

## 2016 Meetings and Outings

4 Indicates easy walking

### 4 **Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> - Buttertubs Marsh, Nanaimo**

One of our most productive birding areas, the marsh is an easy morning's walk. Lunch at the Black Bear Pub. Meet C&J 9:30 Leaders: TBA

### Monday January 25<sup>th</sup>: GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00p.m.

Please respect Knox Church policy of "No perfumes or scents when participating in activities or meetings". TOPIC: Members Night with slides and photos. Bring your pictures on a flash drive (maximum 12 pictures.)

### **Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> - Cathedral Grove and Cameron Lake**

An easy road walk between Cameron Lake and the treed bluffs of Wesley Ridge taking in the interesting old cabins along the way. If time allows we can explore the Giants of Cathedral Grove. Nice weather will allow us to eat a bag lunch on the beach, if inclement weather, there is a nice Cosy Kitchen restaurant at the Co-op station on Alberni Hwy. **Bring lunch. Meet QBT, 9:30. Leader Ron Wyckoff**

**Saturday February 6<sup>th</sup> – 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 or Sunny Beach Rd. in Qualicum Bay at 9:45. Bring lunch to eat on the spit. Leader: Maggie Little

### 4 **Wednesday February 17<sup>th</sup> - Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo**

The Pacific Biological Station tour is from 10:00am to 12:00. There is a tea room upstairs overlooking Departure Bay where we can purchase lunch. **Meet at C&J at 9:00.** Leader: Ed Wilson

### Monday February 22<sup>nd</sup> : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.

TOPIC: A 45th year celebration of the club and look back at the club's past.

### 4 **Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup> - Deep Bay**

An easy birding and beach walk on a falling tide. In an area which often yields a good variety of seabirds. Hope to see some long-tail ducks! The walk is along slightly uneven terrain. Bring a bag lunch. Meet QBT, 9:30. Leader TBA.

### 4 **Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup> - Qualicum Beach Museum**

Check out the new displays and fossils with Graham Beard. **Meet at 1:00pm at the Museum** 587 Beach Rd, Qualicum Beach. Parking is available across the street at the train station. Leader David Helem

**4 Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup> - Brant in the Bay** Join the naturalists at the eastside of Parksville Bay at the point to view the brant through birding scopes. Learn about about this amazing goose that stops here on on its migration to the artic to fatten up. Public are welcome at this free Brant event. Hours 11 - 3 pm

**Monday March 28<sup>th</sup> : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Graham Beard**, internationally known fossil collector, researcher and paleontology curator. He will be speaking on the Ancient Life of Vancouver Island.

**Wednesday March 30<sup>th</sup> - Englishman River Regional Park**

Enter the park from the Middlegate Rd. end and walk along fish channels through a mature mixed forest to the hatchery. We can also check out the clay bank which threatens Parksville's water supply. There may be some early flowers. Bring Lunch. Wear suitable clothes and shoes for mud. We will need to negotiate a slope to get to the river. Meet C&J, 9:30 Leader TBA

***Sat, April 9<sup>th</sup> Tidal Pools Wall Beach and Beachcomber now June 6th***

**4 Hamilton Marsh Tour**

**Sun. Apr. 17<sup>th</sup> , 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Bring your friends and family to explore this amazing marsh outside Qualicum Beach and learn about the interesting plants and wildlife with the [Friends of French Creek](#) and [Arrowsmith Naturalists](#). Children will discover some wonderful aquatic animals. By donation. To reach the trailhead, turn off Hwy 4 onto Hillier's Road South and drive west 1.4 km.

**Saturday, April 23<sup>th</sup> Comox Bluffs, Courtenay:** Discover the amazing variety of plants, some rare ones, found on the dry hillside. Spectacular views. Wear good treads on this rocky bluff. Bring lunch. Meet: QBT for 9:30 start. We are going to meet the wardens for this Ecological Reserve, Helen & Robbie Robinson, at 10:30 am at the rear of the A&W in Courtenay. To reach there, drive north on Hwy 19, turn right off at Exit 117 which the Comox Valley Parkway which runs into 29th Ave., turn left onto Cliffe at the "T" junction and The A & W is almost immediately on the right. We have moved this outing to Saturday because we have to travel a few kilometres on the Comox Logging Road to access this reserve by the Comox Lake. After reaching the Comox Lake we will cross the Puntledge River and we will be parking about at 400 metres at wide spot on the left. There is about a 30 minute walk through a forest and 5 min climb up a road to the site. Leaders: Pam & David Helem. Here is a link to a website about the Comox Bluffs.

[http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/eco\\_reserve/comoxlker/comox.pdf?v=1460674789413](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/eco_reserve/comoxlker/comox.pdf?v=1460674789413)

**Monday April 25<sup>th</sup> : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Connor Stefanison** of Burnaby, BC received the Rising Star Portfolio Award for a collection of six photographs. The Photography of the Year exhibit is on at the Royal Museum until April 4th.

**Sat, April 30<sup>th</sup> Harewood Plains** This is a blooming splendour well worth catching. Bring Lunch. Meet: C&J 9:30 a.m. Leaders: Duncan Campbell and Lois King

**Wed, May 11<sup>th</sup> Filongley Park and Boyle Point.** We are hoping for lots of blooms on these Denman Island Parks and also see some lingering scoters off Filongley Park. Bring Lunch. Meet QBT **8:30 a.m.**; Sunnybeach 8:45 a.m. for 10:00 a.m. ferry. Leader: Maggie Little

**Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> - 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. Bring lunch Meet C&J 9:30 or N&P 10:00 Leader: Pam and Dave Helem

**Monday May 23<sup>rd</sup> : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Ken Wu**, Executive Director at Ancient Forest Alliance will be speaking on the fight for protecting Canada's remaining Pacific Old Growth Forests and specifically about the spectacular and diverse stands of ancient trees in Vancouver Island's Walbran Valley.

**Wed, June 1<sup>st</sup> - Summit Lake** This is a new area for the Naturalists. There should be lots of biodiversity at the top of the hump on the way to Port Alberni. Bring Lunch. Meet: QBT for a 9:30 start. Leaders: Ron and Toni

**Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> - Tide pools at Beachcomber Park and possibly Wall Beach on Meet at C&J at 12:00 noon.** Low tide is at 1:15. Eagle chicks will be in the nest at Beachcomber. Have an early lunch or bring lunch. We can go to the Rocking Horse Pub after. Leader: Gary Murdock.

**4 Sat, June 11<sup>th</sup> - Springwood Park, Parksville.** Good birding area in this open forest area. Bring Lunch. Meet: C&J for a 9:30 start. Leader: TBA

**4 Wed, June 22<sup>nd</sup> - Trent River, Courtenay.** Come and see the spring flowers and fossils. Bring Lunch. Meet QBT for a 9:30 start. Leader: Tom Constable

**Monday June 27<sup>th</sup> : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Ceri Peacey**, Board member with Friends of French Creek Conservation Society dedicated to the conservation and restoration of the French Creek watershed will have a presentation about her work to protect the Hamilton Marsh wetland, home to an incredible diversity of life

**Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> – ANats Annual PotLuck Picnic ~ 4 pm – 7pm @ Rathrevor Park**  
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. Park in the northend of parking lot # 1 and walk through the old growth trees to the cooking shelter.

**Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup> - Kidfest** in Parksville Community Park. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.:  
The Arrowsmith Naturalists and the Young Naturalists will provide the popular and exciting exhibit on marine life. We rely on Volunteers help. If you wish to help out please contact Lynne Brookes 250. 586.4595.

**Sat., September 10<sup>th</sup> - 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 Leader: Maggie Little

**Sunday, September 18th: 1:30 Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup at Sunnybeach Road, Qualicum Bay**

This event is partnered with the Arrowsmith Naturalist Club and Nature Kids. Please bring gloves and pails will be provided for collecting. *Please note the change in venue, originally this event was going to held at French Creek.*

**Wed., September 21st - Nile Creek:**

Nice forest nature walk along a major creek located just north of Qualicum Bay. Bring a lunch. Meet at the QBT at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Ed Wilson

**Mon., September 26, 2016 : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m. –**

**Bill Merilees.** For more than 50 years, Bill has been travelling the BC Coast from Juan de Fuca to Haida Gwaii looking for clams and snails. If they can pass through a 3mm screen, they are of "special" interest. With Dr. Ian McTaggart Cowan as his mentor, Bill has discovered many new species and documented range extensions into B.C. waters of many others. Bill's topic "What the Shells Tell Us" promises to be 'light-hearted' and enjoyable for all.

**Sunday, October 2nd - Cable Bay, Dodd's Narrows:**

We've timed our outing to be there just before slack water in order to witness the change in current direction. The walk is about 2 km each way. Bring lunch, sit on the rocks and watch the moon at work. Meet 9:30 C & J 10 am N&P (rest stop) Leader: TBA October 12th (Wednesday) - Mushroom Walk: Location, meeting place TBA Leader: Terry Taylor

**Saturday, October 22nd - 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. Leaders: Pam and David Helem

**Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Barb Murray**, a retired educator is passionate about protecting all bears. She is the founder of "Bears Matter" created as a forum to help conserve all species of wild bear populations around the world and co-founder of Justice for BC Grizzlies. Barb's presentation is about the Justice for BC Grizzlies campaign.

**4 Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> - Cumberland Museum, Ponds and Trails:**

Cumberland offers an easy walk along the old Japanese Townsite Trail past a marsh and beaver pond. There is a low spot so wear appropriate footwear. We will also visit the museum. Lunch in town. Meet at 9:30 at QBT or SB 10:00. Leaders: Pam and David Helem

**Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> - Little Q Hatchery:** You'll experience some late fall birding here. There should be lots of fish as well as birds and also some interesting fungi. Meet at 9:30 at QBT Bring Lunch, Leader: Dave Erickson

**Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> – Yellow Point Cranberry Farm:** An opportunity to experience a working cranberry farm during the harvest season. The farm owners are practicing sustainable farming, while preserving the natural values of the land. There will be a nominal charge for the tour. Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:30 or N&P at 10:00. Bring your own lunch or splurge on a lunch at the Crow and Gate Pub. Meet at C&J at 9:30 or N&P at 10:00. Leaders: Chris and Dave Hutchings

**Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup> : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Malcolm McAdie** – Wildlife Veterinarian with the Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Foundation will give an update on the status and recovery of the Vancouver Island Marmots.

**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> - Westwood Lake:**

One smallish hill and a 6 km walk round this attractive lake created about 1906. Lunch at the Blackbear Pub Meet C&J 9:30 or 10:00 N&P. Leaders: Lou & Helen Poncelet

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count**

Be part of the 117th 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.