



*To Know, Enjoy and
Preserve Nature*

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President's Report

For the past several months, much of the Club's activities have revolved around the Brant Festival and the separate, yet related events of Earth Day. Arrowsmith Naturalists were represented at the Brant Festival Opening Night and, on the following day, at the art and craft fair. And, once again, Sandra Gray organized our hosting of the Brant on the Bay event. A huge vote of thanks goes out to Sandra and the many other volunteers who made these events so successful.

We are grateful also to Marg Hill for the design and seeing to the printing of our new club brochure in time for the Brant Festival. Instead of the fold-out brochure which we have used in the past, our new model is a simpler double-sided card which can be slipped easily into a pocket. It is also simpler and more economical to produce. Thanks, Marg. And thanks also for all you do to produce this excellent newsletter.

In early March, Club members gathered with a group of Moorecroft volunteers in the garage/workshop of Lynne Brookes and Derrick Grimmer for a bird box build-a-thon. Two hours later, the group had put together 50 bird boxes which were to be sold as a fundraiser for Moorecroft. Thanks go out, not only to Lynne and Derrick and the volunteer "builders" but particularly to Lynne and Derrick's friend, Frank, who obtained and pre-cut all of the wood components.

The Earth Day celebration at the Qualicum Beach Town Hall gave us an opportunity to put the Club on display and promote our activities. On the following day, we participated in the annual Hamilton Marsh Tour by providing interpretive walks from the parking lot to the marsh, by providing binoculars and scopes for the public to spot bird activity in and around the marsh and by setting up our club display in the parking lot. In contrast to previous years, more adults than children attended the

event (a hopeful sign) - and we even attracted two new members.

Dave Erickson has started off in his position as Outings Coordinator with a series of very interesting and well-attended outings. First, we took a fascinating "moss walk" around Rosewall Creek with Kent Anders, followed a week later by the often popular visit to St. Peters churchyard in Duncan to see the swathes of fawn lilies, shooting stars and other wildflowers. In the afternoon, the warden of the Mt. Tzuhalem Ecological Reserve, Genevieve Singleton, gave us a tour to parts of the Reserve which are normally not open to the public.

A special treat was the trip to the Mainland to visit the Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary near Ladner. What a gem! The outing was made the more pleasurable with Gary and Ronda Murdock providing the transportation in their 15 passenger van. And Gary also arranged for us to have great views of a coyote hunting for dinner. Thank you, Gary and Ronda.

Thank you, Dave. At the time of writing, outings to Yellow Point, Denman and Hornby Islands and Harewood Plains are yet to come, but if the aforementioned visits are any indication, you are choosing some real winners.

There are several activities and projects to look forward to over the next few months. Our annual club picnic is set for July 22 at Rath Trevor Provincial Park, with a 4 p.m. start. On several days throughout the summer, we will be promoting the club at the Errington and Qualicum Beach Farmers' Markets and, although few details are available at this time, Kidfest is slated to go ahead at the Parksville Community Park on August 18. Watch also for Rivers Day toward the end of September.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT...cont'd

Lynne Brookes and Roger Simms continue to plan for a cat control/licensing campaign, one which we hope will help mitigate the effects of cat predation on our native birds. Maggie Little will coordinate the Western Sandpiper survey over the summer and fall. The stewardship group will continue their battle to eradicate invasive scotch broom and spotted knapweed from the Englishman River Estuary. We ARE making a difference!

Thanks in a large part to Gail Armstrong, our Membership Chair, our membership numbers remain strong and are growing. We hope in the coming months to increase membership by increasing our public profile and by finding ways to entice more members to become active in the club. The Arrowsmith Naturalists needs your active support to thrive and survive.

Dave Hutchings

2013 Arrowsmith Naturalists Membership Report

To the present date, we have 88 members for this year. (32 Individual Memberships and 27 Family Memberships)

We have received \$1685.00 from membership dues for the year, so far.

We have 14 New Members for the year 2013: Some have been introduced in past newsletters, here are some more to meet:

CAMILLE DAWES & PAUL JENKINS

MARGARET HAMPSHIRE & daughters ELSIE & ALAINA

DOUG KITTS, husband of JILLIAN WITHERS

KEVIN & JEANNIE DIEWOLD

ROB & JEANNE SCHIPPERS

We hope you enjoy the monthly guest speakers and are able to get out on some of the field trips as well!

If anyone is interested in ordering one of our special Name Badges, please let me know.

They are \$8.00 per badge and I order them from the mainland.

Enjoy, Gail Armstrong, Membership Chairperson,
Arrowsmith Naturalists, Parksville

BC Nature Annual General Meeting

The Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club hosted the BC Nature AGM in Abbotsford over the weekend of May 2 – 5. Although I was unable to attend the field trips, the expert presentations and the social part of the weekend, I did manage to attend both the Directors' and the Annual General Meetings on the 5th.

Directors' Meeting

Much of the discussion of this meeting centered around the difficulty many clubs are having in attracting members to serve on their executive committees. One club had to threaten its members with disbanding when no one stepped forward to take over from an executive group which felt it could not continue.

It was felt that many naturalists may not feel confident to volunteer for these offices or there is a perception that the role may involve vast amounts of time and effort.

Several ways of mitigating this problem were suggested: allowing members to "shadow" positions of responsibility to learn just what they entail; posting descriptions of positions to help members understand the scope of each position and delegating duties so that individual roles are smaller and more members can be involved in the day-to-day operations of the club.

At the provincial executive level, most positions will continue without change with the incumbents. Our President – John Neville – has one year left in his term of office; the Vice-President's seat is still vacant; Marg Cuthbert of the Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society will take over as Education Chair from Joan Snyder, who has held that position for many years and Penny Edwards will take over as Vancouver Island Regional Coordinator for the next year.

The BC Naturalists' Foundation has acquired new Directors: Pat Westheuser, Tom Bearss and Bob Hanfield.

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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 September 2013 for the October 2013 edition.

Hand-written or typed articles and photos are accepted. Some editing may be required for length or held off for another edition according to available space. Please e-mail articles to

m.e.6@me.com or

phone (250) 752.2728

or send by mail to:

Margaret Hill, **Editor**

194 Valdez Ave, Qualicum Beach,
B.C. V9K 1R8.

General Information: Club membership information is available at both of the public libraries, on the web site www.arrowsmithnats.org, or write to Arrowsmith Naturalists, Box 1542 Parksville, B.C. V9P 2H4

Membership includes monthly meetings (talks and/or slide shows), regular outings (bird watching, botanical), BC Nature newsletter four times a year and the club newsletter in February, June, October.

New memberships are always welcomed...Family \$35.00, Single \$25.00

**Arrowsmith Naturalists
Officers and Contacts:**

President: Dave Hutchings
(250) 752.1613

Past President: Roger Simms

Vice President: Bill Campbell

Secretary: Pam Helem

Treasurer: Carol Anne Phillion

Membership: Gail Armstrong

Directors:

Lynne Brooks

Cindie Cosentino

Dave Erickson

Ed Wilson

Programs: Alison Bakker

Field Trips: Dave Erickson

Promotion: Sallie Dabb

Refreshments: Chris
Hutchings

Oceanside Young Naturalists:

Alison Bakker

Conservation/Environment:

Gary & Ronda Murdock

Web Site: David Helem

BC Nature: Sandra Gray

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

CLUB PUBLICATIONS

A reference copy of the current newsletter is available at each of the libraries in Parksville and Qualicum Beach.

Meetings and Outings information sheets are available at Mulberry Bush Book Stores in Qualicum Beach and Parksville.

**RESPECT FOR CLEAN
AIR****NO SMOKING**

Smoking is not allowed anywhere in, on or around Knox Church property.

**SCENTS OR
PERFUMES**

Avoid the use of any fragrances when participating in meetings or activities at Knox Church. This request is in respect for others for whom such scents are a health hazard.

BC Nature has given support to the new “Harnessing Nature Knowledge Project”, coordinated by Sarah Weaver who worked previously on the “Living By Water Project”. One of the items of the BC Nature Strategic Plan recommended the setting up of an online nature guide to highlight BC’s biodiversity and nature viewing sites. It will build on the older “Wildlife Viewing” brochures with more up-to-date data to describe existing viewing sites, their viability, and the establishment of new sites. Accurate map locations and recent photos will be vital components of this online guide which hopes to increase public knowledge and an appreciation of nature and conservation. To this end, naturalist clubs may be contacted to supply accurate local knowledge, prior to Nature Knowledge becoming part of the public section of the BCN website in the Fall.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was a calm, orderly meeting with the requisite reports presented in the printed Annual Report. Finances are sound, the BC Nature website is still being constructed and the Conservation Committee under the leadership of the remarkable Rosemary Fox continues to wage many battles to conserve nature. If you wish the full details of any of these or other reports, please contact me. What remains remarkable is the effort and commitment of naturalists throughout the province to “keep nature worth knowing”.

One major piece of business was the updating of the BC Nature bylaws. The meeting passed the dozens of changes in wording designed to bring the bylaws in line with current practice and evolution of the organization.

Dr. Joseph Lamont – the CEO of the Nature Trust – outlined recent acquisitions of lands, including the addition to the Parksville-Qualicum Wildlife Management Area. His also singled out the stewardship work of the Arrowsmith Naturalists, particularly, at the Englishman River Estuary.

Ian Davidson of Nature Canada spoke about “Reimagining Nature Canada” and the need to engage youth, to be more inclusive, and to focus less on “doom and gloom”. Several new programs hope to accomplish these aims: Naturehood will focus on nature in urban areas; Naturewatch will support citizen science, while Naturecare will support efforts to conserve sites of national and international importance. Partnering with BC Nature, Nature Canada has been a major intervener in the Northern Gateway pipeline hearings.

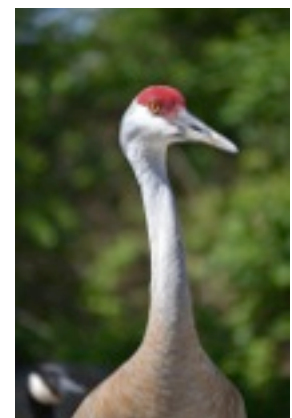
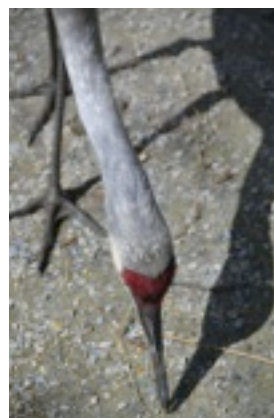
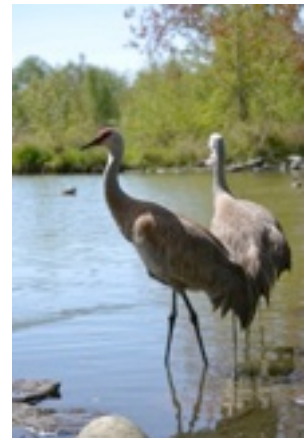
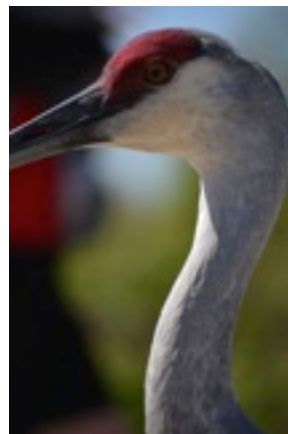
The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation’s Dr. Ken Ashley presented the Silver Awards to two groups. The awards – named after Rod Silver, the former CEO

– were given to the BC Breeding Bird Atlas Project led by Peter Davidson, Chris Corrado and Anne Murray. Kristine Webber and Daphne Solecki of the Young Naturalists accepted the Stewardship award. How good to see all those tireless efforts recognized.

There are also two dates to keep in mind and to look forward to: the BC Nature Fall General Meeting in Cranbrook, September 19-22 and the May 2014 BC Nature Annual General Meeting in Victoria. Both are great opportunities not only to experience other parts of our vast, biologically diverse province, but to meet also with other naturalists who are eager to show off their corner of BC.

Submitted by Dave Hutchings, President

SANDHILL CRANES AT REIFEL SANCTUARY



PHOTOS by SARAH DAVID

Arrowsmith Nat.s' trip to George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary

We had misgivings about rising early for the 6am meeting time, until the sight of a setting golden moon behind Mt. Arrowsmith foretold an excellent day for our club's trip to the Sanctuary on April 24th. Gary and Ronda Murdock kindly "donated" their Rainforest Nature Hikes van, which comfortably transported our group of thirteen for the day. The 7:45am ferry crossing to Tsawwassen was an opportunity to watch for whales or pelagic birds or simply relax and admire the stunning coastal mountains.

Who counted the most Great Blue Herons dotted along the muddy flats beside the Delta causeway?

After rendezvousing with two more vehicles, we headed north towards Westham Island past farmers' fields and sighted several Greater White-fronted amongst a gaggle of Canada Geese, as well as 2000-3000 Snow Geese. As if on cue, they took flight and flew towards us...what a scramble for cameras, but Gary was quick on the draw and got some great action shots. A couple more stops along River Road was an opportunity to see and hear Marsh Wrens, Red-winged Blackbirds, Rufus Hummingbirds, as well as look for shorebirds on the distant banks of the Fraser River. We arrived at the Sanctuary, which is within the Alaksen National Wildlife Area, around noon and had a quick picnic lunch before meeting up with our guide Kathleen, who led us on an interpretive tour. While being surrounded by the "usual suspects" – Mallards and Canada Geese, one of the unique features of the sanctuary is the chance of viewing bird species "up close and personal", such as picture perfect Wood Ducks, Northern Shovelers, Ring-necked Ducks and Herons, and Sandhill cranes, especially the four, which had overwintered at Reifel this year.

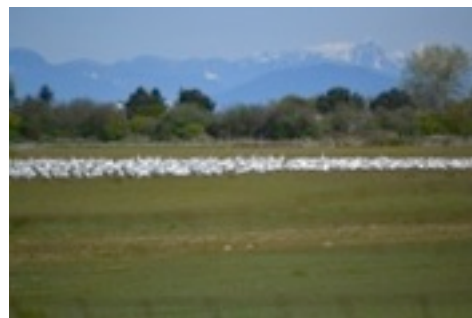


There has been a strong interest in the conservation of waterfowl habitat in the Reifel family from the 1920's when George C. Reifel's grandfather created the diked wetland complex area in the Fraser River estuary. After an original pair of captive bred cranes were introduced in the 1930's, wild cranes were attracted and there has been a history of

resident cranes at the sanctuary ever since. It has been open to the public this past fifty years.

As we wandered the trails, Kathleen pointed out an interesting Cork Oak tree, a beautifully camouflaged Bushtit nest, and a Sandhill Crane incubating on a nest in the middle of one of the larger ponds. A resident Sawhet owl sighted on a previous visit eluded us this trip. During the return trip towards the ferry terminal, there was time to stop and view the extensive Great Blues' heronry located along the wooded banks beside the causeway. After concentrating on just one small area of trees, we estimated that there must have been over a hundred prospective parents nesting there. An exciting end to our day was seeing a coyote, wary but focussed on his destination, loping through the distant shoreline fields.

While sailing home, we were surprised to come up with a tally of at least 64 species of birds and agreed that it had been a very rewarding birding experience, and definitely worth the early start. For more information, please visit the



sanctuary's website: <http://www.reifelbirdsantuary.com/>

Submitted by David & Pam Helem



PHOTOS by SARAH DAVID

PLANTAIN...Weed or Herb?

Plantain

Plantago major (common plantain)

Description:

Broad egg-shaped leaves with strong veins growing in a rosette close to the ground along roadsides, in lawns and gardens. It flowers on long green panicles which stay green and later turn brown. The seeds, like beads, often overwinter along the stems.

Plantago lanceolata (ribwort plantain)

Description:

Long narrow lance shaped leaves with strong parallel veins growing in a rosette close to the ground (Do not confuse with the parallel veined leaves of lilies!). Its blossoms grow on long stems often close to a dozen of them and look like the bristly brush of a chimney sweep.

Easy to remember: it clears your throat like a chimney sweep. It too is found along gravel paths, roadsides, in lawns and gardens.

Both (*Plantago major* and *Plantago lanceolata*) are fantastic healing herbs and serve very well in emergencies. Do not extinct them from your garden but memorize where you will find them in the garden to treat a bee sting, small cut or abrasion., Chew a leaf and put the cud directly and wet onto the wound, leave and repeat, if necessary. Proven to be effective on wasp sting: no swelling or pain on remote beach in Greece!

Both of these plantains have similar healing properties: antispasmodic, antiseptic, anti-inflammatory.

- * Can be used for all respiratory troubles and therefore an ingredient in many cough and throat remedies.
- * Dry for winter use in teas (or freeze)
- * Use for skin ailments.
- * Dilute in distilled water to use as a flush for eyes.
- * Prevents swelling and pain after insect bites...proven many times (chewed leaf).
- * Native use on scorpio and snake bites (Not tried by me!).
- * Used also for homeopathic remedy and Pacific Flower Essence.

* Native people used it as a poultice for arthritic joints; as a pain relief before and after birth. Cherokees rubbed the leaves over canker sores on fruit trees (Its value is scientifically confirmed.).

Look after your plantains and have a great summer.

Plantain Photos & Article Submitted by Maya Carson



***PLANTAGO
MAJOR***



PLANTAGO LANCEOLATA

OCEANSIDE YOUNG NATURALISTS CLUB NEWS

We have had a busy few months lately. The Explorer Days have been well attended.

We had our indoor session in February with Lynne Brookes at Nanoose Hall about identifying birds to encourage the families to take part in the February Bird Count. In March the OYNC went to Morrell Sanctuary and in April to Moorecroft Regional Park. At Moorecroft Donna Monty took us around and we ended up barbequeing at Kennedy House. This as you can imagine was a great hit with the families roasting wieners and marshmallows around the fireplace. we had a sunny walk around the property and appreciated the clearing away of the cabins. I am looking forward to seeing all the tree and shrub planting that has been done recently.

The River Never Sleeps Festival came next, on May 5th, blessed with sunshine and on May 26th a Neck Point outing with Christy Wilson, DFO Biologist with the schools in District 68. Unfortunately, I missed the outing as I was hosting the Young Naturalists table for Family days in Qualicum Beach.

I am very fortunate to have the help of Val Tinney. Val worked with Elthea Dale, the founder of the Oceanside Club in the early 2000's. Val has organized the shoreline Cleanup for 10 years now and recently was recognized and awarded \$50.00 to be sent to a charity of her choice. She chose the North Island Wildlife and Recovery Centre, hoping to sponsor a bear and owl for OYNC.

We are looked forward to seeing Evelyn Stokkink again at Dudley Marsh in June identifying insects and taking nets to the marsh for pond creatures. In July we are collecting names of families for fossil hunting to the Puntledge River with the Courtenay Museum. August brings along Kidfest on Sunday August 18th. The shoreline cleanup in September will again be at Little Qualicum Estuary. A special thanks to Maggie Little for her suggestion for the change of venue last year.

If any of the members have suggestions or would like to participate in any of the outings do let me know. abbakker@telus.net or 250.757.8551

Submitted by Alison Bakker, Coordinator for Oceanside Young Naturalists Club



Adventure outings with Young Nats

Photos by Sarah David

ECOTOURISM & FORESTRY

Wikipedia defines Eco Tourism as an activity that “typically involves travel to destinations where flora, fauna, and cultural heritage are the primary attractions.” Other sources highlight that ecotourism usually involves small groups and features low impact ways of visiting fragile, pristine and relatively undisturbed natural areas. Another key feature of the experience is normally education on environmental issues such as the protection of natural resources or endangered species that are relevant to the destination.

Vancouver Island is one of the most biodiverse regions in Canada. The south east coast in particular within the Coastal Douglas fir biogeoclimatic zone, while being biodiverse is also one of the most endangered ecosystems in the country; there are less than 1% of the productive old growth Coastal Douglas forests remaining.

In the mid eighties when nearly 75% of the productive old growth forests of Vancouver Island had been clear-cut logged and thousands of kilometres of logging roads laced the Island, towns such as Chemainus were running out of the massive old growth trees that had been the economic driver of the community for roughly a century. Sawmills designed for cutting large ancient old growth trees were no longer practical or economical for smaller second growth trees. Survival mode set in and the community commissioned artists to depict the logging history on murals in the downtown. Today tourism is the chief economic driver that keeps the town of Chemainus thriving.

Perhaps this little town’s transformation unconsciously inspired our own personal transition from forestry to tourism. Not far from Chemainus is a unique location where both forestry and tourism blend into one. Indeed, the late Merv Wilkinson, world renowned Eco Forester, dedicated himself to managing a holistic forest. For more than a century, Merv earned a living and supported a small staff by doing sustainable selective logging on his 70 acre (28 hectare) piece of property he called Wildwood.

Merv was against clear cutting, fertilizing and exporting of raw logs not only on ethical grounds but on economic grounds. He showed that sustainable small scale forestry could maintain ecosystem function while supporting more local jobs than any other form of management, and ecotourism was a natural supplement to that. Our guests were always fascinated to hear Merv’s stories and his views on being able to harvest from the forest and produce high quality lumber and still maintain a forest with old growth attributes. His methods were aligned with those of First Nations who have since time immemorial believed that all things are connected and that we must respect and care

for the earth in order to enjoy clean air, water and abundant food supply.

Merv’s definition of sustainable logging is that it provides an economic opportunity with minimal disturbance to the ecosystem and wildlife that share the forest. His formula was to only harvest 5% less than the annual growth rate of the forest and to use individual tree selection. His work received such acclaim that in 2009 the Nanaimo-born forester received both the Order of B.C. and Order of Canada. He passed away on August 31st, 2011 at the age of 97. Merv was a hero and is greatly missed. His influence remains a living legend.

When Eco Tourism experiences bring people into close contact with nature and the environment it can increase public appreciation of the environment and lead to environmentally conscious behaviour and activities to preserve the environment.

When our forest tours reveal the intricacies of the old growth or mature forest, people then gain an understanding of the values of such forests including the importance for sustaining animal and plant species at risk, water retention and filtering, carbon storage and First Nations’ traditional cultures.

Even if people are not able to hike the ancient forests, they do want to know they are intact, functioning and supporting species.

Eco tours inspire people to learn more about the specific area they live in and that it opens their eyes to understanding the implications land use has on the quality of life today and for future generations.

We believe the future of both ecotourism and forestry are dependent on a change in direction toward improved sustainable forest land use and protection of the rapidly vanishing old growth and mature forest habitat.

Submitted by Ronda Murdock

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS MEETINGS AND OUTINGS*June 5 to October 28, 2013*

CARPPOOL IF POSSIBLE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: DAVE ERIKSON: (250) 947-9698 OR DAVE HUTCHINGS: (250) 752-1613

Please note – Guests are very welcome. A Guest Waiver and Day Membership forms are available at the time of an outing or on the website: www.arrowsmithnats.org/membership These forms must be read carefully, completed and signed with an accompanying \$1.00 fee before participating in an outing.

Meeting Locations Key:

C&J = Craig and Jensen; QBT = Qualicum Beach Tourist (centre on 19A); N&P = Northfield and Parkway rest stop parking lot; Arlington = Arlington Pub & Hwy 19 south; Sunnybeach = Hwy 19A north & Sunnybeach Rd

Monday June 24 - GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, PV @ 7:30 p.m. *Please respect Knox Church policy of "No perfumes or scents when participating in activities or meetings".*

Topic: Alpine Plants of Vancouver Island Speaker: Andy McKinnon

Wednesday July 10 - Mount Washington - Paradise Meadows & Battleship Lake Loop Trail is 6.8km return to the parking lot, with a suggested hiking time of 1.5 -3 hours return. Well graded class 2 trails with little or no elevation change. Wear good hiking boots along with the usual hiking essentials (hat, sun screen, water). Bring lunch. **Meet** QBT 8:30 a.m. **Leader:** Pam and David Helem

Saturday July 20 - Enos Lake - Terry Thormin, an authority on dragonflies, will lead a 1 km walk to view swamp critters, plant life, beaver ponds and Garry oak meadows. The trail features modest up/downhill sections with some tricky footing. **Meet** C&J @ 9:30 a.m. **Leaders:** Pam and David Helem

Sunday July 22 - Club Picnic at Rath Trevor Park @ 4:00 p.m. Location: - Site # 1 Eating @ 5:00 p.m. Please bring a potluck item including a serving utensil; beverage, cutlery, plate; camp chair and any other item to make your picnicking comfortable and fun. Be prepared for a cool breeze that may grace our picnic. For information contact: Dave Hutchings

Sunday August 18 - Kidfest - PARKSVILLE COMMUNITY PARK Watch for more details via e-mail to members and info on the website www.arrowsmithnats.org

Thursday Sept 5 - Fossli Park Port Alberni - We will visit the old Ford property woodlands on Sproat Lake. We will view the falls on our return along the St Andrew Creek trail. Moderate walk with suspension bridge and a short hill. Bring lunch. **Meet** C&J 9:30
Leaders: Sue and Ed

Sat Sept 14 – Newcastle Island. The return ferry runs every 1/2 hr and costs \$9 or \$8 for seniors. There is simply too much to see in one trip. Sandstone cliffs and ledges, shoreline caverns, stands of Douglas fir Arbutus, Garry Oak and Dogwood, wildlife everywhere and even a small lake. Bring lunch. **Meet** C&J 9:30; 10:00 Parkway **Leader: TBA**

Monday Sept 23 GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, PV @ 7:30 p.m.
Please respect Knox Church policy of "No perfumes or scents when participating in activities or meetings".

Topic : Grizzly Bears and Arctic Penguins

Speaker: Derek Kyosta a leader in the Adventures Tours

Saturday Sept 28 – The Gift of Weeds - Maya Carson wants to give you an experience to explore and learn to love what you normally consider to be a nuisance. Exploration will be in Parksville, between Knox Church and the ocean. Bring a notepad, pen and picnic lunch **Meet** C&J 9:30 **Leader:** Maya Carson

Saturday Oct 5 – Westwood Lake – A chance to miss the summer crowds. One smallish hill and a 6 km walk round this attractive lake created about 1906. Lunch at the Jinglepot Pub (food is good and it's quiet). **Meet** C&J 9:30 10:00 Parkway **Leader:** TBA

Wednesday Oct 16 - Courtenay Airpark. High winds foiled our last attempt. Easy walk, always lots of birds. Binoculars and telescopes recommended. Several lunch options located closeby. **Meet** QBT 9:30; Sunnybeach 9:45 **Leader** Sandy Gray

Monday Oct 28 GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, PV @ 7:30 p.m.

Please respect Knox Church policy of "No perfumes or scents when participating in activities or meetings".

Topic: TBA Speaker: TBA

Saturday Oct 26– Annual Mushroom Walk – At the Big Qualicum Hatchery site and always popular. Bring lunch. **Meet** C&J 9:30; QTB 10:00 am **Leader** TBA

Monday Nov 25 - GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, PV @ 7:30 p.m.

Please respect Knox Church policy of "No perfumes or scents when participating in activities or meetings".

Topic: Instream fish habitat Restoration Works

Speaker: Sean Wong, Senior Biologist with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

THE LEUCISTIC - 'white factor' shows up here and there among many species...rare but noticeable when it does show up. The white (spirit) bears, the QB white ravens, white ("medicine") buffalo (bison) on the prairies, the white banana slug I found at Englishman River Falls, 'white' horses, etc, etc,

This another of Nature's constant genetic experiments-- to see if perhaps this mutation or novel combination of factors might work out to have some advantage survival-wise. Sadly, probably this will not be so good for the hummer-- unless it turned out that in the sun's ultraviolet light this mutation makes him-- say-- undetectable/invisible to the eyes of one/some/most of his natural predators. Literally, only "time" will tell....

Note by Lynne Brookes...watch for more leucistic information in October 2013 newsletter



A leucistic - white hummingbird observed on the south side of Qualicum Beach.

Photo by Cheryl & Eric Shelby



A leucistic - white slug observed at Englishman River.

Photo by Lynne Brookes