



NSFAH Journal



June 2012

Queens County Fish & Game Association

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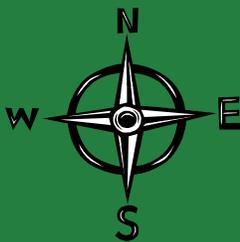
-Queens County F&G

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...and a whole lot more.

Classified Section
Coming Soon



To receive a copy of the NSFAH monthly E-Newsletter simply fill out the contact form at the Federation website, include your name and email address...it really is that simple!

Queens County Fish and Game Association is a County Fish and Game Association, which was incorporated under an Act of the Nova Scotia Legislature in 1930. That same Act provided for the creation of the original society which later became the N. S. Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

Volunteer members of our Association support the conservation of fish, wildlife and habitat in this area of Nova Scotia. Our Association is an affiliate of both the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and the Nova Scotia Salmon Association. While several Executive members mainly deal with principal issues, a core number of members assist in a multitude of efforts during the year. Normally 2 Executive meetings are held spring and fall, and two public meetings are also held spring and fall. Additional meetings are scheduled as necessary.

What does an Association like Queens do besides send letters and e-mails, attend meetings, make telephone calls, hold Association meetings, keep minutes, assist fish, wildlife and habitat, and attempt to keep our members informed? Hopefully the following will provide you with an insight into some of our main activities for the 12 month period from June 2011 to May 2012.

In June of 2011 our members were participating in the angling season, and canoeing or otherwise enjoying the beauty of the wilderness and/or coastal areas of the South Shore.

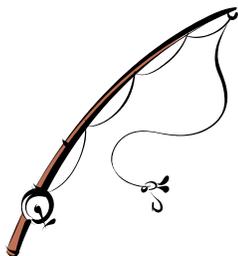
DFO Salmon management meetings are being held or have just been held. Salmon season has been closed on the Medway River since 1996, and the Lahave River since 2010. River and pool closures occur to prevent illegal salmon fishing under the pretense of trout or bass fishing. We sent our submission on proposed additions to existing Wilderness Areas to the N. S. Department of Environment. Members attended a presentation by the local branch of the Royal Bank on their financial support of the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, to assist in water quality sampling. Approval was received on our proposed project to replace old dilapidated flow control structures on the upper Meadow Pond watershed. This approval came after 3 ½ years of effort to have DFO Habitat Branch review the project. Our Grant funding which we had earlier received had to be returned after 3 years, and therefore the project had to be abandoned.

The fish and habitat were the losers. Members attended the Bowater Mersey Open House, where harvesting plans were available for public viewing. Our Association has a Director on the South West Nova Scotia Biosphere Reserve Association, a UNESCO Designation, which includes the counties of Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne and Queens, and we attended that Board meeting. The NSFA&H also held their June Directors meeting, where we have an Affiliate Director. We attended a DFO meeting at Mersey Hatchery to determine release of Medway salmon remaining in the facility from the previous Live Gene Banking program.

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QCF&GA continued.....

The property at Hibernia, which we leased to the Nova Scotia Guides Association, was visited to ensure that everything was being well maintained.



Trout were being obstructed at the Harmony Lake fishway, and DFO and Provincial Fisheries assisted in removing those trapped fish. This wooden fishway has not been in working service since 2006, and has been at the Regional Director General Faith Scattolon level for 6 years, to order necessary fishway repairs to be made.

In July we aired the Harmony Lake fishway issue on the TV and in newspapers, trapped fish were dying, and the result was DFO blocked off the fishway flow to prevent fish from being trapped. The only remaining Ranger camp in the Tobeatic is the Cofan Ranger Camp at Sandbeach Lake on the Shelburne River. DNR staff had recently removed the old stove, but did not replace the stove, or close up the hole where the stove pipe had been removed from the roof. We wrote Provincial Environment to have action taken to restore this old Ranger Camp. The blockage of the Milton fishway on the Mersey River was removed, now that gaspereau dipping season was over at that location. The gaspereau dipping pool is close to the fishway, and dipping occurs, as the fishway is not operating during that time. Gaspereau can migrate over the roll dam. DFO Enforcement on the Medway River was increased to help prevent illegal salmon fishing. DFO advised us that a review of the Recreational clam harvest limit would occur in our area, as we have representation on the DFO Clam Advisory Committee.

In August Ducks Unlimited upgraded the Meadow Pond fishway structure, and several members were present over the several days of repairs. The new timbers and fishway bafflers were a needed replacement.

September led us to the Directors meeting of the NSFA&H, and preparing for fall activities.

In October we cleaned out the debris from the Milton fishway for fall fish migration. We held an Executive Meeting. Our Association completed a survey to determine activities that could be improved upon for the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation funding program. We attended a DFO Clam Advisory Committee meeting in Yarmouth. Our Association also has membership on the Bowater Mersey Forestry Advisory Committee, and we attended that meeting. After several years of reviewing our request, Bowater Mersey Paper Company agreed to exclude from harvesting approximately 15 acres of old growth forest adjacent to the historical log cabin located near the outlet of Eagle Lake. This area is of great significance due to the fact that Austin Parker, Thomas Raddall, T. B. Smith, Roy Gordon, and others, frequently used this camp, after it was built in the early 1930's. The Queens County Museum intends to publish the information in the camp log as a fundraiser. Adult salmon raised at the DFO Mersey Hatchery were released in the upper Medway River watershed, with assistance from our members. The property at Hibernia, which we leased to the Nova Scotia Guides Association, was visited to ensure that everything was being well maintained.

November found most members enjoying the various hunting seasons. We attended a Provincial Fisheries Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee meeting held in Shelburne. Our members met with Provincial Environment pertaining to the 12 % land initiative, to set 12 % of Nova Scotia aside for conservation purposes by 2015. Subsequent to that meeting our Association produced a response to Government with our recommendations, which included raising the 12 % limit to 17 %, to match the Federal Government. A survey was completed pertaining to the past process held by Natural Resources to develop a strategy to manage forestry harvesting, parks, and mining activities.

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Let's Go Hiking

You know hiking is good for your health. But do you know just HOW good it is?

For adults, regular aerobic exercise such as hiking leads to Improved cardio-respiratory fitness, (*heart, lungs, blood vessels*) improved muscular fitness, lower risk of coronary heart disease and stroke, lower risk of high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes, lower risk of high cholesterol and triglycerides, lower risk of colon and breast cancer, and possibly lung and endometrial cancer. Hiking also contributes to increased bone density or a slower loss of density, reduced depression and better quality sleep, which helps in lowering the risk of early death .

(If you are physically active for 7 hours a week, your risk of dying early is 40% lower than someone active for less than 30 minutes a week.)

Kids get many of the same benefits, including improved cardio-respiratory and muscular fitness, better bone health, less chance of becoming overweight, less chance of developing risk factors for heart disease, high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes, possibly reduced risk of depression and feeling less stress, more ready to learn in school and best of all your kids may end up sleeping better at night.

So get out and enjoy Nova Scotia's great outdoors! Go fishing, collecting shed antlers, early scouting, orienteering, or whatever you can think of to entertain you and your family while improving your health.

Wilf Woods
President
Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters



Nova Scotia Sport-fishing Weekend

There are two Sport-fishing Weekends in Nova Scotia this season, one on June 2-3, 2012 and the other on February 16-17, 2013.

During these four days, residents and non-residents may fish without a general licence. Please keep in mind that bag limits and all other sport-fishing regulations will still apply.

Nova Scotians and visitors are encouraged to try sport-fishing at one of the lakes listed below as a way to enjoy Nova Scotia's great outdoors.

Shelburne Co. Fish & Game Association

Richard Swain
768-2777

ALVIN LAKE

Shelburne County
June 02, 2012

Halifax Wildlife Association

Robert Blom
477-0178 or 499-0338

CUNARD POND

Halifax County
June 02, 2012

West Pictou Wildlife Association

Bill Echlin
485-5204

QUARRY POND

Pictou County
June 02, 2012

Inverness Search & Rescue

Rolly Inragam
235-2205

LAKE O'LAW

Inverness County
June 03, 2012

For more lake listings, check out Inland Fisheries Division for Nova Scotia on the web.



Turkey Diaries

Starting in the state of Maine and Then onto the state of Connecticut.

Spring Turkey hunt in Bridgton, Maine
May 4-5 2012

May 4-2012 Day 1 of the hunt

Its 3:30AM , we want to get out to set up before daylight and before the gobblers come down from the roost. It's our first time hunting the spring turkey in the state of Maine and I am very excited. We are heading to a spot behind an apple orchard that belongs to a famous film makers family, I'm a little creeped out to say the least, due to the many books and movies I've read and seen! but hopefully the only sound that gets my heart pounding will be the sound of the gobbler coming down from the roost.

It's now late morning and we were not successful behind the orchard, it was very quiet. we decided to head out on the chase for some birds, so we went to another spot where this really nice farmer gave us permission to hunt in his fields. We talked to the farmer for about 30 minutes, come to find out that he has a daughter and son-in-law in New Brunswick, small world! we set up at a really nice spot at the bottom of the field where a brook runs through the back of us and patiently waited for the first sound of a gobbler. my partner on the hunt is my turkey caller as I am just learning to use the mouth call. He starts his first call to see if we get a response from any of the many birds that are supposed to be around. And there it is, that sound I've been waiting for all year, the gobble of a Tom Turkey looking for the Hen. He is coming to us, I am set up and ready for my first turkey of the season. Terry calls him in for almost 20 minutes before we see any site of him. Only thing wrong with this hunt is we only have 10 minutes to get that bird in range, as hunting stops at noon, but he is being very cautious staying out at 73 yards, but I want him in at about 50 yards and coming out from behind the bush he is keeping cover with. I think he makes us because he is turning to go away from us, Terry is going hard on the call to

change the gobblers mind and come towards us. The gobbler does his turkey thing for a few more minutes but doesn't come in any closer than 73 yards, so we end our morning by watching the one that got away!

May 5-2012 Day 2 of the hunt

Once again, It's 3:30AM, we are up, excited and ready for another hunt. We are heading back to the farmers field to hunt the One That Got Away in yesterdays hunt. We are setting up in the same spot as yesterday. first call is made and a response is quickly followed. We hear him across the brook so we quickly change our position to across the brook, he is now getting further up the ridge and we try to call him in closer, I'm afraid that this is the same smart bird from yesterday and he is not coming any closer. The thing about the gobblers is that he can be gobbling really loud and sound really close or be very far away. Then can be very quiet and all of a sudden comes in like a ghost. we waited him out 20 minutes or so, not making a move at all, but he never did show up. WE did not take a turkey home on this hunt in the State of Maine, but we had a great 2 days, met some great people and we are anxious to go again next year! Now we are off to the state of Connecticut!

May 7 2012 Connecticut

It's 3AM Monday morning and we are heading out to set up the portable hunting blind at the corner of a nice grassy field. Daylight is upon us and the first call is made to see if any gobblers are in the area. Sure enough we get a response and I get so excited I can hardly wait to see them coming in. we have the decoys set up about 10 yards in the field and the gobblers are getting louder and closer. Being that I am only 5 feet 2 inches tall and Terry is 6 feet 5, there is always the chance that he is seeing something before me, so he spots 2 jakes and a Tom coming down the field straight for the decoys. The angle that I am sitting doesn't give me the straight on view that he has. Terry (my camera guy) gets

We are setting up in the same spot as yesterday. first call is made and a response is quickly followed.



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Turkey Diaries Continued....

buck fever really bad watching the turkeys come in (which is really fun to watch) and is giving me the go ahead to make the shot, but I have no view at this time, "Shoot, Shoot, Shoot, Terry says"! only when the big Tom is at the decoy ready to attack that pretty boy, I make the shot and almost fall off my chair with the gun recoil. I get a beautiful 24lb Tom turkey! Terry also bags a nice Jake. A great first day of Turkey hunting in Connecticut!

May 8-9 2012 Connecticut

These 2 days were good hunts but no birds were bagged! We went to some really nice areas around Connecticut and heard some Turkeys but didn't have any come in to us. Gave us the opportunity to find new areas and talk to some really great people. One Lady in particular, in the Old Lyme area, gives us permission to hunt on her property every year. She loves the Nova Scotia oat cakes we bring to her every year!

I want to also mention that all these people who gives us permission to hunt their land, we are truly grateful and appreciate your kindness. We stay with the most awesome family in Killingworth, Connecticut every year and they are truly our family away from home. the hospitality they show us each year is 5 star and we thank you!

May 10 2012 Connecticut

We slept in today! Not Good! We decided to go to the place everyone calls the Honey Hole, also known as the oak ridge. we were not on the trail 5 minutes and we hear a hen calling on a Tom. we set up within seconds as she is coming straight for us. My first time seeing a hen so close that I am so excited I forget to watch for the Gobbler that's coming in after her. Everything happened so quickly that Terry bagged a nice bird while I was watching the Hen do her thing! was an awesome 10 minute hunt! It's too bad not all hunts were like that!

May 11 2012 Connecticut

Our last day to try to get our limits of birds, which would be three each, Terry and I, we were at a tie at the first our hunt, now he's in the lead. My hope is to bag the monster turkey everyone around is talking about and that will be my proudest moment to outdo the guys "ha-ha". We get out there and sure enough, a Hen is around and she is very aggressive, she must have nested nearby. she is going back and forth in front of us and here comes the gobblers, there is a couple of them! and I hope that big monster is one of them. But I hear he is very smart. Two jakes are walking right by me and Terry is telling me too wait that the monster turkey is coming, do I ever get buck fever! and I was laughing at terry days before. I didn't think I would be able to make the shot if he comes to me. So, the two jakes are right there and I am holding my breath, then Terry tells me too take the shot at the Jake, but I missed. Terry gets the Jake and the Monster turkey is a no show, he is holding out at the back of the ridge. All in all we had a great time hunting. We bagged 4 Turkeys. One of them is in Maine at the taxidermist being mounted and hopefully will be seen at the Outdoor Sportsman show in Halifax next spring as we will have it at the national wild turkey federation booth that our chapter will host. For all you Hunters out there, if you've never experienced the hunt of a wild turkey, I recommend you try it and hopefully one day in the near future, we can hunt wild turkey right here in Nova Scotia. We, as the Bluenose Long beards chapter of NWTF and with the support of the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters and the NWTF, have been working on getting a trap and transfer program in place to introduce wild turkeys to Nova Scotia. All we need at this time is have the support of our Government and not have to travel abroad to do what we have a passion for! I hope you've enjoyed our turkey hunting diaries.

Lisa M Gogin
Bluenose Long Beards Chapter, NWTF
Bedford, Nova Scotia

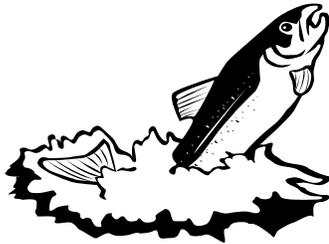
For anyone interested in learning more about the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Bluenose Longbeards chapter. We will be holding a dinner and auction on July 13th 2012. For more info please contact Terry Smith at 902-497-1611 or email at tsmith@toalltech.com

QCF&GA continued.....

A public Fish and Game meeting was held, and Resolutions were formulated for the Federation Annual Convention. We attended the DFO Gaspereau Advisory Committee meeting in Bridgewater where we learned that gaspereau dipping near the Milton fishway would be prohibited in 2012, because the fishway flow would no longer be allowed to be shut off. DFO indicated a public meeting would be held in January.

The Canadian Wildlife Service advised that our request to extend black duck season, a passed resolution at the NSFA&H Convention many years ago, was expected to occur in 2012.

December is not a month we try to initiate work. The proceedings of the Cohen Inquiry in British Columbia, investigating the state of their local aquaculture industry, diseases, and possible impacts to wild salmon stocks, was followed by our members. Fish and Game also has representation on the DFO Groundfish Advisory Committee as a recreational representative, and we attended a meeting in Dartmouth.



January 2012 became a busy month. We attended a South West Nova Scotia Biosphere Reserve Association meeting. Our members discussed plans with N. S. Power to improve a boat launch on the Mersey River. We attended a press conference where Premier Dexter announced the purchase of some Bowater Lands for conservation. Our Association wrote a letter thanking the Province for that action. The Canadian Wildlife Service advised that our request to extend black duck season, a passed resolution at the NSFA&H Convention many years ago, was expected to occur in 2012. The Annual Report of our Association was published in our local newspaper for the public to read.

February led to our comments on leaked DFO Fisheries Act changes. The NSFA&H held a meeting pertaining to the changes in the non-motorized moose hunt. We wrote DFO an inquiry asking for an update on the time and date for a Milton fishway public meeting. An inquiry was also sent to Provincial Aquaculture asking for an update on the status of the Port LeHerbert clam aquaculture license renewal.

In March we signed on to a letter requesting a moratorium on new aquaculture licenses being issued for fin fish in coastal Nova Scotia. Subsequently, ISA virus (*infectious salmon anemia*) appeared in an aquaculture facility in Shelburne. We attended a DFO Gaspereau meeting in Dartmouth pertaining to the Milton roll dam issue. Three of our Association delegates attended the NSFA&H Annual Convention. Our lottery sales money and ticket stubs for the Federation were turned in, along with our donations for the silent auction. We also attended the Nova Scotia Salmon Association Annual Meeting.

April began with a meeting at the N.S. Power McGowan Lake facility to view and discuss solutions to hydro flows, diversion dam spills, and fish passage concerns. An Executive meeting of our Association was held. The long awaited elimination of the Long Gun Registry became law. The Region of Queens erected a South West Nova Scotia Biosphere Reserve sign on the # 103 Highway. Environment Canada cut Biosphere funding ten months early, out of the three year contract which had been signed with the Biosphere. It was then necessary to terminate staff. A DFO public meeting was held on the Milton fishway issue with DFO advising that gaspereau dipping within 75 feet of the fishway would be prohibited in 2012. Efforts to investigate constructing 2 new pools below that distance, in co-operation with the Nova Scotia Native Council is expected to occur.

Continued page 7.....

QCF&GA Continued.....

No other suitable locations exist on the Mersey River for gaspereau dipping. Fish were again being obstructed below the Harmony Lake dam, and we asked DFO to resolve this non-operating fishway issue again. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency ordered all fish in the Shelburne aquaculture facility to be destroyed, due to the ISA virus. As a result of our inquiry to DFO, we learned that HSMI disease (*Heart and Skeletal Muscle Inflammation*) does not exist in Canada because it has not been seen, and DFO does not test for it. Apparently a specific disease does not exist, unless one finds it, and one does not need to look. An inquiry was received from a local resident, advising that commercial clam harvesters had recently harvested a small clam flat in Port Medway, and had left very few clams. We passed the issue on to local DFO Enforcement to determine if the commercial harvesters were legally able to be harvesting that clam flat.

May 2012 is the last month in this 12 month period. Our Association held its spring public meeting with NSFA&H President Wilfred Woods being our guest speaker. Woody skillfully negotiated that this article be written, which we were pleased to provide. More draft changes to the Fisheries Act surfaced to which we provided comments. N. S. Power completed improvement to a boat launch on the Mersey River which we had earlier requested.

Provincial trout stocking commenced in the local area.

Improvements had been completed by N. S. Power on water flow capacities at the McGowan Lake hydro facility. A DFO Species at Risk Conference for Atlantic Salmon was held in Dartmouth over four days. The resulting document will be sent to the Federal Minister of Fisheries for consideration as to support salmon recovery, or allow local salmon to become extinct. If accepted, a Recovery Plan will be formulated over the next 3 years with river work possibly commencing in 2015. DFO announced job and other budget cuts, Mersey hatchery closure being one. Mersey and Coldbrook operate as one unit, and without Mersey, salmon recovery in the Southern Uplands region will be virtually impossible. A notice was received for a Salmon Management meeting to be held in early June, and then history repeats itself.

Throughout the year, our members attended various meetings and participated on numerous Advisory Committees, worked closely with the NSFA&H, and assisted Government Departments, in addition to our MP. Hon. Gerald Keddy, MLA Vicki Conrad, Mayor John Leefe, and staff of the Region of Queens Municipality.

If you would like to support fish, wildlife and habitat in your area, please consider volunteering with a local group. The rewards can be significant.

Respectfully submitted
David Dagley
Secretary
QCF&GA.



Get Certified

Get certified and support our conservation work on behalf of the Anglers, Hunters and Trappers of Nova Scotia. Take your [BOATER exam](http://www.BOATERexam.com)® online at www.BOATERexam.com and enter this discount code to save: **NSFAH12** - You get a \$10 discount and NSFAH gets a \$5 donation.

Shelburne County Fish & Game Association

Shelburne Fish & Game Antler Night
Barrington Curling Club
June 16, 2012

12 to 5 PM - Scoring by the Big Game Society of Nova Scotia

Prizes

1st, 2nd & 3rd random draw for anyone bringing antlers for scoring
1st, 2nd & 3rd for **People's Choice** DEER
1st, 2nd & 3rd for **People's Choice** MOOSE

Viewing ONLY \$5.00: 12 to 5PM
Turkey Dinner & Entertainment 5 to 10 PM \$20.00
For Details Contact : shelbcofg@hotmail.ca

Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters

C/O Tony Rodgers
Post Office Box 654
Halifax, NS
B3J 2T3

PHONE:
902-477-8898

FAX:
902-444-3883

E-MAIL:
tonyrodgers@eastlink.ca

The NSFAH Journal is published monthly, except during hunting season. If you or your club has an article to submit, send along before the 25th of each month to ensure your information is inserted.

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.nsfah.ca

How To Help

Do not disturb

Report all sightings

Become a wood
turtle volunteer

Raise your mower
blade

Have You Seen a Wood Turtle?

You can help protect this threatened species

Where they live

In and around slow moving
streams and rivers.

On land in fields, river banks,
alder stands and roadsides



To report a sighting or learn how to get involved
call toll free: 1-866-727-3447
or email: sightings@speciesatrisk.ca

Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters Affiliate Club Listing

All Terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia
Archery Association of Nova Scotia
Bowhunters Association of Nova Scotia
Bowhunters Instructors Association of Nova Scotia
Bras D'or Wildlife Association

Cape Breton Wildlife Association
Conservation Enforcement Officers Association of Nova Scotia
Delta Waterfowl Association
Digby East Fish & Game Association
Halifax Wildlife Association

Hants West Wildlife Association
Kings County Fish & Game Association
Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers
Lansdowne Outdoor Recreation Development Association

Lunenburg County Wildlife Association
Nova Scotia Association of Crossbow Hunters
Nova Scotia Guides Association
Nova Scotia Houndsmen Association
Nova Scotia Bear Hunters Association

Mic Mac Rod & Gun Club
Port Morien Wildlife Association
Queens County Fish and Game Association
Bluenose Longbeards Association, NWTF
Shelburne County Fish & Game Association

South Shore Wildlife Association
The Big Game Society of Nova Scotia
Traditional Archers Association of Nova Scotia
Trappers Association of Nova Scotia
West Pictou Wildlife Association