

NSAGC 2024 CONVENTION ENTERTAINMENT BIOGRAPHIES

Midnight Special

The band Midnight Special is made up of 3 guys all from or near the Yarmouth area. The lead singer, Andre Surette, who also plays keyboards/bass has over 40 years of stage time and is still in his 40's – having started at the age of 8.

Andre loves imitating voices and having fun on stage!

There is another Andre Surette, the drummer of the group and also singer, from the same village as the first Andre, but they are not related!! Andre #2 began playing drums secretly by setting up and dismantling his dad's drum kit without him ever knowing – Sneaky Guy.

He has taught many people how to play the drums over the years as well. Both Andres have been playing together for the past 17 years.

The third member of the group is guitarist Marc Durkee. Marc is a very versatile musician and vocalist that can play many instruments. He has been teaching music for over 25 years and will be going overseas in the Fall of 2024 for a European Tour with the Greek band named Fragment Soul. These 3 guys blend well together and cover a wide range of popular music from 1950's Do-Wop to today's hits (minus Opera and Gangsta Rap).

We are sure you will enjoy their high energy and music.

The Yarmouth Shantymen

The Yarmouth Shantymen are a group of multi-talented men that have been together for 40 years, singing Songs of the Sea.

Forty years ago, Eric Ruff (founder of the group) was the Curator at the Yarmouth County Museum. Apparently, he had promised the Museum Society that he would do up a program on Sea Shanties - the work songs of sailors on sailing ships. Eric talked a group of his friends into helping him with the program and the Yarmouth Shantymen were born.

Forty years (and four CDs) later, they are still sharing “Songs of the Sea” with Nova Scotians and all Maritimers.

We are sure you will enjoy this Acapella group of songmen – as they take you on a by-gone sailing adventure across the Seas, with their repertoire of fun, historical and sometimes “Salty/Spicy” Sea Shanties.

NSAGC 2024 CONVENTION SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Alain Belliveau

Alain grew up in Meteghan River within the Municipality of Clare. Alain has always had a passion for the outdoors and the biodiversity with which our planet has.

After some tree planting, he took an interest in forests then his passion expanded to exploring wetlands, old growth forests and mapping.

As a Botanist and Collections Manger for the Atlantic conservation Data Centre, Alain manages a collection of over 200,000 specimens and adds to the collection by visiting exciting and often times threatened ecosystems within the Acadian Forest region.

Alain fully supports the Herbarium Seedbank and Botanical Gardens, located in Wolfville.

Teri Chace

Teri Chace is a writer, editor and speaker exploring plants, landscapes, food and community. She has a taste for exploration and a talent for bringing back stories and information that resonate with the insight and wonder – whether she’s examining flowers, pie or small-town life.

She has over 35 garden & natural history books in publication, including the American Horticulture Society Book of the Year Award-Winner “Seeing Seeds: A Journey Into the World of Seedheads, Pods and Fruit.”

Raised in Santa Barbara, California and educated at Bard College in New York, she currently resides in a small village in the heart of New York State’s farm country; she and her husband also have a second home on Long Island in Digby County.

Hughstin Grimshaw-Surette

Hughstin is a recent graduate of Saint Mary’s University’s Masters program in Applied Science. His research interests include insect pollinators, plant communities and green roof infrastructure. During his Master’s program, Hughstin studied the influence of green roof characteristics on pollinator communities and headed the construction of the pollinator garden at The Oaks. Hughstin has been a part of the Saint Mary’s University community since 2012 when he began his Undergraduate Degree in Environmental Science.

Hughstin is passionate about working with committees to engage in discussions about invasive species and what we can all do to help protect our native biodiversity.

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Keith Egger

Keith is a former Professor and Mycologist from British Columbia, who now lives in the Annapolis Valley. Before retiring he taught a mycology course at the University of Northern British Columbia and conducted research on Mycorrhizal Fungi (fungi that form a mutually beneficial partnership with plant roots).

Since moving to Nova Scotia, he has been active in research within the Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site on mushrooms associated with Eastern Hemlock stands, which are currently under threat from an invasive insect called the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

When not occupied with mushrooms, Keith can be found tending his greenhouse by day and photographing astronomical wonders by night.

Keith will be discussing the long evolutionary history and ecological diversity of mushrooms and their plant partners.

Tim Doucette

Tim believes that through education and awareness of the universe, the world can become a better place. Through his passion for Astronomy and his love of photography, Tim shows us the beauty of the heavens.

Tim was born blind with congenital cataracts. Later, surgically removed along with the lenses of his eyes, Tim's unique eye condition leaves him legally blind but able to perceive colors in the universe that very few others can see.

Shortly after joining the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Tim discovered his unique eye condition. He setup an observatory in Moncton New Brunswick where he found a love for sharing the night sky with others.

Tim and his family currently reside in his hometown of Quinan Nova Scotia. He currently owns and operates a successful Astron tourism business where he continues to share the marvels of the universe with visitors from around the world. The site also has unique accommodations that give guests the opportunity to sleep under the stars in comfort.

Working with the Municipality and the Starlight foundation (backed by UNESCO and the IAU), the area has received the first "Starlight Tourist Destination and Reserve" designation within North America.

Founding the Starlight Development Society, Tim champions the protection of the night sky, fosters astro-tourism infrastructure and promotes astronomy education. His efforts are a testament to his unwavering commitment to integrating celestial appreciation into our culture and gardens.