



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 2025

BRYDON LAGOON

First the good news. Spring birding at Brydon Lagoon has been excellent. Five long-staying Canvasbacks drew birders, as did a pair of Ruddy Ducks. The Wood Duck population is booming. As of May, almost 70 species have been reported to eBird from the surrounding retention pond, floodplain, forest and the lagoon itself. The first Common Yellowthroats, Wilson's Warblers and Spotted Sandpipers arrived the first week of May. A pair of Barred Owls are raising young. A flock of Least Sandpipers spent a day at the Doughnut, a vernal pond on the floodplain. A Sora was also present for a few days. A week later (May 16th) a solitary Sandpiper spent a day drawing more birders. The Green Heron has not returned.



Solitary Sandpiper

Photo: John Gordon

Since Covid, hundreds of newly built condos and apartments have been built in the area. Foot traffic along the trails has tripled. Ongoing issues include parents allowing their children to throw gravel at the ducks, others feeding bread and one family bringing a motorized toy boat. All were approached with some care so as not to create any friction. One ongoing issue is residents on the north side of the pond are using the forest to dump garden waste into the forest bordering the lagoon. I have spoken to the City of Langley; hopefully they will contact the households involved.



The Brydon BC Hydro woods

Photo: Lilianne Fuller

Last but not least is the proposed clear cutting of the BC Hydro forest property east of the current substation. I contacted Hydro and they tell me that cutting of the woods will begin in August or September after birds have nested. It appears that the property belongs to BC Hydro and they have the right to go ahead. Several local residents have been actively lobbying anyone who might listen. This forest is home to many species of birds and other animals. It is also a place the homeless use as a place of refuge. The expansion of the substation, BC Hydro says, is to provide more power to the area.

John Gordon

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Attending two memorial services in one week was a little more than my heart could take in May; I was sad about losing both Kathy Masse and Sylvia Anderson but inspired in so many ways by what these great ladies were able to accomplish. Beyond our naturalist group both Kathy and Sylvia volunteered for other community groups, engaging in the arts, social issues, education... They were multifaceted women that impacted many and have left a legacy of joy and giving. Their lives are so inspiring, as are so many of our fellow naturalists: people that give so much for their valuable time to the community.



The haze of self-reflection that followed the days after their memorial services was brought to a halt the following week when I spoke to a young man that, in part, does a similar job to mine. We both work with volunteers trying to make nature a little bit better than when we arrived, through invasive species control and habitat enhancement. Sam said he is feeling very defeated by the work we are doing, never really seeing an end to what is needed and sometimes never really moving beyond what was originally started after years of work.

I think I understand what he is feeling. There are days that pouring everything you have into something doesn't seem like enough. The ivy keeps creeping back up the trees, the alders installed last year die in a heat wave, the butterflies don't come visit. The list of things that don't work can go on and on. But I think I need to introduce Sam to more people like Kathy and Sylvia. I doubt anyone that volunteers as much as them would not be laser-focused on the silver linings.

There is no way Kathy, Sylvia, and other members of the LFN, would ever think that time spent in nature is ever wasted. While the ivy creeps up the tree again, the time spent laughing with others peeling it off the tree was well worth it, and we are going to do it again. While we can all clearly see what didn't go right, it is hard to hold on to the less concrete benefits of our work. Many of us work to protect nature because we know that it is connected to all things far beyond political boundaries. The benefits of getting outside and helping are just as far-reaching even if we can't see them. Something

about a butterfly flapping its wings comes to mind.

I think it is okay to feel a little defeated at times; we can mutter an "ugh" under our breath but quickly remember people like Kathy and Sylvia and other friends we have lost. We need to continue to press on with the work others have started and know we are here to make a positive difference (whether it can be seen or not) while we still can.

Lisa Dreves

Help Wanted ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday June 19th

Elections will be held for our
2025-2026 executive:

All positions are elected annually.



**To keep the club running smoothly
we need
YOU!**

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

**Further information on any position
email jrrose77@yahoo.com**



TYNEHEAD REGIONAL PARK SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST

I would love to say that 6 hardy souls braved the elements to go for a 2 hour walk in Tynehead Regional park; however, the weather could not have been any better. It was sunny and warm, and with our binoculars around our necks, we were ready to go.

After the usual introductions, we decided to walk the Tynehead Perimeter trail. We concluded that the sightings of birds would be greater there than on the forest trails. After waiting for a couple more people, we decided to head out. Normally it's a 90 minute walk, but I was sure it would take us a bit longer. We did set the bar rather high at 30 sightings. As the weather was great, and it was a Saturday morning, the trail was rather busy.

Wim volunteered and recorded the bird sightings. We did get close to our wish list of 30 but settled for 26 which was pretty good. Many of the usual birds were sighted. We did pause for a while observing a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, working hard building a nest in a cavity high up in an Alder tree. They build their nests using moss from the neighboring trees, of which there was plenty nearby. It continually flew back and forth, collecting moss to build the nest, non-stop. But only one was seen; where the mate was is a mystery.

Part of the trail was rather close to the # 1 freeway, so as to be expected few birds were detected. Our attention was diverted to the vast amount of Ivy, English Holly and English Laurel. These are considered invasive species and we discussed whether or not there is a place for them in the wild. No conclusion was arrived at; however the Ivy on the trunks of the trees was somewhat of an eye sore. The Holly berries are consumed by some birds, especially if berries are scarce in the winter.

We continued back, cutting through the Dog Leash-Optional Area, on the Hawthorn Trail. As expected, the dogs loved our company. Many large silver birds were visible high above us, but of course these birds were on their final approach for a smooth landing at YVR. After a few final remarks and goodbyes, we headed home after a great walk.

Tom Wildeboer

BIRDS AND BRYOPHYTES THURSDAY, MARCH 13TH HOUSTON LOOP (PORTION), DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK *"A case for major nomenclatural* revisions"*

Thanks to Todd for "eBirding" our bird observations, to Lisa for keeping track of the bryophytes we saw, and both for their keen observational skills, good humour and important contributions to bryophyte nomenclature. Not only did this outing produce interesting birds and bryophytes, it also spawned LFN's Bryophyte Nomenclature Committee (BNC*), a new group dedicated to naming bryophytes. This could be the precursor to LFN's Bird Nomenclature Committee but that acronym (BNC) is now taken so we're stumped, and we don't want to step on the toes of the American Ornithologists Union (AOU) who are busy renaming birds, hopefully with wild, creative and memorable names, but more likely with dull, serious names. The BNC will formally offer its naming talents to the AOU but we anticipate prompt rejection.

Although mosses are not obligatorily assigned common names like birds are, one common name in current use that should stick is Electrified Cat's Tail Moss (*Hylocomiadelphus triquetrus*, formerly *Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus*) which aptly and imaginatively describes its look. It was once a cousin to, but now probably a distant second cousin (the one no one really talks about) to *Rhytidadelphus loreus*, which, until now, lacked a splendid common name. Its similarity to ECTM, more like a version lacking full-on electrification, led Todd to suggest the name Electrified Kitten's Tail Moss, which Lisa and Phil promptly endorsed: the first proclamation of the BNC! That should lend a little shine to the second cousin's tarnish.



Electrified Cat's Tail Moss



Electrified Kitten's Tail Moss

Photos: Phil Henderson

Anyway, if you are thinking, "Good Lord, I'm glad I didn't join THAT walk", I should add that there was plenty of fun and beauty and even semi-serious observation. The evidence is in the lists below:

Birds:

American Robin	4	Canada Goose	15
Sandhill Crane	2	Pacific Wren	2
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	Mallard	12
Song Sparrow	7	Ring-necked Duck	6
Spotted Towhee	3	Bufflehead	2
Green-winged Teal	4	Red Crossbill	10
Steller's Jay	1	Chestnut-backed	
Common Raven	1	Chickadee	15
Brown Creeper	1	Dark-eyed Junco	8
Cooper's Hawk	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1
Pine Siskin	25		

Bryophytes:

(The scientific names in brackets are the "old" names.)

Mosses

Antitrichia curtipendula
Atrichum undulatum/selwynii
Brachythecium sp.
Buckiella undulata
Claopodium crispifolium
Dicranoweisia cirrata
Dicranum scoparium / fuscescens
Homalothecium nuttallii
Hylocomiadelphus triquetrus (Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus)
a.k.a Electrified Cat's Tail Moss
Hylocomium splendens
Kindbergia oregana
Kindbergia praelonga
Leucolepis acanthoneuros
Neckera douglasii
Pulvigeria lyellii (Orthotrichum lyellii)
Plagiomnium insigne
Plagiothecium [laetum]
Pseudisothecium stoloniferum (Isothecium stoloniferum)
Rhizomnium glabrescens
Rhytidiadelphus loreus a.k.a. Electrified Kitten's Tail Moss
Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus
Tetraphis pellucida
Trochophyllohypnum circinale (Hypnum circinale)

Liverworts

Lepidozia reptans
Porella navicularis
Scapania bolanderi
Radula complanata

* nomenclature simply refers to naming things

** Note that membership in the LFN's BNC is free and open to everyone who attends or has attended one of LFN's Birds and Bryophytes walks.

We hope to see you all out next time.

Phil Henderson

FORT LANGLEY BIRD COUNT SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH

We had a great turnout for the annual Fort Langley Bird Count. 28 enthusiastic birders didn't let the rain and cold dampen their spirits, although by the end of it there were a lot of soggy-looking individuals raring to get warm and dry again. Thanks to the super-leaders and super-participants.



No bad weather for naturalists!

Photo: Phil Henderson

Numbers of birds compared favourably to past FLBCs. The total number of species observed was 47. From 2011-2023, the number of species recorded ranged from 41 to 53 with an average of 44. The total number of individuals - 916 - was a bit lower than the average of 1186 over the 2011-2023 surveys and at the lower end of the range of 845 to 1454. Can't blame the birds for hiding out.

(The full report, showing the individual species, counts is available from Phil).

Phil Henderson

SEEDY SATURDAY WALK DEREK DOUBLEDAY ARBORETUM SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND

Well, we joked that Seedy Saturday would be rainy again this year, but to our surprise the clouds cleared, and the sun started to peek out as our group of 11 gathered in front of the Interpretive Centre. Many of our group attended a seminar or two on the upper floor of the Interpretive Centre or visited a display about plants and gardening before the walk. One presenter talked about seed saving from your own plants and then sharing seeds with other gardeners to try new plants and varieties.

Lisa explained that the theme of our walk is about lazy gardening, composting and letting leaf litter stay where it fell. Nora gave a short history about why the

property was named after Derek Doubleday. Derek was born in Bottlesford, England in 1923 and came with his family to Canada in 1948. He applied for the job of assistant clerk treasurer for the Township of Langley that same year and started work December 1st at the Municipal Hall in Murrayville. In total the municipal staff consisted of 8 people and the Works Department for roads totalled 15 people. Road building and maintenance was a big part of the Township budget and plans were progressing to build HWY 1 through North Langley.

Derek had traveled with his wife Gloria to the US and he noted that the freeways there had trees and green spaces on both sides. He had a love for green spaces and promoted the idea of doing the same for the roadsides of HWY 1. He showed pictures of the US interstate roadsides to the MLA for Langley and spoke to other provincial representatives in Victoria. He was also instrumental in the acquisition of Williams Park and Ponder Park. Derek retired in 1983 and Township council awarded him "the freedom of the municipality" in recognition of his service.

Lisa led our group through the rhododendron garden where we looked at the plaque honoring Les Clay. Most of the rhododendrons on the property were hybridized by Les and many colours and varieties were starting to bloom. We headed to David's Bird Garden and saw one Anna's Hummingbird looking at us from the top of a tree. Lisa asked what the big bendy tree is and Nora remembered it is the *Aralia Elata* tree which is a Japanese deciduous tree that was donated to the Arboretum. This is one of the shade trees in the garden, where there are 3 benches making a small court where friends gather and sometimes chat or celebrate a birthday. Many of the trees had buds and baby leaves starting to appear.

We passed the Dyers Garden where there were some seed heads left on the Echinacea, Brown-eyed Susan and other plants. Lisa explained that lazy gardening is called that because those who practice this method do not rake up the leaves and dead flowers in the fall. If you spread leaves and deadheads around the gardens, this nourishes the soil for next year's plantings and the addition of fertilizers and commercial soil mixtures is not needed or is much reduced. Lisa led our group around the learning farm where some garden plots are already prepared for the spring planting and fenced to keep rabbits from helping themselves. Amanda, the learning farm teacher, was there with

a group of gardeners making plans for the year.

Next, we went high on the berm and Lisa explained that the newly planted trees and shrubs here are close together and will be thinned as the stronger ones take hold. Lisa said the original soil at the property is mostly sand since this was the floodplain of the Nicomekl River. For the planting on the berm, the sandy soil was removed by an excavator and Langley Environmental Partners added a load or two of nutrient rich soil. This soil has a much better ability to hold moisture and, therefore, less watering will be needed to help the trees and shrubs to thrive. A group picture was taken at the new berm site.

All around, a lovely walk and learning experience.

Nora Truman

REDWOOD PARK SATURDAY, MARCH 29TH



At Redwood Park

Photo: Wim Vesseur

Our group of naturalists met at the information board in Redwood Park, or should we call them Botanists. Whatever name we give them, they were out to enjoy the plants and animals of Redwood Park. After some introductions and small talk, we spent a bit of time discussing the early history of this Arboretum as some would call it. I'm sure you all know that an arboretum is a collection of different plants, mostly trees.

If we go back to the late eighteen hundreds, we notice that this tract of land was owned by David William Brown, a postmaster and then later a justice of the peace for B.C. In 1893, he gifted it to his twin 21-year-old boys with the intention that they would farm it, as it had been cleared of all timber. However, the twin boys had no intention of farming, instead collecting many tree seeds from around the world so they could, in time, fill this property with

trees. That is exactly what they did. In order to do this, they needed accommodation, so they proceeded to build a large tree fort in the middle of the park. The fort found in the park is a replica. Here they lived till their deaths in 1949 and 1958. I might add, they lived alone here for close to 70 years, and never married. They enjoyed the solitude.

Within the park, close to 31 native and 32 exotic species have been identified. In one part of the park you will find a large grouping of Redwoods, *Sequoiadendron giganteum*. One of the tallest trees in the world, they can grow to 108 m in height. At one point in the park we could examine 3 trees that often people get confused with, the *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, from the Sierra Nevada, the *Sequoia sempervirens*, the true redwood, from the coastal region of California, and the *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, the Dawn Redwood, from China. It can be confusing, but it's good to understand their differences.

So by now I'm sure you realize why it's called Redwood Park. There was of course much more to discover; however, we were also on a bird counting adventure. 19 species were recorded. Thanks to all who participated and made it so enjoyable. Special thanks to the experts we had along to identify some of the trees and to the bird recorder.

Tom Wildeboer

NATHAN CREEK DYKE SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH

Eight LFN members and one guest came out on a sunny spring day. 26 species of birds were observed and submitted to eBird. No mammals were observed (other than dogs and their walkers). A few of the highlighted species observed were Western Meadowlark, White-crowned and Savannah Sparrows and a Turkey Vulture. Several of the observations were the first of the year for many. Further evidence that spring is in the air was the sight of a few early dandelions.

During the walk, Tom helped me with the cleaning of the Tree Swallow nest boxes. 7 of the 8 boxes along the dyke had been used. In one instance, less than a minute after the box was cleaned out and closed up, a Tree Swallow landed on the box. What we don't know is if it was telling us thank you or get out of here, this is my box.

A large number of Tree and Violet-green Swallows



Cleaning nest boxes

Photo: Sharon Tung

were observed, which should be a good sign that the boxes will again be used in 2025.

Ryan Usenik

TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH

It was mostly sunny with a bit of a breeze as eight of us set out to explore the Ecosystem Study Area. We started by walking along McMillan Lake where the Canada Geese were squabbling with one another, along with several other waterfowl, including a Pied-billed Grebe and Common Merganser. These no doubt were feasting on some of the fish we spoke of - in particular the non-native Pumpkinseed Sunfish and the Largemouth Bass that were unfortunately introduced to the lake more than 15 years ago.

Then another fish-eater appeared, but feeding was not on its mind. It flew straight over us and headed straight to a tree with talons outstretched. Then we heard an audible snap as the branch it grabbed broke off and the majestic bird took off with it, to add to a new nest that was being built. There had been a nest nearby for more than 10 years until it fell out of the tree somehow this April. Apparently the eagles are rebuilding!

Moving on from the lake to the forested "back 40", there was a magic moment when I was explaining something about the spring wildflowers to the group when my eyes caught sight of something not more than 15 meters away in the forest - a mule deer. Wait - not one - but four. My voice trailed off as I pointed to the group of shadowy forms with big, brown eyes and outstretched ears. We wondered if the family had been quietly laying around on the forest floor before we came along. They did not run off but stared at us wide-eyed before leisurely picking their way down an embankment to the ravine formed by Rardi Creek.



Shulz bridge

Photo: David Clements

We ourselves eventually made it down to Rardi Creek after being distracted by large Northern Red Belt fungi, Stream Violets, and numerous forest birds, including a Black-Capped Chickadee popping in and out of its nest in a tree cavity with a small circular entrance. When we reached Rardi Creek, we were able to traverse the newly re-furbished Shulz Bridge, named after our first land manager at Trinity Western, Mike Shulz. The bridge now features a weather-proof roof to shelter the elementary school children taking the Salmon in the Valley Program, run by Trinity Western University



Streamside violet

Photo: David Clements

and sponsored in part by the Salmon River Enhancement Society.

All in all, it was a great day to spot many signs of spring, and we saw 24 species of birds along with a bullfrog, a pond slider (turtle), a brown-lipped snail, a butterfly (likely a margined white), and many spring wildflowers bursting into bloom.

David Clements

GREAT BLUE HERON RESERVE, CHILLIWACK SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH



Gathering at the Reserve

Photo: Wim Vesseur

With 13 of us, we started the walk along the dike on the outside of the Reserve. Someone had noted a cougar sighting one day earlier, so we were a bit careful. The bridge was partly collapsed so we could not walk all the way around. We had to go back the same way. Good thing someone noticed, as this time I had not done my recce.

In the first area we found one tree with approximate 15 heron nests on its limbs. Some of them were already in use and we had a good look at the birds through the scope. In the water next to the dike, there were Mallards, Wood Ducks, Green-winged Teal, Coots and other species. In the field next to us a flock of Cackling Geese landed, and you could hear the cackling as opposed to the honking of the Canada Geese. The smaller bills are obvious when using visual help. In the air, spring also was letting the swallows enjoy the insects flying high. We got Tree, Violet-green, Barn and Northern Rough-winged Swallows.

After the water section, we turned and had a look at the feeders close to the building. Perry had seen a

White-throated Sparrow there, but no luck for the group. Some of us later, at lunchtime, saw a pair of Downy Woodpeckers. There was a notice at the building that there were over 90 active nests with herons.

John suggested doing part of the loop along the Vedder where we got some more species but not the hoped-for House Wrens. We did see some other birds, such as American Wigeon, Turkey Vulture, Rufous Hummingbird and others. Some of us had lunch there and some at the building.

After lunch, we finished the walk and found some Common Mergansers and Earl found a Greater Yellowlegs.

All in all we had 46 species and a number of plants. Jiamin had the British Columbia Wildflowers app on her phone which came in very handy.

Wim Vesseur

GEORGE C. REIFEL MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY, DELTA THURSDAY, APRIL 24TH

LFN members had the pleasure of having a group of Surrey/White Rock Naturalists join us for our spring walk at Reifel Bird Sanctuary. A total of 15 people attended.

Anne welcomed the group and gave a short history of the area and the establishment of the Sanctuary. The sanctuary land was originally used as a farm and family retreat. In 1960 George H. Reifel leased the land for use as a sanctuary. In 1972 the Reifel family agreed to a combination of land sale and donation so that it would continue to be managed for the primary benefit of waterfowl.

Spring is a wonderful time to visit Reifel to see the resident and migrant nesting sites with the courtship and nesting activities. It was a lovely warm, sunny day with very little wind, even on the foreshore.

After entering the front gate we were greeted by a young Sandhill Crane who seemed just as excited to see us as we were to see him. He posed on the trail and then walked along with us down the trail for about 10 minutes. A nice welcome but very noisy - calls sound like fingernails scratching on a blackboard.



Sandhill Crane

Photo: Joanne Rosenthal

We had lots of sightings during the walk with a total of 48 species tracked by John Gordon and posted to eBird. Some of the highlights included another Sandhill Crane sitting on 2 eggs on an island in the water (viewed thru Johns' scope), closeups of several Killdeer, and lots of Marsh Wrens nesting and singing their typewriter-like calls.

There was lots of gorgeous breeding plumage in the ducks; everyone always seems happy to see the Wood Ducks up close. From the top of the viewing platform we saw a flock of Snow Geese in the distance. As usual, several visitors were feeding the blackbirds and chickadees near the platform. There seemed to be a great number of Canada Geese protecting their territories and we watched several challenges by unsuccessful interlopers.

Many of the group were happy to see their first Yellow-rumped Warblers and Orange-crowned Warblers of the season. Three species of swallows were sighted: Violet-green, Tree and Barn. In addition to all our sightings, it was lovely to hear the birds singing and calling, including those hidden from our sight like the Common Yellowthroats.

Our outing ended with a goodbye from the Sandhill Crane strutting around while we enjoyed our lunches at the picnic area.

Joanne Rosenthal

SALMON RIVER NATURAL AREA SATURDAY, MAY 10TH

We had 12 nature walkers on a misty morning, not fazed by the light rain falling, eager to take in the sights of the area. A pleasant pace was established early; we could see and hear all the bird species that

were in abundance as we walked the trails. We also discussed some of the history of the area and work being done by the Township while we meandered along the river and woods.

We observed the new nest boxes installed by Langley Field Naturalists in collaboration with the Township of Langley: one Wood Duck and a couple of Tree Swallow boxes. We had enough time to visit the small creek up in the residential area, where we were able to add a few more species of birds to our growing eBird list. Everyone enjoyed a good walk and, better still, it was another place discovered by some who had not been to this site before.

The final bird species count was 31 species in eBird with some of the highlights being Mallards and their young ducklings, Western Tanagers and couple of American Goldfinches granting us up-close looks.

Eric Habisch

BC NATURE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 22ND - MAY 24TH “NATURE IN THE RAIN SHADOW”



Merritt

Web photo

As usual, Langley Naturalists were well represented at the annual meeting, this year held in Merritt. The weather was ideal - cool nights, warm days. The Thursday evening started with a reception with three presentations introducing us to nature in the area - both still and video presentations along with macro photography showing some of the smaller wildlife (who knew insect faces looked like that!).

After early morning birding and morning coffee and goodies, we were officially welcomed to their territory by Nlaka'pamux and Syilx First Nations representatives, as well as Merritt Mayor Michael Goetz and BC Nature President, Nancy Flood.

FRIDAY PRESENTATIONS: WILDFIRE IN THE BC INTERIOR *Past, Present and Future*

Dr. Jill Harvey, a wildfire expert at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, gave an eye-opening and alarming talk about BC's wildfires. It turns out she's only the second person in all of North America's universities studying this topic - kind of worrying when you think about how big a deal wildfires are here in British Columbia.

Tree ring dendrology shows that wildfires popped up roughly every 40 years in the past. Indigenous communities had smart ways to handle them, using controlled burns to keep things in check. That meant less underbrush, fewer massive fires, less trees lost with a more balanced forest with open savannah-like areas that didn't turn into a tinderbox.

The problem with fighting forest fires from 1896-1986 was due to our modern preventative thinking. Starting in the late 1800s, people got really focused on putting out fires fast. Without smaller fires clearing out excess vegetation, forests got denser, packed with fuel, and primed for disaster. Fast forward a century, and we saw the consequences - like the brutal wildfire seasons in 2023 and 2024 here in BC.

BC's 2023 fire season was the worst and was a nightmare. Extreme heat and dry conditions fueled monster fires that tore through the province, causing insane destruction, hundreds of burning forests, financial losses, and environmental havoc. At one point, the fires got so intense they created pyrocumulonimbus clouds - basically fire-driven fire storms that spread hot sparks even more miles.

Experts like Dr. Harvey say we need better wildfire strategies - ones that fit each of the different landscapes in BC, like coastal forests, the Interior, and grasslands. She said scientists can't do it alone. The government needs to step in, work with specialists, and actually make some serious plans to prevent disasters like 2023 from happening again.

Dr. Harvey also pointed out that there are graduate students ready to help with specialist guidance, but nobody has asked them yet. If politicians actually listen to the experts, we might stand a chance at protecting BC's forests as climate change ramps up the forest fire risks in the future.

Anne Gosse

THE MOVEMENT ECOLOGY OF RATTLESNAKES IN BC; COMPLICATIONS FOR CONSERVATION

Dr. Karl Larsen described a study he led with fourteen researchers on the complicated movement of the Western Rattlesnake in British Columbia. The researchers knew that the snakes moved to find food and protection for the winter. The rattlesnakes are at their northern limit so for protection from the long winter they move and congregate in dens. The researchers placed radio tracking devices on some male snakes to find out how far the snakes moved and if they denned together.

They tracked snakes going up to 1 km to find food in the summer. One student put tracking devices on snakes from 10 hibernacula and found some snakes stayed in the grasslands and some went up into the forest. He found there were two groups of snakes, upper forest snakes who were bigger and travelled up to 2.4 kilometers and lower forest, smaller snakes that travel up to 1.4 kilometers. The snakes followed migrating snakes and did den together.

This early work tracked only male snakes because the researchers did not want to affect female reproduction for ethical reasons. The male snakes seemed to have no ill effects from the study so tracking devices were attached to females. The researchers fed the females before they gave birth to be sure the females who were denning prior to giving birth were not adversely affected by having researchers near the den. The question the researchers had was, do females travel to get food after giving birth? They found the females did travel to get food.

The next question was, do juveniles travel, to get food and to migrate in the fall? The researchers attached a radio tag to the tail of some juveniles and found the juvenile snakes did range but not as far as the adults. In all, the researchers tracked 139 snakes at 9 sites. The researchers are hoping that the study will help promote understanding of Western Rattlesnake behavior, protection of the

species and further influence migration protection and understanding of diversity within the species.

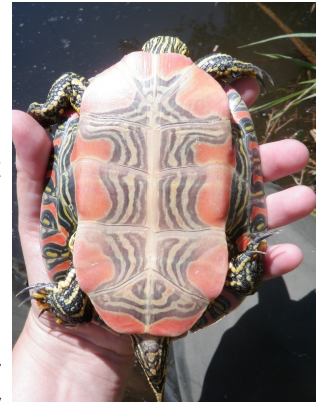
Nora Truman



Web photo

THE WISDOM OF TURTLES

Peter Ballin presented a slide show and talk about his interest and experience studying Western Painted Turtles. Since his retirement from teaching biology, science education and related topics, Peter has been kept very busy working with several organizations focused on environmental education, conservation research and advocacy. Peter is the Chair of the BC Nature Conservation Committee.



Web photo

His interest in studying Western Painted Turtles was sparked after he observed turtles walking under the clear ice at frozen Niskonlith Lake located near Chase, BC. Since 2003 he has been studying the turtles' life histories and adaptations.

Western Painted Turtles are the only native freshwater turtles in BC. We learned that they can live 30-50 years. While the population at Niskonlith lakes seems to be increasing and thriving, they are endangered/threatened on the coast of BC.



Western Painted Turtle

Photo: Joanne Rosenthal

The main threats Painted Turtles face are wetland habitat loss and degradation from development and road mortality. They hibernate in the mud under ponds and lay their eggs in sandy or loamy soil in sunny areas. Male or female sex of the hatchlings are dependant on temperature. Peter mentioned how the hatchlings may spend the first year overwintering in the nest to emerge the following spring. They contain a biological blood "antifreeze"

that prevent their tissues from freezing, surviving temperatures as low as -10C.

Peter also showed us maps of the long distances some of the turtles were tracked moving between various ponds in his study area. He was able to identify and track turtles using small transmitters and photos taken of the patterns and colours on individual turtle plastrons (lower shells). He told us the turtles cannot hear but do make a shushing sound.

Peter's photos and his presentation were very interesting. Hopefully some of his research can help create more awareness and help protect these amazing native turtles.

Joanne Rosenthal

FIELD TRIP LINDBOM COMMONAGE



Frank at the den

Photo: Gareth Pugh

Fourteen of us joined our guide Frank Ritcey for a hike in the uplands above Merritt on a warm sunny morning. We drove up into the sub-alpine forest to a parking area. There Frank gave us a short talk on what to expect before we set off along a game trail through a mixed forest mostly of Spruce but with Maples and other deciduous trees. Frank stopped at a wet muddy area to look for tracks and showed us where a bear had come by and left a big pawprint. He readily answered questions about the flora and fauna to be found in the area and pointed out droppings left by Moose, Black Bear, Snowshoe Hare and Ruffed Grouse. Mule Deer, White-tail Deer and Red Squirrel are also found there.

After a short hike, we reached the place where a bear had denned the previous winter in the soft soil

of a bank. After Frank had checked to make sure there was nothing in there, we all climbed up to take a look. Frank told us that bears always make a fresh den every year, possibly to avoid picking up fleas. Once they emerge in the spring, they have to eat a lot of grass to relieve the constipation caused by a long hibernation and one of the first things a mother bear does is to teach her new cubs to climb trees for safety. Normally she will only come into oestrus every two years but a male bear will sometimes kill new cubs to make her come into oestrus so that he can mate with her; how cruel Nature can be! Frank showed us how to set up a trail camera to get the best pictures of animals using the trail. From there we made our way back to the parking lot and walked along the road to reach the grasslands. Along the way, Frank pointed out various flowers, including the Potato flower which has small tubers that the First Nations people used to eat.

We soon came to the grassland where Frank led us up a gentle slope stopping to show us a wide array of flowers: Chocolate Lily, Larkspur, Sticky Geranium, Old Man's Whiskers, Death Camas and several others, including Lupines which were not yet in flower.



Looking at the flowers

Photo: Gareth Pugh

On the way back down, some were distracted by the sight of an Arrowroot in full bloom and walked across to photograph it. The rest of us slowly made our way back, stopping to take photographs as we went.

The day was now warming up and butterflies started to appear, including Orange-tip, Swallowtail, Sulphur and a blue one, none of which would stop for a photo!

Gareth Pugh

FIELD TRIP TO HAMILTON'S COMMONAGE

Merritt's Hamilton Commonage (it means a common area) was buzzing with life when we arrived - with its lovely mix of sparse forest, wide grasslands, and ponds. Right away, we spotted a Lewis's Woodpecker fly off a snag - then watched it flying about in the distance.

We found birds were everywhere! Bluebirds zipped about in the trees and on the wires, meadowlarks were seen in the open fields singing their hearts out and warblers were flying about. The ponds showed Blue-winged Teals along with a Cinnamon Teal in its stunning deep red plumage - like it was dipped in cinnamon. As well, there were Spotted Sandpipers, several Killdeer, and Wilson's Phalaropes and Red Phalaropes spinning in circles while feeding. Two Kestrels were hovering above and then - whoa!! - we found a massive Golden Eagle sitting on the ribs of a deer carcass, having a feast! Just as we were watching that fantastic scene, the sky then turned into an action movie: the Golden Eagle rising up along with a Swainson's Hawk and battling it out above us, diving, striking, twisting mid-air, even flying upside down in a high-speed chase. It was thrilling to watch.



Birds, birds, birds!

Photo: Anne Gosse

Then we visited the area for monitoring of the Great Basin Spadefoot, a nocturnal and elusive amphibian. Using sound recorders, researchers gather data on their distinctive calls, helping to assess their presence and population health. Unfortunately, the pond was dry when we visited, but we were assured the spadefoot would come back next year. Hamilton Commonage wasn't just a beautiful landscape - it was full of surprises, drama, and jaw-dropping moments. A great visit.

Anne Gosse

FIELD TRIP SUSTAINABLE RANCHING IN THE NICOLA VALLEY

Nine of us, led by local member Byron, drove to John Anderson's Kane Valley Ranch for what proved to be a very informative and interesting guided tour. John told us how he and his wife had bought the 375 acre ranch around 40 years ago from a logging company which had already taken a lot of the Ponderosa Pines off the property. In addition to the cost of the property, they had to pay for each of the remaining Pine trees. John and his new wife spent a year gold panning in the Yukon to help pay for the ranch. He has been active in numerous organizations such as the Grasslands Conservation Council and is currently chair of the Nicola Watershed Community Board, chair of the Indigenous Relations Committee for the B.C. Cattlemen's Association and President of the Nicola Nordic Ski Club.

He showed us the small cabin that they originally built and the house they now live in. As there is no BC Hydro power available, they have large solar panels and a back-up generator to provide power. John told us how the solar panels are of no use for much of the winter as they usually get up to two feet of snow, so the panels are covered for much of the winter. Their water comes from a pipeline they built to bring water from a spring further up the hill behind the house.



Kane Ranch

Photo: Joanne Rosenthal



The ranch house

Photo: Joanne Rosenthal

The average rainfall in the area is less than thirty inches so the plants, grasses and trees have evolved to suit the climate. The ground was uneven due to the activities of Pocket Gophers which are valuable ecosystem engineers, playing a vital role in soil health and biodiversity. Their burrowing activities aerate the soil, improve water filtration and provide food and habitat for other species. John told us that periodically a Badger moves into the area and keeps their numbers in check. We walked to the upper pasture to see his herd of cows and calves that are cross-bred Angus and Herefords, which results in animals that are the optimum size for the food available. He has five bulls which are only brought to the ranch in the fall to breed, thus ensuring that all the calves are born at the same time in the spring when the grass is starting to grow.

John practices rotational grazing, moving the herd from one pasture to another. This prevents over-grazing and allows the grass to grow back quicker. He also puts the herd on Crown land for part of the year.

On the way to the upper pasture, we came across a large Garter Snake which wriggled away into the adjacent dried-up wetland area. On our way back, it delighted us by being there again, obviously enjoying the warm sunny weather. Nearby we passed a beautiful patch of Larkspur, bright blue amongst the grass and Dandelions.



Larkspur

Photo: Gareth Pugh

It was a great pleasure to meet such an interesting and eloquent person who is so passionate about the land and his stewardship of it.

Gareth Pugh

ALSO INCLUDED IN THE CONFERENCE

During the weekend there were many other opportunities to enjoy this area. There were evening outings to enjoy moths, owls, and spadefoots.

There were tours of the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, the Nicola Logwords (Value added logs and sustainable building), butterfly hunting and mushroom foraging, as well as workshops on macro photography and iNaturalist use.

SATURDAY AT BC NATURE AGM

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 23rd, with the usual reports, a copy of which is available online or our BC Nature rep, Eric, has a print copy.

We were able to sell raffle tickets for our quilt during lunch - very successfully - and many comments were made about the generosity of the donor! (Thank you, Kathleen Vander Leest).

The evening banquet saw two tables of LFNers enjoy the food, the silent auction and the awards ceremony - especially the awarding of Kathy's Outstanding Naturalist award and a Club Service award to Lilianne Fuller (which Joanne received on her behalf).



Nancy reads Lilianne's award, Joanne receives it on Lilianne's behalf.

Photo Anne Gosse

The keynote speaker was Lennard Joe, a registered professional forester, member of the Mlaka'pamux First Nation, who talked about passing stewardship knowledge from generation to generation, and carrying on the forebears' knowledge.

This was, once again, an enjoyable and educational four day annual meeting, with about 280 like-minded people!

IN MEMORIAM

This May sadly saw two memorials for long-time LFN members. Kathy Masse on May 19th and Sylvia Anderson on May 23rd. Both were active, valuable members who gave much of their lives to "know nature and keep it worth knowing". Both will be very much missed.

KATHY

The memorial for Kathy was a gathering at the Langley Fine Arts theatre, with representatives from many aspects of her life - Langley Field Naturalists and BC Nature being joined by the Langley Concert Band, the car club and the Yorkson Watershed Enhancement Society. Her stepson Winston gave a moving speech and finished with a poem he gave permission to share:



A Wing to Follow

*Tuwhit-Tuhwhit, take to wing and soar,
In the warm morn light, find the wind,
Find your path to a meadow you will know.
It lies not far, that hill, that copse of trees to follow.
There, where the sway of sword ferns wave,
Where the gurgling brook breaks over stones green and gray,
Where Salal banks are painted Nootka rose and salmonberry,
Where the sing song of friends you hear.
Tuwhit-tuhwhit.
Alight there...there...on that maple, on that limb --
Rest your wings ... Here...A place for you,
A place you know, a place we can follow.*



President Nancy Flood presents the award to Bill Masse Photo: Shirley Reynolds

At the BC Nature conference the following week, Kathy was honoured with a BC Nature award, for her work with Langley Field Naturalists, Yorkson Watershed Enhancement and BC Nature through the years. A beautiful turned wooden bowl (made by Bill Ramey) was presented to Bill Masse at the annual banquet.

SYLVIA



On Friday May 23, friends and family gathered to celebrate the life of long-time Langley Field Naturalist Society member Sylvia Anderson. It was no surprise that almost all those in attendance had been involved with one or more of the many organizations to which Sylvia had donated countless volunteer hours.

Sylvia's son Scott gave a slide show presentation showing a slice of Sylvia's life that many of us had never seen...devoted Mom, avid party goer, consummate hostess and a history of community service that began long before she moved to Langley!

The many awards and honors that Sylvia had received were on display, representing her decades devoted to seniors, the environment and social justice, just to name a few. Those who spoke about their experiences with Sylvia all mentioned, with kindness and laughter, her feisty side and her determination but certainly agreed that "she got things done!"

Sylvia played a huge role in managing the Nature House in Campbell Valley and in contributing in so many ways to the LFN. She will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.

And it seems appropriate for both these ladies that we (almost) quote from Kathy's memorial ...

*We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when,
But we know we'll meet again some sunny day.
We'll keep smiling through, just like they always do,
'Til the blue skies chase those dark clouds far away.*

*And they will just say hello to the folks that we know,
Tell them we won't be long,
They'll be happy to know that as we saw you go,
We were singing this song.*

*We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when,
But we know we'll meet again some sunny day.*

PROGRAMMES

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2025

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 19TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SOCIAL TIME

Theme: Dress like a Naturalist!
Please bring finger food to share.



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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH CONSERVATION TALE OF THREE SPECIES: TURTLES, FROGS AND BUTTERFLIES. Andrea Gielens

Come and learn about the trials and tribulations of rearing endangered species for conservation and the tales of three species as they fight back from the brink of extinction.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16TH PROJECT SEAHORSE, DANCING ROMANTICS Biologist Ruth Arnold (MSc)

Ruth Arnold holds a Masters in Biology from the University of Oxford (UK) and is also an Oxford-Canada Rhodes Scholar. At Project Seahorse she focuses on seahorse biology and ecology. She will be spending the summer of 2025 investigating seahorse populations, fisheries, and trade in Mexico. She emphasises that these creatures are fantastic ambassadors for conservation and have already been pushing for many coastal protections worldwide. These little romantics don't just capture our hearts with their quirky looks; they also teach us powerful lessons about loyalty, partnership, and shared responsibility. Did You Know that their courtship ritual involves hours of 'dancing' before they commit? Finding 'the one' can feel like a never-ending dance. But hey, at least seahorses have it figured out! Maybe it's time we take a page from their book - patience and teamwork.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH

PROTECT & CONNECT

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS:
Jeff Rotin, Community Advisor, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, East Area.

Metro Vancouver manages a resilient network of regional parks, greenways, park reserves, and ecological conservancy areas, from Bowen Island to Aldergrove. The overarching goals are to protect natural areas and connect people to nature. Come and learn how Metro Vancouver Regional Parks is planning for the future, and the latest developments in the regional parks of East Area.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH MEMBER'S NIGHT

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



Web photo

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



*A rare hybrid Townsend's and Black-throated Gray Warbler at Jackman Wetlands May 7 2025
Photograph: John Gordon*

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS, FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE, MARCH - JUNE 2025

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

Please 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 registrations are received then the leader will not show up. Unless otherwise noted, washroom facilities are available on these walks.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH

GLEN VALLEY SPRING BIRD COUNT

Leader: Lisa Dreves
Time: 6.30 am

Meet at Poplar Bar at 6:30 am 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!

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 12TH

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Herman Vanderleest
Time: 9:00 am at 8th Avenue parking lot

Join Herman to walk the trails through this popular park with its great variety of trees, flowers, shrubs and birds. This is a moderately difficult trail with some ups and downs so please wear appropriate footwear. Walking distance is approximately 5 km. Bring a packed lunch to eat at a suitable spot at the end of the walk.

E-mail hermannus51@yahoo.ca to register.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 18TH

DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Ted Goshulak
Time: 9:00 am at the main parking lot at 21801 Allard Crescent

Join Ted to walk the trail from the parking lot to Muench Bar to see the Purple Martins at the nest boxes installed by LEPS and LFN, then through the woods to 208th Street and back to the parking lot. This is an easy walk of about 4 kms on level gravel trails. ***E-mail tgosh@twu.ca to register.***

SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH

MILASTER PROPERTY, ALDERGROVE

Leader: Eric Habisch
Time: 9:00 am at 7040 – 272nd Street

Join Eric to see this new park which is not yet open to the public but in which LFN are carrying out a bio-diversity study for the Township of Langley. Wear waterproof footwear as one part of the trail is very wet. This walk is moderately difficult and is about 2 kms. Please note there is not a washroom at this site.

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

THURSDAY, JULY 3RD

E.C. MANNING PROVINCIAL PARK

PAINTBRUSH NATURE TRAIL & VIEW POINT LOOP IN 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. ***E-mail vesseur@shaw.ca to register.***

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9TH

ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Keith Chrystall
Time: 6:30 pm 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.

E-mail keithchrystall@shaw.ca to register.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16TH

DERBY BOG

Leader: Phil Henderson

Time: 5:30 pm in 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.

E-mail strix@uniserve.com to register.

Note there is no toilet at this location.

THURSDAY, JULY 17TH

LFN SUMMER PICNIC

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Time: 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Bring your own picnic. We meet in the meadow, under the big trees (204th Street/ 8th Avenue entrance).

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23RD

KRANNITZ PROPERTY

Leader: Rhys Krannitz

Time: 6:30 pm at 7075 - 264th Street at the green farm gate

Join Rhys for a gentle walk through the Krannitz family gardens and forest. The property was bought as over-grazed cattle pasture and has been actively stewarded for nearly 40 years. Rhys will discuss the history of the area and their stewardship of land and gardening. **E-mail rhyskrannitz@gmail.com to register.** Note: there will be a limit of 20 participants for this walk.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30TH

DRAGONFLY WALK

Leader: Eric Habisch

Time: 10:00 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.

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6TH

MCLEAN POND,

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Anne Gosse

Time: 6:30 pm on 206th Street south of 24th Avenue

Join Anne to walk the trail south from 206th Street dead end, along the roadside of 20th Avenue east to the trailhead, south through the lovely forest to McLean Pond. The trail continues west around the pond, then south through the forest and grassland to 16th Avenue where the trail circles back to the forest, passing fields, and back to our starting point. There are wrens, songbirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, dragonflies, turtles and woodland plants on this walk. There is a nesting site for the Western Painted Turtle and several viewing areas by the pond. **E-mail corkie1@shaw.ca to register.**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13TH

BLAAUW ECO-FOREST

Leader: Ted Goshulak

Time: 6:30 pm at 8640 - 257A Street

Join Ted for a walk through this 30 acre preserve of mixed and coniferous forest, ponds and a bog which is an important refuge for some endangered species at risk, including the Red-legged Frog.

E-mail tgosh@twu.ca to register. Note there is no toilet at this location.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20TH

BAT WALK

Leader: Keith Chrystall

Time: 8:30 pm at 23936 - 14A Avenue, park along 14A Avenue and meet on the driveway in front of 23936

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. Note there is no toilet at this location. **E-mail** keith.chrystall@shaw.ca **to register.**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30TH
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 trail which travels east just south of the school and continues 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. We will walk across the bridge that crosses Anderson Creek and head west along the border of the creek and past the large Douglas Fir trees, up the hill and back to the parking. This is not a long walk so if the weather is clear and walkers would like we can travel by car to Dale Ball Passive Park, east on 36 Ave to the parking just west of 208 Street. There is a large pond with waterfowl and a trail that circles the pond and heads uphill to the forest above. The trail continues south and back to our starting pond at the bottom of a steep hill. Challenged walkers can take the lower trail back to the parking.

E-mail lfnsecretary@hotmail.com **to register.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH
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. It is part open fields with ponds and part woodland. Wear sturdy footwear as we will be walking in open fields and natural woodland trails. E-mail jrusenik@telus.net to register. Note there is no toilet at this location.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH
GEORGE C. REIFEL MIGRATORY
BIRD SANCTUARY - DELTA

Leader: John Gordon
Time: 9:00 am at Reifel

Join John to walk the trails in this well-known nature reserve. Expect to see and hear lots of birds in the middle of the breeding season and a great variety of trees and shrubs. Please dress for the weather and wear proper footwear. There is a small admission fee. Bring lunch, snacks and refreshments. Meet in the Reifel Sanctuary parking lot.

E-mail johngordonone@gmail.com **to register.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH
SOUTH LANGLEY REGIONAL TRAIL AND
IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

Leader: Tom Wildeboer
Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot at 500 - 224th Street

Join Tom to walk the trails in this rural park that was first turned into a park after pressure was exerted by the Council of Ratepayers and LFN. Originally known as Langley Municipal Natural Park, it has recently been sold to Metro Vancouver Parks for \$1 and combined with one other property that fronts 232nd Street and is now called South Langley Regional Park. The new property fronting 232nd Street is not accessible at this time but will be developed over the next few years. The Park has stands of mature Douglas Fir and includes the Irene Pearce Trail which passes farm fields and crosses the wetlands that feed the Little Campbell River.

E-mail t_wildeboer@hotmail.com **to register.**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH
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. **E-mail** pwpuolsen@gmail.com **to register.**