



*To Know, Enjoy and
Preserve Nature*

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President's Report

As is usual, the summer is a rather quiet time for the Arrowsmith Naturalists. July saw a return to Rath Trevor Provincial Park for our annual club picnic. Although the afternoon and evening were blustery, this event was still as enjoyable as ever. August, of course, brings Kidfest at the Parksville Community Park. Once again, Betty Collins and Robert Mercer organized a very successful display of all manner of ocean critters for the youngsters to view "up close and personal". Thanks, not only to Betty and Robert once again for their work, but also to those who helped out at the display tent and who collected the many specimens for display. For next year we will need a new team of organizers, as Betty and Robert are "retiring" from their positions. Please let the executive know if you would like to help with Kidfest for 2012.

After our rather abbreviated summer, autumn seems to be on us in earnest, and with it a new season of activities. Penny Marshall and Maggie Little have provided several field trips already - Fossili Park, Rosewall Creek and the new Moorecroft Regional Park - see upcoming Outings schedule, p. 11.

Our participation in Rivers Day at the Englishman estuary didn't happen as planned. Hours before we were to set up it rained hard and our partners -MIVHES- had decided not to go ahead. We called our volunteers to cancel the event and within an hour the rain had stopped. Too late to regroup. Fortunately, a partial program by MIVHES did go ahead. Thanks to Sandy Gray for persevering and representing us. Thanks also to Val Tinney for once again organizing the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup and to the club members who hunted the shores of Qualicum Bay for rubbish. It seemed that this year there was less debris than in previous years to be bagged up and carted off for disposal. Perhaps a hopeful sign.

Planning for the 2012 Fall General Meeting of BC Nature, with the theme of Nature By The Salish Sea, is making good progress, with meetings happening every few weeks. The budget is close to being set and the outline of social activities, speakers, field trips and so on is taking shape. We are very fortunate to have Dr. C.S. (Buzz) Holling as our keynote speaker. Dr. Holling is internationally recognized for his theory of "resilient ecosystems" and, by all accounts, an excellent speaker. Brian Kingzett, field manager of the Deep Bay Centre for Shellfish Research, has tentatively agreed to speak at the Saturday night banquet. I urge you all to read the report on this year's FGM at Tsawwassen to get a sense of just what to expect when we co-host with the Nanoose Nats next September.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT...cont'd

The strength of any organization lies in a supportive membership. With that in mind, we were very happy that, at our September meeting, we could recognize the invaluable efforts of six of our members - all women. Alison Bakker, Pam Helem, Sallie Dabb, Carol Anne Phillion, Gail Armstrong and Maggie Little each received "President's Choice" certificates in recognition of the quiet and tireless work that they do for the Arrowsmith Nats. I'd also like to thank our Past President, Roger Simms, for instituting this form of recognition during his tenure as President. Kudos also to Sandy Gray for taking over from Pat Bourgeois the position of Liaison with BC Nature.

A warm welcome is extended to three new members who were introduced at our last meeting - Luxana Hall and Terry and Rhys Harrison. A number of you will know Terry

and Rhys from their participation in community birding events and will come to know Luxana by her enthusiasm and eagerness to contribute to the club.

It is unfortunate, however, that we are losing one of our stalwart members - Betty Collins. Apart from organizing our participation in Kidfest for the past several years, Betty served as club President for two years. Whenever we needed advice about club policy or leadership in planning the club's future, Betty's mentorship was invaluable. We will miss you, Betty, and hope that you and John are nicely settled into your new home in Penticton.

Dave Hutchings, President.

BC PARKSVILLE - QUALICUM (BCPQ) CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT



Sunday, December 18th - Parksville Qualicum Beach Christmas Bird Count

Be part of what is a favourite event for many nature enthusiasts across North America. Join a team in the field (3-7 birders) or count

birds from home for the Feedercount. Help assess the wintering bird population here in the BCPQ Count Circle. All skill levels welcome!

Come enjoy the Pot Luck/Wrap-up Dinner immediately following the Count. (Location to be confirmed.)

Lots of great information at the CBC website: <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>

For more info and to sign up contact:

Sandra @ 250-248-5565

NANOOSE BAY CBC

Friday, December 16th

The count circle covers Nanoose Bay and Lantzville. Volunteers to count in the field and

at home feeders are most welcome to join with the Nanoose Naturalists. For further information, please contact: Rhys Harrison (250) 248-5305, rhysharrison@shaw.ca

PARKING**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 January 2012 for the February 2012 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 or send by mail to: 194 Valdez Ave, Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 1R8. **Editor:** Margaret Hill (250) 752-2728

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

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

New memberships are always welcomed.

**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 Philion

Membership: Gail Armstrong

Directors:

Gilles Gratton;

Martin Hill

Programs:

Dave Hutchings;

Bill Campbell

Field Trips:

Maggie Little;

Penny Marshall

Promotion:

Sallie Dabb

Refreshments:

Alison Bakker

Young Naturalists:

Alison Bakker

**Conservation/
Environment:**

Gary & Ronda Murdock

Web Site: David Helem (250) 468-7475

BC Nature: Sandra Gray

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 was 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

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.

K I D F E S T 2 0 1 1

Article by: Robert Mercer & Betty Collins



This picture is a special one. Forwarded to us by John Buchanan, a visitor to the Naturalist's exhibit at Kidfest. He took it with an underwater camera in a tub containing other specimens as well, which were supplied by Island Scallops Ltd. He sent it to us on our request...gratis. The Spot Prawn has two pairs of spots on the abdomen and white lines on the carapace (shell). Formal name is Pacific Prawn.

KIDFEST 2011 – STANDING ROOM ONLY!

Wow! Another great Kidfest event with even more interest than in previous years. Wonderful weather, terrific visitors and fantastic volunteers!! Again we had some great animals and plants at our display. And the Young Naturalists table drew a lot of interest. Many times kids and adults were lined up to see, touch and talk about the displays. The new tent was a great addition because it provided shade to the live animals in the display tubs – and to the volunteers!.

Some of the animals were collected at French Creek beach – crabs (Dungeness, hermit), sea stars (leather and ochre and purple), oyster, sculpin, anemones, eels, and a saddleback gunnel. Island Scallops provided some animals from deeper water – large scallops, a Giant sea cucumber, a sea lemon; some fantastic looking crabs - the Rhino crab, the Scaled crab and the bright red Puget Sound king crab and a spotted shrimp.

There was an interesting comment from one of the Kidfest organizers. She had a phone call from a family to ask if Arrowsmith Naturalists would be there this year; if so they would come to Kidfest, if not they would not be coming. At one point Pat Bourgeois was showing a particular animal to a young girl from Vancouver, and the comment was that she knew what it was, because she was here last year and told her parents they had to come again this year.

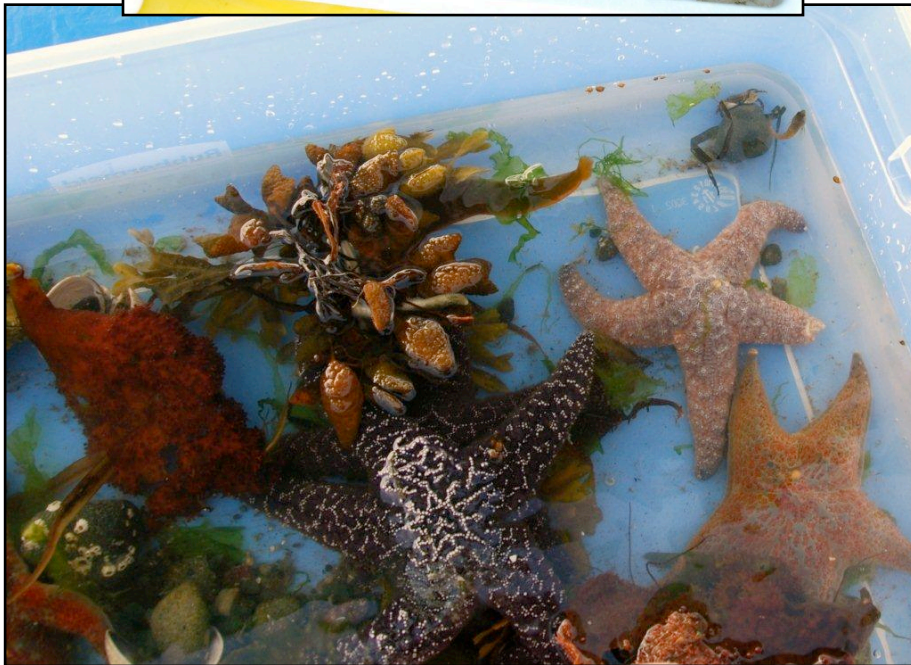
All in all, a very successful Kidfest thanks to Island Scallops and the Arrowsmith Naturalists volunteers. A great big thank you to Alison Bakker, Pat Bourgeois, Lynne Brookes, Bill Campbell, Marilyn Futer, Maria Hamann, Penny Marshall, Pam Helem, Margaret Hill, Martin Hill, Chris Hutchings, David Hutchings, Val Tinney, Tony Wyckoff, and Ron Wyckoff.

See photos on page 4

SEEING SEA CREATURES AT KIDFEST



From Island Scallops. A Sailfin Scupin and a Bullhead in local terms and Scallops.



Tub with sea stars, leather star and sea weed

Special THANKS to Robert Mercer for these great photos.



The Arrowsmith Naturalists tent at Kidfest.



BC Nature Fall General Meeting and Conference 2011 - Tsawwassen

Report by: Dave Hutchings

The theme of this year's Fall General Meeting, attended by Marilyn Futer and Bill Campbell, Pam and David Helem and Chris and Dave Hutchings, and hosted by the Delta Naturalists' Society, was Nature on the Move - Fall Migration through the Delta. The "delta", of course, is the massive Fraser River delta, home to several globally-significant ecosystems. As one might expect, the September 29 - October 2 gathering focused on all things migratory - birds, whales, and fish.

Speakers:

On Thursday evening, Anne Murray provided a broad overview of the Fraser River estuary and the Boundary Bay ecosystems "during the height of fall migration, when nature is on the move and plant life is preparing for winter".

The first of Friday morning's speakers, Dr. Jason James - an internationally recognized expert who works with the Vancouver Avian Research Centre - covered all aspects of bird migration: why birds migrate, how they navigate, where they go and the different types of migrations. Dr. James described not just

the fantastic migrations (up to 11,000 kms!) of some species, but he also revealed the variety of cues that influence the timing and the direction of migrations. The availability of food when traveling and rearing young, social cues, the quality of daylight and hormonal cues all influence when birds migrate to their breeding grounds and return to their wintering grounds, the route they take and the speed of the migration. In addition, many birds make most of their journey at night and, therefore, navigate using the stars and a built-in compass. Probably, the most interesting "factoid" - for me, at least - was that a number of species have the ability to put one-half of their brain to sleep for part of the day and then alternate to the other half for the remaining hours, thereby conserving energy. Very useful when a creature is traveling vast distances.

Caitlin Birdsall, of the BC Cetacean Sightings Network and the Vancouver Aquarium, focused primarily on the Grey and Humpback whales which visit BC's waters each year. Through slides, video and sound recordings and graphs, we learned how to identify each of these giant species - Greys: no dorsal fin, mottled skin covered in barnacles, rounded flukes, bottom feeders; Humpbacks: low dorsal fin, big pectoral flippers, a knobby nose area,

and pleated throat. For the winter, Grey whales migrate to the Baja area of Mexico to give birth to their young, and possibly to escape the predation of killer whales. Humpback whales migrate both to Mexico and Hawaii to breed and bear young.

Of the two species, the Humpback has the more spectacular behaviours. Whereas the Greys scour the bottom of the sea for food, the Humpbacks feed in the water column for krill and small fish, gulping in up to 17,000 litres of water at a time and straining that water through their fine baleen to separate out the food. Often they will work cooperatively to scare fish, using "bubble netting" and vocalization, into tight formations which are easier to capture.

Happily, both whale species are rebounding from their near extinction when whaling was prevalent in our waters. Collisions with ships, the ingestion of debris, fishing nets and ropes, and killer whales are all threats to these gentle giants. However, it was heartening to learn that Boundary Bay is a feeding spot for significant numbers of Grey whales during migration, a good reason to do all we can to prevent the pollution of these waters.

The "Salmon Habitat of the Fraser River and the Impacts of Human Activity and Development" was the focus of Dr. Marvin Rosenau's talk. Having focused much of his work on the gravel reaches of the Fraser from Hope to Mission, Dr. Rosenau has become an outspoken critic of government management of the river and, as such, has run afoul of both provincial and federal politicians. He described the Fraser estuary, which starts near New Westminster, as the recipient of about 17,000,000 tonnes of nutrient-rich sediments which come down the river each year. As these mix with the sea water of the Salish Sea, they provide a biologically active area which nourishes and encourages all manner of life: fish, whales, birds and so on.

Dr. Rosenau sees both the estuary and the Fraser itself as threatened. Agriculture, development, shipping and dyking have resulted in the loss of 85% of the wetlands from Hope down to the sea. Riparian areas have been lost and the river has been dredged so deeply that erosion and ecosystem loss have threatened any sustainable management of the river.

However, Dr. Rosenau singled out two major impacts. Causeways and dock structures (such as the ferry terminal and the Roberts Bank port), as well

as training walls erected to "protect" human development, disrupt both the migration of sediments and estuarine organisms (e.g. fish), forcing young fish out into waters where predators wait. We are interfering with natural processes without the scientific understanding of the repercussions on the ecosystem, states Dr. Rosenau.

The habit of removing large woody debris from water bodies offers another danger. Not only does the woody debris give protection to fish, it inhibits erosion of river banks and ocean shores. Dr. Rosenau recommends the replacement of woody debris when and where possible.

The Friday evening barbecue - a very pleasant affair catered by the local Lions Club - featured two more talks. Sofi Hindmarch of the Centre for Wildlife Ecology at SFU presented her research on the effect of urbanization on Barn Owls. The loss of old barns and trees, along with increased traffic, has caused the decline of owls over the past 16 years. Whereas Barn Owls habitually hunt in a circle only a kilometer or so from their nests, urban Barn Owls are being forced to widen their search for their preferred food: voles. The results of Ms. Hindmarch's research have been incorporated into the environmental assessments for

the South Fraser Perimeter Road and have contributed to planned mitigation measures.

Charlie Palmer (Senior Ecologist) and Jay Rourke, both employed by Hemmera, an environmental consulting firm, spoke about "Sandhill Cranes - the 'Canaries' of the Fraser Valley/Lower Mainland Wetlands". They described the life cycle, the breeding places and the migration routes within, to and from the Lower Mainland. Their research and ecological assessments are also part of the planning of the South Fraser Perimeter Road.

Russell Cannings - BC's 2010 Birder of the Year - entertained us at the Saturday night banquet. Most of Russell's talk centered on his efforts to break the record for the number of bird species recorded in one year. His sometimes hilarious helter-skelter race back and forth across the province resulted in spotting a record-breaking 373 species, including a Tropical Kingbird, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, a Brambling and a Little Blue Heron. The audience was regaled with pictures and accounts such as traveling non-stop from Sandspit, on Haida Gwaii, to Prince Rupert and then driving for 16 hours to Creston, to see a bird not yet on his list, only to find that it has moved on. Luckily, it returned several days later and was duly recorded. Over the year,

Russell teamed up with young birders all over the province, among them our own Christopher Stevens. Although a number of his sightings involved a judicious amount of informed "luck" (as with many birders), the sheer energy and knowledge of this intrepid young birder gives us hope that the skill and knowledge of our "mature" birders is being passed into very capable hands.

Field trips:

The field trips provided by the Delta Naturalists offered a number of opportunities to experience, first-hand, the abundant bird life and the ecosystems of the Fraser estuary.

Thursday: a pre-conference trip to the George C. Reifel Bird Sanctuary to see the Dowitchers, Greater and Lesser Yellow legs, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers in eclipse plumage, Sandhill Cranes and Black-crowned Night Herons, among others.

Friday and Saturday: trips to the Alaksen National Wildlife Area, the Reifel Sanctuary; Brunswick Point and Delta farmlands; Boundary Bay dykes and Blackie Spit; Burns Bog; the OWL Wildlife Rehab Centre; a guided beach walk to learn about the biology/ecology of the low and high intertidal areas of Boundary Bay; and a

boat tour of the Fraser estuary.

Sunday: tours of the Boundary Bay Regional Park old field habitat and an ecology walk through the Park; Lighthouse Park and Lily Point at Point Roberts; and the Iona Beach Regional Park in Richmond.

We came away from Tsawwassen with an appreciation not just of the human impact on the Fraser River and its estuary, but with some knowledge of the fragile abundance of wild flora and fauna which it supports. Not only were the field trip leaders knowledgeable but they were also experts in their fields. Perhaps we all will have a deeper appreciation of the Delta the next time we drive off the ferry at Tsawwassen.

Directors' Meeting:

As usual, the Directors' Meeting dealt with a fairly full agenda as well as some weighty topics introduced as "Other Business".

a) Business Arising from May 14 Minutes: an update was provided by Langley Naturalists regarding the lawsuit brought by a local farmer. The farmer has lost his case but is appealing. The advice arising from this incident is that clubs should not publicly criticize actions of other individuals or groups as wrong or unethical. Instead, any concerns should be voiced in the form of open-ended questions: e.g. what will

be the impacts of certain actions?; what mitigation measures have been considered?; have alternatives been considered, and so on. In other words, use a positive, cooperative approach.

b) Financial report: revenue for this year is down slightly although the Federation should break even because of the small surplus from last year.

c) A presentation by Bob Ross of SBC Insurance: in part because of the increased limit of liability insurance the Arrowsmith Naturalists club has been required to carry, BCN with Mr. Ross's help, reviewed the guidelines of our liability insurance and the trends which seem to be developing. To summarize:

- 1) our insurance covers the activities of members for bodily injury and property damage where compensation is needed;
- 2) all activities must be approved by the club executive. Cycling and activities involving boats are not approved activities. Use of power tools may be a problem and must be negotiated with BCN Executive and the insurance provider;
- 3) clubs need to be familiar with the "field trip guidelines" booklet provided by BCN;
- 4) all members must sign both the "release of liability" and "waiver" forms as a condition of membership;
- 5) clubs, if they wish, can cover the cost of day memberships rather than insisting on a day membership fee;

6) clubs should maintain a "sign-in" guest book, which contains a copy of the waiver form, for members of the general public who attend club meetings to sign-in (providing liability protection for the club and potential membership follow-up);

7) there is a trend to require increased liability limits.

d) BC Naturalists' Foundation report: investment funds managed by the Foundation have yielded better than those managed by the Vancouver Foundation. Consequently, the Foundation will be able to offer about \$6,000 in grants for club projects along with some extra funding from BC Nature.

e) Other business:

1) BC Nature has a new agreement which provides office space for five more years at the present site at no cost in exchange for services;

2) John Neville, Claudia Copley and Bev Ramey met with the provincial Assistant Deputy for Parks to voice concerns over a lack of communication and the absence of Species At Risk legislation, given the chance that the federal government may try to weaken the federal SARA. No action was promised, so it seems that the public needs to urge that provincial legislation is brought in quickly. However, there are plans to update the Wildlife Act and BC Nature will be kept informed. The Asst. Deputy Minister indicated that the government

may hold public town hall meetings, similar to those held on the HST campaign, regarding environmental issues. Also, the modernization of the Water Act is being timed for next summer. A follow-up meeting will discuss the issue of park funding, interpretation and related issues.

3) Several BC Nature executive positions require filling: vice-president, education chair and communications director. Nominations/volunteers needed.

4) The Office Manager - Betty Davison - has taken over responsibility for producing the BC Nature Magazine - in addition to her other tasks - saving the organization about \$4,000/year. Penny Edwards, from Victoria, has volunteered her journalist's skills to assist Betty with editing and layout.

5) The Kitimat Naturalists are concerned about the cumulative effects of logging, natural gas and methanol facilities, the aluminum smelter and the proposed Gateway Project of Enbridge on the Kitimat River environment. Ten new pipelines are pending for Kitimat. As registered interveners for the Gateway Project, the Kitimat club is seeking to have their river placed on the list of the 10 most-endangered rivers in BC. In their view, the river has the second largest estuary and delta in BC. Letters requesting this status need to be written to Mark Angelo of the Outdoor

Recreation Council before Christmas.

6) Mary Cuthbert, of the Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society, asked that naturalists begin to look at partnerships with other non-profit groups, local government and corporations in order to carry out programs. She stated that the current reliance on senior government for leadership and funding is not working. Apparently, Surrey has adopted a good model of this approach.

Fall General Meeting:

a) President's Report: John Neville referred us to his written report.

b) Changes to the Bylaws and Constitution: several minor deletions and additions to the Bylaws to bring them in line with current conditions and practices were recommended at the AGM and passed at FGM. Details can be found in the BC Nature magazine.

c) Office Report: Betty Davison reported that the provincial membership stands at 4,800, which is a growth of over 300 members. Her current goal is to strengthen communications within the organization. Comments from the meeting acknowledged Betty's hard work and efficiency.

d) Other reports: conservation, parks and protected areas, education, camp and club reports were circulated as written reports or published in the magazine.

The Young Naturalists are expanding. Daphne Solecki and Tammy Keetch reported that the YNC have become involved with Environment Canada and participated in the "Healthy By Nature" conference.

e) Project updates: Jude Grass reported that the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund has provided \$44,000 for the Okanagan Wildlife Tree Stewardship (WiTS) program. Funding is still being sought for the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island programs.

Krista Englund, the IBA Program Coordinator, showed the FGM the new signs produced by Nature Canada which will identify the IBA sites to the public and provide some interpretation.

f) Upcoming events and deadlines:

1) deadlines: club grants from the Foundation - Jan. 31, 2012; AGM resolutions - Feb. 28, 2012; nominations for BC Nature Awards - Feb. 28, 2012; Rene Savenye Scholarship - Apr. 4, 2012;

2) events: AGM 2012 - May 11-13 at Kelowna; FGM 2012 - Sept. 27-30 in Parksville; Salt Spring camp - June 4-8, 2012; Manning Bird Blitz - June 15-17, 2012.

I know that this is an extensive report, but it is my purpose to provide insight into the work and concerns of naturalists throughout the province, while giving a flavour of what we can expect to experience when the Arrowsmith Nats co-host the FGM next September.

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS - STATEMENT OF OPERATION

2011 - JUNE 27 TO SEPTEMBER 30

REVENUE

Coffee Fund	\$ 29.80
Membership Fees	82.00
Net Proceeds from Picnic Auction	<u>59.00</u>
	170.80

EXPENDITURES

Canada Trust - Charitable Donation to "Friends of the Environment Foundation"	
Fee for June to September @ \$5.00 monthly x 4	20.00
Room Rental - S.D. #69; September 2010 to June 30 2011	252.00
B.C. Nature - Balance of Extra Insurance re SD #69	61.60
Kid Fest - Table Rental (Black & White Rentals)	32.66
Cheque Order Charges - 2 Deposit Books	29.75
Honourarium re September 26 (Lacelle)	<u>20.00</u>
	416.01
Balance as at June 26 2011	2749.10
plus Revenue - June 27 to September 30	<u>170.80</u>
	2919.90
less Expenditures - June 27 to September 30	<u>416.01</u>
<u>Balance as at September 30 2011</u>	<u>\$2503.89</u>

Carol A. Phillion, Treasurer

October 4, 2011

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS MEETINGS AND OUTINGS*NOVEMBER 9, 2011 - FEBRUARY 27, 2012*

CARPOOL IF POSSIBLE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: MAGGIE: (250) 757 - 2328 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.

Monday, Oct. 24, General Meeting at Springwood Middle School, PV; 7:30.Speaker: Faye Smith, Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society (MIVHES);Topic: Monitoring the Englishman River Watershed**Wednesday, Nov. 9 Stamp Falls and Somass River Flats**

A pleasant, easy walk along the river gorge to view the returning salmon. The Somass River Flats should produce some good birding. Bring lunch. Meet at the Qualicum Tourist Bureau at 9:30 am. Leader: Penny Marshall

Saturday, Nov. 19 Cumberland Ponds and Trail

We'll stop first at Ships Point, then on to Cumberland for an easy walk along the old Japanese Townsite Trail past a marsh and beaver pond. There is a low spot so wear appropriate footwear. Lunch in town. Meet at Qualicum Tourist Bureau at 9:30. Leader: Penny Marshall

Monday, Nov. 28 General Meeting at Springwood Middle School, PV; 7:30.Speaker: Brian Kingzett; Topic: Deep Bay Shellfish Research Station**Wednesday, Nov. 30 Courtenay Airport and Goose Spit**

Always a nice walk and usually a productive one for birds and enjoying the beauty of the area. Lunch at the Whistle Stop Pub in Courtenay. Meet at Qualicum Beach Tourist Bureau at 9:30 am. Leader: Chris and Dave Hutchings

Sunday, Dec. 18 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: see page 2 or contact Sandra @ (250) 248-5565**2012, Wednesday, Jan. 11 Nanaimo River Estuary**

An easy winter walk through field and marshy areas to see the many bird species usually seen here. Wear good footwear as the ground is usually wet and muddy in spots. Warm up after with lunch at a local pub. Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:30 am., Arlington 9:45 am. or Northfield Rd & Hwy 19 parking lot at 10:00 am. Leader: Roger Simms

Sunday, Jan. 21 Little Qualicum Falls Park

Always an enjoyable hike through one of our local parks. There may possibly be some winter mushrooms but the Falls is the main attraction, of course. Bring lunch. Meet at Qualicum Tourist Bureau at 9:30 am. Leader: Pam and Dave Helem

Monday, Jan. 30 General Meeting at Springwood Middle School, PV; 7:30 Members Night

An event for members to share photos. Limit your digital photos to 12, please. Bring items to raffle.

Wednesday, Feb 1 Hamilton Marsh and Englishman River Falls Park

Generally good winter birds on the marsh and then a pleasant walk through wooded trails and views of lovely Falls. Remember good footwear. Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:30 am. Bring lunch. Leader: Sandy Gray

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS MEETINGS AND OUTINGS

NOVEMBER 9, 2011 - FEBRUARY 27, 2012

CARPPOOL IF POSSIBLE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: MAGGIE: (250) 757 - 2328 OR DAVE HUTCHINGS: (250) 752-1613

Monday, Feb. 20 General Meeting at Springwood Middle School

Speaker: Steve Mitchell of Bee Haven Farms, Duncan

Topic: Apiculture