

2014 Meetings and outings

Sat Jan 11 Somass Estuary - This conservation property is located on the site of the earliest pioneer farm in the valley (1850s). A gentle walk of under 2 km that will include birding at the sewage treatment plant. Bring suitable clothing and bag lunch or depending on weather - lunch in Port Alberni

Meet: C&J @ 9:30 or at the Port Alberni Visitor Centre" Leaders: Marg and Martin Hill

Sat Jan 25 Plummer Side Rd Englishman River - This walk promises great rewards for little effort. The birding should be exceptional. Close to town and familiar to many of us. Bring lunch and of course appropriate gear.

Meet: C/J @ 9:30" Leader: Roger Simms

Mon. Jan 27 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: "Members Night - Members will have also "give and take." Bring your naturalist things for it.

A favourite event for members to share their photos. Please limit your digital images or slides to a dozen.

Wed Feb 5 Somenos Marsh and Duncan Sewage Lagoon - Easy walking on a newly constructed boardwalk and expectations of seeing some unusual bird species. Bring lunch

Meet: C/J @ 9:30 or Arlington 9:45" " Leader: Lynne Brookes

Sat Feb 15 World Parrot Refuge - First we get a brief intro to the world of parrots in Lynne's study. Then on to Parrot World where 100's of these splendid animals are cared for after their misuse in the pet trade. This is a subject that people who are serious about protection of wild creatures simply cannot ignore, but we promise the outing will be an enjoyable and memorable one. We suggest lunch at "Trees" restaurant in Errington.

Meet: C&J @ 9:30 am or 9:45 @ Derrick and Lynne's gate in Errington (For directions, contact Lynne.)

Mon Feb 24 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: Birds! ! Speaker: Russ Canning - a birder with extensive world and Canadian !!!!!!! experience.!

Mon Feb 24 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: Birding in BC!! Speaker: Russ Canning - a birder with extensive world and Canadian !!!!!!! experience.! **Cancelled due to snow**

Wed Feb 26 The Lighthouse Trails - This is a pleasant forest nature walk on trails under improvement by the RD N. We can improvise on our route when we get there. Lunch at Bean Counter or Sandbar Cafe Meet C/J @ 9:30 or QBT @ 9:45 ! Leader: Maggie Little

Sat Mar 8 Herring Run - We can hop up or down the coast and set up our telescopes wherever the action is thickest. If the fish are late in arriving an option is birding from the road at the Marshall Stevenson. Bring lunch
Meet: The run is unpredictable so we'll meet @ QBT @ 9:30! Leader: Sandy Gray

Wed Mar 19 Herring Run - See March 8th above. The herring tend to move down the coast. If we are lucky we will be observing from a different location. An option will be a viewing of the Hamilton Marsh. Bring lunch Meet: QBT @ 9:30! ! Leader: Sandy Gray

Mon Mar 24 GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, PV @ 7:30 p.m.

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Topic: Western Painted Turtle! Speaker: Stephanie Thorpe, who is doing research on the Western Painted Turtle at Buttertubs Marsh.

Sat Mar 29 Little Qualicum Falls - A beautiful location where the lighting can be spectacular. The flow over the falls should be heavy at this time of year. Proper boots are advisable but the steep sections can all be avoided. Bring lunch.
Meet: C&J @ 9:30! ! Leader: Maggie Little

Wed Apr 9 Morrell Nature Sanctuary - 11km of trails in a protected 2nd growth rain shadow forest which is important for the very large number of native plants that thrive here. It is also a notable birding area especially in the late Spring.
Lunch: Jingle Pot Pub

Meet: C&J 9:30 a.m.; N&P 10:00 a.m! Leader: Duncan Campbell

Mon Apr 28 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: Newcastle Island! ! Speaker: Bill Merilees**

Sat Apr 19 - Kye Bay and Goose Spit Quite simply a beautiful place to visit tucked under the bluffs behind the Comox airport with very nice beach...if the tides are cooperating. Lunch: Blackfin Pub, Comox.
Meet: QBT 9:30 a.m. Leaders: Dave and Pam Helem

Tues Apr 29 - Honeymoon Bay Eco Reserve, Skuz Falls Anticipating spring lilies in bloom and more. We are most fortunate to have Genevieve Singleton to lead us and share her knowledge in this lovely area. Lunch: pack lunch.
Meet: C&J 9:00 a.m.; N&P asap; Hwy 18 turnoff to Cowichan Lake asap (shortly after 10:00 a.m.) Leader:

Sat May 10 Harewood Plains - We missed the flowers last year. It's worth trying again to catch this blooming splendour.
Meet: C&J 9:30 a.m.; N&P asap; Hwy 18 turnoff to Cowichan Lake asap.!
Leader: Lynne Brookes

Tues May 20 Somenos Nature Conservancy - Gary Oaks, flowers and hopefully the bluebird refuge. Again an outing with Genevieve Singleton, who promises some pleasant surprises. Lunch: pack lunch.

Meet: C&J 9:00 a.m.; N&P asap; Hwy 18 turnoff to Cowichan Lake asap (shortly after 10:00 a.m.) Leader:

Mon May 26 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: Mosses and Lichens! ! Speaker: Terry and Rosemary Taylor**

Sat May 31 The Abyss - A huge fissure created by an earthquake. There are old petroglyphs nearby. Good views from the ridge as we sit and much lunch.
Meet C&J for a 9:30 start.!! Leader: Dave & Pam Helem

Wed June 11 - Native Plants - Stream-side Native Plant Nursery with stop-offs to view these plants growing naturally. Lunch: Bean Counter.
Meet: QBT 9:30 a.m.!!! Leader: Lynne Brookes

Sat June 21 - Buttertubs Marsh We've all driven past and many have visited this marshy area but this is a great opportunity to follow Chris as he identifies many

birds and speaks about their fascinating lives. Lunch: Black Bear Pub.
Meet: C&J 9:30 a.m.! ! Leader: Christopher Stephens

Monday June 24 - 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:**TBA **Speaker:** TBA

Sun, Aug 10, Kidfest - Members help to show sealife at this event.

Sat Sept 6 The Gift of Weeds -

What is a weed? Examine the plants that thrive in our disused fields and ditches on an easy walk around Parksville with Maya. Their value to animals and their medical uses by people will be explained. Exploration will be around Parksville. Meet 9:30 am C & J, Leader: Maya Carson

Wed Sept 17 Newcastle Island.

If you heard Bill Merilees presentation at the general meeting you won't want to miss this. Bill has agreed to guide us in person around this historic and beautiful place. [May involve a fair amount of walking](#). Bring lunch and meet 9:30 am C & J, Maffeo Sutton Park ferry Terminal 10:30 am Leader: [Maggie Little](#)

MEETING TIME(s) INFO STARTING SEPT 22nd, 2014

7:00 p.m. - Members chat time and other individual(s) information sharing.

7:15...ish - Coffee to be available.

7:30 p.m. - General meeting convenes.

Ten (10) minutes break after speaker for refreshments & chat.

9:15 p.m. - End of meeting; chair stacking. Done and out of church by 9:30 p.m.

Mon Sept 22 GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville@ 7:30 p.m.

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Topic: Club's new presentation re: "Arrowsmith Naturalist Promotional Power Point".

Speaker:Club members presenting

Sunday September 28th 2014 at 1.30pm for the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup at Little Qualicum Estuary.

We invite the Arrowsmith Naturalists to join us as usual.

Sat Sept 27 Stamp River Provincial Park and salmon ladder.

See a natural marvel in a beautiful location. We can add an attractive forest walk in the park. Bring lunch and meet 9:30 am QBT. Leader: Ed Wilson

Sat Oct 11 Dodd's Narrows.

We've timed our outing to be there just before slack water in order to witness the change in current direction. Bring lunch, sit on the rocks and watch the moon at work. Meet 9:30 C & J 10 am N&P (rest stop) Leader: Toni & Ron Wykhoff

Wed Oct 22 Somass Estuary and Port Alberni lagoon.

Weather defeated us last January. This time the birding will be great. It's a flat route. Meet 9:30 am QBT. Leader: Margaret Hill (she will lead us to lunch as well)

Mon Oct 27 GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville@ 7:30 p.m.

Topic and speaker: Brian Kingzett, Manager of the VIU Deep Bay Marine Station, will talk about the "Other CO2 Problem", how climate change is affecting the chemistry of the oceans through a process known as Ocean Acidification. He will discuss the role and importance of shellfish to the health of the marine ecosystems, as sources of sustainable seafood and economic opportunities. Decreasing ocean pH as a result of increasing carbon dioxide emissions is posing threats to the marine food chain globally and locally with potentially significant repercussions for coastal communities.

Sat Nov 1 Annual Mushroom Walk

Big Qualicum fish hatchery. Always popular, last year was a classic. We walk through a mature forest, examining a wide diversity of fall mushrooms. There are some stairs and hills, but for the most part the walking is easy Bring lunch. Meet 9:30 am QBT. Leaders: Dave Helem and Terry Taylor

Wed Nov 12 Taste of BC Aquafarms 2930 Jameson Rd.

Inland fish farm just above Jingle Pot Rd. We will tour a facility that offers an alternative to the ocean fish farms that are proving so controversial. Lunch at Jingle Pot Public House. Meet C & J, 9:30, N&P (Rest stop) 10 am. Leader: Dave Erickson

Sat Nov 22 Riefel Bird Sanctuary.

Probably the best opportunity most of us will have to see a huge and wonderful variety of migrating birds this year. There are both longer and less demanding circuits to walk. Bring lunch. Meet C & J 6:30 am, depart C & J at 6:45 am for the 7:45 Duke Point ferry and return 3:15 pm from Tsawwassen. Leaders Gary and Ronda Murdoch.

Mon Nov 24 GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville@ 7:30 p.m.

Topic and speaker: Sheena Majowski, Pinniped Biologist at Pacific Biological Station. Reporting on the studies done during this summer particularly the Stellar Sea Lions.

Wed Dec 3 Heimer Park

A forest walk to round out a great year. In the Cedar District, south of Nanaimo with good trails around by Holden Lake. Some waterfowl will probably be seen on one of the lakes. Meet C & J 9:30, Northfield 10 am. Bring lunch. Leaders Pam & David Helem

Sunday, Dec 19 - Christmas Bird Count and Potluck dinner

Be part of the 115th CBC, the longest running citizen science survey in the world. Join a team in the field, usually 3-7 birders with a mix of skill levels, or count birds from home for the Feeder Count. Pot Luck Dinner immediately following the Count at St. Anne's/ St. Edmunds Church Hall which always promises good food and many tall tales from the participant birders. Call Sandy at 248-5565 to help with count.