



Langley Field Naturalists

To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education



Langley Field Naturalists acknowledge we are in the unceded Indigenous lands of the Coast Salish (Stó:lo) people

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Newsletter

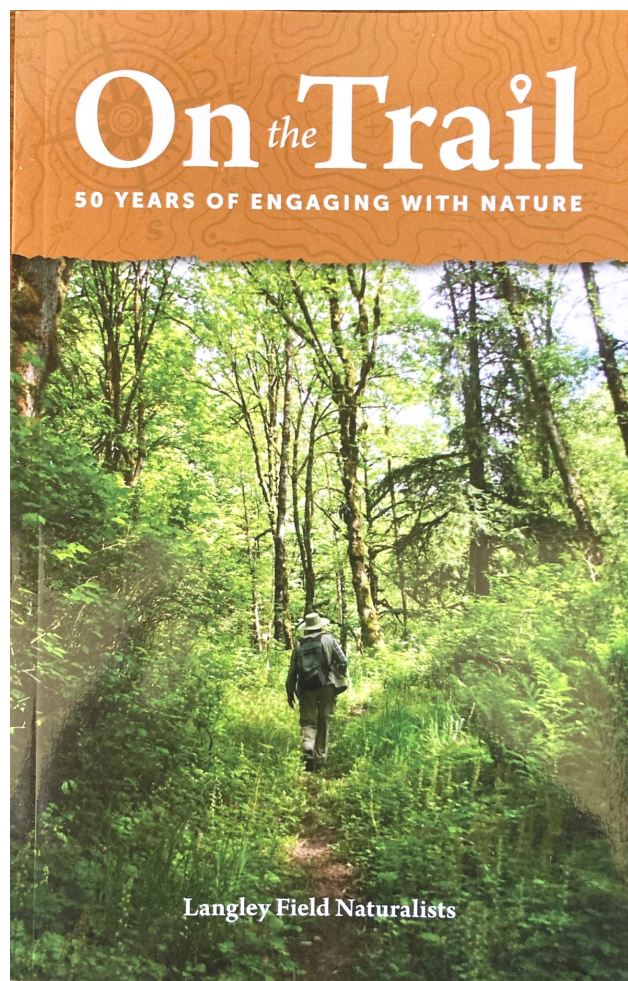
December 2023

BOOK LAUNCH

On December 9th at 2 pm at the City of Langley library, 20339 Douglas Crescent, we will be officially launching our new book, "On the Trail - 50 years of engaging with nature".

The book celebrates Langley's wonderfully diverse natural areas and their inhabitants: the plants and animals that live in forests, fields, streams, bogs and lakes. It also pays tribute to a group of like-minded people who have loved and cared for these natural areas over the past 50 years. The Langley Field Naturalists have learned much about working together as a team and facing both failures and successes in conservation battles. 'On the Trail - 50 Years of Engaging with Nature' reveals tactics that worked to help protect nature. It also reveals that joy, community, and flexibility are critical to a society's success and endurance.

All of us know that the next 50 years will not be easy. The natural places will become more precious as development expands. We will also need to make significant choices and changes in the sometimes fickle, sometimes ferocious, face of climate change. Yet there is always hope: the pioneering work of the Langley Field Naturalists may help to inspire young people to "know nature and keep it worth knowing".



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Langley portion of

White Rock/Surrey/Langley,

Thursday, December 28th

Contact John Gordon - johnngordonone@gmail.com

North Langley portion of Pitt Meadows count:

Saturday, December 30th

Contact Eric Habisch - eric.habisch@gmail.com

Vancouver: Saturday, December 16th

Contact pcandido328@shaw.ca

Chilliwack: Saturday, December 16th

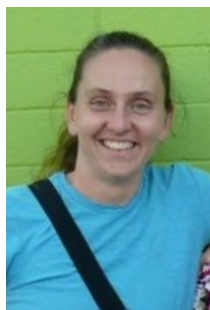
Contact bcwildddenis@uniserve.com

Ladner: Sunday, December 17th

Contact ysattia@gmail.com

Abbotsford: Wednesday, December 27th

Contact ken.summers@telus.net



President's message

What a year! I think we can give ourselves a pat on the back for pulling out all the stops for our 50th Anniversary.

We hosted a flawless BC Nature AGM with many thanks to Sheila. We participated in a record number of events this year that would have been impossible without our dedicated outreach volunteers and coordination from Lesley. Gareth organized walks galore that seem to have participation beyond "pre-pandemic" numbers. Hit after hit after hit with monthly presentations thanks to Anne. Joanne has lead the Member Participation Committee in helping our new Membership coordinator, Marianne, making phone call after phone call to get everyone paid up and to welcome new members to the team.

Possibly our biggest accomplishment this year started 3 years ago when Bob said "We need a book about what we have been able to do" and the unstoppable force, AKA Lilianne, stepped up to the challenge and delivered! Lilianne was undeterred by worries, personalities, timelines, or a pandemic. The incredible team that brought our book, "On the Trail: 50 years of Engaging with Nature", was not short in talent! Writers, editors, photographers, knowledge keepers... this ragbag team came together under the leadership of Lilianne and produced an incredible volume that comes from the heart of an incredible team.

Reading between the lines of this great book, I see friendship, support, understanding, harmony, empathy. So much connection has been built on the common love of nature. Recently the World Health Organization has declared Loneliness as a global health issue. I think we need more LFNs and LFNers in this world. I truly hope that every member is proud of the role they have played in helping bring connection to so many over the years. I will always be grateful for my connection to the LFN.

Entering into year 51 might come with a little less pomp and circumstance than 2023 (I might be welcoming a quieter year, not gunna lie) but I am excited to be a part of the beginning of our next 50 year book full of new members, new projects, and new adventures! The trail awaits!

Lisa Dreves

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS 2023-2024

DIRECTORS

President: & webmaster	Lisa Dreves 604-532-0081 ~ lisabob2@yahoo.com
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Members At Large:	Eric Habisch 778-231-0273 ~ eric.habisch@gmail.com Caren Porter 604-427-4499 ~ caporter@shaw.ca

REPRESENTATIVES & CONVENORS

Greeters:	Rebecca Tin Tun/Helen Thompson
Refreshments:	Lynda Lightfoot 604-856-6138 ~ ltlightfoot@shaw.ca
Forslund-Watson:	Ryan Usenik 604-530-3257 ~ jrusenik@telus.net
NatureKids:	Anthea Farr 604-576-7731 nicomekl@naturekidsbc.ca
Member Participation:	Joanne Rosenthal 6778-239-5615 ~ jrrose77@yahoo.com
Displays:	Lesley Goodbrand 604-530-2714 ~ lgoodbrand@shaw.ca

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from September to June, starting at 7.15 pm
Executive meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month Sept - June

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16TH

DERBY BOG



Approaching the bog

Photo: Ted Goshulak

Ted Goshulak and I co-led a group of 12 enthusiastic participants on an evening walk at the Derby Bog / Langley Peatlands, beside Derby Reach Regional Park in North Langley. After a pleasant stroll along McKinnon Crescent from the parking lot to the entrance gate, we descended along the forested trail to the bog. Along the way we discussed the recent human history and natural history of the bog, greed and ecological destruction figuring prominently in both, common denominators of past and present human activity in Langley. Of course, there were some positives: the remnant natural features, the conservation of the area by Metro Vancouver and its efforts to retain and restore the bog's natural attributes by encouraging research, restricting human access and encouraging access to the wonderful group of natural law-abiding citizens: the Coyotes, Sandhill Cranes, Common Nighthawks, Sphagnum, Round-leaved Sundew, Bog Rosemary and many others.

Out in the bog, the Sandhill Cranes serenaded us (or scolded us for our intrusion and lambasted us for past, thoughtless, catastrophic environmental indiscretions) and the Common Nighthawks, a species rare in these parts, took advantage of the insects flying high above, to fatten themselves as they make their way to South America. These experiences reminded us of the importance of natural space, even degraded natural space, and the beauty, awe and enigma of nature's creatures and spaces.

Below our feet, the Sphagnum moss, bog-builders and ecosystem engineers, use their water-holding, hummock-forming and acidifying abilities to modify the environment and make it better for themselves and inhospitable to others (remind you of anyone?). A few can persist, however, with specialized adaptations that allow them to acquire nutrients in this nutrient-poor environment. A striking example is the tiny sundew, with its modified leaves with sticky tentacles to which insects become attached, reluctantly giving up their nutrients through slow enzymatic decay.



Walking the sawdust access trail

Photo: Ted Goshulak

Okay, that's all I'm saying. Curious? Want more information? Well, you'll have to join us on the next bog walk.

As darkness fell, we exited the bog and carefully made a head count. LFN was not about to contribute a bog body to this bog. Oh, one last thing. Ted diligently kept count of the birds along the way:

Birds beyond the gate and in the bog:

Common Nighthawk	4	Sandhill Crane	2
Greater Yellowlegs	1	Northern Flicker	1
Western Wood-Pewee	1	Willow Flycatcher	1
Steller's Jay	1	Common Raven	2
Black-capped Chickadee	4	Cedar Waxwing	8
American Goldfinch	2		

Birds along McKinnon Crescent:

Sandhill Crane	2	Northern Flicker	1
Purple Martin	3		

Phil Henderson

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23RD FORSLUND-WATSON PROPERTY



Photo: Ryan Usenik

Eight LFN adults and two children participated in this walk on a lovely evening when the weatherperson was cooperative but the days were noticeably getting shorter.

The main DU and BCIT 1 ponds still contained a small amount of water. At the DU pond the group discussed the potential oxygen level from the dead plant life mass and how that might affect its potential as a suitable environment for amphibian life.

The group had a close look at the remnants of a Tree Swallow nest. The amount of fecal material was higher than what most expected to see. The Wood Duck nest box at Bob's pond showed evidence of fledging. Because the ducklings leave the box very shortly after hatching, there was no evidence of fecal material. Left behind were three unhatched eggs. It is normal to find unhatched eggs in a successful fledged nest site. In the nest box was the skin membrane of the eggs and shell matter. This gave us an opportunity to determine what species had used the nest box. If the box is used by a Wood Duck the egg shells will be thin. If the nest box is used by a Hooded Merganser the egg shells are thicker. This year the nest box was used by a Hooded Merganser. Apparently egg shell remains are easier to find shortly after fledging as other birds scavenge the nest box for the shells, as a calcium source.

It is normal for both Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers to lay eggs in more than one nest site and in nest sites of the opposite species. This has been proven by observations of a group of fledged ducklings containing ducklings of both species and shell remains of both species in the nest box.

Ryan Usenik

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30TH BAT WALK

There was no time to waste getting down to our observation location. Sunset was already more than 30 minutes past and with the overcast sky it was getting quite dark. This time of year the season's nurseries will be breaking up as mothers have done their work and the pups are starting to fend for themselves. Moving to winter hibernation spots or migrating to warmer areas south is coming soon. We weren't sure what to expect then at the location where earlier in the season there would be a large group of Little Brown Myotis to be seen originating from a yet unlocated maternal roost in the area. Construction of the new hospital at this site hadn't begun, so at least that major disruption to the local environment wouldn't have impacted this year's generation of these bats. Although the Little Brown Myotis can be numerous in this area, they certainly aren't the only species to observe and this year that was particularly the case. Using the LFN's Echometer, we recorded the following number of bat calls that could be identified by species:

Big Brown Bat	5	Hoary Bat	18
Silver-haired Bat	2	California Myotis	2
Little Brown Myotis	16	Long-legged Myotis	1

It's important to keep in mind that recording the number of bat calls detected is not a count of the number of bats observed. Since bats tend to fly around an area for a length of time, a single individual can be recorded several times with the Echometer. The accuracy of species identification by the frequency content of a call is also significantly less than 100%. That said, the larger bat species in our area, those being Big Brown, Hoary and Silver-haired bats, were certainly well represented this particular session. Many of these bats were directly observed by their silhouettes against the sky. A few of the smaller bat species were also observed flitting closer to the ground. After about 45 minutes, the bats appeared to have moved on to other areas. Once construction of the

hospital begins, we may no longer be able to access this location. For now though it is still a great place to see these wonderful little night flyers.

Keith Chrystall

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH HIGH POINT

Our walk started from the parking area, with seven members. The morning was cool with clear skies. I brought out a large copy of the Township of Langley map showing the streams and ponds in the area and we found Jacobson Creek that crosses under 200th Street at the north edge of High Point. We decided to follow the Campbell Boundary trail, with its large bordering trees, in hopes that we would see some birds and other wildlife. The detention pond on the west side of 200th Street had water and we could hear birds. We saw Song Sparrows, Black-capped Chickadees, American Robins and Juncos.



Juvenile Cedar Waxwing

Photo: Nora Truman

Several walkers had Merlin running on their cell phone so we were busy trying to sight what they were hearing. Our group headed west almost to where 196th Street would be. We were glad for the shade; however, there was a bit of a steep climb. There were tasty blackberries along the path borders and bear poop, from the wildlife snacking too. As we headed back east and intersected the Pepin trail, there was a large flock of Cedar Waxwings enjoying the sunshine and blackberries. We proceeded north to High Point Lake where we saw Wood Ducks, Mallards and a Great Blue Heron. House Finches were spotted in the trees at the south side of the lake and an Anna's Hummingbird. We headed up to the lookout and rested on the benches.

Three of us continued on the Campbell Boundary Trail while four headed with Gordie back down the

hill to make their afternoon schedule. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed this special sunny day. We walked at least five kilometers.

Our list of birds also included Brown Creeper, Northern Flicker, Steller's Jay, Bewick's Wren, Killdeer, Downy Woodpecker, Turkey Vultures and Red-tailed Hawk.

Nora Truman

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH IRENE PEARCE TRAIL



Beautiful day for a walk

Photo: John Gordon

It was a beautiful cool morning with 9 people on our walk through the Park at 224th Street and 5th Avenue, including two new members, Sharon and Robert from Walnut Grove. Before we started down the trails, Ryan took us to a short path at the north end of the parking lot where he showed us a wonderful natural setup for outdoor classes which is used by local school children. It was partly covered with a canopy and included a makeshift play and learning area made of small stumps, logs and rocks.

On the trails we saw very few specimens of mushroom and fungi due to the ongoing drought. "Good eyes Robert" spotted a tree frog high on a bush near the bridge over the Little Campbell River. The frog was sitting behind some leaves with just his head peering at us. Very cute.

We enjoyed the evergreen forest paths with Gordie pointing out various tree species along the way. The group stopped in several places to enjoy bird songs and check for our feathered friends. Some good views of Brown Creepers scuttling up trees and foraging. We were quite successful birding since John Gordon was with us and ended up with a total of 17 species.

Ryan showed us boxes installed by LFN for Flying Squirrels and Wood Ducks. He also spoke about the history of the park and Irene's efforts that saved it from development.

Our last stop was at the yellow cedar tree and plaque placed in Irene's honour.

Thanks to all who came out with special thanks to Ryan for guiding and John for sharing his birding expertise.

Joanne Rosenthal

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD O.W.L. AND BOUNDARY BAY DIKE

Our group of Langley Field Naturalists and others met at the gate of O.W.L. to go on a guided walk with Colin Iverson, a volunteer at this very important rehabilitation facility. Many injured birds are brought into O.W.L. from all over the province, so the staff and volunteers are very busy healing, rehabilitating and releasing them back into the wild. Several of the raptors, owls, and eagles, who are unable to be released, can be viewed in pens and each one had an interesting story. For instance, where they come from - how they were injured - and also how Dino the Barred Owl helps raise the young Barred chicks when they arrive.

Afterwards we walked through the ever-expanding museum, which is always a treat. We also ventured out onto the Ladner dyke for a short while to bird watch but the rain started, so most of us headed back to our cars. It proved to be a very informative and satisfying day outside.

Anne Gosse

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29TH BLACKIE SPIT

The group of 11 met at the parking lot on a bright sunny day with the tide on its way out. After introductions, the group proceeded to the pier for our first look out on the water. There were many birds to see along with a number of seals in the water. With the help of Gareth's spotting scope, we got a chance to see some of the birds farther out, including a Red-necked Grebe, Common Loons and White-winged Scoters.

After some convincing, we proceeded to the point hoping to see some shorebirds. A great number of



Gray Catbird

Photo: Perry Poulsen

gulls, Blue Herons and Caspian Terns could be seen out over the bay. We did meet up with other birders on the trail who had seen 2 Meadowlarks earlier.

As we continued east on the trail, we could see a number of fruit trees and bushes with many types of Sparrows, Finches and Warblers. The Purple Martins have left and their nesting boxes seemed to be taken over by Starlings. Sadly, Herman did find a Fox Sparrow that got caught in the fence but it gave us a chance to have a close look at how beautiful these sparrows are.

Walking along the dyke, overlooking the community gardens, offered us the chance to see a variety of waterfowl which included Mallards, Green-winged Teals, Northern Pintails and, to our surprise, a Northern Shoveler. Overall, a great day with 39 species reported.

Perry Poulsen

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH MILASTER PASSIVE PARK

We had 13 participants join together on a crisp Fall Saturday morning. A lot has been going on at this property and we were interested to see how things have been progressing. Firstly a huge thank you to Bob Puls for letting us in through the gate and being the site historian while we ventured about.

We started at the newly completed sediment catchment pond created by the Township's contractor which looked very good. Not a lot of nature activity while we were there, but time will tell.



Milaster sediment pond

Photo: Bob Puls

Next was the walk along the trail that follows Nathan Creek where we were able to make it right to the work site for the pipeline. We kept our distance and our time there short but could see it appeared to be nearing completion in this area. Good news!

We then meandered along the trail that went east behind the old house site. Here we were enthralled with the huge Bigleaf Maples laden with hanging mosses" was an appropriate word mentioned to describe this place as it was special to be there with the sun just breaking through at the time. We spent most of the time observing the mushrooms and lichens which, with the recent rains, were making a grand appearance from the smallest to largest specimens.

We had 16 species of birds for our eBird list with the highlight being the Barred Owl that stuck around for a short time. Rhys found bear scat off the trail by the creek but the good news was that we had no sighting of the depositor. A great day for a walk at the property.

Eric Habisch

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26TH GEORGE REIFEL BIRD SANCTUARY

12 of us met in the parking lot on a cold morning, with the first frost of the Fall preceding a lovely sunny day: great bird-watching conditions. We saw the Sandhill Cranes adjacent to the office, and learned later that the Cranes like to dig up the turtle eggs from the red-eared sliders. They dig up the dirt and try to open the eggs and eat the yolks. Little turtles may be played with. They do not get eaten. Then we moved on to look for Black-crowned Night-Herons in the usual trees but found nothing. We spent some time at the first viewing area from where

we could see several Great Blue Herons, masses of Mallards, some American Wigeon and Hooded Mergansers, plus an immature Bufflehead which Tom got a good photo of.



Baby turtle and egg

Photo: Wim Vesseur

There was plenty of song from the happy well-fed Chickadees, Red-winged Blackbirds, and a variety of Sparrows, while a flock of Pine Siskins fed in a tree above us. The proximity of the birds provided a good opportunity to see and point out some identifying features. Our walk continued along the inner dyke trail where we met one of the volunteers who told us there had been a Saw-whet Owl there for a few days but it was taken by a Barred Owl (and while that is living in the Refuge no Saw-whets will be safe). She also told us that four American Avocets were in the west pond. At the corner we found a pair of Wood Ducks in the feeder.

When we reached the observation tower, some climbed the stairs from where they could see many



Greater Yellowlegs

Photo: Tom Wildeboer

Great Blue Herons along the ocean edge. We walked on from there, adding a couple of ducks to the list. A keen discussion took place about some of the berry-bearing trees which were identified as a species of Hawthorn.

Our next stop was the hide overlooking the west pond from where we got good views of the Avocets and a flock of Long-billed Dowitchers. By now it was time for lunch, so most of us made our way back to the entrance where we could eat our sandwiches in the warming hut, while looking out at the pond where a flock of about 30 Dowitchers and Yellowlegs flew in. As we left, a last look at the usual trees revealed a single Night-Heron, a nice way to end the walk.



American Avocet

Photo: Tom Wildeboer

I recorded 58 species on e-Bird in the Reifel refuge. Mute Swans were seen outside the refuge at the bridge to Westham Island.

Wim Vesseur

FORSLUND-WATSON NATURE RESERVE



Making a new pond

Photo: Ryan Usenik

For the third year running, BCIT students have participated in the construction of a Vernal Pond at Forslund-Watson. This project is part of a field lab exercise for the BCIT students. It allows the students to get hands-on experience in the evaluation and design of a Vernal Pond and follow through with the hands-on work of excavation and planting of native grasses and shrubs. Straw is used to cover the ground to control grass growth, allowing the planted material to establish itself. Wire gauging is placed around shrubs to minimize deer damage to the new growth of the shrubs.

Like LFN members, the students are interested in nature. Where they differ is in age, hair color, hair length and ethnicity. Academic programs can be very good at passing on information. These BCIT students are not only gaining knowledge but also gaining practical experience. It is interesting seeing people doing things like digging a hole, planting a shrub, or using a broadcast seeder for the first time. Wetland loss is big concern in our society these days. With loss of wetland habitat comes the loss of species that make wetlands their home. Invasive species like bullfrogs are having a devastating effect on native amphibian species. Native species like chorus frogs require wetlands to lay and hatch their eggs. The hatched eggs develop into tadpoles and leave the wetlands by early summer.

Fortunately for amphibian biologists the invasive bullfrog tadpoles need standing water for 12 months to complete their development cycle. This means a vernal pond (goes dry in late summer) allows many native amphibian species to complete the reproductive cycle with minimum predation from bullfrogs which need a permanent wetland to complete their reproductive cycle.

LFN have worked with SCCLMP staff (who oversee management of public owned nature lands) in the overall concept of increasing the wetland capacity at Forslund-Watson Nature Reserve. The first vernal pond, what is known as Bob's Pond, was constructed in 2015. SCCLMP staff have looked after securing funds to cover the construction costs of all the vernal ponds. Ducks Unlimited continue to be involved in supporting projects at Forslund-Watson to improve the habitat for native species.

Ryan Usenik

PROGRAMMES

JANUARY - JUNE 2024

Meeting at 7.30 pm at the Langley Community Music School, 4899 207th Street, Langley.



THURSDAY DECEMBER 21st
Members Night
*Bring 10 pictures - on a USB key,
A plate of goodies to share at social time*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18TH
MOSES & ALLIES: BEAUTY & BEYOND!
Phil Henderson

"... mosses, like love, make even the ugliest objects beautiful, for they hide all defects with their own loveliness." - Day, Helen Evelyn. (fide: Russell (1908) (in, Edwards, S. R. 1995. Mosses in English Literature. Supplement Three. Bull. Brit. Bryol. Soc. 65: 45-47.) Imagine a Monet without color; a forest without trees. Imagine a world without mosses. To better do this, you must appreciate the world with mosses. This talk will attempt to sharpen your focus on these ubiquitous, beautiful and fascinating plants.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH
RESEARCH & ENGAGEMENT
ANCIENT FOREST ALLIANCE
Ian Thomas

The Ancient Forest Alliance (AFA) is a registered non-profit organization working to protect BC's endangered old-growth forests and to ensure a sustainable, value-added, second-growth forest industry. Founded by Ken Wu and TJ Watt in February 2010, the organization has quickly grown into British Columbia's main organization working toward province-wide legislation to end the logging of endangered old-growth forests.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21ST
WILD RESEARCH -
IONA BIRD BANDING STATION
Florian Reurink, Program Manager

The Iona Island Bird Observatory (IIBO) monitors populations of migratory birds in an ecologically important park in Richmond, British Columbia. Our spring and fall programs contribute to our understanding of annual and seasonal changes in

songbird migration and stopover use along the globally important Pacific Flyway, a major migration route that runs along the coastal Americas.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18TH
COSTA RICA, THE NATURAL WONDERS!
Joanne Rosenthal and Anne Gosse

Come along with our members Joanne and Anne on their exciting journey of discovery in Costa Rica. Hear stories and see pictures of the three types of monkeys, the two types of sloths and the other tropical animals and colorful birds they encountered. A stimulating experience with great memories of this country's natural history, environment, wildlife and culture.

THURSDAY, MAY 16TH
OKAVANGO DELTA, IN BOTSWANA!
David and Diane Reesor, Reesor Photography

Come listen and see beautiful pictures about this wild African area. Once each year Botswana is the largest inland untouched delta in the world. The annual flooding brings the migration of Africa's animals, as well as some former rivals to drink together in the same waters. View images of the local people, colorful birds. Wild dogs on the hunt and feeding their pups. Lions teaching their cubs to get their feet wet in river crossings.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AND SOCIAL

Hear the year's highlights, vote in your new executive, and bring goodies to share over our year-end social time.

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS, FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE, DECEMBER 2023 - MARCH 2024

Please Note: anyone wishing to carpool should phone in to make arrangements beforehand, otherwise please meet at the designated meeting place.

Please call to let the leader know to expect you. The walks are generally about two to three hours long and are open to all Naturalist Clubs & members of the public (adults & children, but no pets please). Please dress for the weather and bring water, binoculars and a snack (plus bug spray in *summer*).

Note these walks are weather dependent so if the weather is bad and no calls are received then the leader will not show up.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

BRYDON LAGOON

Leader: Ted Goshulak

Time: 9:00 am at the 53rd Avenue parking lot near 198A Street, Langley

Join Ted to walk around the lagoon where a variety of duck species come to spend the winter and see the restoration work being carried out by LEPS.

Note: there is no washroom at this location.

Phone 604-888-0408 to register.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

BLACKIE SPIT - CRESCENT BEACH

Leader: Perry Poulsen

Time: 9:00 am at Crescent Beach Pier, (across from the parking lot by the outdoor swimming pool)

Join Perry for a walk around this popular park, where a variety of migrant and resident birds can be found in winter, followed by a warm-up at a local coffee shop. **Phone 604-366-4695 to register.**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19TH

WHITE ROCK PIER AND WATERFRONT

Leader: Eric Habisch

Time: 9:00 am at the parking lot by the museum (free parking)

Join Eric to walk along the pier and the waterfront looking for the variety of sea birds that are seen wintering here. Bring binoculars and/or a spotting scope if you have one to see those shy birds not close to shore. The tide should be in our favour. Dress warmly as it can get cold at the end of the pier. This is an easy level walk of about 2 kms.

Phone 778-231-0273 or eric.habisch@gmail.com to register.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25TH

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Viveka Ohman

Time: 9:00 am at 8th Avenue parking lot

Join Viveka to walk the trails through this popular park with its great variety of trees, flowers, shrubs and birds. This is a moderately difficult trail with some ups and downs so please wear appropriate footwear. Walking distance is approximately 5 km. Bring a packed lunch to eat at a suitable spot at the end of the walk. **Phone 604-531-3401 or vohman@shaw.ca to register.**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

SURREY LAKE PARK

Leader: Keith Chrystall

Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot on 152nd Street, just north of 72nd Avenue (note this parking lot can only be accessed from the northbound lane of 152nd Street)

Join Keith to walk though this Surrey Park past the lake, through the wetland area and along the circular trail through the woods. Note: there is no washroom at this location. **Phone 604-427-3725 or keith.chrystall@shaw.ca to register.**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

FISHTRAP CREEK LOOP - ABBOTSFORD

Leader: John Gordon

Time: 9:00 am at the Abbotsford Judo Club parking lot at 31410 MacLure Road. Take the Mount Lehman Road exit of Hwy 1, turn left at the lights onto Fraser Highway (over the freeway it becomes MacLure Road). See map link p.11.

The Fishtrap Creek Loop is located near Abbotsford, featuring a couple of lakes with good walking trails

for all skill levels. The trail is primarily used for hiking, walking, nature trips and bird watching and is accessible year-round. This is an easy walking trail with several ponds to circle - usually with lots of wintering ducks - plus a resident owl has been seen as well. Come see how many ducks are wintering on these ponds this year! This is an easy wheelchair accessible walk of about 1.5 kms.

Phone 604-533-7171 or

johnngordonone@gmail.com to register.

https://maps.apple.com/place?ll=49.053423,-122.354157&q=Abbotsford%20Judo%20Club&_ext=EiQpRdc1b8WFSEAxnLyrMOOXXsA5h8NGSNeHSEBBBDP8IWivXsA%3D&t=m

THURSDAY, MARCH 7TH

HOUSTON TRAIL,

DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK.

Birds & Bryophytes!

Leader: Phil Henderson

Time: 9:00 am at the parking lot on Allard Crescent

Join biologist Phil Henderson to learn about bryophytes which include mosses and their relatives: tiny but beautiful plants that flourish in moist, shady sites. We will also drop down to the wetland water edge to have a look for waterfowl. Bring binoculars and hand lenses if you have them. This is a walk of about 4.3 kms with some hills.

Phone 604-888-1571 or *strix@uniserve.com* to register.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16TH

TYNEHEAD VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Gareth Pugh

Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot at the Tynehead Hatchery in the 16700 block of 96th Avenue

Join Gareth to walk the trails of this popular park with its great variety of trees, birds, mammals and shrubs in the watershed where the prolific salmon-bearing Serpentine River rises. Walking distance is approximately 3.5 km on undulating trails, so please wear appropriate footwear. **Phone: 604-649-1027 or *gareth@intergate.ca* to register.**

SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD

SEEDY SATURDAY AT THE ARBORETUM

Leaders: Nora Truman and Lisa Dreves

Time: 11:00 am in the parking Lot in the 21200 Block Fraser Highway

Come out to the annual Seedy Saturday event (runs from 10:00 - 2:00) at Derek Doubleday Arboretum. For an added, bonus head out with our leaders, Nora and Lisa, to enjoy the solitude of the end of winter and explore the gardens (while discussing the need to practice "lazy gardening" where we leave the seed heads of perennials and annuals through the winter to feed our local birds and wildlife). Let's see if we can find any remaining seed heads and marvel at their beauty! Note: if the parking lot is full St. Andrew's church just across the road allows overflow parking. **Phone 604-533-4585 or *lfnsecretary@hotmail.com* to register.**

