



Langley Field Naturalists

To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education



www.langleyfieldnaturalists.org

Newsletter

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September 2022

FORSLUND WATSON WEDNESDAY, JULY 27TH

16 LFN members were present for the unveiling of the Albert Forslund memorial plaque. Several years ago, a Douglas Fir tree was planted near where the original barn stood as an Albert Forslund memorial tree. Earlier this year members selected a rock, moved it to the base of the tree and attached a plaque that the club had prepared.

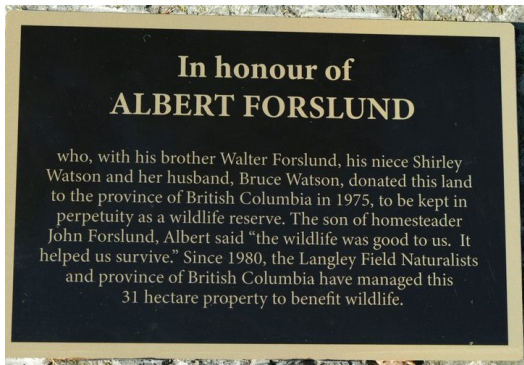


Photo: Keith Chrystall

The unveiling ceremony started with Anthea Farr giving a presentation outlining what she recalled Albert Forslund wanted when he donated the property to the province of BC. He wanted it kept as a nature reserve for the benefit of animals. Anthea commented that she felt Albert would be proud of the way LFN has managed the property for the province of BC. It remains much the way he envisioned the property be used.

Long time South Langley resident Lil Long, who lives next to the Forslund Watson property at the 26 Ave gate, knew Albert as a neighbour. She and her husband were members of LFN and were instrumental in having LFN manage the property for the province of BC. She recalled how in the early days people were using the property as a place to walk their dogs, ride their motor bikes or ride their horses. The property definitely was not being used as Albert had envisioned. Her husband spent many hours volunteering in the reserve, planting trees and more importantly, working with different agencies getting security fencing up to keep the public out. He and Lil were responsible for laying out the current trail that circles through the forested area. We did not get clarification as to why they didn't lay out a

straight-line trail.

LFN President Lisa commented that thanks to dedicated past and current Forslund Watson chairs and members, LFN has been able to manage the property in accordance with the original intentions. The property is part of the identity of the club. Lisa thanked current members Tom, Herman and Ryan for their efforts in the placement of the rock and plaque at the base of the memorial tree. It will serve as a useful reference for years to come.

After the unveiling, the group did a normal walk of the hay field and spent time viewing both vernal ponds. For many it was the first time to see the pond that the BCIT students participated in constructing, in the fall of 2021. This vernal pond construction project was a field lab project for a BCIT class.

Most of the plantings by the students appear to be surviving. There was evidence of some deer damage, but the feeling was most of the shrubs would survive. The question is, will the shrubs be able to outcompete the Reed Canary grass which grows naturally in the area.

It was encouraging to find that the cavity nest boxes at both vernal ponds were used and appeared to have fledged young. A Hooded Merganser was observed earlier in the Spring in the box at the BCIT pond. Nobody had observed young ducklings swimming in the pond.

Albert had a vision to protect nature. LFN can feel proud that their efforts are assisting with a vision we all support.

Ryan Usenik



Photo: Keith Chrystall



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For the past year I have had the great pleasure to work with the committee tasked with our 50 year history book. Headed by the ever focused Lilianne, it looks like we will actually be done on time for this May when we host the BC Nature AGM.

50 years may sometimes feel like the blink of an eye but for a non-profit organization it is a few lifetimes. With recent losses of sister naturalist groups, it is even more apparent that the LFN is a very strong group.

On the eve of our 50th year we should reflect on just how far we have come. We have helped preserve parkland. We have stood up for wild spaces. We have monitored, inventoried, and enhanced properties for wildlife. We have introduced the next generations to a fulfilled life that includes an appreciation for nature. I can't wait to see how much more we will accomplish in the next 50 years.

What started out as a group of environmentally minded individuals that loved hiking and learning is still the same group but with many, many pluses. The fabric of this organization has always been flexible and fluid. Looking back on meeting minutes and lovingly prepared newsletters, I can see an organization that has always been supportive, full of members that are incredibly generous with their precious time and willingness to help fellow members with ideas others might think were completely off the wall.

The next 50 years needs the LFN. We have entered a new phase of protection and engagement. The Langleys and BC needs naturalist groups that are willing to do their homework and to push local governments to support citizen action. To support making critical decisions that are preventative instead of reactive. Our municipal elections are coming up on October 15; please don't forget to vote. These are the folks that have the power to bulldoze forests.

I wish to give thanks to all who have come before us. We have lost many members over the last 50 years, relocating to new places that they may or may not be able to return from for a visit. Each member has left us changed for the better. From a kind word of encouragement after a meeting to offering a backyard to breed beetles for an entire summer.

And to the rest of us - we have some mighty big shoes to fill but I know we got this!

To the next 50 years, may the dawn chorus never disappoint, our natural areas remain diverse, and we never take fresh air for granted.

Lisa Dreves

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS 2022-2023

DIRECTORS

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Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from September to June, starting at 7.15 pm

Executive meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month Sept - June

CACHE CREEK SPRING TRIP MAY 9TH TO 12TH 2022

Wim, Bob and I left Bob's place shortly after 8 a.m. for an easy drive to Hope where we met Anne and Joanne at the Flying J and loaded up on gas and coffee. We travelled up the Fraser Canyon in very light traffic and saw the huge amount of construction in progress repairing the highway and the rail lines after the November floods. In fact, a considerable length of the CN line is still closed and all trains are running on the CP tracks for part of the route.



Arrowleaf Balsamroot

Photo: Caren Porter

Our drive was enhanced by the brilliant yellow of the Arrowleaf Balsamroot and the white masses of Saskatoon in full bloom, with an occasional apple tree and lots of lilac in the communities that we passed through. We stopped at Spences Bridge and ate our lunches in warm sunshine at a view point above the river. Several butterflies were flying around but none would stop for a photo. We drove on and arrived at the Desert Inn in Cache Creek soon after one o'clock, where we met the rest of our group: Nora, Nina, Elvina, Janne and Caren.

After checking in, we drove to Ashcroft to visit Elephant Hill Provincial Park where the wildfire (that was human caused) started in 2017 and eventually burned 191,865 hectares. The hiking trails are fairly steep and the vegetation is primarily Sagebrush and Bunch Grass with a few scattered Juniper bushes.

Several species of flowers were photographed and identified by Bob and Wim. We found very few birds but a couple of Meadowlarks were singing and White-crowned, Vesper and Chipping Sparrows were spotted. Bob managed to get the only butterfly of the trip, a Clouded Sulphur. We hiked part way up the mountain and in a sandy spot found some Chukar tracks which Wim would not accept as sufficient evidence for e-Bird despite my strenuous objections! There was a suggestion that we should check out the Heritage Park in Ashcroft which turned out to be a great idea, as we found a family of Red Crossbills, a Wilson's Warbler and a Nashville Warbler, all of which were easy to see and photograph.

That evening Wim and I drove to a site near the Hat Creek Ranch for some evening birding and to try out the LFN bat monitor. We found a number of birds but no bats were seen or recorded.

We set out for a 10 am guided tour of the Hat Creek Ranch, stopping to check for birds as we went. In-costume guides were waiting to greet us at the ranch and took us around for an interesting hour and a half walk. Reni was very knowledgeable and readily answered all the questions from our group. We then visited the First Nations exhibit where Tara showed us around and told us about early cooking methods, tanning hides, smoking meat and fish, plus some of the plants that they use for food or medicinal purposes.



At Hat Creek Ranch

Photo: Reni, our guide

By this time we were all feeling the effects of the cold wind, so we returned to the hotel to warm up before driving to Juniper Beach Provincial Park. There the sun came out and Cassin's Finches and a Pacific-slope Flycatcher were singing. We found a pair of Wilson's Warblers and watched a Meadowlark singing from the top of a dead tree. We

ended the afternoon with a quick visit to Walhachin, the site of a failed attempt to establish a viable fruit-producing industry. On the way there we saw a dark-morph Swainson's Hawk.



Swainson's Hawk

Photo: Bob Puls

The ladies (where would we be without them) suggested that we have supper at the Grand Central restaurant in Ashcroft, which proved to be a good choice as we all enjoyed the meal there.

Wednesday morning, we drove along the road which skirts the south boundary of Arrowstone Provincial Park, just north of the town. At our first stop we found a couple of Flycatchers which we had difficulty identifying as they were not vocal. Here again we found large numbers of migrating White-crowned Sparrows. Further on we parked the cars and walked along the road finding more Flycatchers and Magnolia, Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped and Townsend's Warblers and



Elephant Hill Provincial Park

Photo: Gareth Pugh

realised that we had come across a 'fall' of migrants, most of which were not singing but refuelling before continuing their migration. We saw White-throated Swifts flying around the cliffs above us and a Red-naped Sapsucker gave us good views as he drummed on a dead tree above our heads. We also saw a pair of Mountain Chickadees and a pair of Golden-crowned Sparrows before we stopped for lunch.

Wim suggested that we should visit some lakes near Ashcroft as we had not seen any waterbirds. This was a good idea as we found a number of different ducks and a pair of Common Loons, plus large numbers of Yellow-Rumped Warblers. Hoping to find a Bluebird, we walked through some open range land without success, but did see a number of Yellow-bellied Marmots in the rock piles everywhere.



Nuttall's Larkspur Photo: Caren Porter

We returned to Ashcroft that evening and ate at Slim Jim's, a funky 60's style restaurant with a juke box and pictures of Marilyn, Elvis and other stars of that era adorning the walls. Another good idea from the ladies.

Thursday everyone was eager to leave at 8:30. We drove to Logan Lake, stopping to view the colossal Highland Valley Copper mine with its vast tailings pond before taking the road to Tunkwa Lake Provincial Park. Here at last we found Mountain Bluebirds and some new species at a roadside pond. At Tunkwa Lake, we found a number of additional species, including three Snow Geese and a Bonaparte's Gull. By this time we were all feeling the effects of the cold wind, so we stopped at Logan Lake for coffee before heading home via Merritt and the Coquihalla.

Gareth Pugh

BIG BAR RANCH BIRDING TRIP JUNE 24TH TO JULY 1ST, 2022

This year, Gareth's birding trip in the last week of June was possible again and I was invited to join. Most participants are avid birders. I am a nature lover and enjoy a bird or two, but I am not getting excited about little brown and gray affairs ??



Big Bar Lake

Photo: Tineke Goebertus

The Big Bar Ranch is in the Cariboo between Clinton and the Fraser River: ranches, grasslands, lakes, and last but not least the dramatic Fraser Canyon. Spectacular scenery all around.

Arriving at our cabin, we were welcomed by the Mountain Bluebirds and Cliff Swallows that were nesting right there. Amazing to see them so close-up sitting at our porch, a true birder's cabin.

After our first homemade dinner of chili, the evening program was birding. All 9 of us jumped on board with our binoculars and went to a pond we had seen on the way up. As soon as we left our vehicle, the mosquitos attacked us, and we were not prepared for them at all. Within 5 minutes we were all in the car again, and from then on, we made sure that we Deet-ed ourselves thoroughly. It was a M&M Memorable Mosquito trip, coming home I had more dead mosquito bodies on the inside of my windshield than on the outside.

This has been one of the very few trips I was not the first one up in the morning. Birders rise early, and birding happens from the early morning into the late evening (Nightjar survey). After the first day of "stop and go" with our cars on a route of Gareth's choosing, I was exhausted. A lot of bird species were recorded, and I enjoyed a "lifer" of my own; the Few-flowered Shooting Star. Big pockets of

them. It has also been cooler and wetter than usual in this area, and we hit it right with the wildflowers. Together we tallied over one hundred species, and in very large numbers.

Birders use a lot of gadgets; obviously binoculars, scopes, and cameras. But also, their phones to either let it record and tell you which bird it hears, or to play a bird call. In the evening, the many birding books were put to good use when the discussions got heated over the -true- identity of some birds. Consensus was always reached in the end. I appreciate how they love to share their knowledge and enthusiasm and are only mildly disappointed when you don't share the same excitement over a certain species....



Prickly Pear Cactus

Photo: Tineke Goebertus

Our day trip to Churn Creek on the west side of the Fraser River was memorable. A very warm day in and around the Fraser Canyon which is out of this world beautiful and to my surprise so little known. With a few stops on the way to bird, to admire "wild" horses, to take in the breathtaking landscape and to celebrate the first flowering Brittle Prickly Pear Cactus, of which we later did see patches and patches, we arrived at the bridge to cross the Fraser River to Churn Creek. It was an extremely hot lunch break in between the fields of flowering cactus. After, we descended to the river and found a few new bird species. I loved the vibrant yellow of a pair of Bullock's Orioles higher up on the hill. In the evening we enjoyed 1 of our 4 variations of chicken-with-rice dinners we had that week.

Just after leaving the ranch the next day, we did

spot a Sandhill Crane family with 2 colts. So gracious. Big Bar Lake was our destination. Another gorgeous day in a beautiful place. But before we got to see the lake, we spent 30 minutes in the parking lot... birding.... but so worth it, as a Northern Waterthrush was heard and then seen. We hiked part of the Otter Marsh Loop: sun, birds, and flowers. It does not get any better.

Indeed, it got worse the day after, with soggy rain. But I learned that you can also go birding in the rain, and that is what we did. We boarded our dusty cars and came back with muddy cars and wet boots instead.



Drying time

Photo: Tineke Goebertus

We found the reward for our perseverance though: American Avocets with chicks that were not recorded before in this area. I now know what a Scottish lunch is: eating your lunch in the car on the side of the road while it is pouring rain outside.



Avocet and chick

Photo: Tineke Goebertus

Our last day was another trip into the Fraser Canyon, the road to the decommissioned Big Bar Ferry. We found out that we were traveling mainly on OK Ranch land when talking to the owners. They did not mind us as long as all we did was birding. Here I did see my first Lazuli Bunting, what a colourful bird!



Lazuli Bunting

Photo: Tineke Goebertus

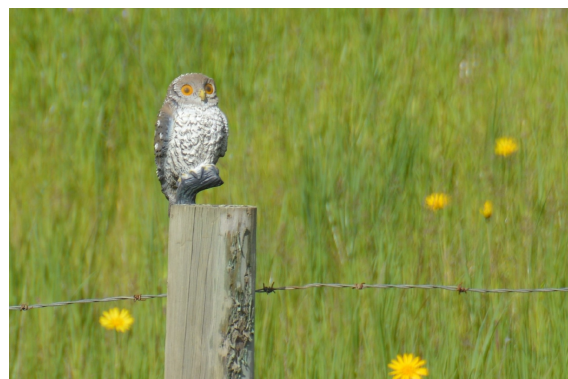
After yesterday's rain, the sandy roads were so slick we decided to turn our cars around and enjoy lunch in the sunshine, looking at the landscape and the raging muddy waters of the Fraser River.

Undeniably, birding is rubbing off on me. On the way home I spotted an owl sitting on a post along the highway. After a U-turn it appeared to be a Stoic Owl ??

We recorded the following number of species:

125 birds	101 flowers	12 mammals
18 butterflies	3 dragonflies	3 bees
8 beetles	2 reptiles	5 lichens
8 fungi		

Tineke Goebertus



Stoic Owl

Photo: Tineke Goebertus

BC NATURE ANNUAL MEETING KELOWNA MAY 26TH, 2022 CLUB REPRESENTATIVES' MEETING

At 4:00 pm, after a pleasant drive from Langley to Kelowna UBC campus and settling into our student housing accommodations, I located the room for BC Nature's Club Representatives meeting. I was pleased to finally attend an in-person gathering after two years of Zoom AGM conferences. I again enjoyed chatting with club representatives from throughout the province. The numbers of representatives present were down, perhaps because of COVID hesitancy. But a positive upshot was some Club Representatives participated in the meeting via Zoom, including LFN'S Sheila, joining from Aldergrove!

Interim President Alan Burger greeted us smiling but saying he didn't want to be there as acting President after many years of being President. Because of Harry Crosby's abrupt resignation from the position, Alan generously volunteered to fill the job for a short time until a permanent person was in place.

Club Representatives quickly approved the meeting's agenda and adopted the minutes from May 15, 2021's Club Representatives' meeting on ZOOM.

In his President's Report, Alan discussed the organizational changes at BC Nature, including our new Executive Director, Stewart Guy, who has been in place since February. Alan described his excellent qualifications as a naturalist and former BC Nature Board member. One benefit of this added position is the lightening of any new BCN President's duties due to Stewart's administration. Alan also expressed the importance of the recent appointment of Andrea Simpson to develop a funding strategy for grants and donations. Then, Alan referred us to the AGM Annual Report booklet for further information on other committees.

Stewart Guy made a brief, heartfelt address to us, stating he is happy to be our first ever Executive Director and his goal is to bring organizational efficiency to achieve BC Nature's goals.

We discussed a proposed BC Nature Bylaw change for approval at the AGM on Saturday. Members will vote that if a Club Representative represents more than one club, they should have two votes at the

Annual General Meeting.

Treasurer Barbara Towns was not present at the meeting. Instead, we referred to her Report in the AGM booklet. Alan stated we were in good financial shape despite Covid because of significant donations made in the past year. Club Reps voted to recommend accepting the unaudited statements at the AGM on May 28.

Nomination Committee, chaired by Alan Burger and assisted by Gary Hunt, presented the following members as new or returning Board Members:
Re-appointments 2-year terms

Alan Burger, Interim President (1-year term)
Peter Ballin, chair of the Conservation Committee
Margaret Cuthbert, Education Committee
Walter Thorne, Coordinator for the Northern Region

Confirmation of appointments made by Board 2-year terms
Ben van Drimmelen, Director-at-Large
Brian Wilkes, Coordinator for the Vancouver Island Region.

Club Representatives voted unanimously to confirm all these nominees to the BC Nature's Board.

Alan asked for nominations from the floor for the vacancies for Vice-President and Alternate Secretary positions, but no one stepped forward.

BC Naturalists Foundation asked for a motion from the Club Representatives to nominate Alan Burger and Stephen Partington as BCNF Directors for renewed three-year terms. The motion passed.

Discussion followed with a new idea presented by Alan to increase membership by introducing a new membership class with BC Nature consisting of affiliates such as Friends of Ecological Reserves-BC. The benefit of affiliate members is the generation of more fee revenue, expansion of our knowledge base and added voices to our projects. A committee is already established to explore this idea. Club Reps added some suggestions of affiliates such as BC Wildlife Foundation and asked questions about BC Nature fees for the affiliates.

We proceeded with a discussion of ideas to increase club members coming onto their Board. The benefits listed were: valuable experience in a leadership role and mentorship by existing board

members. We could invite members to board meetings to show how they can contribute to their club's success. We need to encourage more young people to join our boards.

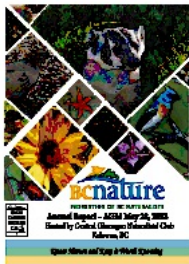
Kathy Masse

BC NATURE AGM, KELOWNA MAY 28TH, 2022

When all members returned from our fantastic morning of field trips, followed by lunch in the meeting room, Alan Burger, the interim President, welcomed us to the meeting. Some members joined us virtually via a Zoom link.

First, he introduced us to the hard-working Board members present, saying BC's new governance model is helping the organization run more efficiently and productively, especially with the new Executive Director, Stewart Guy, in place since February. Stewart is already simplifying the President's job. With this in mind, Alan suggested interested BC Nature members could seriously consider stepping into the President's position.

We approved the Agenda and the Minutes from the Virtual Annual General Meeting on May 26, 2021.



(See attachment)

The AGM had a full schedule, and to facilitate its completion, Alan referred many items for us to read in the Annual Report - AGM on May 28, 2022. I have attached the pdf of this report, and if a page number follows a verbal statement, you can easily access any that interest you to learn more about the incredible work of our Board members and staff.

Alan praised our Treasurer Barbara Towns' good work and discussed the financial reports on the screen. Our financial position is better than anticipated because of some large donations. The general membership voted to approve the financials. (see p. 5 & 62-65)

Our membership discussed and approved a motion to appoint the chartered professional accounting firm Reid Hurst Nagy Inc. to conduct the review engagement for the 2022 fiscal year-end.

Changes to BC Nature's Bylaws approved by the Board were introduced to the general membership. (Details p. 69-70)

Stewart Guy stated how pleased he is in his new role as Executive Director of BC Nature. He enjoys participating in this 3-day AGM event and meeting many members from clubs all over the province. His goal with BC Nature is to improve the delivery of our programs and administrative supports. As well, he wants to strengthen assistance to clubs. The new governance model includes building a structure to bring in more members, especially younger people. Improvement of our social media is a good step. Another goal is to strive for more diversity in our membership.

Betty Davison introduced us to her new assistant, Elhem Oveisi, who works primarily on communication and social media. Betty's report (p. 5, Elhem's also on p. 5.)

Simon Valdez, our new part-time Conservation Coordinator, has focussed on programs in the Fraser Delta. Simon will be expanding his role to work with clubs in other parts of the province. He is studying the effect of human populations on bird communities and is looking to coordinate and protect species at risk.

Alan Burger, Chair of the Nomination Committee, announced the election to BC Nature's Board approved by Club Representatives (for details, review results from my above report on the Club Representative meeting of May 26). We mainly need a nomination for a President or a Vice-President to train for President. Opportunities exist for the following: A backup for the Secretary, a Camps Coordinator, Chair of the Finance Committee and a new Harassment Officer. No nominations came from the floor.

Margaret Cuthbert, Chair of the Education Committee, pleas for more input from clubs. (Full report p. 4)

Peter Ballin, Conservation Chair, encourages clubs to call on the Conservation Committee to support their environmental issues. They will help strategize and write letters of support. Sub-committees have formed looking for nature-based climate solutions and biodiversity. (Full report p. 3)

Alan Burger reported on the Governance Committee, with a sub-committee formed to study the feasibility of a new class of BC Nature membership with affiliates such as Friends of Ecological Reserves. The plan could increase BC Nature's public profile and knowledge base. New affiliate members will also benefit.

Rebecca Law, Director of NatureKids, spoke about their 22nd year of connection with BC Nature. NatureKids, now with 27 clubs throughout the province, continue to promote children's healthy, sustainable future and a love of nature with intergenerational family bonds. Full report p. 57 We accepted a Motion to approve all reports unanimously.

Below are three important commentaries to read in the AGM Report:

1. Club Reports p. 7 to 37. Clubs throughout BC outline many thought-provoking activities and projects for the year and can inspire many ideas for the LFN!
2. Alan Burger's Interim President's report is a complete summary of our past year, providing information about organizational changes, continuing programs, finance and staffing, membership and new clubs in one spot.
3. Peter Ballin's Conservation Report is a well-written summary that outlines thoroughly the enormous scope of the causes and projects they tackle. He asks for more members from all parts of the province to join any of his sub-committees.

Other reports referenced but not reported verbally are: BC Naturalists Foundation p. 51, newly contracted Fundraiser Andrea Simpson p. 6, and Liam Regan IBA Coordinator p. 57.

Kathy Masse

KELOWNA AGM 2022 SCENIC CANYON REGIONAL PARK

This park is part of the Mission Creek Regional Park which protects a substantial length of Mission Creek. It is a major recreation area for the City of Kelowna as it has a lengthy trail network through a variety of habitats. Our leaders on this lovely sunny day were a Park naturalist and two members of CONC. We started off downhill through typical Ponderosa Pine woods where the trees are spaced out, allowing a varied understory. There were still some Arrow-leaf Balsam flowers although most of them had died off by now. There were Saskatoon and other smaller shrubs and a variety of flowers among the grass.



Pygmy Nuthatch

Web photo

We stopped to look at a nest box which was thought to be for Chickadees but a Pygmy Nuthatch showed up and proceeded to clean out the nest box, giving us ample

opportunity to get a good look at it. There was plenty of bird song to be heard: Western Wood Peewee, Gray Catbird, Chipping Sparrow, Cassin's Vireo and others. At one point, loud chattering drew our attention to a Merlin which appeared to be chasing away a Crow. This was a reasonably hard hike of just over 3 kms with the trail going up and down a lot, but very enjoyable. At one of the high points we had a good view of the cliffs on the other side of the creek and saw a mixed flock of White-throated Swifts and Violet-green Swallows, plus a pair of Red-tailed Hawks soaring on the thermals.

I recorded a total of 27 species on eBird.

Gareth Pugh

KELOWNA AGM 2022 ECOLOGICAL RESERVE WARDENS, DON GUILD

Volunteer Ecological Reserve wardens are the eyes and ears of the BC Parks system. They make

significant contributions to the parks and protected areas, working in partnership with BC Parks staff. They provide a variety of services, including manual control of invasive plants, inventory of flora and fauna and trespass monitoring. The ER system was set up by the Province in 1972 for research purposes. It provides a lot of protection but not as much as Provincial Parks do. The biggest concern is lack of signage to alert the public to the existence of the reserves.

Don is responsible for 13 reserves in the Okanagan/Shuswap area and gave us a slide show with a brief description of the location, size, primary role and threats such as fire, invasive species and human intrusion of each one.

Examples of the reserves were:

Field's Lease south of Osoyoos and not far from the Desert Centre, focused on protecting remnants of the original desert land.

Haynes Lease near Osoyoos which includes stretches of Osoyoos Lake and Mahoney Lake.

Trout Creek near Summerland where six species of snakes can be found, including the Gopher which is ovoviviparous (lays eggs) and the rattlesnake which is viviparous (bears live young).

Big White Mountain which has obvious challenges with so much human activity nearby. The Transverse Ladybeetle is found there. It has the unusual habit of flying to the higher parts of the mountain to hibernate under rocks.

Don showed us a slide of a deer blind that had been illegally built by hunters in one reserve, which they demolished.

For more information on Ecological Reserves visit <https://bcparks.ca/volunteers/about/programs/er-w-ardens.html>

Gareth Pugh



Google map of Big White Ecological Reserve

KELOWNA'S URBAN FOREST

Tara Bergeson, an urban forest technician with the City of Kelowna, made an excellent presentation at Friday morning's BC Nature AGM session. Tara is passionate about the benefits of trees to the city's ecosystem health. They provide a cooling effect, plus sequester carbon emissions and store water. Tara noted the challenge of climate change to the health of Kelowna's forest through increasing drought and wildfires. And with growing drought comes the added risk of flooding. The city has strategies and action plans to increase the tree canopy to mitigate climate change hazards.

In 2011, the City of Kelowna adopted their Urban Forest Strategy. Amendments under review will soon pass at the council meeting to tackle the escalating challenges of climate change. The Strategy set a goal of 20% tree canopy coverage by 2030. Kelowna's urban forest has now successfully surpassed that goal with a coverage of 22.9%. The coverage counted is located in natural areas, parks and trails, near creeks and wetlands. Public areas and private residences are part of the total. However, Kelowna's arid climate causes trees to take a long time to establish. And the wildfires of 2003, 2017, 2018 and 2021, the increasing effects of climate change, and the pressure of a growing population indicate a need to update the Urban Forest Strategy.

The current Strategy sets out its visions and goals to achieve resiliency and adaptation for the coming years. Each ecosystem has a plan suited to challenges, such as urban development on hillsides, wetlands or managing irrigation so there's enough water for trees, the population, and agriculture. Also planned is an ecosystem connectivity project to link riparian and wooded areas to allow for wildlife movement and protect the habitat from development.

Another initiative in progress is the education of residents about the value of trees on their properties. The NeighbourWoods Program, existing since 2010, allows property owners to purchase subsidized trees from the city once a year, adding 5,000 trees. Kelowna city plants more trees in urban areas and parks each year.

Wildfire Management and mitigation are becoming increasingly important to ensure a healthy urban forest. Needed are more Fire Smart regulations and adopting cultural burning, working with First Nations.

Another mitigation effort is the Mission Creek Restoration project.

Tara implements action plans for Kelowna's Urban Forest Strategy. As an urban forest technician, she coordinates and manages natural areas, including forest health, wildfire protection planning, stewardship programs and tree protection. When the amended Strategy takes effect, she will have to tackle new challenges, with the acceleration of climate change and the need to protect and grow Kelowna's tree canopy.

Kathy Masse



Web photo

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH

We met at the 16th Avenue parking lot. Anthony, our expected visitor from Ontario, was already there and had found us the first species, a Hermit Thrush. This season some species of birds seem to have been around later and often longer than usual. I speculate that for this area the cold first half of the year slowed the birds. Or maybe even made them breed further south. Western Tanager was heard and seen with the red top on the yellow head.

When we left the parking lot a little after 9, we already had identified approximately 10 species. We walked the Little River Loop and found more species. As usual, lots of Chickadees, Song Sparrows and Spotted Towhees and some Common Yellowthroats. A Warbling Vireo was singing loudly.

Marsh and Bewick's Wrens managed to escape our attention, perhaps too busy feeding chicks.

There were lots of warblers around and, besides the Yellowthroat, we found Orange-crowned, Black-throated Gray, Yellow and Wilson's Warblers. When we got past the Listening Bridge, some decided to take the shortcut to the parking lot while the rest joined us on the roundtrip via the Vine Maple Trail.

In the forested area, we got lots of flycatchers such as Pacific Slope, and Western Wood Peewee, in addition to the Wilson's Flycatchers at the river. All in all we found 30 bird species in almost 4 hours.

Wim Vesseur

GEORGE REIFEL REFUGE FRIDAY, JUNE 17TH



Photo: Anne Gosse

We enjoyed a fairly nice warm day in Reifel Refuge with 17 people joining our walk. For the first time we had 10 small children, who were Home School mothers and children - with two in baby strollers! We got off to a good start with Sandhill Cranes, Hummingbirds and lots of different ducks and birds by the entrance and at Fuller slough lookout.

We then started off on the East Dyke Trail towards the blinds, where most of the younger children and mothers decided they would slowly return. We seven, carrying on, found the ducks were just going into their month of "moult" by replacing their bright mating colors with a drab dull plumage - with which to escape detection from predators. Feathers and fluff were flying all about but we still managed to hear and see 43 species. Our most interesting sighting for the day, spotted by Wim, was of three Wilson's Phalaropes in the far ponds. We finished our day with a picnic, chatting in the sunshine.

Anne Gosse

IRENE PEARCE TRAIL WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22ND

Eight Wednesday evening walkers enjoyed a peaceful stroll along the Irene Pearce Trail. With the heat of the day diminishing, it was indeed a perfect time for strolling. Flowers seen were mostly white (such as Red Elderberry, Foam Flower and Siberian Miner's Lettuce) or pink (such as Pacific Bleeding Heart and Herb Robert).



Female Downy Woodpecker

Photo: Anthea Farr

At least 15 bird species were either seen or heard, including a female Downy Woodpecker who was busily tapping for food on a tree trunk. With the abundance of foliage that usually comes in June, most birds along the trail were heard and not seen. Luckily Anne knew the call of the Western Tanager, although we were unable to see it.



Rest Stop along the trail

Photo: Anthea Farr

But we are not just birders. Ferns were discussed in the forest, a fine specimen of a Bullfrog was observed from the bridge, and a few Banana Slugs and Cyanide Millipedes were carefully moved off the trail (by me) to avoid being trampled. Maybe the smiles "tell it all"?

Anthea Farr

ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK WEDNESDAY, JULY 6TH

What a difference one year makes. The LFN walk at Aldergrove Regional Park last July came on the heels of the now infamous "Heat Dome" event. Signs of heat exhaustion were obvious in the trees and the undergrowth. This year we had an overcast day, quite humid and pleasantly warm, but still not what one would hope for on a July summer day. Our group of eight saw signs of this year's somewhat delayed spring and summer. Wild bleeding hearts, often expended by this time of the year, were still in flower. Clumps of mushrooms were "blooming" in the shady areas. The greenery was very lush.



At the Big Rock

Photo: Keith Chrystall

We confirmed that the "Big Rock" has not moved (see group photo). It maintains its repose of the last 12,000 years or so. You can't help but wonder if the next 12,000 years will see any disturbance to its peace. Walking through the trees, it suddenly started to rain. It didn't reach the ground for all the branches and leaves, but the sound was marvellous. Like standing beside an invisible waterfall. A memory to conjure up when you're having trouble sleeping.

The birds did not disappoint. Cedar Waxwings were certainly prevalent throughout the park, as were the calls and songs of the Swainson's Thrushes.

We also observed or heard Pileated Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, Common Yellowthroat and Wilson's Warbler, among the more common residents (American Crow and Robin, Barn Swallow, Spotted Towhee, etc.). At the small ponds, in the south-east corner of the park, there was a distinct lack of wildlife, apart from the croaking of bull frogs. Perhaps the frogs have eaten everything in the area. However, we were treated to the haunting call of a Pied-bill Grebe (identified by Gareth) which was something that most in our group had not heard before.

We finished the walk as night was closing in. After a brief search for some misplaced car keys (thankfully not lost on the trails) we exited the park before the gates closed.

Keith Chrystall

MANNING PARK ANNUAL FIELD TRIP WEDNESDAY, JULY 13TH

Only seven LFN'ers and two White Rock Naturalists joined the walk this year. The weather was perfect, clear and sunny but not too hot. We arrived at the Lodge at about 10 am and set off for the alpine. Lupines were at their peak (later than usual) as we drove up the road to the Look-out and we anticipated seeing lots of First-wave bloom flowers, such as the Glacier Lilies, in the Alpine.



Dry Gulch Trail

Photo: Bob Puls

But no, what a disappointment, the road was still closed at the Dry Gulch parking space. This was contrary to the reports on the website. So, we clambered up the steep Gulch trail to the look-out area at the top, admired the fantastic view and photographed many flowers which the two young

boys in the group hadn't seen before. No sign of the rare Steer's head flower which Wim has photographed at this site in the past. It flowers very briefly as the snow recedes, so once again we were too late as there was no snow left on the trail. We had a look at the wet seep just below the parking lot and saw many of the orchids and other flowers that inhabit this uncommon ecosystem.



Cascade Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel

Photo: Bob Puls

Then back to the Look-out to be entertained by the Yellow-pine Chipmunks and Cascade Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels. We ate our lunch at Lightning Lake with the Columbia Ground Squirrels (no mosquitoes!) and then walked a fair way along the Strawberry flats trail, stopping frequently to photograph flowers and butterflies. Most butterflies turned out to be Western Pine Elfin's, but we also photographed Anise Swallowtails, Pacific Fritillary, Satyr Comma, and saw some Orangetip's and Blue's. Nothing like last year's total. I also got a Black-banded Orange Moth - *Epelis truncataria*, which I don't think I had seen before.

Amongst the many lovely flowers, I did eventually spot a Chocolate Lily, which I knew grew in one small area, a special sighting for me. We recorded eleven bird species, despite not visiting any of the pond areas where we might have added some warblers. Manning Park never disappoints and always has something new to offer.

Bob Puls

BAT WALK

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20TH

LFN members had an opportunity to get close to Bats at Campbell Valley Park. With some Bat species, the females gather in groups in what is referred to as a roost to have their young and raise them. The roost at Campbell Valley has been identified by BC Bat Community as home to Western Long-eared Bats. This was determined by analyzing guano samples. Guano samples can also determine the sex of an individual bat.

When viewing a potential roost site, the first thing to look for is guano samples. Participants were able to observe guano samples on the edge of the building. The best way to collect guano samples is with a board placed under where one thinks bats are emerging. Another method is to place cardboard on the ground and then check it a day or two later. Bats typically leave the roost shortly after sunset. As they prepare to leave the roost, they tend to get vocal and, depending on roost structure, one might hear them start to move about. On the walk night, as expected, walk participants heard the bats both vocalizing and moving about.



Going Bats!

Photo: Keith Chrystall

BC Bat Community has different means of monitoring Bats in their natural environment. For species that gather in roosts, they perform counts each year. The Bat walk was combined with a BC Bat Community count that LFN members volunteered to participate in. They had us do two individual counts just after the pups (baby bats) were born and then another two counts a month later. On the second count, numbers are usually higher, indicating there are pups already emerging from the roost.

On the walk night, the counters counted 104 bats. This number is in line with numbers from other years which would indicate this roost is remaining healthy. If the fourth count is less, it could indicate that some of the bats have already left the roost. Keith had the LFN Bat monitor on site and took members on a walk around the area explaining how it worked. This is the summary of the bat calls identified during our bat count:

Bat Species	Calls Identified
Townsend's big-eared bat	0
Big brown bat	12
Spotted bat	0
Silver-haired bat	1
Hoary bat	27
California myotis	1
Western Small-footed myotis	6
Long-eared myotis	0
Little brown myotis	22
Fringed myotis	0
Long-legged myotis	2
Yuma myotis	2
Big free-tailed bat	0
Canyon bat	0
Mexican free-tailed bat	0
No ID	83

Interpreting these results requires a little nuance. It's fairly certain that we had Big brown bat, Hoary bat and Little brown myotis in the area on July 20. Silver-haired bats seem to be common all around Langley, so we probably picked one up while it was flying through the fields. We may have observed California myotis, Western Small-footed myotis, Long-legged myotis and Yuma myotis. However, it is at least equally likely that in each of these cases, what we recorded were Little brown myotis modulating their calls to fall within the frequency range of these other bat species.

Evidently bats frequently modulate their calls when leaving a roost or flying among trees, for example. It is a limitation of the Echolocation detection system that we can't discriminate which type of scenario we are observing. The Echometer is most accurate when observing bats flying in relatively open spaces while engaged in foraging activity. In these circumstances, the bats are the least likely to be modulating their calls and therefore a frequency analysis of the bat call is most aligned with the

frequency range characteristic of a given species. I would note, however, that the ID of Western Small-footed myotis is more numerous than the other myotis species (apart from the Little brown). This is consistent with the previous evening's observations at that site. I think there is a fair chance we have Western Small-footed myotis at Campbell Valley, although this would have to be confirmed with more positive forms of identification such as DNA analysis of guano or netting and direct examination of individuals. We'll have to leave that for the experts.

Interesting to note too the rather large sample of "No IDs". In each of these cases the Echometer detected a bat call but could not provide a probable species identification. I think this further illustrates that the bats are modulating their calls when leaving the roost and making it difficult for the Echometer to get a match.

Keith Chrystall & Ryan Usenik

BLAAUW ECO FOREST WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10TH

After a two-year hiatus, nine Langley Field Naturalist members ventured into the Blaauw Eco Forest just east of Fort Langley. The mosquitoes were gracious and considerably less aggressive than in nearby Fort Langley.



At Blaauw Eco Forest

Photo: Gareth Pugh

During our walk we were able to identify 11 species of birds (BLSW, GHOW, WWPE, STJA, AMCR, BCCH, RBNU, BRGR, EUST, AMRO, CEWA). The 3 Black Swifts, first spotted by Eric H., as well as the Great Horned Owl, were the avian highlights of

the walk. In addition, watching approximately 400 European Starlings flying north (towards an evening roost?) was quite unexpected.



Hooker's Fairybells

Photo: Ted Goshulak

The eBird hotspot link to the Forest can be found at: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L5750037> for those who wish to check out the growing avian list. The number of species seen at the Blaauw now stands at 71! On the flora front, a Hooker's Fairybells, with fruit, was a good find. The Blaauw Eco Forest is certainly a great place to walk on days when the heat can be overwhelming.

Ted Goshulak

FUNDRAISER FOR CLUB PROJECTS



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

or

Willowbrook Express Return-It Depot
19641 60 Ave
Account number 222 222 3333 for Nora
Truman, *lnsecretary (had to be a person's name)*

PROGRAMMES

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2022

At present we continue to offer our meetings online by Zoom: *The week before the program starts, a link will be sent out. Just click into this highlighted link and Lisa will accept you into the Zoom program. Should this change, we will send e-mail notification.* Presentations begin at 7.30 pm after a brief business meeting.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH

UK BIRDING - WEST COAST TO EAST COAST!

John Gordon, Professional Photographer

From the wide-open spaces of the Welsh Black Mountains, to the famous Slimbridge Wildlife & Wetland Centre on the Severn Estuary, we'll visit some of the UK's most varied birding locations. The historical Forest of Dean offers glimpses of forest birds and wild boar, while for the birding traveler landing at Heathrow, John includes locations close to the airport for even more avian delights. John takes us to Northumberland's Farne Islands in the North Sea off England's northeast coast, and closes the presentation with a look at birding in Lincolnshire, including RSPB sites Frampton and Gibraltar Point on England's east coast.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 20TH

THE CHAT IS BACK!

**Christine Bishop, Research Scientist,
Environment & Climate Change Canada.**

Come join Christine as she tells us about the Western Yellow-breasted Chat. Its population in BC was listed in 2000 under the Canadian Species At Risk Act. Its populations are already drastically restricted due to the loss of over 85% of its key nesting habitat - wild rose thickets, in the Okanagan and Similkameen valley systems. She will also give us an update on the rattlesnake population.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17TH

CANADIAN WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY, FROM VERY BIG TO VERY SMALL

(POLAR BEARS TO PACIFIC TREE FROGS!)

Roy Cline, MD FRC(s) Clinical Professor - UBC

Roy is a retired pediatric ophthalmologist with a life-long passion for wildlife photography. He will take you from the shores of Hudson Bay with polar

bears and Kanaka wolves, to Johnstone Strait and Knight Inlet with humpback whales and grizzly bears, to the Sparrow Creek pond in Fort Langley with Pacific tree frogs.

MEETING WITH JOYCE MURRAY, MINISTER OF FISHERIES, OCEANS AND CANADIAN COAST GUARD

John Aldag, MP for Cloverdale-Langley City, invited local environmental groups to meet with the Federal Minister of FOC on Friday July 22nd.

Present were representatives from LFN, LEPS, WRSN, Nicomekl Enhancement Society, Surrey Environmental Partners, Serpentine Enhancement Society, Surrey Natural Areas Partnership, Yorkson Watershed Enhancement Society and Little Campbell River Enhancement Society.

Most groups expressed similar feelings about DFO, including failure of downloading environmental regulatory enforcement to the Province and Municipalities. That DFO need to regain their proactive role rather than being reactive, prevention and enhancement being more effective than prosecution after the fact. As well, their reaction to spills and other environmental concerns has been lacking or totally inadequate.

It was pointed out that Municipalities were more interested in circumventing environmental rules than complying with them and that professional consultants hired to advise them were submitting reports designed to help development rather than the environment.

Some specific topics such as the sea dam at the mouth of the Nicomekl and Gloucester Industrial Estate were touched on briefly, but time restraints prevented any detailed discussion. In wrapping up, John Aldag urged us to keep him in touch with local issues of concern, and the Minister urged us to keep up the good work we were all doing.

**Bob Puls
Conservation Chair**

FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE - SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2022

Please Note: anyone wishing to take part in these walks should follow current Provincial Health guidelines when travelling to the designated meeting place. Pre-registration will be mandatory as we must know in advance how many participants to expect and, if necessary, arrange for more than one leader to ensure that no more than ten persons are in each group in order to maintain required social distancing.

Please call the leader for more information and to pre-register. The walks are generally about two hours long and are open to all Naturalist Clubs' members (adults & children, but no pets please). Please dress for the weather and bring water, binoculars and a snack. *Note these walks are weather dependent so if the weather is bad and no calls are received, then the leader will not show up.*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

HIGH POINT

Leader: Nora Truman

Time: 9:00 am at parking area on the East side of 200th Street; South of the Cross Walk and Jacobsen Creek

Join Nora for a walk to enjoy nature at High Point. First we will walk through the forest on Campbell Boundary Trail west to the detention pond, then north to the High Point Lake on the Pepin Trail. Waterfowl are sometimes seen at High Point Lake. At the viewing platform, there are often many birds in the shrubbery and tree tops. We continue down the Campbell Boundary Trail past a meadow and into the forest again to our beginning point. <file:///C:/Users/Gareth/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/HE7MO53Y/HighPoint%20Park.pdf>
Phone 604-533-4585 to register.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

JACKMAN PIT (WETLANDS) PARK

Leader: Herman Vanderleest

Time: 9:00 am at 272nd Street and 10th Avenue across from the Transfer Station

Join Herman to walk the trails in this rural park which is the site of a former Township gravel pit and dump. After the dump was declared full in the 1980's and capped, it was designated as a park. LFN helped with the restoration tree planting that was carried out. **Phone 604-856-1179 to register.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Eric Habisch

Time: 9:00 am at 16th Avenue parking lot

Join Eric to walk the river loop trail in this popular park with its great variety of trees, birds, mammals

and shrubs. Walking distance is approximately 2 km on the level so please wear appropriate footwear. **Phone 778-231-0273 to register.**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

BRAE ISLAND

Leader: t.b.a.

Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot at 9451 Glover Road, Fort Langley

Come and walk the trails along the river out to Tavistock Point in Brae Island Regional Park.

Phone 604-888-1787 to register.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

MILASTER PROPERTY, ALDERGROVE

Leader: Bob Puls

Time: 9:00 am at 7040 - 272nd Street

Join Bob 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.

Phone 604-856-7534 to register.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

KANAKA CREEK REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Lisa Blanchard

Time: 9:00 am at the Cliff Park parking lot. Take Dewdney Trunk Road and turn South on 252nd Street, follow the road via 117th Avenue and 251st Street to the park entrance.

Join Lisa to walk the trails through this popular park with its great variety of trees, flowers and shrubs and watch the salmon returning to spawn. Walking distance is approximately 5 km so please wear appropriate footwear. Trails are rated as moderate.

Bring a packed lunch to eat at a suitable spot at the end of the walk.

Phone 604-818-7973 to register.

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/parks-greenways-reserves/kanaka-creek-regional-park>

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH

GEORGE REIFEL BIRD SANCTUARY

Leader: Tom Wildeboer

Time: 9:00 am at the Sanctuary Gift Shop

Join Tom to walk the trails around this popular wildlife refuge. Snow Geese and other wintering birds will have begun returning. Always a good chance to find owls like the Great Horned. Bring lunch and water. Small entrance fee (\$5.00) for non-members of BC Waterfowl Society. Bring an extra sweater and hat; it can be chilly out there. *(Note: Pre-booking is still mandatory at Reifel and should be done 3 days prior to visiting by each individual).*

Phone 604-530-2633 to register.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

FISHTRAP CREEK LOOP - ABBOTSFORD

Leader: John Gordon

Time: 9:00 am at the Maclure Road Parking lot
- just past Old Yale Road turn off from Hwy 1

The Fishtrap Creek Loop is located near Abbotsford, featuring a couple of lakes with good walking trails for all skill levels. The trail is primarily used for hiking, walking, nature trips and bird watching and is accessible year-round. This is an easy walking trail with several ponds to circle - usually with lots of wintering ducks - plus a resident owl has been seen as well. Come see how many ducks are wintering on these ponds this year!

Phone 604-533-7171 to register.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH

ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Wim Vesseur

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

Join Wim 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.

Phone 604-534-3447 to register.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH

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 Resource and Rural Development, which is part open fields and part woodland. Wear sturdy footwear as we will be walking in open fields and natural woodland trails.

Phone 604-530-3257 to register.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH

BRYDON LAGOON & HI-KNOLL PARK

Leader: Lisa Dreves

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

Join Lisa to walk around the lagoon and see the restoration work being carried out by LEPS, then walk through the floodplain and up into Hi-Knoll Park.

Phone 604-532-0081 to register.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

SERPENTINE FEN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Leader: Viveka Ohman

Time: 9:00 am at the gate behind Art Knapps, 4391 King George Boulevard. The gate will be open until 9:00 am

Join us for a walk around this wetland that is jointly managed by Ducks Unlimited and the Ministry of the Environment where a variety of ducks and other birds spend the winter.

Phone 604-534-5301 to register.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

BLACKIE SPIT - CRESCENT BEACH

Leader: Gareth Pugh

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

Join Gareth for a walk around this popular park where a variety of migrant and resident birds can be found in winter, followed by a warm-up at a local coffee shop.

Phone 604-649-1027 to register.