

# Newfoundland & Labrador Species at Risk Stewardship & Education Update

March 2012

## In this issue:

2011 Workshop Follow-Up [P.2 & P.3](#)

Snagging Volunteers [P.4](#)

Nature Conservancy of Canada [P.5](#)

Erioderma Distribution Model [P.6](#)

NunatuKavut [P.7](#)

MAMKA [P.8](#)

Plover Volunteer Engagement [P.9](#)

Intervale Associates [P.10 & P.11](#)

LB Strategic Planning [P.12 & P.13](#)

Quebec-Labrador Foundation [P.14 & P.15](#)

SAR Stewardship Program [P.16 & P.17](#)

## **MacKenzie's Sweetvetch - Endangered**



Photo By: Cathy Regular

## Workshop Goals:

To hold a Species at Risk Stewardship & Education Workshop that would serve as a forum for sharing current information on species at risk recovery and stewardship in the province as well as highlight the existing gaps in stewardship recovery initiatives.

To provide an opportunity for the individuals currently involved with species at risk in NL to meet and exchange ideas.



# NL Species at Risk Stewardship & Education Workshop 2011

By Cathy Regular

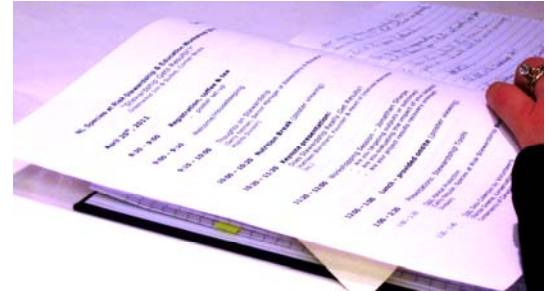
Photos By Charmaine Barney

April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 was a jam-packed day full of sharing, learning and networking all with stewardship and education as the common thread.



The day began with a fantastic presentation from Gerry Yetman, retiring Senior Manager of the Stewardship & Education Section of the provincial Wildlife Division. Aside from his more recent role as Senior Manager, Gerry was once Manager of the Wildlife Division's Municipal Stewardship Program. The audience, which was composed of representatives from many different governmental and non-governmental organizations/associations as well as individuals from all over the province, listened intently as this stewardship veteran gave his "Thoughts on Stewardship". Gerry equated stewardship with responsibility and he compared stewardship to religion because it means different things to different people. But, to Mr. Yetman, stewardship is an ethic and it means "doing the 'right thing' because you believe in it and not because you are forced to do it". The attention of every member of the audience of ~60 people was held for the entire talk, after which Gerry was presented with a gift on behalf of the province's Stewardship and SAR community to thank him for his many years of dedication to stewardship in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The theme of the workshop was "Stewardship Gets Results!?". Keynote speaker, Kathleen Blanchard, founder and head of Intervale Associates, posed the



question to workshop attendees, "does stewardship really get results?". Kathleen told the audience that "meaningful results take time!". She listed three important ways in which you can get more meaningful results from your stewardship initiatives: 1. Incorporate community values into stewardship projects. 2. Engage in performance measurement (organize your project with a well laid out plan that can be meaningfully evaluated in terms of its impacts). 3. Assert a more joyful meaning of stewardship (through the building of positive relationships). Kathleen also did a great job of explaining the difference between inputs, outputs and outcomes. Inputs are the resources that go into a program while outputs are the activities that take place (eg: participation in events; products or services produced). Outcomes, on the other hand, are the actual results or effects of the activities (i.e., the benefits to the people, species and habitat). In short, outcomes are the meaningful measures of stewardship projects.



**STEWARDSHIP**  
=  
**RESPONSIBILITY**

After Kathleen's keynote, attendees were divided into groups for the first workshoping session of the day. The session, facilitated by Jonathan Sharpe (Senior Biologist (Stewardship), NL Wildlife Division), focused on flushing out the main points of the keynote presentation. The group discussions during this session were designed to help participants learn to distinguish between the outputs and outcomes of their own projects and to brainstorm ways in which outputs can be turned into outcomes in order to get more meaningful results from their activities.





# NL Species at Risk Stewardship & Education Workshop 2011

## "Stewardship Gets Results!?"



The focus of the workshop shifted after lunch to "stewardship tools" and how to effectively use different tools to get meaningful results. Four presenters were asked to talk briefly about a specific tool that has helped their program succeed. I spoke about the tool of 'habitat protection' and how the Wildlife Division's stewardship program uses stewardship agreements with municipalities and landowners to protect species at risk habitat within municipal boundaries. Next up, was Randal Greene from the Nature Conservancy of Canada who talked about how the NCC uses 'data collection by volunteers' to gain valuable information about the properties that they have acquired. Mac Pitcher, who likes to refer to himself as an 'accidental educator' is a Project Biologist in the Terrestrial Section of the Wildlife Division. He spoke about 'youth education' as a stewardship tool and pointed out to the audience that gender and age often affects attitudes toward wildlife preservation. Youth are usually much more open-minded than adults. Mac educates and involves the youth in Whitbourne in the preservation of the rare and at-risk lichens found in Sir Robert Bond Park. Last, but not least, was Dulcie House who talked about how the LBHSP uses 'outreach materials' as a tool in educating and engaging people on the great northern peninsula in the conservation of species at risk habitat. Dulcie showed the audience the many types of outreach materials that her project has helped develop including posters, brochures, signs and numerous other examples.



The second workshoping session of the day, facilitated by Emily Herdman (SAR Recovery Biologist, NL Wildlife Division), involved developing best practices for the use of stewardship tools. Participants were once again divided into groups. Each group was given a specific stewardship tool (ex: posters, websites, brochures, school field trip, etc.) and asked to come up with a list of best management practices on how proponents can focus on who, what, when, where, why, and how to reach their best goals. Afterwards, groups posted their ideas on how to most effectively implement each stewardship tool. The results showed that there are many best practices that translate across almost every tool. Practices such as knowing your audience so as to tailor your content, having a clear and concise message/objective, staying relevant and timely, fostering a stewardship ethic, and being receptive to feedback can help all proponents be successful at their stewardship initiatives.



We ended the day on a positive note with an example of a successful stewardship project. Trish Nash, Senior Biologist with the Quebec-Labrador Foundation gave a very interesting talk about the QLF's Marine Species at Risk Recovery Project. One of the things that have made this project so successful is that they have tailored their materials to meet the needs of their target audience. Many of the fishermen they were dealing with couldn't read or write so the I.D. charts they were given had to be very visual. Check out the chart on page 15 and for more information on the project, read Trish's article on pages 14 and 15.

The day was definitely a busy one but it was extremely informative and fun. I'd like to thank everyone who attended and I hope to see you all at the next workshop!

The 2012 SAR Stewardship & Education Workshop is tentatively scheduled for  
**October 24th & 25th**  
in  
**St. John's**

### Best Practices for the use of stewardship tools:

- Know your audience
- Have a clear & concise message
- Stay relevant & timely
- Foster a stewardship ethic
- Be receptive to feedback
- Use social media
- Keep it current and up-dated
- Be interesting
- Use lot's of visuals
- Know what you want to achieve (have goals)

### POSITIVE FEEDBACK:

"Great opportunity to network!"

"Food was great!"

"Loved Kathleen's talk! Workshop was very directed and focused - great!"

"Good education and lessons."

"Great to see what's happening. I think I know all the activities on SAR in the province but I come here and realize I don't!"

"It helps you develop tools that you might be missing from your own stewardship program."

"I like having a focus to the workshop."

"Great tips on better ways to encourage/engage others in stewardship."

## Marten Facts:

- Member of the weasel family
- Has a slender body, short limbs, and a long, bushy tail.
- Has soft, dense, yellowish-brown fur with darker fur on its tail and legs and a creamy to orange-colored patch on its throat.
- In NL, threats include habitat loss due to forest harvesting and incidental mortality related to snaring and trapping.
- Current NL population consists of 286-556 mature marten.



Natural Resource Technician Class  
CONA - Bonavista

## Snagging Volunteers

By Glenda Bateman

The Newfoundland population of American marten (commonly known as pine marten, marten cats and Newfoundland marten) is a genetically and geographically distinct population of the subspecies *Martes Americana atrata*. This population is listed as threatened under both provincial and federal legislation. A marten is about the size of a small cat, with a long slender body, short limbs, broad furred feet, a long bushy tail, and semi-retractable claws used for climbing. Marten are most identifiable by their creamy to orange-coloured throat patch.

Since 2010, the provincial Wildlife Division has partnered with forest resource users across Newfoundland in the Marten Hair Snag Project. The project is partially funded by the federal Habitat Stewardship Program and is being carried out jointly with the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre. The goal is to collect current information on the distribution and abundance of marten and to involve forest resource users in an activity that will contribute to the recovery of the marten population. The project involves volunteers collecting marten hair samples from across the Island using non-invasive techniques.

The true distribution and population of marten is currently unknown. A better knowledge of Newfoundland marten will help us effectively manage this species and be used for future status assessments. The aim of the project is twofold; collect information on the current distribution and abundance of marten and involve forest resource users in a hands-on activity that will



contribute to the recovery of marten. Through DNA testing, collected hair samples will be used to identify presence, sex, and individual marten.

Volunteers were given all materials necessary for the project and informed on how to set up and monitor hair snags. Volunteers will be provided with overall project results as well as information about the hair they have collected in their area once genetic analyses are complete.

As the project comes to an end this season, we are pleased to announce that we have 57 groups (80 volunteers) that include people from a wide range of backgrounds including hunters, trappers, snarers, outfitters, hikers, cabin owners, adventurers, families, and others that take pleasure in being in the great outdoors. Volunteers have collected over 69 unique hair samples, some of which have come from areas not previously known to support marten. We would not have this success without the hard work and support from volunteers. We look forward to starting the project back up in the fall of 2012.



# Banner Year for Nature Conservancy of Canada In Newfoundland & Labrador

By Doug Ballam

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is a conservation land trust which means that NCC acquires ecologically sensitive private land through purchase or donation.

In 2010-2011, NCC acquired 17 properties totaling more than 4,100 acres or almost 17 square kilometres (larger than the City of Mt. Pearl). These lands include seven parcels on Sandy Point (important for Piping Plover) and the astonishing Grassy Place (Newfoundland Marten habitat). These properties are used as outdoor classrooms and laboratories.

Two summer students were hired as Piping Plover beach guardians (with the help of the Department of Natural Resources office in St. Georges). They helped patrol the beaches in Bay St. George with the goal of informing the public of the presence of Piping Plover.

In the Spring of 2011, NCC held another birding workshop in Stephenville Crossing.

Participants followed the workshop with a tour of Sandy Point (that avoided Piping Plover nesting areas).



Photo By: NCC

In March 2011, NCC successfully acquired the Grassy Place. This large parcel of private land is at the remote headwaters of the Robinsons River. This area has been identified as containing Newfoundland Marten habitat. While conducting a biological inventory in July, NCC staff and volunteers identified two other listed species (Olive-sided Flycatcher and Rusty Blackbird), as well as six uncommon or rare vascular plants.

NCC has shifted focus to eastern and central NFLD, where Woodland Caribou, Representative Forest and Wetlands, Marine and Coastal Birds and Riparian Ecosystems are priority biodiversity targets.

For more information please contact Douglas Ballam at 709.753.5540.

## NCC

### Vision

The NCC protects areas of natural diversity for their intrinsic value and for the benefit of our children and those after them.

### Mission

The NCC will lead, innovate and use creativity in the conservation of Canada's natural heritage.

We will secure important natural areas through their purchase, donation or other mechanisms, and then manage these properties for the long term.

### Values

The Earth's biological diversity is being lost at a rate that impoverishes our quality of life and threatens our future.

Wherever we work across Canada, we share and apply the following values:

- We are guided by the best available conservation science.
- We work in a non-confrontational manner.
- We manage lands and waters for their natural values.
- We respect and promote nature's own processes
- We recognize the need for people to sustain themselves and live productively while conserving our country's natural habitats and species.

## Grassy Place



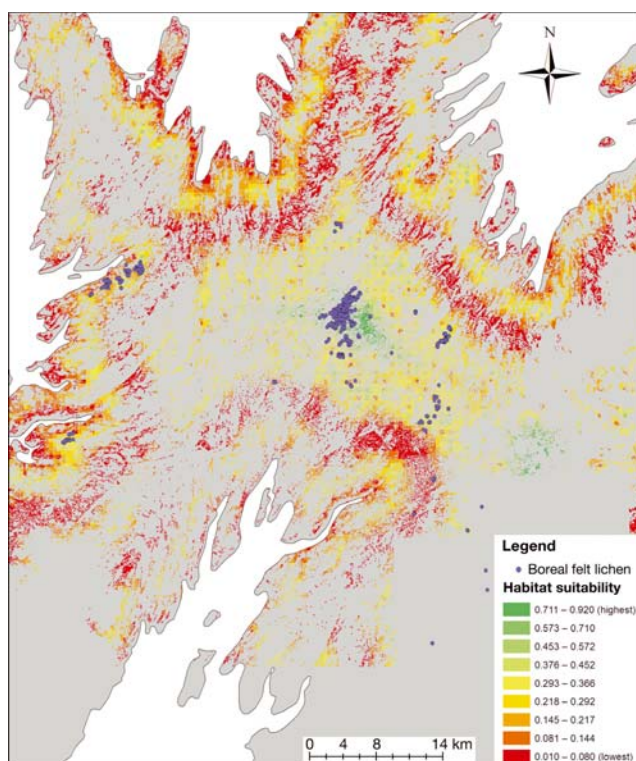
Photo By: NCC

# Predictive distribution model for the boreal felt lichen *Erioderma pedicellatum* in Newfoundland, Canada

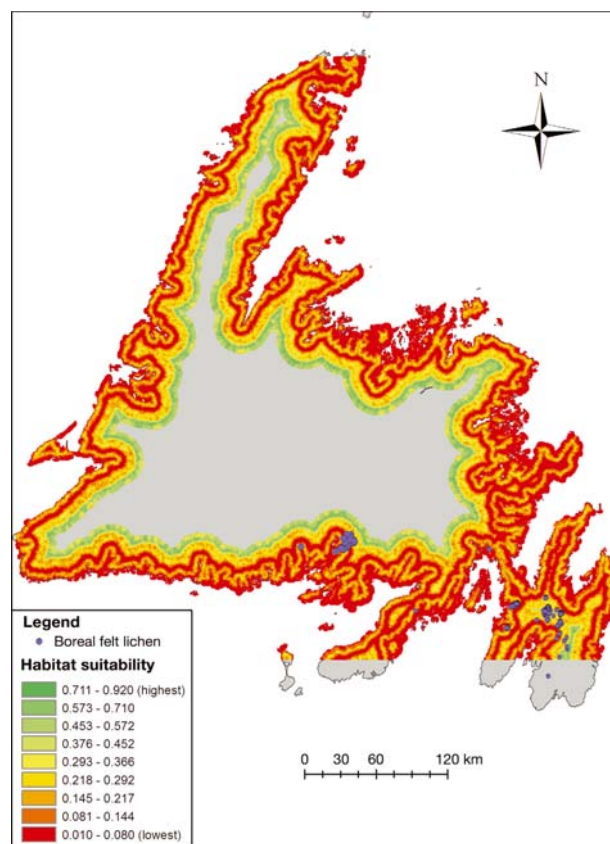
By Yolanda F. Wiersma and Randolph Skinner

## ABSTRACT:

The worldwide population of the boreal felt lichen *Erioderma pedicellatum* is currently listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN, with over 95% of the current population residing on the island of Newfoundland, Canada. Surveys of *E. pedicellatum* habitats and populations have primarily been opportunistic, rather than systematic, in nature. We used a geographic information system and compiled occurrence data and pseudo-absence data to develop the first predictive spatial distribution model for *E. pedicellatum* in Newfoundland. Of the suite of 19 models using 4 different parameters examined, the model with distance from coastline and topographic aspect was the best candidate. The final model had low sensitivity (i.e. a low ability to predict false presence), but high specificity (a strong ability to predict true absence). The final predictive model can contribute to future species status assessments and provincial conservation management decisions that require information on probable species distribution.



*Erioderma pedicellatum*. Final predictive surface interpolation, focusing on the Avalon region shown only within balsam fir stands. The brighter green (darker red) regions and higher (lower) numbers represent more (less) suitable predicted habitat. Grid cells are at 500 m due to computer memory limitations.



*Erioderma pedicellatum*. Final island-wide predictive surface interpolation for Newfoundland, Canada. Dark red (bright green) represents the lowest (highest) probability of suitable habitat. Numeric values represent the statistical predictor values for the model. Blue data points represent currently known populations that were used for this study. Grey areas denote regions where the probability of occurrence was not interpolated. Balsam fir stands are not represented, as the resolution was too low to be shown effectively.

If you would like to view the entire paper, it is published Open Access with Endangered Species Research.

The reference is:

Wiersma YF, Skinner R. 2011. Development of a predictive distribution model for *Erioderma pedicellatum* (Boreal felt lichen) for the island of Newfoundland, Canada. *Endangered Species Research* 15:115-127.



# SAR Work in the NunatuKavut Land Claim Area

By Wayne Russell

## NunatuKavut Community Council

As Inuit, the membership of the NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC) have a vested interest not only for the protection of Species At Risk (SAR), but in the protection of all species that they interact with on the land and on the sea. For thousands of years our ancestors have been a part of the natural ecosystem, as we continue to be to this day. As such, over the 2011-12 year the NCC has stepped into high gear with respect to its SAR projects.

With funding from Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program and the NL Government, we have continued in our campaign to encourage and promote the great stewardship shown by our membership for Boreal caribou in Labrador. Through this funding we have also continued with our Wolverine monitoring program in an attempt to capture an image of Labrador's illusive Wolverine. To help us with this task we recently purchased a number of motion activated game cameras capable of taking photographs and video day and night. We have set these cameras up at various bait stations within our Land Claim Area.



One of the game cameras that has been set up to monitor NunatuKavut's Wolverine bait stations

With funding from AFSAR, the NCC is currently organizing an elder workshop to gather information from our membership regarding aquatic SAR. As well, we have continued to assist with the research being done in the Gilbert Bay Marine Protected Area concerning the local population of cod



Archaeologist, Marianne Stopp, overlooking the remains of an Inuit house outside of Charlottetown, Labrador

that overwinter and spawn in the bay. These cod are often referred to by locals as the "Golden Cod" due to the reddish-brown coloration of their skin. This coloration is due primarily to the cod's carotenoid rich diet of invertebrates of which the cod partake when there is an absence of capelin and other bait fish in the bay.

With funding from Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) we have begun the work of conducting shorebird surveys in various locations along the south Coast of Labrador. Through this funding, we have also been able to gather data on our current migratory bird harvest, as well as on other traditional harvesting activities currently being carried out by our membership. Such work has assisted in strengthening our already immense database of information regarding the continuum of land use carried out by our people.

Overall, the 2011-12 year has seen great strides with respect to the NCC's SAR work. And with the growth our organization continues to show, we look forward to continuing SAR stewardship within our Land Claim Area, building additional working and funding partnerships, and playing an ever increasing role in future scientific work on SAR in our area.

The NunatuKavut Community Council (formerly the Labrador Metis Nation) is comprised of over 6000 members of Inuit descent, residing primarily within 12 communities distributed throughout central and southern Labrador.

### Goals

During community meetings in 1995 it was decided that the primary goal of the organization, with respect to natural resources, was to make sure that fish, game and forests are harvested to meet conservation needs first, followed by needs for Aboriginal and community survival and economic development, and only then by the needs of wider commercial exploitation.

The NunatuKavut Community Council is dedicated to assuming an active role in conservation, environmental protection and recovery of Species at Risk within their traditional territory and has a fully operational Natural Resources Department with offices in Goose Bay, Port Hope Simpson, Cartwright and Charlottetown serving its membership.

For more information contact:  
Wayne A. Russell  
[wrussell@nunatukavut.ca](mailto:wrussell@nunatukavut.ca)



## MAMKA

The Mi'kmaq Alsumk Mowimsikik Koqoey Association (MAMKA) is an Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management (AAROM) organization formed by the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band (formally the Federation of Newfoundland Indians) and Miawpukek First Nation (MFN). MAMKA is funded through the AAROM program of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

### Mission

The mission of MAMKA is to represent the Mi'kmaq people and communities of Qalipu and the MFN in aquatic resource and oceans management.

## MAMKA 2011 Species at Risk Update

By Roger Gallant

During the 2011 field season the Mi'kmaq Alsumk Mowimsikik Koqoey Association (MAMKA) conducted two species at risk projects. MAMKA staff conducted surveys within western and central Newfoundland to identify avian species at risk. During the project Olive-sided Flycatcher, Rusty Blackbird, and Piping Plover were documented. MAMKA will continue with avian species at risk documentation during the 2012 field season.

Photo By: MAMKA



A Piping Plover (endangered) near ATV tracks

Photo By: MAMKA



A tagged Wolffish

During June MAMKA partnered with two commercial lobster harvesters in the North Arm of the Bay of Islands to tag and document wolffish by-catch during the lobster fishery. Twenty-six individual Atlantic wolffish were tagged and documented during the project. MAMKA will expand the North Arm project in 2012 to encompass the entire duration of the lobster fishery and work with more harvesters.

For more information on MAMKA's activities please visit the website  
[www.mamka.ca](http://www.mamka.ca)



# Piping Plover Volunteer Engagement In Atlantic Canada

By Karen Potter

Photo By: Megan Crowley



In 2010, there were 170 volunteers involved in Piping Plover conservation efforts in Atlantic Canada!

Piping Plover recovery and conservation programs are active in all the Atlantic Provinces, including the Magdalen Islands, Quebec. There is an initiative underway to connect and strengthen shared efforts through a regional, plover volunteer program. The regional collaboration aims to engage more people to help make our beaches healthy and safe places for plovers. By engaging more people in conservation action on beaches, we hope to enhance regional plover recovery efforts while fostering a conservation ethic in our coastal communities. A new plover volunteer guide, training resources, and a website will be ready in spring 2012 to help make the volunteer program more accessible and instructive. A new plover logo (seen to the right), developed in 2010, will identify plover volunteers.

A workshop is planned for March 13 and 14, 2012 to continue to build momentum around education and engagement initiatives for Piping Plover. The workshop will provide an opportunity for those involved in plover stewardship programs to

collaborate, including developing ways to track short and long-term stewardship outcomes.

For more information, please contact Karen Potter, Species at Risk Recovery Biologist, Environment Canada [karen.potter@ec.gc.ca](mailto:karen.potter@ec.gc.ca)



## What can YOU do to Help Protect Piping Plover:

- Do not operate any vehicles on beaches or dunes because vehicles can disturb Piping Plovers, crush eggs and chicks and damage beach and dune habitat.
- Observe and photograph Piping Plovers from a distance, walk at the water's edge, and conduct all activities away from nesting and feeding areas.
- Remove food waste and garbage from the beach to avoid attracting predators that will endanger Piping Plover adults, chicks, and eggs.
- Leave driftwood, shells and seaweed on the beach because Piping Plovers need these to feed on and for cover.
- Keep pets leashed because roaming pets can disturb Piping Plovers.
- Do not pick up Piping Plover eggs or chicks.

## INTERVALE ASSOCIATES

Intervale Associates Inc. is a nonprofit conservation organization, incorporated in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador on April 21, 2004.

The mission of Intervale is to conserve biodiversity, interpret heritage, and protect the integrity of rural livelihoods. The Articles of Incorporation include, "to provide stewardship programming for fish harvesters" and "to assist in the recovery of endangered species".

Recent conservation projects in NL include stewardship of Wolffish, Atlantic Cod, and education related to Piping Plover.

Staff and interns at the NL Intervale office work with communities and resource users, and collaborate with industry, government, university and other partners to develop strategies for sustained stewardship.

## Intervale Associates - Renewing the Hope for Species Recovery

By Kathleen Blanchard

The nonprofit organization, Intervale, has just released a new video on recovery of marine species at risk in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Called *Renewing the Hope for Species Recovery*, this 5-minute video asks how can we expect our children years from now to continue the work of species recovery if we do not encourage them as children to learn about the sea and about the species that live in the marine environment.

With colourful scenery filmed by Vidcraft of Corner Brook, the video explores the beautiful shoreline at Bottle Cove in the Humber Arm and takes us inside the Bonne Bay Marine Station to watch up-close the many fascinating marine species that are on display live at the Station.

The video was produced with the financial support of Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, and the Community Research For Recovery Alliance (CURRA) of Memorial University, along with assistance from numerous individuals.

For information, contact Kathleen Blanchard [kblanchard@intervale.ca](mailto:kblanchard@intervale.ca)



To watch the video, go to:

<http://youtu.be/0OM8xgSADGc>

Atlantic or Striped Wolffish



Northern Wolffish



Spotted Wolffish



Photos By: DFO



# Intervale Associates - Species at Risk Placemats

By Kathleen Blanchard



Photo By: Kathleen Blanchard

Valentine's Day at the Café on Main in Deer Lake, a new family restaurant that has really pushed the placemats and is very supportive.

Email from a diner at the Circle K restaurant in Goobies:

"I was in a restaurant and saw your information on a placemat there. I was wondering if field studies on the pine marten are still ongoing and, if so, how I might get involved? I would also be interested in other field studies that may be taking place. Please send me any information that you can."

Intervale forwarded this inquiry to the biologist with the Wildlife Division who is leading the marten study and the person was contacted regarding participation.

"Everybody reads them and many ask to take one home. Both tourists and locals."

Waitress, Riverlodge Hotel, Mary's Harbour, Labrador

"Customers love to see them at the tables. They're interesting and a change from the normal ones."

Atsanik Lodge, Nain, Labrador



## Recovery of Newfoundland Marten Gaining Ground through Stewardship

Newfoundland marten are returning to parts of their historic range. Many people are contributing to the recovery.



The Newfoundland Marten placemat was produced with financial support from the Government of Canada and several partnering organizations including the NL Wildlife Division. The seabird placemat was produced with financial and in-kind support from organizations depicted in logos appearing on the placemat. Both placemats and the entire series depend on volunteer contributions from many individuals across Newfoundland and Labrador.

## LBHSP

### Goals:

The Limestone Barrens Habitat Stewardship Program was created to encourage land and resource use practices which maintain habitat that is critical to the survival and recovery of endangered or threatened species that have been identified in recovery planning.

The project's main goals are:

- To develop and implement "on the ground" stewardship actions to instill pride and promote responsible use of the barrens by residents;
- Community education to build constituency and stewardship;
- Restoration and conservation to ensure viable habitat for rare species;
- Ecotourism to contribute to a sustainable future for communities on the Northern Peninsula.

Photo By: Jean Hoddinott



Presenters at the October Limestone Barrens Conservation & Sustainable Ecotourism Strategic Planning Workshop.  
(Paul Taylor, Michael Burzynski, Dulcie House, Susan Squires)

## Limestone Barrens Strategic Planning Workshop

Text and Photos by Dulcie House



Kathleen Blanchard  
workshop facilitator

The Limestone Barrens Habitat Stewardship Program (LBHSP) and partners believe strategic planning is vital in assisting with recovery actions as outlined within their recovery plans and strategies.

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the LBHSP hosted a Limestone Barrens Conservation & Sustainable Ecotourism: Strategic Planning Workshop at Maynard's Torrent River Inn, Hawkes Bay.

The workshop engaged twenty-four individuals whom represented a diversity of organizations and interests within the LBHSP target area. Participants included representatives from local municipalities, recreational associations, corporations, regional economic development boards, industry, tourism associations, provincial and federal agencies.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide ongoing support for engagement of communities in ecotourism development, by bringing together stakeholders and gathering information that would benefit all parties whose activities relate directly or indirectly to the limestone barrens.

The workshop, which was facilitated by Kathleen Blanchard of Intervale Associates, was organized into two themes:

- 1) collaborative land use planning
- 2) products and services.

Four informational presentations of relevance to land use planning set the stage for lively discussions about regulations and best practices pertinent to activities on the limestone barrens.

In addition, participants experienced an inspiring testimony from Courtney Young, a Youth Ambassador for the LBHSP, who has been involved in assisting the program

since 2006 with stewardship activities at a local high school.



Group discussion to determine ecotourism development on the Northern Peninsula

According to Denise White, a local economic development officer with the NL Department of Innovation, Business, and Rural Development, strategic planning is necessary for all community development groups on the peninsula. Ms. White points out, "These sessions are great in engaging stakeholders from the communities, not only does it provide opportunities for them to have input, it's also an educational tool. As you engage local communities they are learning about what you are promoting and this benefits the cause."

She notes that when stakeholders come together for strategic planning sessions opportunity is provided for greater dissemination of information therefore creating a greater awareness so that whatever activities are happening in one area of the region it is shared to the whole.



Courtney Young  
Youth Ambassador

"It's important to have a presence in the communities and reach out into the region. This way people in all areas of the peninsula are informed about the whole and able to make better decisions," Ms. White adds.



# Limestone Barrens Strategic Planning Workshop

Text and Photos by Dulcie House



Denise White (standing) discusses opportunities for products and services on the limestone barrens with one of the groups during a break-out session.

The LBHSP understands that recovery efforts must continue to engage local community groups, corporations, agencies and individuals. Therefore information gathered and based on feedback from local stakeholders and potential partners in the area provide invaluable input for recovery actions, since it's the responsibility of all who live, work and visit within the limestone barrens to ensure its protection.

Evidence of the importance of the contribution of local community groups are being demonstrated through initiatives such as the one undertaken by a local action committee in the fall of 2011, namely the Sandy Cove Limestone Barrens Action Committee (SCLBAC). This committee embarked upon a local project for which they secured significant funds, using an integrated approach to limestone barrens species at risk enhancement.



Millie Spence, Parks Canada and  
Brent Sellers, Hydro

This action by a local group is an indicator that they also are beginning to understand the importance of the limestone barrens and its species at risk and the role of partnerships as it relates. SCLBAC member, Ms. Mary Ann White in a letter to a funding agency puts it this way, "This resource will not only see the community of Sandy Cove benefit initially, but a subsequent expansion and beneficiaries for the entire region in the foreseeable future."

The LBHSP recognizes that in order to ensure the programs movement in the right direction and to most effectively allocate its resources in an effort to pursue the most effective actions and to get desired results it must set realistic goals which include the engagement of local groups and individuals.

The workshop was very beneficial to participants and results of an exit survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the discussion groups suggest that the participants learned new information and benefited from the workshop. Future sustainable ecotourism initiatives to be implemented or assisted by the LBHSP will take into consideration outcomes from this workshop.



Jean Hoddinott, LBHSP interpreter and  
Audrey Pittman with the Port au Choix  
Heritage Committee both helped  
tremendously with the workshop

**For more information contact:**  
**Dulcie House**  
[dulcie.house@xplornet.ca](mailto:dulcie.house@xplornet.ca)

## Programming Approaches:

The programming approaches carried out by the Program Coordinator, interpreters and Green Team members include a number of stewardship/interpretation tools such as:

- Kitchen table discussions/interviews;
- Slide presentations to town councils and various community groups;
- Curriculum-based education programs for schools that focus specifically on the limestone barrens;
- Field trips for local students to the limestone barrens;
- Clean-up campaigns in spring/summer led by the local interpreters;
- Art contests for local students to design a poster for protection of the limestone barrens which then could be copied and distributed to public places within the community.

## QLF

- Non-profit charitable organization founded in 1961.
- Incorporated in Canada and the USA.
- First community organization on the Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland, Labrador and Quebec Lower North Shore.
- Field office located on the Quebec/Labrador border; managed by Trish Nash, Senior Biologists, QLF.
- Website: [www.qlf.org](http://www.qlf.org)

Photo By: QLF



An immature ivory gull reported by a hunter in Pinware, Labrador. This immature bird indicates that ivory gulls bred successfully the previously year - but where?

## Target Audience

For cetaceans, sea turtles and other fish = commercial fish harvesters, aboriginal groups, ferry personnel, tour boat and whale watching operators, Coast Guard staff, DFO fishery officers, residents of coastal communities, historic site staff (federal and provincial), tourism operators, NGOs and recreational boaters.

For ivory gulls and polar bears = aboriginal groups, bird-watchers/naturalists, sealers, hunters, residents of coastal communities and Coast Guard staff.

# The Community Marine Species at Risk (MSAR) Recovery Project

By Trish Nash

Using a seascape, multi-species approach, the Quebec-Labrador Foundation (QLF) has worked with numerous individuals, groups and organizations on the stewardship and recovery of nineteen SARA listed or COSEWIC assessed "at-risk" species in Canada including cetaceans, sea turtles, sharks and other species of fish. There was virtually no information known about any of these MSAR in the Northern Gulf or the Atlantic in the scientific community. However, marine resource users, especially commercial fish harvesters, had a great deal of knowledge to share about these species at risk, their habitats, population trends, and threats. Following the review of species recovery strategies, assessments/status reports, and stock assessments and discussions with a very limited number of individuals working on MSAR recovery, the Community MSAR project was developed.

Project activities include: public education and awareness about marine SAR and the activities that impact them, the collection of local ecological knowledge (LEK) about SAR distribution and mortality, an observers program to document SAR sightings information and accidental catch, engaging fishers and marine vessel operators in stewardship activities to reduce mortality of SAR, and the analysis and reporting of project results.



Photo By: QLF

A fisher in Harbour Breton sharing his knowledge about Marine Species at Risk



The project was initiated in 2004 on the Quebec Lower North Shore and with support from the Habitat Stewardship Fund for Species at Risk, reached Newfoundland and Labrador in 2007. The MSAR project has been implemented in different areas of the province each year, and was also implemented in St. Pierre, France. Our approach has been to meet with marine resource users face-to-face, develop partnerships with community organizations, and rely on reporting by naturalists and residents of coastal communities to collect information.

MSAR Observers are recruited, trained to identify MSAR, and provided with a MSAR kit (introductory letter, manual of instructions which includes information on preventing incidental catch and how to report entanglements and beachings, identification charts, species fact sheets, a logbook, and camera). Information collected is submitted to QLF each year. The number of MSAR Observers now numbers over one hundred.

Two species identification charts were developed in consultation with fish harvesters, and more recently with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the World Wildlife Fund to illustrate the unique features of each marine species to allow for identification of SAR. One chart includes cetaceans, sea turtles and most recently wolffish, the second identification chart includes sharks and skates and we also use a third developed by Claude Nozeres which provides photos of the most common fish found in Newfoundland waters. These identification charts are extremely important resources when collecting LEK information and for Observers identifying species on the water. They have become extremely popular and are requested from the public and the scientific community across North America.



# The Community Marine Species at Risk (MSAR) Recovery Project

By Trish Nash

The new Newfoundland and Labrador Marine Species Identification Guide for Large Cetaceans

The information collected through LEK surveys and by MSAR Observers to date in Newfoundland and Labrador has contributed significantly to our knowledge of and to the recovery of marine species at risk. Some of the important observations made include:

- Killer whales, once thought to be absent from Atlantic Canada, are found on every coast and as far north as Nain,
- Sharks are more prevalent in Newfoundland and Labrador waters than once thought. Identification is key to learning more about them and fishers can provide a great deal of information through data collection.
- Ivory gulls are now recognized by most coastal residents and regular sightings are being reported by a network of naturalists in Labrador,
- Leatherback seaturtles are known to be susceptible to whelk pot buoy lines and with the increase in this fishery, there may be a need to retrofit gear to prevent entanglements, and
- Up to 1000 beluga whales were seen one day in the St. Anthony area which is equal to the entire St. Lawrence beluga population!



Photo By: QLF

A porbeagle shark in McCallum, NL identified by the white "window" at the base of its dorsal fin. QLF staff spent one field season traveling the south coast to properly identify porbeagle sharks with fishers versus mackerel or mako sharks

In the upcoming year, QLF will continue to work with and provide support to the important network of MSAR observers established over the past four years, three SARA listed species will be added to the project – spotted, northern and atlantic wolffish, the project will be implemented on the northeast coast which is the only remaining area to receive the program, more in-depth sampling protocols will be added to the Observer logbooks for sharks and photo-identification for killer whales, and a sightings atlas will be prepared from the data collected using GIS.

Local involvement in the stewardship of MSAR is critical to their recovery. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the fishers who spent time with us on the wharf or in their homes answering our questions about MSAR, to all the dedicated volunteers who collect sightings data and take photographs as part of the MSAR Observers program, to the many students involved in the project, and to our funders.

For more information on the MSAR project, to become a MSAR Observer, or report a sighting, please contact Trish Nash, Senior Biologist at [tnash@qlf.org](mailto:tnash@qlf.org) or call 1-877-461-3427.

## Original Project List - 2004

- Blue Whale = endangered
- Right Whale = endangered
- Leatherback Seaturtle = endangered
- Beluga Whale = threatened
- Fin Whale = special concern
- Harbour Porpoise = special concern
- Killer Whale = special concern

Species	Size	Blow	Dorsal Fin	Special Behaviour	Notes
<b>Blue Whale</b> <i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Adult: 25-30m Newborn: 7-8m	Large, low, greyish	Small, rounded	Feeds on krill	Endangered
<b>Fin Whale</b> <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Adult: 25-30m Newborn: 7-8m	Large, low, greyish	Small, rounded	Feeds on krill	Special concern
<b>Sei Whale</b> <i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Adult: 17-18m Newborn: 5-6m	Large, low, greyish	Small, rounded	Feeds on krill	Special concern
<b>Humpback Whale</b> <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Adult: 11-16m Newborn: 4-5m	Large, low, greyish	Small, rounded	Feeds on krill	Special concern
<b>North Atlantic Right Whale</b> <i>Calymene borealis</i>	Adult: 11-16m Newborn: 4-5m	Large, low, greyish	Small, rounded	Feeds on krill	Endangered
<b>Sperm Whale</b> <i>Phocaena phocaena</i>	Adult: 11-16m Newborn: 4-5m	Large, low, greyish	Small, rounded	Feeds on krill	Special concern
<b>Minke Whale</b> <i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Adult: 11-16m Newborn: 4-5m	Large, low, greyish	Small, rounded	Feeds on krill	Special concern
<b>Northern Bottlenose Whale</b> <i>Hyperoodon medietatis</i>	Adult: 7-9m Newborn: 2-3m	Large, low, greyish	Small, rounded	Feeds on krill	Special concern
<b>Killer Whale/Orca</b> <i>Orcinus orca</i>	Adult: 3-10m Newborn: 2-3m	Large, low, greyish	Small, rounded	Feeds on krill	Special concern
<b>Long-Finned Pilot Whale</b> <i>Globicephala melas</i>	Adult: 10-12m Newborn: 3-4m	Large, low, greyish	Small, rounded	Feeds on krill	Special concern
<b>Beluga Whale</b> <i>Huso huso</i>	Adult: 2-3m Newborn: 1-2m	Large, low, greyish	Small, rounded	Feeds on krill	Special concern

## Species Added to Project

- Northern Bottlenose Whale = endangered
- Ivory Gull = endangered
- Loggerhead Seaturtle = endangered
- Porbeagle Shark = endangered
- White Shark = endangered
- Shortfin Mako = threatened
- American Plaice = threatened
- American Plaice = threatened
- Polar Bear = special concern
- Sowerby's Beaked Whale = special concern
- Basking Shark = special concern
- Blue Shark = special concern
- Winter Skate = data deficient

## Goals of Program:

- Empower communities to take ownership of protecting habitats within their municipal jurisdiction.
- Assist communities in identifying areas for stewardship and wisely conserving these lands.
- Maintain or increase wildlife use of valuable habitats.
- Increase public awareness of the value of natural areas.

## Stewardship Agreement Process:

Step 1. Conduct site visits

Step 2. Proposal draft, presentation and acceptance.

Step 3. Stewardship Agreement signing

Step 4. Habitat Conservation Plan development, review and signing.

Step 5. Implementation of the Habitat Conservation Plan.

For more information on the Municipal Species at Risk Stewardship Program contact:  
Cathy Regular  
cathyregular@gov.nl.ca

# Municipal Species at Risk Stewardship Program

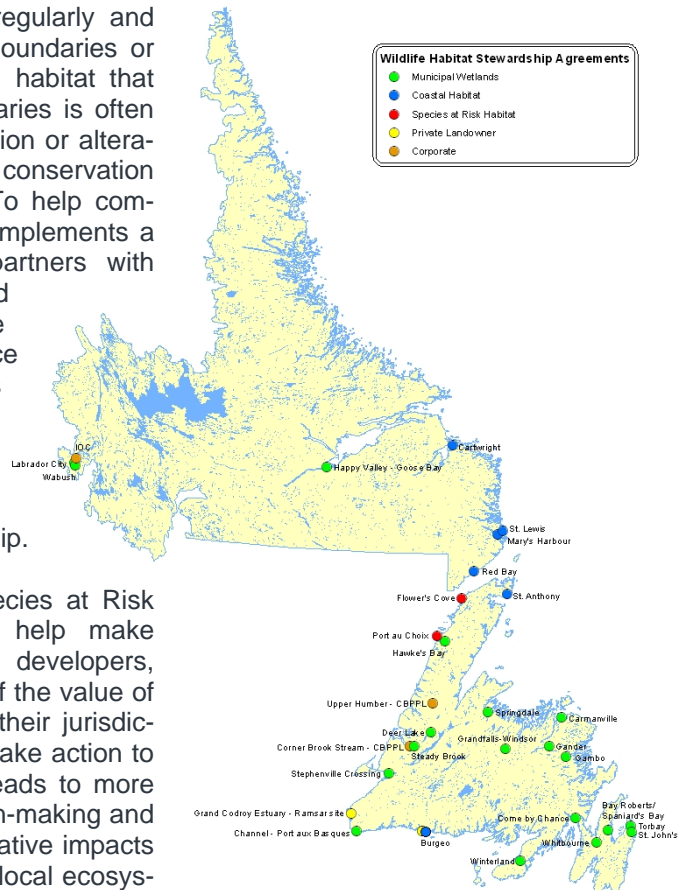
By Cathy Regular

In Newfoundland and Labrador wildlife habitat development occurs regularly and most often within municipal boundaries or on private property. As such, habitat that exists within municipal boundaries is often at the greatest risk of destruction or alteration and is in greatest need of conservation and/or management efforts. To help combat this, the Wildlife Division implements a Stewardship Program that partners with municipalities, corporations and private landowners to conserve significant wildlife habitat. Since the origin of this program it has evolved into three distinct program areas:

1. Wetland Stewardship,
2. Coastal Stewardship,
3. Species at Risk Stewardship.

The principle goal of the Species at Risk Stewardship program is to help make municipalities, corporations, developers, and landowners more aware of the value of species at risk habitat within their jurisdiction and to empower them to take action to conserve these areas. This leads to more informed development decision-making and works towards minimizing negative impacts on species at risk habitat and local ecosystems as a whole.

The program focuses largely upon signing Species at Risk Stewardship Agreements with municipalities and individual landowners who own or manage significant habitat important to species at risk. A Species at Risk Stewardship Agreement represents a formal public commitment by a community, corporation, or individual and the province, to act together to conserve habitat for species at risk. To date, two municipalities (Flower's Cove and Port au Choix) have signed Species at Risk Stewardship Agreements. However, a total of nine other municipalities in the province have signed Stewardship Agreements which impact species at risk including Burgeo, Port aux Basques, Stephenville Crossing, Whitbourne, Winterland, Cartwright, Mary's Harbour, Red Bay, and St. Lewis.



The overall benefits of a town signing a Stewardship Agreement include not only habitat conservation but it also increases the awareness of the species found within the municipality as well as what residents can do to help protect the species. We have found that by raising awareness of an at-risk species found in a community, a stewardship ethic is created within the individual residents of that town.

When Port au Choix Commissioner, Carolyn Lavers, was asked how she would describe the impact a stewardship agreement has had on the Town, she said, "It made us aware of how sensitive and special our surrounding landscape is and it gave us a sense of pride to become stewards of this special feature."



# Municipal Species at Risk Stewardship Program

By Cathy Regular

Photos By Charmaine Barney



Playing "Name That Bird!" (a bird I.D. game) with Grade 11 students at Burgeo Academy.

In addition to negotiating and signing agreements with municipalities/individuals, a second part of the Species at Risk Stewardship Program involves aiding the communities/individuals with implementing stewardship initiatives as well as educating residents about species at risk recovery. This often involves such things as public workshops or school presentations within a stewardship community where participants are educated about habitat stewardship and the simple things that they can do to help with species recovery.

This past November in Burgeo, we held an education and youth engagement event at Burgeo Academy. Three slightly different interactive presentations were developed for three age groups within the school (K-3, 4-6, and Grade 11's). Each group (all together ~70 students) was taught about the importance of wildlife and habitat stewardship in their Town with a focus on Piping Plover and Common Eider.



K-3 students learning how they can be good environmental stewards.

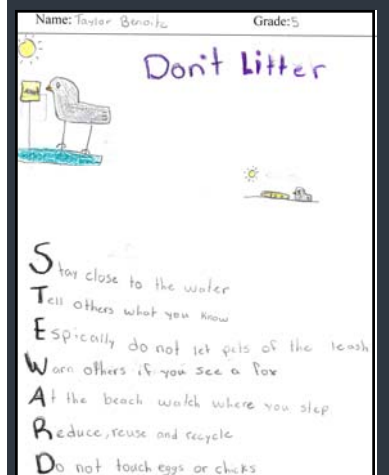
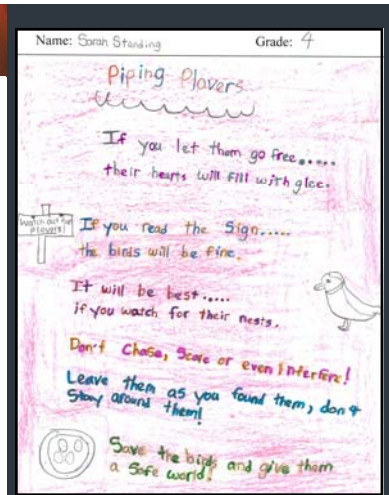


Burgeo students pledging their commitment to stewardship.

To measure the outcomes of the event (i.e. to gain an idea of what kind of information the students took away from the presentations) we asked each student to enter the "Young Steward" contest which involved them drawing a picture and/or writing a poem of how they would be a good steward of the environment. It was evident from the contest entries that the students understood the message we were presenting. It was extremely difficult choosing which students to give the prizes to and we decided to give out more prizes than originally intended. Check out some of the very creative contest entries on the right.



Four of the "Young Steward" contest winners.





## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

The 2012 NL SAR Stewardship & Education Workshop  
is tentatively scheduled for:

**October 24th & 25th  
in  
St. John's**

Stay tuned to your emails for more information.

### **Contact Info:**

Cathy Regular  
Species at Risk Stewardship Biologist  
Wildlife Division  
Department of Environment & Conservation  
117 Riverside Drive  
P.O. Box 2007  
Corner Brook, NL  
A2H 7S1  
709-637-4608  
[cathyregular@gov.nl.ca](mailto:cathyregular@gov.nl.ca)