

Meetings and Outings 2015.

FRIDAY, Jan 16th, International Centre for Sturgeon Studies VIU

First, a morning walk at the Morrell Sanctuary, then lunch at the Jingle Pot Pub. The tour starts at 1:30 with Dave Switzer at the Sturgeon Facility on campus. Leave C & J 9:30, N&P 10:00, Leaders: David Helem & Dave Erickson.

Saturday, Jan 24th, Nanaimo River Estuary

Birding in a prime area at a great time of year. The possibility of seeing Short Eared Owls along with many other species. Lunch at the Country Grocer, South Gate Mall. C & J 9:30, N&P 10:00. Leader: Christopher Stephens.

Monday Jan 26th, GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.

Members Night: Members bring pictures to share with the rest of club.

Wednesday, Feb 4th, Park and view birding with Sandy

Perfect for members who have difficulty walking large distances. We'll cruise the coast stopping at all the hot spots to view the many species on the ocean. Bring lunch or drop in at the Bean Counter. QBT 9:30 am. Leader: Sandy Gray.

Saturday, Feb 14th, Heritage Forest

A rather quick return visit, but this time a totally different focus with Terry Taylor as he reveals hidden marvels all around us. We predict it will be easy on your legs but your brain will get a workout. Lunch - our choice in Qualicum Beach. QBT 9:30 am.

Monday, Feb 23rd, GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.

TOPIC: Recent Thesis on Swainson's Thrush
SPEAKER: Christopher Stephens

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Wednesday, Feb 25th: Lighthouse Trails-

We can improvise once we get there. Lots of options in the forest and on the coast in this lovely area. Bring lunch. QBT 9:30 am, Leader: Maggie Little

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Saturday, Mar 7th: Morden Colliery-

An interesting abandoned coal mine site with good walking across Thatcher Creek to the Nanaimo River. Plants, birds and history. Lunch at the Jingle Pot Pub. C & J 9:30 am, Northfield 10 am. Leader: Dave Hutchings

Saturday, Mar 7th: BRANT FESTIVAL - opening night @ Bayside Inn; tickets \$20.00 - available Parksville Community Civic Centre.

Wednesday, Mar 18th, Lazo Marsh N E Comox Wildlife Area. A large area in North East Comox Park to explore. It might involve more walking than usual, possible wet areas. Lunch and suitable clothing and boots recommended. QBT 9:30 am. Leader: Pam & Dave Helem

Monday, March 22th: 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 Brant Festival event.

Monday, Mar 23rd: GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.

TOPIC: Story Teller

SPEAKER: Michael Kusugak, an Inuit storyteller.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a collection of \$5 per person to cover speaker's fee.

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Saturday, Mar 28th: Moorecroft Park-

A great opportunity to see the restoration work that transformed the park explained by one of the volunteers - our own Lynne Brookes. Bring lunch if it's sunny - perhaps the Rocking Horse Pub if it clouds over? Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Lynne Brookes

Wednesday, April 8th: The Holland Creek Trail and Falls, Ladysmith -

A lovely, and at times taxing walk in a new area - for us. This good trail, which affords good views of the creek, involves a steady climb through a mixed forest. The reward is the waterfall at the end of the trail. Bring lunch and afterwards enjoy a stroll through one of the Island's historic old towns. Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:30 a.m. or Northfield at 10:00.

Leader: Duncan Campbell

Saturday, April 18th: Earth Day

This year, the Mid- Island Wilderness Committee will be celebrating Earth Day in Qualicum Beach (Qualicum Beach Town Square) on Saturday April 18th 11am - 2pm. Earth Day Cake Cutting at 12 noon.

Friday, April 24th: St. Peter's Churchyard and Mt Tzouhalem-

Easy to moderate walk to enjoy spring flowers, e.g. fawn lilies. Later, we will go to Mt Tzouhalem to see the eco-reserve. Meet at C&J 9:30 am or Northfield 10 am. Bring lunch. Leader: Dave Hutchings

Monday, April 26th: Hamilton Marsh -

A walk through the woods to discover the emergence of spring at the Marsh. A good opportunity to see migrating birds and other aquatic life. Ceri Peacey, the founder of The Friends of Hamilton Marsh, has kindly agreed to come along to be our resource person. 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 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. Also a display table will be in the parking lot with information about the Marsh, the Young Naturalists and Arrowsmith Naturalist club. By donation. 10 am to 2 pm.

To get there, go south from Qualicum Beach on Hwy. 4 to Hilliers Rd and turn right. Drive 1.4 km. to the second parking lot on the left.

Monday, Apr 27th: GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00p.m.

TOPIC: Ecological Reserves, Courtenay area

SPEAKER: Erica McClaren, from BC Parks

Wednesday, May 6th: Hornby Is -

An easy walk along the bluffs at Helliwell, Park, spectacular ocean views, spring flowers. Bring lunch.

Meet QBT 8:30 a.m; Sunnybeach 8:45 a.m. for 10:00 a.m. ferry.

Leader: Maggie Little

Saturday May 16th: Cameron Lake-

Park at Cathedral Grove and hike along the railway tracks on the far side of Cameron Lake. The dogwood trees will put on a great display (hopefully).

Bring lunch. Meet at C&J 9:30 a.m.

Leader: Toni Wyckoff

Monday, May 25th: GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.

TOPIC: prevention of amphibian road kill on the West Coast.

SPEAKER: Barbara Beasley is the speaker for the May meeting. Founder of the Association of Wetland Stewards of Clayquot and Barkley Sound promoting Amphibian Conservation.

Wednesday, May 27th: Oyster River Pub to Pub Walk-

Amble along the sandy dunes and marshes and take in the wide variety of flowers, birds and butterflies. Easy 6 km loop walk.

SalMonday Point Pub lunch half way. Bring cameras. Meet QBT 9:30. Leader:

David Helem

Saturday, June 6th: Passerines Rogers Creek-

This is a lovely walk of easy to moderate difficulty through riverside woods in Port Alberni. Bring lunch and sturdy footwear. Meet at the QBT 9:30 am.

Leader: Roger Simms

Wednesday, June 17th: 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 Northfield at 10:00 a.m. Bring a bag lunch for a picnic. Leader: TBA

Monday, Jun 22nd: GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @7:00 p.m.

TOPIC: Amphibians

SPEAKER: Tim Goater, from VIU Biology Dept.

Saturday, June 27th: Paradise Meadows & Battleship Lake: A lovely walk through mountain meadows to see the flowers (hopefully!) and then lunch at an alpine lake. Battleship Lake return is about 6 km. Bring lunch, wear sturdy footwear and dress with layers - just in case. Meet at the QBT 9:30 am or at the Horne Lake Rd and Hwy 19 intersection (Exit 75) at 9:50. Leaders: Margaret and Martin Hill

Monday, July 5th: Beach Day @ Qualicum Beach: A.Nats volunteers along with Oceanside Nature Kids will set up a display. Come out and enjoy a day at the beach taking in the many venues.

Monday, July 27th: Club Picnic @ Rath Trevor, picnic area #1 @ - 4:00 p.m. (watch for the A.Nats way finding signs & greeters). Come out for the Arrowsmith Naturalists Annual club picnic. Bring folding chair, plate, utensils, BYO coffee/tea, jacket, etc. according to weather and a potluck dish to share. Also, please bring a 'nature' related item for the raffle. Please lower map for location of cooking shelter nearest gatehouse. Park in the northend of parking lot # 1 and walk through the old growth trees to the cooking shelter.

Monday, Aug 16th Kidfest at Parksville Community Park - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.: The A.Nats and the Young Naturalists will provide the popular and exciting exhibit on marine life. We rely on Volunteers. If you wish to help out please contact Lynne Brookes.

Saturday, Sept 5th 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**

Wednesday, September 16th: Gabriola Island: Explore the famed Malaspina Galleries, shorelines and Parks. **Meet at C&J for 8:00 a.m. start to catch the 9:30 ferry from downtown, Nanaimo.** Bring Lunch. Car Pool. Ferry cost for car plus passenger fare. **Leader: Tom Constable**

Sunday, September 20th: 1.30pm Beach Clean-up at Sunnybeach Road, Qualicum Bay

Please bring gloves we will have pails, etc. for collecting. This event is partnered with the Arrowsmith Naturalist Club and Young Naturalists, now called Nature Kids. Sunnybeach Road is the road to the right after the Sandbar Restaurant Qualicum Bay (going north).

Saturday, September 26th Stamp River: A beautiful walk along the river through an old growth forest in a remote corner of this park. Fortunately this end of the park was never logged and has some big trees left for us to admire. Also, quick visit to falls and fish ladder to see the migrating salmon. Bring lunch. Meet at QBT at 9:30. **Leaders: Pam & David Helem**

Monday, Sept 28th: GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m. TOPIC: Butterflies SPEAKER: Mike Yip

Wednesday, October 7th Mushroom Walk Lighthouse Trails

Easy walk along the Lighthouse Trails. Bring Lunch. Meet QBT at 9:30. We will reassemble at the end of Lioness Boulevard at 10:00. **Leader: Leader Terry Taylor**

Sunday, October 18th: - 11 am to 4 pm Mid-Island Mushroom Show

The Arrowsmith Naturalists are hosting a mushroom show in conjunction with the North Island Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre Learning Centre, Errington. Club members are requested to collect mushrooms a few days before the show. Specimens should be picked in their entirety, not cut, and stored in a paper bag outside and bring them to NIWRC between 1 - 4pm on Saturday Oct. 17th. They would be identified on Saturday and the display would be set up on Sunday morning. See and learn about the beautiful, the edible, the poisonous, and the downright weird as you check out the fungi on display. Entrance by donation. (778 attended)

Wednesday October 21st: Nymph Falls: Easy walk following the Puntledge River through forested areas. Bring lunch. Meet at QBO at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Toni Wyckoff

Monday Oct 26th: GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m. TOPIC: Summer project on bringing back the Western Bluebird SPEAKER: Reanne Shelling, Gary Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team

Saturday, October 31st 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. Leaders: Rob and Jeanne Schippers

Wednesday, November 18th (weather permitting) - Riefel Bird Sanctuary, Delta:

NOTE - Date to be confirmed by e-mail to members. 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. Please contact leader: Dave Erickson. (Due to weather, trip took place on Nov 18th and included Boundry Bay birding)

Saturday, November 21st 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 Q T B at 9:30. Leader: Maggie Little (Trail flooded - Nile Creek trail as an alternative)

Monday, Nov 23th GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m. TOPIC: Vancouver Island Tours Speaker: Gary Murdock.

Wednesday December 2nd - Courtenay Airport and River walk
Easy, wheelchair accessible. Always enjoyable and generally good winter birding. Approx 1 km. Eat at the Magic Chef after. Meet QTB for 9.30 start; Sunnybeach 9.45am Leaders: Sandra Gray and Marten Hill

Sunday, Dec 20th Christmas Bird Count
Be part of the 116th 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. Edmund's Church Hall which always promises good food and many tall tales from the participant birders. Call Sandy at 248-5565 to help with count.