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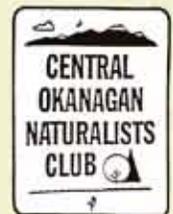


“Connections”

2018 Fall General Meeting and Conference

September 20 - 22, 2018

Kelowna, BC



Photographs: Thank you to Peter Courtney for his contribution of his photographs for the cover and throughout this booklet. Kelowna is a truly colourful place to visit!

BC Nature (Federation of British Columbia Naturalists)

Fall General Meeting, September 22, 2018

Table of Contents

Report on BC Nature Activities

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Presidents Report | 3 |
| BC Naturalists Foundation | 4 |
| Camp Report | 5 |
| Communications Report | 5 |
| Conservation Report | 6 |
| Education Report | 6 |
| IBA Report | 7 |
| NatureKids BC | 8 |

Club Reports By Region

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Lower Mainland Region | 9 |
| Kootenay Region | 16 |
| Northern BC | 17 |
| Thompson-Okanagan Shuswap Region | 20 |
| Vancouver Island Region | 24 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Budget Comparison – Expenses and Revenue | 28 |
|---|----|

| | |
|---|----|
| 2018 Membership Listings by Club | 30 |
|---|----|

Report on BC Nature Activities

President's Report

Alan Burger, President

Many thanks to the Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club (CONC) for hosting this Fall General Meeting – the program looks great. BC Nature, in conjunction with the Nature Networks program of Nature Canada, is also offering a workshop on outreach and effective use of social media on Sunday, September 23, 2018. The workshop is being led by Matt Price of Nature Canada. I'm pleased to see that representatives of many clubs have registered for this course. Matt is planning to offer similar workshops in the Lower Mainland and perhaps Vancouver Island, which will also be open to BC Nature clubs.

Much has been happening within BC Nature since our very successful AGM in Vancouver in May. Most importantly, we have undertaken an organizational review. Over the past six months your Executive has been discussing how we can make BC Nature more effective and efficient, how we can reduce the load on the key people running the federation, and how we can serve our member clubs better. BC Nature has a five-year Strategic Plan, covering 2015-2020, which provides important guideposts for what we do (check out the Strategic Plan on our website). But at this stage BC Nature needs a bit more – our membership has increased by 30% in the past eight years, we have become more involved in conservation issues that affect wildlife and nature in BC, and the volunteers in our Conservation, Education and Communication committees are becoming loaded with commitments.

To facilitate this discussion the Executive is holding a retreat here in Kelowna in conjunction with this Fall General Meeting. With the support of the BC Naturalists' Foundation, we've also hired a consultant Val Mayes to do a thorough review of our operation and our options for improvement, and to facilitate the discussion at the retreat. Hiring a second paid staff person, in addition to our Office Manager, is a major item of discussion, but there are at least four options on the table – Executive Director, Conservation Director, Communications Director or additional office assistant. There are pros and cons for each of these options, and of course finding the necessary funding for more staff time is a major concern. We also need to address some of the gaps in our governance and our use of volunteers. There will be opportunities for all BC Nature clubs and members to provide input into the decisions that are made on our development. So stay tuned as we do this important organizational review.

Another review that is underway is a revision of BC Nature's bylaws. Lawyer and Nature Vancouver member Harry Crosby (who is also the new chair of the Camps Committee) has offered to undertake a revision of our bylaws. We did revise our bylaws in 2017 to make them compatible with the new BC Societies Act, but some additional revisions are needed. We are hoping that the revision will be done in time for approval at the May 2019 AGM.

We are still hoping that one of our clubs will step forward to host the Fall General Meeting in 2019. It would be a pity to forgo one of these popular events. We have a \$500 incentive for any club that has not hosted a meeting for the last 15 years. When last did your club host a General Meeting?

I take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who contribute so much to BC Nature and our member clubs. In particular I want to single out Marg Cuthbert, chair of our Education Committee, Peter Ballin, chair of the Conservation Committee and Helen Aqua, the new chair of our Communications Committee. All of these committees undertake huge amounts of work, nearly all of it behind the scenes and not often recognized by most BC Nature members. It is really these contributions that provide the foundation for BC Nature and allow us to speak for nature awareness and conservation in these difficult times, when every week seems to bring a new challenge to the environmental integrity of this beautiful province. ♦

BC Naturalist Foundation

Bob Handfield, President

Over my career, as a geologist and mineral exploration manager, many of the tasks that fell to me were fund raising. Not quite in the same manner as fund-raising for the Naturalists' Foundation but fund-raising nevertheless. When my team of geologists had a good exploration target, we needed the funds to carry out an exploration program, which depending on the stage the exploration was at, might be \$50,000 or it might be \$3 million. My job then was to convince the higher management that our program was worthy of some portion of the finite amount of funds the company had available for exploration. Now part of my job as President of the Foundation is to convince you that the Foundation is worthy of some part of the finite amount of money you have to donate to worthy causes.

The Foundation exists for one purpose – to raise money to help BC Nature and its member Clubs do the things that need doing to help keep BC the wonderful natural place that it is. I can honestly say that the Foundation is extremely parsimonious with the funds you donate to us. We are required by law to have a not-for-profit equivalent of a financial audit which is our biggest single administrative expense but our administration expenses typically would be less than 5% of our income. A little research suggests that is amongst the lowest in the Province. Of course this varies from year to year as does our income which consists mainly of bequests and donations. The bulk of our annual expenditures goes to helping BC Nature member clubs keep BC's nature "worth knowing".

So as we enter the last quarter of the year consider the Foundation in your annual giving and give generously. The Foundation's Annual Report and 2017 year-end Financial Report are 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.

The Foundation greatly appreciates the many generous individuals who have made donations over the past years 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. As a result of our growing endowment, annual grants have been steadily increasing – from \$10,000 in 2014 to \$13,500 this year.

Since its formation 23 years ago, the Foundation has provided about \$170,000 in grants to BC Nature and its member clubs for conservation and education projects.

The Foundation's AGM and Directors meetings took place in May of this year at BC Nature's AGM in Vancouver. The annual financial statements for year end 2017 show another good year for the Foundation. Our total endowment at the financial year end was just shy of \$700,000.

If your club is interested in applying for a 2019 Club Support Grant, the deadline to submit your application is January 31st. The application form can be found on the Foundation's page on the BC Nature website. If you have any questions regarding the Foundation please contact Bob Handfield, bobnmaggie@shaw.ca

Foundation Board of Directors 2018-19

President – Bob Handfield
Treasurer – David Tsang

Vice-President – Tom Bearss
Secretary – Bev Ramey

Directors-at-Large: Gerald McKeating, Stephen Partington, Rosamund Pojar, Kees Visser, Pat Westheuser, Allan Burger (*ex officio*) and Joyce Tombouljian (*ex officio*). ♦

BC Nature Camp Committee Report **Betty Davison for Harry Crosby**

2018 is shaping up to be a banner year for camps. And we're not done yet for this year!

Our members experienced hiking up alpine meadows to boat charters to view whales. Both of the camps held to date, were sold out with a waiting list. Tofino Camp was well run by Fiona Flook and much talked about by the participants. Another amazing camp in Tofino! This camp ran in conjunction with the Tofino Shorebird Festival, so there was certainly no shortage of expert birders!. Other sightings of wildlife in this camp were the elusive Grey Wolf and a black bear and many large mammals of the sea. Cathedral Provincial Park camp, run by Kees Visser and the Maisels of Princeton, was also well attended with a capacity of 34 members. This group experienced beautiful mountain top scenery and many species of alpine flowers. This hiking, exploring trip was a mix of easy hiking and level 5 hiking. Something to suit all participants.

While I am writing this report (on behalf of our new camp coordinator Harry Crosby), the Tatlayoko Camp is just getting started. This camp is also sold out with 24 participants who are happy that the smoke has cleared from all the fires and will surely be having a great time exploring the Tatlayoko area.

The Harrison Camp is sold out with a wait list and will prove to be a great display of both salmon and eagles and all things in between! Look for a full report in the Spring *BCnature magazine*. If you or your club have a great idea for a BC Nature camp please do email Harry Crosby. Our camps can be hosted either in conjunction with your club, or if you prefer, planning the camp yourself with input from the camp committee and assistance from BC Nature, please do not hesitate to contact Harry Crosby - hcrosby@telus.net ♦

Communications Committee **Helen Aqua**

I'm your new Communications Chair and I look forward to gaining a great deal of information from you at this FGM about communication channels and topics to and from BC Nature and all the clubs. These general meetings are wonderful opportunities for face to face communication- something that is a rarity with all the technology available.

Speaking of technology, besides landline telephones & cell phones we now communicate a great deal online - computers, iPads, and our cell phones. I am aware that not everyone has internet technology at home or high speed internet and the good news is that all (most?) community libraries have public computers and very kind librarians who can assist you accessing our website www.bcnature.ca and doing any printing, ie, of camp or AGM/FGM information. As Claudia mentioned in the last Communication Report, we're also ready to upscale our social media presence: Facebook, Twitter, & maybe Pinterest, Instagram, we'll see.

Four times a year we publish the *BCnature* magazine that can be read online or mailed to you. And every month we send an electronic news bulletin directly to your email address and the bulletins are also available on the members' section of our website. Let us know if you're enjoying the content, the "look" and for sure, forward information that you think could be included in either publication. My contact info is available through the BC Nature office. ♦



Yellow-headed Blackbird

Conservation Report

Peter Ballin & Members of the Conservation Committee

Since the AGM in Vancouver this spring, your conservation committee has established a priority list of issues for our focus, reinstated the BC Nature Conservation Network, and collaborated with the Wilderness Committee, a number of ENGO's to form a consortium in support of BC Parks, and Against Port Expansion Community Group (Roberts Bank).

BCN made submissions to government, about:

- Environmental Assessment
- Logging in the Upper Skagit Valley
- Roberts Bank Container Terminal 2
- The BC Caribou Recovery Strategy
- Southern Resident Orca Protection
- Illegal eagle nest take-down
- Proposed ban of the neonicotinoid pesticide imidacloprid
- RAMSAR COP 13 intertidal wetlands resolution



Steers Head

And attended these meetings/conference calls:

- BC Parks Partners
- Upper Columbia Basin Environmental Collaborative (UCBEC)
- BC Species at Risk Legislation and Caribou Recovery

The conservation committee reports in our BC Nature magazine present you with more details, and you can find letters sent and received on the BCN website. If you wish more information, please contact me and I'll be happy to fill you in: pjballin@mac.com. ♦

Education Report

Margaret Cuthbert, Chair

The Education Committee met at the May AGM on Friday, May 11, at the UBC Forest Sciences Centre and attending were Christine Chowaniec, Laura Cottle, Marg Cuthbert, Jude Grass, Gary Hunt, Katrina Powell, Greg Ross, Lauren Sherwood, Sue & Walter Thorne. The September 21, 2017 minutes were adopted. Committee members appreciated the participation of new members Christine, Laura and Lauren.

The Scholarship Committee had a difficult decision this year with excellent candidates for the Rene Savenye Scholarship. Vanessa Robinson, with the Kamloops Nature Club was chosen and we are looking forward to meeting her at the Fall General Meeting in Kelowna to receive her cheque.

Education Committee members continue to request member clubs to nominate their Naturalist Mentors to be acknowledged and we are delighted that a few have stepped up to do so. Being acknowledged for one's volunteer efforts is appreciated by most members!

The 2018 Regional Science Fair results are in the Fall Magazine. The Education Committee is requesting BC Nature Regional Coordinators to connect with their clubs to ask if a member could liaison with their Regional Science Fair Coordinator to attend the regional awards ceremony to give the BC Nature awards for the Junior and Senior categories. We acknowledge and appreciate those clubs that have come forward to attend on our behalf; this was a positive step to more awareness about BC Nature's contribution to student projects and awards. We invite more clubs to participate so that we can have a BC Nature representative in each of the fourteen Science Fair Regions. Some clubs also participated in the judging of student projects and we very much appreciate their involvement and the Regional Coordinators for their time to assist with this effort to raise awareness about BC Nature.

We also recognize that club members are busy with attending and hosting events in their communities and our committee needs to discuss how BC Nature can also be promoted. Clubs often display and distribute informational materials and it would be helpful to also promote BC Nature.

The Education Committee with the support of the Executive and the Vernon Cuthbert (Bert) Brink family are very pleased to be able to offer a post graduate Bert Brink Scholarship in 2019 of \$2000. Bev Ramey and the Brink family have thoughtfully assisted with the criteria to promote the scholarship and information about Bert Brink is on the BC Nature website. The Executive has also approved further funding for the Rene Savenye scholarship and we hope members will consider a donation to the BC Nature Scholarships to offer to students over the long term.

We have also reviewed the website for corrections and updates and continue to improve the Outdoor Tips for Teachers document.

The Education Committee plans to meet at the Fall meeting in Kelowna on Friday, September 21, 4:45 pm – 6:00 pm, in one of the Board Rooms at the hotel venue and a light dinner will be provided at 5:30 pm. All members with an interest in nature education are welcome to attend and we would appreciate a representative from member clubs attending. ♦

Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas (IBA) **Krista Kaptein**

The Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas (IBA) Program is one of the main province-wide stewardship projects of BC Nature. The BC IBA Caretaker Network is now about 60 Caretakers & co-Caretakers, involved in more than 90% of BC's 83 IBAs. Around the province, our volunteer Caretakers & assistants, who care for BC's IBAs, are critical to the Program's success. Caretaker projects range from education to conservation, including activities such as birding festivals, community outreach, bird surveys, sign installation, and bird blind construction.

The BC IBA program has continued with achievements, collaborations and targets since the spring as follows:

- Display & presentation on IBAs at BCN AGM in May 2018 in Vancouver.
- Focus on IBAs articles published in BC Nature magazine Summer 2018 and Fall 2018 issues.
- The BC Conservation team continues to provide technical support. The core team includes Anne Murray, Art Martell, George Clulow, and David Bradley, Karen Devitt & James Casey of Bird Studies Canada, and other expertise as needed.
- BC Nature student Savanna Yan assisted the IBA Program by interviewing several Caretakers for future articles.
- Liaison with Bird Studies Canada headquarters staff in Ontario continues with Andrew Couturier, BSC Senior Analyst
- Liaison with New Brunswick IBA Program Coordinator continues with Adam Cheeseman of Nature New Brunswick.
- BC IBA eNewsletters sent, reaching about 400 people in the IBA network every three months.
- Recruitment, communications and welcome package for new IBA Caretaker for Cecil Lake IBA.
- Outreach to Tofino area IBA Caretakers in May 2018 included meetings, providing small IBA signs, discussion of future signs.
- Application for BC IBA Program core funding for 2019 to BC Gaming.
- Ongoing Caretaker Support including IBA signs, bird ID materials, assistance with bird surveys.
- Successful progress of four interpretive signs in four IBAs, funded by TD FEF to be completed by Sept. 2018. Additional funding from Columbia Basin Trust for larger sign for Skookumchuck IBA. Skookumchuck IBA Caretaker Dianne Cooper took the lead on her project.
- Successful completion eBird Protocol Survey in White Lake IBA in June 2018, funded by BCFO.
- Application to BCFO for funding to support swan count in Stuart, Tachie & Middle Rivers IBA.
- Ongoing IBA Local Action Fund (LAF) /Nature Canada Project: "Engaging BC First Nations Guardian

Watchmen as Partners in IBA Stewardship”. Activities included continued outreach to Haida Gwaii Watchmen with a trip to Haida Gwaii in June 2018; meeting with Laskeek IBA Caretaker and Caretakers of 3 other Haida Gwaii IBAs about projects; development of site-specific bird identification materials for Haida Watchmen.

In the coming year, the IBA Local Action Fund will continue to be a major project. Funding will continue to be sought to support more IBA interpretive sign projects, bird counts and other conservation initiatives. Site summary updates will continue in collaboration with Caretakers. The Coordinator will continue to support Caretaker initiatives at their request. Anne Murray continues as volunteer IBA Program Liaison for BC Nature; and members of the BC IBA Conservation Team, Caretakers, Bird Studies Canada, Nature Canada, and other partners and supporters, continue to contribute a significant amount of in-kind time and expertise to the Program. ♦

NatureKids BC Louise Pederson

2018 has been flying by! Here at NatureKids BC, our team of staff, board of directors and other volunteers are gearing up for a new season, and our club leaders are planning fantastic Explorer Days packed with nature adventures for our family members for the year ahead. You can keep up-to-date with our work by following us on *Facebook* (@NatureKidsBC) or by subscribing to our free monthly e-newsletter via our website.

We are grateful to all of you who have supported us this year - as a club leader, nature mentor, donor, member or simply as a friend. Your diligent efforts to better understand, record and communicate about BC’s natural heritage deeply inspire us.



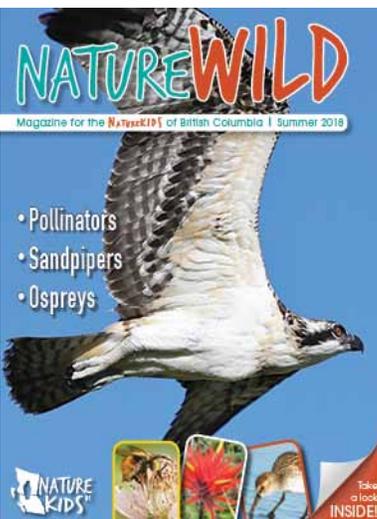
By NatureKids

A Planting project

Pollinator citizen science project

For the past several years, the NatureKids BC staff team has organized a BC-wide citizen science or stewardship project for our members to help the kids take practical action for nature and make a real contribution. This spring we launched a pollinator citizen science project that encouraged kids and their families to collect data on local pollinators. The project has provided opportunities for children to get involved in real science and learning about nature on their doorstep. We are thankful to pollinator expert and biologist, Erin Udal, for working with us on this project.

Through pollinator surveys and education materials, the children have learned about wild pollinators and how to identify them. They have done research on the abundance and diversity of bees, wasps, and butterflies in green spaces in their local area through data collection events and have been encouraged to get involved in stewardship activities that increase pollinator habitat. The summer issue of *NatureWILD* featured a double-page spread on some of the practical things families can do to help pollinators in their own yard or balcony.



We are planning next year’s BC-wide citizen science & stewardship project and hope to collaborate with BC Nature!

NatureWILD now free for teachers

We recently made the digital version of *NatureWILD* magazine available for free to all teachers across BC to help more children learn about nature. Please share this news with any teachers you know and ask them to sign up for a complimentary subscription on our website (naturekidsbc.ca/join-us/for-educators/).

Nature clubs

We currently have 24 nature clubs and 50+ volunteer nature club leaders across the province and we have delivered more than 140 Explorer Days to families all across the province so far in 2018. This year we had a new club in Langley start up, led by volunteer Nehal Saleh. We are keen to start up more clubs where there is a need and volunteer interest.

We are currently looking for volunteer nature club leaders or co-leaders for the following clubs: Comox Valley, Cowichan Valley Home Learners, Cowichan Valley Weekend Club, Kelowna, Nelson, North Okanagan, Oceanside and Tri-cities. A volunteer nature club leader's primary role is to organize monthly outdoor nature adventures, called Explorer Days, for NatureKids club members. If you would like more information, please contact Christina Chowaniac at coordinator@naturekidsbc.ca. ♦

Club Reports

Lower Mainland Region Jude Grass - Regional Coordinator

Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club (ANC) - Submitted by Hank Roos

Our plans for the new club year are falling into place. Because of meeting with the Abbotsford Park staff this spring we have permission and in some cases their assistance in several initiatives for Willband Creek Park. The following are planned for this year:

1. Build and install 1 barn owl box (4 others to be located elsewhere). Blackwood Building Centre donated all materials valued at \$1200.
2. Design and install final interpretive signage on viewing platform kiosk.
3. Tree planting in strategic locations identified by us will proceed September 15 with funding received by the City from a TD Tree Days grant.
4. Having received a donation from ACS Elementary School towards the cost of installing a bat colony box we plan to install on like one installed by the Lillooet Club.
5. City will supply and assist us in installing floating cedar logs as well as vertical woody debris for wildlife perches. Cedar trees that have died in other parks will be salvaged for this.
6. Himalayan blackberry groves near the trail were mowed with a brush cutter by Park staff at our request this spring and will be repeated this fall.
7. Over the last 5 years we have noticed areas of reed canary grass dying without herbicides or human activity. So, this spring we initiated a research project to determine the cause. We staked out four 8' x 8' square areas of dead grass and left one with the dead grass mulch in place, another with the dead mulch removed and 2 remaining areas seeded with 2 different mixes of native grass. We had middle school student volunteers help us set this up and will also record and take note of what has or has not grown in each test area
8. Although Parks staff agreed to our request to with enlarging the parking lot as well as raising the trail in flood prone locations to allow for year-round use, it failed to be approved in the year's budget. We are confident this work will proceed next year.

We have been asked by the Abbotsford Christian Middle School to continue to work with student volunteers one afternoon per week at Willband Creek Park. We plan to carry on with invasive plant removal and cleaning and monitoring of swallow and wood duck nest boxes. ♦

Chilliwack Field Naturalists Club (CFNC) - Submitted by Janne Perrin

Chilliwack Field Naturalists Club is now in its 47th year, being founded in 1971. We are a small but active club of 25 members. We host a speaker series open to the public seven times of the year. Field trips are held monthly and often augment our speakers. This summer our field trip coordinator, Fernando Selles, started Thursday evening walks in our local area. These have been well attended. We continue to steward the Camp Slough

Wildlife Area. This November we host the Harrison Eagle Field Camp. It is sold out.

Since our AGM, speakers featured were Jenn Burt, "Sea Otters and Kelp" and Lee Beavington, "Nature as Teacher." This autumn we have Scott Yaeger, "Mesocarnivores of Jones Lake; Terry McIntosh "Habitat & Rare Species" and Mike Pearson "Restoration in the Urban Landscape" lined up.

This past summer we had a behind the scenes tour of the UBC Botanical Garden and the Marine Mammal Rescue Centre. As well we visited Manning Park Alpine twice – the flowers weren't at their peak the first time- and Wilband Creek where we admired the many improvements the AMNC had done.



A family from Asia enjoys the view from the Lookout on CFN's Manning Park Field Trip

Upcoming trips include Browne Creek Wetland, Blackie's Spit, Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park, and the Reifel Bird Sanctuary. Some of our members join the LFN and the AMNC on their trips.

All trips are posted on our website, now in its 14th year. We welcome members from other clubs. Along with our FaceBook page we get a couple of hundred "hits" a month. We have plans to produce a bird brochure of our local area. LFN kindly has made a template available.

Monthly work parties at the Camp Slough Wildlife area continue. The pollinator plants installed in April 2018 are flourishing. Our owl box may be occupied as in August we found a barn owl feather. There seemed to be less activity than usual in our swallow boxes. A small but faithful group turns up at "Coffee Cutters" regularly.

In December, we host two Christmas Bird Counts. The Chilliwack Count is December 15 and the Harrison River one is December 18th. Denis Knopp, our Club president, has coordinated these for many years.

We look forward to showing off our thriving Harrison Salmon and Eagle Stronghold to the field camp participants this November. For others join us on one of our outings. See you in the field. ♦

Delta Naturalists (DN)- Submitted by Anita Den Dikken

As a society which promotes the knowledge and preservation of Nature, our society participates in various community and regional events for the public.

We have various display items pertaining to birds, other animals, plants, and the environment, generally pertinent to our Delta landscape. Items include birds nests, various shells, nature pictures and posters, toy birds with calls representative of their species, and even two animal skins. I must admit that the wolf skin is not from here but rather from the Yukon. The other one is from a black bear(from Burns Bog?). Kids and adults alike are fascinated by the wolf, and because it is so large, often mistake it for a bear. And, in general, we find many parents like their kids to experience displays such as ours so that they can learn to appreciate nature and its bounty.

The events in which we participate include:

- The annual fish release in Watershed Park in N. Delta. These fingerlings are chum salmon which have been raised in tanks. Children are given pails of the fish and they then release them into a stream which flows into the Fraser River. They are thrilled to do this.
- World Migratory Bird Day held at historic Cammidge House at Boundary Bay Park. Our volunteers also lead bird walks for the public
- Father's Day Pancake Breakfast held at Boundary Bay (GVRD) Regional Park
- Biannual Vancouver Landfill Open House - an interesting event at which the public learns about the inner workings of the landfill and has an opportunity to see what they do
- Starry Night - an event held at Deas Island Regional Park. The highlight of the evening occurs at dusk when all of the bats which roost at the historic house called Burrvilla, fly out into the night to feast on mosquitoes

and other insects

- Animal Expo - an annual event to celebrate our animal companions and wild animals, held in Ladner. This is a major fund raiser for the Delta Animal Shelter. Events include dog agility races, Police dog demonstrations, displays of raptors from OWL (Orphaned Wildlife Rescue in Ladner) and other organizations, as well as booths which offer info and services geared to our animal companions
- Richmond Raptor and Garlic Festival - held at Terra Nova in Richmond. Trained birds of prey show off their flying and hunting skills. Sometimes the birds relish their freedom so much that they fly off and disappear for several hours.
- Day At The Farm: coming up Sept. 8th on Westham Island. This event highlights agriculture on the Fraser Delta and comprises various displays, information booths and entertainment.

Delta Nats (as we call ourselves) have monthly meetings with featured speakers. In May we had Marg Cuthbert of Semiahmoo educating us on the birds and other wildlife of Mozambique (a little known country). June saw David and Diane Reesor deliver a presentation on their visit in Sri Lanka. In September we will have Roger Emsley and Cliff Caprani release a short video on what DeltaPort 2 would mean for the Pacific Flyway, particularly with respect to the Western Sandpiper. This will be followed by our very own naturalist, Anne Murray, giving us a presentation on her recent visit to China and its birds.

Weekly birding outings lead by people such as our esteemed President, Tom Bearss, and others such as Terry Carr are popular events which take place year round.

In summary, Delta Nats. is a thriving, albeit small, organization. ♦

Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society (FOSB) - Submitted by Marg Cuthbert

Our Friends Volunteers continued their ongoing commitment to stewardship in the Boundary Bay watershed with:

- Nine public events May through June featuring a Native Plant Garden Tour, a Lichen Discovery walk with Naturalist Al Grass, a pop-up World Ocean Day Festival, a Marine Creatures and Eelgrass presentation and beach walk and a World Nature Night presentation of Colombia Birds with Bird Studies Canada David Bradley,
- Assisted two Elgin Secondary Science teachers with their native plant garden by providing native plant field guides and information, donating plants and volunteers to assist with planting their site,
- Met with the Youth Council to invite them to participate on local projects,
- Met with Semiahmoo Secondary students and Science teacher to finalize the plan then ongoing supervising and facilitating the students painting the Forest Trail Nature Mural project through August,
- 23 classes of students received marine, birds or pond presentations plus field trips May through June,
- A Shorekeepers marine surveys training workshop mid May followed by three marine surveys and data entry,
- Participated in the *Spartina anglica* Working Group by placing flags on plant clones and noting their GPS coordinates,
- Provided the 14th annual Beach Hero Marine Interpretive Program May 20th to August 13th with two student interpreters and volunteer support. 4300 individuals were directly reached through beach walks, school programs and twelve community events. 130 informational brochures were distributed. The Interpreters developed a new Food Web activity, a rack card on plastic debris in the ocean, a brochure on Plainfin Midshipman, the 'Singing fish and a poster to raise awareness. A sign is currently being developed. The BH Interpreters also developed a beach etiquette video,
- Seven habitat enhancement events May to October (planting and invasive plant removals),
- Four work parties in three native plant demonstration garden projects,
- Three marine shoreline cleanups,
- Four city staff and volunteer planning meetings re native garden projects and forest trail,
- two meetings with White Rock staff re native garden followed by tour of forest trail to introduce plant signage we can offer them,
- Attended a DFO Volunteer Appreciation event in June and Surrey Parks Volunteer Appreciation in September,

- Weekly bird surveys at Blackie Spit
- Led three walks at Blackie Spit in support of City of Surrey's 'Get to Know' Blackie Spit program in parks,
- Participated in Bird Studies Canada bus tour of the Fraser delta Important Bird Areas (IBA) with delegates and decision makers in August,
- Participated in the Stewardship Roundtable, a part of the International Ornithological Congress in Vancouver in August
- Participated in the Urban Forestry Conference in Vancouver in early October,
- our AGM and annual Volunteer and Project Partner Appreciation event scheduled for September 30th provides guests with a luncheon and special guests James Casey of Bird Studies Canada speaking on the Fraser delta IBA and Dr. Sarah Joy Bittick and Matt Christensen speaking on current eelgrass monitoring project work.
- Six stakeholder/ working group meetings,
- Subtidal eelgrass mapping data thus far completed was entered to the eelgrass atlas and noting a couple of small gaps, the mapping crew are scheduled to return in September for 3.5 days to complete the baseline mapping of eelgrass in Boundary Bay,
- The distribution of numerous informational brochures through the summer
- Coordinating a working group of multiple stakeholders to address the health, conservation and management of Boundary Bay in collaboration with Bird Studies Canada,
- Ongoing collaboration with the LCWS, Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club and A Rocha Canada on concerns of development, water quality and habitat conservation in the Little Campbell Watershed.

The Friends of Semiahmoo Bay conservation and educational accomplishments are due to the commitment, hard work, resources and care of our volunteers and project partners. They are making all the difference! ♦

Langley Field Naturalists (LFN) - Submitted by Kathy Masse

At the AGM, we were so pleased when President Bob Puls won a Club Service award for his dedicated contribution to the LFN and Anne Gosse was recognized as a Naturalists Mentor for her work with kids at community events and her excellent field trip organization. At the beginning of June, member Ted Lightfoot won the Langley Environmental Hero award for his stewardship at West Creek, as well as his epic cross-Canada adventures in his Beavermobile bringing awareness to all things beaver; its habitat, and history. Rhys Griffiths was awarded posthumously, the Langley Lifetime Environmental Achievement Award.

At the LFN AGM on June 21st, two notable events took place. Bob Puls, our excellent President for the last 10 years, handed over his gavel to Lisa Dreves. Lisa brings her leadership skills combined with her enthusiastic love of nature to her new role. And for the first time we presented an award for the Langley Field Naturalists Volunteer of the Year Award. Our Membership Participation Committee, want to recognize volunteers who give exceptional support to the club. All members voted by secret ballot and the overwhelming choice was Sheila Puls, who has served many exemplary years as our Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair.

We had exciting news this year when we discovered for the first time, nesting Purple Martins in the boxes we erected four years ago in partnership with Metro Parks at the point of Brae Island. This year, our monitoring team was unable to walk out to the boxes because of high flood waters. However, a boater spotted adult PUMA's sitting on the boxes. Upon examination by Metro Parks staff and Lisa, five adults along with chicks in two of the boxes and eggs in the 3rd were photographed!

LFN had expected to release its new butterfly brochure at the Campbell Valley Pollinator Tea Party in mid-July. However, printing was delayed because of needed revisions. We will give out some of these beautiful brochures at Country Celebrations. And the full release will be next spring during butterfly season, complete with a press release.

Enjoyable summer events were arranged for the LFN by Gareth Pugh. At the end of May he led 15 LFN'ers on a three-night birding trip to Lillooet to enjoy this wonderful area. They saw 79 species. We also participated in his arrangement of pleasant Wednesday evening summer walks. A dozen LFN'ers went on a boating trip to the San Juan Islands, sailing from Fairhaven, Washington to Smith Island to see Tufted Puffins in their nesting

grounds. We also saw Marbled Murrelets, Harlequin Ducks, Surf Scoters and more. We had our usual potluck lunch at the Grass Shack, sitting in Al and Jude's beautiful backyard, enjoying great food and the sight of so many birds at their feeders was a highlight.

Future events include our displays at Country Celebrations at Campbell Valley Park on September 8th, as well as Rivers day on September 23rd. On October 13th, we will be participating at "The Restoration Celebration", at Gordon's Brook in Aldergrove Park.

Bob Puls, our conservation chair, is looking for help with his fall trail clearing project at Mountain View Conservation Area. He also will continue monitoring birds at Marvin Marsh. ♦

Little Campbell Watershed Society (LCWS). - Submitted by David Riley

LCWS Partner groups continue to work for the Little Campbell River and its watershed through advocacy, enhancement projects, citizen science and education. Recently we have heard a lot of talk on CBC about Chinook and Orcas. The Chinook in the Little Campbell are a unique species and to support our Chinook population we need provincial help as water quality and quantity in the river is still our greatest issue.

We have continued with habitat enhancement work parties each month with two coming up in Sept and October before the winter break. Planting is planned in a seepage area along the river and an area where English Holly has been removed.

Some of the interpretive signage has been updated and installed and students from Semiahmoo Secondary have worked on the long-awaited nature mural in the Species at Risk (SAR) project area. With eighty classes of students touring the trail each school year, we very much appreciate the contributions of these youth to the Little Campbell Forest Trail and its interpretive opportunities.



Students painting the nature mural at the Little Campbell Forest Trail SAR project

The watershed continues to be subjected to intense development pressure. Ninety plus percent of development applications in Surrey are built around an OCP, LAP, NCP, zoning or riparian setback variances. The constant granting of these variances not only sets an actionable precedent; it also capitalizes speculation based on expectation of more variances to come.

In the last six months, two land areas, one at 70 acres plus and one at 600 acres plus were forwarded by the City of Surrey for approval by the Metro Vancouver Regional Board. Approval meant exemption from Metro's 2040 land use plan which designated both areas "rural". (Municipally zoned A1 which means non-ALR agricultural). We took a neutral stance on the first file but opposed the second. Community opposition at the public meetings in Burnaby was strong. It would take pages to spell out the watershed issues connected to both files and the extensive work to respond. In the end both were turned down by the regional government. We expect both will be back.

No progress on our pollution problems, our local "tragedy of the commons"; however, we now know that to deal with our water quantity problems, we need to raise funding for a "environmental flow study" which will be a focus this year.

As for our "we have a dream" concept for the Little Campbell River (LCR) we are making slow progress and continue to point out the similarities between the Rouge River watershed in Ontario and the Little Campbell River. Since our current MP is the first federal Liberal in the riding in 64 years; we have an opportunity to confer as he is concerned about environmental issues. We are working on publicizing the idea of a cross-jurisdic-

tional watershed authority, much like the riverine conservation authorities common in Ontario (and which in the case of the Rouge River, ended with an urban national park, something Toronto and Montreal regions have but not the Vancouver region).

We participated in the Bird Studies Canada bus tour for International Ornithological Congress delegates to support raising awareness about the issues and concerns about Fraser River estuary of which the LCR is a part. It is a complex issue with much to consider and work to be done to protect it. We also attended, as a part of the IOC, the Stewardship Roundtable with numerous other conservation groups.

Given we live and volunteer in a coastal community, we continue to participate in the City of Surrey's Coastal Flood Adaption Strategy initiative.

I have also been invited by the City of Surrey to attend the International Urban Forestry Conference coming up October 1 - 4th which could be productive and informative to our local concerns. ♦

Nature Vancouver (NV), Submitted by Janet Snell and Bev Ramey

Nature Vancouver enjoyed hosting the May BC Nature Conference and AGM. It was our pleasure to share our local area with naturalists from around the province, as well as the lovely venue of the UBC Forest Sciences Centre and speakers. Thanks for the several positive comments received. What also made this conference special to our club was the tremendous support from our club members, with about 50 people helping with various aspects of the conference.



By Ron Long

A very successful AGM was hosted by Nature Vancouver in May 2018

Celebrations of Nature Vancouver's 100th Anniversary continue throughout 2018 with outings to historically visited locations and speakers. A major event was co-producing the exhibition, *Wild Things – The Power of Nature in Our Lives*, with the Museum of Vancouver. The opening reception on June 27th was enjoyed by about 150 people. Nigel Peck presented Nature Vancouver's Frank Sanford award to Viviane Gosselin, the Museum of Vancouver's curator for this exhibition. Nigel also read a tribute to Jeremy McCall who was very ill at the time of this reception and sadly passed away from cancer early in July.

The Museum of Vancouver's (MOV) exhibition inspired a great deal of volunteer time by Nature Vancouver members. At the opening reception, Nature Vancouver's lead representative, Elena Klein, thanked a long list of our many members who contributed to this exhibition over the more than two years of planning. It was a pleasure for Nature Vancouver to co-produce this exhibition and to ponder just what is the "Power of Nature in Our Lives", how to express this in the Encounter Room and how to dig deeper in the Engagement Room. Thanks too to Nature Vancouver member Lee Beavington who assisted MOV's Viviane Gosselin with a great deal of the preparation.

Volunteer contributions continue as several Nature Vancouver members are acting as facilitators at the exhibition on weekends. *Wild Things* will be showing well into 2019. For the remainder of 2018, VanCity members can receive a two for one admission discount at the entrance desk. When you visit the exhibition be sure to view the historical time line of the 100 years of Nature Vancouver in the Engagement Room. For the exhibition this time line had to be shortened considerably, but in the fall the full time line will be posted on the new Nature Vancouver website.

Nature Vancouver's summer social was held at VanDusen Garden on July 7th and was enjoyed by many. Thanks to Helen Aqua for organizing this popular event.

Day trips and weekend outings continued through the summer, with several leaders stepping up to share their

love of nature. The calendar available on our website provides full information on outings and events, month by month. Nature Vancouver also has a weekly email circulation that provides up-to-date information for the next couple of weeks of outings and events (thanks to Denis LaPlante and Helen Aqua). A really big thank you goes to Harvey Dueck who leads the website committee and keeps the new website running smoothly.

Glowing reports have been provided by campers (about 80) who enjoyed the two-week long camps at McGillivray Pass, a high-elevation back country setting near Bralorne. An evening reunion/presentation will be held with photos and tales from these two camps (July 22-29 and July 29-August 5) on September 11. Huge thanks for the success of this camp are due to Nigel Peck and the Camp Committee, especially given the several challenges with organization for this camp and unique demands such as the work crew volunteers in early July. A highlight for the camp committee and some other dedicated volunteers was to participate in a Bear Awareness Training Session in Pemberton presented by Dr Sue Senger, a wildlife biologist from Lillooet. She has worked with the St'am'imc First Nation in Lillooet to document the presence and behavior of endangered grizzly bears in their traditional territory which includes the McGillivray Pass area.

Nature Vancouver volunteers were also involved in August with the Vancouver International Bird Festival, as part of the International Ornithological Conference. Thanks to Colin Clasen for organizing the Birder's Guide to Vancouver sales table on behalf of Nature Vancouver.

Nature Vancouver appreciates the donation of original artwork by Allyson McBean that has been printed as a 100th anniversary commemorative poster, Garden Birds of Greater Vancouver. Copies of this poster are available for a small purchase price at Club weekly speaker nights and other events.

Weekly evening talks resume in September organized by the following sections: Birding, Marine Biology, Botany and the last Thursday of the month is a general interest natural history speaker. ♦

Yorkson Watershed Enhancement Society (YWES) - Submitted by Kathy Massey

YWES is having a busy year protecting and enhancing our watershed. We not only appeared with other Langley Stewardship groups on Rivers Day but also held garbage clean-ups in our watershed.

In November we were very excited to see two Coho in West Munday Creek in Willoughby. We looked forward to a new season of spawning fish counts but not a single fish was seen after that. We have heard that some other watersheds had the same experience for some unknown reason.

YWES feels strongly about the following issues:

- Damage of salt applied to roads and trails the previous winter through runoff into our streams affecting our salmon. After receiving a letter to Township of Langley (TOL), Mayor and Council that did not satisfactorily answer our questions, we invited staff members from TOL to our November meeting. Two staff members attended, saying that for the coming winter, a less damaging product will be applied to roads and trails. Brine will be used instead of salt which is 80% less salty than regular salt. Salt will only be applied to trails after a storm which will be far less frequent than in previous years. However, there are no funds for monitoring the level of salt in our spawning streams.
- Tree Bylaw. There is no overall Tree Bylaw in TOL, only a temporary one in the developing area of Brookswood. YWES and other groups wanted TOL to apply this temporary by-law to all of Langley, until a permanent by-law could be established when a new council is elected in the November municipal election. Our delegation to council was not successful. We will be pressing council candidates to make a TOL permanent tree bylaw a major policy.

On Saturday April 21st, we held our annual fish release into Yorkson Creek in North Langley. We handed buckets of chum fry to all the excited kids, releasing 50,000 fish. The sunny day attracted kids, from the neighborhood as well other interested Langley families. The only drawback was the muddy bank down to the creek, but the kids didn't seem to mind! This was an opportunity to share the work and the goals of the YWES with our

information display. And we had another chance to ask people to sign our petition requesting TOL to work with other groups to keep Tara Farms in Willoughby as an important historical and ecological area.

We are also planning to do a BioBlitz in Discovery Park on Yorkson Creek located in Walnut Grove right next to Highway 1. The event will be on the evening of May 8th, our regular meeting night. We are in the planning stage right now, preparing materials, advertising and logistics. Community engagement and education are the goals for our second BioBlitz. ♦

Kootenays Regional Coordinator - Joan Snyder

Rocky Mountain Naturalists (RMN) - Submitted by Rob Woods

Our membership has levelled out, but we are looking for members of all ages. Besides our Wednesday morning birding outings, there are typically two or three activities each month. Activities this summer have included hikes to see flowering cacti, our local big trees, glacial tarns and an mountain plot that had been planted with Limber pines by some members in 2016. There have also been a paddling trip and a variety of bird-related outings.

Turtle Appreciation Day at the end of April was successful with more participants than before. The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Fund sponsors this event with volunteers from the RMN who interact with school children and the public for a full day of nature education. In July, RMN also ran a stewardship event at Elizabeth lake by re-chipping trails, cutting back invasive plants and performing other maintenance activities. August saw our summer social activity of mini-golf followed by a potluck picnic. Attendance was mixed due to heavy smoke from nearby and far away fires.

Check our website if you are in the area for upcoming events as it is constantly updated. Our quarterly newsletter (the Kestrel) prepared by Susan Walp is great to get more details on past club events. <http://www.rockymountainnaturalists.org> ♦

West Kootenay Naturalists' Association (WKNA) - Submitted by Peter Wood.

Our regular Fall/Winter schedule of bi-monthly meetings, held on the last Monday evening of September, November, January, March and May, went off much as planned (except that I cancelled the January one because of a health issue).

Sept. 25, 2017 - "Portraits of Nature" a photo illustrated presentation by WKNA member Alistair Fraser. Held at Selkirk College in Nelson. Attendance, including guests and drop-ins, about 35.

Dec. 4, 2017 - Our Pot Luck supper eve was followed by selections of 'slides' from some members present of their activities in nature. Meeting held at the Genelle Hall. About 35 folks attended.

Mar. 26, 2018. "Lives of Butterflies" an illustrated talk on the biology of selected local butterflies by WKNA member Janice Arndt. Meeting held at the Seniors' Centre, Selkirk College, Trail. About 30 attended.

May 28, 2018. Pot Luck supper was followed by "Flowers of the West Kootenay", an illustrated talk by WKNA members Muriel Walton and Hazel Beynon. The presentation was followed by a brief AGM including elections of officers for 2018/19. 21 people were present. The incumbents, President and Treasurer/Membership agreed to continue on in those positions. There were no other candidates. Nor were there volunteers for the vacant positions of Recording Secretary or Vice-President.

We are fortunate in having our faithful volunteers for Trips Coordinator and Newsletter Editor and for other tasks such as Pot Lucks and public address system. Selkirk College Library/A.V. Centre personnel are always very helpful with coaching our 'newbies' with projection equipment, for which we thank them.

We again participated in the 2017 Christmas Bird Count coordinated by member Peter McIver and in the 2018 Kootenay Bank Swallow nesting survey coordinated by Janice Arndt.

There has been a steady program of hikes and field trips through the year coordinated by member Patricia West and lead by member volunteers. These are a major and popular part of our Club's ongoing activities and trips can take place on any day of the week that leaders may chose.

Our membership stays pretty steady at around 80 persons (51 individuals, 14 couples and one Honorary Member, as of 20th April, 2018).

Our Club has many members who are also active in the local Kootenay Mountaineering Club, Castlegar Parks and Trails Society and the Friends of West Kootenay Parks organization.

WKNA agreed to continue their annual financial support, both of the WKNA Bursary for a natural resources-biology student at Selkirk College in Castlegar and of the Creston Valley Wildlife Interpretation Centre in Creston. (\$465 and \$200 respectively). These causes, in the interests of education in nature, are very dear to the hearts of all WKNA members and our financial support to them is, we believe, a very worthwhile and meaningful gesture.

We believe that the WKNA support of Selkirk College is among the first within the BC's community colleges. Selkirk has been, and still is, the "nurturing womb" for very many of the local, volunteer-based organizations and clubs in the College's historic student-catchment area. WKNA itself started from initiatives by members of the Biology, Forestry, Geography and Geology instructor groups at Selkirk in the late 1960s and early '70s who freely contributed to several, annual series of evening, public presentations on natural history subjects important to them. The fees collected for these series contributed to founding endowments for bursaries to students in the subject areas of the instructors involved.

Besides WKNA, the College's personnel have played contributing roles in founding many other local organizations, e.g.; the West Kootenay Rock and Mineral Club; the Kootenay Pollution Control Association (later to become the Kootenay Chapter of SPEC); the very thriving Kootenay Mountaineering Club and the Castlegar Parks and Trails Society; the Doukhobor Historical Society; the Company of Selkirk Vintners and the one-time thriving Selkirk Community Players amateur youth theatrical group. Several of these groups are into their 50th years of operation.

The Bursary and Scholarship Endowment program at Selkirk includes many generous and ongoing memorials to local citizens and to Selkirk personnel, quite a few of whom were members of the West Kootenay Naturalists.♦

Northern Region Regional Coordinator - Fred McMechan

Kitimat Valley Naturalists (KVN)– Submitted by Walter Thorne

Our club reports an uneventful summer with few activities planned. Smoke was rarely an issue but the summer was much drier than the norm. No special species reported.

Industrial port activity still a concern. Dredging equipment is currently pounding away in the estuary lands with a number of barges and cranes. A number of plans have been announced regarding compensation for lost habitat. Some of the plans are extensive and involve some substantial changes for Minette Bay. Two large LNG companies are still making plans and spending money.

Sadly bats have been scarce and the few completed surveys show almost no bats including at our less than two year old condos.

Coastal Waterbird surveys have carried on during the summer season. The one breeding bird survey in June was quite encouraging.♦

MacKenzie Nature Observatory Club - Submitted by Jeanne Shaw

Written By Chris Sukha

Every year for the past 24 years Mackenzie Nature Observatory has operated a banding station at Mugaha Marsh from July 19th to September 23rd for the purpose of monitoring bird migration in the Mackenzie area, and the greater Northern Rocky Mountain Trench. With 2018 being our 24th year of migration-monitoring at Mugaha, we were excited to see how the season would progress, and compare it to previous seasons.

2018 has turned out to be a bit slow, with just under 2,000 birds banded to date (September 4, 2018). For the last five years we have had 3,000 birds captured by this late point in the season. To where we are at is obvious, but to answer the question of “why” is a whole different matter! Innumerable factors effect both bird movements and population dynamics. The single variable with the greatest impact on bird movements and reproduction is weather. And 2018 sure had some wild and crazy weather! Above average temperatures in May, followed by cold conditions in June, and very wet weather dominating much of July, followed by record-breaking heat through much of August characterized the season. This probably also contributed to a record-setting season for forest fires across the province, destroying habitat and sending huge quantities of smoke province-wide. All of this likely contributed to lower than average numbers of most bird species in the Northern Rocky Mountain Trench, and thus lower numbers of birds in our nets in need of little aluminum bands.

Despite the lower than average numbers, 2018 has not been without excitement! In July large mixed flocks of swallows were observed in the marsh, with the dominant two species being Bank and Northern Rough-winged Swallows, along with smaller numbers of Tree, Violet Green, Cliff, and Barn Swallows. Of the hundreds observed, we did manage to capture a few Tree and Northern Rough-winged Swallows, an exciting non-annual occurrence. The real highlight was a single Bank Swallow, only the second one banded in 20 years!

Overall species diversity was excellent with such non-annual species captured as a Grey-cheeked Thrush with a full brood patch, indicating local breeding. Another example was a juvenile Pacific Wren, which after banding spent a great deal of time squeaking to its family, about its new jewelry.

White-winged Crossbills were present at Mugaha in flocks in all of July, and we had the privilege of capturing seven! This is very close to a station record, and they have been observed all season, and have now been re-gathering into flocks now that breeding is finished.

Flycatcher numbers have been very low, with most species at only half their average, as have many warbler species. Some notable exceptions have been Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, which have been above average, as have been Magnolia Warblers and Wilson’s Warblers. Many species also seem to be late, so it is exciting to see what September brings..

And, on the topic of birds being late, some have been very early; such has an American Tree Sparrow in the last week of August! This is a very early encounter for this species, by about 2 ½ weeks!

Observations have also been exciting, with over 50 Pectoral Sandpipers being observed, along with Long-billed Dowitchers, Semipalmated Plovers, and Semipalmated Sandpipers. A pair of Trumpeter Swans arrived on September 1st, and have stayed around since arriving.

The highlight observation of the season was a single White-rumped Sandpiper, observed flying over with a flock with Pectoral Sandpipers, displaying it’s distinctive white rump as it passed over the marsh. This year has been great for observing shorebirds taking advantage of low water levels in Williston Lake, and thus also in Mugaha Marsh.

Overall, despite below average numbers for most species, it has been an exciting 24th year of Migration Monitoring at Mugaha!♦

Northern Amphibians Naturalists Society (NANS) - Submitted by Norma Kirby

Summer, 2018, was a high impact season on the amphibian and reptile populations in the northwest quadrant of British Columbia (north of Highway 16, west of Vanderhoof). A late winter with heavy snowfalls meant that many breeding ponds and feeding areas did not melt out of snow pack until the beginning of May.

May was unusually warm, leading to flooded ponds and floating monitoring boards, followed by a wet, cool June. Starting in mid-July, this part of the Province went into a prolonged drought, hot weather, and winds, which lasted into September in most areas.

Large forest fires have dramatically changed the landscape in west-central B.C. and the Stikine region. In areas that did not burn, the drought led to the drying up of small ponds/lakes and ephemeral forest ponds before tadpoles and larvae from some amphibian populations could complete metamorphosis. Streams fed by mountain snowmelt and groundwater springs dried up in many areas. The long-term impacts on amphibian and reptile populations are unknown. NANS's Northwest BC Reptile Amphibian Monitoring Program, which monitors the program and invertebrate collections for the Royal BC Museum, were considerably disrupted this summer by these overwhelming factors. ♦

Prince George Naturalists Club (PGNC) – Submitted by Dave Leman

Summary of recent PGNC activities:

1. The main PGNC activity this summer was the Wednesday Walkers on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, which regularly draws a group of walkers to natural areas in and around Prince George to explore the local flora and fauna.
2. We also did two weed pulls, one at the Hudson Bay (HB) Wetland and the second at Carrie Jane Gray Park. Invasive Plant Cleanup at Hudson's Bay Wetland Nature Park, August 11. Twelve dedicated volunteers turned out to remove invasive plants. They deadheaded common tansy and Canada thistle. The amount of tansy the wetland appears to be diminishing from year to year, thanks to the combined efforts of the City of Prince George, the Northwest Invasive Plant Council and the PGNC
Weed Harvest at Carrie Jane Gray Park, August 25 - Seven optimistic, hard-working souls met for the annual Himalayan Balsam removal at Carrie Jane Gray Park. Twelve large garbage bags with whole balsam plants were collected along with four bags full of tansy and thistle. The group was joined and supported by Penni Adams, the Northwest Invasive Plant Council Program Manager.
3. Ancient Forest Celebration, September 1 - Members of the PGNC supported the public celebration of the beauty, biodiversity and magic of BC's newest provincial park, The Ancient Forest / Chun T'oh Whudujut. The park sits along Highway 16 approximately 113 km east of Prince George and 103 km northwest of McBride. The celebration included reflective speeches, music performances, arts and crafts, guided walks, storytelling, and food offerings.
4. A fungi field trip took place on September 9 in Wilkins Regional Park. The walk was led by Dr. Keith Egger and Dr. Hugues Massicotte, both faculty at the University of Northern British Columbia, and enthusiastic and expert mycologists.

PGNC looking ahead:

1. Planning for the monthly presentation nights is underway for fall, winter and spring. Our presentations, held in a public facility, have drawn upon a wealth of local 'experts' from the academic community and elsewhere, and are consistently well-attended.
2. Our first scheduled event is a panel discussion on how everyone can contribute to citizen science, scheduled for September 20 at the Prince George Public Library. Participants will learn about how local nature enthusiasts contribute extensively to scientific knowledge regarding the mammals, birds, plants whose world we share.
3. PGNC members will lead the annual Christmas Bird Count (our 51st consecutive) in December, and then a Swan-Eagle Count in January.
4. We also hope to get some snowshoeing trips in this winter. ♦

Quesnel Trail and Nature Club (QTNC) - Submitted by Lorna Schley

The Quesnel Trail and Nature Club has had an active season with a number of hikes and activities. Some shorter local hikes such as the trails in West Fraser Timber Park, Uplands area, and Ten Mile Lake were featured, along with some more challenging trails, partnering with the Caledonia Ramblers from Prince George. An interesting exploration of the bog at Hallis Lake was carried out with Sally Hofmeier leading.

The spring meeting and potluck took place at Sister's Creek Recreation area with a walk to the viewpoint overlooking the Fraser River. An enlightening presentation on invasive plants was provided by Amanda Dreager, Baker Creek Enhancement Society. The summer potluck was held on July 29 at the home of our president, Sally Hofmeier. Social events are always popular and there was a good turn-out. A good news item was that one of our members had a successful breeding of Pacific Slope Flycatchers at her house. Another encouraging bit of news was the successful metamorphosis rate of western toads at Richbar Golf Course and Hush Lake. The West Fraser Timber Park pond, however, had only 15 breeding pairs with no young observed.

Our group continued to monitor the Dragon Lake and West Fraser Bluebird Trails. It was another successful season.♦

Timberline Trail & Nature Club - Submitted by Mark Phinney

In mid-May, the Timberline club hosted a presentation by Peter Sherrington of the Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation. Peter spoke about the significant migration of Golden Eagles along the east slope of the Rocky Mountains.

In early June, we held the annual 'Project Webfoot' field days, in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited. The program teaches environmental and wetland education to local school children. Our June meeting was pushed back to the Summer Solstice, when we conducted a bat count at a club member's house – where there happens to be a maternal colony of Little Brown Myotis. In retrospect, counting bats on the shortest night of the year was not a great idea for those who had to work the next morning. The count was repeated in August to help determine when the bats leave the maternal site.

The club will resume monthly meetings in September and will plan a fall birding trip to one of the larger lakes in the area, and we hope to reschedule a 'tracking' field trip for November. Last years multiple attempts were stymied by weather. The Club will again conduct the local Christmas Bird Count in early January and a spring 'Hawk Watch' in April, among other events to be determined. ♦

Williams Lake Field Naturalists Report - Submitted by Fred McMechan

We were able to present several natural history programs from May through August at the Scout Island Nature Centre. We employed three university students to develop and present nature programs. During May and June they were busy providing programs to school classes. During July and August the summer program, "Nature Fun", was offered to children.

In the fall and winter there will be ongoing nature classes at the Nature Centre. The third year of having a nature kindergarten class will occur. Two nature education grade 7 classes will spend a part of the time at the Nature Centre. As well there will be other school classes visiting during this time.

Our members participated in several field trips and attended interesting presentations by guest speakers before the FGM. We expect to have other activities for members in the fall/winter.

We continued to maintain and monitor bluebird trails during the nesting period.

We hosted 26 BC Nature members at the Tatlayoko Lake field camp from September 9 to 15.♦

Thompson-Okanagan-Shuswap Region Regional Coordinator - Janet Pattinson

Central Okanagan Naturalist's Club - Submitted by Fran Fisher

All is well with our club. We continued as best we could with our regular activities, having to cancel only a few items from our agendas. The birders went out no matter what...a hardy group.

We have installed our 26 bird houses with some success, twelve houses had birds, one Bluebird, six tree swallows and five house wrens. We are looking forward to next year and hopefully more Bluebirds.

The Okanagan Critter Count went ahead. Surprisingly we had 450 House Wrens! By far the most of any bird. Clearing of the Goode Basin Area and maintenance on the OK Highlands Trail went ahead.

This year our hiking groups went to Osoyoos for the annual Summer Solstice Hike and camp out. Some hiking, biking and botany in our area was cancelled (about half) due to smoke.

We are currently working with the City of Kelowna on a platform for Robert Lake, mud flats conservation and boardwalk at the Maude Roxby Birding Area.

All in all a busy few months. ♦

Kamloops Naturalist Club (KNC) - Submitted by Gary Hunt

Over the summer, we have had several field trip and continued work on a number of projects: Our current membership is approximately 160.

We have submitted a proposal to the Lawson Foundation for funding to support a youth naturalist program. This project will bring together youth who have an interest in providing environmental leadership. Their role will be to build capacity within themselves and in their community (Kamloops/Tk'emlúps) to effect positive environmental changes. They will raise awareness on important issues by hosting guest speaker events and engaging with the public in person and through social media. They will develop a 'Master Naturalist' program that trains people in citizen science and the natural history of this region, including its first peoples. Using the skills they develop, they will work with the community on an ambitious environmental restoration project.

- We have very active participation in our Facebook community (Kamloops Naturalist Club) reaching about 2000 people each week.
- Our website, *kamloopsnaturalistclub.com*, features contributions from members on a variety of natural history topic and sightings.
- We collaborate with Thompson Rivers University to provide spring and summer field trips specifically for international students. We hosted eight groups over the summer.
- With the closing of the golf course on McArthur Island, City Council requested proposals for new uses of the 15 ha of land. We submitted a proposal to convert this to a nature education park in partnership with Rotary, the city and interested clubs. A final decision may be made this fall.
- We raised funding and have finalized the plans to build a wildlife viewing platform at Tranquille Pond. This is a collaborative project with the City of Kamloops Parks and Recreation, local native bands, and BC Transportation and Highways. We are evaluating bids for contracts and hopeful that construction will be in spring of 2019.
- We support citizen science by participating in Herp Day, Bird Fest, the Swan & Eagle Count, and Got Bats?
- We have an active NatureKids chapter that holds monthly events for youth.
- We ran about 20 field trips during the year featuring local flora, fauna, and mushrooms.
- We host monthly meeting programs featuring experts speaking on wide ranging natural history topics.
- We have representation on the Kamloops Natural Areas Advisory Committee that works closely with the City on priority issues such as Kinder Morgan pipeline through Lac du Bois Grasslands Protected Area), BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources (Dewdrop management and beyond), City of Kamloops (interpretive signs at McArthur Island, Peterson Creek Multi-Use Path, and advocating for need of natural areas. ♦

Lillooet Naturalist Society (LNS) - Submitted by Vivian Birch-Jones

Under smoky skies trail clearing and maintenance proceeded over the summer months in Lillooet. We are pleased to report that the first sweep of two trails infested with weeds was completed – this was done by Splitrock Environmental and paid for in part by the BC Nature Foundation – thank you. We also had our usual volunteer efforts on our trails including a day out with the high school students. A group hike was led to 9 Mile Ridge in July organized in conjunction with Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) as part of BC Parks Day. We erected a new sign (photo attached) as the older sign has been removed by a bear who is using the pole as a scratching post.



Raft group in smokey Lillooet

The Rivershed Society led by Fin Donnelly MP was in town again this summer. Pictures of Christine Jack singing and drumming as the rafts leave (Below), and the raft group (Right) We also had swimmers Keely Weget-Whitney and Brandi Watter with us, they swam from Lillooet to Lytton, with the rafts and kayak keeping close.



Christine Jack singing and drumming as the rafts leave

The Naturalists hosted the welcoming and dinner on the Saturday evening, August 18th and the Sustainable Learning for Leadership group rafted in to Lillooet in the late afternoon to spend the night before their journey rafting the length of the river. Over 60 people attended the local welcoming and supper, including many St'at'imc and Lillooet naturalists. Kim North is on the board of the Rivershed Society and she was one of many that enjoyed the trip on the raft down the river as far as Lytton. As in past years the naturalists organized and supported this event, which is to raise understanding and appreciation of this great river that sustains us.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness had a representative here from Ottawa along with West Coast Environmental Law from Vancouver and other funders. In spite of the smoke the expedition was a great success and the Lillooet stop was a highlight. A mapping project is currently underway and all the watersheds along the river are being included with a plan to seek funding for some serious restoration work over the next few years. The next event, to present mapping and funding proposals, will be in Kamloops, November 14th and 15th. ♦

Nicola Naturalist Society (NNS) - Submitted by Alan Burger

A feature of this past summer for our Merritt club was our first members' camp – held on the weekend of 20-22 July. Our venue was a private campsite right on the Nicola River with the Kettle Valley Railroad trail running through the campsite – perfect for bicycling, swimming and birding. The event was a success with 21 members participating. A special feature was the visit by Jimmy Toodlican, an elder from the nearby Shackan Band. After welcoming us to his traditional territory, Jimmy enthralled us with his stories, legends and explanations of his native culture and history. Later Jimmy took us to several sites important to his band, including the remains of a traditional pit house. The next day our club's own esteemed elder Norm Hansen led us on a vigorous hike on the sagebrush and pine slopes above the Nicola River to investigate fossil trees. Early-morning birding and campfire camaraderie rounded out an excellent weekend.

Our regular "Birds, Blooms and Butterflies" spring outing was well attended too – this year to the Lundbom Common grasslands. Another outing, led by local rancher Wayne Schindler took us to the Coutlee plateau to check out range management, weed control and woodlot operations.

Spring evening meetings featured local agrologist Philip Gyug speaking on “Range Management in the Merritt area” and visiting birder David Manning on “The Old Man and the Vultures”.

Our club continues to collaborate with BC Parks on monitoring the funnel and tunnel system we set up several years ago in Kentucky-Alleyne Provincial Park near Merritt. These structures divert Western Toad toadlets on their migration from their breeding pond, so that they safely cross a busy campsite road where previously hundreds were being killed. These days our work involves a short visit to clear and repair the wooden funnel-fence. The system is working well and is a model for similar situations where toadlets need to cross busy roads.

Several of our club members were mentors for our local Merritt NatureKids club – taking the youngsters on outings to look at butterflies, birds, pocket-gophers and much more. Club member Bob Scafe is regularly at a local elementary school, mentoring the kids. Several members also volunteered for bluebird nest-box monitoring, nightjar surveys and bat studies in the Merritt area.

Our club provides an \$800 bursary annually to a student in the Environmental Resources Technology Program at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT). We raise this money with raffles of nature-related items at each of our monthly meetings. In exchange NVIT allows us to use their excellent lecture theatre for free and NVIT students attend most of our presentations. ♦

North Okanagan Naturalists Club - Submitted by Pam Jenkins

Our last meeting was a regular monthly meeting in May. Since then we have had at least one outdoor activity throughout the summer months.

June: A planned trip to Blue Nose Mountain was rained out on the day planned, but was re-scheduled for one week later. Six members participated in a trip to Enderby Cliffs.

In July a trip to Yeoward was changed to some trails North of Lavington called the Pond Trails.

Some went on trips to Silver Star to see wild flowers, one in July and another in August., which was made uncomfortable by the smoke haze.

July: Bluebird trails have been monitored. One route still had a box with blue eggs, we think it might be a third nesting.

Hummingbirds had been banded throughout the summer months and some members have been researching the rattlesnake dens above Highway 97 on the Campbell Brown reserve in the Vernon South. Planned September outings are to Salmon Arm to see the grebes, to Rim Rocks and an October trip to the Adams River to see the salmon run, a fourth or big year.

We start our monthly meetings in September on the first Wednesday of the month at the Village Green Hotel. Ron Drennan has organized speakers for all our meetings until May 2019. ♦

South Okanagan Naturalists Club (SONC) - Submitted by Alex Bodden

The South Okanagan Naturalists club members have continued to be involved in a variety of activities throughout the spring and summer, even though no meetings are held during July and August and the numbers of weekly outings are reduced. The most significant club action is the work being done to have the club become a society. As a society the club will be better placed to seek funding and public exposure among other benefits associated to being a society.

The club photo contest has been a great success with well over 500 submissions by amateur photographers from throughout the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen. The committee has worked hard to develop partnerships with local governments, the Penticton museum, the print media and a variety of commercial supporters to develop excitement and awareness of our natural beauty. The winners will be announced at the opening event of the museum exhibition in early October. A collection of some of the entries will then be used to create a journal to be sold as a fundraiser for the club.

Members have also been active doing club, work related and personal advocacy and education through the media on many issues related to nature and the environment. The most significant is the continuing efforts to develop a national park, which has had some very positive advancement towards finding common ground and political momentum. Other areas of focus have been the environmental assessment processes, government oversight and decision-making systems, recreational use of public lands and invasive species. The club news letter continues to educate members in all of the natural sciences including geology, ecology and astronomy.

Individual club members have also been busy giving of their time to host visiting birders, maintaining the local native species garden and local riparian areas, removing invasive species, leading and participating in the annual Meadowlark festival and leading club outings. A particular focus of volunteering has been related to the avian world. Members have assisted or hosted in hummingbird banding, raptor rehabilitation with SORCO and the maintenance of bluebird nest boxes. Members have also helped in setting up the banding station and conducting censuses at the long running Vaseux Lake bird observatory station.

Regular monthly meetings and weekly club will begin again in September. ♦

Shuswap Naturalist Club (SNC) - Submitted by Janet Pattinson

The Shuswap Naturalists have a particular interest in dealing with certain invasive species in the marsh such as the woody nightshade and yellow flag iris. Weed pulls to deal with these have been a priority and this fall we hope to find the workers to spend a week on the job to gain control over the woody nightshade which crowds out the cattails and bulrushes that are so important to the marsh.

We have plans in place for our Save the Shuswap Songbirds project that includes educating the public about songbirds through posters and other media.

We have undertaken to spread the word in the community about nature themes through the Voice of the Shuswap Community Radio with the opportunity to broadcast Nature Spots.

We continue to provide an award to a student at TRU studying environmental issues and have supported summer nature camps for children.

We are excited about the new Outdoor School for children aged 5 to 11 in our School District 83 where two of our members are on the teaching staff. We also support the Nature Kids group in Salmon Arm.

A current issue for us is the occurrence of “recreational drones” in the foreshore and marsh which have been noticed disturbing the nesting birds and we are pursuing the issue with the City Council. ♦

Vancouver Island Region Regional Coordinator - John Neville

Comox Valley Naturalist's Society (CV) - Submitted by Sharon Niscak

Website: Comox Valley Nature <http://comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca>

Marine & Shoreline Group: The newly formed Marine Group has enjoyed citizen science explorations at Bates Beach, Goose Spit and Airforce/Kye Bay beaches. Unfortunately, we do not have an inventory to compare the impact of hard shoring and beach modification prior to installation of the sewer line and subsequent hard shoring of Comox Bluffs, Point Holmes, Airforce Beach, Cape Lazo and Kin Beach areas. Several members have noted that the diversity and abundance once present along the shoreline and in the Comox Bay has substantially declined. Developing a current inventory is the principal objective of the beach surveys. The group enjoys learning more about our marine environment and identifying the intriguing flora and fauna on our shorelines.

All Weather Walkers: The original name of Comox Valley Naturalist's was Comox -Strathcona Natural History Society. This close relationship with Strathcona Park continues and is supported by focusing on walks and

excursions in the Park and Buttle Lake area in July and August. The botany group enjoys walks in Paradise Meadows during the summer. Most of the All Weather Walks are led by Loys Maingon, with amazing dedication. The first post-summer walk will be to Rosewall Creek Provincial Park.

Garry Oak Nursery: Despite the long drought and watering challenges this summer the nursery continues to thrive. The heat and long drought with watering restrictions has delayed some activities and pollinator plantings until this autumn. The Pollinator Project is developing as a compliment to the nursery. With water challenges and the summer drought it was best to delay propagation and transplanting until autumn.

Regional Vancouver Island Meeting: Comox Valley Naturalists are hosting a regional meeting of the Gulf Islands and Vancouver Islands BC Nature clubs on October 27th and 28th. The morning session will consist of 90 minutes of open floor discussions, while the afternoon session will have 4 presentations on topics of concern to all the Island clubs. Three walks will be held on Sunday, October 28th to compliment the Saturday meeting. The venue is the Evergreen Lounge at the Florence Filberg Centre in Courtenay.

The Birding Group held weekly walks during the summer and some birders ventured further afield to observe birds.

Work continues on removing invasive species from estuarine salt marsh, pond wetland and beach plan communities at Little River. Broom, gorse, and blackberry and curled dock require surveillance and removal to control.

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Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society (CVNS) - Submitted by Gail Mitchell

With approximately 100 members, CVNS appears to be holding its own as a viable group. Our long-time President and now Co-President, Eric Marshall, maintains a very busy schedule as he attends events and meetings pertaining to environmental issues. Our extremely active member, Genevieve Singleton, is very well known not just in our region, but throughout the province for her on-going dedication in many different roles in, conservation, education and speaking out for nature. As I write this update, she is attending a gathering in support of saving the Salish Sea, in Nanaimo where the Prime Minister is holding a cabinet meeting. (August 22, 2018) Indeed, it is a few very dedicated individuals that keep our society going. We are always looking for ways to increase our membership, and within our membership, encourage individuals to take a more active role.



Photo by Eric Marshall

We are lucky to have Carol Milo as she has taken on the role of a Co-President and helps with many tasks. Among other tasks, Carol organizes our Evening Programs which run each month. These are open to the public with a wide range of relevant topics covered by knowledgeable speakers.

Genevieve Singleton and Premier John Horgan at Eagle Heights announcement.

The monthly Morning Coffeehouse, organized by Genevieve, is popular. This event provides another learning experience at a time of day more agreeable to many Valley nature-lovers.

On the conservation front, probably the most significant success for this year, in our area, was the acquisition of the 144 hectares known as Eagle Heights - an ecosystem of both natural and cultural significance. Genevieve spent years on this project and CVNS is indebted to her for her perseverance. Genevieve and her husband David Polster continue to lead the way on many conservation fronts.

Derrick Marven, the valley's bird guru, has been leading the weekly "Swan and Goose Count" for several years. The number of participants in this event has grown. Regardless of winter weather these hardy folk are counting, Trumpeter and Whistler Swans, Canada and other Geese species, and Raptors, taking photos and reporting to the membership each week. All bird species are of interest, therefore joining this group is the best way for a novice to gain identification skills.

Derrick Marven and Dave Aldcroft (our other bird guru) led an annual bird trip to the Parksville area in the Spring and Dave will be leading the annual Hawk Watch at East Sooke in September.

In May, Eric and Dorothy led a marine walk on Thetis Island and Genevieve led a trip to Hamilton Marsh and surroundings in the Parksville-Qualicum area.

Our Society is now running the Bring Back the Bluebird Project with Genevieve as Project Manager. This is an exciting re-introduction of Western Bluebirds in the Cowichan Valley. One staff person has been hired each season, and several of our members volunteer by checking Bluebird nest box trails and distributing meal worms to feeding trays near any successful nest boxes. Barry Hetschko is a prominent member of this group. Ted Leischner produces mealworms for this project.

Some of our members are engaged in the Citizen Science "Knockback the Knotweed" project, exploring the efficacy of biweekly cutting of knotweed, May to September under the direction of Dave Polster and Genevieve Singleton.

The Cowichan Valley Docents, organized by Genevieve, includes some CVNS members. They provide nature walks for hundreds of Cowichan Valley children.

Each year we are pleased to provide a \$500 bursary to a high school graduate who is entering secondary school, enrolled in an environmental-related science. Emerald White is our 2018 recipient.

The Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre is also a place to find our members volunteering - helping to run school programs, manning the Centre for weekend visitors, participating in eel-grass re-establishment, monitoring the Great Blue Heronry and helping with Coastal Waterbird Surveys.

Lastly, but certainly not leastly, we are actively planning the May 2- 5th 2019 BC Nature AGM and Conference. CVNS is looking forward to hosting this event and hope many of you will join us for "Nature in the Warmland". Watch BC Nature magazine for details. ♦

Salt Spring Island Trail and Nature Club - Submitted by Kathleen Maser

At this time the following talks have being organized for the fall:

Ann Nightingale will speak on Bird Migration. Ann has been president of both Rocky Point Bird Observatory and Victoria Natural History Society, and is the Victoria Christmas Bird Count Coordinator. She is a regional coordinator for Southern Vancouver Island/ Gulf Islands BC Breeding Bird Atlas.

In November our own John Neville, will entertain and enlighten us with a bird talk. With Heather Neville he attended the IOC in Vancouver where they gave a presentation called "Dawn Chorus". With their booth, 'Neville Recordings', they were present in the Expo hall for the duration of the congress.

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy, is bringing Rob Butler, ornithologist, author and artist, to the island in November to talk and show a film on nature-culture entitled: Reconnecting to Nature: Building a Nature Inspired Culture.

Projects endorsed by the club

Peter McAllister's Purple Martin Project: Peter received a number of finely crafted nesting boxes constructed by Jay MacAulay that helped to add a few more purple martin sites around the island. New locations include Southey Bay at the north end, and more boxes at Fernwood and Vesuvius, and also at the end of the Fulford ferry terminal public dock. But again, like last year a few stretches of poor weather in the spring hampered foraging for the martins. In general there were smaller clutches and some empty nesting boxes. The exception was on the Walter Bay Spit near the sailing club where 5 nesting boxes had on average, 5 nestlings. This was the third year in a row that these martins lived up to their reputation as brood champions. In fact they outdid themselves as one pair inhabited a bluebird box put up next to the martin houses for violet-green swallows. It's half the size of the martin boxes with a smaller hole to squeeze through but that did not deter them from producing a few chicks. Peter adds: So much for our religious adherence to meticulous construction specifications!

Citizens Survey Seashores For Science with David Denning

Since 2014 the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club has received grants from both BC Nature Foundation and the CRD Grants-In-Aid to look at the health of our Island's seashores and to involve citizen science techniques. It was in 2014 that a Sea Star Wasting Disease plague affected 19 different sea star species, and decimated vast numbers of purple sea stars along the entire Pacific Coast from Baja to the Bering Sea in Alaska. The early surveys around the shore of Goat Island, in Ganges Harbour, revealed that less than 5% of our *Pisaster ochraceus* survived this.

This year David developed a new citizen science initiative to explore the following questions. "Will sea star populations recover from the 2014 wasting disease plague?" "Is the wasting disease plague continuing?" The "Canary on the Coastline" species chosen was the common shoreline purple sea star, known scientifically as *Pisaster ochraceus*.

He hoped for maybe 20 volunteers to undertake the difficult task of looking for juvenile sea stars that are small, cryptic, and usually hidden under rocks in the low intertidal zone, but over 90 people signed up! Each of the volunteers was asked to spend an hour at one of three shoreline training sessions to learn how to carefully survey for both juvenile sea stars, and to measure and count adult sea stars, all the while keeping watch for signs of the Wasting Disease. Precise protocols and data collecting techniques were taught.

As a result, we were able to carry out about 50 juvenile recovery/adult wasting disease surveys along the shores of Salt Spring during a 4-day "BioBlitz" this August! The survey forms are still coming in, and the data analysis is a larger job than anticipated, so David cannot report the scientific results at this time. However he says that this BioBlitz was a huge success and that Salt Spring citizens care deeply about our shoreline biological communities. The feedback he received was unanimously positive.

Future new projects, proposed by Peter McAllister and David Denning, are in the preliminary stages: The mapping of kelp beds: training and practice in the use of a drone is ongoing.

The movement of Harbor Porpoises in Captain Passage has involved collaboration from Bird Studies Canada (who have access to private docks). Two hydrophones are now in place, one off Beddis Beach and the other at Scott point.

On the trail side: New Trail Maps are just about ready for installation on the south side of Burgoyne Bay. Hiking coordinators have been investigating a potential multi-day adventure to Cathedral Park for the summer of 2019.

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Red-eared Slider and Western Painted Turtle

Financial Update
Prepared by Betty Davison

| Fiscal Year January 1 - December 31 | 2017 Actual | 2018 Budget | 2018 Actual | % of Budget |
|---|-----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Revenue | | | | |
| Advertising - BC Nature | 9,745 | 9,500 | 7,900 | 83% |
| AGM/FGM Proceeds | 10,773 | 8,000 | 5,883 | 74% |
| Camps and Special Events | 70,729 | 75,000 | 52,534 | 70% |
| Club Membership Dues | 56,833 | 63,000 | 65,029 | 103% |
| Executive & Directors Donations | 9,928 | 0 | 6,922 | 0% |
| Fundraising | 15,079 | 15,000 | 3,225 | 22% |
| Rental Income | 2,700 | 2,700 | 0 | 0% |
| Insurance Premium Recovery | 10,203 | 10,200 | 10,124 | 99% |
| Interest | 1,993 | 500 | 559 | 112% |
| Miscellaneous | 3,136 | 100 | 20 | 20% |
| Other Dues | 1,715 | 1,200 | 690 | 58% |
| Project Administration Fees | 2,740 | 7,000 | 7680 | 110% |
| Total Revenue | 195,574 | 192,200 | 160,566 | 84% |
| Expense | | | | |
| Accounting | 5,017 | 5,200 | 5,427 | 104% |
| Annual and fall general meetings (Expenses) | 1,137 | 1,500 | 999 | 67% |
| Awards | 386 | 500 | 266 | 53% |
| Bank charges | 749 | 600 | 594 | 99% |
| BCnature magazine production and mailing | 23,577 | 23,000 | 12,259 | 53% |
| Camps and special events (expenses) | 63,680 | 70,000 | 24,118 | 34% |
| Dues | 157 | 200 | 382 | 191% |
| Fundraising | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0% |
| Insurance premiums | 10,486 | 11,000 | 11,708 | 106% |
| Internet expense | 2,565 | 6,600 | 4,150 | 63% |
| Office supplies, postage, printing | 4,154 | 4,000 | 2,875 | 72% |
| Miscellaneous | 580 | 25 | 3,381 | 13524% |
| Maintenance | 0 | 150 | 2133 | 1422% |
| Salary and benefits - office | 51,303 | 53,000 | 36,245 | 68% |
| Rental Expense | 2,634 | 2,700 | 2,132 | 79% |
| Summer Student | 2819 | 3,000 | 0 | 0% |
| Subcontract | 0 | 500 | 0 | 0% |
| Telephone | 1645 | 1,500 | 1069 | 71% |
| Travel and accommodation | 14,577 | 8,000 | 8,672 | 108% |
| Total Expenses | 185,466 | 191,575 | \$116,410 | 61% |
| Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses | \$10,108 | 625 | 44,156 | |

Notes:

"2017 Actual" - Taken from year-end 2017 statements

"2018 Actual" was calculated to September 11, 2018 (70% of the year)

Items of note **Income:**

- Camps - When the budget was defined, we had five camps planned. One was cancelled.
- Club Membership fee increase due to increase in annual fees to all clubs/membership.
- Fundraising - Same period (to Sept 11) in 2017 we had 6194
-

Items of note **Expenses:**

- Camps - only expenses for two of the camps have been finalized. Expenses for Harrison Camp and Tatlayoko Camp have not been finalized as of Sept. 11/18.
- BCnature Magazine - Two editions are generally expensed out of the above budget, we have one more magazine plus two postage invoices to process this year. Not shown in this line item is the 10,000 we receive for the magazine under the Gaming grant.

| Internally Restricted Funds | 2017 Y/E Balance | Transfer in | Receipts | Expenses | 2018 YTD Balance |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Abbotsford-Mission Willband | 21,889 | | | 21,889 | 0 |
| BC Naturalists Club Support | 524 | 17,216 | | 17,590 | 150 |
| Conservation fund | 1,223 | | | | 1,123 |
| Contingency Fund | 15,107 | | | | 15,107 |
| Dr. Bert Brink History | 3,616 | | 300 | 200 | 3,416 |
| Education Fund | 677 | | | 34 | 643 |
| Important Bird Areas Fund (IBA) | 11,120 | | | 1,411 | 9,709 |
| Science Fair | 2,100 | 2,100 | | 4,200 | 0 |
| Website Upgrade & HNK | 7,436 | | | 7,436 | 0 |
| Okn. Shuswap Fund (New) | 0 | 1,113 | | | 1,113 |
| Wildlife Viewing Program | 1,122 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,122 |
| Nest Boxes | 3,600 | | | 1,800 | 1,800 |
| Eco-Reserve Fund* | 3,864 | | | | 3,864 |
| Bert Brink Scholarship (New) | 0 | 3,300 | | | 3,300 |
| Rene Savenye Scholarship | 4,861 | | | 1,500 | 3,360 |
| | 77,139 | 23,729 | 300 | 56,060 | 44,707 |

Internally restricted funds = Funds that are being administered by BC Nature for a specific project or group. These funds are specific in nature and are outside of the operating budget. Some are annual funds such as Scholarships and BC Naturalists Club support funds. Some are short term funds such as the Abbotsford Mission Willband grant, which was a one time grant for a specific project. Contingency is into perpetuity for those times that we have a need to fulfill extra-ordinary expenses.

New this year is the Okanagan Shuswap Fund, which were funds returned from the now closed North Shuswap Club. The Executive have voted to use these funds as an incentive for clubs to host an AGM or FGM.

Club Membership Information - 2018

| Club Name | Total 2017 | Total 2018 | Internet Presence |
|--|---------------|---------------|---|
| Lower Mainland | | | |
| Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club | 65 | 63 | http://www.abbymissionnatureclub.org/ |
| Alouette Field Naturalists | 20 | 19 | |
| Bowen Nature Club | 27 | 28 | http://bowennatureclub.blogspot.com/ |
| Burke Mountain Naturalists | 233 | 241 | www.bmn.bc.ca |
| Chilliwack Field Naturalists | 33 | 26 | www.chilliwackfieldnaturalists.com |
| Delta Naturalists Society | 112 | 113 | http://dncb.wordpress.com |
| Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society | 23 | 23 | www.birdsonthebay.ca |
| Great Blue Heron Society | 6 | 6 | |
| Langley Field Naturalists Society | 90 | 88 | http://www.langleyfieldnaturalists.org/ |
| Little Campbell Watershed Society | 9 | 9 | www.lcws.ca |
| Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society | 44 | 48 | www.penderharbourwildlife.com |
| Squamish Environmental Conservation Soc. | 45 | 44 | http://www.squamishenvironment.ca/ |
| Stoney Creek Environmental Committee | 19 | 51 | www.scec.ca/ |
| Sunshine Coast Natural History Society | 168 | 172 | https://sites.google.com/site/scnaturalhistorysoc/ |
| Surrey Environmental Partners | 8 | 8 | |
| Nature Vancouver | 796 | 804 | www.naturevancouver.ca |
| Whistler Naturalists Society | 52 | 18 | http://www.whistlernaturalists.ca/ |
| White Rock & Surrey Naturalists Society | 91 | 88 | http://www.facebook.com/WRSnaturalists |
| WildResearch | 334 | 314 | www.wildresearch.ca |
| Yorkson Watershed Enhancement Society | 10 | 10 | http://www.ywes.org/ |
| Kootenays | | | |
| Fernie Nature Club | 43 | 54 | http://www.ourfernienatureclub.com/fernienatureclub |
| Rocky Mountain Naturalists Society | 111 | 119 | http://www.rockymountainnaturalists.org/ |
| West Kootenay Natrualists Association | 91 | 80 | http://www.kootenaynaturalists.org |
| Northern BC | | | |
| Bulkley Valley Naturalists | 63 | 82 | www.bvnaturalists.ca |
| Kitimat Valley Naturalists | 49 | 49 | |
| MacKenzie Nature Observatory | 44 | 36 | http://mackenzienatureobservatory.ca/ |
| Northern Amphibian Naturalists Society | 40 | 40 | |
| Prince George Naturalist Club | 146 | 143 | http://pgnc.wordpress.com |
| Quesnel Naturalists | 46 | 39 | |
| Timberline Trail & Nature Club | 15 | 15 | http://www.timberlinetrailandnature.com/ |
| Williams Lake Field Naturalists | 123 | 150 | www.williamslakefieldnaturalists.ca |
| Thompson-Shuswap-Okanagan | | | |
| Central Okanagan Naturalist Club | 257 | 265 | http://www.okanagannature.org/ |
| Kamloops Naturalist Club | 163 | 167 | http://www.kamloopsnaturalistclub.ca/ |
| Kamloops Thompson Trail Alliance ** | 12 | 14 | http://www.kamloopsthompsontrailsalliance.com/ |

| Club Name | Total 2017 | Total 2018 | Internet Presence |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Lillooet Naturalist Club | 103 | 111 | http://www.lillooetnaturalistsociety.org/ |
| Nicola Naturalists Society | 103 | 128 | http://www.nicolanaturalists.ca/ |
| North Okanagan Naturalists' Club | 127 | 137 | http://www.nonc.ca/ |
| North Shuswap Naturalists Club | 14 | 0 | Closed |
| Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists | 60 | 46 | http://oliverosoyoosnaturalists.com/about-us/ |
| Shuswap Naturalists Club | 93 | 99 | http://www.shuswapnaturalists.org/ |
| South Okanagan Naturalists Club | 121 | 123 | http://www.southokanagan.com |
| Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists | 51 | 50 | http://www.vffn.ca/ |
| | | | |
| Vancouver Island | | | |
| Arrowsmith Naturalists | 107 | 150 | http://www.arrowsmithnats.org/ |
| Comox Valley Naturalists | 233 | 270 | http://www.comoxvalleynaturalists.bc.ca |
| Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society | 120 | 97 | http://www.naturecowichan.net |
| Nanaimo Nature New | | 107 | |
| Pender Island Field Naturalists | 55 | 78 | https://www.facebook.com/penderislandfield-naturalists |
| Rithet's Bog Conservation Society | 10 | 9 | www.rithetsbog.org |
| Rocky Point Bird Observatory | 212 | 183 | http://rpbo.org/ |
| Saltspring Trail and Nature Club | 144 | 155 | http://saltspringtnc.ca |
| Victoria Natural History Society | 743 | 726 | www.vicnhs.bc.ca |
| Subtotal | 5661 | 5705 | |
| | | | |
| Affiliate Clubs | 3 | 7 | |
| Life Members | 21 | 18 | |
| Subscription Members | 10 | 10 | |
| Direct Members | 69 | 106 | |
| Subtotal | 103 | 141 | |
| Total All Categories | 5764 | 5846 | |

Club memberships: The high-point in membership numbers is in December of each year. Throughout the year, there are changes in memberships (both ups and downs) as many of our clubs have different renewal guidelines and dates for their membership. The high-point of last year was in December with a membership count of 6, 275.

The comparison numbers above are based on September to September counts.

