



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 2025

FAREWELL, ANNABEL GRIFFITHS

On Thursday August 28th the Langley Field Naturalists and St George's, Fort Langley, Anglican Church Women held a tea to wish Annabel well as she moves from Langley to Kanata, Ontario to be closer to her family.

Annabel and her husband Rhys joined LFN in 1997 and were very instrumental in revitalizing the club which almost disappeared. Rhys took on the job of President, Treasurer and Membership, and Annabel was Secretary. Annabel has always been a keen naturalist, Rhys considered himself an environmentalist. Both were very involved with BC Nature (Annabel was LFN's rep for several years) and were very active in all LFN work and events, and always welcomed people into their beautiful home on Brydon Lagoon. They were also both active in their church, supporting the planning and fundraising for the new Parish Centre, where Annabel's farewell tea was held.



Out in nature - her natural habitat.

Archive photo

When Rhys passed away in 2018, Annabel moved into Harrison Landing, missing her view of the Lagoon, but still able to watch the birds in the trees from her balconies. She remained as active as possible, and did attend the summer picnic this year.

Sadly, her health and mobility declined and it became obvious that she needed more support - so it was decided she should move closer to her son, Peter. Annabel, thank you for all you have done for LFN and BC Nature, and we wish you well in your transition to Ontario.

Sheila Puls



Annabel at the tea

Photo: Sheila Puls



Tea in the church hall

Photo: Sheila Puls

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is here along with community events! We are still looking for an LFN member to take on our display committee seat in our executive. This individual helps organize member volunteers to attend events like Forest Fest and Derby Reach Day, events that are so crucial for the LFN to build our membership!

If you are willing to throw your hat in the ring please contact me. We need someone adept with email, strong enough to ask for help, and willing to drive to drop off the display and brochures to fellow members or event locations. Hanging out at the parks for events is always invigorating BUT I have to say I am excited to take back the parks now that the kids are back to school, anyone else with me?

We can all agree that time in nature is never wasted. Breathing fresh air, soaking up vitamin D, bathing in green light, and listening to the wind all help with our mental well-being. But listening to the wind gets a little less enjoyable when the soundscape is also filled with shouting parents and crying kids in the summer. Not sure why the families are so stressed out in what should be a calming atmosphere?

The benefits of nature don't only come with a strenuous hike through the mountains. Nature helps by simply going outside with intention. Intention is key: taking time to submerge yourself. I highly recommend grabbing a chair and just sitting down with nature around you and mindfully listening to the sounds of nature. Or, stop on a walk, several times if you can, and really take a moment to perk up each of your senses with nature (this is often coupled with some pretty weird looks from my friends when I kindly suggest they shut up and enjoy the moment).

Our lives are full of mind-sucking technology and troubling news; taking a moment to reset ourselves helps us be ready to tackle whatever comes next. It would be great if we could add to our nature-energy fuelled army; we need more members out for events this fall to promote the LFN and make nature lovers out of more Langley-ites.

Enjoy the quieter parks!

Lisa Dreves



DIRECTORS

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NatureKids:	Anthea Farr nicomekl@naturekidsbc.ca
Member Participation:	Joanne Rosenthal jrrose77@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.

**2025/2026 DUES
ARE NOW DUE!**

SPARROW CREEK FARM

SATURDAY, MAY 31ST

Sparrow Creek Farm is located on the uplands of the Fraser River floodplain, just outside of Fort Langley. Sparrow Creek and the pond flow under Rawlison Crescent and into the Salmon River. The Cline family are Nature Stewards with the Fraser Valley Conservancy. They have worked together to restore habitat for the Pacific Tree Frog and the Red-legged Frog under a grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada. This has involved the removal of invasive plants and planting over 3,000 native shrubs and trees.

Four LFN members and six community members participated in the walk. One participant was a 6 week old baby in a carrier protected from the elements by Gortex.



Down at the pond

Photo: Roy Cline

The group headed South from the deck of the house to an area of a previous slope slide. There has been a tremendous regrowth of Red Alders and Balsam Poplar over the past 10 years since the slide. Earlier in the Spring, Ryan, Eric and Bob had placed a number of bird boxes throughout the property (8 Chickadee boxes, 3 Swallow boxes and a Wood Duck box). The trail South eventually leads to an unoccupied Barn Owl box. We are hoping for tenants! Turning North along the fence line, we were able to view the new planting on the slope above the creek. The Wood Duck box has been placed on the slope close to the creek. Ryan informed us it could be used by Wood Ducks or Hooded Mergansers. We followed the fence along the creek to the pond. Along the shore of the pond there was a lot of beaver activity evidence with large Willows, Crabapple, Maple and Saskatoon Berry bushes cut

down. The beaver was seen at 10:30.

Bird Viewings: 2 Gadwalls, 6 Mallards, 2 Black Swifts, 1 Northern Flicker, 3 Purple Martins, 3 Northern Rough-winged Swallows, 1 Bewick's Wren, 4 European Starlings, 1 Swainson's Thrush, 1 American Robin, 1 Song Sparrow, 3 Red-winged Blackbirds, 1 Brown-headed Cowbird, 3 Cedar Waxwings (courtesy of Cos Van Wermeskinen).

The team of walkers returned to the house deck in the wet and cold for conversation and coffee and snacks.

Roy Cline

GRANT NARROWS/ADDINGTON MARSH

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4TH

Four adventurers made up our international group. I'm from Sweden, Wim is Dutch, David is British and Fiona is from China.

Wim documented the sightings with his Merlin and we totalled 43 overall, with 3 of my additions which was pretty good as initially there just didn't seem to be that many birds around. We began our walk heading south on the Nature Trail for some 1.8 km (or 1.9) and in some areas there were about 4 depressions - tree wells, ankle twisters if you were weren't watching where you walked.

Along the way were several Yellow Warblers, Cedar Waxwings, Red-winged Blackbirds, Eastern Kingbirds and we heard Willow Flycatchers, all anticipated. Further on was a Catbird, robin sized and a close member of the mockingbird family but with a longer tail which appeared all dark in the shrubbery. It is so named because it sounds like a cat meowing and it is usually a skulker. Also confirmed on Merlin on our return walk were Turkey Vultures soaring on thermals, with upward tilted wings swaying back and forth. Initially the trail was well maintained but as we walked further on, up to almost 1 km, it became ingrown with bramble bushes.

At the viewing tower we saw Wood Duck, an American Coot, Mallards and Wigeons. There were Barn, Tree and Violet-green Swallows soaring about. On our return we heard and saw Orange-crowned Warblers and Common Yellowthroats. Then I thought I heard an American Redstart but dismissed it thinking it was a Yellow Warbler since that was what Merlin said. Our

numbers were adding up, with Bullock's Orioles cackling in the deciduous trees above us and Ravens heard and seen in the background. On our return to the parking lot, we had refreshments and lunch and a lively conversation about our different backgrounds, current events and birds in the area.



Osprey

Photo: Viveka Ohman

It was a most enjoyable group and thanks to Wim for his documentation which he does with so much ease. I tried but my phone dropped to 37% on the return so I shut it off. Now that I understand it more, Merlin is really handy to confirm songs and mark your route. I've made a list of the 43 birds' images. I managed to get a glimpse of an immature female American Redstart; at first I dismissed it but then when I got home and read about it in a Warblers of North America Guide, that helped to confirm its ID. It wasn't picked up by Merlin because Yellow Warblers sound so similar.

Following is a complete list of the birds seen in the area: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, American Wigeon, Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Rufous Hummingbird, Northern Flicker, Warbling Vireo, Common Raven, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Barn Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Eastern Kingbird, Willow Flycatcher, Hammond's Flycatcher, Marsh and Bewick's Wrens, American Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Red-winged Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Dark-eyed Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, House Finch, Purple Finch and American Goldfinch.

Viveka Ohman

DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18TH



Tent Caterpillar

Photo: Ted Goshulak

Only minutes after we left the Heritage Area parking lot, the rain descended. The ten of us walked for approximately 30 minutes. We saw a Tent Caterpillar but the highlight was our observation of a Spotted Sandpiper on logs on the edge of the Fraser River. At that point we decided to turn around and head back to the parking lot as the rain continued, a short but stimulating walk.

Thanks to Eric Habisch for creating the eBird checklist.



Spotted Sandpiper

Photo: Eric Habisch

Ted Goshulak

MILASTER PASSIVE PARK SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH

Seven walk participants gathered at Milaster Passive Park on an overcast morning. Birds could be heard and a few seen but with the cloudy skies no butterflies or dragonflies were flying about yet. The attention then went to the creatures of the forest floor for the better part of the walk.

The group was made up of some keen eyes to find lots of slugs, snails and millipedes moving about and under the debris of the trails we were meandering along, notably Pacific Banana Slugs, Pacific Sideband and the endangered Oregon Forest Snail. Yellow-spotted Millipedes were found frequently, along with a critically imperilled Flat-backed

Millipede, the ID of which was confirmed in iNaturalist later.



Oregon Forest Snail

Photo: Eric Habisch

As we were heading back to our vehicles, the sun was breaking through the clouds and the temperature was warming up. With this change, we were fortunate enough to see Margined White, Western Tiger Swallowtail and a Satyr Comma butterfly before the walk was over. We had 19 species for our eBird list which was a good number for this walk.

Of note: this walk made it into the Langley Advance Times and here is the link to the write-up. <https://www.langleyadvancetimes.com/local-news/langley-field-naturalists-tour-little-known-parkland-8130651>

Eric Habisch

E.C. MANNING PROVINCIAL PARK THURSDAY, JULY 3RD



Cascade Ground Squirrel

Photo: Wim Vesseur

I drove with Joanne and Nora to the lodge in Manning Park where we met Ted and Jenny. On our

way up to Blackwall Peak, we already noticed wildflowers in the berm and at the first lookout we saw several Cascade Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels and Yellow-pine Chipmunks. We also noticed Ravens and Canada Jays. Just before the gate, we parked above the Dry Ridge trail and walked back along the road. There is a wet spot there, a mini-wetland where there are usually interesting flowers, and insects attracted to them. We found several flowers such as White Bog Orchid, Alaska Rein Orchid, Elephants-head Lousewort and others. In the meanwhile, we heard birds around us such as Townsend's and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Several deer were seen, as well as a Snowshoe Hare.



White Bog Orchid

Photo: Wim Vesseur

At Blackwall Peak we met a naturalist who was leading a walk, so we went along for a bit and learned there is one single Larch tree in the area. As the group was fairly large we decided to move on and do our own walk. The usual Hermit Thrushes showed up, but we did not find any Grouse which is unusual. There were high numbers of Pine Siskins, some Mountain Chickadees and Cassin's Finches as well as Warbling Vireo. Lots of flowers such as Dwarf Blueberry and Partridge Foot, as well as seed heads of the Western Anemone.

Instead of the planned Strawberry Flats, I suggested Lightning Lake as it would be somewhat cooler close to the water. When we parked and got out of the car, we immediately were greeted by Evening Grosbeaks which were feeding in the shade close to the steps to a washroom. It was very busy on the lake with people swimming and boating. The waterbirds were still there and lots had successfully raised some young, including Barrow's Goldeneye and lots of Canada Geese. Other birds we saw were Spotted

Sandpiper, Common Loon, Belted Kingfisher, Varied Thrush, Turkey Vulture and many other species. In addition we saw White-flowered Rhododendrons and other wildflowers, as well as many insects including lots of bluets.



Edible Thistle

Photo: Wim Vesseur

Ted and Jenny went home and the rest of us went to the lodge for a bite and a bit of electrical charge for the car to make it home. A very enjoyable day.

Wim Vesseur

ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK WEDNESDAY, JULY 9TH

"Night of the Gastropods" might be an appropriate way to describe our evening at Aldergrove Park. The rain early in the day gave way to clearing skies and the moist conditions on the trails provided ideal circumstances for slimy creatures to explore their world. We noted large numbers of Arion (Black) slugs, a variety of land snails and a couple of specimens of Leopard (Great Grey) slugs. A few specimens of the indigenous Banana slug were also oozing their way across the trail at one spot.

Collectively we observed 20 bird species, at least 70 individuals, either visually or with the aid of bird song recognition software. These included Swainson's Thrush, Common Yellowthroat, Black-headed Grosbeak, Brown Creeper and Western Wood-Pewee. For several minutes we watched a group of Cedar Waxwings hopping around a large cluster of cattails along the Nature Discovery Loop. Their behaviour was similar to the way Red-winged Blackbirds move around the cattails. It was interesting to watch since Cedar Waxwings are

usually quite skittish around people.



Juvenile Barred Owl

Photo: Wim Vesseur

Just as we were concluding our walk and heading to the parking lot, we were lucky enough to spot a Barred Owl perched on a post beside the trail. Typical of these birds, the owl wasn't that bothered by a large group of humans stopping nearby for an inspection. This tolerance of humans is one of the reasons the Barred Owl has been so successful as a species, extending its range across much of North America over the past century or more from their original range along the eastern coast. We believed this individual was a juvenile that was fledging because it occasionally screeched in a way that suggested a call to parents to bring food. There's always something magical about seeing an owl in the wild, however briefly. It was a great way to end our walk for the evening.

Keith Chrystall

DERBY BOG WEDNESDAY, JULY 16TH AND SATURDAY, AUGUST 23RD

I led two walks in Derby Bog (aka Langley Peatlands) this summer. The second walk was added when the first filled up, leaving some bog-enthusiasts unable to get their bog introduction or bog fix. We had 13 attendees on the first walk and 12 on the second. Many were non-members who heard about the first walk through the local newspaper (what do you call a newspaper that is not printed on paper?). Others were relatively new members and still others were welcome faces from a previous bog walk who brought along another family member for bog-indoctrination. And for each walk we had visitors from afar, one from 108 Ranch near 100 Mile House on the first walk and another from Suzuka, Japan on the second walk. Bog-love is spreading fast and far*.

For each walk participants were enveloped in an uncomfortable mass of warm air and as a result most of the introduction to the history and ecology of the bog was presented in the cooler forest adjacent to open bog. By the time we entered the bog through a partially overgrown trail on uneven ground, with tripping hazards (Trailing Blackberry), laceration hazards (Himalayan Blackberry) and stinging hazards (Stinging Nettle), the sun had dipped, the invasive trees of the degraded bog (Hemlock, Birch) had cast their ominous shadows across the sawdust road, providing relief to participants and a reminder of the difficulties ahead for bog restoration.

Participants on both walks were shown various non-native and native plants, including Blueberries and Cranberries and, during the second walk, were treated to the enchanting calls of Sandhill Cranes and the aerial maneuvers and "peent" calls of Common Nighthawks darting high above (who needs the Abbotsford Airshow!). Largely absent in our area during the breeding season, the Nighthawks gather in groups to feed in open areas such as the Derby Bog en route to their South American wintering grounds from interior and northern parts of BC and beyond.



Sphagnum moss

Web photo

During the first walk, Eric Habisch spoke enthusiastically about his inventory of butterflies in the bog where he and Anthea Farr have discovered some unusual species for the area. Bogs typically support a relatively low diversity of plants and animals, but many of these are restricted to these wetlands, having adapted to the open, wet, acidic and nutrient-poor environment that characterizes bogs. Derby Bog is indeed a special place and a "window", albeit broken, into distant ecosystems such as those of boreal Canada and those of the large, ecologically intact, pristine Derby Bog of 150

years ago. Long before the arrival of European settlers (who did not settle gently upon the place or among its peoples), the bog occupied about 530 ha, 400 ha more than the current remnant bog that consists of 80 ha of degraded, mined bog and 28 ha of remnant forested bog.

The 22 years spanning 1958 to 1980 saw the destruction and degradation of what remained of the bog at that point, with the removal of the upper layers of *Sphagnum* moss and *Sphagnum* peat (slowly decomposing *Sphagnum* moss), capping and halving the *Sphagnum* (stored carbon) that had accumulated over the past 3,500 years. If wars, greed and further ecological destruction of peatlands continue in Canada, Russia and throughout the world, climate change may well prevent this bog's restoration and see that bogs throughout the world become as rare and isolated as the plants within them.

But, to end on a bit of positivity, I enjoyed the walks and the participants seemed to also. What matters most, I think, is that participants gained an appreciation for these wonderful, threatened, ecosystems and that a seed/spore** was planted to influence how they view the world around them.

Thank you to Janice Jarvis and the Metro Vancouver East staff for providing a permit to visit the site and for ensuring safe checking in and checking out of the site.

*The recent history of Derby Bog-love dates back about 25 years when Ted Goshaluk, Leslie Douglas, Larry and Sharon Meneely and I, self-confessed bogophiles and all then members of the Derby Reach Brae Island Park Partners Association (DRBIPPA), formed the Bog Committee, the role of which was to help educate and enthuse other members of DRBIPPA and the public on the wonders of the bog and to help advise Metro Vancouver in managing for its future and its preservation. Leslie Douglas had produced an ecological report for Metro Vancouver and enlisted the help of LFN's own Glenn Ryder and invited Dr. Karen Golinski (B.C.'s and UBC's *Sphagnum* expert and international authority) out for a day to provide the first inventory of *Sphagnum* species for the bog.

***Sphagnum* moss produces spores that germinate into new plants.

Phil Henderson

ANNUAL PICNIC THURSDAY, JULY 17TH

26 Members attended the Annual Picnic in Campbell Valley Park in our usual spot that was in shade for the whole time. We started with a small group and more members gradually appeared; we all settled into our chairs arranged in a circle to chat and eat packed lunches. It was a pleasure to see some new members and also Annabel Griffiths, a life member who has since relocated to Ottawa to be near her son, Peter.

After lunch, some had to leave early but the rest of us circulated and caught up with others they had not seen in a while. By two o'clock we had all said our goodbyes and best wishes for the summer break.

Gareth Pugh

LATIMER PARK DRAGONFLY WALK WEDNESDAY, JULY 30TH



Merlin with dragonfly

Photo: Eric Habisch

What a great turnout of 19 participants on a warm sunny morning to try and see as many Dragonflies and Damselflies at this local park as we could. The conditions were perfect for this lakeside activity. After having an overview look of the park from one of the newly constructed viewing platforms, we made our way to a shoreline access area. Once there, everyone was encouraged to spread out and see all the different odonates that could be seen flying, perching or landing on the ground around us.

In the air we saw the largest dragonfly in our area, the Common Green Darner.



Eight-spotted Skimmer

Photo: Colin O'Byrne

Other flyers were Blue-eyed Darner, Western Pondhawk, Four-spotted Skimmer and Blue Dasher. The last three would also give us closer looks as they perched on nearby branches or vegetation. On the ground, if one looked carefully, were Bluet Damselflies resting and moving off once one of the walkers came too close. In another pond in a forested part of the park, part of the group was able to see a couple of vibrant red Cardinal Meadowhawks; one provided time to take a few photographs.

We did see a Muskrat swimming about in the lake which was not particularly bothered by our presence. Pumpkinseed fish could be seen in the shallows as well. We recorded 14 species for our eBird list on the day. Of those, the Merlin we observed captured a dragonfly, one of its favourite meals.

Eric Habisch

MCLEAN POND WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6TH

Our evening walk started on the Fernridge Trail off 206th Street just north of 20th Ave. We found where McLean Pond is located on the 2016 Township of Langley Watercourse Classification map. McLean Pond is part of Campbell Valley Regional Park and is a red status waterway which is fish-bearing all year. The history of the area was mentioned. Homesteaders with quarter sections occupied the area before the Region started plans to acquire land for regional parks in the 1960's. The McLean Pond area, which included the scout camp, was one of the first areas acquired. The City of Vancouver also signed a lease in 1972 for a Tree Nursery on the east side of McLean Pond, which provided trees that

now line many streets in Vancouver. The full article documenting the park's history can be found under [MetroVancouver.org/Regional Parks](https://MetroVancouver.org/RegionalParks) and then in the search bar, Campbell Valley Regional Park Cultural Heritage Overview.

Our walk proceeded west along 20th Avenue to the trail entrance on the south side of the road and then along a wide path into a lovely mixed forest. The trail went south to the edge of the pond and across the top of the earthen dam. Apparently, the dam was constructed by the City of Vancouver to supply water for the Tree Nursery that existed east of the pond until about five years ago. We proceeded south, parallel to the Little Campbell River, just above 16th Avenue, where we snacked on ripe blackberries. As we headed north to circle back to the forest, several walkers sighted birds flying above and in the tops of trees overlooking McLean Pond. Wim entered our bird sightings into eBird. The sightings were: Wood Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Flicker, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow and Spotted Towhee.

Nora Truman

BLAAUW ECO FOREST WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13TH



The walking group

Photo: Ted Goshulak

On a warm Wednesday evening in August, nine members of the LFN walked through the Blaauw Eco Forest, just east of Fort Langley. Of the nine, three had not previously visited the forest. We were fortunate to have Dr. David Clements, TWU biology faculty member, along for the walk, as he is the primary person overseeing the work being done in the forest.



Tansy and Common Eastern Bumble Bee

Photo: Ted Goshulak

The original 35-acre forest has now been enlarged to include an additional 10 acres (and in 2030 an additional 5 acres). The new portion has previously been used by the Township of Langley for gravel extraction and soil depositing, which will mean remediation and restoration to come in the years ahead.

The group took a brief walk into the new 10-acre allotment as well as walking the forest's trails. Highlights included the observation of the variety of tree species found in the forest, as well as discussions concerning the future of the small bog in one corner of the property. With a dearth of mosquitoes and other insects and a reprieve from the day's heat, this was an enjoyable walk.



Northern Redbelt

Photo: Ted Goshulak

For anyone who is interested here is the link to the 2024 Research Report.

Blaauw Eco Forest Final Report 2024_Agraves.docx - Google Docs

Ted Goshulak

SOUTH LANGLEY BAT WALK

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20TH



Going Bats

Tineke Goebertus

We were fortunate to be able to return to the south Langley location where the owner again kindly allowed us to view the evening departure of bats from what is believed to be a maternal roost. It was a beautiful summer evening, warm and sunny with virtually no wind.

These were ideal conditions for observing bats. Twenty volunteers counted 83 bats leaving the roost between a few minutes before and approximately 30 minutes after sunset which occurred at 8:16 PM. This was a significantly smaller number of bats than had been counted at the same location in 2024. One reason for the decline in numbers may be that we were two weeks later in the month this year as compared to 2024 as bats are thought to begin dispersing from their maternal roosts at this time of year (August).

Using Echometers we identified the following bat species through analysis of their echolocation calls:

Little Brown Myotis	Long-legged Myotis
Yuma Myotis	Hoary Bat
Big Brown Bat	Silver-Haired Bat

The identification of the larger bat species (Hoary, Big Brown and Silver-Haired) was another difference from what we had observed in 2024. Many members of our group noted that there were bats of two different sizes leaving the roost. It was fascinating to see the differences in body size and how the larger bats had a visibly slower wing beat compared to the smaller specimens. Although it is known that some of the smaller bat species will co-habit the same maternal roost, such behaviour is perhaps more unusual involving one of the larger bat species.

Keith Chrystall

PROGRAMMES

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2025

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

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 has been 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 generated 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.

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS, FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE, SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 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, 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 lots of birds 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. It 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 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 pwpoulsen@gmail.com to register.**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH JACKMAN WETLANDS PARK

Leader: Gareth Pugh
Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot at 272nd Street at 10th Avenue across from the Transfer Station

Join Gareth to walk the trails of 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 and LFN helped with the restoration tree planting that was done. The ponds are home to wintering ducks and beavers can be seen there.

E-mail gareth@intergate.ca to register.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH WILLIAMS PARK

Leader: Anne Gosse
Time: 9:00 am in the gravel parking lot at the park entrance, 6595 - 238th Street

Join Anne for a walk around this rural park with open spaces, forested areas and the river trail along the banks of the Salmon River. Williams Park has

been described as a "hidden gem" and is located in part of the Salmon River Watershed. There is a picnic shelter, washrooms and one trail is Handicap accessible. Meet in the gravel parking lot at the entrance to the park. Bring water and a snack to enjoy after the walk.

E-mail corkie1@shaw.ca to register.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

A ROCHA BROOKSDALE AND ADJOINING FOREST/WETLAND

Leaders: Ted Goshulak and Steven Esau (A Rocha staff member)

Time: 8:00 am at A Rocha Brooksdale, 1620 - 192nd Street, S. Surrey (NOTE: time)

Join Ted and Steven to walk the trails in this forest, which is adjacent to Stokes Pit and has been the centre of controversy over the past few years as attempts have been made to turn it into an industrial estate. It is owned by the City of Surrey and one edge includes an area of restored salmon habitat. Parts of the walk include some hills and uneven paths. The walk is around 2 km in length.

After the walk there will be an opportunity for a guided walk around the A Rocha Brooksdale site.

Email tgosh@twu.ca to register.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

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.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

BRYDON LAGOON

Leader: Wim Vesseur

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. See the restoration work being carried out by LEPS. This is an easy walk of about 2 kms.

Please note there is not a washroom at this site.

E-mail wimntineke@shaw.ca to register.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

GLOUCESTER ESTATES, WEST CREEK HEADWATERS WETLANDS

Leader: Ted Lightfoot

Time: 9:00 am at 5458 - 272nd Street, Aldergrove

Join Ted for a walk around this important wetland where salmon spawn, beavers build their dams and a variety of birds live and breed. Ted will show us the beaver dams and explain how they create such a valuable habitat in the midst of an industrial development. Dress warmly, bring a lunch and a warm drink. This walk is about 2 kms on a level trail.

e-mail tlightfoot@shaw.ca to register.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH

HOUSTON TRAIL, DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK, NATURE BEYOND NAMES.

Leader: Phil Henderson

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

We humans spend a lot of time naming things, then changing those names until we are happy, at least some of us, if only temporarily. Naming and labeling are necessary for us to keep track and sort things out. On this walk, we won't abandon names and categories (raven, bird; fern, plant) but we will try to view nature as a whole, then possibly deconstruct, bringing names into the picture to help us understand and make sense of things. The process of figuring things, such as how organisms fit into their environment and interact with one another, may be more important than figuring things out, because chances are we won't; what we think we've figured out may be entirely speculative and quite possibly, wrong. Bring your eyes, ears, nostrils, and ideas, however wild and speculative, to the Houston Loop parking lot and trailhead, rain or shine.

E-mail strix@uniserve.com to register.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH
SERPENTINE FEN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
AREA

Leader: Viveka Ohman
Time: 10:00 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. Please note there is not a washroom at this site.

E-mail vohman@shaw.ca **to register.**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
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.**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH
BLACKIE SPIT, CRESCENT BEACH

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

Join Keith 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. This is an easy walk of about 3 kms and a great opportunity to brush up on your duck identification skills.

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH
MEMBER'S NIGHT
and
CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

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.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

White Rock/Surrey/Langley
Saturday, December 27th
Contact: cbcwhiterock@gmail.com

Pitt Meadows/North Langley/North Surrey
Saturday, January 3rd 2026
Contact: jayes@shaw.ca

Abbotsford
Tuesday December 30th
Contact: lynnmelvinmiller@hotmail.com

