



News Release

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New Project Makes Citizen Scientists of Trail Users With Smartphones

Lewis Lake, N.S. – Anyone with a smartphone can help build a catalogue of the natural world within the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area (FBLWA) thanks to a new project - [Five Bridge Lakes Snap and Map](#). Built within the free smartphone app iNaturalist, the project offers anyone hiking, canoeing, and enjoying the outdoors in the wilderness area a chance to easily get expert help identifying species and recording locations of any uploaded photos of insects, birds, wildlife, or flowers they find. All photos become part of the natural database for the area.

There's a lot of space to cover; the FBLWA encompasses approximately 8,600 hectares of protected lands across the Chebucto Peninsula. Already more than 1500 observations are recorded within the system, and 371 species are catalogued and identified. The Trust wants that number to increase and encourages the community to download the app and start using it on their next excursion to the FBLWA.

“By helping us track what’s there, we all help preserve and understand it better,” says Ken Donnelly, lead project volunteer and Trust Board of Trustee member.

“Besides maintaining a catalogue of species, we’ll also help track and find invasive species and hopefully, prevent their spread. Using the iNaturalist tool is also a fun activity to do with your friends or kids. It teaches us all about the natural world around us and helps us appreciate just how diverse and wonderful a Nova Scotia wilderness can be.”

The project was introduced at the 21st Annual General Meeting of the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust held Sunday, March 20, at the Estabrooks Hall. The event attracted a diverse audience of Trust members, supporters and partner groups interested to hear the business news of the Trust, future plans, and a special presentation by guest speaker Kristen Noel from the Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council.



The [Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust](#) is a non-profit, community charitable group dedicated to the promotion and expansion of the wilderness lands of the FBLWA. Volunteer-led, the Trust continually works to improve trail access and offer education and support to environmental concerns affecting the area.

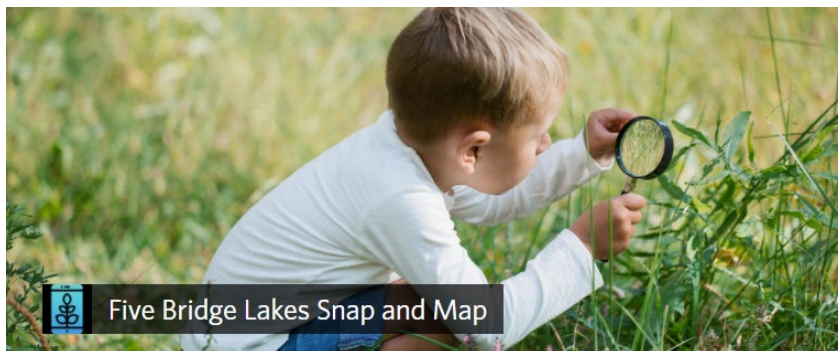
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Five Bridge Lakes Snap and Map

About

Members 1

Find and report species in the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area.

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Project Journal

