

# Arrowsmith Naturalists Newsletter

Volume # 17

Issue Number 1

February 2011

<http://www.arrowsmithnats.org>

## To know, enjoy, and preserve Nature



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**The Arrowsmith Naturalist** is published three times a year...in February, June and October. Articles on birding, travel, botany and environmental matters are welcomed by the end of the month prior to publication. The next deadline is May 2011, for the June 2011 edition.

Hand-written or typed articles are accepted. Some editing may be required for length or held off for another edition according to available space. Please e-mail articles to [mmhillm@shaw.ca](mailto:mmhillm@shaw.ca) or send by mail to: 194 Valdez Ave, Qualicum Beach B.C. V9K 1R8  
**Editor:** Margaret Hill (250) 752-2728

### Arrowsmith Naturalists Officers and Contacts:

**President:** Dave Hutchings (250) 752-1613  
**Past President:** Roger Simms (250) 752-0445  
**Vice President:** Bill Campbell (250) 752-783-0883  
**Secretary:** Pam Helem (250) 468-7475  
**Treasurer:** Carol Anne Pillion (250) 468-7993  
**Membership:** Gail Armstrong (250) 248-0587  
**Directors:**  
**Programs:** Dave Hutchings (250) 752-1613; Bill Campbell (250) 752-0445  
**Field Trips:** Maggie Little (250) 757-2328; Penny Marshall (250) 757-8764  
**Promotion:** Sallie Dabb (250) 752-7588  
**Refreshments:** Alison Bakker (250) 757-8551  
**Young Naturalists:** Alison Bakker (250) 757-8551  
**Conservation/Environment:** Gary & Ronda Murdock (250) 248-3667  
**Web Site:** David Helem (250) 468-7475  
**BC Nature:** Pat Bourgeois (250) 586-4846

**General Information:** Club membership information is available at both of the public libraries, on the web site <http://www.arrowsmithnats.org>, or write to \*Arrowsmith Naturalists, Box 1542 Parksville B.C. V9P 2H4. Annual membership is \$35.00 per family, \$22.00 single or \$12.00 junior (up to 18 years). Membership includes monthly meetings (talks and/or slide shows), regular hikes (bird watching, botanical), BC Nature newsletter four times a year and club newsletter in February, June and October.

It's time to *renew Memberships for 2011*. Bring your dues in the form of cash or cheque along with completed forms to the February meeting or you can mail a cheque to the club's postal address. (See address above\*.)

### BULLETIN BOARD

**Parking:** If you find you have to park in the over-flow lot down the street from the school, be aware that the gates are locked at 9:30 p.m. One of our members found herself locked in and had to phone for a ride home.

**No Smoking:** Smoking is not allowed anywhere on school property.

**Sunshine:** If you know of an Arrowsmith Naturalist, who is ill, in hospital or recently bereaved, please contact: Pam Helem, at (250) 468-7475 or at [arrowsmithnats@gmail.com](mailto:arrowsmithnats@gmail.com)

#### Club Publications:

A reference copy of the current newsletter is available at each of the libraries at Parksville and Qualicum Beach. Meetings and Outings information sheets are available at Mulberry Bush Book Store in Qualicum Beach and Parksville.

**Spring BC Nature AGM and Conference:** It will be hosted by the Williams Lake Field Naturalist Club. Mark your calendars for May 12 - 15, 2011.

<http://bcnature.ca/pages/conferences/conferences.html>

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## President's Report

A hearty "welcome" to new members and an equally hearty "welcome back" to our loyal continuing membership.

The Club has enjoyed a fairly active 2010. The stewardship project (the invasive plant removal and tree planting - with coffee after) at the Englishman River estuary continues on the second and fourth Fridays of most months. Come and join us. This past summer, our participation in Kidfest was a hit. Once again, thanks to Betty Collins and Robert Mercer and their many volunteers. We were successful also in helping to maintain the summer student Park Interpreters at Rath Trevor. We registered our concerns about the decision to log DL 33 in Nanoose; about the Raven Coal project and the need for an independent environmental assessment; about the decision by the United Church to sell the Moorecroft property, and about the environmental issues posed by the proposed expansion of Fairwinds into sensitive habitat.

The impact of domestic and feral cats on wildlife, as well as the increasing problem of invasive plant species, are gaining the attention of many who witness their impact on the natural world. These issues, including those noted above, will need our active attention.

If January was an indication, the Arrowsmith Naturalists can look forward to a very full and interesting 2011. Our year began with a fascinating field trip to the nearly-completed VIU Deep Bay Field Station, which will be a centre for shellfish research on the BC coast. Brian Kingzett, a marine biologist and the manager of the Station, led the 30 naturalists who attended on an eye-opening tour as he explained the multi-purpose design of the facility which will become one of the most sustainable buildings in Canada. See [www.viu.ca/deepbay/index.asp](http://www.viu.ca/deepbay/index.asp) for further info.

Your new Club Executive is well into the process of planning for the year ahead. Unfortunately, however, we have lost three Directors. Lynn Bieber-Weir has had to step down because of personal commitments. Because of a very heavy work load, Allison Roberts has resigned and, after six years on the Executive, Tony Heal is constitutionally required to step down. We are all grateful for their contributions to the Arrowsmith Naturalists

Pam Helem has vacated her role as Speakers Coordinator to become our new Secretary. Maggie Little and Penny Marshall will be taking on the task of planning our Club field trips, and they are already off to a flying start. Thank you all for stepping forward.

The Club, therefore, still has some Executive and non-Executive positions to fill. We need a Speakers Coordinator and at least two new Directors. Unless these positions can be filled, the Club's indoor/meeting programs and the proper functioning of the Executive are in jeopardy. None of these positions is onerous. If you are tempted to step forward and wish more information on any position, please see Roger Simms or any other member of the Executive.

The Arrowsmith Naturalists will be supporters, once again, of the Brant Wildlife Festival. We will support the Oceanside Young Naturalists in their "Plant for the Planet - A Celebration of Trees" event, as well as the "Family Day on the Farm". Where appropriate, we will assist in other events for the BWF. ...p.3

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## Presidents' Report...cont'd

As you know, our Club is joining with the Nanoose Naturalists to host the 2012 Fall General Meeting of BC Nature. Planning is under way, with the Bayside Quality Inn already selected as the FGM venue. And it was very gratifying, at a recent meeting, that so many of you indicated a willingness to become involved in the staging of the FGM. A huge THANK YOU to all of you. There is still plenty of room for additional volunteers, so keep your ears open as planning progresses.

As a final note, I must mention that the coming months and the next two or three years may afford a unique opportunity to once again firmly place environmental and sustainability issues on the political agendas of our political parties. It is not often that both major political parties elect new leaders almost simultaneously and, I would hope, these new leaders may want to be seen to offer something other than "business as usual". This is the time to encourage new ideas and new ways of doing things. Naturalists, if we wish to be active, may influence decisions and policies which bear upon that which is dearest to us all - the protection of an abundant and diverse Nature.

Dave Hutchings, President

## **NYMPH FALLS OUTING - JAN. 29, 2011**

Trip Leader: Margaret & Martin Hill

Although the morning's weather was foreboding with steady rain as we travelled towards Courtenay, miraculously as we arrived at Nymph Falls the rain dissipated. Following the mid-line trail and long loop trail the 17 naturalists approached Nymph Falls from down river. This approach provides an amazing view of the falls rushing along the Puntledge River. Many thanks to Duncan Campbell, who spontaneously gave us a talk about a few of the many mosses found along the trail. Below, Duncan has provided notes and pictures of two of the mosses and a lichen.

The moss and lichens were lush. 75% of all the mosses that grow in Canada grow on the island, and the winter rains keep them bright green. Two of the easiest mosses to identify are:

- Step Moss (*hylocomium splendens*) is a major ground cover, and is most obvious from its tiered structure and its big flat fronds
- Oregon Beaked Moss (*kindbergia oregano*) often covers rotting logs and the bottom of tree trunks. It is most obvious from its long length (often 20 cm) and pointed tips

Both mosses were abundant on the Nymph Falls walk.



There were lichens aplenty as well. Ragbag (*platismatia glauca*) grows on branches and was particularly evident as the winter rains and wind had brought many of the smaller branches and twigs down onto the path

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## The Alleged Population Increase of Vancouver Island Deer

There are three races of Black-tailed Deer in British Columbia. On Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, the Columbian Black-tailed Deer *Odocoileus hemionus columbianus* occurs. There are resident deer populations and migrating deer populations.

It appears from newspaper stories and radio interviews that many people are under the impression that we are experiencing a deer population explosion because it appears there are more deer in our gardens and along rural roads.

On January 26, 2011, I listened to On The Island Host Gregor Craigie interview View Royal Mayor Graham Hill on the subject of the Capital Regional District and deer population control. It was quite astonishing to hear Mayor Hill say there is not any baseline information on deer population but judging from the deer around his residence that there is a problem with increased deer populations and that the deer have worn out their welcome.

My research on the subject reveals that the Ministry of Environment, does have wildlife trend statistics and some studies have been done. A research team spent nine years decoding the patterns of movement made by Coastal Columbian Black-Tailed deer. The Integrated Wildlife Intensive Forestry Research Team tracked 89 radio-collared black-tailed deer to find the distance travelled and the direction, frequency and timing of their movements. This monitoring occurred from 1982 to 1991 in the Nanaimo River valley and from 1989 to 1991 in the Chemainus, Nimpkish and Caycuse River Valleys.

Above all, the IWIFR study showed black-tailed deer to have strong family bonds and to be creatures of habit. The study suggests that forest harvesting with accompanying road building and isolation of winter habitat may intensify predation in the resident deer populations. Older intact forests at low elevations are

essential to rebuild dwindling populations of Columbian black-tailed deer on Vancouver Island, so concluded Scott McNay and Joan Voller, who worked on the Integrated Wildlife—Intensive Forestry Research Program's (IWIFR) Vancouver Island Deer Project. The results of their nine-year study appeared in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*.

The notion of dwindling populations of Coastal Black-tailed deer likely comes as a shock to readers who have the impression that Vancouver Island is experiencing a population explosion of Coastal black-tailed deer but the actuality is quite the reverse.

The trend statistics from the Wildlife Science Section of the provincial Environment Ministry in July 2010 actually show a decline in the black-tail Columbian deer population on Vancouver Island.

The population was estimated at 200,000 in 1980. By 1994 it had fallen to 124,000, and by 1997 to 86,000.

Today it's estimated at 50,000 to 55,000.

The east coast of Vancouver Island, with its ever-increasing human population, is more than 90 per cent private land. Most of this private land is corporate private clear-cut forest and tree farm land.

The remaining deer population is moving from the managed clear-cut forest into urban areas, at the same time the forest edge is being converted into subdivisions and shopping centres.

Why is habitat loss and movement of deer to urban areas on southeast Vancouver Island being omitted from this conversation? The public deserves to know that the increase is in human population, while the decrease is in deer population and in wildlife habitat.

Submitted by: Ronda Murdock

On the Island Podcast. January 26 – CRD and deer population control.  
<http://www.cbc.ca/ontheisland/>

Coastal Black-Tailed Deer Study – Habitat & Predator Concerns  
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/docs/bro/bro41.pdf>



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## Taiwan Birding Trip -March 19<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> 2010

On March 17<sup>th</sup> I left home to take the ferry to Vancouver and then by the new Canada Line out to the Airport. There I met up with three other members of BC Field Ornithologists for a flight due to leave at 1:50 am, March 18<sup>th</sup> for Taoyuan Airport in Taiwan. This new airport is just outside the Capital, Taipei. Once all the formalities were over we joined our Canadian (Jo Ann) and Taiwanese (Simon) leaders and our Taiwanese driver (Jon-sen) who is also the Chairman of I Lan Wild Bird Society, and left to start our two week birding adventure.

Our first stop was Kaomei and Hamao Wetlands. At those two spots we were able to see fifty species of birds including Saunder's Gulls which should have left on their continuing migration northwards. From there we visited Lugang said to be the second oldest city in Taiwan. For lunch we had oyster pancakes prepared as we sat down to eat. Before leaving Lugang we visited Matsu Temple (Goddess of the Sea), the oldest temple in the country. We then had a walk around the rebuilt-refurbished old town, found coffee and then made our way to our first night's hotel in Changhua. We had time to spruce up and out for supper at a nearby restaurant as guests of the Changhua Wild Bird Society.

The next day as guests of the Changhua Wild Bird Society we were invited to the Baghua Mountain Bird Fair to celebrate the spring passage of the Grey-faced Buzzard Eagle and several other birds of prey which migrate through the area spring and fall. This celebration is held the third weekend in March each year. To help celebrate and to encourage the young generation many bus-loads of school children are brought in to join the festivities. The opening ceremonies involved the local Mayor of the County and other dignitaries including our leader Simon who is well-known in Taiwan for encouraging bird related tourism. We then released the celebratory balloons as our photographs were taken followed by newspaper reporters interviewing us Canadian visitors. Then we were off to join all the other visitors to view

Crested Goshawks, Crested Serpent Eagles and Indian Black Eagles and others. After having some lunch we were off again this time to the Huisun Forest Reserve for more birding before we found our next accommodation at 2530 foot elevation. Once settled in we did some birding around the hotel before and after supper, including Owling, hearing two species but not seeing them. So we continued in this fashion for the rest of the visit.

Having headed first down the west coast we then drove across Island to the east coast and then south again. One place we stayed at was Chingling Resort at 5740 feet elevation and another towards the end at 3750metre and another at 3000 metres. All the time we were seeing new places and of course many new birds, and some so very colourful. One bird the Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler called out loudly what sounded like animal`-animal`. One stop was at the Taroko National Park with the main highway running through it and up and over the Wuling Pass at over 10,000 feet and at which spot we found two target birds Alpine Accentor and Vinaceous Rose finch. The park has the Taroko Gorge running through it and here most people get out of their vehicles while the driver goes through a new tunnel to meet us after we have walked the 1.9km tunnel of 9 turns, wearing of course hard hats supplied by park officials to protect against possible falling pieces of rock. At our next hotel the following morning I was out walking before breakfast and met a Chinese woman and her husband and two teenage children. I expected them to greet me in Mandarin, but was met with very London, England accents, very surprising. This latest hotel in the Taroko National Park was financed by the Leader Hotel Chain, one of the largest chains in Taiwan. However, the building was put up by the local indigenous group who managed and staffed the whole operation including in the evenings performing their own songs and dance for the entertainment of their guests.

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Another stop found us preparing to fly to Lanyu Island (Orchid Island) in English. A short 28 minutes flight from Taiwan to the south-east was our next destination. Although part of Taiwan these inhabitants are migrants from the Philippines, 800 years and just 200 kms away, so they look Filipino and have their own language, but of course speak Mandarin as well. Most birders visit Lanyu to see the Japanese Paradise Flycatcher and we saw two females, the male calling one to feed her from her nest so we did not see him. The other specialty is the Lanyu Island sub specie of the Ryukyu Scops Owl. We saw two of them.

We should have left the next day but a storm blew in and all flights off the Island were cancelled and the next day too. So instead of leaving Thursday morning we left Saturday after lunch, and quite a farcical way of helping people leave the Island. One thing about vehicles on Lanyu Island is that they are all used vehicles brought over from the main island and very few have any air conditioning for the tropical climate. Air conditioning means opening the windows! Having lost two days we had to miss the far south of Taiwan and some interesting birds but we found others. We had a late flight back home and because we had crossed the dateline going and coming, we arrived home a few hours before we left Taiwan.

## Observations.

We found getting into Taiwan very easy, the people are very friendly and the food most enjoyable except for Sashimi an uncooked fish dish. Regarding meals while driving from place to place we stopped most times for morning coffee, lunch and afternoon break at 7-11 stores or 85 degrees a very popular bakery chain and always enjoyed a tasty and enjoyable snack or meal. Both chains are represented in most built up areas. We noticed in most communities any undeveloped land in town was used for growing rice especially as all meals seem to start with rice to which you add the various other items as you so wish. I did not expect it but found myself quite used to two weeks of using chopsticks.

Some years ago there was a logging industry in Taiwan but being fairly mountainous they soon realized that erosion was a major problem. So the Timber Ministry which is now the Ministry of Conservation, do a very good job of promoting conservation and protecting their environment. Conservation in Taiwan means saving trees and not selling for profit, in fact trees cannot be cut down without first obtaining permission. As a result all wood requirements are met through importation! The road system is excellent even in their Parks system.

All hotels and motels provide visitors with a complete set of toiletries including tooth brush and toothpaste, razor, soap, comb, etc in a sealed package plus disposable slippers because they are fanatical about clean floors.

Most of Taiwan is sub-tropical except for the southern third being tropical, as a result Lanyu Island is also tropical, meaning heavy monsoonal rain in the season for rains. Originally to keep their homes dry and free from run off, houses were built into an excavated space with a sloping wooden roof extending beyond the excavated area thus directing water away from the home and being cooler in the warmer weather. Very few of these houses remain today. The local population of Lanyu exist on locally grown taro and other fruit and vegetables and sea-food which they catch themselves in very decorative canoes, and have a colourful ceremony to celebrate the start of a new season and new canoes.

Where ever we traveled and met dignitaries or people responsible for a park or conservation effort we were given gifts, whether it be a ball cap, DVD, postcards, pens etc.

In conclusion, 195 species of birds were seen. I managed to see 184 which included 142 Life-birds. I would like to return again one day if possible. Our guides were great and we saw some of the interesting places as well as many birds. Taiwan is quite picturesque and in most respects modern and very interesting. I have no problem in recommending

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Taiwan for your visit for birding, sightseeing and other vacation purposes.

Submitted by: Roger Simms

## **1st World Seabird Conference, Victoria BC September 7th to 11th 2010.**

On Saturday September 11th I attended the final day of the conference with my emphasis on Conservation. The conference was organized by The Pacific Seabird Group, of which I am a new member and 25 other professional seabird and research organizations. The goal was to put seabird management and conservation into a worldwide perspective, addressing global issues and data needs for this diverse group of birds, most of which inhabit multiple countries and waters within their ranges.

Various workshops were set up. The headings of the twenty minute presentations included:

Establishment of a new, secure colony of the critically endangered Bermuda Petrel; Saving the critically endangered Magenta Petrel from extinction; The demographic dilemma of the Townsend's Shearwater; Threats to Pink-footed Shearwaters on their breeding colonies; Short-tailed Albatross recovery: results of chick translocation and rearing project; Breeding habitats of the Ivory Gull in Russian Arctic and climate change monitoring, threats and protection (This is one I remember because it showed a colony with several adults on a piece of land jutting into the sea and only just above sea-level); Research and conservation of the worlds rarest seabird, The Chinese Crested Tern, (I was interested in this because the main breeding islands are off the coast of Taiwan and on a few locations in south-eastern mainland China. I was in Taiwan earlier in 2010 but too early to see the return of the Terns); Foraging ecology, blood parasites and challenges for

conservation; the critically endangered Christmas Island Frigatebird, (This involves the circular migration of the Frigatebird from Christmas Island north to islands of the Philippines, through some of the islands and back to Christmas Island by a different route. Amongst their challenges are avoiding numerous fishing boats and consequent fishing lines of fishermen coming out from their various islands); Population connectivity and the conservation genetics of Cape Gannets in and around the southern African coastal areas; Assessing the impacts of marine wave and tidal energy devices on seabirds in Scottish territorial waters, (Apparently there is considerable tidal level differences in and around the Scottish coast and there is a large tidal wave energy industry set up there where there are also many species of seabirds using the same areas.); Waterbirds and wind: establishing sustainable limits on incidental mortality for seabirds within the western Atlantic Basin, (It seems the USA is establishing various methods of obtaining energy from the sea on their Eastern Seaboard making use of the many islets and inlets, etc. along their Eastern coastline thus creating areas suitable for collecting tidal and wave energy.); and finally, Effects of ship traffic on divers (loons) and sea ducks in German offshore waters; (This area of Europe experiences a lot of shipping traffic thus affecting the resting areas used by loons and many species of sea ducks.)

Much of what I heard was technical but also many interesting facts most of which are hard to remember as I write this report. However, I found it stimulating and encouraging to be made aware that many people and organizations are responding to the numerous challenges and that these many different seabirds are receiving some of the attention required.

Submitted by: Roger Simms

## **YOUNG NATURALISTS NOTES**

The Young Naturalists are taking part in the Brant Festival planting trees at the Englishman Estuary and monitoring their progress during the summer. They're also involved in walks at Nanoose Edibles Farm to hear the sounds of nature.

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The photo is from the Jan. meeting at the University. So delicate and fragile looking, it is a heron skeleton. Just one of the skeletons the Young Naturalists saw that the UVI students had prepared. Submitted by: Alison Bakker

## Brant Festival Activities

### Young Naturalists

**Tree Planting Party with the Young Naturalist Club, March 12<sup>th</sup> Noon to 2pm.** *We've been invited to the planting of trees at Englishman River Estuary.*

**Family Day on the Farm, Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>.** *We are leading a walk to hear the sounds of nature and identifying them. More details to follow. Contact: Alison Bakker*

**Kids Camp during the Spring Break - check the Brant Festival web site for details.**



## ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS MEETINGS AND OUTINGS

### **February, 2011 to September, 2011**

Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Carpool if possible. By popular demand, Saturday outings have replaced Sundays.

**Please Note:** - Guests are very welcome. A Guest Waiver and Day Membership forms are available at time of outing or on the website: [www.arrowsmithsnats.org/membership](http://www.arrowsmithsnats.org/membership). These forms must be read carefully, completed and signed with an accompanying \$1.00 fee before participating in an outing.

#### **Monday, Feb. 28th - General Meeting Springwood Middle School, PV - 7:30 pm**

Guest speaker: **Lisa Spaven**, coordinator of B.C. Marine Mammal Response Network, based at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo. "WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE - ALL MARINE MAMMALS HAVE AN IMPORTANT STORY TO TELL. Whether it is a healthy porpoise, an injured grey whale, or a dead Steller sea lion, all marine mammals have an important story to tell about their long and mysterious lives at sea."

#### **Wednesday, Mar. 2nd - Parksville/Qualicum area herring spawn and seabird viewing**

Location depends on previous day's action - eagles, ducks, gulls, sea lions and fish boats. Meet at Craig & Jensen at 9:30 am or Arlington Inn, Nanoose Bay at 9:45. Bring a lunch. Leader: Sandy 248-5565.



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## **Saturday, Mar. 12th - French Creek, Columbia Beach, Morningstar Ponds**

Tidal, estuary, ocean, woods and fresh water pond environments are the best of all habitats to view a good cross section of birds. Drive and short easy walks to locations. Bring lunch. Meet Qualicum Tourist Bureau, 9:30 am. Leader: Roger 752-0445.

**Wednesday, March 23rd - Denman Island - 8:30 start** - Enjoy a Spring day outing to Fillongly Park and surrounds to view the returning spring migrations and resident wildlife. Easy 3km walk. Bring lunch, optics and cameras. Meet at Qualicum Tourist Bureau for **8:30 start to catch 10:00am ferry**. Carpool, Leaders: Penny & Maggie 757-2328.

## **Monday, Mar. 28th - General Meeting Springwood Middle School, PV - 7:30 pm**

**Bill Merilees**, a local wildlife biologist, author and tour leader, whose previous profession and retirement has focused on the flora and fauna of Vancouver Island as well as many locations aboard. For this talk we travel with him down to extreme southern latitudes to learn about the Mega Herbs of Sub-Antarctic.

## **Sat April 2nd - Legacy Marsh, Lantzville and Brickyard Cove, Nanoose**

Accessible areas and easy short walks to view the busy resident bird life of the marsh and ocean. Meet Craig & Jensen for 9:30 start. Arlington 9:45. Bring lunch. Leader: Duncan & Lois 248-2072 loc. 7337

## **Wed April 13th - Mt Tzouhalem & St Peter's Church - Duncan**

Treat yourself to a bonanza of Spring wildflowers adorning the grounds of a pioneer church yard and Eco Reserve. Short uphill climb but easy walking. Bring lunch and cameras. Leaders: Dave & Chris 752-1613.

## **Monday, Apr. 18th - General Meeting Springwood Middle School, PV - 7:30 pm**

**Note change of date because of Easter Monday holiday.**

**Dr. John Gunton** has kindly agreed to present the Part 2 of his very popular topic : "Geo-hazards of the Georgia Basin". A local geological consultant, he started our Fall Session in September with Part I of his multifaceted topic. *(Due to inclement weather, the November follow-up had to be cancelled).*

## **Friday, April 22nd - Earth Day**

Watch local media for events related to International Earth Day. This day promotes environmental awareness and calls for the protection of our planet.

## **Saturday, April 23th - The Notch - Nanoose**

Visit this rare remnant Gary Oak meadow and the unusual flora and fauna that survive in sparse conditions. Challenging uphill climb but worth the effort to sit and have lunch on "top of the world". Bring lunch, cameras. Wear good treads. Meet Craig & Jensen for 9:30 start. Nanoose School 9:45. Leader: Robert 248-6769.

## **Wednesday, May 4th - Yellowpoint Park - Cassidy**

Continue to follow the Spring flowering sequence through this mature growth woody and boggy area. Intermediate walk. Wear good footwear. Refresh your inner self with lunch at the Crow & Gate. Meet Craig & Jensen for 9:30 start, Arlington 9:45. Leaders: David & Pam 468-7475.

## **Saturday, May 21st - Harewood Plains - Nanaimo - 9:15 start**

A must see! **Charles Thirkell**, Botanist and Steward of this area, will guide us on a 2 hour stroll discovering the rarities, including the *Lotus pinnatus*, of this protected area. Good footwear required, some stony areas. A \$2.00 contribution towards maintenance is suggested. Meet Lunch at the Black Bear Pub. Contact Maggie 757-2328.

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## **Saturday, May 28th - 2 Pub Walk - Oyster River**

Amble along the sandy dunes and marshes and take in the wide variety of flowers, birds and butterflies. Easy 6 km loop walk. Salmon Point Pub lunch half way. Bring cameras. Meet Qualicum Tourist Bureau for 9:30 start. Leaders: Penny & Maggie 757-2328.

## **Monday, May 30th - General Meeting Springwood Middle School, PV - 7:30 pm**

**Note change of date because of Victoria Day holiday.**

**Genevieve Singleton** will present a chance to learn more about the Honeymoon Bay Ecological Reserve, for which she is a Warden. Every year Spring creates a beautiful display of wildflowers, particularly the Pink Fawn Lilies (*Erythronium revolutum*). Topic to be confirmed.

## **Saturday, June 4th - NALT Native Plant Nursery - Cassidy**

Formerly the van Kerkoerle property. Enjoy the unusual Arboretum of N American trees lovingly acquired by the former owners. Then explore the extensive inventory of native plants and trees for sale. Easy walking. Meet Craig & Jensen for 9:30 start. Arlington 9:45. Lunch at Jingle Pot Pub. Leaders: Bill & Marilyn 738-0883.

## **Wednesday, June 15th - Cathedral Grove and Cameron Lake - Alberni Hwy**

An Island jewel! Gaze in awe at the giant centuries old Doug Firs, in this rare remnant ecosystem and explore the far side of Cameron Lake. An easy flat 3km walk. Bring lunch. Meet Qualicum Tourist Bureau for 9:30 start. Leaders: Pat and Jim 586-4846.

## **Saturday, June 25th - Kitsuksis Dyke - Port Alberni**

Enjoy this easy 2 km walk along the creek and take in the birds, waterfall and estuary. Bring lunch. Meet Qualicum Tourist Bureau for 9:30 start. Leaders: Penny & David 757-8764.

## **Monday, June 27th - General Meeting Springwood Middle School, PV - 7:30 pm Members Night -The Sequel.**

Back by popular demand, another chance for members to share photos.

## **Saturday, July 16th Canada's Parks Day**

Celebrate the festivities in many parks - regional, provincial and national.

## **Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> - Annual Club Picnic: Location TBA**

**Sunday, August 14th, 2011 [Kidfest](#)** Be sure to visit this celebration of childhood in the Parksville Community Park from 10 am - 4pm. Among the activities will be the Arrowsmith Naturalists' live display of some of the many creatures which inhabit the Salish Sea. If you would like to help out, call Betty: 752-4744.

## **Saturday, Sept 3rd - Somenos Marsh, Sewage Ponds & Conservation Area - Duncan**

Easy. Driving and short walks to take in the large variety of birds found visiting this area. Bring lunch. Meet Craig & Jensen for 9:30 start. Arlington 9:45. Leaders: TBA.