

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS - MEETINGS & OUTINGS ~ 2011

Wednesday Jan. 19th - VIU Deep Bay Field Station & Deep Bay birding The morning starts with a tour of Centre for Shellfish Research and after lunch we will bird in the area. The beautiful long-tailed ducks usually can be seen close to the shore. Lunch at Ship and Shore Cafe. Meet at the Qualicum Beach Tourist Office at 9:30 am. Leader: Gil.

Monday, Jan. 24th - General Meeting Springwood Middle School, PV - 7:30 p.m. -

MEMBERS' NIGHT A favourite event for members to share their photos. Please limit your digital images or slides to a dozen. Bring any items you'd like to raffle. Raffle tickets are 3 for \$2.

Saturday, Jan. 29th - Nymph Falls Easy walk following the Puntledge River through forested areas. Bring a lunch. Meet at the Qualicum Beach Tourist Office at 9:30 am. Leader: Margaret & Martin.

Wednesday, Feb. 9th - Neck Point, Nanaimo Easy birding in area which often yields a great variety of seabirds. A developed trail runs around the park, with boardwalks and lookouts. Meet at Craig & Jensen at 9:30 or Arlington Inn, Nanoose Bay at 9:45. Lunch at Pipers Pub. Leader: David.

Saturday, Feb 19th - Morrell Sanctuary, Nanaimo Enjoy this woodland walk which includes visiting a beaver pond and Morrell Lake. Easy with a few inclines. Lunch at the Jingle Pot Pub. Meet at Craig & Jensen at 9:30 or Arlington Inn, Nanoose Bay at 9:45 Leader: TBA

Monday, Feb. 28th - General Meeting Springwood Middle School, PV - 7:30 pm

Guest speaker: **Lisa Spaven**, coordinator of B.C. Marine Mammal Response Network, based at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo. She will present an overview of their collaborative program between government agencies, research, conservation and outreach groups concerned with the marine mammals, such as Harbour Seals, Sea Lions and some Whale species, whose curiosity, like that of the curious cat, can often get them into trouble. The BCMMRN responds to reports of any dead, injured, sick and harassed marine mammals.

Wednesday, Mar. 2nd - Parksville/Qualicum area herring spawn and seabird viewing

Location depends on previous day's action - eagles, ducks, gulls, sea lions and fish boats. Meet at Craig & Jensen at 9:30 am or Arlington Inn. Bring a lunch. Leader: Sandy

Saturday, Mar. 12th - French Creek, Columbia Beach, Morningstar Ponds

Offers the best of all habitats to view good cross section of birds, in tidal, estuary, ocean, woods and fresh water pond environments. Drive and short easy walks to locations. Bring lunch. Meet Qualicum Tourist Bureau 9:30am. Leader: Roger

Wednesday, March 23rd - Denman Island - 8:30 start

Enjoy a Spring day outing to Fillongly Park and surrounds to view the returning spring migrations and resident wildlife. Easy 3km walk. Bring lunch, optics and cameras. Meet at Qualicum Tourist Bureau for **8:30 start to catch 10:00am ferry**. Carpool, Leaders: Penny & Maggie .

Monday, Mar. 28th - General Meeting Springwood Middle School, PV - 7:30 pm

Bill Merilees, a local wildlife biologist, author and tour leader, whose previous profession and retirement has focused on the flora and fauna of Vancouver Island as well as many locations aboard. For this talk we travel with him down to extreme southern latitudes to learn about the Mega Herbs of Sub-Antarctic.

Sat April 2nd - Legacy Marsh, Lantzville and Brickyard Bay, Nanoose

Accessible areas and easy short walks to view the busy resident bird life of the marsh and ocean. Meet Craig & Jensen for 9:30 start. Arlington 9:45. Bring lunch. Leader: Duncan & Lois

Wed April 13th - Mt Tzouhalem & St Peter's Church - Duncan

Treat yourself to a bonanza of Spring wildflowers adorning the grounds of a pioneer church yard and Eco Reserve. Short uphill climb but easy walking. Bring lunch and cameras. Leaders: Dave & Chris

Monday, Apr. 18th - General Meeting Springwood Middle School, PV - 7:30 pm

Dr. John Gunton has kindly agreed to present the Part 2 of his very popular topic :*"Geo-hazards of the Georgia Basin"*. A local geological consultant, he started our Fall Session in September with Part I of his multifaceted topic. (*Due to inclement weather, the November follow-up had to be cancelled*).

Friday, April 22nd - Earth Day

Watch local media for events related to International Earth Day. This day promotes environmental awareness and calls for the protection of our planet.

Saturday, April 23th - The Notch - Nanoose Bay

Visit this rare remnant Gary Oak meadow and the unusual flora and fauna that survive in sparse conditions. Challenging uphill climb but worth the effort to sit and have lunch on "top of the world". Bring lunch, cameras. Wear good treads. Meet Craig & Jensen for 9:30 start. Nanoose School 9:45. Leader: Robert

Wednesday, May 4th - Yellowpoint Park - Cassidy

Continue to follow the Spring flowering sequence through this mature growth woodsy and boggy area. Intermediate walk. Wear good footwear. Refresh your inner self with lunch at the Crow & Gate. Meet Craig & Jensen for 9:30 start, Arlington 9:45. Leaders: David & Pam

Saturday, May 21st - Harewood Plains - Nanaimo

A must see! **Charles Thirkell**, Botanist and Steward of this area, will guide us on a 2 hour stroll discovering the rarities, including the *Lotus pinnatus*, of this protected area. Good footwear required, some stony areas. Meet Craig & Jensen for 9:15 start, Arlington 9:30. Suggested

\$2.00 contribution towards maintenance. Lunch at the Black Bear Pub. Contact Maggie.

Saturday, May 28th - 2 Pub Walk - Oyster River

Amble along the sandy dunes and marshes and take in the wide variety of flowers, birds and butterflies. Easy 6 km loop walk. Salmon Point Pub lunch half way. Bring cameras. Meet Qualicum Tourist Bureau for 9:30 start. Leaders: Penny & Maggie

Monday, May 30th - General Meeting Springwood Middle School, PV - 7:30 pm

Genevieve Singleton will present a chance to learn more about the Honeymoon Bay Ecological Reserve, for which she is a Warden. Every year Spring creates a beautiful display of wildflowers, particularly the Pink Fawn Lilies (*Erythronium revolutum*). Topic to be confirmed.

Saturday, June 4th - NALT Native Plant Nursery - Cassidy

Formerly the van Kerkoerle property. Enjoy the unusual Arboretum of N American trees lovingly acquired by the former owners. Then explore the extensive inventory of native plants and trees for sale. Easy walking. Meet Craig & Jensen for 9:30 start. Arlington 9:45. Lunch at the Jingle Pot Pub. Leaders: Bill & Marilyn.

Wednesday, June 15th - Cathedral Grove and Cameron Lake - Alberni Hwy

An Island jewel! Gaze in awe at the giant centuries old Doug Firs, in this rare remnant ecosystem and explore the far side of Cameron Lake. An easy flat 3km walk. Bring lunch. Meet Qualicum Tourist Bureau for 9:30 start. Leaders: Pat and Jim

Saturday, June 25th - Kitsuksis Dyke - Port Alberni

Enjoy this easy 2 km walk along the creek and take in the birds, waterfall and estuary. Bring lunch. Meet Qualicum Tourist Bureau for 9:30 start. Leaders: Penny & David

Monday, June 27th - General Meeting Springwood Middle School, PV - 7:30 pm Members Night -- The Sequel.

Back by popular demand, another chance for members to share photos.

Saturday, July 16th Canada's Parks Day

Celebrate the festivities in many parks - regional, provincial, national, and territorial.

Monday, July 25th - Annual Club Picnic: Location: Rath Trevor Provincial Park: Group shelter # 2

Bring lawn chairs and a potluck dish, your own beverage, plates, cutlery and item(s) for a raffle. Fun starts at 4pm until ??

Sunday, August 14th, 2011 [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 Salish Sea. If you would like to help out, call Betty.

Saturday, Sept 3rd - Somenos Marsh, Sewage Ponds & Conservation Area - Duncan
Easy. Driving and short walks to take in the large variety of birds found visiting this area. Bring lunch. Meet Craig & Jensen for 9:30 start. Arlington 9:45. Leaders: TBA.

Monday, Sept 26th - General meeting at Springwood Middle School, PV- 7:30 pm. Speaker TBA.

Wednesday, Sept 28th - 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: TBA

Saturday, Oct 8th - Moorecroft Park, Nanoose Bay An easy, interesting and varied walk to view forest, bays, beaches and inter-tidal pools. Just recently, the Regional District of Nanaimo purchased the land from the United Church and created this regional park. Bring lunch. Meet at Craig & Jensen at 9:30 or Nanoose Place at 9:45. Leader: Sandy.

Wednesday, Oct 19th - Hemer Park, Cedar Easy, pleasant walk through second-growth forest along Holden Lake.

Pit toilets. Lunch at the Crow & Gate Pub. Meet at Craig & Jensen at 9:30, Arlington Inn at 9:45 or Northfield Rd. & Hwy 19 parking lot at 10:00. Leader: TBA

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

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

Monday, Nov. 28 General Meeting at Springwood Middle School, PV; 7:30.

Speaker: Brian Kingzett; Topic: Deep Bay Shellfish Research Centre.

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

Sunday, Dec. 18 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT and Potluck dinner

This will be the 21st year for the Parksville- Qualicum Beach Christmas Bird Count. If you would like to take part, call Sandra Gray. Sandy also has information on the Feeder Count which will take place on the same day, same area.

The Pot Luck/Wrap-up dinner takes place at St. Anne's/St. Edmunds Church Hall in Parksville (behind Wembley Mall) from 5-8 pm. Everyone welcome. Bring a pot luck dish to share and come to hear the tall tales of the day. Bring your own plates, cutlery and mug, etc. Robert and Penny (250-248-6769) have volunteered once again to do the set-up and would welcome assistance.