MTRI Science Conference 2012

Schedule for Day 1 – Friday, November 2

9:00 Welcome - Cindy Staicer (Chair, MTRI’s Research, Monitoring and Management Committee)
9:10 Status and trends in ecological integrity at Kejimkujik: An overview of the 2011 State of Park report process and results. - Darien Ure, Parks Canada
9:30 Acid rain effects to Atlantic Canada: where we stand and the long road to recovery. - Tom Clair, Environment Canada
10:10 Remote assessment of instantaneous changes in water chemistry after liming in a Nova Scotia catchment. – Kelly Biagi, Dalhousie University
10:30 BREAK
10:50 Distribution and abundance of benthic macroinvertebrates and zooplankton in lakes in Kejimkujik National Park, Nova Scotia. - Christina Nussbaumer and Michelle F. Bowman; Environment Canada
11:10 Mercury biogeochemistry in Kejimkujik. - Nelson O'Driscoll, Acadia University
11:30 Investigating the accumulation and effects of mercury on yellow perch and their supporting lake food webs in Kejimkujik National Park. - Meredith Clayden, UNB Saint John
11:50 Common Loon productivity and habitat in Kejimkujik. - Lindsey Beals, Neil Burgess and Amanda Lavers; MTRI and Environment Canada
12:10 LUNCH
12:50 Monitoring the impacts of mercury on Common Loons in Kejimkujik National Park and vicinity. - Neil Burgess, Environment Canada
13:10 LoonWatch and Water Quality Monitoring. - Benna Keoghoe, Amanda Lavers and Lindsey Beals; MTRI
13:30 TREPA overview, objectives and current projects. - John Sollows, Tusket River Environmental Protection Association
13:50 The Annapolis River Guardians Monitoring Program as a tool for monitoring the long-term ecological health of the Annapolis River, Nova Scotia. - Lindsey Freeman, CARP
14:10 Restoring aquatic connectivity in Kejimkujik National Park. - Daniel Pouliot, Parks Canada
14:30 BREAK
14:50 Assessing aquatic connectivity in the Annapolis River watershed and beyond: refined methodology for fish passage in culverts and bridges. - Kristen Wagner, CARP
15:10 Constructing connectivity: rebuilding the Harmony Lake fish ladder. - Leif Helmer, NSCC
15:30 Discussion - Aquatic Heath
15:50 Moose distribution and fine-scale habitat utilization patterns. - Sean Basquill, NS DNR Wildlife Division
16:10 Boreal Felt Lichen conservation in Nova Scotia. - Brad Toms, MTRI
16:30 Chimney Swifts in southwest Nova Scotia. - Alicia Pray-Leslie, MTRI
16:40 A preliminary comparison of Rusty Blackbird habitat on managed and protected landscapes in the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve. - Alana Westwood, Dalhousie University
17:30 Reception at MTRI (optional)
18:30 Dinner at MTRI (optional - $10 extra)
20:00 Evening activities – Owling (weather permitting) or film screening!
Schedule for Day 2 – Saturday, November 3 - MTRI Science Conference 2012

9:00  Using steroids as a non-invasive method for determining gender in Blanding's turtles. - Jose Lefebvre, Acadia University

9:20  Cheloniochronology of the Nova Scotia Blanding's turtle: analysis of plastral growth increments and climate correlation. - Monik Richard, CARP and Acadia University

9:40  Blanding’s Turtle headstart hatchlings. - Wesley Pitts, Acadia University

10:00 A review and progress report on headstarted Blanding’s turtles at Kejimkujik National Park. - Nicole d'Entremont, Acadia University

10:20  BREAK

10:40  Searching for Eastern Ribbonsnake over-wintering sites. - Jeffie McNeil, MTRI


11:00  Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora stewardship in southwest Nova Scotia. - Brad Toms, MTRI

11:20  Establishing a foundation for the recovery of Eastern Mountain Avens. - Diane LaRue and Brad Toms, Research Associate and Wildlife Biologist, MTRI

11:30  Queens County populations of the provincially endangered Rockrose. - Diane LaRue, MTRI

11:40  The magical Monarch Butterfly – engaging communities one milkweed at a time. – Megan Crowley, Parks Canada

12:00  LUNCH

12:40  Achieving science objectives through stewardship. - Duncan Smith, Parks Canada

13:00  The science of stewardship in practice, and first steps of an Atlantic habitat stewardship synopsis. - Heather Reed, Acadia University

13:20  Discussion - Species at Risk

13:40  The Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas: Conservation applications and changes in birds in southwestern NS. - Kate Bredin, MBBA

14:00  User-friendly platform for geospatial information in southwest Nova Scotia. - Pascale Robichaud, Acadia University

14:20  Vegetation structure and composition across the edges of bogs and lakes in spruce and old-growth Eastern Hemlock forests. - Karen Harper, Dalhousie University

14:40  Operation shrew poo: a community-centered approach to conserving rare wetland shrews in Nova Scotia. - Alyssa Mitchell, Acadia University

14:50  BREAK

15:10  Hemlock defoliation and its influence on vegetation characteristics and bird abundance in Kejimkujik National Park. - Cindy Staicer, Dalhousie University

15:30  Acadian forest restoration study: monitoring Red Oak in mixedwood forests. - Alain Belliveau, MTRI

15:50  Small private woodlot forest certification as a tool for good stewardship for healthier forests. - Benna Keoghoe and Jane Barker, MTRI

16:10  Community forests and landscape connectivity in southwest Nova Scotia. - Amanda Lavers, MTRI

16:30  Discussion - Forest Health and Landscape Connectivity

16:50  Closing remarks – Steve Mockford, Chair, MTRI Board of Directors