



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

c/o 201-4839 221 St, Langley, BC V3A 2P1

www.langleyfieldnaturalists.org

e-mail: langleyfieldnaturalists@gmail.com

Newsletter

June 2024

BC Nature Representative

liason between the club
and BC Nature
with email & Zoom meetings



Vice President

Chair meetings
in absence of President
Assist President when needed



Help Wanted
To keep the club
running smoothly



Display Committee

to coordinate
when and where
our displays are in public



Assistant Secretary

to take minutes
at Thursday evening
meetings

***All Executive positions are elected each year:
Nominations and/or
further information on any position
email jrose77@yahoo.com***

***Elections will be held at the June 20th
annual meeting***



President's message

Our weather seems to be all over the place this spring. A hot, dry start to spring has folks worried about what kind of summer we are going to have and then the rain started, then a blast of sun, rain, sun... My lawn is an absolute jungle; thank goodness recent news from Dr. Elle, SFU's Bee Queen, says that mowing my lawn every other week is most helpful to our native bees, phew!

I love accidental conservation! Sometimes I can be found late at night Googling ways to justify my laziness as a way to help the environment. Didn't pull the spent spinach in the garden? Saving seeds. Didn't weed the lawn? Enhancing biodiversity. Don't feel like deadheading the flowers? Feeding the birds over winter. No time to set up a hose to water the grass? Conserving water.

Even my plans to put in a pollinator garden in my backyard is more about not maintaining my raspberry patch than helping bees. Fingers crossed pollinators like the few raspberries that are probably not going to get properly dug up and moved!

I am looking forward to expanding the wild bit of my garden. I have been slowly adding more and more indigenous plants around my home. It is a slow process when trying to do this on a budget but hopefully with a little bit of time I will be surrounded by plants that don't need any upkeep because they actually belong here. There are some excellent resources online about creating wildlife habitat. One I love is the GrowGreen Guide because they have designs created for our region and you can take the quiz to narrow down ideas to your specific needs like encourage pollinators and full sun: <https://growgreenguide.ca/Pages/default.aspx>

Planting the pollinator garden requires a little more work so it is not really high on my list, yet. Until then, something that will require a little less work is figuring out native plants that can go in pots on my new deck! I checked out the Habitat Acquisition Trust folks because they have some great info about native plants for containers: <https://hat.bc.ca/container-gardening> - looks like I need to find a vine maple and sea blush to keep in a big pot for a few years!

I hope everyone is able to get out to get their hands in some soil this summer, whether it is on a deck, in a backyard, or community garden! The benefits go beyond helping our bees and nature - it is really good for your mental health, too!

Lisa Dreves

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS 2023-2024

DIRECTORS

President: & webmaster	Lisa Dreves 604-532-0081 ~ lisabob2@yahoo.com
Vice President:	Vacant
Past President & Conservation/library	Bob Puls 604-856-7534 ~ bob@puls.ca
Secretary:	Nora Truman 604-533-4585 ~ lfnsecretary@hotmail.com
Treasurer & Newsletter:	Sheila Puls 604-856-7534 - sheila@puls.ca
Membership:	Marianne Carefoot 416-219-7752 - mcarefoot@yahoo.com
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
BC Nature:	Eric Habisch 778-231-0273 -eric.habisch@gmail.com
Member At Large:	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 ~ jroose77@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 7.30 pm
Executive meetings are held on the first Wednesday
of each month Sept - June

GORDON'S BROOK MARSH RESTORATION

Gordon's Brook Marsh is located at the southern section of Aldergrove Regional Park, and the Langley Field Naturalists have been monitoring bird species and numbers on the site since its construction in 2013. The first nest boxes were installed in 2015 and have been monitored by us since then. The site has restricted public access and is reserved for scientific projects.

March 14th 2024 found five LFN members waiting at the Louck's Heritage House gates for Metro Vancouver staff to unlock them. Shortly after 9.0 am three staff members showed up in a truck and allowed us in. It was a beautiful warm dry day, by March standards, as we parked at the house site. Eric and Ryan then drove to the Phase 2 site, the gate to which had also been opened, and took the extension ladder with them.



Herman and Perry approach the nest box

Photo: Bob Puls

Phase 2, the most eastern section, had been designed as a beaver-controlled wetland, but the northern section, where we had located nest boxes, never attracted beavers and remained dry during the summer seasons. Consequently, Wood Ducks never occupied this section, and the boxes were just used by invasive Eastern Grey Squirrels. The remaining Wood Duck boxes were removed, to be relocated

near the actual Gordon's Brook. Shrub plantings, after the Swallow box installation, had overgrown these boxes, so some of these were also removed for relocation. Tree Swallows and House Wrens had used these boxes in the past, but now they were mainly the home of Deer Mice or Paper Wasps. Two swallow boxes remain to be found and then relocated.

Meanwhile, Bob, Herman and Perry took the smaller ladder and checked and cleaned the nest boxes in Phases 1 and 2. This involved much blackberry trimming, to gain access and keep the boxes viable. The resulting tally was 11 boxes used by Tree Swallows and 2 by House Wrens.

House Wrens started nesting in south Aldergrove in 2003 on Bob's property, where multiple nest boxes were available, and at this site once swallow boxes were installed. The male wren starts several nests from which the female chooses just one. Unfortunately the swallows are physically excluded from all the boxes commandeered by the wrens.

During the nest box cleaning a casual bird count was also conducted with 29 species being observed and posted on eBird – the 30th species being an unconfirmed glimpse of the first Rufous Hummingbird of the season.

On Monday March 18th Bob located and removed the two swallow boxes in Phase 2 that Eric & Ryan hadn't found on Thursday. I suggested they be re-located to the edge of the roadway that runs to the east through that area.

Bob Puls

FORSLUND WATSON PROTECTED AREA

In the December 2023 LFN newsletter, we reported the construction of a third vernal pond as a student lab project for a BCIT class. For four days students studied and participated in soil formations, vernal pond site selection, vernal pond design and final planting of water plants and native shrubs. Financial restraints at the time meant fewer trees and plants were available for planting. For simplicity purposes, this pond is referred to as the BCIT-3 pond.

In March 2024 SCCLPM (South Coast Conversation Land Management Program), the organization responsible for overseeing many environmental properties for the BC Government,

realized they had monies left over in their budget available for purchasing of plants.



Eric checking out the plants

Photo: Ryan Usenik

The decision was made to purchase more plant material for the BCIT-3 project, and the following plants were purchased.

Plant	Quantity
Red-osier Dogwood	15
Nootka's Rose	25
Thimbleberry	25
Salmonberry	15
Hardhack	25
Snowberry	15
Big-leaf Maple	5
Pacific Crabapple	10
Black Hawthorn	5
Mertens Sedge	15
Spike Rush	15
Hard-stemmed Bulrush	15
Small-flowered Bulrush	15
Sword Fern	5
Deer Fern	5
Bracken Fern	5

Volunteers from different groups planted everything on March 14th. All these plants are native to the Fraser Valley. Because of climate changes, many of these native plant species are now being used more and more in landscape planning in our community. All shrub growth is seen as a natural source of food material for the resident deer population at Forslund Watson. Bucks also can do a lot of damage to shrubs and trees with their antlers, particularly as they look for places to rub the velvet growth off.

Most of the vulnerable plantings were fenced with wire material for their protection.

The constructed vernal ponds enhance the wetland capacity of the Forslund Watson property. Because these ponds dry up in the summer, they are ideal wetland habitat for many native amphibians. Invasive species like Bullfrogs that feed on our native amphibians, require wetlands that retain water year round.

With development in our community has come the loss of wetlands. With Langley Field Naturalists managing the Forslund Watson property we are able to ensure it continues to benefit wildlife and to provide a variety of wetlands. A Win-Win for nature.

Ryan Usenik

HOUSTON TRAIL, BIRDS & BRYOPHYTES THURSDAY MARCH 7TH

Ten curious naturalists set out from the Houston Trail parking lot on Allard Crescent to look for birds and the often-overlooked tiny plants of the forest floor, logs and tree trunks. A casual park visitor not afflicted with "naturalist's fever" might have stayed in their car a bit longer and headed for the clearing only after the sun cast its warmth across the field. But not so for these hardy naturalists, whose motto for the day, "*avibus et musco per virtutem et curiositatem*"** pushed them into the chilly depths of the forest. And so it was that this group of oddballs** forged ahead, undeterred, scanning the trees above, the ground below and spending an unusual amount of time examining and discussing green things on tree trunks.

The rewards were good companionship, natural history puzzling, a discussion of someone's fancy new hiking boots, a bloated dead American Bullfrog, the exquisite beauty of the miniature forests of mosses and liverworts, the skeletal and feathered remains of a Great Blue Heron and the calls of Sandhill Cranes from across the bog heralding the arrival of spring.

The specific ingredients of the group's pleasure included the following:

Birds (seen or heard):

Canada Goose	5	Mallard	8
Bufflehead	5	Sandhill Crane	2
Red-tailed Hawk	1	Belted Kingfisher	1
Northern Flicker	2	Downy Woodpecker	1

American Robin	2	Common Raven	2
Pacific Wren	3	Golden-crowned Kinglet	5
Song Sparrow	6	Black-capped Chickadee	5
Dark-eyed Junco	1	Pine Siskin	15

Bryophytes (seen)

Mosses

Antitrichia curtipendula
Atrichum undulatum/selwynii
Brachythecium sp.
Buckiella undulata
Claopodium crispifolium
Dicranum scoparium/fuscescens
Homalothecium fulgescens
Homalothecium nuttallii
Hylocomium splendens
Hypnum circinale (Trochophyllohypnum circinale)
Hypnum subimponens
(Stereodon subimponens)
Isothecium stoloniferum
Kindbergia oregana
Kindbergia praelonga
Leucolepis acanthoneuron
Metaneckera menziesii
Neckera douglasii
Orthotrichum lyellii
Orthodicranum tauricum
Plagiomnium insigne
Plagiomnium venustum
Plagiothecium sp.
Rhizomnium glabrescens
Rhytidiadelphus loreus
Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus
(Electrified Cat's Tail moss)
Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus

Liverworts

Cephalozia sp.
Frullania nisquallensis
Lepidozia reptans
(Mickey Mouse hands)
Porella navicularis
Radula complanata
Scapania bolanderi

Thanks to all who attended, some only fleetingly (Mourning Cloak butterfly), and to Todd for keeping a bird list.

- * "birds and moss through courage and curiosity"
- ** we kind of stood out amongst the dog walkers and joggers

Phil Henderson

TYNEHEAD REGIONAL PARK SATURDAY MARCH 16TH

On a gorgeous Saturday morning, 16 enthusiastic naturalists met in the hatchery parking lot of Tynehead Regional Park which is part of the family of Metro Vancouver parks. It is sandwiched between 96th Avenue, and the "Freeway", but once you enter the walks in the park, it is difficult to realize you are so close to all the traffic. After the usual introductions, we decided to follow the Serpentine Loop Trail. We were not to be disappointed. It meandered along the Serpentine River, through some very forested areas, and gave us some nice views of the river. As this park is 260 hectares, it offers a very diverse mixture of eco-systems. It has open grasslands, some coniferous forests, with also some mixed forest which would of course include the majestic Bigleaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*).

Along the way, there were many stops, checking out the birds of course. Although the numbers were down (15 species), it was still a joy to see and hear the early spring calls of the birds. It is always a delight to explain the sheer enjoyment of bird watching to fellow park users. All are potential bird watchers and nature enthusiasts.

The park is actually the headwaters of the Serpentine River and continues to meander its way through Surrey, eventually making its way to Mud Bay. Tynehead does mean "Head of the Serpentine".

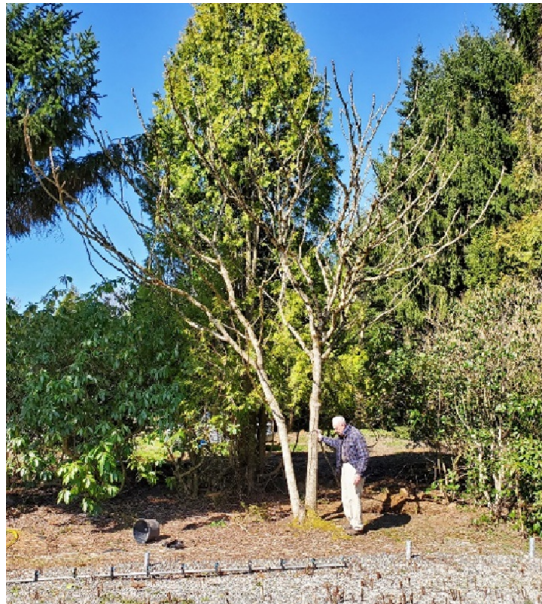
This is a great place to explore this area of Surrey, with its 10 kms of very walkable trails. After a group shot, we all parted ways and look forward to our next adventure. Thanks to all who participated, and made it a very enjoyable morning.

Tom Wildeboer

SEEDY SATURDAY AT DEREK DOUBLEDAY ARBORETUM SATURDAY MARCH 23RD

We had a small group of 7 ladies for this walk, all wearing rain gear, as there was constant spring rain. Lisa led us past the dyers garden, pointing out where Echinacea, Lavender, Coreopsis and Rudbeckia take hold each spring. Many plants were just emerging from dormancy; however, Lisa mentioned the importance of the dandelion for bees

and butterflies and even humans as a source of nutrition in early spring when other plants are slower to emerge. We visited David's Bird Garden to the north which has really expanded with a great mixture of plantings including the *Aralia Alata* tree. We could also see the new Conifer Garden nearby that has a mix of shrubs and larger conifers.



Les Clay and the Aralia Alata Tree Photo: Nora Truman

I mentioned that Les Clay, who was in his late 90's, passed away recently. Les pitched the arboretum project to the Township of Langley and drew up a park plan more than 20 years ago. Most of the Rhododendrons in the park were donated by Les. The garden to the west of the Interpretive Centre is named the Les Clay Rhododendron Garden.

Our group walked north to the perimeter trail and onto the viewing area that overlooks Fraser Creek. I pointed out the many American Robins flying to perch in the trees that border the trail. Steller's Jays and Song Sparrows were singing, welcoming the spring. Lisa led our group through the learning farm and pointed out the garlic, brussel sprouts and other plantings that are poking up through the dead plant leaves and material that blankets them for the winter.



Seedy Saturday Dirt

Photo: Nora Truman

The Demonstration Garden has weathered the winter well and the shelter in this area was being used by visitors for a chat. Lisa pointed out a new area with plantings of trees on the

north side of the berm that parallels the entrance to the community gardens.

Our walk ended with the offer of bags of dirt to take home and use for our own spring planting. Many of us dried off inside and visited the many Seedy Saturday booths and presentations. Some of us attended a presentation about Day Lilies. Amanda Smith from LEPS organized such a tremendous event.

Nora Truman

TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY SATURDAY APRIL 6TH

More than a dozen of us met up on a partly cloudy April morning at Trinity Western University, to tour the TWU Ecosystem Study Area. I had help leading the tour from my student Lauren McKenna, who is doing a special project monitoring Wood Duck boxes at TWU and in the Langley area.



Pacific Trillium

Photo: David Clements

As we walked along McMillan Lake, we indeed spotted two pairs of Wood Ducks, who are hopefully going to raise some chicks in the boxes that Lauren and her classmate Jaylene are carefully tending and monitoring. Other waterfowl spotted included American Wigeon, Pied-billed Grebes, Mallards, Canada Geese, and a Great Blue Heron.

There was a dead Vagrant Shrew (yes, that's the real name) on the path by the lake. It was unfortunate it was dead, but a very interesting sighting nonetheless. As we came to where I knew there is an active Cooper's Hawk nest, I was surprised to see so many songbirds still hanging out in this dangerous neighborhood, such as a

Pacific Wren, some Black-capped Chickadees, and a Song Sparrow or two. We did catch a glimpse of one of the Cooper's Hawks zipping around.



Nuttall's Toothwort

Photo: David Clements

We then entered the area my colleague and lands manager Chris Hall calls a "Disneyland for Salmon," otherwise known as the back-40. There we wandered among the forest blooms: Pacific Trilliums, Pacific Bleeding Hearts, and a delicate little herb with pink blossoms, Nuttall's Toothwort.

As we paused on the rustic bridge that spans Rardi Creek, we spied a Pileated Woodpecker knocking away at an old Douglas-fir in the middle distance. Then Ryan Usenik casually said, "and there's deer." And there they were just a little beyond the woodpecker - three Columbian Black-tailed Deer - a doe and two yearlings. They were watching us watching them.

We then enjoyed the ups and downs of the very convoluted and enchanted trail through the back 40, with 4-year-old James providing an enthusiastic running commentary. We saw 22 species of birds in all. It was a beautiful spring morning for a walk in the Trinity Western woods, for people and deer alike!

David Clements

GEORGE REIFEL BIRD SANCTUARY TUESDAY APRIL 16TH

As usual, our trip to this premier British Columbia birding sanctuary did not disappoint. Unfortunately, we had cancelled our Thursday April 11th booking

due to rain, but we rebooked on Tuesday April 16th and met in bright sunshine. We first wandered along the East dyke trail and since it was now the height of the breeding Season, we found lots to record. The highlight of our day was the discovery of an Anna's Hummingbird's tiny nest, with a baby in it - waiting for mum to return with food.

With our spring's arrival, there was lots of nesting going on all over this wonderful ocean-side bird sanctuary. Canada Geese, Tree Swallows, Marsh Wrens, House Sparrows and Hummingbirds were all busy carrying nesting materials into bird boxes and trees, or nesting on small tufted islands.

Our thanks to Wim for being our ebird recorder! We ended our day with 56 different species to send to ebird as citizen scientists, while enjoying a wonderful day out in the sunshine.

Anne Gosse

GREAT BLUE HERON RESERVE SATURDAY APRIL 20TH



Heron nests and Bald Eagle

Photo: Roy Cline

When I arrived at the parking lot I expected to be the first of our group as it was just after 8:30, but Keith was already there with Belinda and his mother Colleen. While waiting for the others I started our bird list: and the regular birds, such as House Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow and Starling. On the back of the pond a Belted Kingfisher was fishing. We did not see that bird again.

A bit after 9 am we started the walk on the outside as usual. We started to see the first Mallards and Wood Ducks and the first Great Blue Herons. Close to the heronry nests, we did see the Bald Eagle nest. On the other side of the dike, Barn Swallows

and Savannah Sparrows showed themselves. Just before the corner, more species of ducks showed up as well as Tree and Violet-green Swallows.



Wood Ducks

Photo: Keith Chrystall

Getting to the trail to the river the first Osprey showed up. Walking through the treed areas we heard the Pileated Woodpecker and most got to see it too. On the edge of the river in a few spots Greater Yellowlegs were feeding. Not always easy to get to a good viewing spot. On the way we found a spot with Japanese Knotweed that looked untreated and the spot on the reserve looked treated. I later sent an email to the Reserve asking them to contact the municipality to which they replied positively after a few weeks. Along the trail we heard some Yellow-rumped Warblers and Common Yellowthroats. When we got back in the reserve at the back we did see all the nests filled with herons and we estimated at least 70 active nests.

Different species of ducks were on the ponds: American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead and others. Soaring in the sky were more eagles and some Turkey Vultures.



At the heronry

Photo: Keith Chrystall

When we returned to the parking lot, we sat down at the picnic table for lunch and found lots more birds at the feeders near the building. Downy and Hairy Woodpecker, White-crowned Sparrows. After lunch with a few people, we finished the walk and found a Wilson's Snipe among others; we ended up with 52 species.

Wim Vesseur

FORSLUND WATSON SATURDAY APRIL 27TH

Four people participated in a damp walk at Forslund Watson. Like everywhere, there were signs that spring was just around the corner. All ponds were full and overflowing. We were unable to identify any amphibian activity in the ponds.



Great Horned Owlets

Photo: Eric Habisch

Probably because of the weather and temperature, a limited number of birds were observed. A total of 25 species were identified and reported to e-Bird. As usual, our faithful male Anna's Hummingbird was there to greet and monitor our activities in the vicinity of the BCIT ponds. The highlight of the walk was being able to view the two Great Horned owlets and one parent. The timing of the walk was fortunate as a week later they were not in the vicinity of the nest.

For those of you who were planning to participate in the walk to learn more about the Forslund Watson property, there will be another scheduled walk in the fall.

Ryan Usenik

GLOUCESTER ESTATES SATURDAY MAY 4TH



Ted leading the walk

Photo: Perry Poulsen

It was a fine day for a nature walk and talk at Gloucester Industrial Estates in the Township of Langley, at the home of Lynda and Ted Lightfoot. Thank you to our host and hostess for the homemade treats, hot drinks and the engaging tour of the West Creek headwaters.

Earlier in the week I had been scouting out nature activities in the area, as I am visiting for ten days, and I came across the facebook page for the Langley Field Naturalists (LFN). It had information about when and where the walk would take place, so I put the event on my list of things to do. When I went to the LFN website, I learned that one should register in advance so I made a phone call. Even though there were already 12 people registered, I was appreciative that Ted allowed me to fit in.

I met the LFN group shortly before 9 AM. We were prepared for cool weather but didn't require rain gear. Our tour began in the little shed where Ted has a display on the iconic Canadian beaver, and life-sized Bald Eagles crafted from copper and wood. He told of his two month tour in 2017, when

he pulled a trailer christened 'Hays' across Canada, loaded with beaver paraphernalia which he used to educate and inspire people he met. What a meaningful endeavor to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary.

Ted went on to explain how the area where we would be walking has withstood industrial development, thus far, and how he and Lynda are spearheading a campaign to have the West Creek headwaters area protected from industrial development. A proposal to develop 35 of the 90 acres would have detrimental effects on the Coho Salmon which use West Creek as a spawning area.

Less than two weeks ago, under the full moon, Ted witnessed the Coho smolts leaping clear out of the water, likely strengthening themselves for their long journey to the saltwater oceans. Only a miniscule few ever make the treacherous journey home to their place of birth, to continue the cycle. The Wild Salmon Defender Alliance and First Nations representatives are on board with curtailing the planned industrial development. It appears that the exploratory work for development that was being done has halted for the time being, but there is a need for remaining vigilant to ensure that this vital habitat is protected.



Brown-headed Cowbird

Photo: Perry Poulsen

Ted led us to the pond nearest the house. The beavers have been busy! The alder trees have been trimmed back substantially as the beavers feed and construct their lodge, but showed strong regrowth as expected since the beavers and trees have co-evolved, each meeting a need in the other. We followed a path through the trees and along the berm that serves as a dam. Three of the ponds were constructed as stormwater retention ponds

and are home to a few pairs of Canada Geese and their goslings, mallards and even a Green-winged Teal. As we went along, identification of birds heard and seen, the ecological importance of beavers and discussion of the natural and constructed wetlands took place. At one point, Ted retrieved an underwater trap that he had placed prior to the walk. The trap contained a trout and a number of sticklebacks. We walked past an ancient tree that had likely been too young to harvest when the area was logged. This tree's bark sported marks from a cable that had girdled it long ago. Nimble-footed naturalists traversed the lee side of a small beaver dam to reach the last stop where we discussed the ecology of beavers and learned that at least five beaver lodges lie within the stretch where we had walked. Garter snakes were seen at two locations along the trail. On this cool day, the hunt was on for butterflies and dragonflies and at least one of each were spotted.

When we returned to the yard, Lynda had a spread of refreshments laid out on the picnic table and chairs set out for our repose under the venerable willow tree. It was a lovely morning walk in a habitat new to me, with like-minded people who share the same values as I, being in awe of and calling for the preservation of our natural spaces and its creatures.



Echo Azure Butterfly

Photo: Perry Poulsen

I invite and encourage the LFN to seek out opportunities to connect with other naturalists when they go travelling, as I did. I hail from the Red Deer area in Central Alberta. The Nature Alberta website <http://naturealberta.ca/> is a good place to start when looking for groups or activities when visiting your neighbouring province, and with 50 organizations spread throughout the province, it's likely that you can join in an activity that interests you.

Claudia Lipski (a visitor from Alberta)

SATURDAY MAY 18TH KRANNITZ PROPERTY



At the Krannitz property

Photo: Rhys Krannitz

Fifteen hardy individuals braved the typical west coast spring day:, wet, rainy, and cold. Though we didn't see as much insect and bird life as I was hoping, the plants were wearing their best spring forage, with a plethora of greens. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the walk. I discussed the glacial, logging and settlement history of the area and how it affects the property today, along with a fairly detailed discussion on water management and the importance of focusing on creating habitat, rather than just saving species.

Rhys Krannitz

ALL I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE I LEARNED FROM BIRD WATCHING:

**Failing to feed the birds
is a cardinal sin;
The sky's the limit;
The early bird gets the worm;
Heron today, gone tomorrow;
All work and no play
is strictly for the birds;
The bluebird of happiness is not as elusive as
you might think;
Never duck the issue;
Fowl play is not always a bad thing;
Owl's well that ends well.**

BC NATURE AGM

The weather was fantastic for the BC Nature 2024 Conference and AGM held in the Oceanside area on Vancouver Island May 9th -12th.

As we have no current club representative to BC Nature, Kathy took notes at the Club Reps meeting and Sheila took notes at the AGM in order to keep club members up to date.

CLUB REPRESENTATIVES MEETING

Usual housekeeping items...

- * Introduction of Mish Stone, the new BC Nature office manager and Natasha Chand, the new Treasurer.
- * Clarification of financial statements and discussion of new Board appointments.

Whole group discussion...

- * Challenges in getting new executive members
- * Suggest asking younger board members what attracted them
- * Suggest ask very new members to do something for the club
- * Limit time for Board members' position
- * Invite a group of young people to join in
- * Ask people directly
- * Welcome letter to new members to contain a question about joining board
- * Talk about younger members' skills, and how they could benefit the club
- * Day membership/visitors, ask to take membership after two visits
- * Committee members do not need to be on Board
- * Encourage members to join camps and/or annual/fall meetings

Note: Salt Spring has no Board - people just step up where needed.

Kathy Masse

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We received a copy of the BC Nature Annual Report which makes very interesting reading - if you would like to read it, contact me.

The meeting started with the usual housekeeping - last year's minutes, president's report, treasurer's report and some tidying up of the bylaw's to reflect the new staffing levels. A resolution was presented

and passed for lobbying for the protection of Pink Mountain (an area near the Alaska Highway).

Each of the five staff members gave a short report. We now have 5 staff:

Executive director Stewart Guy
Office manager Mish Stone
Bookkeeper Mary Shannon
Conservation co-ordinator Kephra Beckett and
IBA/KBA co-ordinator Liam Ragan.

The Board members were introduced, committee chairpersons gave reports - these show up regularly in the magazine.

An appeal for someone to join/chair the Camps committee.

Education Committee chair Marg Cuthbert reminded us that scholarships are available for students in environmental studies - deadline for applying is June 27th.

We also heard from the BC Nature affiliates - BC Naturalists' Foundation, NatureKids, and the Outdoor Recreation Council.

Next year's AGM "**Nature in the Rain Shadow**" will be held in Merritt from **May 22nd to May 25th 2025.**

Sheila Puls

EVENING RECEPTION THURSDAY MAY 9TH

The welcoming reception included presentations on the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (MABR) and Saving the French Creek Estuary Land.

MABR was designated in 2000. It is one of 700+ United Nations biosphere reserves across the world. MABR was established to protect a large second growth Douglas-fir ecosystem in the Watersheds of the Little Qualicum and Englishman Rivers.

One of the mandates of UN biospheres is to conserve biodiversity, restore and enhance ecosystem services and foster the sustainable use of natural resources. Community representatives and a research institute at Vancouver Island University govern the mandates of MABR through various studies and projects.

**EARLY MORNING BIRDING
(QUALICUM AREA)
FRIDAY MAY 10TH**



Early birding at Eaglecrest

Photo: Joanne Rosenthal

Up early to join the birding to French Creek Estuary! We met at 6 am and carpooled to the Estuary. A beautiful sunny morning of birding. Also heard California Sea Lions and saw adult and juvenile Bald Eagles on the jetty.

I enjoyed seeing one large sea lion swim and surface at the shoreline. We saw many shorebirds around and in the water and heard Killdeers calling. The paths and natural areas around the housing development had lots of morning activity. Our group recorded 33 species, including Orange-crowned, Wilson's, Yellow, and Yellow-rumped Warblers.

We also stopped at beautiful Eaglecrest Beach and recorded 14 species, including a Red-necked Grebe and a flock of 9 Surf Scoters.

**SUNDAY MAY 12TH
BUTTERTUBS MARSH TOUR (NANAIMO)**

Buttertubs Marsh has a 2 km loop trail around the marsh with observation decks and a tower for viewing. We were led by prominent naturalist Bill Merilees and his grandson. Bill was made an honorary member of Nature Vancouver as a young child and has dedicated himself to monitoring and enhancing Buttertubs Marsh.

The marsh contains a tower for Purple Martin nest boxes which Bill designed. The tower also has a nesting platform for Ospreys which has been used.



Thatching ants' mound

Photo: Joanne Rosenthal

Bill gave us a very interesting history of the area, including the coal mining era to present day as he guided us through the preserve. Western Painted Turtles nest in several areas around the marsh. A haven for birds and wildlife. We saw several Bushtit nests and had a close view of a Marsh Wren weaving grass into its nest. Bill showed us huge Thatching Ant mounds and demonstrated how they protect themselves using formic acid. His hand smelled like vinegar and he only recieved one small bite after placing his hand over the mound.

We observed several sparrows swooping down and quickly picking up ants. Nature Nanaimo offers regular tours of the Marsh in May and June on weekends. Really worth a visit if you are in the Nanaimo area.

The ferry trip home Monday from Duke Point didn't disappoint. We watched several Orcas, including a Mom and juvenile swimming and surfacing close to the ship.

It was a great weekend of walks and chats with friends from our affiliate BC clubs. Many thanks to the Arrowsmith Naturalists for hosting and making this event a success!

Joanne Rosenthal

THE HAREWOOD PLAINS

Sunday "Farewell" trip

At the BC Nature AGM this year, some of us attended a fascinating presentation by botanist and plant ecologist Scott T. Black. He was advocating for one of BC rarest ecosystems near Nanaimo called "the Harewood Plains". First, he showed us some large beautiful flowers such as roses, tulips, gladiolus that he called the "Alice in Wonderland Syndrome", as they gave people an endorphin rush with their immense beauty.

However, Scott's favorites were the smaller, tiny, miniscule flower plants that grow mostly in wetlands or vernal ponds that need grassy wet soils, a Mediterranean-like climate and/or a waterlogged Garry Oak meadow. Flowers such as the Monkey flower, Columbia lily, Fairyslipper orchid, elegant Rein-orchid, Ghost flower, Howell's violet, Shooting Star and pink Sea Blush. I could relate to his wonderment of the wee, as every year for 20 years, I have searched for the tiny miniscule early spring flowers on the dry grassy sea-scaped slopes of Deception Pass.

More importantly, this area was also discovered to be one of the best places for the endangered and red-listed Meadow bird's-foot trefoil, or *Hosackia pinnata* - whose delicate white and yellow blooms were adopted by the city of Nanaimo as their official flower in 2010! Scott found that the Harewood Plains area had one of the best and biggest growths of the only seven known populations of this endangered plant in all of Canada! And Harewood Plains has the largest area of growth! Along with this marvelous discovery, also found were at least nine other blue-listed and red-listed tiny plant species growing in this wet area as well! Plants such as the Foothill-sedge, dense Spike-primrose and Slim-leaf onion; all were "a gold mine for a botanist" making it an extremely important area to preserve.

Sadly, he reported the area has been designated for a 480-unit subdivision to be built on it, which would be constructed right on top of the Harewood Plains that contain all these critically endangered plants. For the last several years, the development has been protested by numerous groups, including the Nanaimo Area Land Trust (NALT) and the Arrowsmith Naturalists and is presently at a standstill awaiting a decision.

Let's all hold our breath and hope that this rare and exceptional Harewood Plains area will be saved by these very dedicated people.

Anne Gosse

NORTH ISLAND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION

PRESENTATION BY SYLVIA CAMPBELL



Web photo

The North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre Association had its beginnings in 1984, when "hippies" Robin & Sylvia Campbell, running Bulkley Bay Store, discovered an injured eagle with a broken wing. They removed his wing, named him Spirit, and cared for him for the rest of his life. Word in the community spread, and others began to bring injured animals to the Campbells for rehabilitation.

Two years later, needing more room, the Campbells moved to an eight-acre property near Errington, BC, to be better able to maintain a facility for the care of more ill, injured and orphaned wildlife. They founded the North Island Wildlife Recovery Association (NIWRA) as a Charitable Society, and with positive publicity, more and more birds and animals arrived from near and far for treatment. They developed expertise, with the hiring of veterinarians, not only in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation of eagles but also bears, wolves and others. In 1991, NIWRA built the largest eagle flight cage of its kind in Canada and successfully housed and rehabilitated hundreds of eagles in preparation for their release. One of NIWRA's main goals is for the birds and animals treated, to be released back into nature.

Money was needed to enable planning and they relied on donations, some large, as well as bequests, garage sales, art sales, bingo and

eventually the charging of admission. Education of the public became another goal and an interactive Wildlife Learning centre was constructed. There now is a native wildlife garden, with ponds and an opportunity for bird watching. They have pens for injured and recovered birds and animals, as well as for wildlife not able to be released but kept for educational purposes.

The NIWRA depends heavily on volunteers, and today 80 to 100 volunteers, including the disabled, help out. The centre has developed over 40 years, into a world-class tourist destination and a remarkable wildlife rehabilitation facility offering educational programs delivered by enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers.

Sylvia ended her presentation with her analysis of their success: Sylvia and Robin started with their commitment, set goals, and asked for help.

Kathy Masse

THAMES CREEK AGM FIELD TRIP SATURDAY, MAY 10



Thames Creek bridge

Photo: Nora Truman

Such a pleasure to walk in an old growth forest with Douglas-fir trees of immense size. Our walk followed the Thames Creek and we crossed on logs to one side and then back to the other several times as the path meandered uphill. The trail is maintained by dedicated volunteers and we were told that the park was donated by the rail baron Robert Dunsmuir who constructed railways on the island to transport coal to Victoria and then overseas. The Bracken Fern was thick at the side of the trail along with Deer Fern. It was a pleasure to see white and pink Trilliums. We took pictures of an Amanita Mushroom, one of several mushroom types near the

trail and there was the sound of woodpeckers high in the trees.

Tom, our guide, explained that Thames Creek and Nile Creek are two of many streams on Vancouver Island that run from the inner plateau to the Pacific Ocean. Tom said the preservation of the park may need further action from naturalists in the future.

Nora Truman

BUTTERFLY WORLD IN COOMBS BC NATURE AGM 2024



One of the many butterflies

Photo: Nora Truman

Our group of 3 was treated to butterflies of all colours and sizes inside a tropical biosphere. There were information charts that helped with identification. The habitat featured a mixture of paths with bright flowers, shrubs and flowing water and of course the feeding stations that had fresh fruit. The butterflies fly freely about and have no fear of the visitors in their home. We also ventured out into a covered outdoor area where there were ponds with Koi and bridges and a path around a pond with turtles and a tropical toad.

After the tour, our driver Lesley took us to Coombs market where we saw the green sod-roofed buildings but the resident goats were resting out of sight in the shade.

Nora Truman

ENOS LAKE

Our Saturday morning field trip was to Enos Lake, on the Fairwinds property at Nanoose Bay. We were a little late starting, due to confused travel directions, but then we were off. Led by Jeanne and

Rob Schippers, described as avid hikers, they confirmed their reputation, by leading us at a fast clip down narrow, steep, trails with tree roots exposed at every step - no time to 'smell the roses'. What a difference from yesterday's walk to Hamilton Marsh, where we ambled along, stopping at every flower to learn about its history and uses.



In the Garry Oak meadow

Photo: Bob Puls

Arriving at Enos Lake, we were told about the rare Benthic and Limnetic Enos Stickleback. No birds were seen on the lake and few on the trail although Merlin recorded some songs. We had 22 species by the end of the hike. I did photograph a Western Spring Azure butterfly on a rock by the shore.

From the lake we hiked upwards to the Garry Oak Meadows, which although not extensive, did have a nice show of flowering plants with pink Sea Blush and the blue Camas being the outstanding features. The pace slowed down at this stage and we had time to photograph the flowers and discuss the endangered Garry Oak ecosystem. Several sprouting acorns were seen, hopefully increasing the tree population.

Then on to another smaller lake, where yellow pond lilies were in flower, a male Rufous Hummingbird posed on a snag and a Common Yellowthroat serenaded us. The hike back to the carpark was fairly rapid as we were short on time, but we did see a few more plants in the surrounding forest.

Bob Puls

End of BC Nature AGM Reports.

Mark your calendars for next year
"Nature in the Rain Shadow"
will be held in Merritt
May 22nd to May 25th 2025.

BAT MONITORING

LFN has again been asked by the BC Bat Community to coordinate bat counts at two roost sites in the Langley area this summer. The club has been fulfilling this request for several years now. This data enables the BC Bat Community to monitor the health status of the BC bat population.

We are asked to perform two counts at each roost location between June 1-21. This coincides with the pups having just been born. July 11-Aug 5 another two counts are performed which is when the pups are starting to emerge from the roost. Typically bats do not leave the roost till sunset or shortly thereafter.

Ideally we like to have several volunteers to draw on so that nobody is expected to come out more than 1-2. If you would like to assist by participating in this year's count, indicate so to Ryan Usenik at jrusenik@telus.net.

OTTER PARK POLLINATOR GARDEN

Having received grants to cover the cost, work has started in preparation ...



Removing the invasives

Photo: Bob Puls



Tread it down - room for more!

Photo: Bob Puls

PROGRAMMES

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2024

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

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH

TACKLING THE ILLEGAL & UNSUSTAINABLE TRADE IN SONGBIRDS

***Dr Chris R. Shepherd, Executive Director,
Monitor Conservation Research Society
(Monitor)***

Traded for their songs, their colour, and their perceived rarity, the illegal and unsustainable trade in songbirds is driving a rapidly growing list of species towards extinction. Although global in nature, nowhere is this threat greater than in Southeast Asia. Few songbird species are protected by national laws or listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Join me to learn more about this little-known issue and how Monitor is tackling this conservation crisis.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 17TH

SOME BEAUTIFUL BIRDS OF BRAZIL

***Ron Long,
Retired Sciences Photographer at SFU***

Brazil is a very large and perhaps the most biodiverse country in the Western Hemisphere. This talk will concentrate on two areas of the country that are known for their spectacular bird diversity. We begin in the Pantanal where our only access to most of the area is by boat. Birds of endless variety surround us on all sides, providing fast and non-stop photography opportunities. As if the birds are not enough, imagine the absolutely extraordinary experience of a Jaguar, so intent on its hunt along the riverbank that it totally ignores our small open boat just a few feet off shore.

If time allows, we will continue to the Atlantic Rainforest. Only remnants remain of this rich environment but within those remnants still exists a bird fauna that is hard to believe.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21ST

"THE DISASTROUS 2021 BC FLOODS"

***Dr. John Clague,
Department of Earth and Sciences, SFU***

The flooding in southern British Columbia in November 2021 was one of Canada's worst natural disasters, with economic losses estimated to be \$7.5 billion. Although atmospheric rivers are common in coastal BC, two that happened in rapid succession in mid-November 2021 can be termed the "perfect storm". They were strong in terms of their duration and total amount of moisture; they crossed and temporarily stalled over the populated south coast of BC; and they happened after BC's second worst wildfire season and early autumn snowfall in the mountains.

All roads and rail lines connecting the metropolitan Vancouver area to the rest of the province and the rest of Canada were disabled by floodwaters and debris flows, and remained so for several weeks, closing the Port of Vancouver between Canada and Asia.

In this presentation, Dr. Clague will review this disaster and address the questions: "Why weren't we prepared? Could it happen again?"

THURSDAY DECEMBER 19TH

MEMBERS' NIGHT

***A short business meeting
Members slides of their years' highlights
(10-15 slides per member only please
due to time constraints!)***

***This is followed by social time.
Please bring finger food to share.***



Web photo

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS, FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE, JUNE 2024 - SEPTEMBER 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.

Unless otherwise noted washroom facilities are available on these walks.

SATURDAY JUNE 1ST

GLEN VALLEY SPRING BIRD COUNT

Leader: Lisa Dreves
Time: 6:30 am

Meet at Poplar Bar to split into groups to cover several different areas. The count runs until about 12:00 when we return to Poplar Bar to enjoy a potluck lunch and compare results. Please contact Lisa so we know to expect you. It is early and we know sometimes people forget to set their alarm and we don't want to drive away if there is a possibility of extra help!

Phone 604-729-3815 or

e-mail stewardship@leps.bc.ca to register.

SATURDAY JUNE 8TH

SALMON RIVER NATURAL AREA, FORT LANGLEY

Leader: Eric Habisch
Time: 9:00 am at the Trailhead on Billy Brown Road closest to 96th Avenue

Join Eric on a leisurely walk around this natural wetland area nestled between the Fort Langley Golf Course, Bedford Landing neighbourhood and the Bedford Channel. Usually a good number of ducks, songbirds at the neighbours' feeders, a kingfisher out in the channel, springtime arrivals or maybe even the resident beavers. If time permits we can also meander a bit of the Fort to Fort Trail. Walking distance is 2.2 kms on gravel trails with a couple of inclines.

Phone 778-231-0273 or

e-mail eric.habisch@gmail.com to register

SATURDAY JUNE 15TH

IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

Leader: Perry Poulsen
Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot on 224th Street at 5th Avenue

Join Perry 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 stands of mature Douglas-fir. ***Phone 604-366-4695 or e-mail pwpoulsen@gmail.com to register.***

SATURDAY JUNE 22ND

GRANT NARROWS PROVINCIAL PARK / ADDINGTON MARSH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Leader: Lisa Blanchard
Time: 9:00 am at Grant Narrows Provincial Park parking lot

Join Lisa to look for the birds that use this large dyked marsh area, with its several viewing towers, which 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 604-818-7973 or e-mail lisaree@telus.net to register.

SATURDAY JUNE 29TH

ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Keith Chrystall
Time: 9:00 am at the main parking lot at the end of the access road off 8th Avenue

Join Keith to walk the trails in this lovely park with its varied habitat from marsh to mixed forest to open

grassland and a great variety of flora and fauna. This is a moderately difficult walk of about 3 kms with some uphill sections.

Phone 604-427-3725 or

e-mail keithchrystall@shaw.ca to register.

THURSDAY JULY 4TH

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.

WEDNESDAY JULY 10TH

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Viveka Ohman

Time: 6:30 pm 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.

Phone 604-531-3401 to register.

WEDNESDAY JULY 17TH

DERBY BOG

Leader: Phil Henderson

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

Join Phil Henderson 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. Phil 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 footwear for walking on pavement, trails and the odd wet area.

Phone or text 778-808-6314 to register.

WEDNESDAY JULY 24TH

PINSCH OF SOIL FARM

Leaders: Wim Vesseur & Tineke Goebertus

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

Join Wim & Tineke to visit this small scale permaculture farm where Nadja and Marcel are growing food in a sustainable way by mimicking natural ecosystems as far 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 not only attract, but also 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 recreate a mini version of a typical Pacific NW forest that has many edible components but also provides habitat for many different species.

Phone 604-534-3447 to register.

WEDNESDAY JULY 31ST

DRAGONFLY WALK

Leader: Eric Habisch

Time: 9:30 am at the parking lot on 28th Avenue just east of 192nd Street.

Join Eric for a walk around the newly renovated Latimer Park in search of Dragonflies and Damselflies. These summertime flyers have been on this earth longer than most species and are an amazing sight as they hunt on the wing or allow us to admire their exquisite forms and colours while basking in the warming sun. We'll be looking for these Odonates from the new viewing platforms and shorelines around the lake. This walk is weather dependent on dry, warm and preferably sunny skies. Most trails are level hard-packed gravel except some sections in the forested area, so please bring appropriate footwear for the rougher parts.

Phone 778-231-0273 to register.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7TH

BAT WALK, LOCATION TO BE DECIDED

Leader: Keith Chrystall
Time: 8:30 pm

Join Keith for a chance to see large numbers of bats emerging from their day-time roost. Bring chairs if you wish. We expect to see several species of bats which should begin flying soon after 9 pm; expect to see several hundred.

Phone 604-427-3725 to register.

Note there may be no toilet at the chosen location.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 14TH

SPARROW CREEK FARM

23000 Rawlison 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 21ST

WEST CREEK WETLANDS

Leader: Lisa Dreves
Time: 6:30 pm on the south side of 72nd Avenue approximately 400 metres west of 264th Street. Parking is available on the north side of 72nd Avenue.

Join Lisa for an evening walk through the woods to the lake where beaver are usually seen. Bring mosquito repellent!

Text or phone 604-729-3845 to register.

Note there is no toilet at this location.

SATURDAY AUGUST 31ST

NOEL BOOTH COMMUNITY PARK AND BROOKSWOOD POND

Leader: Nora Truman
Time: 9:00 am at 20302 - 36th Avenue (at the intersection of 204th Street and 36th Avenue)

Join Nora for a leisurely walk along this Langley Trail that takes us south from the sidewalk and parallels Anderson Creek to a bridge over the creek. The trail continues past forest and field and around Brookswood Pond. Douglas-fir and Western Cedar shade the path where a variety of birds, dragonflies and waterfowl can be found. The area also has red alder and black cottonwood and is fringed by hardhack and salmonberry and supports some deer, coyote and in the pond, carp, brown catfish, and pumpkinseed.

Phone 778-887-2782 or

lfnsecretary@hotmail.com to register.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH

FORSLUND WATSON PROPERTY

Leader: Ryan Usenik
Time: 9:00 am 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 Resources and Rural Development and is part open fields with ponds and part woodland. Wear sturdy footwear as we will be walking in open fields and natural woodland trails.

Phone 604-530-3257 to register.

Note there is no toilet at this location.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH

IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

Leader: John Gordon
Time: 6:30 pm in the parking lot on 224th Street at 5th Avenue

Join John 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. It also has stands of mature Douglas-fir.

Phone 604-533-7171 to register.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21ST MOUNTAIN VIEW CROWN LANDS

Leader: Gareth Pugh
Time: 9:00 am at 7675 - 240th Street

In early 2009 Langley Field Naturalists were asked to undertake a bio-diversity survey of approximately 62 ha (155 acres) of Crown Land leased by the Mountain View Conservation Society. This was the site of a busy sawmill at the turn of the century which came to an end around 1917-1920 as a result of a major forest fire. Since then the land has been left untouched and what can be seen now is the result of a century of uninhibited re-establishment of natural forest. The tour will follow some of the survey trails through the mixed forest to look for some of the 1609 species of flora and fauna recorded during the 10 year survey. The trails are narrow with a slight (30ft/ 10 metres) change in elevation. Good footwear is necessary and covered legs are recommended as stinging nettles may be present. This field trip is not suitable for those who have difficulty walking.

Phone 604-649-1027 to register.

Note there is no toilet at this location.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH BLACKIE SPIT, CRESCENT BEACH, SURREY

Leader: Perry Poulsen
Time: 9:00 am at 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. This is an easy 3 km walk on gravel trails. Washrooms are available at the parking lot.

Phone 604-366-4695 to register.



BC NATURE ANNUAL REPORT

If you would like to read the Annual Report of BC Nature, I have an electronic copy which I can forward to you. It makes very interesting reading - it is impressive just how much the various clubs are achieving!

sheila@puls.ca

BC NATURE CLUB SERVICE AWARD

At the annual banquet, Gareth Pugh was awarded the Club Service award. This Award is presented to a person or persons belonging to a member Club recognizing their outstanding service at a local level. In Gareth's absence, Joanne Rosenthal received the award for him and it will be formally presented at a club meeting.



President Nancy Flood reads Gareth's nomination as Joanne receives the award on Gareth's behalf

Photo: Bob Puls



Photo: Sheila Puls

The full nomination will be printed in the next BC Nature magazine. The LFN and the naturalist community have greatly benefitted from Gareth's countless contributions and volunteer hours over the years.

Editor