

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS NEWSLETTER

TO KNOW, ENJOY AND PRESERVE NATURE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - MAY/JUNE 2016

LYNNE BROOKES



Many Arrowsmith Naturalists were out and about during late winter and early spring enjoying our great “all weather” field trips and lively club meetings, caring for the Englishman River Estuary, counting Brant over a three month period, promoting our club at various Oceanside venues, and tending the new educational wildlife garden at the North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre. Many helped with the Brant Wildlife Festival kick-off nature event, the Brant in the Bay public viewing, and twenty members welcomed and guided over 150 visitors through the forest on the tenth annual Hamilton Marsh Tour, the final Brant festival event. Members involved with the new “Signs of Forest Stewardship” native plant signage along the Errington Elementary RDN trail attended the public announcement of this BC Nature and the BC Nature Foundation grant funded club undertaking. Others worked towards preservation of the Wildwood Ecoforestry Institute. Currently, members have begun working towards the preservation of Hamilton Marsh and its protective surrounding forest. And, for these events and activities to occur, there are the much appreciated many behind the scenes who plan, organize, nurture and support these enjoyable, educational, and/or conservation oriented club activities.

We also welcomed a number of new members over this period and look forward to seeing them at club meetings and their participation in club activities so we can get to know each other better. If you're new to the ANats, don't be shy, just “jump in”--we're sure that you'll be glad you did!

Along with our club's meetings, nature walks, and estuary stewardship noted in this newsletter's calendar of events, there are additional opportunities for participation. Following are some of the upcoming events with a contact person/team in (parentheses):

1. Our annual July 25th club picnic (Dave Hutchings/others)
2. The August 14th KidFest, (Alison Bakker, Pam Helem, Toni Wyckoff, Lynne Brookes)
3. Club displays at three local farmers' markets (Lynne Brookes/others)
4. The October 16th Mushroom Festival (Terry & Rosemary Taylor)

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~

Editor ~ Kat Derksen

President's Report Cont'd

Volunteers to help with each of the above four events are requested--and *essential* for their success. We have a good time at these events where we help connect others with nature and let them know about our club. If you would like to help out, please contact a member noted in parentheses. More information about helping with these events will be sent out to members as the time of the event draws nearer. New to the club? We welcome your participation and we'll be happy to "show you the ropes!"

Looking forward to seeing you in meetings, in the field, and at events.

Lynne Brookes, President

"There's nothing wrong with enjoying looking at the surface of the ocean itself, except that when you finally see what goes on underwater, you realize that you've been missing the whole point of the ocean. Staying on the surface all the time is like going to the circus and staring at the outside of the tent."

~ Dave Barry

RING-SPOTTED DORIS

By: Ronda Murdock

Every tide pool walk is exciting because there is always something different to discover. Always a highlight is the Ring-spotted Doris. Found in the lower intertidal zone and subtidal waters on rocky shores and crevices, the Ring-spotted Doris is a **Nudibranch** (pronounced *NEWD-i-brank*) belongs to

the Mollusks group, and the class *Gastropod*.



The Ring-spotted Doris (*Discodoris Sandiegensis*) varies in appearance from Alaska to Southern California. In Oceanside's Salish Sea this nudibranch is marked with many spots and rings on a creamy to tan coloured base compared to the ones in San Francisco that are almost white with fewer

markings.

They are carnivorous and eat anemones, bryozoans and their favorite food are purple sponges. It is both male & female. Following mating with another individual they lay a curly ribbon of white eggs in protected nooks and crannies. They only live a maximum of one year. ~ RM

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS CLUB/MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

General Information: Club membership information is available at both Parksville and Qualicum Beach public libraries; on the web site <http://www.arrowsmithnats.org>, or by writing 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 and October.

New memberships are always welcomed. **Membership Fees:** Family \$35.00, Single \$25.00. Annual membership dues are collected at the October & November club meeting.

MEETING TIME/LOCATION:

Where: Knox United Church, 345 Pym St, Parksville, BC **When:** 4th Monday of January to June & September to November. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Meeting begins at 7:30.

RESPECT FOR CLEAN AIR - NO SMOKING & SCENT FREE - Smoking is not permitted in, on or around Knox United Church property. As well, please refrain from wearing perfume or scented products.

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

President: Lynne Brookes - Executive Business

Vice President: Elaine Lefebvre - General Meeting & Club Activities

Past President: Dave Hutchings

Executive Secretary: Kat Derksen

General Meeting Secretary: Sue Wilson

Treasurer: Derrick Grimmer

Membership: Toni Wyckoff

Directors:

Dave Erickson

Derrick Grimmer

Terry Taylor

Rosemary Taylor

BC Nature Rep: Sandra Gray

E-mail Correspondence: Bill Campbell

ConservationEnvironment: Gary & Ronda Murdock

Field Trips: Ed Wilson

Newsletter Editor: Kat Derksen

Promotion: Sallie Dabb

Refreshments: Ron Wyckoff

and Dave Erickson (

Speaker Program: Ronda Murdoch

Stewardship: Dave Hutchings

Broom Bashing: Dave Hutchings

***When:** 9:30am - 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month:

Where: Bottom of Shelley Road, Parksville. Weather permitting, they will do a tour of the estuary and see what areas need attention.

Oceanside Nature Kids BC: Alison Bakker

Archivist: Margaret Hill

Web Site: David Helem

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS SPEAKERS PROGRAM SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2016

September 26, 2016 – Bill Merilees. For more than 50 years, Bill has been travelling the BC Coast from Juan de Fuca to Haida Gwaii looking for clams and snails. If they can pass through a 3mm screen, they are of "special" interest. With Dr. Ian McTaggart Cowan as his mentor, Bill has discovered many new species and documented range extensions into B.C. waters of many others. Bill's topic "What the Shells Tell Us" promises to be 'light-hearted' and enjoyable for all.

October to December 2016 – Stay tuned for announcements about future speakers.

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS EVENTS

July 25, 2016 – Annual PotLuck Picnic. 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm at Rath Trevor Beach, Parksville. See you all there!

Aug 14, 2016 – KidFest. Once again ANats will be hosting an interactive display tank of local marine fauna. Parksville

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS OUTINGS

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2016

√√ = Easy Walk

September 10th (Saturday) - 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 Leader: Maggie Little**

September 21st (Wednesday) - Nile Creek: Nice forest nature walk along a major creek located just north of Qualicum Bay. Bring a lunch. **Meet at the QBT at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Ed Wilson**

Sunday October 2nd (Sunday) - Cable Bay, Dodd's Narrows: We've timed our outing to be there just before slack water in order to witness the change in current direction. The walk is about 2 km each way. Bring lunch, sit on the rocks and watch the moon at work. **Meet 9:30 C & J 10 am N&P (rest stop) Leader: TBA**

October 12th (Wednesday) - Mushroom Walk: Location, meeting place TBA **Leader: Terry Taylor**

October 22nd (Saturday) - Rosewall Creek, south of Fanny Bay: Join us for a moderate walk up this picturesque creek to a falls. No paddle needed! Carry a lunch to eat at the falls. **Meet at Qualicum Tourist Bureau at 9:30. Leader: David Helem**

October 22nd (Saturday) ALTERNATE - Christie Falls: Christie Falls offers two quite impressive waterfalls and halfway to the destination there is a short side trail that leads to a pretty little canyon. It is a 4km walk each way with an elevation gain of 250m Bring Lunch. **Meet 9:30 C & J 10 am N&P (rest stop) Leader: David Helem**

√√**November 2nd (Wednesday) - Cumberland Museum, Ponds and Trails:** Cumberland offers an easy walk along the old Japanese Townsite Trail past a marsh and beaver pond. There is a low spot so wear appropriate footwear. We will also visit the museum. Lunch in town. **Meet at 9:30 at QBT Leader: David Helem**

November 12th (Saturday) - Little Q Hatchery: You'll experience some late fall birding here. There should be lots of fish as well as birds and also some interesting fungi. **Meet at 9:30 at QBT Bring Lunch, Leader: Dave Erickson**

November 26th (Wednesday) – Yellow Point Cranberry Farm: An opportunity to experience a working cranberry farm during the harvest season. The farm owners are practicing sustainable farming, while preserving the natural values of the land. There will be a nominal charge for the tour. Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:30 or Arlington at 9:45. Bring your own lunch or splurge on a lunch at the Crow and Gate Pub. **Meet at C&J at 9:30 or N&P at 10:00 Leaders: Dave Hutchings**

December 3rd (Saturday) - Westwood Lake: One smallish hill and a 6 km walk round this attractive lake created about 1906. Lunch at the Blackbear Pub **Meet C&J 9:30 or 10:00 N&P**

Meeting Locations Key: C&J = Craig and Jensen; QBT = Qualicum Beach Tourist Centre on 19A; N&P = Northfield and Parkway rest stop parking lot; Sunnybeach = Hwy 19A north & Sunnybeach Rd.



Parksville Arboretum Photo Credits: **Terry Taylor** ~ Left to Right: Dove Tree, Trentepohlia (a filamentous chlorophyte green algae), Ginkgo, bark of Winged Elm

You can look forward to an article about Parksville's Arboretum coming up in the October newsletter!

"Bees do have a smell, you know, and if they don't they should, for their feet are dusted with spices from a million flowers."—Ray Bradbury, Dandelion Wine

RETURN TO HUNGARY

By: Roger Simms

In May 2013 while visiting family in UK, I took a week to visit Hungary in order to undertake the Baillie Birdathon. At that time I saw 149 bird species of which 51 were Lifers, i.e. not seen by me anywhere-else. I wondered would there be any/many different species in the autumn when migration is again underway but southwards.

In the autumn of 2015 I was again in UK visiting family and took a week mid-vacation for another trip to Hungary, from October 1st to 8th. The results this time were 106 species with 14 different from 2013 and 4 new lifers, included in the 14.

The weather was almost perfect with one wet morning - not too bad. I stayed at the same hotel named Villa Volgy in Eger in the north-east of the country. All facilities were very good such as accommodation, food and helpful staff. Again this trip was arranged through the same company - Hungarian Bird Tours which is run by Roy Adams, a retired English Police Wildlife Officer, and his partner Deana (who picked me up from Budapest Airport and dropped me off at the hotel and returned me to the airport after the tour).

At a cost of approximately 1000 GBP the whole tour is arranged by Roy including flights: Heathrow/Budapest/Heathrow. The trip also includes all transportation, flights into and out of Hungary, hotel, breakfast and evening meal. We usually started at 6.30 am till around 8.30 when we returned to the hotel for a smorgasbord breakfast, then out again until lunch (at our own expense of about \$5.00) followed by more birding until around 4.30/5.30pm.

The remainder of the day was ours for a lazy evening meal, walk, whatever.

Eger is a city of around 70,000, quite historical and is in a main wine growing area.

Roy took us to many different birding areas not usually seen by larger more commercial bird tours.

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We did get to Bukk and Hotobagy National Parks where the highlights of the latter park were more than 47,000 Common Cranes and, 25 Great Bustards being the largest and heaviest bird in the region. In several small villages there are very tall conifers containing the roosting sites of Long-eared Owls which we saw in groups of 5 to 8.

In Hungary there are 8 species of Woodpeckers, in 2013 I saw 7 of them and heard the 8th. This Fall I was fortunate to see all 8 species.

All in all a very enjoyable visit with no sign of refugees and in an area containing a smaller percentage of the overall Hungarian population.

Hungarian Bird Tours is highly recommended by me. ~ RS

“Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.” ~ John Lubbock, “The Use Of Life”

WORD SEARCH

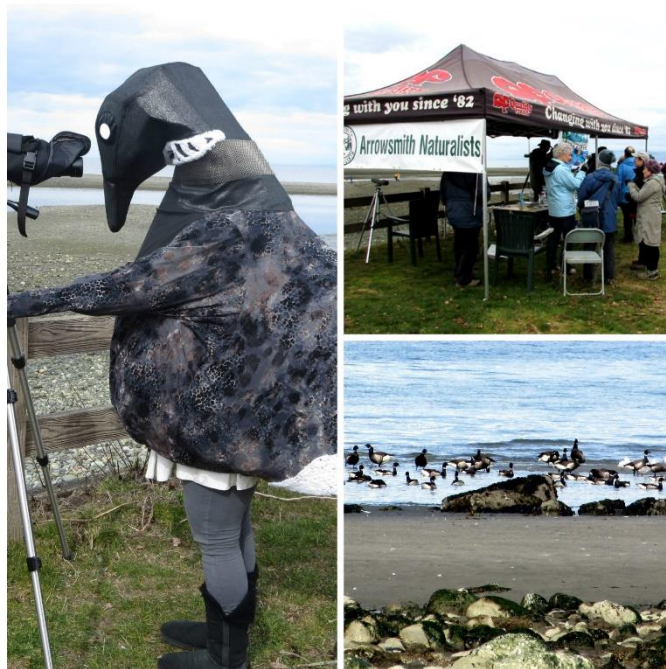
Rivers of Vancouver Island

O M X F C A M P B E L L W U X
 S T E E G D E L T N U P J K O
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BEDWELL
 CAMPBELL
 CHASE
 CHEMAINUS
 COMOX
 COURTENAY
 COWICHAN
 ENGLISHMAN
 FRANKLIN
 GOLDSTREAM
 KOKISH
 KOKSILAH
 NANAIMO
 NIMPKISH
 OYSTER
 PUNTLEDGE
 QUALICUM
 SALMON
 SANJUAN
 SOMASS
 WOLF
 ZEBALLOS

“Have you also learned that secret from the river; that there is no such thing as time?” That the river is everywhere at the same time, at the source and at the mouth, at the waterfall, at the ferry, at the current, in the ocean and in the mountains, everywhere and that the present only exists for it, not the shadow of the past nor the shadow of the future.” ~

Hermann Hesse, Siddhartha



Brant-in-the-Bay Festivities Photo Credits: David Erickson (left), Sandra Gray (right top & bottom)

PARKSVILLE QUALICUM BEACH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
ESTIMATED DAILY BRANT COUNT REPORT ~ 2016
 ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS
 for
 THE NATURE TRUST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
 Sandra Gray, count coordinator and compiler

The 2016 Brant primary counts covered the full length of the Parksville Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area (PQBWMA). Each of the seven primary counts took place between February and April over a 1 – 2.5 hour time period between 10:30 am to 2:30 pm on the dates shown in **Table 1**. Observers met at a central location then divided into 1, 2 or 3 groups, each group with their assigned area to cover, with all counting at the same time in order to avoid double counting.

In addition to the primary counts, incidental counts as seen in **Table 2**, were done by individuals or small groups of observers as they recorded Brant numbers during their visits to the PQBWMA shoreline January through April. The incidental counts show the concentrations of Brant at specific locations, some counts were as short as ten minutes with most about two hours in length.

Count locations:

- Area 1- Little Qualicum River, Kincaid Rd, Qualicum Beach
- Area 2- Seacrest Pl, Butterball Dr, Johnstone Rd, Admiral Tryon Blvd West and East, Columbia Beach
- Area 3- French Creek Marina, Parksville Bay, Mariner Way, Rath Trevor Provincial Park

Total mileage of approximately **1030 km** was accumulated by participating volunteers on the seven primary counts, including round trip from home. There was considerable additional mileage on incidental counts that was not recorded.

The seventeen 2016 Brant count volunteer observers were: Sandra Gray, Dan Gray, Roger Simms, Elaine LeFebvre, Dave Hutchings, Dave Erickson, Jim Goodwin, Lynne Brookes, Derrick Grimmer, Jane Towill, Tom Constable, Lou Poncelet, Helen Poncelet, Alison Bakker, JR Rardon, Rob Schippers and Jeanne Schippers.

2016 Date	Primary Brant Counts Daily Totals	<p style="text-align: center;">TABLE 1 PQBWMA – BRANT COUNT ~ Remarks</p>
Feb 19	347	<p>Primary Count #1. Choppy seas, big waves, strong winds and some rain for first Brant Count. Gulls were mostly huddled in protected spots. In deeper water we could see some Brant. Scoters, diving and dabbling ducks, and sea lions between the wave crests. Largest groups of Brant were at Rathtrevor. 14 observers.</p>
Feb 29	759	<p>Primary Count #2. Windy with choppy seas. A prime feeding time just before the lowest tide of the day. Gull and diving duck numbers are rising. Herring fishery assessment in progress with opening soon. Dogs off leash in Area 2 which also held the largest groups of Brant at Seacrest. 9 observers.</p>
Mar 4	1115	<p>Primary Count #3. Rain & very strong winds made it hard to hold binoculars still. Many small groups of Brant seen out on the Strait of Georgia and flying between the crashing waves. Largest concentrations were at QB viewing stand, between Seacrest and Johnstone Rds & at Rathtrevor Beach where 600 were feeding along the tideline. Eagles and breaking waves were the major disturbance factors. 8 observers.</p>
Mar 18	623	<p>Primary Count #4. Sunny skies, no clouds, calm seas. Huge raft of diving ducks in Parksville Bay, mostly scoters, scaup, LT Ducks, Harlequin, goldeneye, Bufflehead. Many people and some dog disturbance at Rathtrevor. Recent herring activity: March 3-6- Baynes Sound, Denman; March 6- Georgia Strait opening; March 9- heavy spawn Comox; March 14- Seacrest to Columbia Beach, Area 2; March 16- French Creek to Parksville Bay, Area 1. 10 observers.</p>
April 1	1616	<p>Primary Count #5. Calm seas gave good visibility including clear views of resting & flying Brant out on Georgia Strait. A very large raft of 12,000+ diving ducks and many thousands of gulls spread from Qualicum Beach to Columbia Beach. Paddle boarders caused some disturbance to the migrating waterfowl and gulls. People and dogs on the beaches mostly absent today. Brant & other birds were feeding on herring roe spread along the shoreline & floating in the shallows. Sea lions and harbour seal numbers have dropped, small groups seen resting/floating with flippers up. Herring fishery is closed here. Area 2 and Rathtrevor had the largest concentrations of Brant today. 7 observers.</p>
April 12	1820	<p>Primary Count #6. We started at Rathtrevor and were met with strong winds and whitecaps on a high tide, only a few Brant could be seen. Brant were concentrated at: Parksville Community Park (253); Admiral Tryon West (616); Qualicum Beach viewing stand (425); Little Qualicum River (350). Large group of Brant and gulls in Area 2 - disturbed several times by eagles and strong wind gusts. Few people and no dogs on the beach. By the time we reached the Little Qualicum River seas had calmed with views of huge rafts of diving ducks, 600+ wigeon and Brant clearly visible as they dabbled at the herring roe and seaweeds present at the tide line. 4 observers.</p>
April 22	496	<p>Primary Count #7. Calm seas & little wind made viewing conditions good with clear views way out on Georgia Strait. With very low tide Brant at the tide line feeding with minimal disturbance or flying by in small groups. Largest groups were at Rathtrevor and Parksville Bay. American Wigeon, Bufflehead, scoters, Red-necked Grebe and Bonaparte's Gulls where the other most numerous birds present. One Whimbrel seen at mouth of Englishman River. 5 observers.</p>

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Date	Incidental Brant Counts	Time (daylight hours)	TABLE 2 PQBWMA – BRANT COUNT 2016 ~ Remarks
Fall & Winter 2015	7-60		Brant arrived late Nov. Local birders report counts of 7- 60 Brant late November through December.
Dec 20, 2015	16	8am – 4pm	Parksville Qualicum Beach Christmas Bird Count (BCPQ) covers full length of PQBWMA. Members of 2 teams saw Brant near the mouth of Englishman River.
Jan 1, 2016	13	11:30 am – 1 pm	Parksville Bay, Area 3
Jan 13, 2016	23	11 am -1 pm	Brant Point, Rathtrevor, Area 3
Jan 14, 2016	42	12:30-2:30 pm	Rathtrevor, Area 3
Jan 31, 2016	81	12-2 pm	Mouth of Englishman River, Area 3
Feb 2, 2016	31	1-1:30 pm	Parksville Bay, Area 3
Feb 10, 2016	286	1-1:30 pm	Rathtrevor, Area 3
Feb 12, 2016	195	12-2 pm	Area 2
Feb 16, 2016	445	3-4:45 pm	Area 2
Feb 20, 2016	56	1:30 – 4 pm	Mouth of Little Qualicum River, Area 1
Feb 22, 2016	350	11:30 am - 2 pm	Brant Pt, Rathtrevor, Area 3
Feb 23, 2016	425	1 - 3:30 pm	West end of Admiral Tryon, Area 2
Feb 24, 2016	37	12 – 2 pm	Mariner Way, mouth of Englishman River, Area 3
Feb 25, 2016	535	1 – 5 pm	West end of Seacrest, Area 2
Mar 5, 2016	145	1:30 pm	Qualicum Beach viewing stand, Area 1
Mar 6, 2016	110	11 am	Qualicum Beach viewing stand, Area 1
Mar 7, 2016	182	11:15 am	Rathtrevor Park, Area 3
Mar 10, 2016	126	2 -2:40 pm	Area 2
Mar 11, 2016	57	9:30 – 11:15 am	Rathtrevor Park, Area 3. Orcas visiting Craig Bay.
Mar 12, 2016	560	12:45 – 2 pm	Area 2. Dogs on leash allowed by owner to flush feeding Brant repeatedly. Mom w/kids taking photos as they flushed Brant. Beach walkers disturbed Brant 8 times.
Mar 13, 2016	60	12:15 -12:30 pm	Rathtrevor Park, Area 3
Mar 14, 2016	86	9:30 am -12 pm	Area 2, herring spawn in progress.
Mar 16, 2016	223	3-5 pm	Parksville Bay, Area 3. Herring fishery in progress.
Mar 17, 2016	300	11- 11:15 am	Johnstone Rd, Area 2
Mar 17, 2016	391	3:15 -4 pm	Brant Pt, Rathtrevor, Area 3. Brant disturbed repeatedly by pushy photographer for over 30 minutes.
Mar 20, 2016	175	10 am – 3 pm	Brant in the Bay, wildlife watch event for Brant Wildlife Festival, at Parksville Community Park, Area 3.
Mar 22, 2016	0	1 – 2:45 pm	Area 1, no Brant.
Mar 25, 2016	1475	1 – 4 pm	Area 2
Mar 26, 2016	1005	2:30 – 3 pm	Area 2
Mar 31, 2016	1048	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Area 2
April 2, 2016	1190	1:30 – 2:45 pm	Area 2
April 3, 2016	400	10 am	Kincaid Rd, Area 1
April 3, 2016	250	3:30 pm	Qualicum Beach viewing stand, Area 1
April 4, 2016	344	1:30 pm	Rathtrevor, Area 3
April 6, 2016	300	10:30 am	Mouth of Englishman River, Area 3
April 6, 2016	200	2 pm	Qualicum Beach viewing stand, Area 1
April 15, 2016	630	3-4:30 pm	Area 2
April 18, 2016	200	6:30 pm	Parksville Bay, Area 3
April 19, 2016	250	9:30 am	Rathtrevor Park, Area 3

CAN/BOTTLE RETURNS

Can/Bottle Return Accounts have been set up at both the Parksville and Qualicum Beach recycling centres. When returning your cans/bottles please indicate that you wish to donate the proceeds off your returns to the **ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS** account.

** Please remember to make the request to credit ANats **BEFORE** your cans/bottles are counted by a staff member at the centre. **
 *** Please mention this to friends & family ***

Parksville Bottling & Recycling Centre: 611 Alberni Hwy, Parksville
 Qualicum Bottling & Recycling Centre: 141 4 Ave E, Qualicum Beach



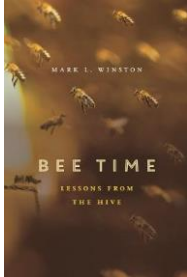
ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS thank you. And the environment thanks you!



SUNSHINE ~ If you know of an Arrowsmith Naturalist who is ill, in hospital or recently bereaved, please contact: Pam Helem:
arrowsmithnats@gmail.com

"You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late" - **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

READING CORNER



Bee Time: Lessons from the Hive by: *Mark L. Winston* (ISBN13: 9780674368392)

Bee Time "presents Winston's reflections on three decades spent studying bees, and on the lessons they can teach about how humans might better interact with one another and the natural world." Mark Winston highlights a variety of environmental issues currently threatening the very survival of bees while cleverly introducing us also to the century's old mysticism and mythology surrounding them.

Winston is Academic Director of the Centre of Dialogue at SFU (Downtown campus) and Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences

Victory Gardens for Bees: A DIY Guide to Saving the Bees

by: *Lori Weidenhammer* (ISBN13: 9781771620536)

Victory Gardens for Bees "is buzzing with DIY projects that will provide nesting sites and essential supplies for precious pollinators. With plenty of photographs to help readers identify bees of all stripes, beekeeping tips and other interesting bee-ephemera, this book is a must-have for anyone who wants to do their part to save bees."

Weidenhammer is a Vancouver based artist and educator working with students of all ages on growing & eating locally, planting for pollinators and community gardening.



The Arrowsmith Naturalist Newsletter 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 30th** for the **October 2016 edition**.

Hand-written or typed articles and photos are accepted. Some editing may be required for length or held off for another edition as per available space. Please e-mail articles to: henandkat.derksen@gmail.com Alternatively, send by mail to: Kat Derksen, Arrowsmith Naturalists Newsletter Editor, Box 1542, Parksville, B.C. V9P 2H4.

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