

# Meetings and Outings 2013

## 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

*Please respect Knox Church policy of "No perfumes or scents when participating in activities or meetings".*

### **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

### **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, Parksville; 7:30**

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.

### **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, Parksville; 7:30**

Ramona de Graff speaking on Forage Fish.

**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, however approximately 1 km walk to view sea lions. Suggest boots or waterproof shoes for short rocky beach walking. Bring lunch. Meet C&J for 9:30 start. Leader: Pam and Dave

**Wednesday March 20 - Courtenay Airpark and Goose Spit (Kye Bay time permitting)**

. An easy paved walk round the airpark then on to Goose Spit and Kye Bay. We have a choice, bag lunch or pub. Meet QBT for 9:30 start; Sunnybeach 9:45 Leader: Roger Simms

**Saturday March 23 - Brant in the Bay:**

Parksville Community Park. View Brant geese and other birds through spotting scopes set up by the Arrowsmith Naturalists. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. FREE

**Monday March 25 - GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, PV @ 7:30 p.m.**

Topic: Horne Lake Caves and Caves on Vancouver Island. Speaker: Richard Varela

**Saturday April 6 - Moss Walk**

A special walk with invited guest/leader Kent Anders. Learn all about mosses- it will be fascinating. Bring lunch. Meet QTB for 9:30 start.

**Saturday April 13 - Mt Tzouhalem and St Peters Churchyard**

An historic 19th century church with pastoral meadow/woodland grounds with an array of wildflowers followed by a modest walk to a Gary Oak meadow ecological reserve. Bring lunch. Meet C&J for a 9:30 start; N&P 10:00 Leader: Sue Wilson and Ed

**Saturday April 20 - Earth Day**

Club display at QB Community Square from 10 am until 2 pm.

**Sunday April 21 - Hamilton Marsh**

Bring your friends and family to explore this amazing marsh in Qualicum Beach

and learn about the interesting plants and wildlife with Friends of French Creek. Our club acts as a tour guides to guide groups of children and parents from the parking lot to the Marsh, where there will be opportunities to experience and learn about pond critters. We would also have a display table in the parking lot with information about the Marsh, the Young Naturalists and our club. By donation. 10 am to 2 pm.

**Monday April 22 - GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, PV @ 7:30 p.m.**

Topic: Bear Smart Program Speaker: Crystal McMillan



Snow geese near Reifel Sanctuary: Gary Murdock photo

**Wednesday April 24 - Reifel Bird Sanctuary**

We have planned a very special trip to the Reifel Sanctuary in Delta and may include a stop at Boundary Bay first, depending on the tides. It promises to be a great day and the hope is to have a good turnout to maximize carpooling. Meet C&J for a 6:15 a.m. start; N&P asap. Leaving Duke Point on the 7:45 a.m ferry  
Leader: Dave Hutchings

**Saturday April 27 - "Save the Frogs",** at the gravel pit in the Chatsworth Road area is proposed, Annette Tanner with the Wilderness Committee arranging event to highlight wildlife and aquifer issues.

**Saturday May 4 - Yellow Point Park.**

This mature growth park should display many and varied spring flowers but can be boggy and wet. Wear your boots. An intermediate walk, we could finish with

lunch at the Crow and Gate. Meet C&J 9:30 or N&P 10:00 Leader: Dave and Pam Helem

**Wednesday May 15 - Denman and Hornby Islands.**

The easy but spectacular walk along the Helliwell Park Bluffs is not to be missed. Flowers, oak trees, ocean views. Lunch on the grass. Meet QBT 8:30 a.m.; Sunnybeach 8:45 a.m. for 10:00 a.m. ferry. Leader: Maggie Little

**Saturday May 25 - Harewood Plains.**

A second growth forest with interesting rock formations and an almost unsurpassed collection of rare and endangered plants. This is an important and beautiful area that needs to be protected. Meet C&J for a 9:30 a.m.; Parkway 10:00 Leaders: TBA

**Monday May 27 - GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, PV @ 7:30 p.m.**

Topic: TBA Speaker: Don Doyle will be speaking about the latest on the Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery.

**Wednesday June 5 - Pipers Lagoon and Neck Point.**

Popular and beautiful with ocean vistas, interesting botany and the tidal lagoon. Lunch on the rocks. Meet C&J for a 9:30 start; N&P 10:00 Leaders: Gilles and Barb Gratton

**Saturday June 15 - Springwood Park and Legacy Marsh.**

Good birding areas; centrally situated. Lunch at the marsh or the Lantzville pub. Meet: C&J for a 9:30 start. Leader: We are pleased to announce that Christopher Stevens has agreed to lead us and share his wide knowledge with us.

**Monday June 24 - GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, PV @ 7:30 p.m.**

Topic: Alpine plants, Speaker: Andy McKinnon

**Saturday July 20 - Enos Lake**

Terry Thormin, an authority on dragonflies, will lead a 1 km walk to view swamp critters and plant life, a beaver lodge and Garry oak meadows in the area.

**Monday June 24 - GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, PV @ 7:30 p.m.** Topic: Alpine Plants of Vancouver Island Speaker: Andy McKinnon

**Wednesday July 10 - Mount Washington - Paradise Meadows & Battleship Lake Loop Trail** is 6.8km return to the parking lot, with a suggested hiking time of 1.5 -3 hours return. Well graded class 2 trails with little or no elevation change. Wear good hiking boots along with the usual hiking essentials (hat, sun screen, water). Bring lunch. **Meet** QBT 8:30 a.m. **Leader:**



**Cardinal Meadowhawk** : Terry Thormin photo

**Saturday July 20 - Enos Lake** - Terry Thormin, an authority on dragonflies, will lead a 1 km walk to view swamp critters, plant life, beaver ponds and Garry oak meadows. The trail features modest up/downhill sections with some tricky footing. **Meet C&J @ 9:30 a.m. Leaders:** Pam and David Helem

**Sunday July 22 - Club Picnic** at Rath Trevor Park @ 4:00 p.m. Location: - Site # 1 Eating @ 5:00 p.m. Please bring a potluck item including a serving utensil; beverage, cutlery, plate; camp chair and any other item to make your picnicing comfortable and fun. Be prepared for a cool breeze that may grace our picnic. For information contact: Dave Hutchings

**Sunday August 18 - Kidfest - Parksville Community Park.** Watch for more details via e-mail to members. The club has booth which they feature ocean life. Please phone Pam 250-468-7475 if you wish to volunteer for this event.

**Thursday Sept 5 - 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 Leaders:** Sue and Ed

**Saturday Sept 14 - Newcastle Island.** The return ferry runs every 1/2 hr and

costs \$9 or \$8 for seniors. There is simply too much to see in one trip. Sandstone cliffs and ledges, shoreline caverns, stands of Douglas fir Arbutus, Garry Oak and Dogwood, wildlife everywhere and even a small lake. Bring lunch. **Meet** C&J 9:30; 10:00 Parkway! **Leader:** tba

**Monday Sept 23 GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, PV @ 7:30 p.m.** Topic : Grizzly Bears and Arctic Penguins Speaker: Derek Kyosta a leader in the Adventures Tours

**Saturday Sept 28 - The Gift of Weeds - Maya Carson** wants to give you an experience to explore and learn to love what you normally consider to be a nuisance. Exploration will be in Parksville, between Knox Church and the ocean. Bring a notepad, pen and picnic lunch **Meet** C&J 9:30 **Leader** Maya Carson

**Saturday Oct 5 - Westwood Lake** - A chance to miss the summer crowds. One smallish hill and a 6 km walk round this attractive lake created about 1906. Lunch at the Jinglepot Pub (food is good and it's quiet). **Meet** C&J 9:30 10:00 Parkway **Leader** tba

**Wednesday Oct 16 - Courtenay Airpark.** High winds foiled our last attempt. Easy walk, always lots of birds. Binoculars and telescopes recommended. Several lunch options located closeby. **Meet** QBT 9:30; Sunnybeach 9:45 **Leader** Sandy Gray

**Saturday Oct 26 - Annual Mushroom Walk** - At the Big Qualicum Hatchery site and always popular. Bring lunch. **Meet** C&J 9:30; QTB 10:00 am **Leader** Penny

**Monday Oct 28 GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, PV @ 7:30 p.m.** Topic Experiences with Wildlife" Speaker: Dr. Malcolm McAdie, Veterinarian

**Sat Nov Nanaimo Estuary Park.** This outing promises to be a fabulous birding day. Lunch - Crow & Gate Pub

Meet: C&J @ 9:30; QTB 10:00." Leader: Chris Stevens.

**Wed Nov 20 Deep Bay Shellfish Research Centre.** Now completed and operating. We need to determine if enough members are interested to request a guided tour.

Meet: C&J @ 9:30; QTB @10:00." Leader: tba

**Monday Nov 25 GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, PV @ 7:30 p.m.** *Please respect Knox Church policy of "No perfumes or scents when participating in activities or meetings".*

Topic: In-stream fish habitat - Restoration Works" Speaker: Sean Wong, Biologist with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

**Sat Nov 30 North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre.** Dave Erikson and Lynne Brooks look forward to showing our fellow members how the handful of employees and army of volunteers keep this most successful facility functioning at such a high level. Hopefully there will be many questions and suggestions which are always welcome. Admission \$8.00 per adult. (helps feed our hungry bears). Lunch - "Trees" Restaurant

Meet: C&J 9:30" Leaders: Lynne Brooks & Dave Erikson

**Wed Dec 11 Heritage Forest Qualicum Beach** - Learn the history of early logging and local flora in this beautiful setting. Leaders: Gary and Ronda Murdock. Lunch in town. Then at 1:00 pm a special visit to the Qualicum Beach museum. Leader: Graham Beard, Resident Paleontologist.

Meet: QBT @ 9:30

**Sunday December 15 – CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT;** Contact: Sandy (250)

248-5565 This will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.