



Speaker Biographies

The Kennedy Family

Woodland Owner of the Year Western Region 2022

The Kennedys owned a 20-acre hayfield in Clarence, NS before buying the wooded wonderland they call Crow's Haven in 2015. Pete and Angie both grew up on the edges of forests, always appreciating idle free time spent wandering and exploring. Their desire to enjoy the peace and beauty their whole lives, instead of waiting for retirement, drove them from BC over a decade ago.

Their children Anthea, Ashe and Dravven have grown up in the peaceful serenity, learning valuable life skills and hard work as they harvest and explore the forest. Living in the forest allows for a special appreciation of its splendour: day or night, spring or summer, sunny or stormy, fall or winter. They are looking forward to learning and growing as stewards of the land. They also have a horse, Twilight Twiggy, whose manure is used to fertilize the land.

Arthur Hatt

Teacher, St. Mary's Bay Academy

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Arthur is currently teaching at St. Mary's Bay Academy where he has been a staff member for the past 15 years. His course load at SMBA includes Senior high Mathematics, Mi'kmaw Studies, Construction Technology and Forest Management. Earlier in his career Arthur was a member of the staff at the Digby Adult High School. He has been teaching in Digby County for the past 30 years. Prior to his teaching career Arthur spent approximately 15 years involved with the pulpwood industry in Digby and Annapolis counties. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Kings College; a Bachelor of Education degree from St. Mary's University and a certificate in mathematical sciences for education from St. Mary's University. After school hours, Arthur can be found with students in his driver education car which he has been conducting for over 30 years.

When he is not working; Arthur enjoys watching WWE, boxing and mixed martial arts. A little-known fact about Arthur is that 40 years ago he qualified as a class 4 powerlifter and was a student of the International Sports Science Association. He still enjoys watching strongman events.

Sean Merrett

Teacher, St. Mary's Bay Academy

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Sean has been teaching at St. Mary's Bay Academy for the past 17 years. During his time at SMBA he has taught courses including Geography, Agriculture, Social Studies, Physical Education and Outdoor Education.

Growing up in Lower Sackville, Sean then graduated from St. Mary's University. After spending a number of years living in Alberta and British Columbia he returned to Nova Scotia to complete his teacher education at St. Francis Xavier University. When not working, Sean can be found spending time outdoors with his family.

James Steenberg, PhD

Senior Research and Planning Forester, NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (NRR)

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James Steenberg is a Senior Research and Planning Forester with NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables, where he is responsible for the Department's research on silviculture, climate change, and forest carbon. He has a PhD in environmental science and is an adjunct professor at Dalhousie University's School for Resource and Environmental Studies, where he teaches and recently completed a Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship. He was also a Fulbright scholar at the United States Forest Service. James has 15 years of forestry research experience as a governmental scientist, consultant, and academic researcher focusing on forests.

David Sutherland, RPF

Coordinator, Association for Sustainable Forestry (ASF)

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David graduated from Dalhousie University with a degree in Biology before heading to UNB for a Forestry degree. From there, he was hired by North Colchester Forest Co-op where he worked for 16 years managing small private woodlands for over 200 landowners. In 2000, he was hired as Coordinator for the Association for Sustainable Forestry, a province-wide silviculture initiative that provides technical and funding assistance to private woodland owners in Nova Scotia. In 2003 David was hired as General Manager of Nova Forest Alliance (Nova Scotia's Model Forest), but returned to the ASF in 2010, where he still works today as Coordinator. He is a Registered Professional Forester and lives in River John with his wife Mary Beth. They have three children and four grandchildren.



Peter N. Duinker, PhD

Professor Emeritus, School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University

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Peter retired from active duty at Dalhousie University in 2019 and was appointed as Professor Emeritus at that time. He continues working with graduate students who are studying sustainable urban and rural forests in Nova Scotia. He also consults with various clients, including the NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (NRR). He worked with an NRR team to revise and renew the province's policy on old-growth forests.

Jennika Hunsinger, RPF

Land Trust and Outreach Manager, Medway Community Forest Co-op (MCFC)

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Jennika started with the Medway Community Forest Co-op in the summer of 2019 to kickstart a baseline biodiversity study, while completing a Master of Forest Conservation degree at the University of Toronto. Originally hailing from Ontario with family roots in Yarmouth, Jennika relocated to NS to attend Dalhousie University for her undergraduate studies. She is a Registered Professional Forester and an avid camper, gardener, and traveller. In her current role, she manages outreach and research programs with MCFC and is leading the launch of the NSWWT.

Cindy Staicer, PhD

Adjunct Professor, Biology Department, Dalhousie University

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Dr. Cindy Staicer has been conducting research on forest birds in Nova Scotia for over 25 years. She retired from the Biology Department at Dalhousie University in 2019 and is now an adjunct professor. Before retiring, she spent most of her time at Dal developing and leading its SEASIDE summer field course program, as well as leading its first-year Integrated Science Program, and also developing and teaching numerous courses in Ecology and Biodiversity, including Dal's new Species at Risk field course. Over the years, Cindy has trained many students, interns, and volunteers, and has led several research, monitoring, and stewardship projects. Work by Cindy and her students laid the foundation for the current forest bird monitoring program at Kejimikujik. Other projects focused on habitat associations for bird species, comparing birds in harvested and protected landscapes, and examining the effects of riparian buffer width on forest bird species. More recently, she and her students have been focussing on Species at Risk forest birds, characterizing their habitat needs, and now stewarding these habitats. Today, she will be sharing her work on her latest project - to develop and test Beneficial Management Practices for SAR forest birds in working forests in collaboration with crown land forest managers.

Matt Miller

General Manager, Medway Community Forest Cooperative

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Matt Miller joined the MCFC team in November 2021 as Operations Manager and became General Manager in May of 2022. A graduate of the Maritime College of Forest Technology and University of New Brunswick, Matt has worked across Nova Scotia in both forest conservation and operations, with an emphasis on helping small, private landowners achieve their stewardship goals. An avid outdoors person and silviculturalist, Matt is most happy when working and playing on his family's woodlands in Pictou and Colchester Counties.

Jeff Ogden

Provincial Forest Entomologist, NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (NRR)

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Jeff has been with the department for 30 years with a career focusing on insect biodiversity, and forest pest monitoring. Current projects include understanding the biology of the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) and the impacts HWA has on the insect biodiversity within the eastern hemlock forest in Nova Scotia.

Emma Vost

Regional Biologist, NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (NRR)

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Emma is a Regional Biologist based out of Kentville with the Western Integrated Resource Management team, specifically covering the counties of Kings, Annapolis and Digby. She got her feet wet with NRR working for the Sustainable Wildlife Use Program within the Wildlife Division. After a co-op stint where she looked at ways to survey the American Marten population, she was involved with coyote incentive program for many years, processing hundreds of coyotes donated by local trappers, then moved on to the Large Mammal Program, specifically in the management of the deer, bear, and moose populations in Nova Scotia. Emma has since remained involved in human-wildlife conflict issues and leads the Western Immobilisation team. Professionally, Emma enjoys field days spent outside learning as much as possible from other professionals and honing her identification skills. Her spare time is spent reading, writing, fishing, and spending time outdoors with her family.