



Fall General Meeting and Conference

“Salmon & Shorebirds
Incredible Journey”

September 25 - 28, 2014



Salmon Arm, BC - Host Club: Shuswap Naturalists

Photographs: Cover Photographs - C. Bryson

BC Nature (Federation of British Columbia Naturalists)

Fall General Meeting, September 27, 2014

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Report on BC Nature Activities

President's Report FGM 2013

Kees Visser

Time flies, and we after a very successful AGM conference in Victoria, we are already getting ready for our Fall General Meeting in Salmon Arm. Last I heard, there were already 110 members registered, and I suspect by September 25 that we will have close to 150 registrations.

On the topic of General Meetings, we are having a hard time finding hosts for future conferences, especially for the FGM in 2015 and AGM in 2016. Some clubs bear the brunt in organizing these events, but on the other hand they will tell you that it is very good experience and financially rewarding. It will give our members, the majority coming from the Lower Mainland and Victoria, the opportunity to experience nature of other parts of British Columbia. I feel that the Northern Region and northern Vancouver Island would certainly be good locations for one of our next conferences.

We are also looking for a new Vice-President, so please contact myself or John Neville, if you would like to volunteer for this important job.

The last few months I have been very busy with a variety of items, mainly on the financial and conservation/legal front. There are so many initiatives and activities where BC Nature is involved in that we should be thankful to all the volunteers who are working on these initiatives.

On the Conservation front, Rosemary Fox and her committee drafted a number of letters of concern to the Government. Under the Conservation report in the Fall issue of *BCnature* Rosemary Fox will have a detailed report on all the issues we are currently facing.

On July 14, the Environmental Law Centre(ELC)formally filed a lawsuit, on behalf of BC Nature. This filing was to request the Federal Court of Appeal commence an application declaring the Cabinet's June 17, 2014 decision to approve the Northern Gateway Pipeline invalid. ELC's argument that the fundamental flaws in the Joint Review Panel's report deprive Cabinet of the legal authority to make a final decision on the project. BC Nature received a great deal of positive media attention as a result of the press release issued by ELC on our behalf, and we have received favourable public feedback for our actions. Regarding Kinder Morgan, BC Nature has intervener status and at present Kinder Morgan is answering information requests from all the interveners, to date, these replies have been inadequate. In the mean time the Federal Government has stopped funding our experts. Nature Canada is handling this issue on our behalf.

We are also opposing the extension on Roberts Bank, Trevor Jones is working hard on this file and Kinder Morgan, Elaine Golds is working on this file.

Over the last few months we have established a large Education Committee, chaired by Margaret Cuthbert. The Committee completed the evaluation of the Rene Savenye Scholarship students on July 15. Our successful candidate is Jeremiah Kennedy and he has been invited him to the FGM in Salmon Arm. In addition, the executive have decided to double our support to the Science Fair Foundation, and in addition to Junior Awards (Grade 7 to 9) we will now also offer Senior Awards from Grades 10 to 12.

On the Communication front, we have now Twitter and Facebook accounts and we are also working on a Social Media Strategy and Policy.

In June/July we reached out to the membership to assist with our next Strategic Plan, 2015 – 2020, and we had a good response rate of approximately 18%. Thanks to all of you who responded. Just before the FGM in Salmon Arm, we will have an Executive retreat to decide how to proceed with the plan so we may have a useful and workable plan to present to you at the AGM, May 2015.

My thanks to everyone who has submitted a report to this year's FGM. ✂

BC Naturalist Foundation
Bev Ramey

You will have noticed this fall that the joint Foundation-Federation Annual Appeal arrived in your mail box in a different format. Rather than a separate large mailing envelope with inserts, including the Foundation Annual Report and return mailing envelope, the format of the Annual Appeal has been reduced, to cut costs. The Appeal Letter is the centre spread of the magazine, so we trust that has caught your attention and that you will give generously. The Foundation's Annual Report is available online on the BC Naturalists' Foundation page on BC Nature's website

<http://www.bcnature.ca/bc-naturalists-foundation/> OR, if you would like a printed copy, contact the BC Nature office at 604 985-3057. Printed copies are also available on the Foundation's display table at the FGM.

The Foundation greatly appreciates the many generous individuals who have made donations this past year and who have named the Foundation in their will or other form of planned giving. All contributions to the Foundation are invested in its capital, and only the investment earnings are used to fund naturalists' projects. Annual grants have been steadily increasing -- \$10,000 was awarded early in 2014. Since its formation 23 years ago, the Foundation has provided \$135,000 in grants to BC Nature and its member clubs for conservation and education projects.

The Foundation's AGM and Directors meetings took place May 2, 2014. The annual financial statements for year end 2013 show another good year for the Foundation. The Foundation received bequests totaling \$1,000 and donations of \$4,000. The Foundation's capital generated earnings of \$13,698. Year-end net assets are \$285,070 (compare with 2012 - \$236,388), plus the Foundation holds an additional \$193,340 in contributed principal with the Vancouver Foundation, with a fair market value of \$200,459 (compare with 2012 - \$180,485).

The goal for 2015 is to reach half a million dollars in invested capital -- this will mark a major milestone for the Foundation's capital. Please help us achieve this goal!

If your club is interested in applying for a Club Support Grant, the deadline to submit your application is January 31st. Contact the BC Nature Office Manager for further details, or the application form can be found on the Foundation's page on the BC Nature website.

If you have any questions regarding the Foundation, or if you would like printed copies of the Foundation's Annual Report, please contact Bev Ramey 604 224-7689, bevramey@telus.net

Foundation Board of Directors 2014

President – Bev Ramey

Vice-President – John Neville

Treasurer – Elisa Kreller

Secretary – Janet Pattinson

Directors-at-Large: Tom Bearss, Bob Handfield, Heather Neville, Dick Stace-Smith, Kees Visser, Frances Vyse, and Pat Westheuser ☞

Breeding Bird Atlas Anne Murray

After five years of data collection by a vast team of birding volunteers, the BC Breeding Bird Atlas is well into the data analysis and pre-publication stage. This stage is taking longer than expected, due in part to the innovative methods of analysis and mapping which are being evolved by the team at Bird Studies Canada, Ontario. Meanwhile, authors for each of the over three hundred species being covered are drafting their accounts and the Steering Committee is meeting regularly to discuss funding and publication.

The original intention of the BC Atlas team was to produce a printed book with the maps and species accounts. However, we are now planning on putting all the material freely online on the Bird Studies Canada website. This will allow each species to be fully covered with descriptive notes, information on status within the province, and maps showing the distribution and probability of observation. We are hoping that the ease of access and availability of enhanced features, such as cross reference links, will satisfy all those eagerly awaiting the first BC Breeding Bird Atlas.

A number of factors proved intractable in moving forward with a printed book. Sadly, books are no longer so much in demand as just a few years ago (although many of us still love them). We have not been able to generate interest from our funders, either government or corporate, in funding a printed version of the Atlas (and a French version, as required under Environment Canada funding regulations).

It is only with great tenacity by staff that funds have been found to cover salaries for data analysis and mapping work. Publishing books is an expensive proposition and we needed to be sure of purchasers prior to commitment to that process. The Steering Committee therefore initiated a widespread survey of atlasers, partners and other interested parties to see if they were interested in paying \$100 to \$150 for a book. The results showed insufficient numbers committed to purchasing a book at this price range for it to be viable. This will be a disappointment for some atlasers and BC Nature members, and we continue to consider options.

We are confident that the online Atlas will be a very high-quality product, well-used and enjoyed by many birdwatchers, scientists and the general public. The authors are currently completing their accounts, maps are being checked for accuracy and the general editing process will soon be underway. We hope to have many species completed by year end. ☞

BC Nature Camp Report Betty Davison

We had three very successful camps in 2014! All three camps were well attended and for the most part, the weather cooperated to allow all the participants to enjoy Nature to the fullest.

Tofino Camp, 2014: This west coast, marine-themed camp was host to 24 eager participants. They were treated to rare sightings of our Pacific Wolf, sightings of a variety of birds and mammals and interesting speakers and outings. Home base was the Ecolodge in Tofino and the location of the lodge and weather allowed for many great outdoor outings. This is the second year for this successful camp and the bookings for accommodation and outings are in the works for this camp in 2015. Seventy six species of bird and 12 species of mammals were just some of the highlights for the participants. Fascinating presentations from biologists and Pacific Rim Park Wardens was also part of the events on this full itinerary. For a complete recap of this camp, see the Fall Magazine.

Nicola Valley Camp 2014 - Hosted by the Nicola Valley Naturalists at the historic Nicola Ranch. This camp was also a quick sell out with 24 naturalists from all over BC. The emphasis at this camp was on the threatened grasslands and wetlands in the Nicola Valley. Birding yielded 107 species and a lot of fun was had during "frogging" (both day and night). All of the outings were accompanied by many of the guest speakers and Nicola Valley Naturalists making this a very educational camp on wetlands and grasslands. A full report on this camp is in the Fall 2014, issue of BCnature.

Wells Gray Camp 2014 - Hosted by Kamloops Naturalists, was based out of the very scenic Wells Gray park. This was a large camp with 26 participants in the "camp" portion and another 10 participants in the "hut-to-hut" trek. Glowing reports from many of the naturalists that attended the camp were forwarded to the office and all of the trek surveys returned were marked as five out of five in all areas. Great botany, birdwatching, nature viewing and history were enjoyed by all in both parts of this successful camp.

Planned camps for 2015 include another Tofino Camp and a Tatlayoko Lake Valley Camp. Another popular camp in the planning stage is "Fraser Canyon" camp which will probably occur in Spring of 2016.

Thinking of hosting a camp? Camp hosting is very rewarding for both your club and BC Nature. Please call Betty Davison at the BC Nature office - 604-985-3057, we have the updated camp book available to assist you in setting up a camp. ☞

Communications Report Penney Edwards

The committee wishes to extend a major "thank you" to our Summer Student, Shanna Sinclair, who has just started her second year at the BC Institute of Technology in the Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Diploma program. As well as running the day-to-day operation of the BC Nature office, Shanna edited and distributed E-News. She also has the expertise and interest in setting up BC Nature's Facebook and Twitter accounts. There will be more on those new communications media in the Winter issue of BC Nature. Speaking of the magazine, please take time to read Shanna's article in the Fall issue about her summer experiences .

At the request of the Chair, Shanna prepared a most helpful Social Media Analysis and Recommendation document, well received by the Communications Committee. We will be adopting a number of Shanna's recommendations, including having an "account manager" to post material and monitor feedback. The social media (Facebook and Twitter) will, we hope, encourage a wider, possibly younger, audience to the BC Nature website and involvement with our member clubs.

The Fall issue is a somewhat special one. Instead of receiving information about the Annual Appeal for Donations for BC Nature and BC Nature Foundation's as separate items in your mailbox, it will be within the current issue of BC Nature. This distribution method not only saves the organization the cost of extra postage but also helps to ensure that the materials don't get lost in the pile of paperwork that seems to grow in our homes. We also save on the cost of printing 4000 extra outside envelopes and 4000 self-addressed envelopes and postage for the extra weight we would have had with the extra envelopes. The BC Naturalists Foundation will be available online versus being printed as an enclosure in the magazine. These financial savings translate to more monies available to our clubs and their projects! We hope you like the new format and are able to continue your generosity for both BC Nature and BC Naturalists Foundation.

Work continues this fall on the Nature Viewing Guides, found on our website. Please check frequently for that and other news and information. ☞

Conservation Report Rosemary Fox & Members of the Conservation Committee

Because of the magnitude of the Mount Polley tailings dam disaster in August, it is the focus of my conservation report this Fall. It is based on a report by Sean Holman in the independent on-line magazine, The Tyee.

Mt. Polley Debacle: British Columbians barred from records freely available in the US to help avert disasters.

While British Columbia is one of Canada's largest mineral producers, compared to the US we here have very little information on the safety and regulation of mining. This means that we have very little power to stop mining problems before they become mining disasters.

Last month's breach of the tailings dam at the Mount Polley mine near Quesnel has raised questions about safety at other mines in the province. In response to a request from Vancouver Sun reporter Gordon Hoekstra, the BC government released details on 49 "dangerous or unusual occurrences" that were recorded as happening at tailing ponds in British Columbia between 2000 and 2012.

Earlier, it also released a summary of inspections at the Mount Polley mine. However, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Energy and Mines confirmed the government "does not generally publicly post mine inspection reports or related information, including the dates on which they were conducted. "The reason: such reports, which can be obtained via the province's sometimes-lengthy and often frustrating freedom of information request process, "need to be reviewed for any personal and financial information before they can be released."

The government also has not released details on the "dangerous or unusual occurrences" that were recorded as happening at mining locations other than tailing ponds between 2001 and 2012. Those occurrences, according to aggregate statistics released as part of the chief inspector of mines' annual report, include 1,173 incidents at pits, 287 incidents at plants or mills, and 178 incidents at maintenance shops.

When asked whether the province discloses any other information about health, safety and environmental violations at mines in British Columbia, a ministry spokesperson stated the government does post overviews of significant spills of oil or hazardous material. "From time to time, and as appropriate" it may post hazard alerts about incidents at mines "when relevant on a broader scale."

The federal governments also maintain databases listing some of their environmental offenders. But both have major limitations. For example, the provincial database does not include those who have violated British Columbia's Mines Act. And the federal database, which has just 78 entries, only includes convictions of corporations obtained via court proceedings. It does not include tickets, warning letters or compliance orders issued to them. Imperial Metals doesn't show up in either database.

In contrast to the situation in BC, information about mines in the United States is much more easily available to the American public. There, the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration has a database that includes statistics and reports about past and present health and safety accidents, inspections and violations at individual mines. And the Environmental Protection Agency has a similar database detailing environmental inspections and violations at those operations.

That means Americans, with just a few keystrokes, can find out there were four injuries at Imperial Metals' Sterling Mining in Nevada between 2012 and 2014, including a "serious abrasion to thumb," a "tibia fracture" and a head laceration. They also can find out there have been six health and safety inspections at that mine so far this year, during which 13 violations of the Mine Act were cited with penalties and proposed penalties totaling \$4,764. And they can find out that the last Resource Conservation and Recovery Act inspection of Toronto-based Barrick Gold Corp.'s Goldstrike Mine, which is also located in Nevada, took place on May 14 and that the operation is currently listed as being in "significant violation" of that legislation.

There is absolutely no reason why British Columbians should not be similarly informed about our own mines. Without such information it is impossible for us to know how safe our mines are -- and whether officials are doing enough to keep those operations safe. ✂

Education Report Margaret Cuthbert

The Education Committee, over the summer, has been very busy working on a number administrative and programs tasks.

Achievements of note:

1. The development and approval of the Terms of Reference for the new Education Committee.
2. The evaluation and selection of the 2014 BC Nature Rene Savenye Scholarship recipient (please see the article in the Fall Magazine) and an increase in the scholarship award from \$1,000 to \$1,500 due to the high costs of postsecondary fees.

3. The review of BC Nature's role in BC Science Fairs and the changes implemented are:
 - a) A criteria change for the BC Nature Award, the award now has an emphasis on outdoor projects. Grade 6 to 8 - \$75 and Grade 9 – 12 - \$75; to be awarded at each British Columbia Regional Science Fair to the best natural history project done by a student(s) This includes studies of any aspect of natural history, conservation of natural habitats and/or natural species. An outdoor, nature monitoring or conservation project is strongly encouraged. Check out www.bcnature.ca;
 - b) As in (a) two awards rather than one have been approved for different grades to reach a greater population of youth;
 - c) The development of a BC Nature Science Fair awards promotional flyer that the Science Fair Foundation will send out to school districts and teachers for all Regional Science Fairs. Promotional materials will be used by the Volunteer organizing committees to promote and advertise the Provincial Awards to their teachers, students and educational community, for solicitation of judges, for community support for fundraising and for general awareness within the community. Also, these promotional materials will be included in the September mailing to each of the 500 BC schools along with the general booklet about Science Fairs – which acknowledges the Provincial Award sponsors and recipients;
 - d) The launching of the 'Naturalists as Mentors' program - since we in BC Nature highly value outdoor education and most teachers haven't time to work with students outside the classroom (thus numerous projects are from the internet), that our BC Nature members consider participating in their Regional Science Fairs as judges but to also consider being involved with one or more students and their teacher as Science Project Naturalist Mentors. Our naturalist members have a tremendous knowledge to share and a desire to see youth in nature; this is an opportunity for those youth to participate with a naturalist and/or a member club to conduct outdoor citizen science, surveys etc. This is also an opportunity to engage more youth to know their local club and BC Nature; and
 - e) Note that four of the twelve students that received this year's BC Nature Award went on to the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Windsor, Ontario where they received 2 silver and 1 bronze medal for their outstanding work. Our support makes a difference!
4. The Education Survey Summary Report is awaiting 9 member clubs to submit their surveys so that we can achieve our goal of a comprehensive understanding of what our clubs are providing in nature education in BC.
5. The BC Education Curriculum changes have been monitored and responded to by Lenny Ross on our behalf, copies of letters can be emailed upon request from Marg at blueheron@birdsonthebay.ca.
6. A number of additions and edits to the BC Nature, Education website pages.

A BC Nature Education Committee Meeting at the FGM is scheduled in Salmon Arm for Friday, September 26, 7:00pm. Marg will contact committee members to confirm the location. Any other BC Nature members who would like to attend, please connect with Marg in person early on Friday at the conference, everyone is welcome.

BC Nature Education Committee Terms of Reference July 25, 2014 - a shared understanding of what we are about and what we aim to accomplish.

Name: BC Nature Education Committee

Mission Statement: *To Know Nature and Keep It Worth Knowing, Now and for Successive Generations.*

Goals:

1. To develop and facilitate nature education in schools and organizations with an outlook on the outdoors.
2. To promote a cohesive team approach and encourage support of Nature Education within the BC Nature Membership.
3. To work to provide BC Nature Scholarships for postsecondary students in science studies.
4. To inventory the current education activities of Member Clubs and to provide support where ever possible to facilitate nature education.

Governance

1. The Education Chair will oversee all Education Committee activities and projects.
2. The Education Chair will solicit all members for feedback on key issues, decisions and ideas.
3. Education Committee is an action oriented committee that requires member participation, working for team consensus requires member feedback in a timely manner.
4. Decision-making requires approval by five committee members plus the Chair.
5. Committee members will be requested to approve meeting minutes to confirm that discussion summaries, decisions and action items are recorded correctly.
6. Action items are to be followed up after consensus is reached in a timely manner so that project work is not held back.
7. The Education Chair will request specific members to form subcommittees for specific projects.
8. Members of the Education Committee will be members of BC Nature and will be chosen for their knowledge, experience and skills in education and for their enthusiasm and commitment to achieve nature education project goals.
9. Committee members will report their activities and accomplishments to the Education Chair to then be reported to the

Executive of BC Nature at meetings and special AGM and FGM conferences.

Guidance from the BC Nature Executive

1. Refer to the first 5 Year Strategic Plan for guidance.
2. Letters, once approved by the Education Committee must go to the BC Nature Executive for approval.
3. All letters from the Education Committee on behalf of BC Nature and approved by the Executive must be then signed by the President of BC Nature

Deliverables

1. Annually assess student applications for the Rene Savenye Scholarship and select the award recipient; invite the recipient to the Fall Meeting; write a short article and supply a photo to the *BCnature* Magazine.
2. Coordinate the BC Nature Science Fair Awards; insert a short article and photo for the *BCnature* Summer issue.
3. Develop educational priorities and a work plan to be reviewed annually to address accomplishments of said goals.
4. Work with BC Nature members to improve communication and the spread of nature knowledge in the province.
5. Work and support the Young Naturalists Club; encourage local clubs to form and support a YNC.
6. Address educational issues arising that affect Nature Education in BC such as BC Parks Interpretation, BC Curriculum etc.
7. Work to create a Naturalist's Park's program curriculum (drawing on previous Naturalist's resources, some already designed materials like Project Wild and similar programs from Britain and elsewhere).

2014 Addendum

Workplan

1. Input on the new 5 Year Strategic plan which is currently in process 2014-2015.
2. Complete the evaluation of student applications for the Rene Savenye Scholarship and select the award recipient by July 15th; invite the recipient to the Fall Meeting; write a short article and supply a photo to the BC Nature Magazine.
3. Work to achieve a BC Nature Scholarship for Masters and Doctoral Students.
4. Coordinate with the BC Science Fair Foundation, the BC Nature Science Fair Awards; insert a short article and photo for the Summer Magazine; encourage committee members to attend the Science Fair in their locality and report their experience for the BC Nature magazine article. Promote BC Nature members to become Science Fair project mentors to students in their Region.
5. Develop a BC Nature Education Survey for all Member Clubs to notate their Educational activities, goals and accomplishments; learn and understand what the member clubs are doing and what support they are in need of from BC Nature; report the results of this information to the general membership.
6. Develop resources for school programs to be offered by member clubs.
7. Facilitate the Young Naturalists Club; encourage local clubs to form and support a YNC.

Resources and Budget

Equipment, materials, rooms, funds available to the committee -\$500 for extraordinary expenses.

Additional Notes

- Communications will be conducted mostly by email and conference calls; meetings will be held during the BC Nature AGM and FGM conferences.
- History of the committee, see May 2, 2014 meeting notes.
- There are no bad questions – ask and share ideas. ☞

Important Bird Areas (IBA)

Anne Murray

This summer has seen good progress on the IBA Program and some changes to our staff and volunteers. Krista Englund left us at the end of July, handing over the IBA Coordinator title to James Bradley. However, Krista continues to volunteer with the Program, for which we are very grateful. Since joining BC Nature as the IBA Coordinator in 2008, Krista has done a fantastic job of building the IBA Caretaker Network (currently about 50 people involved in almost 80 sites), organizing local activities and action planning in dozens of IBAs around the province and liaising with the B.C. and national offices of Bird Studies Canada and Nature Canada, the lead IBA partners. Krista has managed all this on a shoestring budget, volunteering countless hours in addition to her salaried time, and has impressed us all with her cheerful, positive and forward thinking attitude. As James has said, she has left difficult shoes to fill! We wish her all the best in her next ventures, which are currently with Bird Studies Canada.

We should like to welcome James Bradley as our new IBA Coordinator. James joined the IBA Team earlier in the year to help with site summary updates and took over as IBA Coordinator in August, following training through July. We are very pleased to have James working on the project, as he brings a wide range of bird knowledge and experience to the position. I am sure BC Nature members will give him a great welcome as he visits various locations around BC in the coming years. Big thanks are also due to Dr. Art Martell and Dr. Rob Butler who have been particularly busy providing expert technical

advice as part of the IBA Conservation Team as we update site summary bird and habitat data. The voluntary donation of expertise by these two highly-regarded scientists is much appreciated by everyone in the program. We were also delighted to have summer graduate student Shanna Sinclair working for the Program for a few months.

Major achievements of the BC IBA Program this year include the updating of many site summaries and bird data, together with the review of boundaries for some sites. This work is essential for maintaining the scientific integrity of the Program and reporting to BirdLife International.

Thanks to our Okanagan IBA Caretakers and BCN members, and funding from Environment Canada, we were able to successfully complete new signage at Road 22 Osoyoos IBA, and make substantial progress towards the replacement of the Vaseux Lake IBA bird blind.

Around the province, our 50 volunteer Caretakers and their helpers who care for 85% of BC's 82 IBAs, are critical to the Program's success. There are too many projects to mention all of them here and they range from outreach to bird surveys, and education to conservation. For example, in Active Pass IBA, southern Gulf Islands, IBA Caretakers Michael Dunn and Michael Hoebel are working on an April 2015 nature festival, to which naturalists are invited. Kris Andrews and her team of Chilcotin Caretakers undertook extensive Flammulated Owl surveys this spring, providing the Program with essential data. Margaret Cuthbert and the Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society continue with extensive educational and conservation programs in the Fraser River Estuary IBA. Art Martell worked with Comox naturalists and the IBA Team in designating the K'omoks IBA, an amalgamation of three existing sites.

A key part of the IBA Program is our partnership with Bird Studies Canada. Karen Barry, who has been Acting Manager for the BC office has still found considerable time to help with the IBA Program. She has made great progress on persuading local governments to incorporate IBAs into planning documents such as Official Community Plans (e.g. Cowichan Valley Regional District and Hornby Island in 2012) to ensure that these areas are considered in local land use decisions. Peter Davidson, also of BSC, moved to Tanzania eighteen months ago, but has managed to find funding for a major IBA project on alien species in seabird islands, in conjunction with Caretakers with Laskeek Bay, Parks Canada and other agencies working in this area. Finally, thanks to yet another grant from Mountain Equipment Coop, James will be travelling to northern B.C. this fall to discuss IBA action plans with local Caretakers and partners.

The BC IBA Program is an important and worthwhile program for BC Nature: well-supported and funded by members and Board, and one that has gained increased attention nationally and internationally. ☘

Office Report Betty Davison

Another full, busy year in the office with BC Nature.

Communications to our membership are slowly evolving with Social Media becoming a part of our day to day lives. This is not just evident with our younger members, but also with our long-term members. We have recently started up with "Twitter" and "Facebook" accounts for BC Nature to be used for relaying bits of information out to our "followers" of nature-related events. Hearing from a lot of our members when I am at an AGM or FGM that their iPhone apps for birding/birding calls or plant identification are just the "best thing" leads me to believe that the electronic age is crossing all age boundaries. We are hoping to have a Social Media lesson at our next AGM.

BCnature magazine - You have probably noticed a few changes in the magazine this past year. We have endeavoured to include more articles by changing the layout. We are still looking to find what looks and feels good, so there might be a few changes still to come. One thing I have noticed this year from members, is that a few of the newer members are cancelling their magazines because as they put it, "they didn't ask for it" and "don't know why they are receiving it." Possibly newer members are not associating BC Nature with the individual clubs or are not being told that membership in the individual clubs automatically makes them a BC Nature member?

At our AGM in Abbotsford we started discussions about "Succession" within our clubs, I also see that the club reports for this year's FGM show information of some clubs moving forward with a club succession plan to help their clubs to grow and set them up for continued membership growth in the years to come. Although a slow process, the rewards are great. To know that all of the projects and education that your clubs have worked towards will continue to thrive and have the support required to maintain these programs for future generations is indeed a great legacy. Mother Nature thanks you as well! ☘

Outdoor Recreation Council Penelope Edwards

As mentioned before, the Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia (ORC) is heavily involved with the establishment of the Provincial Advisory Body, a key strategy item from the Trails Strategy for British Columbia, published by

the provincial Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Specifically, ORC is working with Recreation Sites and Trails BC, a branch of MFLNR.

The ORC executive has had ongoing discussions with the Province on the details to bring this advisory organization into operation. ORC has this leadership role because, as the latest Recommendations document says, works on behalf of about 40 provincial member groups, representing more than 100,000 individuals, as well as the general public.” ORC represents the broad spectrum of outdoor recreation and trail users. BC Nature is a member of ORC.

The three key roles of the Provincial Trail Advisory Body are to:

- Assist government in ensuring that the implementation is consistent with the intent of the trails strategy;
- Advise government of any recommended improvements to the Trails Strategy, such as through a formal review every two years, and;
- Provide a collaborative forum for the many trails organizations and interests to help ensure that the Trails Strategy continues to meet the needs of all trail users.

As part of its leadership role, ORC will have four seats of the total, anticipated 14, plus one to be taken by the ORC executive director.

ORC will be canvassing for suitable representatives, keeping in mind the four major trails uses – summer motorized, summer non-motorized, winter motorized and winter non-motorized – as well as representation from all regions of the province.

The PTAB likely will meet three to four times per year, with two meetings being face-to-face and two by video or teleconferencing. Representatives will be reimbursed for travel expenses. There will be more news forthcoming in the next few months about this important initiative.

Meanwhile, as a member of the Canadian Trails Council (CTC), ORC is part of the process to determine which non-motorized trail-building projects in BC will receive federal funding. A \$10-million federal program, announced June 26, will fund projects, in every province and territory, to expand and improve recreational and multi-purpose trails. The National Trail Coalition is administering the program; the CTC represents non-motorized trails use interests. The deadline for applications was August 15. Jeremy McCall is one of two ORC members representing the BC non-motorized “community” on the provincial Regional Advisory Committee that is reviewing the proposed-project applications, and scoring them according to NTC guidelines. The federal funding is available through two fiscal years – 2014-2015, and 2015-2016. Projects will have to be completed by the end of March 2016. ↗

Parks and Protected Areas Don Guild

Summary of Parks and Protected Areas activities, January to September, 2014.

BC Parks - A letter expressing deep concern about the impacts that Bill 4-2014, Park Amendment Act, 2014 could bring to the BC Parks system was sent to Environment Minister Hon. Mary Polak. The wording in Section 9.3 of this amendment allows feasibility studies and environmental assessments to be approved for the consideration for the removal of park land for a road or highway, a pipeline, a transmission line, a telecommunications project, a project or a project in a prescribed class of projects as well as a structure, improvement or work related to a project just described, without limitation. This sweeping, all-inclusive language puts all BC parks (even those less than 5,000 acres/2,023 hectares in area which were exempt from such considerations before this amendment) in jeopardy of having land removed if, in the opinion of the Cabinet or the Legislature (as appropriate to the establishment of the park), the economic and social values outweigh the environmental values. The letter called on the Minister to withdraw this legislation which enables economic interests to know at the core of our majestic parks system.

A BC Nature submission on the Policy Development for Research Permits in BC Parks as a result of Bill 4-2014 made the following suggestions to ensure the park use permit for research purposes process is open and transparent by:

1. Posting all applications in a highly visible spot on the BC Parks website.
2. Soliciting public feedback in a similar manner to the Crown tenure applications to the Minister of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations, but with auto-acknowledgement to all responses to confirm that the sender has successfully communicated with BC Parks.
3. Posting all respectful feedback on the site as part of the public record so that respondents can see and verify their submission and others can view their concerns or support.
4. Do not issue a Park Use Permit for research purposes when it would knowingly remove, destroy, damage or disturb a natural or heritage resource. Implement a "no net loss" policy with regards to boundary adjustments so that park areas are not diminished in size or ecological integrity.

BC Parks asked for public input on their Policy Initiative for Ski Areas in BC Parks for Cypress, Mount Seymour and E. C. Manning Provincial Parks, the only BC Parks to have operating ski areas within their boundaries. BC Nature responded with a submission expressing concerns about:

1. The proposed term of tenure being extended from the current 50 years/renewal at 40 years to 60 years/renewal at 30 years to agree with similar tenures on Crown Land. It was suggested that 20 years would be a more reasonable time-frame for adaptive management flexibility.
2. In addition to environmental values, there is a need to specifically protect ecological and wildlife values in relation to resort activities and expansion.
3. Promoting mountain biking could impact plant and animal species such as bird breeding habitat, disrupt mammal feeding and increase bear conflicts with people unless there are only a few designated trails on non-sensitive areas of the open ski runs.
4. It is imperative that the public be able to pass through the ski permit area, safely and with reasonably direct access, at no charge, to other parts of the park.

Bill 5, Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Statutes Amendment Act (2014) created concern that longer 25 year term tenures in parks and on conservation lands will have adverse impacts on properties bought to support wildlife populations. Therefore, a response was drafted urging the BC government to:

1. Take the necessary steps to identify all private conservation areas in their mapping,
2. Take steps to ensure that grazing does not take place on those lands if there is such an agreement in place,
3. Forward grazing fees paid to the government relating to those conservation lands to the organizations that hold title to the lands.

The point was also made that shorter tenures offer greater flexibility to make adjustments for conservation purposes if necessary.

Six Lillooet area park Management Plans, the South Chilcotin Mountains – Big Creek Provincial Parks, Bridge River Park, Fred Antoine Park, Gwyneth Lake Park, Yalakom Park (Nine Mile Ridge area) were the subject of a letter to Peter Weilandt, Regional Planning Officer, BC Parks. Most comments focused on the South Chilcotin Mountains-Big Creek Parks, expressing concern that there be no float planes landing on Warner Lake, support no summer helicopter hikers/mountain bikers drop-off, limit heli-skiing to current level, oppose ORV use of High Trail, subject any commercial camp upgrades to public consultation, provide a map of existing tourism structures and tenures so any new proposals can be seen in context and be vetted publicly. Disagreed with installing radio towers, antennas, repeaters to allow for communication between parks staff and tourism operators-use satellite communications to eliminate permanent infrastructure. Monitor visitor numbers and cap or limit group size when a predetermined level is reached before demand exceeds capacity.

In Fred Antoine Park, support the strategy to keep it a rugged wilderness area, largely undisturbed by human intrusion.

At Gladys Lake Park, suggest that it be electric motor only to keep disturbance of nesting shorebirds and waterfowl to a minimum on this small lake.

BC Nature supports the Yalakom Park Management Commitments/Agreements to maintain the wilderness character of the area and ensure use of the area is consistent with conservation of California Bighorn Sheep habitat and migration routes. Also support discouraging any increased or new activities there and keeping road access away from park boundaries, prohibiting motorized ORV access to preserve it as pristine wilderness.

In Kalamalka Lake Park near Vernon, the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure is applying to remove a 30 meter wide, 4.5 km road right of way (Cosens Bay Road) so that road upgrades can be made without the stringent provisions of the Park Act needing to be applied. This proposal would divide the park in two between the lakeshore and upland areas as well between the grasslands to the north and the forested lands to the south. Critical migration corridors, both vertically and horizontally, for wildlife such as deer and rattlesnakes could be jeopardized, particularly if the already adequate road were to be upgraded by widening and improving sight lines so that faster vehicle speeds were encouraged. The public road (determined by a 1996 court case) serves recreational property owners as well as horseback riders, pedestrians, hikers and rock climbers, plus it provides an access route for a high voltage transmission line which transects the park. A letter is being drafted urging BC Parks to retain ownership of the land so that the integrity of the park is the primary consideration (along with public safety).

Kinder Morgan is proposing a pipeline twinning project across BC which will cross 3 BC Parks (Finn Creek, North Thompson River and Bridal Veil Falls) plus the Lac Du Bois Protected Area. They want to remove the pipeline corridor area from the parks during construction through the provisions in Bill 4-2014 and the Environment and Land Use Act, then once it is complete, possibly return the land to the parks. The irony is that there are other routes it can use that don't encroach on these or other park areas and which parallel the existing pipeline, but they are closer to more populated land. Both Kinder Morgan and BC Parks are accepting public input until October 12th.

National Parks

The Maligne Valley in Jasper National Park has seen a proposal by Maligne Tours Ltd. to build a 66 room lodge and 15 tent cabins near the shores of Maligne Lake partially approved, allowing the development of the tent cabins in contravention of Parks Canada's outlying commercial accommodations (OCA) policies. We are assured that there is no problem, as the policy will be changed so this development doesn't conflict with it. Such disregard for its own policies and guidelines in favour of commercial interests will only shake public confidence in the ability of Parks Canada to preserve nationally significant park areas in perpetuity.

Momentum in support of the South Okanagan Similkameen National Park Proposal continues to grow. Strong business, community and First Nations approval for the continuation of talks to determine if a National Park can be established in this unique and very fragile, ecologically diverse area should compel the BC Government to return to the table to complete the process.



Young Naturalists' Club of British Columbia Kristine Webber

Meet your local YNCs

There are a number of YNC Clubs close to this year's BC Nature FGM and below you will have a chance to read about two of them and learn why these exceptional volunteer club leaders have stepped up to share their passion for nature with children by leading YNC Clubs.

North Shuswap Elementary "Bugs R Us" School Nature Club, by Lorrie Schrader

We started a young naturalists club because we realized that the membership of our Senior Naturalists Club had been declining for many years. We knew that our senior naturalist club members had a lot of knowledge and expertise to share with the children and they were very supportive of getting the children interested in nature. The children will, after all, be our senior naturalists and nature stewards of the future.

The Club began in late 2009 with a vision and an Ad Hoc Committee. Teacher, Jannis Delisle was involved from the very beginning and she volunteered to be the school liaison. In our first year we held YNC meetings every 2 weeks but soon realized this was a very ambitious undertaking and have since pared it down to once a month.

From the outset it was understood that this was the children's young naturalists' club. We have brainstorming sessions and the young members have input as to what they want to do. They named their club Bugs R Us (by secret ballot) and some of the older members are selected as leaders on outings and projects of their choosing. This leadership role ties into the Leadership Program being taught in the school.

We have waived any membership fees so all children are able to join and participate. We have received generous financial support from the North Shuswap Naturalists Club and from a Grant in Aid from the CSRD. The original Ad Hoc Committee members were: Lorrie Schrader, Ron and Pat Jones, Murray Evaschuk, Joanne Groves, and our Teacher Liaison, Mrs. Jannis Delisle. Currently, only Lorrie Schrader (now joined by husband Ron), Murray Evaschuk and Mrs. Delisle remain on the committee.

We have had so many outings and wonderful meetings with our Bugs R Us Club that it is impossible to select a favourite. From trips to the Adams River to see the Salmon Run to dissecting a salmon with a member of the DFO, to visiting an apiary and to see a working bee hive. Rick Howie brought a burrowing owl to a meeting and told us about how these owls are endangered because of agricultural practices.. We saw the nesting Western Grebes at Salmon Arm.....

We feel it's important for the children to get outdoors and learn about the world around them. Today's young people are increasingly disconnected from the natural world. They need to be fascinated with wildlife and nature and learn to use their imagination and creativity. Our members are enthusiastic and they all do so well with their Nature Journal documentation and sharing. I learn something new from them at every meeting and it's so rewarding to see them grow and share their nature experiences. One girl commented after one of our nature walks in the forest "I love the smell of nature. It doesn't smell like gas and fumes like in the City."

YNC Salmon Arm Family Nature Club, by Emily and Geoff Styles.

We have been club leaders since the spring of 2013. The previous leader of the YNC of Salmon Arm was stepping down and the club needed new leaders. For us, there were two main reasons that we were happy to get involved. The first had to do with what kids need. Being elementary school teachers and young parents, we see that kids need to reconnect with nature. A natural environment provides kids with all of the most important elements for optimal development: novelty, exploration, intricacy, fresh air, physical challenge, exercise, problem-solving, creativity, imagination, and a never-ending opportunity to learn. Being outside helps kids grow their brains, their bodies, and their character. In this age of technology and fear-inducing media, too many kids don't have the opportunity to really live in the outdoors every day as did generations previous. Kids really do need to be outside, and we were very excited to be a part of an organization that can help kids access the outdoors.

The other motivating factor for us to get involved in the YNC was out of a desire to raise awareness for the environment. Kids have such an amazing sense of justice and responsibility. If they become aware of the living-ness of nature, and come to care for it, they will lead the charge in taking care of our earth. The opinions and worldviews that children form can last a lifetime, and it is our fervent wish that the kids who become connected with nature will maintain their own sense of responsibility and encourage others to also choose lifestyles that are sustainable. If we were to be a tiny part of that, then the YNC will have been hugely successful.

One of the Explorer days that we had this past spring was an introduction to a working Harris' Hawk. Mandy, the trainer, brought the hawk to Herald Park and told us all about their working relationship and about the hawk's habits and abilities. Then she let the hawk show-off by flying to and from Mandy's hand. The kids thought it was funny when the hawk decided to take a break in a nearby tree. Parents also enjoyed the informational side of the presentation. Later, we went on a short hike up to Margaret Falls through a very narrow rainforest-like ravine, noticing the differences between ecosystems.

We look forward to the adventures and the learning coming up with the YNC this year.

Thank you Lorrie, Geoff and Emily! In addition to Bugs R Us and YNC Salmon Arm, Carlin Elementary School also has a YNC Nature Club, led by teacher Carmen Dawkins and parent Trish Wallenstein. A huge thank you to all of the volunteer club leaders, guest field trip leaders (nature mentors) and supporters that get children outside learning, having fun and stepping up for nature. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a YNC Leader, volunteering as a Nature Mentor for Explorer Days, or finding out how your Adult Naturalists Club can help support a local YNC please contact us! For a listing of YNC Clubs see www.ync.ca and click the 'my club' tab. 🌿

Connecting Children with Nature - Across BC and with the help of many BC Nature Members



By Richard Doucette

Club Reports

Lower Mainland Region *Jude Grass - Regional Coordinator*

Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club Hank Roos

Our new club year is about to begin and we have been able to line up programs and speakers for the next 3 months. This is the first time in years that someone other than Kathy Wilkinson has taken on the task. We have unfortunately had 2 going away barbecues this summer, one for Steve Howard who moved back to Australia and Kathy who is moving to Comox on Vancouver Island. Both have been faithful executive members for a long time and their departure will leave a large hole. We are encouraged by having been able to add Ken Summers, a biologist, to the executive replacing Kathy in that capacity providing continued valuable expertise.

Our most long standing and valuable connection with the greater community is our involvement with the Fraser Valley Regional Science Fair. Two of our members judge the projects, selecting a first and second place project with an obvious connection to the environment. So again this year, we were treated to 2 great presentations at one of our regular club meetings when the students received their award and financial prize.

On Earth Day this year we were part of a project launch that we hope will be the first of many. The grant application that we partnered with the City of Abbotsford was selected by TD Bank from among several hundred applicants across the Canada. So, on a cold Earth Day morning at Willband Creek Park, representatives from our club, Abbotsford Parks, TD Bank, the Mayor, Councillors, MLA's, School District 34 along with 25 eager Abbotsford Christian Middle School students and staff proceeded to plant hundreds of native shrubs and trees and install 30 swallow nest boxes, that had been assembled by a class of elementary students. Twelve wood duck boxes had been assembled and installed a month earlier by club members including wire fencing around selected trees for protection from beavers.

The TD Bank encouraged us to apply annually for this grant to continue the habitat improvement at this park in partnership with the City and involving volunteers from a number of our local schools. All those involved from club members to school kids expressed excitement and satisfaction at having contributed to this ongoing project.

Early this past June our club hosted a combined executive meeting with the Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition and the Fraser Valley Conservancy. The purpose of the meeting was to explore opportunities to work together and to discover the unique focus and vision of each organization. It was agreed that we would make this an annual event and would communicate with each other when projects or activities could be shared thereby increasing our presence and effectiveness in our community. ❧

Burke Mountain Naturalists Elaine Golds

Once again, our club had a busy year as we celebrated our 25th anniversary. Our hiking group enjoyed regular outings to several local wilderness areas. These hikes are led by President Ian McArthur and Mark Johnston, a long-serving Executive member. We have found offering such hikes on a regular basis is a good way to attract new members - especially newer residents who appreciate these guided opportunities to explore local areas. Throughout weekends in February and March, our volunteers were busy cleaning and monitoring about 300 chickadee and swallow nest boxes installed in several Regional Parks. Towards the end of the nesting season this summer, we were dismayed to learn some of these nest boxes had been vandalized by bears. Thus, we will have to develop some new strategies in 2015 to prevent further attacks. At our Silent Auction during our AGM in December, we raised \$1500 which was donated to the Oiled Wildlife Society

We are always thrilled when our members receive recognition for their volunteer activities. This past year, Kiyoshi Takahashi received the Adult Environmental Volunteer Award from the City of Coquitlam for the outstanding work he does to maintain and monitor nest boxes including several for barn owls as well as a number of purple martin boxes. This spring, Elaine Golds was surprised and delighted to receive a Stewardship Award from the Pacific Salmon Foundation.

Our members provide a wonderful community service when they lead nature walks for local residents. For many years, we have offered a birding walk at Colony Farm Park on International Migratory Bird Day in May as well as lazuli bunting walks during Environment Week in June. This year, we had to discontinue our Great Blue Heron Walks at Colony Farm Park in March as the herons, for the second year, failed to return to the heronry they had used for over 20 years at the mouth

of the Coquitlam River. It appears that many of them joined a heronry near Deer Lake in Burnaby. Several years ago, our volunteers built and installed some large bat roosting boxes at Colony Farm Regional Park. These boxes had been unoccupied for several years. However, we were delighted to discover bats roosting in them this summer.

The main conservation issues that occupied much of our time and attention this year were the lengthy public consultation underway for the future of the Riverview Hospital lands and the Kinder Morgan pipeline. This spring, we were dismayed to learn Kinder Morgan was proposing to use the protected old field habitat at Colony Farm Regional Park as a construction site to assemble and weld the portion of the pipeline that will be pulled under the Fraser River. We met with them early this spring to express our concerns. Our current understanding is they are actively exploring other options to avoid impacts on the park. To help members of the public understand the value of Riverview's tree collection and heritage buildings as well as the significant green space it offers to the community, BMN members led some history walks through the Riverview grounds this spring. In general, we are pleased with the comments coming back from those who have attended some of the several public consultation Open Houses on Riverview. These Open Houses, which are being hosted by BC Housing, will continue into early 2015. There seems to be widespread support throughout the community for re-establishing Riverview as a centre of excellence for mental health care and for protecting the tree collection.

Throughout the past year, some BMN volunteers have been working on the production of a Family Nature Guide to some outstanding wildlife locations in the Port Moody, Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam areas. The first draft of the so-called Young Explorers Guide will be ready for review early this fall. We hope to conclude our 25th year with the publication of this guide. Thanks to support from a grant from TD Canada Trust and funds raised through our Danny Grass Memorial Fund, we will be able to distribute the first printing of this colourful guide free of charge. 🌿

Chilliwack Field Naturalists Janne Perrin

After a long hot summer, Chilliwack Field Naturalists (CFN) members met for their annual blackberry picnic hosted by our former Heron Herald publisher Jack Jackaman. Since we meet at a local school our meeting room is not yet secured for September's speaker, Ella Langson of Plastic Oceans Foundation. Last Fall speakers who talked to us in the Vedder Middle School library included Ken Pugh, bird photographer, John Gordon, Grizzly enthusiast and finally our BNC president John Neville on Raptors. Members travelled to Sasquatch Provincial Park, Reifel Bird Sanctuary and attended the Fraser Valley Eagle Festival to bird watch and to do public outreach with our booth. The Harrison Chehalis Wildlife Management Area was under discussion and supported by many. We ended the year with Christmas Bird Counts in Chilliwack and Harrison River. Both were well attended and the membership enjoyed a Post Chilliwack Count Christmas Potluck supper in Carmen United Church complete with carol singing with long-time member Heather Larstone on piano.

January 2014 saw CFN involved in several environmental issues: A Toxic Waste Dump on the Banks of the Fraser in Chilliwack, boundary adjustment in Sasquatch Provincial Park for logging access and twinning of the Trans Mountain Pipeline by Kinder Morgan. All concerns are ongoing with CFN having official Commenter status to the NEB on the pipeline. A delegation of CFN members met with the Tamihi Logging, Sasquatch proponents, to present our concerns with the plan. Members slide night and a walk on the Hope River trail cheered us up, as did member Margaret Tranah's travelogue of her trip to South America and Antarctica. We were saddened however, to lose our long time member Don McPhee, who died on Jan. 19th. Such a great photographer...

At our March AGM Terry McIntosh spoke on the State of BC Botany and Fernando Selles stepped up to the lead CFN. Our new President's vision is to increase the membership of the club and make it more dynamic and more relevant to the community. Helen Turner is retiring as BC Nature Club Director and retiring president Janne Perrin with take over. Thank you so much to Helen for years of excellent service. Spring speaker Pontus Lindgren talked to us on Mountain Beavers and member Neil Grainger gave us an old fashioned slide show of his photos of naming of mountain after local WW2 veterans. We field tripped to Willband Creek, Cheam Wetland and the Blue Heron Reserve.

By June we were ready for a joint trip to Acadia Beach with LFN and AMNC. We held our Annual picnic at the Camp River Wildlife Area. Denis Knopp planted a patch of field corn to attract waterfowl this fall. The Eastern Fraser Valley Young Naturalists Club built and donated swallow and wood duck boxes. Leader Cynthia Berg brought some EFVYNC members to CFN's April meeting to present on their bird box project. The club continues to thrive under her leadership featuring outings on owls, WildSafeBC, CBC4Kids, snowshoeing, invasive plants, butterflies with Brian Minter and outdoor survival with Rolly Keith, a retired military instructor.

In the summer, CFN treasurer, Janet Pollock took our booth to BC Parks Day in Cultus Lake. Janet led a bird walk at the Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve in August for their open house and put up our CFN display. Outreach, that we hope will bring in new members. 🌿

Delta Naturalists Ursula Easterbrook & Tom Bearss

After a full year of events and the wonderful AGM in Victoria, life went on as usual in the Delta Nats. We saw the very detailed AGM report in the BC Nature summer issue, thank you very much! We continued with our regular meetings, the last of which was a members event - 10 members' photographic shows filled the evening with fabulous scenery. This was followed by our usual Garden Party at Jennifer and Pamela's house and garden - it looked like it was going to be another inside affair - but the sky cleared up and we enjoyed the food and our Dutch Auction in the beautiful English Garden. Our departed members Mary Ronback and Doug were very much missed this year.

Our Delta Nats. casual birding outings every Wednesday and the number of participants continues to grow. Our next quarterly Birds on the Bay outing in Boundary Bay Regional Park is Wednesday, September 10, 2014. The DNCB outings will continue on Wednesdays until at least the end of 2014

Several of our naturalists helped out at the bi-monthly "Car Boot Sales." These seven events are under the auspices of our "sister organization", the Boundary Bay Park Association, at Centennial Beach, twice monthly throughout the summer. The final 2014 Boot Sale is mid-September.

The informative and constantly improving Delta Nats display, under the guidance of Terry Carr, was prominent at many public events and we have a couple more to do in September, the annual Day at the Farm on Westham Island and the 100th Anniversary of Cammidge House.

We are looking forward to another fun Nats year. Our AGM is at our second meeting on Monday, October 13, 2014. Several current Executive members are ending their term, so we are looking for other naturalists to step up and contribute a bit of their time and energy in joining the Executive. We want to ensure that your term on the Executive is enjoyable and not overly taxing on anyone.

Stay tuned to our now famous website/blog. You can check out Reports and photos, on our Display events and DNCB outings, on our Nats website at <http://dncb.wordpress.com>. ☛

Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society Marg Cuthbert

Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society (FoSBS) volunteers continue to work hard to contribute to conservation goals. Through April, May and June we hosted numerous public venues to educate the public, instill awareness and contribute to stewardship. We again participated in Surrey's Environmental Extravaganza mid-April to mid June 2014.

In May, we hosted an International Migratory Bird Day with separate walks at two different habitat locations for migratory birds. A few weeks later, we hosted a celebration of Native Plants and Birds along the shore. At this celebration, we led a tour of the Native Plant Demonstration Garden, a birding walk and we planted native wildflower seeds as a take home. The next weekend we hosted our 3rd annual "Marine Creatures and Eelgrass" event and a Beach Hero walk as a World Ocean Weekend leading to our World Ocean Day Festival the following Sunday. Each of these events was well attended and with the sunshine came the visitors. The World Ocean Day Festival was a great success. This year was a first offering for a youth environmental song writing contest and the winners were announced and awarded prizes at the WOD festival stage, after they performed.

Our Birds on the Bay & Beyond Program continues to be very popular with the public and brings numerous other groups together to promote themselves and free nature viewing opportunities to lower mainland communities.

We conducted a "Pitch-In Canada Shoreline Cleanup" in April at Blackie Spit, covering the salt marshes and more sensitive beach areas. We did cleanups and organized invasive removal and planting. Our next formal event is the "Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup" scheduled for September 20.

Our Shorekeepers Program celebrated its eleventh year this May and June. We offered a free training workshop in monitoring methods the weekend of throughout May for 30 volunteers. Six sites were again enthusiastically monitored in Boundary Bay.

Our Restoration Coordinators again participated with the Fraser Delta Spartina Removal Working Group in Boundary Bay with a focus on Blackie Spit, where our volunteers removed 25 bags of *Spartina anglica* at 50 lbs each! They continue to monitor the site.

We continued with numerous scheduled invasive removals at our project sites: the Little Campbell River Forest Trail Species at Risk project, the Rene Savenye ESA at Blackie Spit, the Little Campbell Estuary project and the two native plant demonstration garden projects. We are currently preparing a native plant list to purchase for planting at all the projects in October/November.

The 2014 Beach Hero Marine Interpretive Program suffered from a severe shortage of funding and it was the support of BC Nature, the BC Naturalists' Foundation, the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and City of White Rock that allowed us to be present on the beach this summer. Three part-time interpreters, with the help of volunteers, were able to reach approximately 2500 community members from May through August with our outreach activities. The program is very important; we provided beach walks, presentations, public education about the local marine environment of Boundary Bay, beach etiquette, safety, crab and fishing regulations and shellfish harvest closure. Interpreters report any illegal activity to DFO. The program focuses on engaging families and attracts people of all ages. It is well received by the public, and is a fun and rewarding experience for the interpreters.

FoSBS is a participating stakeholder currently working on a draft management plan for the Fergus Watershed Biodiversity Reserve with the City of Surrey.

FoSBS Annual General Meeting is scheduled for November with our annual Volunteer and Project Partner Appreciation Event in the afternoon. We welcome all interest and participation in our society. The Events Calendar is at www.birdsonthebay.ca. For free nature activities and volunteers, you can register on the website. Our volunteers make all the difference! 🐦

Langley Field Naturalists **Kathy Masse**

The Langley Field Naturalists (LFN) had another busy and productive year starting in September 2013. As well as our interesting walks and talks we were involved in several projects, community events, and even started a new committee, the Member Participation Committee. Bird surveys, BC Nature surveys, the stewardship of the Forslund Watson area, and pursuing several conservation issues, kept members interested and involved.

Our ongoing projects and stewardship activities such as Forslund Watson Reserve (managed by the LFN) has had a very busy year. A Douglas Fir has been planted as a Memorial to Albert Forslund who donated the initial property for the Nature Reserve. The cages around the Cedar trees that were planted several years ago have been raised, in the hope that the deer will be prevented from eating the tops off of Cedars. Bob Puls has installed a water level metering device to assist in determining the feasibility of creating a vernal pond. Kirk Miles and family have set up amphibian monitoring locations throughout the Nature Reserve. We also continue to be part of a Purple Martin nest box project along with Metro parks, monitoring the boxes installed two years ago. At Mountainview Crown Lands, Bob Puls continues his biodiversity study, this year concentrating on the spiders he finds there, with assistance from the Royal BC Museum to help with identification.

A new project this year is a bird study at the newly created Marvin Marsh in Aldergrove Regional Park. The Marsh is being created as a future habitat for the endangered Oregon Spotted Frog who need a shallow marsh environment that has mostly disappeared in the Lower Mainland. A shallow marsh will discourage the predatory bullfrogs. Three of our members go out weekly to survey the birds that are coming into this new environment.

Langley Field Naturalists love their bird counts and took part in several. Last year 25 LFN's and friends participated in the Surrey White Rock Langley bird count in December. They counted 67 species and 6061 birds, a lower number because of the drizzly day, which did not dampen their enthusiastic spirits! Some members also volunteered at the Pitt Meadows Count (mid December), the Derby Reach Count (February) and the Glen Valley Count in May.

Our President/Conservation Chair Bob Puls tackled many conservation issues this year. He wrote letters advocating for a more stringent Soil Deposit bylaw which was passed in March of this year. The Blaauw Eco Forest in Glen Valley, was donated to Trinity Western University for educational purposes and Bob is on a committee of stakeholders formed by Trinity Western University that meets twice a year to discuss management of this sensitive area. The Blaauw Forest and nearby McLellan Park were nearly lost to development but was saved by the efforts of WOLF (Watchers of Langley Forests) along with support of the Langley Field Naturalists and other community groups. Bob and the Field Naturalists also opposed the proposed route of the Kinder Morgan pipeline through the sensitive Redwoods Golf Course's Natural Area by attending meetings and writing letters.

Members also attended Township Open Houses for the proposed development of Brookwood /Fernridge development plan. They stood up for our environmental concerns, writing letters and attending meetings. This development plan was ultimately defeated.

Our monthly talks organized by Jude Grass, were a highlight each month. Our own member, John Gordon gave a talk on photographing birds in the Lower Mainland with helpful photographic tips, followed the next month when our Al Grass spoke to us about “Liking Lichens.” More highlights included John & Heather Neville’s amazing presentation of Raptor sounds, Bernie Fandrich’s talk about rafting down the Thompson River with excellent photographs, and Anne Murray’s talk on the Mongolian Steppes illustrating the beautiful natural landscapes and culture of the country.

Many field trips were organized by Anne Gosse. After each trip, Anne writes enthusiastically about the results of the day accompanied by photographs on her blog: <http://anneisforthebirds.wordpress.com/> Among the many trips were: Minnekahada Regional Park, Skagit Valley, Boundary Bay Regional Park, Brunswick Point, Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Campbell Valley Park, Maplewood Flats, Aldergrove Regional Park, Blaauw Eco Forest, Brydon Lagoon, all of which can be enjoyed by reading Anne’s blog!

The Langley Field Naturalists submitted to BC Nature the input required for the new BC Wildlife Viewing Guide for three wildlife areas featured in Langley area: Brydon Lagoon, Aldergrove Regional Park and Campbell Valley Park. Also, the executive spent time consulting with each other so we could submit input for surveys for BC Nature’s new 5 year plan and BC Nature’s Education plan. From the FGM last year in Cranbrook at the Directors’ meeting we were presented with the idea of forming a succession plan for naturalists ‘clubs to ensure survival. The outcome for the LFN was the formation of a new committee called The Membership Participation Committee. We meet to discuss ways to attract new younger members, to think of ways to make club activities more interesting and involving, and to encourage these new members to eventually take on a leadership roles.

Community events participated in by the Langley Field Naturalists were County Celebration at Campbell Valley Park and Rivers Day at Williams Park.

Upon reelection, The Langley Field Naturalists can be satisfied with another year of both enjoying and protecting nature! ♪

Little Campbell Watershed Society (LCWS) **David Riley**

LCWS Partner groups continue to work for the Little Campbell River and its watershed through advocacy, enhancement projects, citizen science and education.

Together our project partners and volunteers worked on species at risk monitoring, nest boxes, water sampling, stream restoration, fish counts and invasive plant removals. We hosted numerous educational walks through the riparian forest and wetlands and participated in the World Ocean Day Festival and other community events.

Issues, with little or no resolution, on the Little Campbell River continue to be: the over subscription of water licenses which greatly affects flow especially during a dry summer; ongoing point and non-point pollution particularly septic fields and agricultural runoff; the railway renovation in the LCR estuary salt marsh, one of very few salt marsh habitats remaining in Boundary Bay; the high density industrial/commercial development in Campbell Heights, the Grandview Commercial Corridor along the Fergus Creek tributary; the ongoing issuance of fishing licenses and abusive fishers in the Little Campbell estuary on Semiahmoo First Nation land and irresponsible dog walkers who leave their dog’s feces to pollute the watercourse and bay.

The LCWS Partners are participatory stakeholders in the Fergus Watershed Biodiversity Reserve draft management planning process and we continue to have input with the City of Surrey development plans submitted within the Watershed. ♪

Nature Vancouver **Cynthia Crampton**

Nature Vancouver had two one-week camps in July and August respectively. This year it was held as a drive-in camp at Manning Provincial Park. Each camp was for 40 people with a total of 80 people having the chance of being in nature with fellow naturalists. In addition to exploring the many natural attractions of Manning, a highlight of the camp was a field trip to the Swan Lake Bird Sanctuary in Princeton. This remarkable site, set amid ponderosa pines, was unknown to most of the participants, and we were certainly “surprised by joy”. Our group was led by birder Viveka Ohlman, and we saw a variety of birds, cumulating in a magnificent Golden Eagle just as we were leaving. Nature Vancouver applauds the Vermilion Forks

Field Naturalists for successfully conserving this area. We are also pleased to report that through the generosity of a member, we were able to include two families in our camps, a benefit for both the families and the camp itself.

Our ongoing monthly events are; Birders Night, Botany Night, Marine Biology Night, and Conservation Night - all providing new information and presentations in their fields. Amongst the most popular evenings are presentations from our members, such as the experiences of Bev and Bill Ramey as Park Hosts in remote Kakwa Provincial Park. We have a display board, and Board member Nigel Peck ensures that we are present at farmers' markets and other community events. It has proved to be a good way to introduce the scope of Nature Vancouver to people who didn't know about us, but are now interested in checking us out.

Our field trips have increased in variety and leaders. We have held boat trips on the Indian Arm, back-packing trips, geology trips, birding trips, botany trips and marine biology trips. A weekend without a trip or two is a rare one for Nature Vancouver. On the management side, the debate continues on whether we should go entirely digital as far as our newsletters are concerned. We know that the majority of our participants to field trips and evening programs learn about them from our website, and our weekly mass email to members. As paper and postage costs increase, this debate becomes more timely. The Canadian anti-spam legislation - although most of us, I am sure, are generally in agreement with the sentiment of the law, it certainly has put a lot of extra work and angst for our Board volunteers. I wonder if this could have been better thought out by government, to avoid the impact on small organizations. Could BC Nature provide advice to its member clubs on any detail or action that we should be aware of? ↩

White Rock and Surrey Naturalists By Leona Breckenridge

The past year has been another busy one with onslaughts against our natural environments continuing at speed across the lower mainland. Approval was not granted for the proposed reopening of the Langley Speedway in Campbell Valley Regional Park, a designated nature park, but that appears to be the only issue on the win side.

Dr. Al Schulze was presented with the WRSN Major Service Award this year. Al is proficient at birding by ear and he is "everywhere", leading local walks and joining field trips led by other clubs in our area. He attends general and executive meetings, records the minutes at each, and also ensures that our meeting hall is ready for us and our monthly program presenter. Al has also participated on Surrey's Environmental Advisory Committee, Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society and with Friends of the Semiahmoo Heritage Trail.

Our annual White Rock Christmas Bird Count, coordinated by Viveka Ohman, had 142 participants covering a 24 km diameter count circle to find 126 species totaling 44,044 birds in all. Dense fog in some areas in the morning cleared and interesting rarities were seen throughout the day. These included a Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Mountain Chickadee, a Harris's Sparrow, Bohemian Waxwings and an American Dipper. The count results during the past few years are sobering though. In 2011 88,000 birds were counted, in 2012 this number was reduced to 64,000 and this last year it was 44,000, for a 50% reduction in the total count. Dunlin numbers have shown a significant drop as have Western Grebe, where rafts of them seen in previous years were reduced to one on the last count.

The Eva Bene Butterfly Garden in Centennial Park in White Rock, managed by Frances De Montreuil, continues to be the target of plant thieves. Everything new and wonderful planted is stolen almost immediately so Frances has given up on planting established plants and is broadcasting seeds instead. Habitat continues to be provided for a variety of butterflies and a number of butterfly releases took place during the year.

Betty Hall, our field trip coordinator, arranged an array of away trips, including Bowen Island, Deception Pass, Fragrance Lake, Elk Mountain, Ptarmigan Ridge, Hemlock Valley, Minnehada and Manning Park. Local trips included the Serpentine Fen, Tynehead Fish Hatchery, Semiahmoo Trail, Green Timbers, Elgin Heritage, Bear Creek, and Mud Bay Parks, Sunnyside Acres and Surrey Lake.

Field trips also included a visit to Creekside Hothouse where 40 different varieties of tomatoes are grown. This trip was arranged by member Tineke Goebertus, an international greenhouse consultant. Tineke explained the pollination by bumble bees, the pasteurization, testing and fertilization that occurs as part of the recycling process of all the water used, and there was a large amount of technology to try to grasp. Owner Ravi Cheema's tomatoes in the store are called "Big Taste", something that is easily understood once you bite into one.

Charles Belotte continues to find wonderful speakers for our monthly meetings. We learned about lichens (Al Grass), pollinators (Elizabeth Elle, SFU), Burns Bog (Eliza Olsen), Forestethics Advocacy (Sven Biggs), the birds of Peru (Viveka

Ohman), Mongolia (Anne Murray), an across Canada photo journey (Ursula Easterbrook) and the Southwest B.C. Bio-Regional Food System Design and Plan (Kent Mullinix, Kwantlen).

The talk on pollinators by SFU professor Elizabeth Elle was fascinating. Who knew that there are over 450 species of bees in B.C., more than the number of bird species in all of Canada! Their importance in agriculture was emphasized as were the benefits of natural areas in proximity to farms that may result in conservation and agriculture working hand-in-hand. Afterwards, many of us expressed the hope that our federal government would act to place tighter regulatory controls on the use of neonics, which represent 40% of the insecticide market.

We participate in the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup every year and we are looking forward to seeing what we find at the Serpentine Fen later this month. ☘

Kootenays Regional Coordinator - Greg Ross

Rocky Mountain Naturalists Daryl Calder



Following a very successful FGM held in Cranbrook and area in September 2013, our club continues to pursue all things natural with renewed enthusiasm and curiosity. The spectrum of interesting aspects of nature in the East Kootenay has widened for us because several new members with diverse interests have joined our club. For example, when observing flowering plants, we now notice invasive species and the diversity of pollinators; while snowshoeing, we can distinguish different lichens and decipher structures in the ever changing snowpack; while birding, the size, location and pattern of woodpecker excavations and chips provide subtle clues. Of course, while looking up, it is fascinating to learn the details of rainbows, aurora borealis and the patterns and seasonal changes of the night sky.

After many years of conscientious work in the vicinity of Elizabeth Lake, a plugged culvert at the outlet allowed the lake to rise to a record level. Now that the level has dropped, our low-lying trail sections and bridges require considerable repair. Many of the emergent vegetation islands floated off to new locations which do not necessarily benefit the existing dipping dock, blinds and control weir. The painted turtles may have to bushwhack to find our once productive sand egg-laying beds we constructed and fenced for them. Several of our citizen scientists have responded by regularly measuring and reporting the water level, and investigating the location and integrity of Jim Smith creek, the lake's outlet, much of which lies beneath the highway and the town. It apparently flows through a concrete culvert which was constructed in the 1930's. The City promises to examine in detail, the issue of this watershed with the benefit of our findings.

At Christmastime, the club organized bird counts for Cranbrook, Kimberly and Fernie, as well as for new locations in the Elk Valley. Even though the birds were not as plentiful as last year, bird counter and feeder watcher numbers were up. Winter finches, such as Pine Siskins, Evening and Pine Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills were largely absent and have been low in number this summer as well. It will be interesting to see if Bohemian Waxwings return in abundance; certainly Cedar Waxwings are plentiful lately. Two local bird festivals were very successful this spring. "Wings Over The Rockies", Invermere, offered more events than ever, while the "Creston Bird Fest" highlighted many of the diverse aspects of nature and agriculture found in the Creston valley. Our "Little Big Day" 12 hour team birding competition, also in May, tallied an amazing species count. Club Camp is always a fun event in spring. Every year, naturalists choose a different part of the upper Kootenay river drainage to go camping and exploring for the weekend. This year, Mount Fernie Provincial Park offered a fine central location and a contrast to the drier Rocky Mountain Trench. Sunshine prevailed in this interior wet belt setting; birds abounded while mosquitoes did not. Sneaky Swainson's Thrushes challenged us with their 7 different songs and calls, fluffy young American Dipper chicks provided comic relief along the creek, and, in retrospect, we wondered whether 35 noisy Common Grackles we saw should maybe just stay in Fernie's back alleys.

Field trips have been well attended this year, partly because of our increased membership and partly because of our new webpage and online calendar. Following each trip, wonderful photos and anecdotes are shared and appreciated. Also, the very fine Magazine of BC Nature is a welcome, stimulating quarterly which generates enthusiasm and curiosity of the natural world, as well as the valuable objectives of the Federation of BC Naturalists. Thank you to the editorial team and all contributors. 🌿

West Kootenay Naturalists' Association Joan Snyder

West Kootenay Naturalists' Association (WKNA) continues to remain active throughout the year. We have monthly evening meetings that include a business section and visiting or member presented programs about nature including a look at local and other locations around the province and sometimes other country's natural history by members who have ventured far afield.

We had weekly field trips to various locations in the West Kootenay Mountains. These are beautiful trips; in the summer with mountain wildflower hikes and in the winter snowshoeing and/or cross-country skiing forays.

Our conservation efforts have been primarily writing letters regarding:

- Changes to the BC Provincial Park boundaries and redefining allowable activities and uses within Parks;
- Changes to the BC Agricultural Land Reserve regulations, and;
- Changes weakening environmental protection legislation re: oil, gas and mineral exploration, development and transportation of their products through BC and Canada.

Finally we (both the club and some individual members) are supporting annual Memorial Bursaries and Scholarships for students attending Selkirk College who are studying in Biology and Environmental Technology programs. 🌿

Northern Region Regional Coordinator - Fred McMechan

Kitimat Valley Naturalists Walter Thorne

Kitimat club activities this summer included community drain painting for Department of Fisheries and Oceans. We completed monthly surveys at three BC Coastal Waterbird stations and eight RAMP amphibian monitoring boards.

Our club has also kept active with the many industrial activities taking place in our estuary lands. We continue to comment on permit applications and show up at industrial open houses with our questions and participate in industrial consultation groups. At Kitimat estuary, there continues to be lots of surveying going on. Some of the industry commissioned biologists coming into town are now consulting us locals.

In August, two KVN members spent a week volunteering at the bird banding station at Mackenzie. 🌿

Prince George Naturalists Sara Sparks

As of this year, the Prince George Naturalists Club is a newly incorporated society comprised of 70 members. The Club has dedicated much of its time over the past year to projects that hope to increase recreational users and foster environmental stewardship and education. Thanks to hours of planning, generous funding and community support, on-the-ground work began this summer on the Hudson's Bay Wetland Project, which aims to create a network of interpretive trails, signs, and a lookout point right in the heart of downtown Prince George.

The Club has also participated in variety of community events, such as the annual Prince George city-wide cleanup, the annual weed pull led by the Northwest Invasive Plant Council, as well as this year's Seedy Saturday and World Water Day information events. Despite the flurry of project scheming, there has been no shortage of activities for our club members.

Some event highlights from this past summer have included: The annual Robson Bird Blitz (this year yielded 105 species recorded over two days), a Livingston Springs plant walk led by Sandra Hepburn, beekeeping demos hosted by Alice Lee,

local birding expeditions, and an excellent talk at The Exploration Place by Mike Nash, Barry Booth and Clive Keen on opportunities for naturalists in Arizona. A line-up of social activities and presentations are already planned for this fall. For more up-to-date information, please visit our website at: <http://pgnc.wordpress.com/> ☞

Quesnel Naturalists Lorna Schley

Quesnel Naturalists have had a fairly active year, with the AGM in January and meetings every second month. During the winter we enjoyed a number of snowshoe outings and helped out at the Quesnel Winter Carnival by running a station. A number of hikes took place over the summer.

Again, a group of us monitored 14 sets of bluebird boxes on our Dragon Lake Bluebird Trail, noting more bluebirds than last year along with a healthy number of tree swallows.

Our president, Sally, spearheaded an education project on the Western Toad and Migrating Waterfowl. She designed a brochure and signs to be put up at West Fraser Timber Park near the pond. Three of us volunteered to help with school groups who visit the pond, encouraging responsible pond dipping and providing information.

Two members also helped with a weed pull in July in the park.

Sally also provided input to B.C. Parks from our club re Dragon Mountain Park Management Planning.

We continue to liase with Baker Creek Enhancement Society, the Climate Action Group, Quesnel Birding Club, and the Airshed Management Roundtable. ☞

Williams Lake Field Naturalists Fred McMechan

Members of our club contributed to the planning of a variety of activities for our members. There were several field trips and presentations by guest speakers. Our two editors and other contributors produced editions of the club newspaper, the Muskrat Express. Our club organized and participated in the Christmas Bird Count. We raised funds so that we could offer a high school bursary. Members continued to maintain and monitor Mountain Bluebird nest boxes on several trails throughout the Cariboo/Chilcotin grasslands.

We continued to operate the Scout Island Nature Centre in Williams Lake. Nature educational programs were provided for school classes, children's groups in the summer, a full year preschool and the general public. Maintenance and upgrading of the trails were ongoing. Planting of native plants was an important task. Visitors to the Nature House enjoyed the interpretive displays and the hosting by staff and volunteers. Through a major fund raising activity we were able to do an energy upgrade for the Nature House; a new furnace and heat pump were installed, and the insulation in the ceiling was enhanced. At the end of last year BC Hydro took down the overhead wiring and poles on the Nature Centre grounds, and replaced it with underground wiring. We were able to obtain sufficient funding to employ an environmental educator, an office manager, a preschool teacher, 3 university students, high school students, other nature interpreters and grounds keepers. The City of Williams Lake and our club have applied to BC Lands for renewal of the Land Reserve on crown lands which include the marsh area and the west end of Williams Lake. This reserve was established as an Order in Council Reserve in 1984 with a period of 30 years. The website for the Nature Centre is www.scoutislandnaturecentre.ca.

Our club sent two letters, one from the club and one from the Scout Island Nature Centre, to the Minister of Education expressing our concerns about the lack of a strong environmental education structure in the new proposed BC curriculum.

Our club is presently planning for a BC Nature Field Camp for September, 2015 in the beautiful Tatlayoko Lake/Homathko River Valley. Details will be available later this year on the websites of our club and BC Nature. ☞

Thompson-Okanagan-Shuswap Region Regional Coordinator - Alan Burger

Kamloops Naturalist Club Ken Lipinski

Our club kept fairly busy during the year, with the exception of the summer months, with organized field trips. We started mid-autumn 2013 with a trip to Lac du Bois protected area to view California bighorn sheep, and to Isobel Lake to observe the last vestiges of migrating waterfowl. We had a decent turnout for our Christmas bird count with 35 participants and a species count of 71, the rarest being a rock wren. Shortly after the Christmas count we had our annual swan and eagle count on the South Thompson River, hosted as always by Rick Howie. In late April we observed the large flocks of sandhill cranes that pass through our area. Late May is time for the annual Big Bird Day. Eagerly awaited by ferociously competitive minded birders in the club and organized by lifetime member Ralph Ritcey, it is a fun day with teams from opposite sides of the Thompson River vying to tally the most species observed between midnight and 4 PM on the chosen day. Although many of our activities do involve birding, we have branched out with a reptile and amphibian trip in the Tranquille river valley, led by Frank Ritcey in early June. Frank also took us on a winter animal tracking sojourn on a sunny -17° day in February. Sometime near Canada Day you will find our members checking out the alpine flora and fauna on Greenstone mountain. We also have a very active 35 member Young Naturalist Club in Kamloops, headed by Richard Doucette until June of this year. The kids took part in 8 Explorer days with activities that included a private visit to the BC Wildlife Park's new raptor rehab enclosure, charcoal landscape etching at Lac du Bois and a socks and seeds walk. During the socks and seeds walk, the young naturalists put socks over their footwear, then hike through the grasslands. At the end of the walk they count the variety of seeds that have adhered to the socks, learning firsthand how invasive weeds expand their range.

Back in the 1970's, it became apparent that populations of the mountain bluebird were declining, most likely due to nesting habitat loss to aggressive introduced bird species. KNC responded by joining the North American bluebird Society and starting a bluebird nesting box program. Today that group, headed by Susan Weilandt, numbers 30 volunteers monitoring 16 nesting routes with approximately 350 nesting boxes. The Kamloops Woodworking Guild donated 30 replacement boxes this spring. We will be building another 50 boxes this winter, thanks to a \$522.00 BC Nature Club Support grant.

Perhaps our most ambitious undertaking this year was the hosting of a BC Nature camp in Wells Gray Park. There were two separate components to the camp; we hosted 26 people at a 3 day camp in the Clearwater River section of the park, while a separate group of 10 people did a 5 day 70 kilometer hut-to-hut trek in the back country. Both camps were a great success despite, or perhaps because of, some challenging weather conditions.

Many of our members, myself included, enjoy these trips and activities as a sociable outing with friends, but it is interesting to note that much of the information that we collect on our field trips is increasingly being utilized by the scientific community at Thompson Rivers University and elsewhere. Rick Howie has written several papers on observations and data recorded during the swan and eagle count. A TRU graduate student is currently using data collected by our bluebird people to support her research, and has shared some of her findings in our most excellent monthly newsletter. Discussions are currently ongoing with the sciences faculty regarding future TRU involvement with the Bluebird Trails project. It is rewarding to see how our association can make a difference in the community. ❁

Lillooet Naturalists Society Vivian Birch Jones

Our AGM in January 2014 was well-attended and we welcomed a new director to our executive. The current executive is Jeff O'Kelly – Secretary, Greg Smith – Treasurer, Andra Forney, Simon Warhurst, Doug Grossler and Chris Galliazzo – Directors at Large and Judy Bodaly assists with membership duties. Our membership is stable at 60 (36 families and 24 individuals, ages from one year old to 94).

The second edition of the *Lillooet Hiking Guide, Canyon to Alpine* continues to receive positive reviews and sales have been steady. Profits into the future will continue to fund our activities.

Club activities this year:

- Clearing trails and enjoying hikes were part of this year's activities. Special thanks to Doug Drummond for extra efforts clearing our trails.
- Naturalist and Certified Mountain Guide Wayne Robinson led a series of hikes and offered outdoor recreation classes over the summer.

- “The Walking with Smolts” event, in which buses of school children come to the Lower Spawning Channel to tour educational booths along a natural history walk, was a two day event this year and a wild success.
- Chris Galliazzo is the coordinator for the Bluebird Box Trail project and led expeditions again this year.
- We hosted the Golden Age hiking group from Vancouver in May, the BC Field Ornithologists in June and the BC Hydro Fish and Wildlife Compensation program board in July.
- Members submitted a few articles and letters about local conservation issues to our newspaper. The local radio continues to provide great PR for our organization.
- We raised some funds and a volunteer group, led by Scott Bodaly and Scott Hudson, installed a webcam on the Osprey nest at the Old Bridge. The camera was set up and operational for a time but technical glitches foiled us again over the summer. The project has raised a great deal of interest in our nesting Ospreys and we enjoyed watching three successful Osprey nests “live” over the season.
- We participate on the local Chamber of Commerce and promote the economic benefits of our activities, emphasizing the value of celebrating and conserving the biodiversity we enjoy here.
- Our annual Great Canadian Shoreline cleanup will be held in the autumn.
- In December, we held our 14th annual Christmas bird count. Counts also took place in Lillooet in the Hat Creek Valley and the Yalakom.
- In February local naturalist Ken Wright presented on his work with Yellow-billed loons in the Arctic - the house was packed for that presentation.
- We participated in the BC ‘Got Bats?’ project over the summer and assisted with some bat research. To our delight we netted and tagged Spotted bats and we continue to follow them into early September (when the tags will all fall off). Cori Lausen PhD will be doing a presentation on the bat research, and bringing her adopted Hoary bat ‘Lily’ to that event in Lillooet October 4.
- Some of us had the pleasure of joining the Rivershed rafting trip on the Fraser River for a lovely trip between Lillooet and Lytton. Naturalist Jacquie Lanthier is gearing up for a Fraser River Swim Relay in 2015 – please see www.rivershed.com/Relay

Our club supported a number of successful applications to the BC Hydro Fish and Wildlife fund including work on Mule deer, Grizzly bear, Bats, Whitebark Pine, Fishers, Wolverine, Gates Spawning Channel and a Sekw’el’was project (in partnership with our Society and Restoration crew), to extend the restoration work from the original Powerhouse site along the Seton corridor to Seton Lake- an ambitious project that is going really well. Maintenance work continues to be done at the Powerhouse site, “Sat’atqwa7”. The restoration crew has formed a business, Splitrock Environmental, www.splitrockenvironmental.ca. They are selling native plants and doing restoration work in the area. A number of public presentations on natural history were held over the year including presentations by researchers that received funding from the BC Hydro Fish and Wildlife Compensation program.

The Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society held their third AGM. They have completed mapping and inventory as well as public and individual education along with work on the ground with targeted invasive species management.

Its been a busy but productive year! 🌿

Nicola Naturalists
Alan Burger

Over the past year our regular monthly meetings included presentations by Ian Routley (Nature Photography), Alan Burger (Antarctic Wildlife), Richard Doucette (Mine Reclamation), Barbara Pryce (The Nature Conservancy of Canada), and Bruce Archibald (Fossils of the BC Interior).

We continued our monitoring of the Douglas Lake Plateau IBA with regular visits to the grasslands. Other outings included a visit to the Spius Creek salmon hatchery and local birding. Our amphibian monitoring project continued for the fourth year, in collaboration with professional herpetologists from Biolinx Environmental Research of Victoria, with our field costs covered by a grant from the Public Conservation Assistance Fund (PCAF). We are mapping breeding locations of amphibians in 10x10 km grids covering a 7,200 square km area. In addition, we continued our collaboration with BC Parks in mitigating roadkill of Western Toads at Kentucky-Alleyne Provincial Park, with funding from the Parks Enhancement Fund (PEF). Our members constructed about 150 m of low wooden funnel-fencing to guide the newly-emerged toadlets under a road tunnel to avoid them being crushed on the busy campsite road in the park. We also monitored the numbers and movements of the toadlets and the effectiveness of the funnel fence. Altogether we contributed 426 volunteer hours to amphibian monitoring and conservation in our region.

The big event in 2014 was to host a BC Nature Spring Camp. This was the first such event our fledgling club has run and it turned out to be a success, with 24 participants and a long wait-list. Based at Nicola Ranch near Merritt, the camp focused on

grasslands and wetlands. Local and visiting experts led the lectures and field trips covering wetland and grassland ecology, First Nations cultural heritage and field foods, holistic ranching and, of course, lots of birding and frogging. 🌿

North Okanagan Naturalists Club Pamela Jenkins

Our meetings are held the first Wednesday evening of each month from September to May. This year, marks a change in our meeting place, from the Vernon Lodge to the Village Green Hotel.

2013 to 2014 Speakers and Meetings:

- September was Evan Refuse, who talked about invasive plant species. He told us of 26 species found in nurseries and stores.
- October, Paul Schorn told us about his experience volunteering on Haida Gwaii working with shore birds and other species.
- December - Andrea Gunner, an Agrologist, spoke at our AGM telling us about food production and management.
- At our December meeting, with members bringing finger foods, games were played, there were nature quizzes, skits and entertainment. Later in December various groups participated in the Christmas Bird Count ending up at the Bishop Bird Sanctuary for the count and refreshments.
- January - A biologist, Ryan Gill from Revelstoke, talked about Bobolinks.
- February we saw the DVD, Salmon Confidential, illustrating the adverse effects from salmon farming.
- In March, Lisa Scott told us the possible invasion of Quagga and Zebra Mussels which clog water outlets and drains.
- April - Doug Burkes from Kamloops spoke about the White Nose syndrome in bats and our “Bug Guys” showed us wonderful displays of mounted bugs. Also in April, Harold Sellars started a Saturday morning Nature walk. This is one club event, we advertise in the paper to the public. Many people besides a few NONC members, turn up for these walks and have shown interest in our other NONC activities.
- Our Field Day is the second Saturday in May. This year our base was Goose Lake, although one hiking group went to Middleton Mountain to observe some nesting bald eagles from a cliff above, before returning to the lunch spot at Goose Lake and Nature trails. The evening banquet was held at Kalamalka College with speaker, Jon Corbett, telling us about life in remote Asian places. Other activities have included monitoring blue bird trails, collating the results and sending them to the North American Data Base.
- Thursday hikes have included an annual hike to Mount Yeoward in the Monashee.

At our last AGM, we elected Harold Sellars as our new President. Before stepping up to the President position, Harold was responsible for our clubs communications. He was responsible for the production of our Newspacket five times a year, and he was also our email coordinator, updating our members on a weekly basis of upcoming club activities.

Gail Loughridge has continued her excellent Hummingbird banding program. Some of our other activities included pond and road cleanups and this year, we have agreed to support a rattlesnake research project on the Campbell Brown Reserve.

Some of our members attended parks meeting about Monashee Provincial Park, where the issues surrounding nearby logging, a new lodge near the Park and suggested horse and biking trails. Another meeting in August was about Kalamalka Provincial Park where some cabin owners who live on lakeshore beyond the park have applied for road improvements. Traditionally, their road was a summer road only and those cabins were designated lake access only. Don Guild, BC Nature Parks and Protected Areas representative, came to that meeting. Other concerns have been about the heronry, its owner and some nearby home owners .

In coordination with our club, our local Young Naturalists have had some Sunday outings, with both leaders and parents in attendance. 🌿

Shuswap Naturalist Club Janet Pattinson

Thank you to the many club members that have stepped forward to assist with organizing the BC Nature Fall General Meeting (FGM) in Salmon Arm at the Prestige Inn later this month.

The Young Naturalist Club has been very active under the supervision of Emily and Geoff Styles. Parents have been very much involved and creative activities have included camping trips.

For many years we have provided an education award to a third year student at Thompson Rivers University in the field of natural resource science. We are very pleased that we are now able to increase the award to \$1000 with the help of the management of an endowment by the Shuswap Community Foundation.

This year our club members enjoyed high quality presentations at our meetings that attracted excellent attendance. Our western grebe monitors, Ed and Monica Dahl, have completed their count this year and are pleased to report 160 young grebes, a higher number than other years. ❀

Vancouver Island Region Regional Coordinator - John Neville

Arrowsmith Naturalists Lynne Brookes

This has been a busy year for the “A-Nats”—and it's not over yet! Our membership remains in the 90s and provides a wonderful resource from which to draw for the various stewardship, educational, citizen science, and club promotion events in which we participate during the year. We enjoy great camaraderie on our frequent outings around and near central Vancouver Island and at the monthly programs--as probably do most of the BC Nature clubs. Below are some of the activities and projects accomplished and projected for this year.

The Englishman River estuary bordering Parksville continues to be the main focus of our club's stewardship work. A dedicated group of individuals work on the removal of of invasive species on a twice monthly basis and have been doing so since 2005. More hands are always needed for this endeavour.

Club members continue to be active in community outreach providing educational exhibits aimed at encouraging public awareness and enjoyment of local wildlife and their involvement in habitat improvement. This spring members again set up spotting scopes at the community beach to provide public viewing opportunities at the annual Brant in the Bay Celebration of Wildlife; led tours through the forest to the water's edge of Hamilton Marsh during the Brant Festival/Earth Day public event; provided information through our exhibits at the Errington and Qualicum Beach farmer's markets; together with our Young Naturalists chapter we provided a marine exhibit with carefully maintained living sea creatures at Parksville's annual KidFest --drawing hundreds of visitors; and participated in Rivers Day at the Englishman River. One of our members is helping to develop signage for native plants including their wildlife and aboriginal uses for display on the grounds of a wildlife recovery centre, a trail at an elementary school, and along the Parksville museum's nature trail. A number of members have also authored articles for our club's new monthly column “Nature Notes” in a local newspaper.

Some of the citizen science activities in which members have or will participate include the Great Backyard Bird Count; the Parksville-Qualicum Beach Christmas Bird Count with some members also assisting in other neighboring count circles; and the local Canada Goose survey. One of our members, assisted in the field by another, has recently concluded a survey of Swainson's Thrush habitat preferences for his Master's thesis. The results will provide information useful for better understanding summer habitat needs for these birds.

We again held our club's well attended annual July potluck picnic at Rath Trevor Park, with special visitors, John and Heather Neville, further adding to our enjoyment. We have also enjoyed many club outings to various sites—from the sea to the mountains—throughout the year. These are attended by members who provide a wonderful mix of knowledge and we learn from each other as we enjoy the day's excursion. The stimulating monthly programs we've had this year often attracted other members of the community. We all look forward to the winter's post Christmas Bird Count potluck dinner and the shared tales arising from the count day's adventures and sightings.

To better promote our club and attract future members, four A-Nats met together this spring and developed a PowerPoint program about our club and the opportunities membership provides. We can now use this to enhance presentations to community groups with information about BC Nature and our Arrowsmith Naturalists chapter. ❀

Comox Valley Naturalists Society Sharon Niscak

The Garry Oak nursery continues to expand and garner public interest. A recent walk through the rare Vanier Garry oak grove focused on the history, future impacts, invasive control and future plans for a new park. Over the years local governments have slowly and gradually gained some knowledge of the existence of Garry oak meadows and the significance in pre-settlement times and role in the local landscape.

The Mack Laing Committee formed a Society and is presenting a report to the Town of Comox in August for the preservation of Baybrook, home of Hamilton Mack Laing. If successful the Comox Valley will have a Nature House with a viable plan for the preservation of Baybrook, an innovative voluntourism destination and educational classes for children and youth. This project has moved forward despite the political hurdles and challenges. For updates <http://macklaingsociety.ca/wp>

A dynamic program of monthly public meetings and weekly nature walks has resulted in increased interest and membership. Hopefully new members will increase our volunteer base and expand public awareness of nature during the coming year.

Comox Valley Nature and the Strathcona Wilderness Institute collaborated on walks in Strathcona Park during the summer. The recent changes in the Park Act are of concern to all who have worked to protect and care for this wonderful wilderness park. A club walk was also organized to Milner Gardens and Woodland, Qualicum Beach. Other walks included a trip to Nile Creek watershed where considerable work has been conducted by the local streamkeepers.

John Tayless led the Point Holmes low tide walk pointing out the zonation and marine biology. Carefully examination of the organisms living among the rocks revealed a bountiful selection of eggs masses, crabs, starfish and other fascinating marine life.

The very active birding group organized field trips throughout the summer including a recent trip to the Olympic peninsula. It was also the first summer waterbird count.

Many of our members also engage in Photography and Botany group activities.✂

Pender Islands Field Naturalists Patricia Crossley

We are pleased to report on the activities of Pender Island Field Naturalists for the past year, as follows:

- Sidney Spit, August: The spit and nearby lagoon is a well known area for the concentration of shorebirds and other species during migration periods. At the landing, we were met by a Caspian Tern not normally seen off Pender and, on the pier, a raucous number of Purple Martins. A walk down the spit revealed over two dozen Great Blue Herons feeding in the shallow tidal flats. We were pleased to see Black-bellied Plovers and Pacific Golden Plovers, two species that breed in the Arctic environment, on their way south to their wintering grounds. We saw a small group of Least and Western Sandpipers.
- In October, we visited the Reifel Refuge at Delta. We were greeted by wave after wave of calling snow geese. Neat stuff and enjoyed by 19 of us from Pender Island and Salt Spring. Many other species were seen both at Reifel and Boundary Bay where thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl congregate. Peregrine Falcon, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Shrike and Long-billed Dowitchers were among the 60 species of note identified on the trip.
- The annual boat trip to Race Rocks had to be cancelled due to weather and then boat breakdown.
- As a prelude to the annual Christmas Bird count to be held mid December, an introductory bird identification outing was held on a week prior. We looked for some of the more common birds expected at this time of year and provided some clues as to their identification. Last years Christmas Bird Count was another successful event. For our three islands we had a total of 112 participants including feeder watchers. What an outstanding effort by our communities! The species composite total was 94, plus two additional species in the count week, a great effort by those who travelled by foot, car, boat and bicycle or from the comfort of their window. For Pender Island, 3 new species were added; Greater White-fronted Goose, Orange-crowned Warbler and Rufous Hummingbird. Record numbers of Anna's Hummingbird counted as well as for Surfbird, Pied-billed Grebe, California Gull, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, and Bewick's and Pacific Wrens.
- John Neville, the current president of BC Nature spoke to us at the end of April. His topic was "Raptors of Canada". This was a well attended event enjoyed by all.
- In April, on Stewardship Day, as in previous years, the Field Naturalists helped in the cleanup of the shoreline at Ham-

Saltspring Trail and Nature Club Nieke Visser

This year we signed a multi year operating agreement with BC Parks, enabling us to improve trails in Burgoyne Bay and Mount Maxwell Parks and continue to maintain trails in Ruckle Park. Our club also received a grant from BC Parks to pay for upgrades. We had been working on trails in the parks for many years mainly clearing wind fall and removing broom. This time we can finally install markers and signage on Maxwell and in Burgoyne preventing people from getting lost on the network of trails. Some of our members mapped the parks by GPS.

In May we started on an ambitious project mapping the shoreline of our island for which we are generously supported by both BC Nature Foundation and the Capital Region District. The first phase involves acquiring an inventory of ecological and anthropological features of Ganges Harbour. The project is based on experiences acquired during a similar project on Mayne Island and that still continues. David Denning, Peter Mcallister and Leanna Boyer, the driving forces behind this project, have been working on it daily during the summer when low tide happens at a favourable time in the day with the help of many volunteers: a real citizen science project! This is a project likely to go on for some time and we are very excited about the opportunity to contribute to a scientific data base that will serve our community and other islands around us.

In the spring I happened to run into one of our founding members Loes Holland. She and I and another long members sat down to figure out when exactly our club was established. The date that a group of people got together to form a hiking and nature club was January 1973. It took them a year to make it “official” and on January 26, 1974, the club had its own constitution filed at the BC Registry Services. It can be argued we missed our 40 year anniversary last year. Well, so be it. We are thankful to Loes who kept all the records, because our own archives are far from complete. That happens if you do not have a permanent “home” and documents are moved from person to the next.

Late April some 40 members boarded the water taxi to go to Prevost Island. Prevost is for 90% private property, the other 10% is part of the Parks Canada Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. We were hosted by the owners of the Prevost farm, hiked or walked around the island according to our abilities, and had a wonderful tea and cookies afterwards on the deck of the farm house. We do this every two years in the spring when work on the farm is still at a low level and the family has time to take us around. It is a good time for birding as well although this year the ducks were somewhere else apparently.

Our members accepted an invitation from the Pender Island Naturalists to visit their island. We accepted and took a zodiac full of adventurers to Pender in June. Unfortunately, most of the spring flowers were already done, but we spent a lovely day on very southerly tip of South Pender. Thanks to the Pender Nats who drove us around and were such knowledgeable hosts! We had some very interesting speakers this spring and attendance was very good. A while ago we decided to open our presentation evenings to the general public in an effort to get people more interested in nature. It seems to work most of the time and we found our audiences increased in number significantly.

And last but not least, the preparations for the 2015 BC Nature Conference and AGM are well under way. We have an exciting program on the menu and we hope to see many of you if not all on May 7-10, 2015 on our beautiful Salt Spring Island. Watch the winter issue of the BC Nature Magazine and our website when registration and information on the program will become available. ✂

Victoria Natural History James Miskelly

The Victoria Natural History Society had a change in leadership this summer, as Darren Copley concluded his term as president and was replaced by Ken Sohm. Darren is continuing as Past President, in addition to filling several other roles. We’ve had a great variety of field trips over the last few months. In addition to birds and plants, these trips have included bats and fossils. Two trips have targeted subalpine habitats outside of Victoria at Strathcona Provincial Park and Olympic National Park. For the first time we’ve had regular scheduled butterfly trips, thanks to the new Butterfly Count Coordinator, Aziza Cooper.

As the seasons change, we are back to our usual presentation calendar, with four speakers every month from September to April. We also have a lot of new field trips coming up, covering topics from spiders to whales. As well, we are preparing for our annual members appreciation barbeque at East Sooke Regional Park later in September. ✂

Treasurer's Report John Troth

	2013 Actual	2013 Budget	% of Budget	2014 Actual	2014 Budget	% of Budget
Revenue						
Advertising	\$ 9,625	\$ 9,800	98%	\$ 7,810	\$ 9,800	80%
Annual & Fall General Meeting	5,966	5,000	119%	5,400	6,000	90%
Camps & Special Events	16,091	12,000	134%	32,807	25,000	131%
Club Membership Dues	47,627	48,000	99%	48,854	47,000	104%
Fundraising & Appeal	17,587	17,000	103%	5,464	17,000	32%
ELC Fundraising				1,825	-	100%
Insurance Premium Recovery	8,172	8,000	102%	8,507	8,200	104%
Interest	1,979	250	792%	29	1,000	3%
Miscellaneous	29	250	12%	145	250	58%
Other Membership Dues	1,966	2,600	76%	1,015	1,500	68%
Project Admin Fees	13,229	9,500	139%	8,020	9,500	84%
Rent	2,700	2,700	100%	2,700	2,700	100%
Total Revenue	124,972	115,100	109%	122,578	127,950	96%
Expense						
Accounting	\$ 3,577	\$ 3,150	114%	\$ 3,881	\$ 3,500	111%
Annual & Fall General Meeting	2,445	3,611	68%	786	2,500	31%
Awards	1,561	400	390%	382	500	76%
Bank Charges	1,039	650	160%	303	1,200	25%
BCnature Magazine	18,073	15,500	117%	14,256	15,500	92%
Camps & Special Events	12,285	9,000	136%	24,922	20,000	125%
Dues	156	200	78%	156	200	78%
Fundraising	1,353	1,350	100%	-	1,500	0%
Fundraising ELC	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Internet	2,383	1,600	149%	1,780	2,000	89%
Insurance premiums	10,219	9,500	108%	9,580	11,000	87%
Office Supplies/Postage/Printing	1,280	4,500	28%	1,362	2,000	68%
Rent - Services for Elders		1,500	0	829	1,500	55%
Salary & Benefits - office	47,709	47,000	102%	26,313	45,000	58%
Summer Students	4,088	4,600	89%	3,500	500	70%
Supplies & Misc.	392	500	78%	524	1,500	105%
Telephone	916	1,300	70%	731	8,500	49%
Travel & Accommodation (Net of Donations)	8,504	8,500	100%	11,204		132%
Total Expenses	115,981	111,511	104%	100,509	121,900	82%
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	\$8,991	\$3,589		\$22,067	\$6,050	

Notes: FGM Operating Fund and Budget Update

As of September 1, 2014 BC Nature finds itself with an annual budget surplus of \$22,067, against an annual expected budget surplus \$6,050. This is mostly due to the success of our camps and special events, whose collections are presently at 130% of budget, and the fact that we have already collected our annual budgeted revenue from club membership dues. During the final three months of the year we will focus on our fall fundraising appeal and advertising revenues from our publication.

Current expenses are \$100,509, with the annual expenses budgeted at \$121,900. Through nine months, current expenses represents 82% of annual budgeted expenses. Camps and special events expenses are currently at 125% of the annual budget, with FGM expenses still to come. However, the increase of this expense over budget can partially be attributed to the greater than planned revenues associated with camps and special events.

The Operating Fund's initial 2014 balance was \$22,694. During the summer, a transfer of funds to and from the Operating Fund was approved. \$4,000 and \$6,000 were transferred into the Operating Fund from the Breeding Bird Atlas and Strategic Planning accounts, respectively. At the same time, \$1,000 was transferred to both the Nature Knowledge account and to the website maintenance account, \$1,500 was transferred to the education fund, \$2,000 was transferred to both the contingency account and Bert Brink Fund, \$3,500 was transferred to the summer student account, and \$10,000 was transferred to the Important Bird Areas account. Following these transfers but before other current year additions, the Operating Fund's balance was \$11,694. ✂

Club Membership Information - 2014

Club Name	Total 2013	Total 2014	Website
Lower Mainland			
Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club	68	63	http://www.abbymissionnatureclub.org/
Alouette Field Naturalists	15	23	
Bowen Nature Club	105	76	
Burke Mountain Naturalists	197	194	www.bmn.bc.ca
Chilliwack Field Naturalists	55	42	www.chilliwackfieldnaturalists.com
Delta Naturalists Society	77	88	http://dncb.wordpress.com
Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society	22	20	www.birdsonthebay.ca
Langley Field Naturalists Society	95	96	http://www.langleyfieldnaturalists.org/
Little Campbell Watershed Society	9	8	www.lews.ca
Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society	23	26	www.penderharbourwildlife.com
Royal City Field Naturalists	12	12	
Squamish Environmental Conservation Soc.	45	41	http://www.squamishenvironment.ca/
Stoney Creek Environmental Committee	30	25	www.scec.ca/
Sunshine Coast Natural History Society	148	137	https://sites.google.com/site/scnaturalhistorysoc/
Surrey Environmental Partners	7	7	
Nature Vancouver	854	800	www.naturevancouver.ca
Whistler Naturalists Society	74	28	
White Rock & Surrey Naturalists Society	105	90	
WildResearch	258	306	www.wildresearch.ca
Kootenays			
Fernie Nature Club	46	40	http://www.ourfernie.com/fernie-nature-club
Rocky Mountain Naturalists Society	62	64	
West Kootenay Natrualists Association	114	108	http://www.kootenaynaturalists.org
Northern BC			
Bulkley Valley Naturalists	54	67	www.bvnaturalists.ca
Kitimat Valley Naturalists	26	35	
MacKenzie Nature Observatory	31	39	http://mackenzienatureobservatory.ca/
Prince George Naturalist Club	98	54	http://pgnc.wordpress.com
Quesnel Naturalists	40	36	
Timberline Trail & Nature Club	15	14	
Williams Lake Field Naturalists	143	196	www.williamslakefieldnaturalists.ca
Thompson-Shuswap-Okanagan			
Central Okanagan Naturalist Club	221	220	http://www.okanagannature.org/
Kamloops Naturalist Club	109	127	http://www.kamloopsnaturalistclub.ca/
Kamloops Thompson Trail Alliance **	15	13	http://www.kamloopsthompsontrailsalliance.com/
Lillooet Naturalist Club	97	108	http://www.lillooetnaturalistsociety.org/
Nicola Naturalists	54	54	http://www.nicolanaturalists.ca/
North Okanagan Naturalists' Club	111	113	http://www.nonc.ca/
North Shuswap Naturalists Club	16	13	
Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists	64	57	

Club Name	Total 2013	Total 2014	Website
Shuswap Naturalists Club	99	102	http://www.shuswapnaturalists.org/
South Okanagan Naturalists Club	102	130	http://www.southokanagan.com
Vermillion Forks Field Naturalists	72	70	
Vancouver Island			
Arrowsmith Naturalists	88	99	http://www.arrowsmithnats.org/
Comox Valley Naturalists	176	219	http://www.comoxvalleynaturalists.bc.ca
Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society	109	110	http://www.naturecowichan.net
Nanose Naturalists	59	58	http://www.nanoosenaturalist.org/
Pender Island Field Naturalists	80	83	
Rithet's Bog Conservation Society	13	10	
Rocky Point Bird Observatory	65	98	http://rpbo.org/
Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club	187	163	http://saltspringtnc.ca
Victoria Natural History Society	604	559	www.vicnhs.bc.ca
Subtotal	5188	5111	
Affiliate Clubs	20	14	
Life Members	24	24	
Subscription Members	13	12	
Direct Members	96	96	
Total All Categories	5341	5257	



Shuswap Naturalists Nature Trail

