



*To Know, Enjoy and
Preserve Nature*

Table of Contents

Presidents Report.....page 1
 Club Info & New Members....3
 Fall AGM Report.....4, 5 & 6
 Champions Award.....6
 Summer Vigil.....7
 CBC Dec 16, 2012.....7

Fall Meeting.....8
 Contemplation of Corn Cob..8
 Young Naturalists Club.....8
 KidFest.....9
 YNC Shoreline Cleanup.....10
 Can You Believe It?.....10
 Meetings & Outings.....11 & 12

President's Report

Whether or she is involved in organizing these activities or not, she is always a participant. Although not required to, Maggie is also a regular and welcome attendee at our

Boy, were they surprised! This probably describes the presenting of awards to two of most deserving members: Alison Bakker and Maggie Little. Alison was given the Young Naturalists' Daphne Solecki Award for outstanding service and for her dedication in providing programs for Young Naturalists in the mid-Vancouver Island region. Alison also assists with the BC Parks nature education program at Rathtrevor Provincial Park, where she has been a volunteer at the Park Nature House, showing children how to construct bird boxes of various sorts. Each summer at the Parksville Kidfest, Alison also serves to educate children about life in the inter-tidal zone on our local beaches. In addition, Alison is an active member of the Nile Creek Enhancement Society and also promotes their work each year at the River Never Sleeps Festival. Alison is also an active supporter of the Arrowsmith Naturalists.



club executive meetings, where her enthusiasm and advice help to keep us on track.

However, her work for our club is not the only service Maggie renders to the environment. For many years, she has been a warden of the Bowser Ecological Reserve and carries out the

Qualicum Bay Beached

Bird Survey each month. She was one of the founding members of the North Island Wildlife Recovery Association and an active volunteer. Maggie serves on the Parks and Open Spaces Committee for Area H of the Regional District of Nanaimo, as well as serving on the local Emergency Measures/Preparedness Committee and attending Vancouver Island regional meetings of the BC Invasive Plant Council.

Congratulations and "thank you" to these two remarkable women for all they do and continue to "Know Nature and Keep It Worth Knowing".

Over the summer, the Arrowsmith Naturalists have been active in several ways. Socially, the club members enjoyed the annual Club Picnic at Rathtrevor. Lots of good food, good conversation and little of the chilly winds off the water this year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT...cont'd

Kidfest was a huge success this August. Under the leadership of PAL (Pam, Alison and Lynne) this year's event was possibly the most successful ever. Particular attention was paid to maintaining the health of all the sea critters in the display tanks and tubs. Derek Grimmer designed a pumping system which kept the oxygen levels in the displays at a healthy level – and even provided the green energy needed to run the pumps by hooking up a solar panel to the system. I'm sure we have inspired at least a few youngsters to think of becoming marine biologists.

Also, over the summer, Sandy Gray, Lynne Brookes and Cindie Cosentino manned an Arrowsmith Naturalists display on two occasions at the Errington Market. Well done. Next year, we hope also to "show our colours" at the Qualicum Beach Market.

The annual Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up was held on September 15th at a different location. Rather than Qualicum Bay, Maggie Little chose to have us focus on Surfside, in the Kincade Road area. It was a beautiful few hours of hunting for beach debris and the good news – there was very little to be found. We all hope that is a sign of the consistent public education program which has been evident for many years.

As they had for the past two years, the Planning Committee for the BC Nature FGM held regular meetings throughout the summer to ensure that the FGM went off smoothly. Their efforts were rewarded by one of the best FGM's in years. In particular, volunteers such as Sandy Gray and David Helem put in countless hours to plan field trips, coordinate the registration process and work out all the details. Bill Campbell worked to ensure that the facilities and the catering at the Bayside all worked seamlessly. Pat Bourgeois, Sallie Dabb and Maria Hamman not only carried out the planning in their own areas of responsibility but constantly supported the work of the rest of us. Despite constant last-minute additions, Marg Hill produced a program brochure which was well designed and informative.

Representing the Nanoose Nats, Carolyn Dodd used her expertise acquired in organizing the Brant Festival and put forward a Herculean effort to gather financing and donations, to plan signage and to keep the rest of us on task. Tony Ransom kept tabs on our finances and guided us when we were tempted to stray off-budget. And Roger Taylor spearheaded much of the development of the program.

Without all of this volunteer effort over many months, the FGM would not have been nearly the event which unfolded so well from September 27th to the 30th. I must commend also the Quality Resort Bayside for being such supportive team players in the process. They made the whole job so much more manageable. Also, we must thank our many organizations and individuals who donated support either in kind or in a financial contribution who allowed us to stay on budget.

A big "thank you" to our many club members who contributed through their Thrifty Smile Cards. In total, the Smile Cards campaign raised close to \$1,800. By the time you read this, the campaign will be over and it will be time to return your card(s) to the club. You can do this at the October meeting.

As we look forward to the coming year, Roger Simms is again looking for folks to serve on the Executive. It does no good for the health of the Arrowsmith Naturalists to continue to re-elect/re-appoint the same faces year after year. Already, with this past Executive committee, some new members have brought freshness and vitality to our discussions. None of the positions are onerous – and they can be darn good fun too.

One little bit of comfort to naturalists: Ecuador has given Mother Nature the rights of personhood and New Zealand has given a river the rights of a person. Let's hope that Mother Nature is beginning to live in our hearts and minds.

Dave Hutchings, President



A group out on one of the FALL AGM field trips.

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 2013 for the February 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 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 <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 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;

Gilles Gratton;

Ed Wilson.

Programs: Alison Bakker

Field Trips: Maggie Little ;
Penny Marshall

Promotion: Sallie Dabb

Refreshments: Chris Hutchings

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 requested is in respect for others for whom such scents are a health hazard.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

The Arrowsmith Naturalist Club is pleased to welcome the following new members.

*Dave Erikson, *Camille Dawes and Paul Jenkins

2012 - Fall General Meeting Report

After two years of planning and meetings, the Arrowsmith Naturalists and the Nanoose Naturalists staged a very successful Fall General Meeting for BC Nature. Although it helped that we had wonderful weather for the entire weekend, the FGM program and all its components came together very smoothly and seemed to be enjoyed immensely by all the naturalists who attended.

FIELD TRIPS

There is not space here to describe the field trips in detail. Suffice it to say that with the diligent and exhaustive planning by Sanday Gray and the clear signage which she, Carolyn Dodd and others created and placed, the field trips went off without any discernable hitches. I heard nothing but positive comments by the participants about the organization and the information provided for each trip.



SPEAKERS

Our speakers enlightened, entertained and challenged us. “Buzz” Holling, in layman’s terms, delved into some of the factors which can cause ecosystems to become endangered or to crash. Who knew that “lumpiness” was a term which could be applied to ecosystems? In 45 minutes, Dr. Holling provided us with an insight into what has become a signature of his scientific work – his theory of “ecosystem resilience”. He also injected a few blunt observations of the current government policies and actions as they threaten years of progress in the protection of the environment.

Kim Recalma-Clutesi provided a fascinating look into the practices of our First Nations people as they harvested from Nature in a respectful, sustainable way. She spoke of the reverence for the foods and the health-giving properties which the forests and the oceans provided. Eel grass provided a vital spring tonic but the ritual around the harvest of the grass illustrated both the importance of this seasonal 4and the care to provide for the future by taking only as much would ensure a supply for the future. Kim also spoke of the clam gardens which have supported native peoples on the coast for centuries. Sadly, the location of many of these gardens has been lost as much of the oral history which was used to record these sites has been lost. What came through in Kim’s talk was the native peoples tremendous knowledge of the life-sustaining properties of the plants in our forests and fields and the rules and rituals they

developed to ensure that the bounty could be sustained. Sadly, many of these teachings have been lost since the contact with Europeans.

Michele Deakin’s talk described the importance of eelgrass in sustaining life on our shores. Although grass-like, eelgrass is actually a flowering plant that grows submerged in salt water, forming meadows or beds that are both a biologically diverse ecosystem and a primary producer. They provide the base for a complex nearshore food web that starts with microscopic diatoms coating the grass blades to provide an attachment for bacteria, fungi and detritus. They act as a critical nursery and shelter for many species of fish, sea birds and invertebrates. Salmon fry, crabs, forage fish and Brant geese widgeon are among those benefiting from healthy eelgrass. Eelgrass beds also guard against erosion by dampening wave energy from storms and stabilize the foreshore.

Our banquet speaker, Brian Kingzett, gave us some valuable food for thought (and please pardon the pun!). He addressed the problem of feeding the looming world-wide population of billion people, given that many of our food resources on both land and sea are threatened or diminishing because of climate change, increased exploitation, development, pollution and the increasing acidification of our oceans. The problem of acidification concerns us here around the Salish Sea because of the upwelling tendencies of acidic seawater in our region of the Pacific.

Not surprisingly, as Manager of the Deep Bay Shellfish Research Centre, Brian pointed out the important role of shellfish in both providing a rich source of protein and in their ability to clean the gallons of water which flows through their systems each day. In particular, he sees oysters and clams as especially productive and important. Brian also courted some controversy when he highlighted the importance of farmed salmon as a food source, despite the current problems the practice produces. In his view, the wild stocks alone, with their declining numbers, cannot provide the food source which we will require. Our present methods, however, do require improvement.

MEETINGS

Directors:

The BC Nature Club Directors’ Meeting focused, in large part, on the work of Rosemary Fox, the BCN Conservation Chair. Living in Smithers, Rosemary often cannot travel to provincial meetings, so her presence was particularly important.

Rosemary noted the need for local conservation committees to be able to get together to share ideas, concern and to work out common, workable strategies. Much of Rosemary's current efforts are concerned with the proposed Enbridge pipeline across northern BC. As official intervenors with Nature Canada, BC Nature has received only 50 per cent of the funding which was requested to carry out the research, travel and reporting which is required – and that funding has almost run out, even when consultants have worked for the bare minimum. Consequently, the intervenors have had to be selective in choosing among the many issues they wished to address. Paying for high-priced legal representation was out of the question.

However, the Environmental Law Centre at UVIC has offered to represent BC Nature free of charge at future hearings. This will provide for a much stronger addressing of the environmental issues concerning Rosemary and her tireless workers.

Other matters addressed by the Directors included:

- a concern by the Cowichan Valley Nats about the drought conditions on the Cowichan River and the lack of action by DFO to protect fish and habitat:
- concern over the Raven Coal Project;
- the BCN treasurer reported a small budget surplus;
- Betty Davison (BCN Office Manager) described the vastly improved and enlarged BCN website. A "Members Only" section will be accessed by a pass code which will appear on the mailing label of the next BC Nature Magazine. Also, 5 volunteer "web masters" from different regions will be needed to up-date the website on a regular basis. Contact the BCN office if you are interested.

General Meeting:

Undoubtedly, one the highlights of this excellent FGM was the brief address to the General Meeting by Elizabeth May. She began by presenting the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal to Bob Peart for his work as an ardent conservationist and for his dedication to increase the connection of children with Nature. He is a founding member of the Child and Nature Alliance of Canada, as well as working for Parks Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service and other agencies as a biologist. Bob commented that he sees little will on the part of governments to protect the environment and that community work and citizen pressure are the real hope in this dilemma.

Elizabeth presented naturalists with the choice to "be activists or to just watch the world" as corporations and politicians continue their present courses of exploitation. She pointed out that over one-third of the omnibus bill C-38 was directed to reducing environmental protection for fisheries, Species At Risk, our fresh and salt water resources, and national parks. She also stated that it is grass-roots naturalists who stand between many species and their extinction because of reduced protection.

When asked where naturalists can turn to gain up-to-the-minute knowledge of events of interest to naturalists, Elizabeth noted that among others the Green Party, elizabethmaymp.ca, Eco Justice, Sierra Club BC, and Living Oceans provide valuable websites.

Ric Careless, co-founder of the Sierra Club BC, author of *To Save Wild Earth*, and a tireless campaigner for our BC parks and wilderness areas, spoke of the need to elevate the status and tradition of BC's parks to the same level enjoyed by the national parks of the US and New Zealand. BC has the third largest system of parks in North America, yet BC Parks share of the provincial budget is the same as in 1971, when the system was a small fraction of today's size. At present, BC's parks are the only system without a government-funded interpretation program.

Ric called for a campaign to restore the profile of BC Parks to its previous level by calling together a collection of youth, healthcare professionals, outdoor recreationists, environmentalists and others to promote the value of our parks. It must become a non-political issue which is core to what it means to be a citizen of this province. And BC Nature, because of our constant support over time and our structure throughout the province, needs to continue to be a core campaigner.

The NDP Environment Critic, Rob Flemming (Victoria-Swan Lake) spoke of the NDP's desire to give the environment a greater priority on the government agenda. He noted the degradation of science-based environmental assessment in the province. There are 30 per cent fewer biologists involved in assessment than 10 years ago, despite the pressures of development. Also, there appears to be little concern with compliance with environmental regulations; follow-up monitoring is almost non-existent. In particular, Rob called for the protection of the "Sacred Headwaters" of the Nass and Stikine Rivers which are now threatened by coal bed methane projects. Canada, he claimed, is the only OECD country using the destruction of the environment as a tool for economic development.

In his answers to questions, the MLA said that the NDP would restore park interpretation programs, would improve construction practices which impact on wildlife, would push for a “greening” or present building codes, would reform the carbon tax as a way of funding more public transport, etc. and would make protecting Species At Risk a greater priority. Greater emphasis would also be placed on protecting farmland and the issues of raw log export and tree farm licenses.

Other issues announced and brought forward at the General Meeting include:

- an increase of funds for science fairs to \$1,050;
- the awarding of the Youth Conservation Medal to the YNC;
- a spring nature camp at Tofino at the end of April, 2013;
- the designation of the Fraser River Estuary as an IBA and Ramsar site, but leaving out Roberts Bank;
- the hosting of next spring's AGM from May 2-5 by the Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club.

A great “thank-you” to all those who contributed to an extremely enjoyable and informative FGM.

Dave Hutchings



Nature Trust Conservation Champions Award – 2012

It was with great appreciation, and surprise, that our Club was nominated as the recipient of the Nature Trust Conservation Champions Award at the recent FGM. Tim Clermont, the presenter, declared it a first for BC Naturalists Clubs!

This recognition gave us pause to reflect on our 7 year Stewardship involvement at the Englishman River Estuary, Parksville.

In 2005 the Club committed to help with the removal of invasives, perform a monthly bird inventory and provide education to the public. With the commitment, twice monthly of a core group of dedicated members, this has been possible – weather permitting! - to achieve:

- The 4 year bird inventory netted 143 species;
- Broom and Spotted Knapweed sites are being controlled and diminished;
- 156 young trees have been planted on our 4 outings with assistance from the wider Club membership;
- Outreach community education has been conducted with like minded groups on Earth Days, Parks Days, Oceans Day, Rivers Days and the annual Brant Festivals;
- We have provided mentorship to Katimavik students;
- We have contributed 1615 Volunteer hours and enjoy enormously this worthwhile project;

Many thanks to the Arrowsmith Naturalists for your generous participation.

Submitted by, Maggie Little



OCTOBER 2012

MY SUMMER VIGIL

When summer arrives in Errington we are always entertained by families of California Quail. Last year two coveys joined forces with 21 chicks to feast in our yard. We watched over them all summer as they quickly grew but by September they had lost half the chicks. This spring started out the same, with two pairs making ours and the neighbours' yards their home.

On June 2, I notice a lone male (Romeo), so quickly assumed that the female was sitting on eggs. I anxiously awaited the arrival of little beaks. I watched Romeo every day for 2 weeks, but never saw the female come out to feed. I then realized that the other couple had completely disappeared too. This made me suspicious...had a Barred owl, racoon or cats bagged all three? Romeo also was spending a lot of time calling from the roof top and looking quite lonely in the June rains.



On July 1, a pair of quail suddenly appeared with 12 chicks. It was a puzzle why they'd disappeared and had not been feeding on the hen scratch I put out. Two days later I got my answer. I witnessed Romeo beat up the male and proceed to steal his wife. It was all over in a matter of seconds as Romeo herded her off. I named her Lucille (Kenny Rogers no doubt would approve.) Romeo stuck to her like glue all summer. Single Dad now has 12 chicks to raise on his own. He kept them to the back woods but almost every day there was one

less chick. He was down to 6 when another couple arrived with 3 very tiny babies and they joined forces with Romeo and Lucille. I breathed a sigh of relief as I thought this would give them a better chance to survive.

I would sit at the back very quietly and the two families would come within three feet of me. The New Mom would chase the bigger chicks away so hers could feed first. They would try to sneak through a bush to get a few grains. Sadly in three days the new couple only had one chick left. This left 10 in the covey.

One day Romeo moved in on the New Dad. There was a quick scuffle but Romeo and Lucille quickly left. Now what's he up to? trying to steal another wife? By August 20 the covey, now at 9, were flying a lot better so I had high hopes.

We got back from holidays three weeks later and yes, I had someone feeding them while we were gone. It took two weeks before I could get a count on them. They stuck to the bush and were quite vocal but would not show themselves. The count was 9. I was so proud of single Dad. He managed to raise them and now they are all as big as he is.

Submitted by, Toni Wyckoff

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS - Dec 14, Nanoose Bay; Dec 16, Parksville/Qualicum Beach

National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts are held in communities across North America and beyond and are coordinated in Canada by Bird Studies Canada. Often a local naturalist club or other interested organization will sponsor and/or organize a Count - as is the case in our community. Several Counts are held within an hour or so of Oceanside but the two closest are Parksville/Qualicum Beach and Nanoose Bay. We always try to coordinate our Count dates so that local folks can participate in a few of them.

For both counts, volunteers of all skill levels are invited to participate as a member of a team in the field or at home watching your feeders. Field teams count all day but feeder counts can be done for as short as one hour or as long as you like. For respective counts contact:

Nanoose Naturalists: Friday December 14, 2012 Nanoose Bay Rhys Harrison 248-5305

Arrowsmith Naturalists: Sunday December 16, 2012 Parksville/Qualicum Beach Sandra Gray 248-5565

Participants and Club members are welcome after the Count to the wrap up:

Parksville/Qualicum Beach: Arrowsmith Naturalists Pot Luck Dinner, St. Anne's/St. Edmonds Church Hall. Contact: Margaret Hill (250) 752-2728

Nanoose Bay: Nanoose Naturalists gathering at Nanoose Library with food & drink provided. Contact: Rhys

We had a Ball at the Meeting in the Fall

BC Nature's Fall General Meeting, organized by Arrowsmith and Nanoose Naturalists, was a great success. It was at capacity for numbers attending. The trips and talks were a treat, and Friday's rain did nothing to dampen our spirits.

To add to it all there was a surprise visit from Elizabeth May MP, leader of the Green Party. She came to bring us up-to-date with environmental concerns at the Federal level.

Many Community groups, businesses and organizations contributed to the success and we thank them.

Because it was so well attended, after all the bills are paid, there will be some money remaining! It will be divided between the two Naturalist groups and BC Nature. We will have an opportunity to decide what to do with our share.

Sallie Dabb

Contemplation of a Cob of Corn

Next time you are stripping off the silks and enclosing leaves of that golden cob of corn and preparing to heat and eat with a slather of butter, here's a quotation I came across in a botany book recently.....the authors thought it might be "helpful to anthropomorphize botany to better connect with the reproductive process: "School children might have been fascinated to learn that each corn kernel on a cob in summer is a separate ovule, that strand on the pubic corn



silk tufted around the cob is an individual vagina ready to suck up the pollen sperm brought to it on the wind, that it may wriggle the entire length of the stylized vagina to impregnate each kernel on the cob, that every single seed produced on the plant is the result of a separate impregnation....."

Reference: Tompkins, Peter & Christopher Bird. The Secret Life of Plants, Quoted in Thomas J. Elpel, Botany in a Day: The Patterns Method of Plant Identification (HOPS Press LLC, 2010)

Submitted by: Pam and David Helem

YOUNG NATURALISTS CLUB

Our second event or Explorer Days was a marvellous afternoon at Lynne and Derrick's property. The children made bird houses guided expertly by Lynne and Derrick's friend, Frank. Lynne took us around the property to view the bird houses and the flora and fauna. Some of us had a special

treat viewing her pet birds. We got to meet Chippy, the 12 year old starling and two colourful parrots.



KidFest Fun, 2012.

Our Club's participation in Parksville's annual summer KidFest event began in 2004, when Betty Collins and Robert Mercer set up a marine themed booth, featuring some live specimens from French Creek's tidal pools. It was a child friendly way for the Arrowsmith Naturalists to pass along knowledge of some of the local marine life. Soon after, Val Tinney became a leader in the Young Naturalist group and added marine-themed puzzles and games to the exhibit and with the help of dedicated volunteers, the tradition of having a KidFest booth has continued over the years. Betty & Robert have since retired, but conscientiously passed forward their knowledge, contacts, and ideas to another enthusiastic group of volunteers, and again this year, the Young Nats and Arrowsmith Nats had a successful exhibit at the August 18th Event.

The weather was about as perfect as an Island summer's day can be, and the crowds of families, both local and visiting, seemed to be the largest ever. From 10am till 3pm, our booth was surrounded by curious onlookers, young & old. Questions were asked and answered, stories were told and even recipes were swapped. The Young Naturalists' displays of shells, puzzles and the touch tanks of live specimens were as popular as ever. Alison Bakker had earlier approached Island Scallops, which kindly agreed again to provide some specimens from deeper offshore, such as a geoduck, anemones, sea cucumber, oyster and scallops, including some intriguing tiny thumb-nail size baby scallops.

Lynne and her husband, Derrick, added another dimension to the displays this year with their glass aquarium tanks, Ziplock packs of sea ice to cool the water, and aeration units. Derrick set up a portable solar module array which supplied power for the aerators placed in each of the "viewing only" display tanks and the several "gentle touch" tanks in which heartier creatures were rotated for a turn. This "solar power" unit attracted many questions as well.

As we dismantled the display at the end of the day, we all agreed it had been a lot of fun and that we too had learned more and shared knowledge about some of local marine creatures. Again, it is due to the wonderful support of all the volunteers that makes our participation in this annual event possible, starting with Saturday's collecting crew - Bill Campbell, Marilynn Futer and daughter Robyn, Dave & Chris Hutchings, Gilles Gratton, Lynne Brookes & Derrick Grimmer and Alison Bakker, and Margaret & Martin Hill who arranged

for rental & transport of tables. On Sunday, Dave & Chris and Alison transported and set up the tent, displays, games and equipment while Lynne & Derrick brought the sea creatures that they'd housed overnight. The cheerful display crew included Val Tinney, Alison, Pam, Lynne, Marilynn, Penny Marshall, Pat Bourgeois. And last but not least the sea creatures which were returned alive to their pools.

An oceanic Thank You to everyone!

Lynne Brookes



YOUNG NATURALISTS CLUB - NOTE
from, Alison Bakker

Being involved in KidFest was particularly special this year. We had a lot of interest in the Arrowsmith Club and some new members who joined the Young Naturalists Club.



Derrick at the ready to explain the 'solar power system used for the aeration units.

Young Naturalists - Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup

Saturday, September 15th, 2012, the day slated for the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup at Surfside Road beach, near the Marshall-Stevenson marsh, in Qualicum beach, couldn't have been nicer for such an event. Clear blue sunny skies greeted the handful of Arrowsmith Naturalists and members and families of the Oceanside Young Naturalists, who volunteered to come out and help remove trash from the seashore.

Despite being told by some residents of the area that we probably wouldn't find too much debris. We did in fact remove three almost-filled garbage bags, a bucket of miscellaneous metal bits and pieces, a number of beverage

cans, and glass bottles, and my out-door dog is enjoying her two new-found balls.

One of the YNC members shared an event which she and her family witnessed, which even astonished our members, who said they had never seen the like before. To find out what this was be sure to look at the picture below..

Many thanks to to Ron and Toni, Susan and Ed, Maggie, Dave (Hutchings), David (Helem), Alison, and John, for your participation in helping our environment and also for helping out in disposal of the garbage.

Hope to see you all again next year at the seashore!

Submitted by, Val Tinney

Can You Believe It...?

A Garter snake eating a fish!



ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS MEETINGS AND OUTINGS*NOVEMBER 1, 2012 - MARCH, 2013*

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.

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; Sunnybeach = Hwy 19A north & Sunnybeach Rd



Monday October 22nd - GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, PV; 7:30; Topic: Dragon Flies; Speaker: Terry Thormin

Saturday November 3rd – Spider and Illusion Lakes – Horne Lake area.

Enjoy the colours and treats that Fall provides amongst this small lakes area. Moderate walk. Meet QTB at 9.30. Bring lunch, binocs. Leader: Maggie 757-2328

Tuesday November 13th – VIU Museum of Natural Sciences, Nanaimo

From Owls to Marine mammals, Insects to Plants, they have a bit of everything! Easy walking, no stairs. Students will guide us through the displays. Tour from 1 – 2pm.

Donations gratefully accepted. Before the tour we'll have time to visit Neck Point for birding. Bring lunch. Meet at C&J 10.00am; Arlington 10.15; N&P at 10.30am
Leader: Maggie 757-2328

Saturday November 24th – Hemer Park, Nanaimo

Easy walk through mature forest, lake and ponds. Good birding opportunities. Meet C&J for 9.30 start; Arlington 9.45; N&P at 10.00am. Warm up at the Crow and Gate afterwards. Leaders: Dave and Chris 752-1613

Monday November 26th - Topic: Purple Martins on Vancouver Island Speaker: Bruce Cousins

Wednesday December 5th – Courtenay Airport and River walk

Easy, wheelchair accessible. Always enjoyable and generally good winter birding. Approx 1 km. Eat at the Atlas Cafe after. Meet QTB for 9.30 start; Sunnybeach 9.45am
Leaders: Gilles and Barbara

Sunday December 16th – CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT; Contact: Sandy

Saturday January 5th – Fanny Bay Dyke and Deep Bay

Good Bay area and slough to catch wintering birds. Explore the imaginative creations of the adjoining Wacky Woods? Bring lunch and munch while watching the Sea Lions hauled out on the log booms at Fanny Bay. Meet QTB for 9.30 start; Sunnybeach 9.45. Leaders: Ed and Sue

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS MEETINGS AND OUTINGS*FEBRUARY 1, 2012 - June 6, 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.

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

Wednesday January 16th – Craig Bay – Parksville

Easy walk, approx 1 km around the Bay. Good birding anticipated. Bring lunch and enjoy the luxury that the viewpoint affords. Meet C&J for 9.30 start. Leaders:TBA

Saturday January 26th – Englishman River Falls Park – Errington

Some inclines as we travel around the park and marvel at the winter rush of water over the famous falls. Approx 2 km. Good footwear required. Bring lunch. Meet C&J for 9.30 start. Leaders: Toni and Ron

Monday January 28th - GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, PV; 7:30

Topic: Speaker: TBA

Wednesday February 6th – Nanaimo River Estuary – Nanaimo

Always a great spot for winter birds. Wet ground so wear waterproof footwear. Approx 2 km. Telescopes if you have them to cover the unrestricted views. Bring lunch. Meet C&J for 9.30 start; Arlington for 9.45; N&P for 10.00. Leader: Roger

Saturday February 16th – Cumberland Sewage Lagoon and Museum

Enjoy a fascinating guided tour back in time, at the museum, which even has a replica of a Coal Mine. Lunch at the local Eatery afterwards followed by a visit to the lagoon to do some birding. Meet QTB for 9.30 start; Sunnybeach 9.45. Leader: Penny

Monday February 25th - GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, PV; 7:30

Topic: Speaker:TBA

Wednesday February 27th – Pre Herring Spawn Birding – Qualicum – Parksville

Check out all the possible “Hot” spots along the coast as we marvel at the wildlife congregations anticipating the return of the annual Herring Spawn between Parksville and Qualicum. Easy, as it involves driving from one spot to the next. Bring scopes, cameras and lunch. Meet C&J for 9.30 start. Leader: Sandy

Saturday March 9th – Madrona Point and Surrounds – Beachcomber

Key birding and Sea Lion area (could be noisy!) Interesting rock formations, trees and views. Easy. Mostly driving from one spot to the next. Bring lunch. Meet C&J for 9.30 start. Leaders: Dave and Pam 468-7475