



BCnature

“Know nature and keep it worth knowing”

- **Tracking Tundra Swans**
- **Celebrate BC Parks Centennial**
- **BC Nature - Wetlands Survey Results**



The Magazine of BC Nature

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BC nature

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Feature articles are the sole responsibility of their authors. Opinions expressed therein are not necessarily those of BC Nature.

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Objectives of BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists)

- To provide naturalists and natural history clubs of BC with a unified voice on conservation and environmental issues.
- To foster an awareness, appreciation and understanding of our natural environment, that it may be wisely used and maintained for future generations.
- To encourage the formation and cooperation of natural history clubs throughout BC.
- To provide a means of communication between naturalists in BC.

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Editor's Notebook

Guest Editorial - Anne Murray

Importance of Farmland Activism

Twenty years ago there was a public outcry about the future of BC's agricultural land. Provincial order-in-council 1141, allowing golf courses as an outright use of farmland, opened the way for urbanization of BC's remaining farmland. Development pressures seemed unstoppable and when it came to rezoning, most people were happy to accept the maxim "you can't fight city hall".

Only 3% of BC is arable land, a vital resource for food security. It is also wildlife habitat, especially for wintering and migrating waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors. In 1988, when bird habitat on Boundary Bay was threatened by golf course development, a small group of naturalists and conservationists thought it was time to fight back. The Boundary Bay Conservation Committee (BBCC) was born, and went to court to prevent the rezoning. At the time, forty-four golf course applications were filed for farmland south of the Fraser River. Richmond conservationists were struggling to protect Terra Nova, the last agricultural land remaining on Sturgeon Banks. Similar efforts occurred throughout BC. Unremitting work by conservationists engaged the media and the public, and the issue grew wings. A proposed development on South Delta's Spetifore farm resulted in the longest public hearing in Canadian history and a unique citizen-led plebiscite that showed 98% of residents opposed to rezoning. Even though BBCC's court case was defeated in the Supreme Court, all the efforts were not in vain. Less than a year later, pro-development municipal politicians were voted out of office, not just in Delta but in many other municipalities, and shortly after Mike Harcourt's NDP was elected on a pro-farmland platform. His first action in government was to rescind order-in-council 1141. For some years, the environment remained on the political agenda, with the Nature Legacy program purchasing environmentally-sensitive lands, followed by the acquisition of Burns Bog.

Over 6,000 ha of MetroVancouver farmland have been excluded from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) since 1974. Other BC regions have seen similar losses. Media, public and political interest surged in the early 1990s but subsequently died away. Yet, with rising food and transportation costs and global food shortages, coupled with significant declines in biodiversity, it is time for a revival of interest. Maybe this is happening. Delta municipal council has just recommended that the former Spetifore land (now Southlands) be returned to the ALR.

Naturalists can play a strong, proactive role in farmland and habitat protection and the prevention of wasteful urban sprawl. BC Nature has a solid history of writing strong letters on conservation topics. Those who love nature should not be afraid to stand up and speak in public forums. There is more support out there for our position than might at first be apparent, and the knowledge and expertise of BC Nature's members are a valuable part of the discussion. We must let our voices be heard. ☺

Anne Murray is a past-President of BC Nature, past Conservation Chair, and the author of books on Boundary Bay wildlife and ecology (see www.natureguidesbc.com).



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BC Nature at work for you

Letters Sent

- Dec 7 – Support for federal Bill C-469, Canadian Environmental Bill of Rights, urging all members of the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development to support this Bill.
- Jan 13 – Comment to Ministry of Environment “Environmental Mitigation and Offsetting Policy”
- Jan 17 – Ministry of Forests Mines & Lands – Zero Net Deforestation Policy follow up on behalf of BC Nature
- Jan 23 – Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk – Letter of Support for WiTS
- Jan 27 - Letter and media release that an international coalition of environmental groups (including Nature Canada and BC Nature) have withdrawn in protest a complaint against Canada through the NAFTA review process, regarding failure to enforce laws for species at risk
- Feb 17 – Submission to Canadian Wildlife Foundation for Butterfly monitoring program grant
- Feb 21 – Letter to Ministries of Forest, Natural Resource Operations and Environment regarding changes to Visual Quality Objectives in Burns Lake area, and concerns with changing a Land and Resource Management
- Mar 14 – Comments to Ministry of Environment Water Act Modernization Policy and Proposals

Letters Received

- Jan 20 – Minister Murray Coell – response to meeting at BC Nature – Park Interpretation, Boundary Bay, Communications/Project Manager Funds.

Meetings

- Nov 22 – BC Nature Executive Meeting
- Jan 11 – Wildlife Tree Stewardship steering committee
- Jan 17 - BC Nature Executive Meeting
- Jan 26 – Kootenay Regional Teleconference meeting
- Jan 27 – Invasive Plant Council conference
- Feb 8 – Breeding Bird Atlas Steering Committee
- Feb 10 – Wetlands Stewardship Partnership
- Feb 15 – BC IBA Committee Meeting

BC Nature Field Camps & Conferences 2011

- Apr 28 to May 1 - Spring Fraser Canyon Field Camp
- May 6 to 8 - Skagit Bird Blitz
- May 12 to 15 - Conference and AGM hosted by Williams Lake Field Naturalists Society. Registration and program information on page 28/29
- Jun. 3 to 5 - Mt. Robson Provincial Park Bird Blitz
- Jul. 2 to 9 - Nuit Range exploratory backpacking
- Jun. 17 to 19 - Manning Park Bird Blitz
- Jul 15 to 19 - Strathcona Provincial Park Field Camp
- Jul 16 to 23 - Backpacking South Chilcotins
- Sept 29 to Oct 2 - BC Nature Conference and FGM - Tsawassen - Hosted by Delta Naturalists. "Nature on the Move - Migration through Delta"



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Pond Creature Crawl - May 21
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Hike the Dewdney Trail - August 13
Celebrate the 150th anniversary of this gold rush highway.

Hike the HBC - August 27
Hike a section of this 1849 trail, with a fur trade historian.

BC Rivers Day - September 25
Paddle the Fraser by raft, canoe, and kayak from Yale to Hope.

Mushrooms of the Cascades - Sept/Oct
Mycologist Paul Kroeger reveals the rotten world of fungi.

Avalanche Safety - December
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The President's Perch

By John Neville

The winter days have passed very quickly addressing issues and events for BC Nature. In November, I met twice with the Minister of Environment Murray Coell. At the request of the minister and his staff, on Nov 19, we met at the BC Nature office. Bev Ramey, Jude Grass and Betty Davison completed our group. The easiest way to summarize is to quote from the Minister's latest response to our letters and email.

January 20, 2011

...With regards to Park Interpretation in 2011, BC Parks is currently exploring funding options for interpretation programs. Ministry staff will contact you with any new information.

Regarding the proposed Solid Waste Management Plan, the Metro Vancouver board has submitted the proposed plan to the Ministry of Environment and ministry staff are now reviewing the submission and will make a recommendation in 2011. Your comments and concerns regarding the plan will be taken into consideration along with those obtained during the formal consultation.

Concerning the Boundary Bay Wildlife Management Area, I understand a draft management plan has been developed and, while the Province acknowledges that the management plan is still in draft form and certain sections of the plan may need to be revisited, the general direction in the plan is considered valid and guides the current management of the wildlife management area. Nonetheless, we do intend to update the management plan and will engage stakeholders and First Nations in the plan review when we are ready to initiate that process.

The Ministry is taking efforts to

address impacts associated with public use in the Boundary Bay Wildlife Management Area, including:

- *Increased Park Ranger presence;*
- *Education of the public regarding responsible dog use;*
- *Litter removal in partnership with The Nature Trust of BC and Metro Vancouver; and*
- *Addressing trespass issues, including the salvage and removal of abandoned boats in the vicinity of the Nicomekl River.*

Moving forward, we will continue to identify and address priority management issues in the Boundary Bay Wildlife Management Area in a manner consistent with the goals and objectives of the management plan.

BC Parks staff have also contacted Ms. Bev Ramey regarding the request to initiate discussion on opportunities for BC Nature to participate in the BC Parks Centennial in 2011.

*Yours sincerely,
Murray Coell, Minister*

When you read this message you may be aware that Betty Davison is preparing the current issue of BC nature magazine and Anne Murray has written the guest editorial. Dawn Hanna resigned as editor in December after taking on a new full time job. I'm sure you all join me in expressing our appreciation for Dawn's fine work through the years! Your Executive have decided to continue to try running the magazine from the office with the addition of a new volunteer Communications Director. This position will also oversee the upgrading of our webpage. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact me at the office.

You will have read in the last issue of *Bcnature* funds from the Lillian May Hayden bequest were used to help purchase land in the Sooke Hills on Vancouver Island. I can now

let you know that the other the other substantial portion (\$70,000) of the bequest has been used to complete the purchase of 320 acres of forested land along Musgrave Road on Salt Spring Island. The Salt Spring Island Conservancy has expressed its delight and appreciation to all the public and private donations which have partnered to raise more than \$2,000,000 to complete this purchase. BC Nature's representatives on this island is the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club. Your Executive has decided that the last \$4470 from the bequest should go to the Save Mary Lake Campaign on Vancouver Island. You can see the details of this piece of property at www.savemarylake.com

Another vacancy on our executive, the Kootenay Regional Coordinator, has recently been filled by Greg Ross. Greg is a longtime member and currently the Director for the Rocky Mountain Naturalists. Welcome aboard Greg!

It's not always business for your President as I really enjoy reading your club newsletters and visiting your clubs. I learned from the Osprey, the newsletter of the West Kootenay Naturalists, that the Giant Hogweed(*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) is taking hold as an invasive species in the Slocan Valley. Recently, I attended the AGM of the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club and the winter banquet of the Central Okanagan Naturalists Club. The Central Okanagan members are about to celebrate their 50th anniversary with 50 events leading up to BC Nature's 2012 AGM.

My most favorite time of the year is spring. New life everywhere, the smell of the leaves, flowers and the sound of choruses at dawn make my life a joy to live. ☺

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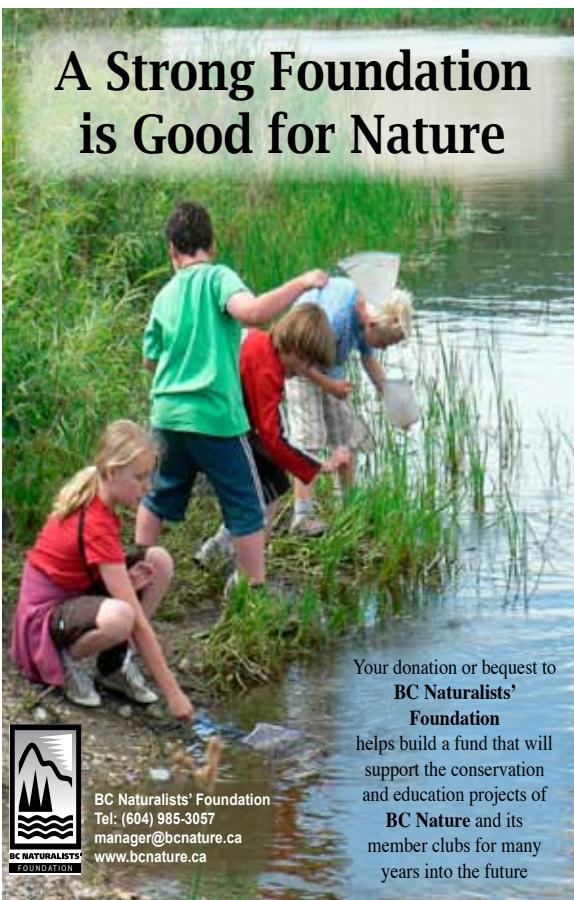
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Grants Support BC Nature Clubs 2011

Thank you to the many donors to BC Naturalists' Foundation: you are helping to grow the capital fund of our Foundation. Interest on that capital is put towards annual Club Support Grants. In early 2011 a total of \$8,000 was made available to BC Nature Clubs, including \$6,000 from the Foundation and \$2,000 from BC Nature..

Six grants were recently awarded to the following BC Nature Clubs:

Arrowsmith Naturalists for printing a seasonal bird checklist,

Chilliwack Field Naturalists for Camp River wildlife area planting,

Comox Valley Naturalists for Wetland Restoration 2011 on the Courtenay River

Friends of Semiahmoo Bay for Little Campbell Interpretive Signage and Restoration

North Okanagan Naturalists for Cools Pond Interpretive Signage Replacement

South Okanagan Naturalists to showcase a Half Century of Conservation in the South Okanagan together with partners Penticton Museum Archives and Nature Conservancy of Canada.

BC Naturalists' Foundation and BC Nature are pleased to provide assistance to these six club projects. Congratulations to the clubs for taking on these exciting projects – they all contribute to spreading the word about the wonderful natural world of our province. ☺

Fraser Canyon Field Camp

April 28 – May 1, 2011

BC Nature, along with the Chilliwack Field Naturalists and Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning have teamed up to host a 4-day field camp at Camp Squeah in the beautiful Fraser Canyon. Clean, modern rooms with private washrooms will be shared with 1 or 2 other naturalists.

The group will explore the Fraser and Coquihalla River Canyons by raft and land-based field trips to Lady Franklin Rock, Alexandra Provincial Park, Alexandra Bridge, historical First Nations village sites, a Garry Oak Reserve, Othello Tunnels and other locations. Birding opportunities will be found throughout the long weekend. The cost for the field camp is \$550 per person.

This covers accommodation, all meals, day trips—including river rafting—and evening speakers. Registration is limited to 24 participants. See details and reserve a spot by registering through Hope Mountain Centre's website, www.hopemountain.org, or call/email at 604-869-1274 info@hopemountain.org for more information. ☺

Conservation Report

By Rosemary Fox with contributions from
Conservation Committee members

Proposed South Okanagan Park

Eva Durance reports that at a recent meeting on the proposed South Okanagan National Park, Parks Canada reported that "conversations with First Nations are going very well. Parks Canada have been meeting with Okanagan Nation Alliance Chiefs and the Grand Chief Stewart Phillip. Parks Canada feels the fundamentals have been met and there is potential for a written agreement from First Nations. Parks Canada are ready to wind up the Feasibility Study and move on to the concept stage." (The concept stage is when Parks Canada gets into more of the details such as what specific areas will be included in a core area.)

Wetlands Peter Ballin and Bev Ramey attended the February meeting of the Wetland Stewardship Partnership at the CWS office on Westham Island (where, incidentally, they saw the Northern Hawk Owl). There they heard a highly informative presentation about carbon offsets by Briony Penn, "*An Introduction to the Carbon Conservation Landscape in British Columbia: Recommendations to the Conservation Community for Advancing Wetland Conservation through Carbon Projects in BC.*" This is quite a complicated subject. To find out more, check out www.livingcarbon.ca when it is ready in April. The meeting discussed the Water Act Modernization (WAM), where Bev emphasized the need to act quickly in northeastern BC to regulate water use for shale petrochemical extraction. WAM legislation will take a while. Much information has been collected, check out the website for the Report on Engagement. There was also an update on Environmental Mitigation and Offsetting Policy. For further information go to the Ministry of Environment website, <http://livingwatersmart.ca/water-act/>.

As members may remember, last Fall Peter prepared a questionnaire for BC Nature's Clubs to provide information on the degree of involvement of naturalists in wetland conservation. (p 17)

Shale Gas A serious conservation issue that naturalists need to be aware of, alluded to in the report above on the

recent Wetland Stewardship Partnership meeting attended by Peter Ballin and Bev Ramey, is the scramble going on to develop shale gas in North-East BC. This is on top of the conventional oil and gas extraction that has been taking place for decades, resulting in significant fragmentation of boreal forest ecosystems as well as impacts on individuals and domestic animals. I know of one person who lost all her livestock and domestic dogs when a sour gas well was dug close to her home. Shale gas development not only fragments and alters wildlife habitats: a major concern wherever shale gas is being planned or developed is the impact on water supply and quality. For further information, see the article in the Globe and Mail of October 2010 at www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/canada-not-ready-for-shale-gas-boom/article1756636/, and also read

a report released in October 2011 by the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs, entitled *Fracture Lines: Will Canada's water be protected in the rush to develop shale gas?* (beta.images.theglobeandmail.com/archive/00942/Fractured_Lines_942842a.pdf).

As an indication of the amount of water used in shale oil development, a contact I have near Hudson's Hope told me recently that Talisman Energy has been hauling 20 tanker trucks of water 24 hours a day, with each truck taking six loads a day, from the Peace River to its well sites in the Montney shale zone (a large area which extends north roughly from the Dawson Creek/Fort St. John area and into Alberta). This water is for fracking. The process called fracking, used in drilling for shale gas, uses large quantities of water mixed with toxic chemicals and sand. Each well is fracked in 10-12 stages, and each stage requires around 1500 cubic meters of water. Well-sites are on pads with 24 well-sites to a pad, and Talisman is reportedly building one pad in every square mile of its license area. Talisman is applying for a water license to withdraw up to 10,000 cubic meters of water a day from Williston Reservoir. Talisman is only one of several energy companies with licenses

to drill for shale gas in the Montney shale formation, while further north the larger Horn shale formation has attracted even more attention from industry.

Besides concerns about water requirements and quality, there are also concerns about increased CO₂ emissions from the development of shale gas, according to a report released last July by Mark Jaccard and Brad Griffin of SFU, who estimate that BC's greenhouse gas emissions from shale gas development could increase GHG emissions by 10% over the provincial emissions target set for 2020 (www.pics.uvic.ca/assets/pdf/publications/Shale%20Gas%20and%20Climate%20Targets.pdf). However, the BC government is promoting the development of BC's shale gas deposits as a clean source of energy.

Enbridge's Northern Gateway Pipeline

Pipeline proposal. Following a series of public meetings last summer, the Joint Review Panel for the Enbridge pipeline project to transport tar sands oil from northern Alberta to tidewater at Kitimat, BC, for export by oil tanker to Asia, has advised Enbridge that it needs to submit more information to the Panel before hearings can proceed. The information required covers a range of socio-economic and technical issues, as well as potential environmental impacts on protected areas, wildlife and wildlife habitat, fish and fish habitat, vegetation, species at risk, marine environment and wetlands. No order to commence the hearings will be issued until this information has been provided to the Panel's satisfaction. Meanwhile, CN has become interested in the possibility of providing an alternate means of transporting oil to tidewater for export to Asia, and has come up with a plan for a "pipeline on rail" that would also deliver oil to West Coast tanker ships. In view of CN's poor safety record, environmentalists are not impressed. ☺

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BC Nature Archive Trivia

The Great Bird Debate of the 80's

Back in 1987, a three month province-wide campaign to select a Provincial bird was held in conjunction with the Ministry of Environment and Parks and the Centennial Wildlife Society. A slate of seven birds were shortlisted to become our Provincial bird. Listed is the criteria to belong to the shortlist:

- Nest in the province or, better still, be a resident bird year round.
- be attractive and recognizable
- be either a western species, be unique to BC, or have an abundance of its world population in BC
- Have conservation or cultural significance
- be generally common throughout BC

The 7 flighty candidates that were shortlisted on the basis of this criteria were: *the Varied Thrush, the Trumpeter Swan, The Steller's Jay, the Rufous Hummingbird, the Peregrine Falcon, the Harlequin Duck and the American Dipper*.

50,000 ballots were sent in by the public and the chosen bird was the Steller's Jay.

Anne Hansen's

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Route finding in Kakwa Provincial Park

by Robert Shepherd

Rob describes day 5 of this eight day BC Nature exploratory backpacking trip in Kakwa 2010. Sixty-five bird species were recorded for the Breeding Bird Atlas

"Where's Rick?" Margie asked.

We were standing on a shrubby rocky hillside in Kakwa Provincial Park. Ahead of us was the vertical rock face which rises from the shores of Lake La Glace. To our left was a wet fen meadow beside a meandering stream. No other hiker was in view.

Starting on July 5th, we had taken two days to hike 29 kilometers up an old mining tote road and ford a small river. As we hiked in, in mist, we heard low rumbling to our left. Initially we thought the rumbling was thunder. Then we realized that slabs of ice were falling from the massive glaciers surrounding Mount Sir Alexander (3270m, 10720ft). There were ten of us camped on the shore of Kakwa Lake, sited in the northern Canadian Rockies, northwest from Mt Robson. We were there to explore this area and to gather information for the BC Breeding Bird Atlas, including early morning point counts led by Cathy Koot, with several of us assisting.

On this day, Margie and I got started late. Rick kindly waited for us at a stream crossing. We caught up with the others at the next stream crossing. (The mosquitoes had lunch during the stream crossing when I rolled up my pants!) The group split up when we got close to Lake La Glace because the extensive meadow looked too wet to struggle across. Some people ascended a boulder field and rock bluffs. Margie, Rick, Bev and I stayed in the scrubby forest near the meadow. Rick got ahead of us, and Margie preferred that the group stay together. We did reunite and struggled uphill through horizontally growing rhododendron ("Mountain misery").

In the forest at the top of the hill we took a route to the point where a big stream cascaded out of the lake. We broke out crackers and nuts and cheese



Photo: Carol Fairhurst

Hikers crossing the fen meadow below Lake La Glace

and had lunch. I had brought a white gas stove and pot, and made tea for the group.

From a distance, Lake La Glace looks like a moraine lake, because a third of the lake is bounded by a high vertical stone wall. But the water is held in the lake by tilted limestone, not by a moraine. The stream tumbles down a steep bed below the lake, throwing up cool mist.

As we walked back, we discovered that the wet fen meadow was dry enough to easily stroll across. Cathy kindly explained the difference between a marsh (has mineral soil and high nutrient enrichment), a fen (develops on peaty, organic soil and has some nutrient throughput via water flow) and a bog (also peaty but nutrient poor and more or less stagnant). A Savannah Sparrow nest with young was even found for the Bird Atlas.

Kakwa impressed us with its outstanding scenery and numerous lush flower meadows. We also saw numerous conifer saplings that had been snapped off at chest height. We figured that the conifer saplings had been run down by the snowmobilers, who were likely also responsible for the crushed beer cans we came upon in many remote locations throughout the park. As recorded in the log book at the public cabin, up to 250 snowmobilers use the park on a peak day during winter. We considered asking the authorities to staff this park in the winter to manage use, monitor distur-

bance to wildlife and vegetation, and ensure that garbage is not scattered throughout the park. We are fortunate in British Columbia that we have scenic wilderness, and that the government has preserved some of that wilderness in parks. ☺

BC Nature backpackers are planning two trips for 2011: early July hike to the Nuit (Niut) Range which is located to the west side of Tatlayoko Lake. With a group size limit of ten, this trip is full. A second backpacking trip is scheduled for mid July to the Fortress Ridge area, near Castle Peak in South Chilcotins (Spruce Lake) Provincial Park. A couple of spots remain for this group. Please Contact: Bev Ramey via email bevramey@telus.net

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Wildlife Tree Stewardship Program Reaches New Heights in the Okanagan-Similkameen

By Lisa Scott & Allison Black

Cavity nesting birds have lots to tweet about in the Okanagan-Similkameen. The loss of suitable habitat for nesting and foraging, including the lack of wildlife trees, presents a serious threat to many species. Fortunately, the Wildlife Tree Stewardship (WiTS) Program for the Okanagan-Similkameen has been able to continue for a fourth season thanks to the dedication of many volunteer monitors and also due to financial support from the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk.

The WiTS Program in the Okanagan-Similkameen focuses on cavity nesting species at risk. Trained volunteers monitor breeding areas and record nesting activity. Most of the monitors are affiliated with one of four naturalists' clubs: South Okanagan Naturalist Club, Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists, Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists and the Central Okanagan Naturalist Club.

For season 2011, monitoring will hopefully expand to the Vernon area and involve the North Okanagan Naturalists Club.

In 2010, we focused on Lewis's Woodpeckers, with the team surveying 113 nest trees throughout the two valleys. Most of the trees were located along the Similkameen River between Hedley and Keremeos. Additional trees were located in the Anarchist Mountain, West Chopaka and Vaseux Lake areas. Forty-one percent of the trees were re-occupied, while 27 percent had visual sightings of birds in the area but entrance into a cavity was not observed. Four of the nests were re-occupied by nest competitors such as American Kestrels and European Starlings. Approximately 51% of the nest trees were ponderosa pine, while 28% were black cottonwood. Douglas fir, waterbirch and utility poles also provided nest sites. One nesting tree had blown over and three had been cut down.



Photos by Lisa Scott

Volunteer monitor Greg Byron works with summer student Allison Black to measure the diameter of a new wildlife tree that supported a pair of Lewis's Woodpeckers (above) during the summer of 2010.

This field season, WiTS did not survey Williamson's Sapsucker as extensively as 2009 due to the fact that the Ministry of Environment commissioned a survey completed by an independent ecological consulting company. Due to the risk of confounding evidence or of harassing the birds by oversampling, WiTS only looked at the re-occupancy of nest sites in a benchmark area above Okanagan Falls. Local researcher and WiTS volunteer, Les Gyug, found two re-occupied nests, one new nest tree and two incidental bird sightings.

The surveys for Western Screech-Owl proved challenging due to wetter and stormier conditions than in previous years. A late summer survey in the Central Okanagan proved very successful with confirmation of at least two owls in a regional park that only had historical sightings. WiTS intends to conduct additional screech-owl surveys during the breeding season in 2011.

The past year has been very exciting with the discovery of a pair of White-headed woodpeckers in the McCuddy Creek area. A WiTS volunteer regularly surveyed the Crown lands in the area

and sighted a WHWO on three occasions in March. WiTS is actively working with the private landowners in this area, and hopes to gain important information on this elusive species in the coming year.

In addition to field monitoring, WiTS conducts school and community outreach programs that highlight the importance of wildlife trees. These events provide an opportunity to educate people about the role of wildlife trees and the various species that depend on these habitat features, as well as the importance of wildlife tree conservation.

WiTS could not have accomplished all the surveying this year without the contributions of many private landowners and the dedication of numerous volunteers. We look forward to working with our many volunteer monitors in the coming years, and hope to see some new faces in 2011!

To join this exciting team or to learn more about the WiTS, check out our website: www.wildlifetree.org or contact Lisa Scott, WiTS Regional Coordinator, at witsos@shaw.ca or 250.404.0115. ☺

Tracking Tundra Swans for BC Nature

By Alan Burger

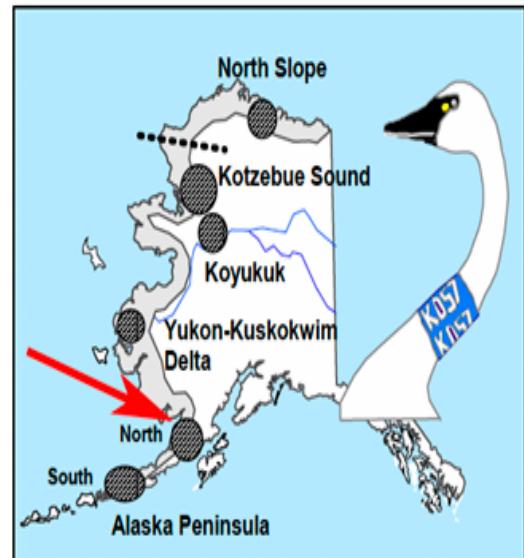
On 14 November 2010 Gloria and Mike Brenner, members of the newly-formed Nicola Naturalist Society in Merritt, stopped to admire a large flock of swans feeding at Beaver Ranch Flats on the Guichon Ranch north of Nicola Lake. Among the dozens of Tundra Swans feeding in this rich marsh were several with blue neck bands. Gloria and Mike took photos of these birds, and through contacts with the Canadian Wildlife Service we were able to contact the scientists who had attached the neck bands. Tundra Swans are being tagged in Alaska by biologists of the US Geological Survey as part of an ongoing study of swan migration, set up in part to investigate possible movements of avian influenza viruses. Dr. Craig Ely of the USGS Alaska Science Center in Anchorage is part of the study, and sent the map (inset) and information on the Beaver Ranch Flats birds. Tundra Swans are being captured and neck-banded at several of their breeding grounds in Alaska, shown in the shaded oval areas on the map.

Four of the birds photographed by the Brenners were banded as adults (two breeding pairs) in late July 2010 on the north end of the Alaska Peninsula, near King Salmon (shown with the arrow on the map). Several other neck-banded swans from the Alaska study were also reported elsewhere in British Columbia in the fall of 2010 – including three from the Okanagan and one from near Chilliwack.

These Alaska researchers have also attached satellite-tracking tags on Tundra Swans which allows continuous tracking of their migration. This study showed that the Alaska Tundra Swans migrated on both sides of the Rockies en route to their wintering sites in California. Swans from the far north of Alaska and Canadian Arctic tend to migrate to the eastern U.S. for the winter. Read more about this amazing research and see the satellite tracking maps at this web-site: http://alaska.usgs.gov/science/biology/avian_influenza/TUSW/TUSW_research.html Look out for marked waterfowl

There are several studies using neck bands to identify and track geese and swans. The bands are designed to allow the birds to feed normally. If you see any of these birds write down the colour of the band and the number. Sightings of these marked birds provides important information on migration routes and critical habitat. Send sightings of all banded or marked birds to: Canadian Wildlife Service Bird Banding Office based in Ottawa (e-mail: BBQ_CWS@ec.gc.ca phone: 613-998-0524).

Or for marked swans contact Dr. Craig Ely at cely@usgs.gov ☺



Map showing areas where Tundra Swans are being tagged (dark shaded areas) and where the Beaver Ranch Flats swans came from (arrow).



Tundra Swans

Photo by : Mike Brenner

Trumpeter or Tundra?

Birders in BC are used to seeing Trumpeter Swans on lakes and coastal waters during the winter. It might therefore surprise some to hear that these marked birds were Tundra Swans passing through on their fall migration. So how can one differentiate the two species? It isn't easy and it helps to have your bird field guide with you as you peer through your binoculars or, better still, a spotting scope. Body size: Trumpeters (average mass 10.5 kg) are bigger than Tundras (average 6.6 kg). Neck length & shape: Trumpeters have longer necks and more often have it folded back at the base; Tundras tend to keep their necks more vertical but this is not a strong identification feature. Bill shape: Trumpeters have much larger, longer bill, which is more straight (Tundra is curved) where the bill meets the lower cheek.

Yellow spot on the lores: this is the clincher (if you can see it!) Only Tundras have a yellow spot in front of the eye – this varies a lot and is often hard to see. Voice: Trumpeters are less vocal and lower pitched with gentle nasal honking, Tundras have a melancholy hound-like kloo call. Although Trumpeters are now the most common swan seen in BC the species had a close brush with extinction. Excessive hunting and the feather trade decimated the populations and by the 1930s there were fewer than 100 left. It took heroic efforts to save the species. This is a conservation success story and the Trumpeter Swans are slowly recovering and now number about 16,000 birds. The more numerous Tundra Swans which, as we have just learned, nest in remote areas in Alaska and the Canadian Arctic, were never in danger of extinction. ☺

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BC Parks Centennial

By Gail Ross

When we think of BC Parks, we often think of campgrounds, picnic grounds and hiking trails – but as many know, there is so much more....

Our parks range from the smallest park at Memory Island (less than one hectare) to the largest at 989,616 ha (Tweedsmuir). Our second largest park, the 947,026 ha Tatshenshini-Alsek is a World Heritage Site. Together with the adjacent parks in Alaska and the Yukon, it forms the world's largest International World Heritage Site.

MacMillan Park on Vancouver Island is visited by thousands every year to enjoy the majesty of the towering old growth Douglas-fir forest. Farther up the coast, the Kitlope Heritage Conservancy protects the largest intact coastal temperate rainforest in the world.

In Hawaii, we often marvel at the volcanic landscapes, and yet similar features can be enjoyed in Wells Gray, Garibaldi, Nisga'a, Itchas Ilgachuz and Mt Edziza – with Mt Edziza being the most significant volcanic landscape in Canada.

For those enjoying sandy beaches, in Naikoon Provincial Park on Haida Gwaii, sandy beaches stretch continuously for almost 100 km, making it some of the longest continuous sandy beaches in the world.

Anne Vallee (Triangle Island) Ecological Reserve protects the largest seabird colony in BC and Canada's largest (the second largest in the world) Stellar's sea lion rookery. 70% of BC's five million nesting seabirds colony in BC and Canada's Largest Stellar's sea lion rookery. 70% of BC's five million nesting seabirds are protected in 13 of our ecological reserves.



Helmcken Falls - Wells Gray Park

If waterfalls are your interest, the highest in Canada (and one of the 10 highest in the world) is – Della Falls (440m) in Strathcona. Other falls of note are Hunlen Falls in Tweedsmuir, Helmcken Falls in Wells Gray and Shannon Falls, south of Squamish.

Photo: Gail Ross

Continued Page 13



Freeman King (Skipper) giving a school program at Goldstream

And, of course, BC Parks have no shortage of spectacular mountains - from the Matterhorn-like mountains in Assiniboine and Kakwa (Mt Sir Alexander) to the highest peaks in the Canadian Rockies (Mt Robson); on Vancouver Island (Golden Hinde in Strathcona); and in BC (Mt Fairweather in Tatshen-shini-Alsek).

Getting back to those campgrounds.... If each campsite is considered as overnight accommodation, BC Parks, with over 13,000 sites, is the largest provider of overnight accommodation in the province! For those who enjoy hiking, the 6000 km of trails (driving distance from Vancouver to Halifax is 6099 km) range from gentle nature trails to challenging wilderness adventures.

Park interpretation began in BC Parks in 1957 at Manning Park. The program flourished and expanded during the 1970's and early 1980's when there were approximately 100 full time interpreters and seasonals. In 1986, the province contracted out interpretation and then the program was eliminated in 2002. Since 2004, BC Nature has led the way in bringing back park interpretation through various partnerships. However, at the time of writing, it is still uncertain whether there will be any interpretive programs during the Centennial year.

This year we celebrate the Centennial of BC Parks and the foresight of many of those before us who lobbied to protect our natural heritage. Many celebratory events will be occurring around the province, with a particular focus on Parks Day – July 16th. Whether it is visiting parks and collecting stickers for the BC Parks 100 Passport, participating in a BC Parks 100 themed geocaching event, attending an Arts in the Parks event, or volunteering at a conservation and stewardship event, there will be lots of different activities you can undertake during 2011.

With almost 1000 parks and protected areas offering unlimited natural recreational opportunities, why not explore a park that you have never visited before, join a celebratory event or, – or perhaps take someone who has never visited a park with you! To learn more about BC Parks, visit the website at www.bcparks.ca. ☺



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Focus on BC Important Bird Areas (IBAs): Chilcotin Junction in the Okanagan Similkameen

By: Kris Andrews, IBA Caretaker

The wide grasslands and breathtaking canyon scenery of the Chilcotin Junction IBA make it an exciting area for birders and naturalists to explore. The IBA includes an extended area along both the Chilcotin and Fraser Rivers, upriver of the junction. It encompasses a mosaic of grasslands, big sagebrush flats, sand dunes, Interior Douglas-fir forest, steep slopes with hoodoos, and rock outcrops above roaring rivers below, riparian zones and small lakes and marshes.

The area was nominated to become an IBA by Cariboo naturalists, Anna and Gina Roberts, who recognized the value of its mature, old growth Douglas-fir forests along the river valley walls for providing habitat to one of the highest breeding concentrations of Flammulated Owls in Canada. Other species at their northern breeding limit in the IBA include: Lewis's Woodpecker, Prairie Falcon, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Long-billed Curlew, Dusky Horned Lark. Sprague's Pipit and Upland Sandpiper have been reported historically.

Exploring Chilcotin Junction

The eastern boundary of the IBA is intercepted 14 km west of Williams Lake on Highway 20 near the Fraser River. Fields near the river contain breeding Long-billed Curlew, while open slopes and ravines above the river provide nesting habitat for many bird species including: Long-eared Owl, Lazuli Bunting, Bullock's Oriole, Eastern and Western Kingbirds. Doc English Bluff Ecological Reserve is five kilometers downstream of the bridge on the west bank of the Fraser River. In May and June, listen here for Flammulated Owls and Common Poorwills calling after dusk. White-throated Swifts and the occasional pair of Golden Eagles can be viewed at the Bluff.

The most popular locations for viewing wildlife within the IBA are the Farwell Canyon Road and the Junction Sheep Range Provincial Park. To reach these areas drive 45 km west of Williams Lake on Hwy 20 to Riske Creek. Turn south and drive 15 km on the Farwell Canyon Forest Service Road to the park sign. From here drive 9 km south through private property along a dirt access road with some steep slopes, deep ruts and slippery conditions when wet. The road ends at a memorial cairn within the Provincial Park.

The extensive protected grasslands of Junction Sheep Range Provincial Park provide habitat for the largest herd of California bighorn sheep in the world, as well as many other grassland species. It is possible to hike from the memorial cairn down to the scenic junction of the Chilcotin and Fraser Rivers, a long hot walk in summertime. The flats above the junction demonstrate evidence of historic Chinese placer mining activity. A loop road circles from the cairn back through the Park



Junction of the Fraser and Chilcotin Rivers

Photo: Chris Andrews

to its northern boundary. In late fall, bighorn sheep can be observed rutting and sightings of Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, Rough-legged Hawk or Northern Hawk Owl are possible.

If road conditions do not permit a visit to the park, drive on down the Farwell Canyon Forest Service Road to the scenic splendors of Farwell Canyon on the Chilcotin River. Here in summer, First Nations fish for salmon in the traditional way. The old log homestead and hoodoos upstream of the Farwell Canyon Bridge are very photogenic, but be advised the buildings are on private property. The riparian zone of Farwell Creek and shrub belt at the base of the silt cliffs at this old ranch site harbour much bird life including possible rarities such as Black-chinned Hummingbird. ☺



Map of the Chilcotin Junction IBA

BCWF Wetlands Education Program: Building a “Wet” Foundation from the Ground-up!



Written by Neil Fletcher and Natashia Cox

For the last 15 years the BC Wildlife Federation's Wetlands Education Program (WEP) has been providing communities with the resources to protect, enhance, and promote wetlands. The 2010 Wetlands Institute and Wetlandkeepers workshops emphasize the successes of the WEP. The results from both programs have created an off-shooting of success stories that deserve recognition!

Logan Lake: Design to Restoration - Thanks to working alongside wetland construction specialists, and environmental professionals, Marge Sidney, with the BC Ministry of Environment, and the Logan Lake Enhancement Working Group (LLEWG), obtained \$50,000 in funding from Teck Resources Ltd, Highland Valley Copper to put towards the restoration of an Inlet Wetland at Logan Lake. LLEWG group was formed in 2007 at the request of the Mayor and Council and tasked with restoring Logan Lake's ecosystem, protecting the lake for the future, improving social benefits and creating an educational component. It was in-part, the surveying and wetland designs created during the institute that helped the LLEWG obtain the necessary baseline information to move restoration opportunities forward and provided the group with the necessary skills to manage the project.

Restoring Wetlands & Rescuing Amphibians – Edith Tobe Executive Director of the Squamish River Watershed Society, attended the Wetlands Institute to learn how to restore wetlands with her goal to return to Squamish, BC and start restoring wetlands to provide habitat for amphibians. With her new skill-set she is now equipped to restore 5 to 6 wetlands in fall of 2011 near Squamish through funds obtained from the Ministry of Transportation. In collaboration with the BCWF, she is also helping to coordinate a Wetlandkeepers workshop scheduled for April 1-3.



Wetland Institute Participants at Campbell Creek 2010

Photo: Heather Toes

Connecting People to Wetlands - Wayne Salewski, Regional President of BCWF is an active advocate of conservation. He helped identify two wetland sites to train participants during the Vanderhoof Wetlandkeepers workshop and also identified many other wetlands requiring restoration, including Murray Creek. Encouraging participants and community members to engage in landowner contact, Wayne aims to educate owners on the values of water stewardship planning and the positive results of the Murray Creek Project, its associated wildlife and wetlands and reducing the potential threats to this environment.

Advocating & Identifying Wetland Stewardship Initiatives – Paul Bergeron, member of North Shore Wetland Partners Society, recently reached his 20th year of volunteering for conservation works in North and West Vancouver. He was instrumental in helping BCWF bring a Wetlandkeepers Workshop to Cypress Provincial Park. Due in part to the Workshop in 2010, restoration activities for the headwaters of Cypress Creek have been identified and are being scheduled over the next few years.

These watershed visionaries are applying training from the Wetland Education Program and are championing stewardship initiatives in their communities. Due to their ongoing dedication, wetland stewardship and conservation is gaining momentum from the bottom-up!

The 2010 Wetlands Education Programs could not have occurred without support from our funders. See our list of funders and upcoming courses page 22. ☀



Logan Lake restoration design for 2011

Illustration: Rebekah Massey

Report: Survey of BC Nature Clubs' Involvement with Wetlands

Written by Peter Ballin

Introduction

BC Nature's 2010-2015 Strategic Plan includes the goal to harness the nature knowledge of members and clubs to compile, document and communicate nature knowledge across BC about wetlands. This report was delivered to the Wetland Stewardship Partnership. It summarizes how naturalist's clubs of British Columbia contribute to wetland conservation. With club roles as advocates, advisors, stewards, restorers, enhancers, educators, and enjoyers, we see the impact of citizens invested in the future of wetlands.

Methods

The Survey of BC Nature Club Involvement with Wetlands (available from the BC Nature Office) was distributed, after review by the BC Nature Conservation Committee and the approval of its Executive, to the directors and conservation committees of 51 naturalist clubs, representing almost 5000 individuals throughout British Columbia, in November 2010. Results were collated and summarized, with some activities highlighted. All detailed club submissions remain on file with the BC Nature office.

Results

Fourteen clubs submitted surveys. The conservation committee encourages you to submit your completed survey if you have not yet done so.

Club Activities

Not only do naturalists get into the field and enjoy wetlands, they protect them, fix them, and maintain them. Field trips to wetlands provide club members not only with observational and recreational opportunities, but often enlist them in long-term projects to conserve, enhance, and restore them. These projects include inventorying biodiversity, monitoring wildlife populations, removing invasive plant species, planting native species, building protective

fences, docks, bird boxes, bird observation platforms and hides, cleaning up, pollution surveys, mapping, trail building, stewardship, and species specific habitat enhancements. Many of these endeavors gather support from other organizations, and clubs in turn lend support to other organizations. A list of some of the organizations working with naturalists' clubs is available from the BC Nature office.

Since we can observe many wetlands relatively easily, they showcase wildlife and habitat, especially sensitive habitat. Accordingly, naturalists educate one another and their communities about wetlands through speakers, tours, classes, signage, displays at gatherings and malls, and special events. They visit schools and bring students into wetlands, and sponsor Young Naturalists' Clubs.

Club activities vary from little or no wetland involvement to important roles in wetland projects of international significance, such as those in the marshes and tidal flats of the Fraser Delta and Boundary Bay. The wetlands range from backyard size to over 11,000 contiguous wetland hectares. The Victoria Natural History Society reports that half of their field trips and a quarter of their evening talks feature ponds, bogs, lakes, estuaries, lagoons, streams, and rivers. The number of attendees to functions varies with the size of the club: generally 2-25 for field trips (most commonly half a day), 50 for speakers and camps, to 100 for survey events. Activities range in frequency from annual occasions to virtually continuous monitoring, and consume anywhere from an hour to the 4000 hours volunteered each year at the Scout Island Nature Centre at Williams Lake. Seasonal investment in the Wetland Restoration Project of the Comox Valley Naturalists takes 300 hours of fieldwork and 120 hours of administrative time. Shorekeepers Training takes 20 hours. Often individuals rather than groups put in long hours monitoring wetland organisms and habitats or acting as stewards.

Naturalists influence policy that has shaped landscape use in British Columbia. They work with other groups that share, or threaten, their interests, including the general public, schools, NGO's, First Nations, industry, government agencies, and all levels of government. For example, Nature Vancouver advocated establishment of Cypress Provincial Park in 1975, then assisted in forming the group, Friends of Cypress Park. They conducted plant and wildlife inventories, including four separate wetland plant surveys in 2009/10, and promoted best management of the park's small wetland areas. Restoration activities continue. The Central Okanagan Naturalists have been involved with at least 36 different wetlands in and around Kelowna since 1980, with the greatest involvement within the last few years. Pender Harbour and District Wildlife Society have worked closely with the Iris Griffith Centre to secure a wetland and build an educational centre, and now provide ongoing school and public programs.

Advocacy of wetland conservation remains an important function of BC Nature and its member clubs. Clubs draw attention to the value of wetlands by bringing land-use issues to the consideration of governments, local, provincial, and federal, and government agencies. They raise and donate money for wetland purchase, as much as \$4000/y, and contribute to nature centers and other conservation organizations. Government agencies, government, and industry seek out naturalists' clubs for input on best practices.

Volunteer hours for committee, advisory, and educational work on wetlands are difficult to estimate, as they not only vary from year to year, but also often included amongst broader landscape issues. The two largest clubs, Vancouver and Victoria, agreed that over the past decade each had at least 20 people contribute 500 hours per year, through briefs, meetings, presentations, speakers, committee work and leading field trips. ☈ For further information about specific club activities, contact the club directly or contact Peter Ballin at pjballin@mac.com

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Cost: \$600 per person (double occupancy) includes accommodation for four nights, meals from Friday night to Tuesday morning, and all activities except the optional boat trip. Very limited number of single rooms available for \$100 extra. There will be costs for car pooling to various walking/hiking venues. There will also be an optional boat trip on the MV Uchuck to Friendly Cove for those interested. Cost of this trip is \$75 per person.

Registration: Limited to 24 participants, must be a member of a BC Nature club or a direct member.

Contact Pam Munroe at dpmunroe@telus.net or 250-338-0187. Register on or after April 1 2011 to ensure your place. Camps fill up very quickly! General enquiries about camps are welcome, but no registrations will be taken before this date. ☺

Sponsored by Comox Valley Naturalists & BC Nature

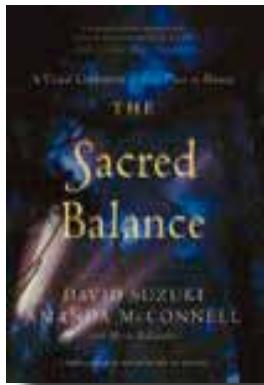
"Nature on the move ~ Fall Migration through the Delta" BC Nature Conference and AGM

Delta Naturalists' Society is pleased to host the 2011 BC Nature conference and fall general meeting at the Coast Tsawwassen Inn, Delta, BC., Sept 29 - Oct 1, 2011. The meeting venue is conveniently located in Tsawwassen on the west side of Boundary Bay, in the heart of the Fraser River delta. This is a wonderful area for birds and nature, especially in the fall when migration is in full swing. We hope that our event will attract BC Nature members and their guests from all across the province to enjoy field trips and presentations by expert birders and naturalists, and a fun line up of social events. The Directors' Meeting and Fall General Meeting will be held on Saturday 1 October. Watch for registration, accommodation and transportation options in the next issue of BCnature and on the BC Nature website. For more information, email Tom Bearss tom.bearss@dccnet.com or Anne Murray sanderling@uniserve.com ☺

Book Review

The Sacred Balance: Rediscovering Our Place in Nature

David Suzuki with Amanda
McConnell & Adrienne Mason
Softcover, 360 pages, \$22.95
Greystone Books, 2007
Reviewed by Eric Burr



This is an updated and expanded second edition of the 1997 original by North America's most recognized environmentalist. It is a serious book for restorationists, but also for preservationists who may not yet have quite figured out why restoration is necessary. It explores the question: What is humankind's real bottom line? Its goal is to achieve agreement on the answer. The urban cultural context is recognized up front, with its necessity to restate the facts of life for readers who perhaps skipped that class. Consequently professional ecologists will find most of the book very familiar, but naturalists will also find innovative new ways to present our case.

Recent changes in human perception are explored in the first chapter. Spirituality interacting with science and secular culture, Disney and Wal-mart, is the challenge. Clearly more than science is needed if we are to get our message out beyond the choir.

The central four chapters explore the universally acknowledged four elements of life: air, water, earth, and fire. Global warming dominates the air chapter, but avoids potentially confusing topics such as abiotic oil or the causes of the warming 1,000 years ago. These omissions

are excusable, in my opinion, because this book's potential audience has more than enough new scientific revelation to deal with. I think it is all too easy to overload newcomers with material not particularly germane to the problems at hand.

Chapter three reminds me of *The Nature of Things* with its beautifully structured examination of evolution from our watery origins to bottled water. The earth chapter (four) makes the case for organic agriculture.

The Divine Fire, chapter five, explores fuel options, which logically gets into overpopulation. Restoration in chapter six, based on genetic necessity, makes full use of Suzuki's professional specialty. Biophilia concludes chapter seven with specific reference to the work of E.O. Wilson. Chapter eight: Sacred Matter takes religion head on, with all its many dilemmas and psychological challenges alluded to in the first chapter.

Restoring the Balance is the concluding chapter and includes inspiring success stories from around the world. Interspersed throughout the text are quotations from a wide variety of famous authors and poets, which provide an especially ecumenical flavor. These are backed up by a thorough section of notes, at the back, for those interested in pursuing the sources further.

E.O. Wilson's endorsement on the back cover will hopefully help us reach a wider audience. The *Creation: An Appeal to Save Life On Earth* is Dr. Wilson's 2006 book addressing the spirituality dilemma so central to Suzuki's arguments for going beyond science to achieve the necessary balance. ☺

*Eric Burr is a retired national park ranger/naturalist and author, residing in Washington State's Okanogan County. His own book, *Ski Trails and Wildlife: Toward snow country restoration*, pursues Dr. Suzuki's goals for the boreal forest.*

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THE SUNSHINE COAST FOR NATURALISTS

18-22 July 2011 (5 days) Cost \$1350 (dbl occup) +HST from Vancouver

The Sunshine Coast exemplifies the best of coastal British Columbia as the temperate rainforest meets the blue of the Salish Sea in a confusion of magnificent fjords and green islands. We visit the Sunshine Coast's scenic highlights, including a full day cruise to world famous Princess Louisa Inlet, We also visit Jedediah Island and take a sunset cruise. Our base is the Rockwater Secret Cove Resort. The Sunshine Coast's culinary offerings are an important part of this tour and we will sample the best available. All meals are included in the tour price EXCEPT for 4 dinners.

SUMMER WATERFALLS OF BC

23-26 July 2011 (4 days)

Cost \$775 (dbl occup) +HST from Vancouver

Your guide is the author of the book 'The Waterfalls of British Columbia' and each participant will receive a signed copy of the book. We will visit a dozen of BC's great waterfalls, including the province's premier waterfall, Helmcken Falls in Wells Gray Provincial Park. The tour is accessible to virtually all levels of mobility. Your guide will identify and interpret the landforms, forests, plants, birds and wildlife along the way.

OTTERS, ORCAS & GRIZZLIES

25-29 August 2011 (5 days)

Cost \$1780 (dbl occup) +HST from Vancouver

In an increasingly crowded world British Columbia is a beacon of primeval wilderness known for its wildlife & scenery. On this tour to Vancouver Island we expect to encounter three of BC's most charismatic species, Sea Otters, Orcas & Grizzly Bears. The tour includes three separate boat excursions, all set against a backdrop of stunning ocean & mountain scenery.

SOUTHERN UTAH

15-24 September 2011 (10 days) Cost \$2300 (dbl occup) from Las Vegas

Planet Earth contains an infinite variety of landscapes, but in southern Utah random geologic events have conspired to create rare, unexpected and beautiful consequences. The mighty Colorado River, aided by the arid erosion cycle, has waged battle across the eons with the sandstone strata and fashioned landscapes so unique and bizarre that they are more redolent of an extra-terrestrial origin. We visit The Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Valley of the Gods, Arches NP, Canyonlands NP, Monument Valley, Zion Canyon and more.

Leader: Tony Greenfield

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Spirit of the
Wilderness



Cynodontium Rock

By Terry Taylor

Cynodontium Rock is a large, erratic boulder left by a glacier on a ridge, probably about 11 thousand years ago. I often hike along this ridge, and always look for Cynodontium Rock as I go by, so it is sort of a friend of mine. There are lots of boulders sitting on lots of ridges, so why is this one so special. Naturalists are attracted to organisms and features that most people do not even notice. They may be birds, plants or butterflies. I notice mosses, and this rock has a thick covering of Cynodontium jenneri, a moss that usually does not grow this luxuriantly. Sorry, I cannot give you a common name. I guess that indicates how many people look at mosses. Maybe nobody else has even been aware of Cynodontium Rock, even though hundreds of hikers pass it every year.

When you look more closely at situations like this, the question of origins comes up. How did this moss get on this rock? Seems like a fairly simple question, but an origin is essentially a point in time. In most cases we do not experience origins, but see only the results, and try to ascertain what occurred through circumstantial evidence. The ridge in this area is covered by rock outcrops, so I was curious about where the Cynodontium came from, before it grew on the rock. Since the proper habitat was all around, the most likely scenario was a spore floating a short distance and landing on the boulder. This moss produces lots of spores. A careful search yielded no other plants nearby. This made me think about how hidden from us, most natural processes really are. Maybe a more careful search would reveal the parent colony. Maybe a spore floated up from the cliffs below. Maybe the environment has changed, and the original plants have died out. All sorts of maybes, but no answer, and just a simple question.

When we ask questions like this, we need to remember that ultimately the basic processes of nature are beyond our level of perception. We cannot directly experience the very large or the very small, nor function on the time scales involved. The mosses growing on this rock probably grew from spores which arrived there many years ago. Nobody has ever seen spores. People have only seen images of spores with microscopes or similar forms of technology, under artificial conditions. You cannot see the spore floating across the ridge and landing on the rock, or see its natural microscopic environment.

When the first spore landed on Cynodontium Rock, the landing site was probably free of other mosses, as these would have prevented it from growing. There would, however, have been a flourishing film of thousands of other micro-organisms. Such films of life cover virtually every surface. The spore needed to germinate and grow into a web of alga-like threads. To do so it had to compete against the inhabitants that were already there, which it succeeded in doing. From the web, buds were produced that grew into new moss plants. These plants are now



Photo: Gerald Hempler
Hikers at Buntzen Ridge - showing a Cynodontium Rock

producing millions of spores. Have any of those met with similar success?

Several centuries of scientific research have revealed a great deal about the natural world, but most of it is still hidden from us. Cynodontium Rock bears witness to how much we know and how much we do not know. It is the invisible reality below our level of perception that runs the world. All around us are the relatives of Cynodontium Rock. ☺

MANNING PARK *29th Anniversary*
BIRD BLITZ *Mountain Bluebird*

June 17, 18 & 19, 2011

*A spectacular weekend of birding in a beautiful park!
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- Two nights camping at Lone Duck Campground on Lightning Lake — noon Friday, to Sunday.*
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Learning & Training Opportunities Wetland Stewardship 2011

Wetlands are uniquely tied to our environmental, economical and social well-being. They can reduce flooding, clean water, provide habitat for wildlife, offer us recreational opportunities and create visually appealing landscapes. So, it's no wonder that the BC Wildlife Federation's Wetlands Education Program (WEP) is still actively reconstructing, restoring and monitoring wetlands throughout the province! For the last 15 years the WEP has been providing communities with the resources to protect, enhance, and promote their local wetlands.

Sea-to-Sky Series Wetland Education

2011 WEP Programs offer training and stewardship opportunities in the rapidly developing Sea-to Sky Corridor!

Wetlandkeepers Workshop – 2.5 days (\$150.00)

Squamish (April 1-3, 2011)

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- Wetland Classification, Issues & Legalities
- Wetland Assessments & Mapping
- Vegetation, Amphibian and/or Bird Survey
- Upon completion receive **certification**.

Puddle Project – 1 day (\$50.00)

North Vancouver (June 5, 2011)

- Wetland Classification, Functions & Ecology
- GPS training, data transfer & utilization

For further information or to **register** for courses contact:

Neil Fletcher
Wetlands Education Program Coordinator
BC Wildlife Federation
wetlands@bcwf.bc.ca
604-291-9990 ext. 232
www.bcfw.bc.ca



Thanks to the Wetlands Education Program 2010 funders:



Young Naturalists' Club of BC Update

By Daphne Solecki

Goodbye! We are very sorry to have to say goodbye to Jennifer Swanston, our Clubs Coordinator for the past three years. She has been offered a full time position with all benefits, which is something we cannot offer. With a growing family, it is a position she could not refuse. We shall miss her passion for nature, her warm outgoing personality, her sense of humour and her infectious laugh. We thank her for all she has contributed to YNC Leaders for Regional Young Naturalists' Clubs

We are happy to report that Angela Jean-Louise has volunteered to start a Home Learners YNC in Lillooet. (There are currently Home Learner groups in Vancouver, Victoria and Cowichan Valley and many home learner members all over the province.) We are still looking for new leaders for Kimberley and South Okanagan. Please contact Daphne Solecki (daphsol@telus.net for further information on what is involved.)

Robert Bateman print draw

The print was won by Dr. Judy Myers, professor emerita, Beaty Biodiversity Centre. She has kindly arranged to hang the print in the Centre in memory of Rex Kenner.

Nature WILD

Our thanks go to Teck Resources Elkview Operations (East Kootenay) for a generous grant to support the most recent issue of NatureWILD (Volume 11 Issue 3). The 'Salmon Edition' produced in September with support from the Pacific Salmon Foundation was very popular. PSF reported "The Salmon issue of NatureWILD at the Adams River last year was a huge success - the public grabbed up magazines as fast as they could put them out!" A subscription to NatureWILD is available for \$20 per annum.

New Resources:

In preparation for the Great Backyard Bird Count the YNC produced 5 full-colour regional, kid-friendly Bird ID cards. These are useful for any beginning birder and can be downloaded from the website www.ync.ca. Thank you to Don Delaney of the Edmonton Naturalists' for donating the use of his photos, and Wild Birds Unlimited for sponsoring a portion of the printing.

Partnerships: WildBC

We are looking forward to developing a partnership with WildBC which is the educational arm of the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. By working with and supporting WildBC we will be able to strengthen YNC connections to schools.

Imagine Canada

Imagine Canada is a national charitable organization which supports and strengthens Canada's charities and non-profits. It is developing a Standards Program whereby charities can become accredited to a set of non-profit sector standards. Kristine has been invited to join Imagine Canada's new Standards Council

Kudos

Jackie Hildering, Murray A. Newman Award Recipient for Significant achievement in Aquatic Conservation. Jackie is the leader for the North Vancouver Island YNC, in addition to her work with Save our Salmon, Jackie is raising a new generation of aquatic conservationists. Several YNC members were able to attend the event. Congratulations Jackie! ☺



Club Chat

By Betty Davison

VANCOUVER ISLAND

Arrowsmith Naturalists

"40 Years Young"

Cold weather and frozen earth slowed our stewardship work at the Englishman River estuary for the last few months. With the ground finally thawing, we'll now be spending less time in the coffee shop and more time pulling out Scotch Broom – we have mixed feelings about that! It is rewarding, though, to see fairly large broom-free areas in the estuary and that is what keeps us going back to work.

Our Christmas Bird Count went well and our compiler, Sandra Gray, was happy with the results as we counted 116 species in total. We are very fortunate to have Sandy organizing the event – she is a tireless and dedicated volunteer. After the team participants finished counting, we then celebrated the count and Christmas with a potluck supper. Since the last club chat we've had several field trips; Neck Point in Nanaimo and two in the Courtney area (Nymph Falls and Goose Spit). The outing that received the largest and most enthusiastic response was the tour of the VIU (Vancouver Island University) Deep Bay Field Station. Brian Kingzett toured our group around the Shellfish Research station that was not yet officially opened. Members later described the tour as exciting, inspiring, informative and well worth seeing. We're already planning a future return trip to see the centre fully open and operational. If your club is interested in touring the station, visit their website at: www.viudeepbay.com

~ Submitted by Pat Bourgeois

Comox Valley Naturalists Society

CVNS is pleased to be hosting a BC Nature Summer Camp to be held at Strathcona Park Lodge July 15th to 19th. The timing is very meaningful since Strathcona Park was the first park established in the B.C. system and is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2011. Pam Munroe and helpers are putting together a full program of activities in birding, botany and geology.

In 1997, CVNS published a spiral-bound booklet called "Nature Viewing Sites in the Comox Valley and Environs". Thoughts of updating it were always shelved until Krista Kaptein had the idea of moving it into the cyberworld where it could be continuously refined. The New Horizons for Seniors program is allowing our group to update the web site and our brochure.

The Wetland Restoration Project, initiated by CVNS, has evolved over nearly 20 years since its inception; its mandate has been expanded to include elimination of all invasive nonnative plants and the re-establishment of native plant material in the Courtenay estuary. The report for 2010 as well as a history and reports for 2003 to 2009 are available on the club website. A sign titled "A History of Transformation" is being prepared for the viewing stand at the Air Park. The executive has expressed its sincere thanks to Frank Hovenden for all his work on the Wetland Restoration Project.

We are privileged every winter to be the home and resting site for over 2000 trumpeter swans. In flight they are an elegant sight with an unmistakable bugling call. Large and small flocks dot the farmland around the Comox valley. With an 8-foot (2.5) wingspan, their landing on water is quite a sight. Like the landing gear of a plane, pairs of wide, webbed feet drop down at the last instant to break the fall. Seconds later they fold their wings, arch their necks and drift regally away.

Fred Constabel has put together the Spring and Summer field trip schedule beginning on March 3rd with an outing to Kin Beach to look for early spring flowers such as Blue-eyed-Mary and Gold star.

~ Submitted by Jackie Gray

Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society

November for the second year we started our weekly swan and goose count – better known as 'The Wild Goose Chase'. We cover essentially the same area as our Christmas Bird Count driving an 80 km figure-eight course around the valley. Numbers of swans, so far, are down from last year but there appear to be relatively more young than last year. Of course the day we had the dump of snow was on a count day so we missed one week. A thrill was spotting a red phalarope in the Cowichan Estuary probably blown in by a storm.

Our Christmas bird count went off well – for once the weather was quite reasonable – frosty first thing but no rain or snow this year. One new species was added to our local list – the Eurasian Collared Dove – this introduced species has made it to our valley. Several new high records were established – these being:- Ring-necked Duck (850), Hooded Merganser (235), Pied-billed grebe

(64), Anna's Hummingbird (45) and Hermit Thrush (8). Another rare species, a Cassin's Auklet, was found in Burgoynes Bay, Saltspring Island tying our record from way back.

In December our Young Naturalists joined with the "older" naturalists for our annual winter solstice party – those that were able to attend had a great time!

Cowichan Bay is working on a revised Official Community Plan and it is proposed that a new by-law be introduced regulating development of foreshore property for 30 meters above high water mark. It now appears that a number of property owners who would be impacted by this new by-law are getting out their chainsaws and cutting down trees and shrubs which stabilize some of the shoreline slopes – with the result that at least one slump of soil onto the foreshore has taken place!

A great honour has been bestowed upon one of our senior members – Syd Watts – a peak on the east side of Buttle Lake in Strathcona Park has been named after him! The official write-up describes Syd as "long time Vancouver Island mountain climber, keen birder, naturalist extraordinaire and life-long champion of natural places and system."

~ Submitted by Eric Marshall

Pender Islands Field Naturalists

The 47th annual Christmas Count is now over and despite the dreary weather 71 species had been recorded but the actual number of birds was down. One of the most uncommon species observed by Stuart Scholefield was of a Merlin, a small, swift flying falcon. Another uncommon species noted was by Don Williams and the Valentines of a Hermit Thrush. Magic Lake continued to demonstrate its importance as a habitat for wintering waterfowl. About 100 Common Mergansers were present and an equal number of Ring-necked Ducks. An exciting look at a pod of Orcas off the Stanley Point area by David Spalding et al, was the wildlife highlight. The postponed talk by Richard Philpot on marine mammals will now be given on April 22nd.

~ Submitted by Gerald McKeating

Victoria Natural History Society

This winter, the Victoria Natural History Society finally reached a long-standing goal. Veteran count-coordinator Ann Nightingale has been hoping for years that we could reach 200 participants in a Christmas Bird Count. On December 18, 217 participated in the count on a cool,

Continued on page 24

Club Chat, continued from page 23

windy day. This was one highlight of a winter packed with field trips and presentations.

As part of our ongoing efforts to attract new members, the VNHS has recently developed a new display. This display is less cumbersome than the old and more eye-catching, featuring donated artwork and photos by members Joanne Thompson and Marie O'Shaughnessy. The display is already being used in malls and at community events. One such event is the upcoming Seedy Saturday, where members Darren and Claudia Copley will be presenting on gardening for wildlife. Another upcoming community event where we will be showing off the new display is International Migratory Bird Day on May 14. This year the events will be held at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park.

In other efforts to retain members, we are presently completing a survey of our membership in order to improve the Society and provide more of the programs that people most want to see.

The Victoria Natural History Society has recently donated \$2000 to the Habitat Acquisition Trust to help pay for the establishment of new covenants to help protect private lands.

The VNHS has its AGM in March. After that, we will be looking forward to the spring meeting in Williams Lake...and bringing resolutions.

~ Submitted by James Miskelly

LOWER MAINLAND

Abbotsford - Mission Nature Club

We were often asked where the "central valley" was in our old name. We chose to recently rename our club the Abbotsford Mission Nature Club as it better defines who and what we are. We are also in the midst of upgrading our website.

We look forward to a good year with greater membership and enjoyment in learning and participation. Club members have been providing input to natural area management planning for city parks, providing ideas for the Experience the Fraser project, and keeping informed and providing comments on development plans that affect trees and other habitat in our city.

September began with the viewing of the migration of the Vaux's swift. Over 20 people watched as over 3,000 birds entered the old Sumas, Washington Customs Building chimney. It took over 30 minutes for most of them to get inside the chimney.

We had a display at the Bald Eagle

Festival in November. Gerry Powers and Steve Howards continue to be a great source of knowledge.

In October, the executive attended a retreat at Sechelt, sponsored by Hank and Alice Roos' Family. We incorporated the monthly executive meeting and visited the Caren Range where Paul Jones and John Dafoe spent hours sharing this amazing place.

~ Submitted by Jacqui Reznick

Chilliwack Field Naturalists

Rain, rain, rain. We seem to have seen a lot of this lately and some days have felt pretty dull and uninspired. Last night was our February General Meeting with Guest Speaker Graham Osborne who is a renowned photographer. It was his request to have a large crowd and with some more active advertising his name caught the attention of the public and to our gratititude the guests did fill the room. His awesome photographs and witty stories behind the photo's kept us entertained for over 2 hours and reminded us once again of the beauty of our province and other places. January we held our silent auction fund raiser and members were able to show us some digital slide shows. December was the Christmas Bird Count and Potluck which is always something we look forward too.

We continue to work at the Camp River Wildlife Area and are extremely grateful for the grant we just received from BC Naturalists Foundation to purchase some plants and we are actively trying to raise funds and apply for grants to purchase a tractor to do the heavy work and mowing that is required. We are having a pub night fund raiser in April to assist with the funds.

Janne our president has been working hard towards organizing a camp that will be hosted in the Fraser Valley. It is a joint venture with the Hope Mt Centre for Outdoor Learning.

The Eastern Fraser Valley YNC had a successful field trip to Harrison Hot Springs that was very well attended with Janne leading the young naturalists to various spots around the lagoon.

~ Submitted by Helen Turner

Delta Naturalists Society

The Delta may be falling apart, but the club is thriving – we've had a very successful Fall and Winter so far; if our attendance continues to grow, we may have to consider moving to a larger facilities – we are bursting at the seams in our existing room. We frequently go over our 40 person capacity. There are many people within our club to thank for this,

in particular, our Publicist Joanne. She has helped us grow with the publicity in the local papers and also the wonderful posters that Geof is painting! All of these together have brought in more members: 21 Family and 19 Single memberships for a total of 61, plus we enjoy the occasional visit from the public. Check out our Blog at: www.dncb.wordpress.com for Reports and photos and the DNCB Picasa photo site at: <http://picasaweb.google.com/dncbirding> Tom also did a Birds on the Bay walk in January on the snowy Wednesday; he has committed to doing one every quarter – so keep checking the BotBay schedule.

"Nature on the Move: Migrations through the Delta": Fall General Meeting: Sep 29 – Oct 2. Plans are progressing: The initial Program has been drafted, some speakers already booked. Details Page 18. Watch for the complete program in the Summer issue of BC Nature.

The birding has been grand – the Ladner Bird Count was the highest with 143 (actually 144 with a Pileated Woodpecker). The most wonderful bird was the Northern Hawk Owl which is still hunting on Westham Island



Photo: Ursula Easterbrook

Northern Hawk Owl

There are some sad issues. The SFPR is proceeding; the whole of Tsawwassen and Ladner is getting noisier with more traffic – both ground and air; there are more and more big trees being cut down along the SFPR, the First Nation roads and in the periphery of the Boundary Bay Airport. At the latter they cut down all the trees on the NW corner of the outside edge which had an active Bald Eagle nest in it – all so they can expand the airport and prevent crashes. There are still masses of eagles and gulls hanging out at the dump and turf farm, just around the airport. This year, due to poor Chum Salmon returns, all the eagles came south – approximately 1000 at the Vancouver landfill.

See you in September!

~ Submitted by Ursula Easterbrook

Langley Field Naturalists

August and September were busy months for our members preparing for the BC Nature Fall General meeting 30th Sept.-3rd Oct. Sheila Puls, co-coordinator with Jude Grass for the event, organised work party meetings at several members houses, including her own, to build the needed signs, create the art work for the centre pieces for the banquet and make the fall foliage arrangements. Many members turned out to make light of the work. As a result of working together for the Fall General meeting preparations we got to know many more members. We find that people sit in their chairs at monthly meetings to listen to very interesting speakers, thanks to Dr Martin McNicholl, but the social time is too short to establish contacts with other members. I hesitate to speak for all but I think everybody who volunteered thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We held a "thank you" pot luck lunch at the Griffiths house a month later, which was also enjoyed.

LFN members were very pleased that Al Grass, our first President, was presented with the McTaggart-Cowan Outstanding Naturalist Award at the Fall General Meeting. Al continues to be a very active member with our club, leading many Field trips during the year, and teaching us so much about our natural world, for which we are very grateful.

The Forslund/Watson Nature Reserve which FLN members have helped to improve over many years, although it is owned by the Province, has had more attention this year. New members, Jenny and Ben Auxier, have spent many hours pulling the invasive plant *Lamiastrum*, clearing many areas in the forest, which has made a huge difference. Bill Image, also a new member, helped our president, Bob Puls, plant 96 Western Red Cedars (3ft high) Some cages have been built around them to prevent the deer from nibbling the young needles. Plans are being made to install swallow nesting boxes and hopefully a barn owl nest box too.

Submitted by Annabel Griffiths

Little Campbell Watershed Society

The Little Campbell River (noted the 12th most endangered in BC) watershed continues to be inundated with conservation challenges and loss of habitat. Members are monitoring: a shrimp farm that has illegally dumped its waste water into the river; gravel extraction operations; numerous development proposals, one for a composting facility on ALR land, another a casino/convention centre

and another, a gas station on a tributary of the river. Done deals but of ongoing concern are the Highpoint development in Langley adjacent to Campbell Valley Park where the removal of forest and resulting sediment dumps into the river during spawning has now evolved to building an equestrian facility with a footprint that would challenge many a casino in dimensions [all equine urine to river, "treated by soil"!]. Members continue to closely monitor the 'Campbell Heights Industrial Park' in Surrey and meet with staff regularly to voice concerns.

The dedicated Little Campbell Hatchery volunteers continue to work around the clock and in 2010 they hosted 91 school tours reaching 2793 students and 695 parents and teachers and hundreds of casual visitors are welcomed annually to visit and enjoy the forest park nearby. This past fall over 80 classrooms received their 'Salmon in the Classroom' kit to study the lifecycle of wild salmon.

A priority for this year is to replace unreadable interpretive signage in the forest park along the river. The project entails fifty specific native plant signs and nine larger signs focused on river sites such as spawning salmon, beaver activity, nurse log etc. This project will be accomplished with partners Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society and A Rocha and the generous support of a BC Nature and BC Naturalist Foundation club grant.

We're also scheduled to remove invasive species such as *Daphne laurae*, bindweed, tansy and Himalayan blackberry and pick up litter and dog waste in the estuary March 20 and April 9. Please visit our website: www.lcws.ca

Submitted by David Riley

Stoney Creek Environmental Comm.

The Stoney Creek Environment Committee had one loss and many gains in 2010. In August, we lost our mentor, Jennifer Atchison, to breast cancer. Not a week goes by that we don't wish we could ask her a question about Stoney Creek.

On the plus side, Burnaby Parks planted 730 evergreens in the Stoney Creek watershed, replaced plastic with glass on the kiosk near Stoney Creek Community School to counter graffiti attacks, and worked with MetroVancouver to extend the fencing on the MetroVancouver trail to discourage informal stream crossings. Simon Fraser University have nearly completed a new road salt handling facility to replace the old leaking salt shed.

We also had a great Coho spawning run this fall. One Saturday alone, we counted 30 Coho - equal to the total for all of 2009.

The big push this year is to reduce the pressures on the watershed on Burnaby Mountain. A commercial mountain bike race, new trail construction, a proposed gondola and zip-line, the Evergreen Skytrain construction scheduled for October, and the ongoing roadsalt contamination from SFU.

To help publicize our activities, Pablo Vimos, one of our volunteers, has redesigned our website: www.scec.ca.

Put May 7th on your calendar for the 21st annual Great Salmon Send-Off. See the website for details.

Submitted by Alan James

KOOTENAYS

West Kootenay Naturalists

The summer/fall hiking program drew a significant number of participants. A strenuous outing comprised driving to the top of Kootenay Pass and hiking up to Ripple Ridge (2100m). A group of 22 people descended upon the Dragonfly Café in Salmo subsequent to the hike, much to the bewilderment of the waitress as to the size of the group descending upon the small facility. She enquired whether they were all together and where they came from, as the group apparently looked like escapees from a Seniors Care facility.

A much more the leisurely outing comprised a visit to Kokanee Creek and the site of the Busk Manor, being the home of Charles Busk, a civil engineer employed in the construction of the CPR transcontinental railway. While the house no longer exists, the rock walls, and location of tennis courts, stables, a soccer field and oval shaped concrete swimming pool remain intact. Completion of the history lesson was followed by viewing the Kokanee salmon on their migratory journey to their spawning channels. Plans have been completed for the 2011 program, offering a broad range of challenging activities at various locations.

A significant problem in the West Kootenay area in 2010 was the poor berry crop resulting in shortage of food for bears, leading to numerous encounters with the public and unfortunately, resulting in the need to shoot a significant number of animals. Strict regulations regarding garbage collection have been introduced by way of fines of \$50 in an attempt to minimise the problem in future.

The winter speakers program, is providing a wide range of topics and locations, ranging from hiking

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in the Height of Rockies Provincial Park, salmon fishing in the Queen Charlotte's, a visit to the Orkney Islands and canoeing the Missouri River. The status of run-of-the river Hydro generating plants in the West Kootenay area, particularly the Glacier/Howser installation, is being closely followed. Demonstrations against construction of the project must have influenced the decision not to proceed with its construction. Ironically, while the project seems unlikely to proceed the environmental assessment program, for reasons unknown, continues unimpeded.

~Submitted by Brent Hancock

NORTHERN BC

Prince George Naturalists

The Prince George Naturalist Club was re-launched in January, with a lively AGM attended by 40 people. A very ambitious annual program of activities was developed, and a couple of outdoor events had already taken place within the first week. The word has been spreading since, with over 100 people asking to be put on the mailing list - though just 33 at the time of writing had filled in forms and paid subscriptions.

A new forum and blog and a Facebook page have been created, so information should be flowing steadily as the Club gets into its stride. Contact clive_keen@hotmail.com for any details.

~Submitted by Clive Keen

Williams Lake Field Naturalists

Our club is looking forward to hosting the BC Nature Spring Conference and AGM May 12 to 15. Details about this event are on the BC Nature and Williams Lake Field Naturalists websites.

The Scout Island Nature Centre has been active through the winter offering programs for school classes, home school groups and youth organizations. We are now preparing for the spring and summer programs with the hope that we will have funding for staff. In March we are planning to construct an elevated board walkway on a trail in the riparian zone. Our annual banquet will be held in April during which we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of The Nature Trust of BC and have a presentation by Dr. Rob Butler. The Nature Centre website is now available for viewing (www.scoutislandnaturecentre.ca).

~Submitted by Fred McMechan

THOMPSON SHUSWAP OKANAGAN

Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club "50 Years Young!"

It's our 50th anniversary, so the Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club has an ambitious program of 50 public and/or club events to celebrate, kicking off with a Sunflower Festival on Apr 30th and culminating with the hosting of BC Natures' AGM from May 4th to 6th, 2012. Drawing inspiration from the Meadowlark Festival in the South Okanagan a dedicated committee, led by Dianne Hayley, is planning a wide variety of events which will showcase the rich natural heritage we have to enjoy in our area. Why did we choose to highlight the sunflower? Arrowleafed balsamroot is Kelowna's floral emblem.

These are some of the events planned for the year:

- To start the sunflower festival, a Pancake breakfast with Kelowna Mayor Sharon Shepherd attending.
- Interpretive walks in Kalamoir Regional Park led by master naturalist, Scott Alexander.
- Birding with Dick Cannings.
- Geocaching and games for children.
- A nature art and photography display in the EECO Center.
- A geology and botany tour of Scenic Canyon Regional Park led by Robert Young and George Scotter.
- Ethnobotany with Leonard Rapheal and a taste of first nations cuisine.
- Studying bats at the old school house in Peachland.
- Some events are with bus transportation only.

Throughout the rest of the year we will showcase the natural history of the Okanagan. Events will cover every aspect of being a naturalist, from looking at life in a pond, birding by bicycle, and neighbourhood walks through areas that CONC identified and succeeded in having them put aside as parks. We are hoping to both educate and inspire anyone who is interested in the natural world to value and protect the amazing biodiversity of this region.

~Submitted by Don Guild

Kamloops Naturalists Club

This year we had a great turnout of 68 people for our club's AGM, which included a potluck dinner, a raffle draw and a photo contest. Jean Crowe was elected as the new club president as Tom Dickinson stepped down after several much appreciated years. A new club member, Norm Dougan, won photographer of the year

and the night ended eventfully with an ice storm that made it tricky to get out to our cars.

We are working on setting up an endowment fund in the name of two founding members of our club, Jack and Barbara Gregson. This scholarship will be for students who study in areas of great importance to the Gregson's, such as Entomology and Botany.

We are looking forward to our Spring Nature Series which is run through the City of Kamloops. This Series will run one evening a week for six weeks and will feature a new nature topic on each night.

We have run two other similar series in past years with great success and positive feedback from the public.

~Submitted by Theresa Corboy

Lillooet Naturalist Society

Our restoration project wrapped up for the season with the final wild planting days at the site in October. Kim North, the coordinator for the restoration project, teamed up with the local newspaper and they organized an "Art Show and Sale". This project invited people to submit their own artistic creations, related to nature, on a canvas that was provided. The project wrapped up after our annual general meeting in January with a "show" and "sale" which generated tremendous community participation, some amazing art and raised considerable funds.

We held a Bat House building work party before the November craft fair sale. At the Craft Fair we had a table as usual for outreach and education and sales of our luxury bat condominiums were brisk. We enjoyed a presentation about Insects in our Forests with entomologist Ward Strong PhD. We hosted a presentation by biologist and researcher Larry Davis on Fishers.

The Christmas Bird Counts at Lillooet, Hat Creek and the Yalakom were completed and enjoyed by all. It was our best year for Lillooet, with 59 species and over 1,800 birds on the 'day'.

Our AGM was January 22nd and well attended. We welcomed Simon Warhurst and Doug Grossler to our board of directors. An Invasive Weed group is starting up that we are supporting. Another local group is starting up to address some of the environmental concerns related to mining in the Bridge River area. The Lillooet Naturalists supported ten applications for funding with the Fish and Wildlife Compensation program through BC Hydro. The Bridge and Seton watersheds did well in the process

and we look forward to more restoration and SAR compensation work over the next season.

~Submitted by Vivian Birch-Jones

Nicola Naturalists Society

Our new club continues to grow. Our monthly evening meetings attract between 30 and 60 people and we get good press coverage from the local Merritt media. Our evening meetings are held in the very elegant new lecture theatre at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. We now also have a website: www.nicola-naturalists.ca

In November Dr. Karl Larsen, Associate Professor in Wildlife Ecology and Management at Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, gave us a fascinating talk on the research he and his students are doing on grassland critters. Their work on the Badger and other threatened grassland wildlife is of great importance. One of his students has even figured out how to fit a radio tag to a Great Basin Spadefoot to follow the movements and habitat use of this enigmatic amphibian.

In December we held a bird identification workshop as a warm-up to the Christmas Bird Count. The count itself was held on 2 January and despite the chilly conditions 15 people were out in the field, locating 58 species (right on average) and 2050 birds (below average).

In January Dr. Alan Burger gave us a presentation of the wonders of the High Arctic, based on his work in Svalbard and Greenland as a lecturer/naturalist with Aurora Expeditions. Besides having lots of pictures of Polar Bears and other arctic wildlife the talk focused on the rapid changes experienced in the arctic as a result of global climate change.

The Nicola Naturalist Society was awarded a small grant by the BC Public Conservation Assistance Fund to initiate an amphibian monitoring program in the Merritt/Nicola area. Under the guidance of Dr. Kristiina Ovaska and other professional herpetologists we will be donning our gumboots to go frogging in the spring.

~Submitted by Alan Burger

North Okanagan Naturalists Club

In October, seven of us spent a wet weekend at Nakusp Hotsprings. We had opportunities to explore the area and hiked through the very wet forest to the site of the original Hotsprings, from where the hot water is piped down to the present commercial pool. A lot of poison ivy grows around these hot sources, and there are some attractive waterfalls on us-

kanax Creek which flows in the valley below the hotsprings.

Ann Langer led a work bee at Cools Pond, one of our small protected areas. Turtles cross a busy road near the pond, so we are trying to make people aware.

A bird walk had been planned a week earlier, but because it had been so very cold, it was held the next day in Kalamalka Park., and we were delighted to be able to include a white breasted nuthatch among our sightings.

Our Christmas Bird Count was held on Sunday December 19th, with the count at the Bishop Bird Sanctuary afterwards. Twenty parties covered the Greater Vernon areas. We had seen 88 species and the bird of the Day trophy went to the group that saw a grey catbird.

Since then members have been on informal cross country ski trips. We've had one scheduled snowshoe trip following snowshoe trails established by an Outdoor Club here.

Jim Bodkin led a swan and eagle count in January, when no tundra swans or golden eagles were seen. There were 144 trumpeter swans of which 120 were adults and 122 bald eagles with 96 adults.

The Young Naturalists had a Fall trips to visit the Bishop Bird Sanctuary. Another trip was to the Stockdale organic Farm near Enderby, where they tasted different berries and leaf teas and they also watched sheep dogs perform. We have a Wood Duck in Vernon on BX Creek near the downtown Safeway, which was first spotted a few weeks ago by Daphne Manning. Since then it has been photographed many times by many people.

~Submitted by Pamela Jenkins

South Okanagan Naturalists Club "50 Years Young"

Another great winter in the Okanagan – it was a pleasure doing the Christmas Bird Counts this year! In December we passed through our shortest day of the year. Unfortunately I was not able to partake in the solstice celebration as Dr. Chris Purton talked of the Pen Henge marker stone set in place on Munson Mt. by the Okanagan Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society. Imagine – our very own Pen Henge! Our meeting nights have provided us with some awesome topics and speakers! We've been sharing ideas and names of speakers with other clubs.

Spring is on the way. It's nice to see sightings of buttercups and hints of a few of the birds returning and even looking for nest sites! As for butterflies – we celebrate with Dennis St. John as he was awarded the Norman Criddle award from the Entomological Society of Canada. As the days warm up we do have a great line up for outings starting in April, but not before one more offer to snow shoe at Telleir's Fisherman's Cove with Greg & Terry at Osprey Lake.

A committee has been working hard on celebrations for our 50 anniversary and our conservation committee remains active writing letters and attending meetings. We also remain active pursuing the South Okanagan National Park - always hoping to soon hear the good news we're waiting for. Meanwhile we have been fortunate to be able to donate to other worthy groups such as SORCO and the Burrowing Owl Conservation Society.

Submitted by Glenda Ross

Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists

"20th Anniversary"

In February, our Annual General Meeting was held with the elections of New Officers. Madelon Shouten shared an overview of our 20 years history. She shared a recent letter from a Katsimivik Student that worked with us on our Swan Lake Conservation area, telling us that his experience with us led him into Environmental Studies and he is now pursuing a Masters in that area. Trish Reid then showed a power point presentation with a pictorial view of our 20 years to music that was well received. We celebrated with cake and fellowship. Honorary Life Membership was presented to Madelon.

We have enjoyed a Winter snow shoe hike up Osprey Lake Road. Nineteen people went and we experienced various degrees of difficulty. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We are looking forward to hearing Laure Neish in March on the Breeding Bird Atlas Program and Harold Baumbrough in April on the documentation of regrowth in Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park since the fire of 2003.

We are fortunate in having a good team on the Executive. We enjoy good hikes and explorations. Newsletters are fantastic and a good team that organizes great speakers program. The Club is 84 members strong and we are looking forward to another 20 years.

~Submitted by Cathie Yingling



Schedule of events

(full details at www.bcnature.ca or www.williamslakefieldnaturalists.ca)

Thursday, May 12

8:30 to 5 pm
6 to 9 pm
7:30 to 8:30 pm

Friday, May 13
6 to 7:45 am
7:30 to 8:30 am
8:30 to 10:15 am

10:15 to 10:45 am
10:45 am to 12:15 pm

12:15 to 12:45 pm
12:45 to 5:15 pm

5:15 to 6:30 pm
6:30 to 9:30 pm
7:30 to 9 pm

Saturday, May 14
6 to 7:45 am
7:30 to 8:30 am
8:30 am to 12 noon
8:30 am to 12 noon

12 noon to 1 pm
1 to 4 pm
5:30 to 6:30 pm
6:30 to 9:30 pm

Sunday, May 15
9 am to 12 noon

9 am to 4 pm

Pre-conference field trip: Churn Creek Protected Area

Registration and social

Presentation: Crown of the Cariboo-Chilcotin, Ray Coupe

Early morning birding, Phil Ranson, Sandy Proulx, Cathy Koot

Registration (breakfast on your own)

Welcome and Presentations

- *Insights into the behaviour and ecology of the northern flicker*, Karen Wiebe
- *Ants, from British Columbia to Borneo*, Rob Higgins

Refreshment break

Presentations

- *Cariboo-Chilcotin ecosystems-diversity and uniqueness*, Ordell Steen
- *Salmon in the Cariboo-Chilcotin*, Dept. Fisheries and Oceans biologist

Lunch (bag lunch or on your own)

Field trips

- F1: Grassland plant communities from low to upper grasslands, Ordell Steen
- F2: Plant communities of a mid elevation grassland landscape, Ray Coupe
- F3: Birding on Becher's Prairie, Group #1, Phil Ranson & Sandy Proulx
- F4: Birding on Becher's Prairie", Group #2, Ken Mackenzie
- F5: Bluebird trails to Farwell Canyon, Jim Sims and Kris Andrews
- F6: Ants of the interior grasslands of British Columbia, Rob Higgins
- F7: Cavity nesting birds of Becher's Prairie, Karen Wiebe
- F8: Plants and wildlife at Doc English Bluff Ecological Reserve, Michaela Waterhouse
- F9: Wildlife viewing at Springhouse, Alkali Lake & Dog Creek, Katharine VanSpall

Dinner (on your own)

Social: *A duet of delightful desserts and volcanic images*

Presentation: *Motherstone - British Columbia's Volcanic Plateau*, Chris Harris

Early morning birding, Phil Ranson, Sandy Proulx, Cathy Koot

Registration (breakfast on your own)

Meetings: BC Nature directors and Young Naturalists Club (YNC)

Field trips

- Plants of the Secwepemc People, Jean William, Sue Hemphill
- Birding in the Williams Lake River Valley, Phil Ranson, Sandy Proulx
- Williams Lake River Valley – nature at our doorstep, Ordell Steen, Leo Rankin
- Ecology and forest management of Interior Douglas-fir forests, Rick Dawson
- Exploring the nature of Doc English Bluff, Ray Coupe, Jim Sims

Lunch (bag lunch or on your own) Lunch for BCN and YNC directors

BC Nature Annual General Meeting

Pre-dinner social

Banquet

Keynote speaker: Wayne Sawchuk, *25 Years of Exploration in the Muskwa-Kechika*

Field trips

- Ecology and forest management of Interior Douglas-fir forests, Rick Dawson, Rob Higgins
- Scout Island Nature Centre: a place to get up close to Nature, Sue Hemphill, Mary Forbes
- Birding in Walker Valley, Tom Godin
- Ducks Unlimited projects and birding in the Chimney Lake Valley, Katharine VanSpall

Post conference field trip: Spring in the Horsefly River Valley and the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area, Barry Booth



REGISTRATION:

Name(s) _____

Club name (or BC Nature direct member) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Postal code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

OPTIONS (check all that apply)	Qty.	Before April 8	After April 8	Total
Full registration (includes presentations, field trips and evening socials) *Does not include banquet	_____	\$90	\$105	\$_____
Friday only (includes presentations, field trips, social)	_____	\$60	\$70	\$_____
Saturday only (includes field trips) *not banquet	_____	\$30	\$40	\$_____
Meals: Saturday banquet (spaces are limited)	_____	\$40		\$_____
Bag lunch (Friday)	_____	\$8		\$_____
Bag lunch (Saturday)	_____	\$8		\$_____
Indicate special dietary needs _____				Total \$_____

Indicate which field trips you wish to attend: (As spaces are limited, please indicate your preferences)

• **Thursday preconference all-day trip to the Churn Creek Protected Area**

(Please indicate the name of each person. The cost will be the carpool fee)

Person 1 _____ Person 2 (if applicable) _____

• **Friday afternoon trips** (please indicate names and write the field trip code (F1 to F9, as indicated on the events page) your first, second and third choices. Choose only once for F3/F4. The cost will be the carpool fee)

Person 1 _____ 1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____

Person 2 _____ 1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____

• **Sunday post conference all-day trip to the Horsefly River Valley** (please indicate each person attending. The cost will be the carpool fee) Person 1 _____ Person 2 _____

* Sign-ups for Saturday and Sunday and Early Morning Birding Trips will take place at the registration desk

* Registration and a signed waiver are required for all trips.

Please mail your form and cheque to: Williams Lake Field Naturalists, BC Nature AGM, 1305A Borland Road, Williams Lake BC, V2G 5K5. Please make cheques payable to "Williams Lake Field Naturalists". No refunds after May 2

The venue is Thompson Rivers University, Williams Lake Campus, 1250 Western Avenue, V2G 1H7

Accommodation: Accommodation information is available at www.bcnature.ca and www.williamslakefieldnaturalists.ca. Or contact the Williams Lake Visitor Centre, toll free at 1-877-967-5253 or email visitors@telus.net

For additional information contact: Chair Fred McMechan at (250) 392-7680 or fred_mcmechan@telus.net or Registrar Nola Daintith at (250) 392-6858 or dnola@telus.net. You can also write to us at the WLFN address above.

BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists)

	Member	Phone	Email
President	John Neville	250-537-4121	songbird@saltspring.com
Vice President	Vacant		
Past President	Bev Ramey	604-224-7689	bevramey@telus.net
Treasurer	David Tsang		david.tsang@gmail.com
Secretary	Claudia Copley	250-479-6622	dcopley@telus.net
Conservation Chair	Rosemary Fox	250-847-5150	foxikrj@bulkley.net
Kootenay Regional Coordinator	Greg Ross	250-489-2566	gsross@shaw.ca
Lower Mainland Regional Coordinator	Jude Grass	604-538-8774	judegrass@shaw.ca
Northern BC Regional Coordinator	Fred McMechan	250-392-7680	fred_mcmechan@telus.net
Vancouver Island Regional Coordinator	Sue Loveless	250-336-8782	sloveless@shaw.ca
Thompson Okanagan Reg'l Coordinator	Don Guild	250-768-3334	guilds@telus.net
Parks and Protected Areas Coordinator	Don Guild	250-768-3334	guilds@telus.net
Education Chair	Joan Snyder	250-365-7633	snowdance@shaw.ca
Communications Director	Vacant		
Other positions:			
Awards Chair	Pat Westheuser	250-769-6605	hughwest@shaw.ca
IBA Coordinator	Anne Murray	604-943-0273	sanderling@uniserve.com
Young Naturalists' Club President	Daphne Solecki	604-736-9471	daphsol@telus.net
Young Naturalists' Club Coordinator	Kristine Webber	604-737-8001	coordinator@ync.ca
BC Naturalists' Foundation	Bob Dyer	604-922-9798	bob_dyler@telus.net
Consultants to BC Nature:			
Ross C. McCutcheon	Partner, Maitland & Company, Barristers and Solicitors	700-625 Howe, Vancouver V6C 2T6	
Reid/Hurst/Nagy	Certified General Accountant	105-13900 Maycrest Way, Richmond V6V 3E2	
Lower Mainland	Director	Address	Phone
Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club	Jacqueline Reznick	Box 612, Abbotsford V2S 6R7	604-557-1828
Alouette Field Naturalists	Duanne Vandenberg	506-12148 224th St., Maple Ridge V2X 3N8	604-463-8743
Bowen Nature Club	Everhand van Lith de Jeude	602 Collins, Bowen Island V0N 1G6	604-947-9562
Burke Mountain Naturalists	Elaine Golds	554 Yale Rd., Port Moody V3H 3K3	604-937-3483
Chilliwack Field Naturalists	Helen Turner	47564 Mountain Park Dr., Chilliwack, V2P 7P6	604-792-0972
Delta Naturalists' Society	Ursula Easterbrook	Box 18136 - 1215 C-56th St., Delta V4L 2M4	604-948-1749
Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society	Margaret Cuthbert	15425 Columbia Ave., White Rock V4B 1K1	604-536-3552
Langley Field Naturalist Society	Annabel Griffiths	Box 56052, Valley Centre PO, Langley V3A 8B3	604-530-2778
Little Campbell Watershed Society	David Riley	4700 224 St. Langley V2Z 1N4	604-536-2636
North Shore Urban Bear Club	Betty Carrington	1886 Berkley Rd., North Vancouver V7H 1Z3	604-924-9281
Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Soc.	Joe Harrison	Box 220, Madeira Park V0N 2H0	604-883-9958
Royal City Field Naturalists	Gareth Llewellyn	903-1219 Harwood St., Vancouver V6E 1S5	604-609-0679
Squamish Environmental Conservation Soc.	Mary Mitchell	Box 2676, Squamish V8B 0B8	604-815-0801
Stoney Creek Environmental Ctee.	Alan James	7551 Kraft Cres., Burnaby V5A 1Z4	604-420-0771
Sunshine Coast Natural History Soc.	Tony Greenfield	Box 543, Sechelt V0N 3A0	604-885-5539
Texada Stickleback Group Association	Tim Atwood	Box 353-2404 Van Anda Ave, Van Anda, V0N 3K0	604-486-7775
Nature Vancouver	Dorothy Nelson	4175 W 10th Ave., Vancouver V6R 2H2	604-224-5668
Nature Vancouver	Margaret Coutts	302-1230 West 12th Ave., Vancouver V6H 1M1	604-512-1413
Whistler Naturalists Society	Kristina Swerhun	P.O. Box 845 Whistler V0N 1B0	margaretcoutts@shaw.ca
White Rock and Surrey Naturalists Society	Esther Johnson	Box 75004, White Rock V4A 0B1	kswerhun@hotmail.com
Kootenays	Director	Address	Phone
Fernie Nature Club	Bob Livsey	3 Elkview Pl., Fernie, BC V0B 1M3	250-423-6699
Rocky Mountain Naturalists	Greg Ross	Box 791, Cranbrook V1C 4J5	250-489 2566
West Kootenay Naturalists' Association	Joan Snyder	2410 12th Ave., Castlegar V1N 4I8	250-365-7633
Northern BC	Director	Address	Phone
Bulkley Valley Naturalists	Anne Hetherington	3377 Mountain View Rd., Smithers V0J 2N6	250-847-4618
Kitimat Valley Naturalists	April MacLeod	72 Skeena St., Kitimat V0C 1Y9	250-997-6913
Mackenzie Nature Observatory	Vida Tattrie	Box 1598, Mackenzie V0J 2C0	250-997-6913
Prince George Naturalist Club	Clive Keen	5980 Salmon Valley Road, Prince George V2K 5W2	clive_keen@hotmail.com
Quesnel Naturalists	Lorna Schley	128 Lindsay St., Quesnel V2J 3E3	lschley@quesnelbc.com
Skeena Valley Naturalists	Judy Chrysler	1677 Lupine St., Terrace V8G 0G1	weena@telus.net
Timberline Trail & Nature Club	Meredith Thornton	701 105th Ave., Dawson Creek V1G 2K5	mthorntn@pris.ca
Williams Lake Field Naturalists Soc	Fred McMechan	1305A Borland Dr., Williams Lake V2G 5K5	fred_mcmechan@telus.net

Thompson-Shuswap-Okanagan	Director	Address	Phone	Email
Central Okanagan Naturalist Club	Don Guild	Box 21128 RPO Orchard Park, Kelowna V1Y 9N8	250-768-3334	guilds@telus.net
Kamloops Naturalist Club	Theresa Corboy	#68 1221 Hugh Allan Drive, Kamloops V1S 1M7	250-320-0889	teresa_corboy@hotmail.com
Lillooet Naturalist Society	Vivan Birch Jones	Box 1065, Lillooet V0K 1V0	250-256-4062	vivianb@telus.net
Nicola Naturalists	Alan Burger	Box 2539, Merritt V1K 1B8	250-378-2468	aburger@uvic.ca
North Okanagan Naturalists' Club	Pamela Jenkins	Box 473, Vernon V1T 6M4	250-545-0490	pamj@telus.net
North Shuswap Naturalist Club	Rudy Vervoort	Box 24030, Scotch Creek V0E 3L0	250-679-8763	schrader@airspeedwireless.ca
Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists	Harold King	Box 1181, Osoyoos V0H 1T0	250-495-6907	hwking12@gmail.com
Shuswap Naturalists Club	Janet Pattinson	2451 Sherry Road, Sorrento V0E 2W1	250-835-2270	scouse5@telus.net
South Okanagan Naturalists' Club	Dennis St. John	Box 23050, Penticton V2A 8L7	250-498-6651	dsjohnster@gmail.com
Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists	Trish Reid	Box 2074, Princeton V0X 1W0	250-295-6002	trishmaryreid@yahoo.ca

Vancouver Island	Director	Address	Phone	Email
Arrowsmith Naturalists	Pat Bourgeois	120 North Finholm St #45, Parksville V9P 1J5	250-586-4846	pat_bourgeois@yahoo.com
Comox Valley Naturalists Society	Jackie Gray	Box 3222, Courtenay, V9N 5N4		jtgray@telus.net
Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society	Genevieve Singleton	Box 361, Duncan V9L 3X5	250-715-0113	twflower@telus.net
Nanoose Naturalists	Carolyn Dodd	2345 Eaglesfield Place, Nanoose Bay V9P 9G7	250-468-5437	ron-cardodd@shaw.ca
Pender Island Field Naturalists	Gerald McKeating	6618 Harbour Hill Dr., Pender Island V0N 2M1	250-629-3840	geraldmckeating@shaw.ca
Rithet's Bog Conservation Society	Sharon Forrester	6429 Bryn Road, Saanichton, V8M 1X6	250-652-5950	s.forrester@shaw.ca
Rocky Point Bird Observatory	Ann Nightingale	1721 Cultra Ave., Saanichton V8M 1T1	250-652-6450	motmot@shaw.ca
Saltspring Trail & Nature Club	Nieke Visser	145 Rourke Road, Salt Spring Island V8K 2E6	250-537 5443	niekevisser@shaw.ca
Victoria Natural History Society	Tom Gillespie	Box 5220, Stn. B, Victoria V8R 6N4	250-361-1694	twgillespie@shaw.ca
Victoria Natural History Society	James Miskelly	Box 5220, Stn. B, Victoria V8R 6N4	250-477-0490	james.miskelly@gmail.com
Victoria Natural History Society	Darren Copley	Box 5220, Stn. B, Victoria V8R 6N4	250-479-6622	dccopley@telus.net

Affiliate Groups

BC Spaces for Nature	www.spacesfornature.org	Morell Sanctuary Society	www.morrell.bc.ca/
Boundary Bay Conservation Committee	www.sunburyneighbourhood.ca/BBCC/	The Nature Trust of BC	www.naturetrust.bc.ca
Burns Bog Conservation Society	www.burnsbog.org	North Shore Black Bear Network	www.northshorebears.com
Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area	www.crestonwildlife.ca	Osoyoos Desert Society	www.desert.org
Delkatla Sanctuary Society	http://www.massetbc.com/html/delkatla_sanctuary.html	Raincoast Education Society	www.raincoasteducation.org
Friends of Beacon Hill Park Society	www.friendsofbeaconhillpark.ca	Riverview Horticultural Society	www.rhcs.org
Friends of Caren	www.user.dccnet.com/welcomewoods/Friends_of_Caren	Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve Society	www.lagoonsociety.com
Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society	www.cypresspark.bc.ca	Sargeant Bay Society	www.sargbay.ca
Friends of the Stikine	www.panorama-map.com/STIKINE/stikine.html	Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society	www.somenosmarsh.com/index.php
Garry Oak Meadows Preservation Society	www.garryoak.info	Sunshine Coast Conservation Association	www.thesc.ca
Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning	www.hopemountain.org	Trails BC	www.trailsbc.ca/
Land Trust Alliance of BC	www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca	Wild Bird Trust of BC	www.wildbirdtrust.org
Malaspina Naturalist Club, Powell River	www.armourtech.com/malanat		



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Check out our course schedule at: <http://www.birdvancouver.com/workshops.html> and join us for one of the following courses:

- Our **Bird Identification Workshop** – developed for birders who wish to participate in the BC Breeding Bird Atlas or similar programs or who just want to take their bird knowledge and identification skills to the next level.

This course covers groups, topography, field marks, song, habitat, molt, ageing and more and includes a guided field session to a local birding area. Although developed for beginner and intermediate birders the ornithological aspects of the course benefit even the most experienced birders and are invaluable for birders traveling overseas.

- Our **Bird Monitoring and Banding Workshop** – developed for people with little or no bird banding or bird in the hand experience provides a fantastic opportunity to see birds up close and personal, to learn about their plumage, molt sequences and life habits.



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Address _____

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