



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

September 2024

WESTERN PURPLE MARTINS - A SUCCESS STORY

In the early 1980's, due to logging and natural nesting habitat loss along BC coastal areas, the number of Western Purple Martin (*Progne subis arboricola*) in BC had declined to fewer than 10 breeding pairs. The species was subsequently red-listed provincially, and efforts between the BC Government and local conservation groups were initiated to increase its population. Several nonprofit groups came on board and specially designed nest boxes were installed along coastal sites. Thanks to this effort, there are now over 1500 successful breeding pairs in BC.

For years now, the program has been monitored by the Georgia Basin Ecological and Restoration Society (GBEARS). Kiyoshi Takahashi of Coquitlam was very involved with the nest box program in the Lower Mainland. What are known as dolphins (groups of 3 or more pilings in the river) that were once used to tie log booms and barges to, have proven to be useful structures for attaching Purple Martin nest boxes to. One of his early volunteers was Roy Teo who is currently with Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, working as Natural Resources Management Technician out of the Campbell Valley office.



Juvenile Purple Martins

Photo: Ted Goshaluk

In 2012, our past member Bruce Hutchinson reached out to Metro Vancouver about the feasibility of installing Purple Martin nest boxes in the Fraser River in Brae Island Regional Park. Because Roy had experience working with Purple Martins, he became our point person for this initiative. The first boxes were installed on a dolphin at Tavistock Point on Brae Island. It took six years, but the site eventually attracted Purple Martins. With this success, 10 additional nest boxes, built by students at Surrey Christian School, were installed on two dolphins at Muench Bar (Derby Reach Regional Park) in 2020. This proved quite timely, as an unfortunate incident involving a loose log boom knocked down the dolphin with the nest boxes at Tavistock Point just weeks after. As a result, returning Purple Martins were able to quickly re-establish at the newly installed boxes just 5 km downstream.



Roy Teo

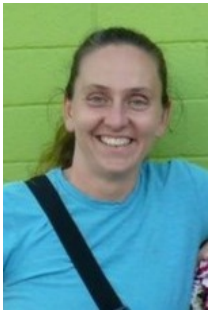
Photo: Ryan Usenik

LFN, Langley Environmental Partners Society (LEPS), and Metro Vancouver Regional Parks continue to actively manage these nest boxes. This year's nest box checks and banding efforts found 30 new Purple Martin babies born to the colony! Nearly all the boxes at Muench Bar were occupied. Consequently, more nest boxes are necessary to grow the colony. LFN stepped up to the challenge and recently presented Roy with six new Purple Martin nest boxes. The plan is to install the boxes that were constructed by Ryan Usenik this upcoming winter-spring.

Despite the healthy population of Purple Martins that presently exists, the birds are still reliant on active stewardship by volunteers. Whether it is the construction and installation of artificial nests, ongoing cleaning and maintenance of nest boxes, or monitoring of breeding activity, we can all lend a hand in helping these amazing birds thrive in our region.

Lisa Dreves

President's message



Recently driving between fields in Glen Valley, I had to slow to a crawl as almost 40 Barn Swallows flitted back and forth across the road. I swear some had to be teenager swallows; acting like jerks as they taunted me, almost flying into my car while daring me to chase them. Such an incredibly uplifting sight this summer; but are the numbers of these aerial acrobats going up? Nope.

I had so much fun this summer counting bats with Ryan, Terri-Lou and Ron. I didn't think we would find very many but wow! Our local bats are everywhere that there is open water and old trees. Since we found so many bats this summer does that mean we don't need to worry about them? Nope.

The results of the beautiful summer we have had can be found all over Langley. We didn't have orange suns rising behind blankets of smoke. Our summer heat was bearable with some rain and cloudy days here and there. The late start to spring and summer took its toll on my veggie garden and fruit trees, but the insects seem pretty happy, in turn making a lot of insectivores very, very happy.

This prodigal summer certainly seems to have given our local wildlife a bit of a leg up after some very difficult ones. While the overall numbers of our wild neighbours are actually continuing to fall, they aren't falling as fast as they could be; in fact, many are stabilizing. But the biggest threat to their populations continues to lurk (insert dramatic/eerie da dum, da dum background music here to build suspense): our population. Greater Langley is expected to grow by 30,000 to 58,000 new people in the next 5 to 10 years, respectively. So where are the animals supposed to go?

Recently we had some good news. Metro Vancouver Parks announced they have been able to secure an additional 32 ha (78 ac) property to complete the rectangle of properties that make up the now 96 ha (237 ac) park that is West Creek Wetlands in northeast Langley. There has been another large purchase rumored that could create an almost 52 ha (130 ac) park on the Little Campbell River in south Langley. All very good news, and we can support organizations that are working to protect our wild spaces with letters or our pocketbooks.

One other way to support our environment? Vote. October 19 is our next provincial election; mark your calendar and inspire others to get out and vote, especially the young people in your life. I have spoken to countless youth that are apathetic about voting. There is one rule: if you don't vote, don't complain. Who would give up the right to complain?

Lisa Dreves

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS 2024-2025

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Member Participation:	Joanne Rosenthal jrose77@yahoo.com
Displays:	Vacant

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

SPARROW CREEK FARM SATURDAY, MAY 25TH

Sparrow Creek Farm is a 7 acre hobby farm in the hills overlooking the floodplain of the Salmon River. Sparrow Creek and its pond flow into the Salmon River at Rawlison Crescent. The wetlands are being restored under the guidance of the Fraser Valley Conservancy to create habitat for amphibians, particularly the Pacific Chorus Frog and the Red-legged Frog. The project is supported by a grant from Environment Canada for amphibian protection.

On an overcast, rainy day, fourteen walkers met on the Cline house deck drinking coffee and eating pastries before heading out around 9:15.

The walk started heading south through the goat pasture into the "back pasture". In 2013, there had been a hill slide consequent to the development of large homes above. The hillside was restored with a boulder retaining wall above our pasture. Our pasture is now restoring itself with alders and other naturalized species of plants. We encountered American Robins, Northern flickers and Spotted Towhees feeding on the ground. We passed an unoccupied Barn Owl box. Ryan suggested a rescue owl placement.

Turning to the west, we came to a hillside overlooking Sparrow Creek. Fraser Valley Conservancy (FVC) has removed blackberries, which continues as an



Photo: Ryan Usenik

ongoing task. They have planted 4,000 native plants, including Western Red Cedar, Hemlock, Vine Maple, Baldhip Rose, Snowberry, Thimbleberry and Willow. This hillside has remained stable for over 2 years. We take photos in all directions each year and submit them to the FVC.

As we moved down toward the creek, we began to encounter waterfowl and a fly-by of a Great Blue Heron. Canada Geese arrived and departed in pairs. Mallard ducks and chicks were on the pond among the cattails, along with Buffleheads and Lesser Scaups.

The native plantings along the pond (3 years ago) include Osier Dogwood, Osoberry, Sweet Gale, Snowberry and Black Twinberry. We saw Red-winged Blackbirds in the cattails, Common Yellowthroats in the Elderberries and Cedar Waxwings in the Black Twinberry.

The highlight of the day came at the end of the pond by the dam. Four species of swallows were putting on an arial performance to match the Canadian Forces Snowbirds. Violet-green, Barn, Tree and Northern Rough-winged Swallows darted about the pond. Along the edge of the pond, we observed a muskrat, a bullfrog and 2 Hooded Mergansers with their chicks.

We returned to the house yard and checked out the active bee hives and the abundance of wild flowers. A grove of Bitter Cherries was identified. We adjourned to the deck for more coffee / conversation about the morning's sightings.



Barn Swallow

Photo: Roy Cline



Tree Swallow

Photo: Roy Cline

Roy Cline

SALMON RIVER NATURAL AREA

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH

A warm sunny morning welcomed the eleven walkers to the area. A mixed group of some who had never been to this location and a couple who walk it regularly. We maintained an enjoyable leisurely pace, taking in the bird activities in the trees and on the grounds. As the group reached one of the lookouts off the path, we were greeted by an aggressive male Rufous Hummingbird displaying his annoyance at us being in his vicinity. We did have a look at the Bedford Channel from the Fort to Fort trail portion of the route but there was not a lot going on. We ventured briefly into the adjacent neighbourhood to check on the small channel between the houses and were treated to a half dozen active Pine Siskins feeding on grasses in the gully which gave us up close views. Before we finished, we stopped at the overlook area on Billy Brown Road where we got great views of the Wood Ducks and their ducklings wading through the wetland grasses. We could also see the beaver lodges but no tenants were seen in our time there. We did very well with 29 species reported into eBird even though some birds were only heard or showed up at the end of the walk.

Eric Habisch

IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH



Photo: Perry Poulsen

It was great to see six optimistic, hardy souls, including a first time guest meet up in the parking lot off 224th Street. The morning weather report was our first topic of discussion.

The sky held some promise of clearing. Hearing a few birds in the forest (Spotted Towhee, Swainson's Thrush), we all agreed to give it a go.

We all made it to the forest trail as it began to rain. Seeking shelter under the mix of cedar and fir trees gave us an opportunity to look at a number of the plants that make this trail so wonderful. Both Eric and Gareth shared their knowledge, identifying several different trees and other plants: Stinging Nettle, Salmonberry, Osoberry and Western Bleeding Heart to name a few. It was interesting to learn that Stinging Nettle, which can give you a rash or burn when you

brush against it, has a long history of use as a source of traditional medicine and the leaves are used for tea. It also plays a critical role as a host plant for butterflies such as the Red Admiral.

As we navigated our way through the puddles, we managed to make it to the bridge over the Little Campbell River. We did hear warblers and flycatchers and saw a Robin along the trail, but believe they were all taking shelter from the weather (smart). This should have been an indication for us but we thought, if we could just make it into the forest trail, it should be better.



Photo: Perry Poulsen

Well, it only got worse and with the arrival of hail, the walk was over.

In good spirits, everyone did their best to get back to their cars safely. I am sure we all had a story to share when we got home.

Perry Poulsen

ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK

SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH

It was one of those perfect sunny mornings at Aldergrove Park for our walk. The weather forecasts earlier in the week had been less than encouraging but luck was on our side; the skies were clear and the temperature was nearly ideal. It was nice to see that Metro Vancouver has been investing some resources in the park recently, repairing and upgrading trails and creating a Nature Discovery Area for children. Welcome investments for this natural gem in our community.

It was berry season walking along the trails. Salmonberries, Huckleberries, Thimbleberries and Blackberries, among others, were ripening in the sun or shade. The most surprising of these for me was a patch of Devil's Club berries, or 'drupes' as they are also called. For a plant with such a sinister reputation, it was amazing to see a beautiful, elongated cluster of bright red berries growing from the top of the plant, looking somewhat like an inverted cluster of grapes. It's good to see that there are still some habitats left where this plant can survive. Aldergrove Park is

also home to some of the largest skunk cabbage plants you can find in the area. Not sure what it is that lets the leaves on these particular plants get so large but they are impressive.



Hairy Woodpecker

Photo: John Saremba

With all the berries around for food there were also lots of birds. Thanks to John Saremba for keeping a list. Our group observed 24 species either through direct sighting or by call identification. Among these were Willow and Western Flycatchers, Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos, a Wilson's Warbler and three Black-headed Grosbeaks. We watched a group of Hairy Woodpeckers fledging a chick which was wonderful to see. Slugs, frogs and millipedes rounded off the other forest fauna we encountered along the way.



Millipede

Photo: John Saremba

We had started our walk on the Woodpecker Loop trail and then transitioned to the Pepin Brook Loop, which is a reasonably vigorous walk with lots of elevation gains and drops as the path meanders along the north side of a bluff. There are lots of small springs coming out of the ground along the bluff face

that drain down into and feed Pepin Brook. With all the trees and shade along the face of the bluff, these little spring streams create amazing little microenvironments for flora and fauna alike. A great place to visit any time of the year.

Keith Chrystall

PINSCH OF SOIL FARM WEDNESDAY, JULY 24TH

On this beautiful Wednesday evening we were welcomed by our enthusiastic and passionate host Marcel. He showed 11 LFN members and 2 KPU students around his and Nadja's farm for 2 hours, explaining the whats and whys. He even weed whacked some areas just before we arrived so we could fully appreciate the extent of all the work they put into their property.



Pinsch of Soil Natural Area

Photo: Tineke Goebertus

The food farm is about 3,000 m² and is on a north-facing hill, organized following the contour lines. This way the water captured on the roof of the house can be fed via a French drain and percolate through. When there is no rain available, well water is being used. Recently, soil moisture meters have been installed which can be monitored on a phone app. This results in the watering being more on point and less water (and nutrients) being wasted.

Compost, from household, garden and horse waste, is being used to feed the plants. Worms are helping with the process of turning the plant waste into compost. Marcel showed us how it's being done using totes, digging in with gusto to find the worms for us.



Composting bin

Photo: Tineke Goebertus

The horse manure is "processed" in a few stages to be food safe before using it. Using algae as another source of minerals is in the trialing stages.

Jacobson Creek and an unnamed creek flow through the back of the property where a lot of native plants (from our local nurseries NATS and Linnaea Nurseries) have been added to the landscape.

Wim recorded 18 bird species, of which we all got to see the Hairy Woodpecker in action.

We learned about Balm of Gilead Salve (made from cottonwood buds) and Ivan Chai (made from fireweed leaves), we tasted the edible weeds Sorrel and Purslane, and we saw and learned much more.

Tineke Goebertus

CAMPBELL VALLEY PARK WEDNESDAY, JULY 10TH

We had an interesting walk at dusk in the deep dark forest. The Swainson's Thrush's song carried so well with its haunting, ethereal notes in the forest. Fortunately some of us got to see this bird which has a non-descript appearance but a wonderful song. I realised that people are using Merlin as their main Id source but my preference is for it to be used as an added tool to verify sightings by sound only. So this list is in two parts by sighting order.

List by sight and sound:

Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, Black-capped Chickadee, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bewick's Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Bald Eagle, Hammond's Flycatcher, Barred Owl, Western

Tanager and Barn Swallows (4) Total 14.

List by Merlin:

American Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Dark-eyed Junco, Song Sparrow, Western Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadee, Pine Siskin, Black-headed Grosbeak, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Western Flycatcher, Western Tanager, Barred Owl, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Barn Swallows, Total 17.

So Merlin identified 17; our eyes and ears identified 14. We picked up Hammond's Flycatcher and Bewick's Wren that Merlin did not. Merlin picked up Pine Siskin, Yellow Warbler, Western Flycatcher and Ruby-crowned Kinglet - Gareth's Merlin. What does this tell me? That Merlin appears more sensitive than our ears and/or may identify very similar sounds incorrectly; something to be aware of. For example, Hammond's vs Western Flycatcher and Common Yellowthroat and Bewick's Wren. To me not similar, but maybe to Merlin they are. The more modern an I-phone is, the better it picks up sound, a no brainer. I think of using it as a verifier because otherwise one loses the skill set for finding and hearing birds. We don't have to work at it any more since Merlin does it for you. I'm old school and enjoy it.



Blackheaded Grosbeak

Photo: Bob Puls

So combined, we have a total of 19 birds. Not bad for an evening walk under 2 hours. Highlights are Swainson's Thrush, Barred Owl and Barn Swallows. Low lights were no sounds or sightings of Pacific Wrens, few flycatchers and birds of prey, but for a Bald Eagle in the distance.

Viveka Ohman

ANNUAL PICNIC THURSDAY, JULY 18TH



Annual Picnic

Photo: Anne Gosse

26 Members gathered in Campbell Valley Park on a glorious sunny day. We found a spot that was in shade for the whole three hour event and set up our lawn chairs in a circle. It was good to see a number of new members and also Annabel Griffiths, one of our Life Members.

After lunch several people started to circulate and catch up with others they had not seen for a while and Anne Gosse rounded us all up for a group photo before people started to leave. By two o'clock everyone had left.

Gareth Pugh

BUTTERFLY WALK WEDNESDAY, JULY 31ST



Hunting butterflies

Photo: Perry Poulsen

Our first LFN dragonfly walk had 18 participants come out to Latimer Park on a warm dry morning. It was the first time at the park for some and others a

first after the upgrades the City of Surrey had completed. When the group stared out, not many dragonflies or damselflies were in flight with the absence of sunshine. We began the walk with a look at the lake from one of the new viewing platforms. There we saw Mallards, a Belted Kingfisher, Red-eared Slider and a surprise visit from a Muskrat. Upon reaching our second stop on the beach, we did see some dragonflies. A few Blue-eyed Darners gave us some good looks as they hovered close by checking us out. Additionally a Western Pondhawk sat on a log for better opportunities for all to see while an Eastern Cottontail foraged in the nearby shrubs and paid us no mind.



Blue-eyed Darter

Photo: Perry Poulsen

There was excellent historical site and species information sharing from John Gordon and Ted Goshulak respectively which helped me out to answer some of the group's questions. We walked the loop around the lake through the forest and back to another smaller observation platform. There we were able to see the introduced Pumpkinseed fish near the shore before we called it a day. 15 species of birds were recorded in eBird and we observed three dragonfly and one damselfly species. The feedback was positive about the walk and we look forward to doing a similar one again in the future.

Eric Habisch

BAT WALK, SOUTH LANGLEY WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7TH

A new location was needed for our bat walk this year since our long-time spot in Cloverdale is now the construction site for the new South Surrey Hospital development. We were very fortunate to find a private residence in South Langley where the owner kindly allowed the LFN to view the

evening departure of bats which are using a barn for a daytime roost. We were thrilled to find this roost was home to the largest group of bats the LFN has observed to date in Langley.

Thanks to diligent observations by LFN members Eric and Andrew, we counted 225 bats leaving this roost between 8:50 PM and 9:09 PM. Using the LFN's Echometer we recorded the following number of bat calls that could be identified by species:



Going bats Photo: Ryan Usenik

Little Brown Myotis	15
Long-legged Myotis	6
Yuma myotis	2
Western	
Small-footed Myotis	1
No Identification	29

This information tells us that this roost most probably has a population of Little Brown Myotis (or Little Brown Bats informally). It is possible that the roost is also

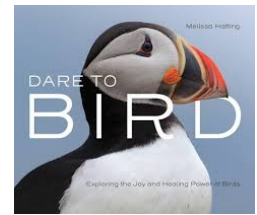
home to more than one species, most likely Long-Legged Myotis. It has been observed that some species of bats will cohabit together in a roost, so our observations are consistent with current understanding of bat behaviour. Important to keep in mind though that definitive identification of bat species requires direct examination of specimens and/or DNA analysis.

We had a rather large number of recorded bat calls that could not be identified according to species by characteristic frequency range. Bats can modulate the pitch of their calls, just like humans can modulate the pitch of their voices, when it is necessary. A good example is when a group of bats are departing a roost and they need to modulate their individual calls to hear themselves apart from their roost mates until they have sufficiently dispersed across the night sky. Bats are also known to modulate their calls when flying near or through dense vegetation like a stand of trees. These factors explain why species identification by call frequency range, while very useful, is not 100% reliable and must be augmented by more direct methods for definitive results.

Keith Chrystall

BOOK REVIEW

Dare to Bird, Exploring the Joy and Healing Power of Birds.



Photos and Text by Melissa Hafting.

This 240 page hard cover, well-illustrated book includes many photos taken by the author. Inspired by Melissa's mother and father who recently passed, and the grief she experiences.

Melissa is a dedicated birder and founder of B.C. Young Birders Program. Her claim, from a first hand point of view, is racism and exclusionary thinking and behaviour can discourage individuals and ethnic groups from taking part in birding and other environmentally related activities.

At first glance I thought it to be a good coffee table book and so recommended it to my local field naturalist group. Inspired by Sheila Puls, I took a closer look at it and read it thoroughly. It certainly has an attractive cover and beautiful photos but is a bit more than that.

Melissa, a young person, having experienced negativity, responds positively and uses her talents to inspire others. Her photos taken across Canada and beyond are of professional quality. She shares practical knowledge gained in the field related to climate change and how it affects even the construction of nest boxes. Some bird species that my dated bird book editions indicate as not present here have arrived.

Dare to Bird is not just a dry catalogue of avian species. Melissa shows she has the talent and drive to affect how we relate to the natural world. I'm sure others will take away something from this well conceived effort as I have. Picking it up might be an opportunity to look at the world through a brighter lens, or, as the saying goes, Walk a Mile in My Shoes. My wife found it at the Fraser Valley Regional Library Willowbrook after reading a review in the Vancouver Sun.

This book review is unsolicited by the author or publisher.

Gordie Wiens

PROGRAMMES

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2024

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

TACKLING THE ILLEGAL & UNSUSTAINABLE TRADE IN SONGBIRDS

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

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

SOME BEAUTIFUL BIRDS OF BRAZIL

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

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

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST

"THE DISASTROUS 2021 BC FLOODS"

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

MEMBERS' NIGHT

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

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



Web photo

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS, FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE, SEPTEMBER 2024 - DECEMBER 2024

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, SEPTEMBER 7TH FORSLUND WATSON PROPERTY

Leader: Ryan Usenik
Time: 9:00 am at 2705 - 232nd Street

Join Ryan as he leads us through this property which LFN co-manages with the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources and Rural Development and is part open fields with ponds and part woodland. Wear sturdy footwear as we will be walking in open fields and natural woodland trails. Note there is no washroom at this location.

E-mail jrusenik@telus.net to register.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

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

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

E-mail johngordonone@gmail.com to register.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH 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.

Note there is no washroom at this location.

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Leader: David Clements
Time: 9:00 am at the University,
22500 University Drive

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

E-mail clements@twu.ca to register.

and for instructions on where to park. Parking is \$5 for three hours.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17TH HOUSTON TRAIL, DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK.

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

Join Wim for a walk along the trails in this beautiful park with its mix of tree species and the Langley Bog along one side where waterfowl can be found. Don't forget your binoculars to scan the tall trees for

birds and enjoy the variety of plants, including mosses and lichens, that abound here. This is a walk of about 4.3 kms with some hills.

E-mail wimntineke@shaw.ca to register.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

GEORGE REIFEL BIRD SANCTUARY

Leaders: Anne Gosse & Joanne Rosenthal

Time: 9:00 am at the Sanctuary Gift Shop

Join Anne and Joanne 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 such as the Great Horned. Bring lunch and water. Small entrance fee (\$8.00) for non-members of BC Waterfowl Society. Bring an extra sweater and hat as 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). This is an easy walk of about 3 kms. E-mail corkie1@shaw.ca to register.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH

ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Keith Chrystall

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

Join Keith to walk the trails in this lovely park with its varied habitat from marsh to mixed forest to open grassland and a great variety of flora and fauna. This is a moderately difficult walk with uphill sections of about 3 kms.

E-mail keith.chrystall@shaw.ca to register.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH

SERPENTINE FEN

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Leader: Viveka Ohman

Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot at the Serpentine River bridge

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. This is an easy walk of about 3.5 kms.

Note there is no washroom at this location.

E-mail vohman@shaw.ca to register.

BRYDON LAGOON

Leader: John Gordon

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

Join John to walk around the lagoon where a variety of duck species come to spend the winter and see the restoration work being carried out by LEPS. This is an easy walk of about 2 kms.

Note there is no washroom at this location.

E-mail johngordonone@gmail.com to register.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

BLACKIE SPIT - CRESCENT BEACH

Leader: Perry Poulsen

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

Join Perry for a walk around this popular park where a variety of migrant and resident birds can be found in winter. It will be followed by a warm-up at a local coffee shop. This is an easy walk of about 3 kms.

E-mail pwpoulsen@gmail.com to register.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH