



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

June 2023

NEST BOX ACTIVITY

With the continued loss of old growth forests, cavity nesting birds are finding it harder to find suitable nesting sites. One way we can help these cavity nesting birds is to provide properly constructed nest boxes. A safe place for birds to nest minimizes loss to predators, thus increasing the number of fledged offspring.



Installing a Wood Duck box

Photo: Herman Vanderleest

LFN has placed several nest boxes in different locations. In 2022 only one of the five free standing Barn Owl nest boxes was used. As their name implies, Barn Owls appear to prefer nesting in buildings.

At Forslund Watson all four Wood Duck boxes were used. One box fledged American Kestrels, another fledged Starlings and the other two were used by Wood Ducks or Hooded Mergansers. Of the ten Tree Swallow nest boxes, four saw activity. Two by swallows, one by a wren and one possibly by a chickadee.

There are 8 nest boxes along the Nathan Creek dyke in Glen Valley. Four showed signs of swallows fledging, one had a nest that wasn't used and three of the boxes were not used.

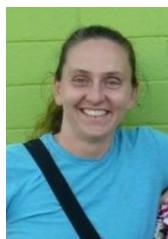
In the floodplain at Brydon Lagoon, the only nest box that was not used in 2022 was the Barn Owl box. There are two Wood Duck boxes and ten Swallow boxes. In the spring of 2023 two more posts were added to support a Wood Duck box and a swallow box.

At Gordons Brook in Aldergrove Lake Park, twelve of eighteen swallow nest boxes saw activity. Activity can mean a nest started but no evidence of fledging or nesting by field mice. Field mice are part of the nature cycle and the more offspring that reach maturity, the more food there is for raptors. The Wood Duck boxes are not seeing any activity.

A new developing nature area in Langley is Yorkson Pond. It was built as a retention pond. As the trees have grown, so has the waterfowl activity in the pond. On a rainy March 25th, two poles were placed at Yorkson Pond, supporting a Wood Duck box and a swallow nest box.

Installed nest boxes not only provide a safe place for cavity nesters, but when placed in public areas they help make the public aware that there are fewer natural areas for birds to nest. Seeing this level of use reminds us that there is still more work that can be done to help cavity nesting birds.

Ryan Usenik



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is here! Flowers in bloom everywhere, bees of all shapes and sizes pollinating them, birds, birds, and borbs as my kid likes to call any small, round bird. Hey, anything to keep him interested in going outdoors.

We are coming down from our high of hosting a very successful BC Nature AGM. Only positive feedback for the event that was successfully lead by our Sheila Puls; she had backups for backups and an incredible team assembled to help her pull it off. Sheila will be on loan to help mentor those organizing the 2024 event in Parksville/Qualicum, so be sure to mark your calendars because you know it will be just as excellent!

We hosted the big AGM this year because we are celebrating our 50th anniversary. Our next big undertaking in recognition of this milestone is our book. I can't wait to read the final product that our book subcommittee has been working so hard on for the last two years.

Fifty years is a heck of a long time for an organization. We have accomplished a great deal, from protecting park space, inventorying wild spaces, rewilding our suburban community, and engaging and inspiring hundreds of people to care for nature. I am so proud to be a part of this group.

I would like to note the benefits of the LFN beyond all the nature "stuff". Looking around our group we are a healthy, engaged, knowledgeable collection of amazing people. I don't think it is by chance that we have all come together, either. I strongly believe the LFN community plays a role in making us awesome. This year I believe we are also celebrating 50 years of challenging members to think differently, to forge friendships, to find purpose, to feel needed. The beauty of our community is how we help ourselves by simply helping each other.

Our summers are always a little easier with no meetings; during this down time I would like to challenge everyone to seriously consider stepping up to the executive board. We have a lot of executive members stepping down this year, many that have wanted to step down three years ago but stayed on the board during the pandemic. Connect with our member participation committee if you have any questions or talk to any member of the executive.

Have an amazing summer and stay cool!

Lisa Dreves

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS 2022-2023

DIRECTORS (*Elections for new officers at the June meeting*)

President: & webmaster	Lisa Dreves 604-532-0081 ~ lisabob2@yahoo.com
Vice President:	Gareth Pugh 606-649-1027 ~ gareth2@uniserve.com
Past President:& Conservation/library	Bob Puls 604-856-7534 ~ bob@puls.ca
Secretary:	Nora Truman 604-533-4585 ~ lfnsecretary@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Caren Porter 604-427-4499 ~ caporter@shaw.ca
Newsletter:	Sheila Puls 604-856-7534 ~ sheila@puls.ca
Programmes:	Anne Gosse 604-888-1787 ~ corkie1@shaw.ca
Field Trips:	Gareth Pugh 604-649-1027 ~ gareth2@uniserve.com
Publicity: History project:	Lilianne Fuller 604-533-0638 ~ lilianne101@shaw.ca
FBCN Director:	Kathy Masse 604-513-8927 ~ wmasse@telus.net
Member At Large:	Eric Habisch 778-231-0273 -eric.habisch@gmail.com

REPRESENTATIVES & CONVENORS

Greeters:	Rebecca Tin Tun/Helen Thompson
Refreshments:	Lynda Lightfoot 604-856-6138 ~ ltlighfoot@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 604-455-0116 ~ jrrose77@yahoo.com

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

JACKMAN WETLANDS PARK SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

The day started off rainy, but we had fourteen brave souls that came out, including some fairly new members and one guest. There were lots of small birds flitting around in the shrubbery, including Juncos, Black-capped Chickadees, Golden-crowned Sparrows, and Golden-crowned Kinglets. We were lucky to witness an aerial duel between a Merlin and a Kestrel, which was quite a highlight. There was not too much in the way of waterfowl, but a male Common Merganser and a Hooded Merganser made an appearance, plus there were a number of Buffleheads and a pair of Canada Geese.

The larger lake at the south end was quite silty (creamy color) due to ongoing work by the training center for heavy duty equipment. I hope that doesn't continue to have a detrimental effect on the wildlife there. The only birds we saw on that lake were a few Mallards and Glaucous-winged Gulls. Towards the end of the walk we had a good view of the beaver lodge that has been built. The water table was quite high, though not nearly ready to flood the pathways. Over all we had a most enjoyable walk.

Herman Vanderleest

BIRDS AND BRYOPHYTES IN DERBY REACH SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH



Todd, Phil, Lisa, Nora, Nina, Herman.

Photo: Perry Poulson

When we gathered at the trailhead at the Edgewater Bar parking lot in Derby Reach Regional Park, I wondered whether I had made a mistake in choosing this trail. The trail was clear and obvious as it wound its way through the forest, but the forest floor of mosses was covered in snow. I assumed the six participants were eager to see a few bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) and the odd bird to meet the billing of this walk (Birds and Bryophytes). But would they?

Fortunately, both groups of organisms, birds and bryophytes, are equally at home on the trees and branches above the snow-covered forest floor, and the third group of organisms, the participants, were smiling and had not beaten a hasty retreat back to their vehicles. Trees and shrubs along rivers and creeks are often festooned with bryophytes and frequented by birds so it was a good opportunity to focus on this aspect of the forest.



Dicranum (scoparium) with sporophytes. Photo: Perry Poulson

Plants that grow on other plants are called epiphytes. Many of the mosses and liverworts that grow on trees in this forest grow on other things, such as logs and even the forest floor. These bryophytes aren't too fussy and we call them "habitat generalists" rather than "uncaring", or "undiscerning". Examples include *Dicranum scoparium*, *Claopodium crispifolium*, *Plagiomnium venustum*, *Kindbergia praelongum* and *K. oreganum*, *Rhytidiadelphus loreus* and *R. triquetrous*. Other bryos are more fussy, occurring solely, or most often on branches and trunks of trees: *Neckera douglasii* and *N. menzeisii*, *Antitrichia curtipendula*, *Homalothecium fulgescens*, *Orthotrichum lyellii* and *Homalia trichomanoides* on tree trunks close to creeks and rivers. We call these "habitat specialists" because they are finicky and discerning. *Isoetecium stoloniferum* (aka *I. myosuroides*), which has a wider distribution and many forms, is usually epiphytic, often growing at the base of trees but also frequenting rocks.

Although distracted by the mosses and liverworts, we managed to record some birds. Well, at least Perry Poulson did and kept a good record and took the photographs. Despite the snow cover, Bewick's Wrens were chattering intermittently, probably complaining about the snow, and presented some good views. The snow did not bother the Downy Woodpecker foraging on the tree trunks above.

As we emerged from the forest our attention turned to the river, and we added a few non-forest birds to our list:

Bufflehead	1	Common Merganser	3
Anna's Hummingbird	5	Downy Woodpecker	1
Northern Flicker	3	Steller's Jay	4
American Crow	8	Black-capped Chickadee	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	6	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	4
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Brown Creeper	2
Pacific Wren	2	Bewick's Wren	3
European Starling	3	American Robin	3
Purple Finch	2	Spotted Towhee	2

Regardless of conditions, there is always something interesting to see.

Phil Henderson

TYNEHEAD WALK SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH



Serpentine River

Photo: Anthea Farr

On one of those rare sunny March days, our group of six enjoyed a leisurely stroll along the Serpentine Loop Trail in Tynehead Regional Park. Some early signs of spring were evident: bird songs drifting through the sun-speckled woods, a queen bumble bee scuffling about in the leaf litter, a stonefly airing its dark-veined, pristine wings. In between these nods to spring, we discussed different kinds of ferns, which were most plentiful.



Golden-crowned Kinglet

Photo: Anthea Farr

On the bridge over the Serpentine River, we paused to watch salmon and water striders. High overhead

soared a lone Turkey Vulture, another sign that perhaps winter was over. On the trail back, we noticed western fireflies perching along wooden railings - instead of their usual tree trunk perches. A Golden-crowned Kinglet was almost tame, flaunting its golden crown in the sunlight.



Infant Moth

Photo: Anthea Farr

Near the parking lot, a sudden flash of orange caused some excitement. Patience paid off and a photo "captured" the orange-winged mystery. It was later identified as an Infant Moth, a member of the very large Geometer moth family. Their caterpillars feed on birch. All in all, a most pleasant walk, sprinkled with both expected and unexpected sightings.

Anthea Farr

SEEDY SATURDAY WALK SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH

Our group of 10 walkers assembled on this rainy Saturday next to the Korean War memorial stone in the arboretum. The memorial recognizes the Canadian forces for their efforts at the Battle of Gapyeong in April 1951.



Korean war memorial

Photo: Nora Truman

Lisa Dreves took the lead and told us about the beginnings of the arboretum with the acquisition of the land around the year 2000 from the Berry family.

John Berry was a Langley pioneer and grazed cattle on the land north and south of the Fraser Highway. Nora mentioned the few seed pods left on the Echinacea plants that grow on the slope leading up to the Interpretive Centre building. Lisa explained that gardeners can leave seed pods on the flowering plants, let them dry and gather them up to use the next year in their garden. We had a quick look at the Dyer's garden before proceeding to the Demonstration garden and then the learning farm.

Lisa explained the emphasis on using native species in the demonstration garden. There were many rows of garlic and kale in the learning farm and we went past raised garden planters that are used by those that have less ability to get down on their hands and knees.

We proceeded along the Fraser Creek trail and saw a Great Blue Heron wading along the wetland edges. There were Northern Flickers, too many American Robins to count, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-capped Chickadee and Song Sparrow enjoying the rainy day. There were several young people in the group, including a little girl who twirled her small umbrella about and chatted cheerily with everyone while she splashed in the puddles and brought a smile to us all.

Nora Truman

A ROCHA

THURSDAY, MARCH 30TH

A group of eleven - including LFN members, White Rock and Surrey Naturalist members, an A Rocha staff member and myself - spent two and a half hours in this forest which is adjacent to Stokes Pit. The proposed development plans for this forest have been the centre of controversy over the past few years, as attempts have been made to turn it into an industrial estate. It is owned by the City of Surrey and the one edge includes an area of restored salmon habitat. The day was cool but clear and we found many signs of spring, including a Pied-billed Grebe which appeared to be sitting on a nest in the restored salmon habitat area. A tributary of the Little Campbell River (Tatalu) runs on the east side of the forest and A Rocha staff members have found Salish Suckers in this waterway in the past. We all came away with a renewed sense of the importance of preserving this forest and its surrounding habitat. A list of the bird species from our walk can be found at:

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S132438788> .

Ted Goshulak

ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK **SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH**

On a coolish, cloudy Saturday morn, 8 enthusiastic naturalists met at the Aldergrove Lake parking lot. After the usual introductions and some small talk, we decided to do the shorter walk, and focus on some of the birds also. We spent a bit of time at the old location of the Aldergrove Lake site, and reminisced some of the memories many had of swimming there with family and friends. We talked somewhat of the earlier history of the park, and especially of the Aldergrove Bowl, which at one time was a gravel pit. The park has 2 main walks, the Pepin Brook Trail and the Rock 'N Horse Trail, the latter to be shared with the horses. The time required to do the walks is anywhere between 15 min. up to 2 hours.



Trillium

Photo: Bob Puls

It was wonderful to see some early Trilliums in the forested area. A sure sign that spring is on the way. I am always amazed at the many dead alders along the path, but many questioned the need to cut them down so quickly. We concluded that they are a danger to those walking the trail. We were treated to the sight of a Marsh Wren, working so hard, making a nest. This went on for quite a while. An in-depth debate ensued as to whether or not it was a male or female making the nest. Some conclusions are not worth reporting; however, the consensus was that it was probably the female, as it was Saturday, and the Male was probably watching sports somewhere. Do NOT believe everything you read.

We briefly stopped at the large ant nest, Black Ants we think, but are not sure. They were active, but because of the coolish weather were very sluggish. We took a peek at the hibernaculum [snake home] but no evidence of any snakes yet. Still early and cool. The leader has seen snakes here in season.

This snake home was made by Metro Vancouver Parks. They also have erected a Barn Owl Box, but have not seen any activity in it to date.

The group also ended up with a 21-bird count. Pretty good for a 2½ hour walk. As the weather was not improving, we said our goodbyes, and parted ways. An enjoyable morning, in a wonderful park. Enjoyed by all.

Tom Wildeboer

SERPENTINE FEN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12TH

Several people showed up for our 5 km walk around Serpentine Fen with 2 additional members from WRSN: Carol Monahan and Sharon Jones.

We had a lovely time with experts along and other nature / bird interested people. Although the sightings were a bit on the slim side, we still totalled 47 species, recorded by Eric Habisch (see link below).



Photo: Perry Poulsen

Highlights included American Goldfinch, and an immature Red-tailed Hawk, which promoted a lively discussion on its maturity and whether or not it was a Red-tailed Hawk but the consensus was that it was. The tail was not red and the confirmation was the white streaks on either side of the dorsal surface of the wing forming a V shape down the back and dark patagial bars on the ventral surface of the leading edge of the wing. This was visible when the bird flew.

We had Bald Eagle as well as dabbling and diving ducks. Of the diving ducks, Greater vs Lesser Scaup can generate quite a bit of a discussion, or even arguments. It is difficult, but the rounded head of the Greater, clean white sides and triangular black mark on the bill rules out the Lesser. It's best to see the

two side by side as one is larger (the Greater Scaup with its rounded head) and the other is smaller (the Lesser Scaup with its crown, peaked towards the rear).

We also had a few Common Mergansers, Hooded Merganser and Ring-necked Duck. And a pair of Gadwall on the river. Though it was supposed to rain, it drizzled somewhat but that was about it and from what I heard, all enjoyed a lovely walk.

Thankfully not many dog walkers showed up and of the ones that did, they were responsible with bowser happily on a lead. Here is the e-Bird list for the walk:

<https://ebird.org/canada/checklist/S133611465>

Viveka Ohman

COLONY FARMS THURSDAY, APRIL 27TH

On a nice spring day. I picked up Ryan and drove to Colony farms. We made it on time to the parking lot and met Perry there who already had taken a few pictures. We waited until 9 sharp as no other people had called or emailed me. We had Gadwall in the puddles next to the vegetable gardens as well as the usual birds such as Song Sparrow, American Robin and Black-capped Chickadee. On the reccie I decided not to take the outer trail back as that was not really productive (apart from the nesting Northern Flickers) and to focus on the trails closer to the water. From a distance we could already see the Kestrel hovering near its tree, as it had the day before. Unfortunately, I did not stay around for a closer look later.



Photo: Perry Poulsen

Around that time, Josh came running up and asked if we were the LFN trip for Colony Farms and joined us from there. While we kept on adding birds to our list, we were pleasantly surprised by finding a Mountain Bluebird. It was so far off that we did not

manage to show it to other interested parties except for one. At the pond we hoped for a bittern or rail, but even the locals had not found them. We picked up the Red-winged Blackbirds and the Marsh Wren. Everywhere there was the sound of birds singing. We heard lots of Ruby-crowned Kinglets with their loud melodious song. Swallows were mainly Tree Swallow, but we also got an occasional Northern Rough-winged and some Violet-greens.



Belted Kingfisher

Photo: Perry Poulsen

Returning to the trails on the north-west side of the river, we headed on and found (among others) a Belted Kingfisher and further in the pond some red-eared sliders and Canada Goose.

All in all we got sight or sound of 43 species of birds between the 4 of us and we enjoyed the trails and the weather which delivered us some Vitamin D.

Wim Vesseur

WHALE WATCHING TOUR SATURDAY, MAY 13TH



Ready to embark

Photo: Michelle Czornobay

A small group of LFN members ventured out on a whale watching tour from the Crescent Beach Marina in Surrey. We could not have asked for better weather. We headed out to an area between Moresby and Pender Island where some Orcas had been reported. There we were greeted by the sight of 5 to 6 Biggs whales (previously known as transient) from the TO36A pod in hunting mode. We witnessed tail slapping, porpoising and body slamming for a good 20 minutes. They were successful, judging by the sight of gulls swooping down for bits of food near the end.



Out on the water

Photo: Michelle Czornobay

We then pursued a few humpbacks in the area but were not fortunate enough to have them resurface for us. Then we went on to a very small island called Boiling Reef, where we saw Sea Lions and Harbour Seals resting.

The trip was a wonderful success with one exception. It was a very bumpy ride at times and I had a very sore posterior by the time it was over. I cannot, however, speak to the condition of other members' posteriors.

Michelle Czornobay

REIFEL REFUGE THURSDAY, MAY 18TH

Fourteen participants joined Wim and myself to go to Reifel Refuge, one of Canada's top bird-watching spots. Spring is one of the best times to visit this wild refuge where birds and wildlife are protected in its marshy wetland channels. I arrived a bit late due to traffic, but by that time Wim had recorded 30 species from around the front entrance, viewing decks, and platforms! Wow! Canada Geese baby goslings were underfoot at the entrance.



Bullock's Oriole

Photo: Arthur O'Byrne

Then off we started along the East Dyke trail towards the viewing tower. The weather was lovely and sunny - not too hot yet. Along the way we had many excellent sightings of one of our colorful summer visitors, the beautiful bright yellow Bullock's Oriole. Nine-year-old Arthur got a great picture of one. Next, we heard and saw the Olive-sided Flycatcher calling, plus we spotted a leucistic Spotted Towhee, and then further out we spotted Wilson's Phalarope. In the distance and from the viewing tower, American White Pelicans were seen. We witnessed lots of Violet-green and Tree Swallows feeding their young at the Ocean Marsh dyke's swallow boxes.

Before the day heated up, we ended our visiting time in the shade of a picnic table, eating our lunch and discussing our day's sightings. We recorded 53 different species of birds and we all enthusiastically agreed it was a day well spent.

Anne Gosse

SEND A SIGHTING, SAVE A WHALE



At our March meeting we had a presentation by Bobby Dahliwal of Ocean Wise. I asked him to send me the contact link for reporting whale sightings:

Spring is in the air and so is the sweet smell of... whale breath? Yes, you smelled right! The cold and productive waters of British Columbia are an enticing reprieve from the heat in Hawaii, and humpback whales are on their way to make the most of the buffet of krill, plankton and herring in the Strait of Georgia. This is the most exciting time of the year for the Whales Initiative at Ocean Wise and it's a great time to be a naturalist! Humpback whales are migratory animals and travel up to 5000 km over just 2 months. Lucky for us, many of them end up in our waters to feed, which provides lots of opportunities to see these animals, both on the water and from land.

The Whale Trail is a collection of sites along the Pacific Coast which feature interpretive signs and a great chance at catching a glimpse of a whale without getting out on the water. BC has over 35 Whale Trail sites, many of which have an interpretive sign tailored to species you might encounter in that region. Plan your summer road trip around these beautiful gems of the BC coast or take a day trip to a stop on the Whale Trail for a picnic with these marine megafauna - just make sure you bring your binoculars! And if you are lucky enough to spot a whale, dolphin or porpoise, make sure you report your sighting in the WhaleReport App; <https://wildwhales.org/>

Ocean Wise depends on naturalists and community scientists like you to gather data on the distribution and abundance of cetaceans, and to send alerts through the Whale Report Alert System (WRAS) to reduce the chance of ship strikes, and the impact of noise pollution. Head to wildwhales.org for more information on cetaceans in BC, the WhaleReport app and WRAS, and how your sightings make our busy waters safer for these animals!

Bobby Dahliwal
OWCSN Coordinator



HELP NEEDED

LFN is only as good as the members make it - and there are some executive positions which need to be filled in order that the club runs smoothly. An outline of the duties for each of the vacant positions is shown, and

retiring members are happy to help those stepping up. Executive meetings are held once a month except July and August, in person but can be connected via Zoom.

Vice President

Supporting position for President - duties as agreed. Chair meetings in absence of President.

Secretary (Co-secretary position available)

Keep a record of each meeting and present the minutes to the next meeting for its approval, and retain all approved Minutes. Circulate Minutes and notifications electronically as required.

Assist with and forward all letters officially dealing with the affairs of the Society. Retain copies of all such letters. Maintain a filing system containing the Society's documents.

BC Nature Director

The director is a liaison between the Langley Field Naturalists and BC Nature. S/he communicates BC Nature initiatives and directives to the Club's executive and general members. Also, the director represents the Langley Field Naturalists, relaying news of our club's activities and needs to BC Nature. Attends the Directors meeting at BC Nature's Annual and Fall General meetings and reports back to the Langley Field Naturalists' executives and general members, including an article for our quarterly newsletter with information from these meetings. Submits a report to BC Nature's magazine and Annual Report about the Langley Field Naturalists' activities and conservation initiatives.

Membership Coordinator

Greet all visitors and prospective new members at the monthly meeting, provide them with temporary name tags and introduce them to current members and assist them to socialize into the club, and supply and hand out membership forms and society information.

Make and maintain members' name tags. Maintain an accurate list of names, addresses, telephone numbers, and emails of members and the membership dues paid by them, issue receipts and pass income to Treasurer.

Obtain signed waivers from members for each membership year; file and maintain these waivers for an indefinite period.

With treasurer, complete the BC Nature Club Fee Form annually with an accurate count of the family and single memberships.

Maintain BC Nature database of members.

Inform the newsletter editor, the club secretary and outdoor program co-ordinator of changes in our members' contact information.

Member at Large

This is an executive position with undesignated duties.



All positions are elected annually, so if you are interested, feel free to 'shadow' to find out more.

President

Treasurer

Field Trip Coordinator

Programme Coordinator

Newsletter Editor

Publicity

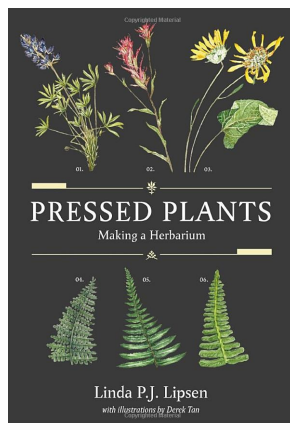
or come on board as a Member at Large. We welcome new members!

BOOK REVIEW

PRESSED PLANTS

by Linda P.J. Lipsen,
illustrations by Derek Tan

Published by the Royal BC Museum. 2023. 92 p.
ISBN 9780772680563 (softcover) / ISBN
9780772680570 (EPUB)



A new publication by Linda P.J. Lipsen, the Collections Curator of Vascular Plants and Algae at UBC's Beaty Biodiversity Museum, will guide you through the personally rewarding and scientifically important practice of collecting and pressing plants. *Pressed Plants (Making a Herbarium)* is an up-to-date, informative guide, with illustrations by Derek Tan that encapsulate salient points presented in the text. The illustrations will be particularly valuable to those unfamiliar with the process, as will the many sidebar tips and tricks and suggestions for recycling and sustainable alternatives.

The writing is informal and inviting with technical language kept to a minimum. Some technical terminology is required, but fear not, it is carefully and succinctly explained, sometimes with the help of illustrations. The text will inform both the beginner and the seasoned professional. The seasoned professional may be mistaken should they decide they needn't bother with this book; that may simply highlight that they are seasoned and obdurate.

There is something here for everyone: from where, when, and how to collect, to drying/pressing and mounting your specimens. Many important details are presented within these broad categories such as dealing with difficult specimens, and managing insects collected with your specimens and those resident in households that see your new collection as a welcome addition to the usual bland, sparse and unvaried assortment of goods. There is welcome advice on documenting, cataloguing, and donating your collection. The book ends with a discussion of resources for identifying your specimens and a well illustrated and informative guide to some of the major plant groups you will likely encounter.

An important aspect of collecting, neglected in many earlier publications, is the idea of collecting ethically. Ethical collecting is expanded here, brought up to date beyond the need to simply consider its impact on the species and its population. *Pressed Plants* discusses the need to consider the inherent value of

the plant, its environment, and the First Nations cultures to which both are integral.

Mounted herbarium specimens provide a stamp or snapshot of time, a permanent record that documents and reflects biodiversity, environmental conditions, and climate. They can provide important genetic information to help understand classification, the relationships between species and even between plants of the same species that occupy different geographic areas. Specimens provide irrefutable evidence of occurrence and plant identity, especially when supplemented with pertinent information which the author discusses and emphasizes as essential. Comparing specimens from different times and locations helps to determine changes in distribution and abundance of plants that may result from climate change and human alteration of the landscape. This information can help us understand how plants will respond to these changes and what we can do to help conserve them.

The author acknowledges that collecting, pressing, and mounting plants is not all about science, that each of us embraces a particular reason for engaging in this practice, and each of us gains a particular satisfaction and joy, as varied as the plant species we collect and the environments in which they are found (i.e., the environments they introduce us to). She emphasizes that the pressed plants in a collection are not just static objects; they are windows into the lives of collectors and other worlds, some lost now, but all with important stories to tell.

While its scientific merit is undeniable, the process of collecting, pressing, and mounting can be as much about art and beauty. I can think of no other pursuit that better exemplifies the blending of art and science / beauty and pragmatism. You need only look at some of the mounted specimens in the UBC collection, starting with those of the late UBC researcher Gerald Straley, to realize that the beauty of the plant can be preserved with its scientific utility.

The author stresses that with practice, one's mounted specimens will gain in both utility and beauty and *Pressed Plants* provides us with all the guidance we need. The rest is up to us.

I highly recommend this book.

Phil Henderson

PROGRAMMES

JUNE - DECEMBER 2023

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



PLEASE Bring your own coffee mug - we don't want to keep using disposable ones.

Our meetings are also online by Zoom: *The week before the program starts, a link will be sent out. Just click into this highlighted link and Lisa will accept you into the Zoom program.*

THURSDAY, JUNE 15TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SOCIAL TIME

A short meeting, the LFN Annual General Meeting, followed by a social gathering. Bring finger food / wine to share as we enjoy our last meeting before the summer break.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST PACIFIC STREAMKEEPER'S FEDERATION *Zo-Ann Morton*

Streamkeepers are a non-profit society, helping streamkeepers take action through support, education and building partnerships.

Streamkeeper activities most often take place at specific times during the year. Some events are dictated by the arrival, presence or departure of spawning or rearing salmon. Some activities do not take place in the stream itself, and can occur at any time of the year.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19TH AN ECUADORIAN BIRDING ADVENTURE *Ted Goshulak*

In November 2022, Ted and two friends spent 12 days birding in Ecuador. The trip covered a number of unique habitats and ecosystems, which host a diverse group of bird species. For a preview of some of the species seen on this trip go to: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/85398>

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH SNOW GEESE: POPULATION DYNAMICS, INTERACTION WITH TIDAL MARSHES, AND MOVEMENT PATTERNS.

Dr. W. Sean Boyd, PhD

Dr. Sean Boyd is a Research Scientist (Emeritus) with the Wildlife Research Division, Science and Technology Branch, Environment & Climate Change Canada / Government of Canada.

Snow Geese breeding on Wrangel Island (Russia) overwinter on the Fraser River estuary. Numbers have increased by 10x since the mid-1970s. They have negatively impacted tidal marshes via their intensive grubbing behavior and they are increasingly foraging on inland farms, schools and parks. We are planning to tag geese with satellite transmitters to assess movement patterns around the Fraser delta and migrations to/from Wrangel Island.

NATIVE PLANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN

What better way to attract the local wildlife, whether it be pollinators or birds, to your yard but to grow native species of plants. There are local nurseries that carry these types of plants in the Lower Mainland, so you can add them to your yard. Some are wholesale but there are a number of retailers in our Langley area or in close proximity to us. One I would like to give a shout out to is Plan Bee Native Plants right here in Langley. They only carry native plant species at reasonable prices, so check out their website found in the link provided:

<https://iscmv.ca/native-species/where-to-buy-native-plants/>

There are some other retailers that carry some native plants that are listed in the previous link but I would strongly recommend checking that the plants are truly native by referencing the Latin names found in this great handout from Fraser Valley Conservancy:

<https://fraservalleyconservancy.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Gardening-with-Native-Plants-in-the-Lower-Mainland-and-Fraser-Valley.pdf>

There is also some good information about the plants' growing requirements, wildlife attraction traits and blooming times.

Eric Habisch

Plan Bee Native Plants
22196 61 Avenue, Langley, BC, V2Y 2P1
info@planbeenativeplants.com

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS, FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE, JUNE 2023 - SEPTEMBER 2023

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.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9TH

NATHAN CREEK

Leader: *Herman Vanderleest*

Time: 9:00 am at the bridge on River Road (88th Avenue), one block east of 264th Street

Join Herman to walk along the Nathan Creek dike.
Phone 604-856-1179 to register.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH

GRANT NARROWS PROVINCIAL PARK/

ADDINGTON MARSH

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Leader: *Eric Habisch*

Time: 9:00 am at Grant Narrows Provincial Park parking lot.

Join Eric to look for the birds that use this large dyked marsh area, with its several viewing towers. It is on a major migration route for bird life and has the largest tidal lake in the world. Dress for the weather and bring a packed lunch. **Phone 778-231-0273 to register.**

SATURDAY, JUNE 24TH

IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

Leader: Anthea Farr

Time: 9:30 am in the parking lot on 224th at 5th Avenue

Join Anthea to walk the trails in this rural park that was turned into a park after pressure was exerted by the Council of Ratepayers and LFN. It is part of the Municipal Natural Park with the Little Campbell River flowing through it and has stands of mature Douglas Fir. **Phone 604-576-7731 to register.**

FRIDAY, JUNE 30TH

BRAE ISLAND REGIONAL PARK

Leader: *Keith Chrystall*

Time: 6:30 pm in the parking lot at 9451 Glover Road, Fort Langley

Join Keith to walk the trails along the river out to Tavistock Point in Brae Island Regional Park.
Phone 604-427-3725 to register.

THURSDAY, JULY 6TH

E.C. MANNING PROVINCIAL PARK -

PAINTBRUSH NATURE TRAIL &

VIEW POINT LOOP, HEATHER MEADOWS

weather permitting only

Leader: *Wim Vesseur*

Time: 7:30 am in Langley or 9:30 am at Manning Park Lodge

Join Wim to wander along some of the Manning Park trails to check the summer flowers in this wonderful park in the coastal mountains. Choice of trail will depend on the snowpack. Bring botany books. **Phone 604-534-3447 to register.**

THURSDAY, JULY 13TH

MARINE BIRD WATCHING - BELLINGHAM

Leader: *Ryan Usenik*

Time: 10:00 am Depart Bellingham Cruise terminal from Fairhaven in Bellingham.

Contact San Juan Cruises at www.whales.com for more details and to book on the July 13th cruise. The cruise travels to Smith Island where there is a breeding colony of Tufted Puffins and other marine wildlife. Once booked, please contact tour leader Ryan Usenik so we can look into carpooling options. Everybody is responsible for getting themselves to Fairhaven. LFN will be joining a regular scheduled cruise. **Phone Ryan to confirm you have registered 604-530-3257.**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19TH

TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Leader: *David Clements*

Time: 6:30 pm at the University, 22500 University Drive

Trinity Western University's Ecosystem Study Area (the ESA) is comprised of diverse riparian habitats surrounding waterways, including tributaries of the Salmon River, the Salmon River itself and MacMillan Lake. These habitats are home to a diversity of plant and animal species. Many bird species can be seen, including numerous passerines, raptors, and waterfowl. There is extensive rearing habitat for Coho Salmon and the forested areas are also home to the endangered Oregon Forest Snail which has been studied extensively by Trinity Western researchers. The ESA serves as an excellent outdoor classroom for Trinity students and is also open to the public with an extensive network of recently upgraded trails.

Phone 778-871-9123 to register and for instructions on where to park.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26TH

PINSCH OF SOIL FARM

Leader: *Gareth Pugh*

Time: 6:30 pm at 258 - 208th Street

Join us to visit this small scale permaculture farm where Nadja and Marcel are growing food in a sustainable way by mimicking natural ecosystems as much as possible. The farm itself consists of a market garden (just under one acre) and a forest that is being turned into a food forest. Their aim is to create an edible landscape that in itself is a strong and balanced system. The market garden features many perennial beds with perennial flowers, trees and shrubs that provide habitat for beneficial insects and birds.

They have planted close to 400 native ferns, shrubs and trees in the forest area, the goal being to re-create a mini version of a typical Pacific NW forest that has many edible components but also provides habitat for many different species. **Phone 604-649-1027 to register.**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2ND

SPARROW CREEK FARM

23000 Rowlison Crescent, Langley

Leader: *Roy Cline*

Time: 6:30 pm. Park near the gate to the pond or come up the gravel driveway to park near the house or barn.

Join Roy for a walk to enjoy the ecosystem diversity of this 7-acre property. Explore a pond, wetland, a coniferous forest and a wild pasture. In addition there is a barn with 2 horses and 4 pet goats. There is an active amphibian habitat restoration project of the pond and the wetlands. A brisk walk would be 45 minutes or meandering of 2 hours. **Phone 778-999-8215 to register.**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9TH

DOUBLEDAY ARBORETUM

Leaders: *Lisa Dreves and Nora Truman*

Time: 6:30 pm in the parking lot at 21177 Fraser Highway

Join Lisa and Nora for an evening stroll through the Arboretum and the LEPS demonstration garden, followed by a walk along the trails connecting Doubleday Arboretum and McLeod Athletic Park.

Phone 604-533-4585 to register.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16TH

DERBY BOG

Leaders: *Phil Henderson and Ted Goshulak*

Time: 6:30 pm at the parking lot at the end of McKinnon Crescent, Langley.

Join Phil Henderson and Ted Goshulak on a tour of Metro Vancouver's Derby Bog, a 96 ha remnant of a historical 500 ha bog, a hidden paradise and important conservation area not open to the public. You'll gain an understanding of what bogs are, what threatens them, and their importance to local ecology, global ecology and climate change. Your guides will discuss Langley Bog's history, work completed by researchers from various universities and Metro Vancouver's plans for the site. But beyond the talk, and more important, is the experience of being there, and from that we hope you will leave enriched and enlightened. Participants should be dressed appropriately and wear waterproof footwear. **Phone 778-808-6314 to register.**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23RD

FORSLUND WATSON PROPERTY

Leader: *Ryan Usenik*

Time: 6:30 pm at 2705 - 232nd Street

Join Ryan as he leads us through this property which LFN co-manages with the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource and Rural Development. It is part open fields and part woodland. Wear sturdy footwear as we will be walking in open fields and natural woodland trails. This will be an excellent opportunity to observe the advancement of the three vernal ponds that have been built in the last 5 years. **Phone 604-530-3257 to register.**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30TH

BAT WALK

Leader: *Keith Chrystall*

Time: 8:30 pm on 53rd Avenue at 184th Street

Join Keith for a chance to see large numbers of bats emerging from their day-time roost. Parking is available on 53rd Avenue. Bring chairs if you wish; there is an easy walk on a paved road to the viewing area. We expect to see endangered Little Brown Bats and Yuma bats which should begin flying at around 9:10 pm; expect to see several hundred. **Phone 604-427-3725 to register.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH

HIGH POINT

Leader: *Nora Truman*

Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot on the East side of 200th Street, south of the crosswalk and Jacobsen Creek.

Join Nora for a walk to enjoy nature at High Point. First we will walk through the forest on Campbell Boundary Trail west to the detention pond, then north to the High Point Lake on the Pepin Trail. Waterfowl are sometimes seen at High Point Lake. At the viewing platform, there are often many birds in the shrubbery and tree tops. We continue down the Campbell Boundary Trail past a meadow and into the forest again to our beginning point. **Phone: 604-533-4585 to register.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

Leader: *Joanne Rosenthal*

Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot on 224th at 5th Avenue

Join Joanne to walk the gentle trails in this rural park looking for fabulous fall fungi and other signs of Fall and learn about the Wood Duck and Flying Squirrel boxes that have been installed by club members. It is part of the Municipal Natural Park with the Little Campbell River flowing through it and has stands of mature Douglas Fir. **Phone 604-455-1116 to register.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD

O.W.L. AND BOUNDARY BAY DIKE

Leader: *Anne Gosse*

Time: 10:00 am at O.W.L., 3800 - 72nd Street, Delta

Join us for a guided tour of the facility to find out how injured birds are rehabilitated and released back into the wild. There is a small charge of \$5 - \$6 per person. If the weather is suitable we will follow this visit with a walk on the Boundary Bay dike to look for the variety of birds that spend the winter in this very important area, including the beautiful Short-eared Owl. Bring lunch. **Phone 604-888-1787 to register.**

Friday September 29th

Blackie Spit, Crescent Beach, Surrey

Leader: Perry Poulsen

Time: 9:00 am

Meet: Crescent Beach Pier, (across from the parking lot by the outdoor swimming pool).

Join Perry to explore the Spit and look for the birds that are migrating south through this important area with its varied habitat. **Phone 604-366-4695 to register.**

FUNDRAISER FOR CLUB

Fraser Valley Bottle &
Express Return-It Depot
108 - 22575 Fraser Hwy
(beside Big Box, Murrayville)

or

Willowbrook Express Return-It Depot
19641 60 Ave
Langley

Account number 222 222 3333 for Nora
Truman, *lfnsecretary (had to be a person's name)*

