the need for rain gear.
3. **A CHANGE OF CLOTHES** : In case you fall into the bog pond or you get wet getting into and out of the zodiac -- it would be nice to have dry clothes to wear.
4. **CAMERA** : With lots of space on your memory card and fully charged batteries. Arethusa orchids, the lighthouse at Cape d'Or, the fishing weir, Bald Eagles, Cape Split from the water, waterfalls are all crying out to you, "Take my picture!!!"

YOUR EXCURSION GUIDES

John Brownlie :

- a naturalist for Parks Canada for 29 years, leading hikes and giving talks in four national parks: Kejimikujik in Nova Scotia, Fundy in New Brunswick, Terra Nova in Newfoundland, and Point Pelee in Ontario.
- retired from Parks Canada in 2012 and moved to Parrsboro the following year
- a volunteer with the Fundy Geological Museum leading nature excursions to local habitats during the summer

Randy Corcoran :

- Randy has a strong connection with nature which has become the focus of his work and his play.
- His overactive zest for life is reflected in his involvement with: environmental concerns, boating, fishing, paragliding, rockhounding, cross-country skiing, guiding and working as a teacher's aid.
- Randy is currently providing interpretive boat excursions for the Fundy Geological Museum. He will take us out onto the Bay of Fundy in his 20-foot Zodiac vessel, Explorer I
- As an artist, Randy creates jewellery and sculptures which involves fine carving of Nova Scotia black bear teeth, as well as deer and moose antlers. As a folk artist, Randy creates an eclectic assortment of Nova Scotia carvings and sculptures from a variety of materials, some found and some not. (randyscarvings.com)

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

1. Ottawa House By-the-Sea Museum
2. Ship's Company Theatre
3. Fundy Geological Museum
4. Age of Sail Museum (in Port Greville, 20 km west of Parrsboro)
5. Tyson's Fine Minerals
6. Arlene Collins Art Gallery (wildlife and nature; in Diligent River, 10 km west of Parrs)
7. FORCE Tidal Energy Visitor Centre (10 km west of Parrsboro)
8. Joy Laking Art Gallery (6730 Hwy #2, Bass River, 50 km east of Parrsboro)
9. Art Lab Studios and Gallery
10. Amethyst Boutique (fine minerals and fossils)

RESTAURANTS AND CAFES

1. The Porchlight Restaurant
2. Black Rock Bistro

3. Harbour View Restaurant
4. Tim Horton's
5. The Glooscap Restaurant
6. Nonesuch Cafe (vegetarian; located on the ground floor of Main and Station - the old post office with the three storey clock tower)
7. Pizza L'amore

SPECIAL EVENT

Parrsboro International Plein Air Festival - June 16,17,18, 2017

- "Plein Air" means painting outside in nature from life in real time
- 35 artists, selected from across North America, will compete for more than \$6,000 in cash and product awards. They will arrive on Friday and each artist will complete two paintings by Saturday evening.
- The Collectors' Gala and Exhibition Preview will occur on Saturday June 17, 7 to 9 pm. The public as well as collectors, corporate interests and political figures will be able to preview the seventy canvasses that will go up for public sale on Sunday afternoon. The artists will also be in attendance.

The Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society is not responsible for meals, travel, lodging or for other expenses. If numbers are limited, preference will be given to current members of the Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society.

To register your interest and receive updates, you may contact us at paris2@ns.sympatico.ca or 902-425-1079.

Thank you.