

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS - MEETINGS & OUTINGS 2010

Sun. Jan. 17th - Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest - The Brown Property. This 50 acres of old coastal Douglas Fir has remained relatively undisturbed for the last 100 years. It is the home also to a number of species of red and blue-listed species. The forest trails make a comfortable morning's walk in an area where time stands still. Afterwards, if time permits, get out your binoculars for some winter birding on the QB waterfront. Bring lunch or treat yourself to lunch in one of QB's many cafes and restaurants. Meet at the Qualicum Beach Tourist Office at 9:30 a.m. Leaders: Chris and Dave.

Mon. Jan. 25th - General Meeting at Springwood Middle School- MEMBERS' NIGHT

An eagerly anticipated occasion, this is the night of our nature-related slide show and raffle. Bring some of your favourite slides to show or a disk of your digital images. Bring any items you'd like to donate for the raffle. Raffle tickets are 3 for \$2.

Wed. Jan. 27th - Englishman River Regional Park. This area is one of the newest developments in the Nanaimo Regional District's regional parks programme. After a short drive in, the area adjacent to the Englishman River Hatchery affords the opportunity to walk level trails beside streams, through a mature mixed forest and out to the Englishman River near the sand bluffs. Our club was glad to take part in displaying the park to the public on Earth Day, 2009. Bring lunch and good footwear in case there are wet or muddy patches. Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:30 a.m. Leaders: Chris and Dave.

Wed. Feb. 10th - Hemer Park, Nanaimo. An easy, pleasant walk through second-growth forest along Holden Lake. Pit toilets available. Bring a picnic lunch or splurge on a pub lunch at the Crow and Gate. Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:30 a.m. or Arlington at 9:45. Leaders: TBA

Mon. Feb. 15th - General Meeting at Springwood Middle School - 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Guy Monty, our local expert birdman will share his knowledge of the Brant Geese, whose annual stopover in the Oceanside area and their migration north has been a fascinating field of study for several years.

Sun. Feb. 21st - Fanny Bay Conservation Area and Ships Point: A walk along the dyke and shore-line for winter birds. Wear good footwear for mud. Meet at the Qualicum Beach Tourist Office at 9:30 a.m. or Sunny Beach Rd. in Qualicum Bay at 9:45. Bring lunch to eat on the spit. Leaders: TBA

Wed. Mar. 3rd - Wildwood Demonstration Forest: Wildwood is Merve Wilkinson's 60-year-old model of sustainable eco-forestry. Much studied, the forest is now preserved and administered by the The Land Conservancy as both a heritage site and a working forest. This specially - arranged forest tour will be led by the TLC site manager, Jay Rastogi. However, there is a fee of \$7.00 for non-TLC members. Members are admitted free. Bring lunch or dine at the Crow and Gate Pub. Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:30 a.m. or Arlington at 9:45. **Leaders:** Chris and Dave

Sun. Mar. 14th - Hamilton Marsh & Englishman River Falls Park: This is a birding and nature walk with trails both flat and uneven including some rise. Meet at Qualicum Beach Tourist Office at 9:30 a.m. Bring a bag lunch.

Mon. Mar. 22nd - General Meeting at Springwood Middle School, PV - 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: COLIN BARTLETT, all about the "birds and bees" - helpful hints for the enjoyment of attracting our local birds and Mason bees to share our gardens.

Wed. Mar. 24th - Columbia Beach & French Creek: Moderately high tide but good birding at various spots along the water's edge. Meet at Craig & Jensen in P.V. at 9:30a.m. Bring a bag lunch.

Sun. Apr 4th - Deep Bay: An easy birding and beach walk on a falling tide. In area which often yields a good variety of seabirds. The walk is along slightly uneven terrain. Meet at Qualicum Beach Tourist Office at 9:30 a.m. Bring a bag lunch.

Wed. Apr. 14th - Buttertubs Marsh, Nanaimo: 2.4 km flat trail around one of most productive birding areas, The marsh is a man-made success, offering shelter to a variety marsh and song birds. Meet at Craig & Jensen in P.V. at 9:30 a.m. or Arlington at 9:45 a.m. Lunch at the Black Bear Pub.

Sun. Apr. 25th - St Peters Church & Mt Tzouhalem, Duncan: This is an opportunity to visit an historic church with a pastoral meadow/woodland grounds with an array of wildflowers, followed by a moderate forest walk to a Garry Oak meadow ecological reserve. Meet at Craig & Jensen in P.V. at 9:30 a.m. or Arlington at 9:45 a.m. and bring along a bag lunch.

Mon. Apr. 26th - General Meeting at Springwood Middle School, PV - 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Karen Barry, is the BC Programs Officer for Bird Studies Canada and will present information about several of the current surveys, in which volunteers can participate, such as Feeder-watch, Coastal Bird Survey and the Beached Bird programs.

Wed. May 5th - The Abyss, Extension Ridge Trail: Come visit a huge fissure in the conglomerate bedrock that was created by the 7.3 magnitude earthquake in 1946. A good location for noting wildflowers. The trail is a continuous rise. Meet at Craig & Jenson in PV at 9:30 a.m. or Arlington at 9:45 a.m. Bring a bag lunch for a picnic.

Sun. May 16th - Trent River Hike, Royston: An easy forested walk with some rise along the river with the opportunity to see spring wildflowers, including orchids. Meet at Qualicum Beach Tourist Office at 9:30 a.m. Bring a bag lunch.

Wed. May 26th - Little Qualicum Falls: Come out and enjoy a delightful hike to identify flowers and take in the scenery. This is a trail with some rise. Meet at Qualicum Beach Tourist Office at 9:30 a.m. Bring a bag lunch ready to picnic.

Mon. May 31st - General Meeting at Springwood Middle School, PV - 7:30 p.m. (Note the change from the usual date.) Speaker: Joe Crichton, will lead us, via his wonderful photos, on a bird-watching journey to the Tropics...why more species than in temperate zones, habitat diversity and speciation.

Sun. June 6th - Rogers Creek Trail, Port Alberni: This trail, with some rise, follows a picturesque river through the woods. Meet at Qualicum Beach Tourist Office at 9:30 a.m. Bring a bag lunch ready to picnic.

Wed. June 16th - Neck Point & Piper's Lagoon, Nanaimo: Come out to participate in seaside birding and Garry Oak meadow wildflower identification. Moderate walking with some rise Meet at Craig & Jenson in PV at 9:30 or Arlington at 9:45 a.m. Bring a bag lunch for a picnic.

Sun. June 27th - Paradise Meadows & Battleship Lake, Mount Washington: A lovely walk through mountain meadows on a boardwalk to see the flowers (hopefully) and then a moderate climb to an alpine lake. The Gray Jays don't mind joining you for lunch at the lake. Part of the Paradise Meadows boardwalk is wheelchair accessible. Meet at Qualicum Beach Tourist Office at 9:30 a.m. Bring a lunch, sturdy footwear and dress in layers- just in case.

Mon. June 28th - General Meeting Springwood Middle School, PV - 7:30 p.m.:
HANS BOERGER...presents slides and live demonstrations to illustrate his talk "Blood, Phantoms and Ghosts: Close Encounters with Pond Critters", an ideal subject to put us in the mood for the coming summer.

Mon. July 26th - Annual Club Picnic at Little Qualicum Hatchery
Leaving Qualicum and traveling up the old Island Hwy., turn left onto Laburnum Rd. and travel up the hill to Claymore Rd; turn right and travel on to on to the Hatchery; drive past

the Hatchery gates for 1.9 km, turn right (at the power lines) and down the hill through the back gate of the Hatchery. Bring lawn chairs and a potluck dish, your own beverage, plates, cutlery, and item(s) for the raffle. Be aware that there is no potable water on site. The fun starts at 4 pm. Until ??

Sun. Aug. 22nd - [Kidfest](#)

Be sure to visit this celebration of childhood in the Parksville Community Park from 10 am - 4pm. Among the activities will be the Arrowsmith Naturalists' live display of some of the many creatures which inhabit the Straights of Georgia. If you would like to help out, call Betty.

Wed. Sept. 15th Kinsol Trestle near Shawnigan Lake

This is one of the last very impressive wooden trestles, spanning a deep gorge over the Koksilah River. It is slated for refurbishing as part of the Trans Canada Trail. Moderate. Bring lunch. Meet at Craig & Jensen at 9:30, or Arlington at 9:45.

The club is forty years old this month.

Sun. Sept. 19th - Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up with the Oceanside Young Naturalists

This annual event is a great way to remind ourselves of all the waste which washes up on our shores, as well as a chance to support the Young Naturalists in our area and demonstrate our stewardship of nature. Sturdy gloves would be a good idea. Meet at Sunny Beach Rd. in Qualicum Bay at 1:30 p.m.

Sun. Sept. 26th - Nile Creek

Nice forest nature walk along a major creek located just north of Qualicum Bay. Bring a lunch. Meet at the Qualicum Beach Tourist Office at 9:30 a.m.

Mon. Sept. 27th - General Meeting Springwood Middle School, PV - 7:30 p.m.:

Forty year anniversary celebration cake during coffee break.

DR. JOHN GUNTON...local geological consultant, will start our Fall session with a "bang", when he presents "Geohazards of the Georgia Basin". It is a multi-faceted topic, which he will discuss with accompanying slides in 2 Parts. The second Part will follow at the November meeting.

Wed. Oct. 6th - Westwood Lake

This is a moderate 6 km walk around lake with a chance to see a few birds. Lunch at Jingle Pot Pub. Meet at Craig & Jensen at 9:30 a.m., or Arlington at 9:45 a.m.

Sun. Oct. 17th - Stamp Falls & Robertson Creek Hatchery

Going to the hatchery is a chance to see returning salmon and walk along the riverside

trail. Bring lunch and sturdy footwear. Bring a lunch. Meet at Qualicum Tourist office at 9:30 a.m.

Mon. Oct. 25th - General Meeting Springwood Middle School, PV - 7:30 p.m.:

ELKE WIND...takes us into the world of amphibians on the move at the time of year when it rains with her topic: "Why did the Toad Cross the Road?"

Wed. Oct. 27th - Mushroom Walk at the Big Qualicum River

This is one of our most popular outings. Bring lunch and delight in a mature forest as we search for fall mushrooms. This is a moderate walk, with some stairs and hills. Bring a lunch. Meet at the Qualicum Beach Tourist Office at 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, Nov. 13th - Jack Point & Biggs Park Easy walk with some stairs along the peninsula jutting out from the eastern side of the Nanaimo River Estuary. Lunch at the Crow and Gate Pub. Meet at Craig & Jensen at 9:30 or Arlington Inn, Nanoose Bay at 9:45. Leader: Pam.

Mon. Nov. 22nd - General Meeting Springwood Middle School, PV - 7:30 p.m.

DR. JOHN GUNTON is returning to present Part 2 of his topic "Geohazards of the Georgia Basin"

Wednesday, Nov. 24th - Nile Creek and the Lighthouse Trails Nice forest nature walk along a major creek located just north of Qualicum Bay and nearby trails presently being improved by the RDN. Lunch at the Bean Counter in Bowser. Meet at the Qualicum Beach Tourist Office at 9:30 am. Leader: Maggie.

Saturday, Dec. 4th - Courtenay Riverway, Goose Spit & Kye Bay Easy good birding along a paved walkway around the airpark, and then later at the Goose Spit and Kye Bay. Bring a lunch or eat at a pub . . . your choice. Meet at Qualicum Beach Tourist Office at 9:30. Leader: Roger.

Sunday, Dec 19th - Christmas Bird Count and Potluck dinner

Join us to count the birds and then come to potluck which always promises good food and many tall tales from the participant birders. Call Sandy to help with count.

