

# FESTIVAL OF / DE LA NATURE 2026



**FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY JUNE 5-7 2026**

Shippagan, NB

PRESENTED BY NATURE NB



UNIVERSITÉ DE MONCTON  
CAMPUS DE SHIPPAGAN

# JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF EXPLORATION, LEARNING, AND SHARED DISCOVERY



The Festival of Nature is our annual event that brings together naturalists and nature-lovers from across the province to discover nature in a particular region. The Festival of Nature offers participants a variety of field trips, workshops, and experiences to take it all in. The Festival begins Friday with Nature NB's Annual General Meeting. The public is welcome to join us to learn about the work we've done over the past year and learn how they can be a voice for nature in their New Brunswick communities. Saturday and Sunday are for discovering the Acadian Peninsula region. Choose from a myriad of trips and outings that showcase all that the region has to offer. Be guided by knowledgeable naturalists, experts, and enthusiastic local members of the community, and share in an experience with old and new friends. All participants are welcome to celebrate the year's successes with us at our Saturday evening celebration banquet. This is a casual, social event with good food and great company. Tickets for the banquet can be purchased when you purchase your Festival ticket.



## ABOUT NATURE NB

Nature NB connects people with nature. We support a diverse network of nature-lovers across the province and provide opportunities for New Brunswickers of all ages, regions and backgrounds to discover, learn about, and share nature with each other. We travel throughout the province, teaching kids in their schoolyards and neighbourhoods, advocating for species at risk through local outreach, and engaging volunteers in monitoring and protecting the species and landscapes they love. We are a non-profit, charitable organization whose mission is to celebrate, conserve and protect New Brunswick's natural heritage, through education, networking and collaboration. Founded in 1972 as the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, the organization comprises over a dozen naturalist clubs and hundreds of members across NB.

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is with great joy that we welcome you to the 2026 Festival of Nature in the beautiful Acadian Peninsula – a region defined by its rich biodiversity, vibrant culture, and deep connection to land and sea.

This festival is a celebration of nature in all its forms: coastal ecosystems, forests, wetlands, wildlife, and the people who care for them. It brings together communities, knowledge holders, youth, scientists, artists, and nature lovers to share stories, experiences, and a collective commitment to protecting the natural world that sustains us.

The Acadian Peninsula offers a powerful setting for this gathering. Here, nature is not just something we visit – it is something we live with, depend on, and steward. From coastal shorelines and migratory bird routes to working landscapes and fishing communities, this region reminds us that conservation and community are deeply intertwined.

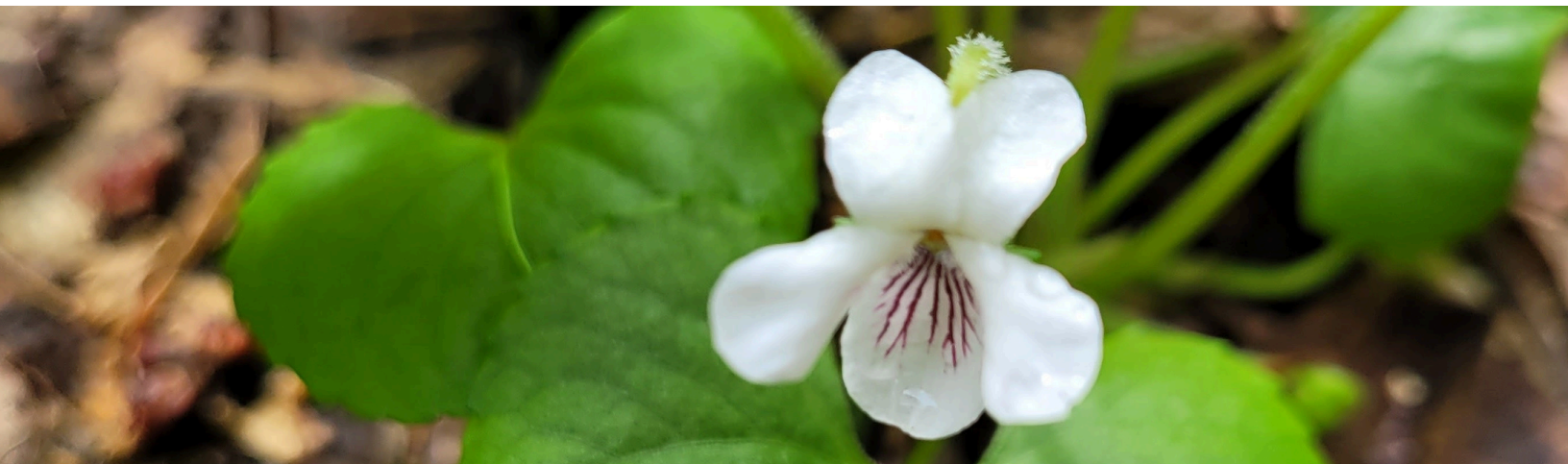
The Festival of Nature is about more than events and activities – it is about connection. Connection to place. Connection to each other. And connection to the responsibility we all share to protect the ecosystems that make our communities resilient, healthy, and vibrant for generations to come.

Thank you to our partners, volunteers, presenters, and community hosts who made this festival possible, and to everyone who joins us in celebrating and safeguarding nature. We are honoured to welcome you, and we hope this festival inspires learning, reflection, joy, and lasting relationships with the natural world.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Roy-McDougall".

Vanessa Roy-McDougall  
Executive Director, Nature NB



# ABOUT THE ACADIAN PENINSULA

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The Acadian Peninsula is a place where nature and culture are inseparable. Shaped by the Gulf of St. Lawrence, its coastlines, wetlands, forests, rivers, and working landscapes form one of New Brunswick's most ecologically rich and culturally vibrant regions. Here, the rhythms of tides, seasons, and migrations are woven into daily life, traditions, and community identity.

This region is a living mosaic of ecosystems – salt marshes and dunes, coastal islands and estuaries, boreal forests and freshwater systems – providing vital habitat for migratory birds, marine life, pollinators, and countless plant species. These natural systems not only sustain biodiversity, but also support fisheries, food systems, tourism, and local livelihoods that depend on healthy environments.

The Acadian Peninsula is also a place of deep stewardship. Generations of families, the Mi'kma'ki people, harvesters, knowledge holders, educators, and community leaders have cared for these lands and waters, passing down values of respect, responsibility, and relationship with nature. Conservation here is not abstract – it is lived, practiced, and shared.

Hosting the Festival of Nature in the Acadian Peninsula is both an honour and a reflection of what the festival represents: a commitment to place-based conservation, community leadership, cultural continuity, and the belief that protecting nature is inseparable from strengthening communities.

As we gather here, we celebrate not only the beauty of this region, but the people and practices that sustain it – and the shared responsibility we all carry to ensure its ecosystems remain healthy, resilient, and thriving for generations to come.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

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Visitors to the Festival of Nature in Shippagan will find a range of welcoming and convenient accommodation options to suit different needs and budgets. Local motels, inns, and small hotels offer comfortable stays within easy access of festival venues, while nearby communities across the Acadian Peninsula provide additional lodging options, including bed and breakfasts and short-term rentals for families and groups. For those who prefer to stay closer to nature, campgrounds and coastal camping areas in the region offer a scenic and affordable alternative. Together, these options ensure that festival participants can enjoy both the event and the unique hospitality and natural beauty of northeastern New Brunswick.

**A number of rooms have been made available through the Université de Moncton, Shippagan residences on a first come first serve basis. Prices vary from \$96.00 + tax to \$101.00 +tax. To book a room, please contact [umcs-logestival@umoncton.ca](mailto:umcs-logestival@umoncton.ca)**

# WHAT TO BRING

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it is important to be well-dressed and well-equipped when traveling into the field. Here are some important things to remember to wear and bring with you on outings.

## Strongly Suggested:

1. Small backpack or daypack:
2. Sunscreen, insect repellent, binoculars, camera;
3. Bring food and drink: Reusable water bottle, snacks or lunch (full-day outings);
4. Umbrella or rain hat and/or a wide-brimmed hat for the conditions, tall socks & sturdy shoes or hiking boots with good support, wear extra light layers which can be removed as the day warms up.
5. For your outings: Check your scheduled events to see if any specific supplies are needed.

## Optional (trip-dependent):

- Rubber boots;
- Dry bag for valuables
- Smart phone
- Extra charging pack for electronic devices
- Field guides
- Notebook/sketchbook
- Sunglasses

PLEASE NOTE: We ask all participants to bring reusable dishes and cutlery for your snacks and lunch while on your outings. We encourage participants to bring a small bag or container to carry out any waste you may generate in the field.





# IMPORTANT LOCATIONS

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**Festival Hub and AGM:** Université de Moncton - Shippagan Campus  
218 Bd J. D. Gauthier, Shippagan, NB E8S 1P6

This will be the check-in location for participants registration throughout the weekend starting at 4pm on Friday. All outings both Saturday and Sunday AM & PM will be departing from this location. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the trip departure times indicated in your registration package, there will be various departure times for each workshop. The hub will act as a rest and socializing space during downtime between trips and participants are welcome to reconvene here with their lunches between workshops. Coffee and tea will be provided here.

**Banquet:** Centre des Congrès de la Péninsule Acadienne  
106A Rue de l'Aquarium, Shippagan, NB E8S 1C2

Our Celebration Banquet will take place 6:00 - 9:00 PM on Saturday night of the Festival.

Please Note: If you need assistance with directions email us at [info@naturenb.ca](mailto:info@naturenb.ca)

# TICKET PRICING

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Full weekend registration (Early Bird Rate for Members only) - \$55  
Registration opens: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 10am

Register early to have a better chance of receiving your first choice for outings and for the Early Bird Rate. Choose any of our full-day or half-day outings to fill your schedule.

Full weekend registration (Standard rate; open to all) - \$60  
Registration opens: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 10am

Full weekend registration (For youth 12 and under) - \$0  
Trips that welcome family participation will be marked with "Kids Welcome" in our schedule. All youth must be accompanied by a registered adult.

Celebration Banquet ticket: \$50  
Choices include: **Lobster, Ribs, Vegetable Gnocchi, Mushroom and Parmesan Risotto**  
Help celebrate Nature NB at this casual, social event with good food and great company. Ticket includes a plated dinner with your choice of a chicken or vegan option. Includes sides and dessert.

All ticket prices include tax.



# REGISTRATION

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**You can register for the Festival of Nature online or by phone (506-459-4209).**

## **Register Online**

Visit the Festival of Nature page at [www.naturenb.ca/festival-of-nature](http://www.naturenb.ca/festival-of-nature), where you will be able to buy tickets for the event.

Follow the prompts to choose your ticket, choose your trips, add additional items (i.e. Celebration Banquet ticket), and complete your order. Online registrations can be purchased with a credit card. When choosing your trips, please choose ONE trip in each time slot.

**If you choose a full-day trip, please do not also choose morning and afternoon trips on the same day. If you do not want to schedule a trip in a particular time slot, please choose "N/A".**

Note that all trips have a maximum number of participants. Online registration is updated in real-time, which means you will only be able to choose trips that have openings at the time you are purchasing your tickets. If a trip is full, you will not be able to select it.

If you would like to be put on a waiting list for a trip that is full, please follow the link on the registration form, or contact us by phone at **506-459-4209** or by email at **info@naturenb.ca**.

A confirmation email will be sent to you once we receive your registration. This email comes from our database and you may need to check your Junk folder if it's not in your Inbox.

## **Register By Phone**

Please call the Nature NB office at 506-459-4209 and an employee will assist you with your registration.

## **Cancellation/Refund Policy**

If you purchased tickets but can't come to the Festival, **you can cancel your registration up to 15 days in advance and be fully refunded.** To receive a refund, notice of your cancellation must be received by Nature NB no later than 4:00 PM on Thursday May 22, 2026.

If you cancel your registration after the refund deadline, we are not able to provide a refund.

# PROGRAM AT A GLANCE



TIME	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		SUNDAY		
6:30-7:30am			6:30 to 7:30 Early Morning Birding		6:30 to 7:30 Early Morning Birding	
7:45am		7:45 - 12:00 Check in & Registration - UdeM - Shippagan	Trips departures- UdeM - Shippagan	7:45 - 12:00 Check in & Registration - UdeM - Shippagan	Trips departures- UdeM - Shippagan	
9:00am-12:00pm			7:45 to 12:00 TRIPS IN PROGRESS		7:45 to 12:00 TRIPS IN PROGRESS	
12:00pm		12:00 - 1:30 Free time (Lunch)		12:00 - 1:30 Free time (Lunch)		
1:30pm		1:30 to 2:15 Trip departures - UdeM - Shippagan		1:30 to 2:15 Trip departures - UdeM - Shippagan		
2:15pm		2:15 to 5:00 TRIPS IN PROGRESS		2:15 to 5:00 TRIPS IN PROGRESS		
4:00pm		4:00pm-6:00pm Check-in** and Welcome Reception - UdeM - Shippagan				
5:00pm						
6:00pm-8:00pm	6:00pm-8:00 PM Nature NB Annual General Meeting UdeM - Shippagan	6:00 - 9:00 Celebration Banquet - Centre de Congrès de la Peninsule Acadienne				
8:30-10:00pm	Guided Evening Outing					

# FESTIVAL OF NATURE 2026



DAY 1 - EVENING

Friday, June 5

## Terrain Difficulty Rating

- **Easy** - Flat terrain, under 3km distance, low elevation, limited exposure.
- **Moderate** - Potential uneven terrain, moderate elevation gain and or distance over 3km.
- **Hard** - May include technical terrain, strong elevation change and distance over 5km - experience recommended.



## 1- VISIT TO THE UMCS ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY

*Pierre Ferguson*

**Description:** The activity consists of giving members the opportunity to visit the astronomical observatory at the University of Moncton, Shippagan campus. Members will be able to examine the observatory's equipment, view some astronomy photos, and talk with the local amateur astronomy club.

**Departure time:** 8:00pm

**Terrain difficulty:** Easy

**Language:** Bilingual

**Maximum participants:** groupes of 10



## 2- INSECTS AND AMPHIBIANS

*Rachel Robichaud and Alexis Godin*

**Description:** Come and enjoy a captivating nature outing at dusk. Around a freshwater pond, we will set out to discover invertebrates using nets and observation tanks, to explore larvae and adult insects up close. We will also take the time to listen to amphibians, learn to recognize their calls, and, with a little luck, observe a few. A short walk is planned to get to the site. Bring a flashlight (ideally a headlamp), as well as long-sleeved clothing and closed-toe shoes to protect against mosquitoes. All observation equipment will be provided on site.

**Departure time:** 8:00pm

**Terrain difficulty:** Moderate (night time hiking, natural trails)

**Language:** Bilingual

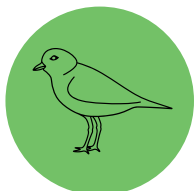
**Maximum participants:** 15

# FESTIVAL OF NATURE 2026



DAY 2 - MORNING

Saturday, June 6



### 3 - EARLY MORNING BIRDING

*Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne*

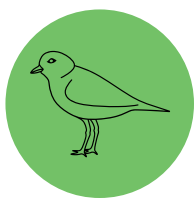
**Description:** Grab your binoculars and join local CNPA members on an early morning birding walk. This casual outing will run from 6:30-7:30 am.

**Departure time:** 6:30am

**Terrain difficulty:** Easy **Family Friendly:** yes, children 10+

**Language:** Bilingual

**Maximum participants:** Unlimited



### 4 - FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE PIPING PLOVER: LEARNING ABOUT, UNDERSTANDING, AND PROTECTING AN ENDANGERED SPECIES.

*Lewnanny Richardson and Jim Wilson*

**Description:** Come experience a one-of-a-kind outing on a local beach. Discover the dynamics of our coastal zone, the species that inhabit it, and gain a deeper understanding of the fragility of this habitat, which is essential to our region. Throughout the excursion, shorebirds will be at the heart of our discussions. We will attempt to observe an actual Piping Plover nest, a species at risk in Canada. This experience will help you better understand the vulnerability of this species and the importance of its protection.

**Departure time:** 8:30am

**Terrain difficulty:** Moderate (beach walking) **Family Friendly:** yes, children 6+

**Language:** Bilingual

**Maximum participants:** 30



### 5 - EXPLORING THE POINTE-BRÛLÉE SALT MARSH

*Alain Patoine*

**Description:** Explore a salt marsh and some of its typical plants (sedge, rush, goldenrod), some of which are edible (lovage, glasswort, etc.). We will cover some basic ecology concepts (salinity and immersion gradients). We will observe the ponds and try out some sampling equipment on the beach.

**Bring your waterproof boots!**

**Departure time:** 8:30am

**Terrain difficulty:** Moderate (wet terrain) **Family Friendly:** yes, children 6+

**Language:** Bilingual

**Maximum participants:** 10

# FESTIVAL OF NATURE 2026



DAY 2 - MORNING

Saturday, June 6



## 6 - READING THE COASTAL LANDSCAPE: UNDERSTANDING EROSION AND NATURAL SOLUTIONS IN ACTION

*Marion Tétégan Simon*

**Description:** An interpretive walk along a restored coastal site to explore, in a very concrete way, erosion dynamics, climate change impacts, and the natural solutions being implemented to protect coastal environments. Participants will learn how to “read” the landscape, recognize signs of degradation, and observe ecological restoration techniques in action.

**Departure time:** 9:00am

**Terrain difficulty:** Moderate (beach walking) **Family Friendly:** yes, children 6+

**Language:** Bilingual **Maximum participants:** 25



## 7 - ELECTROFISHING

*Jean-Luc Boudreau*

**Description:** Join us for an electrofishing activity in the Pokemouche River watershed. This method involves applying a low-intensity electric current to temporarily immobilize fish, allowing them to be captured, identified, measured, and then safely returned to the water.

**Departure time:** 9:00am

**Terrain difficulty:** Moderate (wet terrain)

**Family Friendly:** yes, children 12+

**Language:** Bilingual **Maximum participants:** 30



## 8 - BEEKEEPING AND AGRICULTURE: A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP.

*Luc Richard*

**Description:** Fly away with us for a unique outdoor workshop! Join us for an immersive morning discovering a thousand-year-old alliance: that of bees and agriculture. Bees pollinate crops, increasing yields and quality (better-formed fruit), while agriculture provides honey resources. This cooperation is a major issue for biodiversity, global food security, and the sustainability of ecosystems. **Please bring a bug head net.**

**Departure time:** 8:45am

**Terrain difficulty:** Easy **Family Friendly:** yes, children 6+

**Language:** Bilingual **Maximum participants:** 30

# FESTIVAL OF NATURE 2026



DAY 2 - MORNING

Saturday, June 6



## 9 - GUIDED MARSHWALK: EXPLORE A LOCAL WETLAND!

*Gwendolyn Clark - Birds Canada*

**Description:** Join Birds Canada on a beginner-friendly walk through a local wetland! Learn about the unique ecosystem functions and biodiversity of wetland habitats and get introduced to some of the common birds and amphibians that call these places home. We will also teach the skills needed to conduct bird surveys, empowering participants to become citizen scientists! After the walk, participants should have the skills and enthusiasm needed to survey a wetland of their choosing.

**Departure time:** 9:00am

**Terrain difficulty:** Easy **Family Friendly:** yes, all ages

**Language:** Bilingual **Maximum participants:** 20



## 10 - DISCOVERING THE ACADIAN PENINSULA BIKE PATH

*Ernest Ferguson*

**Description:** Join Ernest Ferguson, founding member of the Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule Acadienne as we take a leisurely bike ride along the Acadien Peninsula VéloRoute. Learn about the various ecologically significant sites along the trail and enjoy this unique network of bike paths across the region. Bike rentals available: 30\$

**Departure time:** 9:00am

**Terrain difficulty:** Easy **Family Friendly:** yes (depending on skill level)

**Language:** Bilingual **Maximum participants:** 12



## 11 - DIVE INTO THE AQUATIC WORLD OF THE NB AQUARIUM

*NB Aquarium staff*

**Description:** Exclusive behind-the-scenes tour to explore what goes on behind the scenes and gain a better understanding of how the aquarium works. Tour of the tanks to observe the aquatic species of our region up close. Interactive activity to learn more about certain species in the aquarium.

**Departure time:** 9:30am

**Terrain difficulty:** Easy **Family Friendly:** yes, 6+

**Language:** French **Maximum participants:** 30

**Additional cost (to be paid at aquarium):** 6 à 16 yrs - 9.20\$, students - 11.16\$, adults - 14.15\$, seniors - 11.16\$

# FESTIVAL OF NATURE 2026



## 12 - CULTURAL AND NATURE TOUR OF THE ACADIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE

*Philippe Basque*

**Description:** During the tour of the Village, we will visit a few buildings to explain the daily life of the Acadians. We will also be able to observe the birds on the site as well as the trees and plants that grow there.

**Departure time:** 8:45am

**Terrain difficulty:** Easy **Family Friendly:** yes, all ages

**Language:** French **Maximum participants:** 30



## 13 - THE MISCOU PEAT BOG TRAIL AND MORE

*Peter and Deana Gadd*

**Description:** We will visit the 0.6 km long well-maintained boardwalk with lookout, that extends over the edge of a vast peat bog and surrounds a bog wetland. This visit will be of interest to birders and botanists alike. In addition, we will visit the lookout at Lac Frye (really a salt-water lagoon) and continue on to the Miscou Lighthouse and explore the nearby beach.

**Departure time:** 8:45am

**Terrain difficulty:** Moderate (natural trails) **Family Friendly:** yes, children 10+

**Language:** English **Maximum participants:** 20



## 14 - NEPISIGUIT MI'GMAQ TRAIL HIKE

*James Donald*

**Description:** Beginning at the Rough Waters trail head, 1 hour 15 minute drive from Shippagan, we will hike a 5km+ section of the Nepisiguit trail. We will stop along the way to enjoy the sites and scenes and to discuss hiking and photography equipment recommendations. We will end the day by driving around to Pabineau Falls since it is too far to hike into the falls.

**Departure time:** 8:45am (FULL DAY)

**Terrain difficulty:** Moderate (natural trails, 4km+ distance)

**Family Friendly:** yes, children 12+

**Language:** English **Maximum participants:** 25

# FESTIVAL OF NATURE 2026



DAY 2 - AFTERNOON

Saturday, June 6



## 15 - A SMALL WOODLOT WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED!

*Réjean Talbot et Suzanne Frenette*

**Description:** A wooded area of approximately 10 acres, located in Pokemouche and owned by Suzanne Frenette and Réjean Talbot, active members of the Acadian Peninsula Naturalists Club. Follow the trails and discover a highly diverse forest with impressive biodiversity at several levels. Réjean is a trained professional forester and can describe certain aspects of the woodland, such as the composition and stage of development of the various groups of tree species present on the site. Participants are also welcome to share their observations and/or discoveries during this activity.

**Departure time:** 1:30pm

**Terrain difficulty:** Easy **Family Friendly:** yes, children 10+

**Language:** Bilingual **Maximum participants:** 12



## 16 - MYCOLOGICAL WALK

*Alfredo Justo*

**Description:** A forest walk to look for early-fruiting mushrooms and other fungal-related organisms (lichens, slime moulds), get some tips on how to identify them, and learn about their important ecological roles in forest ecosystems.

**Departure time:** 1:45pm

**Terrain difficulty:** Easy **Family Friendly:** yes, all ages

**Language:** English **Maximum participants:** 20



## 17 - DISCOVERING MOLLUSKS IN SAINT-SIMON BAY IN HAUT-SHIPAGAN

*Marie-Eve La Ferrière and Lewnanny Richardson*

**Description:** Accompanied by two passionate guides, come discover the astonishing diversity of mollusks, bivalves and gastropods from Saint-Simon Bay in Haut-Shippagan. Known for its century-old tradition of oyster farming, this peaceful stretch of water is sure to charm you with its rich biodiversity and wild character. **Rubber Boots Required**

**Departure time:** 1:30pm

**Terrain difficulty:** Moderate (beach walking)

**Family Friendly:** yes, children 10+

**Language:** French with English support **Maximum participants:** 25

# FESTIVAL OF NATURE 2026



DAY 2 - AFTERNOON

Saturday, June 6



## 18 - DIVE INTO THE AQUATIC WORLD OF THE NB AQUARIUM

*NB Aquarium staff*

**Description:** Exclusive behind-the-scenes tour to explore what goes on behind the scenes and gain a better understanding of how the aquarium works. Tour of the tanks to observe the aquatic species of our region up close. Interactive activity to learn more about certain species in the aquarium.

**Departure time:** 1:45pm

**Terrain difficulty:** Easy **Family Friendly:** yes, 6+

**Language:** English

**Maximum participants:** 30

**Additional cost (to be paid at aquarium):** 6 - 16 yrs - 9.20\$, students - 11.16\$, adults - 14.15\$, seniors - 11.16\$



## 19 - HOW TO USE MODERN TOOLS TO USE TO IDENTIFY PLANTS: CELL PHONES, WILDFLOWER GUIDES, HERBARIA PLANTS?

*Gart Bishop*

**Description:** There will be a short presentation on what a herbarium is, and why they were important in the past, and how they fit into the future. This will be followed by an opportunity for participants to work with dried specimens, and fresh specimens, using iNaturalist, wild flowers guides and various floras.

**Departure time:** 1:45pm

**Terrain difficulty:** Easy **Family Friendly:** no

**Language:** English

**Maximum participants:** 15



## 20 - SMALL VEGETABLE FARM THAT CULTIVATES ACCORDING TO ORGANIC PRINCIPLES IN REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE.

*Helene Daigle Robichaud and Luc Robichaud*

**Description:** We offer guided tours of our market gardening operations, explaining our operating processes. Our methods ensure sustainable development, promote a circular economy, and cultivate in harmony with the farm's ecosystems

**Departure time:** 1:30pm

**Terrain difficulty:** Easy **Family Friendly:** yes, all ages

**Language:** Bilingual

**Maximum participants:** 25

# FESTIVAL OF NATURE 2026



DAY 2 - AFTERNOON

Saturday, June 6



## 21 - NATURE OBSERVATION RALLY

*Rachel Robichaud and Alexis Godin*

**Description:** Embark on an adventure with a nature observation rally, designed to learn while having fun! You are welcome to participate alone, with friends, or with family. You will hike approximately 1 km with a questionnaire in hand. Along the way, clearly marked stations will offer you a question to solve and a hidden clue to discover. At the end of the trail, the answers will be checked as a group with a visual presentation to learn more about birds, mammals, plants, mushrooms, bivalves, and much more.

**Departure time:** 1:45pm

**Terrain difficulty:** Moderate (natural trails) **Family Friendly:** yes, children 7+

**Language:** French

**Maximum participants:** 25



## 22 - EELGRASS PLANTATION

*Austin Vibert*

**Description:** The Eelgrass Planting Program on Miscou Island is a hands-on conservation experience where participants help restore coastal habitat by planting eelgrass in nearshore waters. Guided by experienced marine teams, participants work together to plant eelgrass shoots using simple, low-impact techniques that support fish and shellfish, improve water quality, and protect shorelines. The program encourages community involvement and stewardship while making a direct, lasting contribution to the health of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

**Departure time:** 1:45pm

**Terrain difficulty:** Moderate (crouching and beach walking) **Family Friendly:** No

**Language:** Bilingual

**Maximum participants:** 6

# FESTIVAL OF NATURE 2026



## DAY 2 - AFTERNOON

Saturday, June 6



### 23 - FLORA, ECOLOGY AND PROTECTED AREAS OF MISCOU ISLAND

*David Mazerolle, Paula Noel & Laurel Bernard of NCC*

**Description:** Join Parks Canada ecologist David Mazerolle and staff from the Nature Conservancy of Canada (Paula Noel, Laurel Bernard) to learn about the remarkable ecosystems of Miscou Island, including its diverse dune and wetland habitats.

**Departure time:** 1:30pm

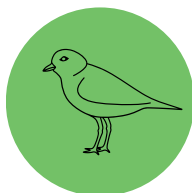
**Terrain difficulty:** Moderate **Family Friendly:** yes, children 10+

**Language:** English with French support

**Maximum participants:** 20

## DAY 3 - MORNING

Sunday June 7



### 24 - EARLY MORNING BIRDING

*Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne*

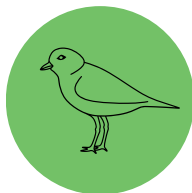
**Description:** Grab your binoculars and join local CNPA members on an early morning birding walk. This casual outing will run from 6:30-7:30 am.

**Departure time:** 6:30am

**Terrain difficulty:** Easy **Family Friendly:** yes, children 10+

**Language:** Bilingual

**Maximum participants:** Unlimited



### 25 - FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE PIPING PLOVER: LEARNING ABOUT, UNDERSTANDING, AND PROTECTING AN ENDANGERED SPECIES.

*Lewnanny Richardson and Jim Wilson*

**Description:** Come experience a one-of-a-kind outing on a local beach. Discover the dynamics of our coastal zone, the species that inhabit it, and gain a deeper understanding of the fragility of this habitat, which is essential to our region. Throughout the excursion, shorebirds will be at the heart of our discussions. We will attempt to observe an actual Piping Plover nest, a species at risk in Canada.

**Departure time:** 8:30am

**Terrain difficulty:** Moderate (beach walking) **Family Friendly:** yes, children 6+

**Language:** Bilingual

**Maximum participants:** 30

# FESTIVAL OF NATURE 2026



DAY 3 - MORNING

Sunday, June 7



## 26 - MALBAIE SUD, WALK ON MISCOU ISLAND BEACH

*Peter and Deana Gadd*

**Description:** This visit, in the area of Wilson's Point on the east shore of Miscou Island, is a beach walk of a little less than 3 km return. We will explore a large lagoon and keep a careful eye out for nesting Piping Plovers. In addition to the Piping Plovers, we can expect to see woodland birds on the edge of a nearby woods, sea ducks and gulls. This area is a hot spot for migrating shorebirds in late summer and fall but in early June we might see a few late northerly travelling species.

**Departure time:** 8:30am

**Terrain difficulty:** Moderate (natural trails) **Family Friendly:** yes, children 12+

**Language:** English

**Maximum participants:** 20



## 27 - OYSTER FARM VISIT

*Martin Mallet*

**Description:** Participants will visit the Mallet oyster outdoor nursery, where millions of juvenile oysters are raised each summer in preparation for planting on oyster leases. We will explain the operation of the nursery, the history of oyster aquaculture in the Maritimes, and offer an oyster tasting at the end.

**Departure time:** 9:00am

**Terrain difficulty:** Easy **Family Friendly:** yes, all ages

**Language:** Bilingual

**Maximum participants:** 25



## 28 - POLLINATOR PALOOZA

*Denis Doucet*

**Description:** Bug walk, focussing on pollinators (bees, flower flies, butterflies), but we will certainly look at others when encountered. **Bring a bug net!**

**Departure time:** 8:45am

**Terrain difficulty:** Easy **Family Friendly:** yes, children 6+

**Language:** Bilingual

**Maximum participants:** 20

# FESTIVAL OF NATURE 2026



DAY 3 - MORNING

Sunday, June 7



## 29 - LINOLEUM ENGRAVING WORKSHOP

*Caitlyn Robert, Nature NB*

**Description:** Create your own linocut stamp in this workshop led by Nature NB staff member Caitlyn Robert. Learn about using negative space to sketch out your nature motif, carve your image into a linoleum block, and use ink to stamp your design on paper.

**Departure time:** 9:00am

**Terrain difficulty:** Easy (accessible) **Family Friendly:** yes, children 12+

**Language:** Bilingual

**Maximum participants:** 6



## 30 - PLANT LIFE OF MISCOU ISLAND

*Stephen Clayden*

**Description:** Miscou Island at the northeastern tip of New Brunswick is remarkable in many ways, not least for its extensive bogs and sand plains. On this trip, we will explore the plant life of these habitats and delve into how it has developed and changed historically. In the Grande Plaine area, we will observe the successional sequence of vegetation from sandy beach to low dune to spruce forest. In the bogs, we'll focus on the diversity of mosses, lichens and heath plants, and their identification. Waterproof footwear is recommended for walking off-trail in the bogs, and a hand lens (pocket magnifier) would be useful.

**Departure time:** 8:45am

**Terrain difficulty:** Moderate (natural trails) **Family Friendly:** yes, children 10+

**Language:** Bilingual

**Maximum participants:** 25

# FESTIVAL OF NATURE 2026



DAY 3 - MORNING

Sunday, June 7



## 31 - DISCOVER AN ARBORETUM

*Patrice-Éloi Mallet*

**Description:** Description of the Acadian Forest Arboretum from the Education Pavilion: the forest, the wigwam, the Three Sisters, and the medicine wheel, in addition to the Indigenous place names of 26 municipalities in New Brunswick.

**Departure time:** 8:45am

**Terrain difficulty:** Easy    **Family Friendly:** yes, children 13+

**Language:** French

**Maximum participants:** 20

**Family Friendly:**



## 32 - NATURE JOURNALING

*Samuel LeGresley*

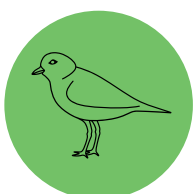
**Description:** Nature Journaling is the practice of recording your observations from nature in a notebook or sketchbook. Through writing, drawing, tallying, mapping, collage, and more, nature journaling can be an excellent tool to help you slow down in nature and be more mindful of your surroundings.

**Departure time:** 9:00am

**Terrain difficulty:** Easy    **Family Friendly:** yes, children 10+

**Language:** Bilingual

**Maximum participants:** 12



## 33 - BIRDING ON MISCOU ISLAND

*Roland Chiasson and Roland Robichaud*

**Description:** Come explore the birds of Miscou. We visited a number of key birding spots. Some moderate walking is involved. Participants should bring a sunhat, water, snack, spotting scope (if you have one) and insect repellent.

**Departure time:** 8:30am

**Terrain difficulty:** Moderate (natural trails)    **Family Friendly:** yes, children 10+

**Language:** Bilingual

**Maximum participants:** 15

# FESTIVAL OF NATURE 2026



DAY 3 - AFTERNOON

Sunday, June 7



## 34 - HAY ISLAND, THE SOUTHERN TIP OF THE ACADIAN PENINSULA

*Lewnanny Richardson*

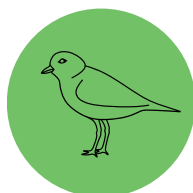
**Description:** After a weekend full of discoveries, encounters, and observations, continue your exploration on the way back south and make a stop at Île aux Foins. Located in the heart of the village of Néguaac, this island offers a rich variety of natural environments and habitats, ideal for observing and appreciating local wildlife and flora. Situated within the territory of the Club des Naturalistes de la Péninsule Acadienne and Nature Miramichi, it is the perfect stop to conclude your weekend... A place to discover and rediscover.

**Departure time:** 1:30pm

**Terrain difficulty:** Moderate (beach walking) **Family Friendly:** yes, all ages

**Language:** Bilingual

**Maximum participants:** 30



## 35 - POKESHAW, THE NORTHERN TIP OF THE ACADIAN PENINSULA

*Roland et Bernise Robichaud*

**Description:** After a weekend full of discoveries, encounters, and observations, extend your exploration on the way back to the north of the province and stop at Pokeshaw Park. This short outing is accessible to all and includes a short walk of a few minutes between the beach and an observation deck. There you can admire a spectacular rock sheltering a colony of double-crested cormorants, as well as several other species such as the razorbill and the black guillemot. This area of the Acadian Peninsula is also known as a unique nesting site, including for the black-legged kittiwake. **2\$/person or 5\$/family to be paid on site**

**Departure time:** 1:30pm

**Terrain difficulty:** Moderate (beach walking) **Family Friendly:** yes, all ages

**Language:** Bilingual

**Maximum participants:** 30



# QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Friday June 5

## FRIDAY EVENING

	<i>Program Title</i>	<i>Program Leaders</i>	<i>Time</i>
	Nature NB Annual General Meeting at the UdeM - SHippagan	Nature NB Staff	6pm

Stick around after the AGM for this exciting night-time programs!

1	<b>Visit to the UMCS Astronomical Observatory</b>	Pierre Ferguson	8:00pm
2	<b>Sortie aux insectes et amphibiens</b>	Rachel Robichaud and Alexis Godin	8:00pm

Saturday June 6

## SATURDAY – MORNING- Departing from UdeM - Shippagan

3	<b>Early morning birding</b>	Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne	6:30am
4	<b>Following in the footsteps of the Piping Plover</b>	Lewnanny Richardson and Jim Wilson	8:30am
5	<b>Exploring the Pointe-Brûlée salt marsh</b>	Alain Patoine	8:30am
6	<b>Reading the coastal landscape</b>	Marion Tétégan Simon	9:00am
7	<b>Electrofishing</b>	Jean-Luc Boudreau	9:00am
8	<b>Beekeeping and agriculture: a symbiotic relationship.</b>	Luc Richard	8:45am
9	<b>Guided MarshWalk: Explore a local wetland!</b>	Gwendolyn Clark - Birds Canada	9:00am

# QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



10	<b>Discovering the Acadian peninsula bike path</b>	Ernest Ferguson	9:00am
11	<b>Dive into the aquatic world of the nb Aquarium</b>	NB Aquarium staff	9:30am
12	<b>Cultural and nature tour of the Acadian Historical Village</b>	Philippe Basque	8:45am
13	<b>The Miscou Peat Bog Trail and More</b>	Peter and Deana Gadd	8:45am
14	<b>Hiking Equipment and Coastal Habitats</b>	James Donald	8:45am (FULL DAY)

## SATURDAY – AFTERNOON Departing from UdeM - Shippagan

15	<b>A small woodlot waiting to be discovered!</b>	Réjean Talbot et Suzanne Frenette	1:30pm
16	<b>Mycological Walk</b>	Alfredo Justo	1:45pm
17	<b>Discovering mollusks in Saint-Simon Bay in Haut-Shippagan</b>	Marie-Eve La Ferrière and Lewnanny Richardson	1:30pm
18	<b>Dive into the aquatic world of the NB Aquarium</b>	NB Aquarium staff	1:45pm
19	<b>How to use Modern tools to use to identify plants</b>	Gart Bishop	1:45pm
20	<b>Small vegetable farm visit</b>	Helene Daigle Robichaud et Luc Robichaud	1:30pm
21	<b>Nature observation rally</b>	Rachel Robichaud and Alexis Godin	1:45pm
22	<b>Eelgrass plantation</b>	Austin Vibert	1:30pm
23	<b>Flora, ecology and protected areas of Miscou Island</b>	David Mazerolle, Paula Noel & Laurel Bernard from NCC	1:30pm

# QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



## SATURDAY – EVENING : Centre de Congrès de la Péninsule Acadienne

	<b>Festival of Nature Celebration Banquet</b>		6:00pm-9:00pm
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## SUNDAY June 7

### SUNDAY MORNING - Departing from UdeM - Shippagan

24	<b>Early morning birding</b>	Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne	6:30am
25	<b>Following in the footsteps of the Piping Plover</b>	Lewnanny Richardson and Jim Wilson	8:30am
26	<b>Malbaie Sud, Miscou Island Beach Walk</b>	Peter and Deana Gadd	8:30am
27	<b>Oyster Farm visit</b>	Martin Mallet	9:00am
28	<b>Pollinator Palooza</b>	Denis Doucet	8:45am
29	<b>Lino block print-making workshop</b>	Caitlyn Robert, Nature NB	9:00am
30	<b>Plant life of Miscou Island</b>	Stephen Clayden	8:45am
31	<b>Discover an Arboretum</b>	Patrice-Éloi Mallet	8:45am
32	<b>Nature Journaling</b>	Samuel LeGresley	9:00am
33	<b>Birding on Miscou island</b>	Roland Chiasson and Roland Robichaud	8:30am

### SUNDAY – AFTERNOON- Departing from UdeM - Shippagan

34	<b>Hay Island, the southern tip of the Acadian Peninsula</b>	Lewnanny Richardson	1:30pm
35	<b>Pokeshaw, the northern tip of the Acadian Peninsula</b>	Roland et Bernise Robichaud	1:30pm