



BC NATURE ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Front and back Cover photography

**Submitted by Mary Masiel, Sue Elwell, J. Nott
Thank you!**

BC Nature 2019 Annual Report

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President's Report

Kees Visser

Due to the Covid-19 crisis we were forced to postpone the BC Nature Annual General Meeting and Conference from 2020 to 2021. It will continue to be hosted by Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists (VFFN), in Princeton. New dates will be May 27 to 30, 2021. Please check VFFN website (<https://vffn.ca/>) on how to deal with your registration funds for 2020. In summary, VFFN are offering to hold your registration into 2021 or you may apply for a full refund. This cancellation is very unfortunate, since it means duplicating efforts for next year by the VFFN Organizing Committee, reorganizing venue's, caterers, field trip leaders, and speakers. I am very confident that we will enjoy attending the Annual General Meeting and Conference in this area in the Spring of 2021. I would like to thank the Langley Naturalists for originally stepping up to host the 2021 AGM, when no other club came forward. They had already reserved their meeting place and were working hard on other items associated with the conference and due to the change, they have had to cancel all their efforts. The Langley Naturalists Organizing Committee will hopefully step forward to host this great event in the future. Kelowna is still on track for the 2022 AGM. We had to cancel the 2020 FGM, because no club stepped up to organize; this is the first time this has happened and I hope it will be the last time. We continue to look for clubs willing to organize the FGM in 2021 and 2022.

I know many clubs had to adjust or cancel their 2020 outings and programs, but I hope that this crisis will be over by the Fall. I hope I am not being too optimistic! These are tough times, for everybody, and especially for infected people and for businesses. For BC Nature this will also have an effect on our budget, since camps and Conferences will not take place; but with some government assistance, fundraising, and prudence from our Office we should be able to weather the worst.

This will be my last Report. After three years as President, three years as Past President and one year as Vice-President, I am joining the 75+ crowd and it is time that younger members take over. The nominated President, effective May 30, 2020, is our current Vice-President Harry Crosby, who is inheriting a good running volunteer driven organization of 6000+ members. The organization is financially healthy and he should be able to lead with the assistance of the Committees we initiated, the Finance, Outreach/Public Relations, and Governance Committees. The existing Conservation and Education Committees and the Office Manager Betty Davison, recently strengthened with a Communication Administrative assistant Elham Oveisi, also contributed immensely. I am asking your support for Harry; the Board and Harry can only make BC Nature more successful.

Sadly, on April 10 we lost a giant of a man, Tom Bearss, birder and naturalist supreme. His contributions to the BC Nature Foundation, Delta Naturalists and BC Nature were significant. His club, the Foundation and BC Nature are reflecting on how to acknowledge his contributions to Nature.

The Board will lose about 55 years BC Nature experience with Bev Ramey (21 years), Claudia Copley (10 years), Fred McMechan (15 years) and myself (only 7 years) leaving the Board and I would like to thank Bev, Claudia, and Fred for their contributions to Nature.

I am welcoming the Alberni Valley Nature Club in BC Nature as our 52 club. We have received inquiries from Haida Gwaii (Masset), Powell River, and Kimberley.

I would like to thank my spouse Nieke and also the membership for their assistance during the 2014 to 2020 timeframe when I was President and Past President; I have made many acquaintances and friends all over the province. 🐾

Conservation Committee Report Peter Ballin and the Conservation Committee

Below are all the conservation issues that Peter Ballin and the Conservation Committee have responded to within the last twelve months as taken from the various issues of the BC Nature Magazines. All conservation reports from previous issues can be found on the BC Nature website under Members only Area - Publications.

Summer 2019

Mining in the Upper Skagit

- Rodenticides
- Roberts Bank Terminal 2 (RBT2)
- Southern Resident Orcas
- The BC Caribou Recovery Strategy
- Liquefied Natural Gas
- Herring
- Improving Wildlife Management and Habitat Conservation in BC
- Glyphosphate Spraying in Forests
- Salmon and Steelhead
- Some more conservation news picks..
- Wolf Kill
- In Ottawa - In early April Nature Canada sponsored incoming BC Nature President Kees Vissar on a brief trip to Ottawa to meet with government officials and other Nature Canada participants. He spoke with Nature Canada executive members about BC Nature's concerns before meeting with other regional clubs and indigenous representatives. On Nature Day, April 9, he met with MP's Peter Julian, Murray Rankin and Hedy Fry. Peter Julian, the House leader of the NDP and MP for New Westminster/Burnaby, echoed opinions similar to ours on environmental issues, including opposition to the Transmountain pipeline; he believes that the Government will delay their decision on the pipeline until after the election. He supports urban Parks, such as Little Campbell River, and does not support the Roberts Bank expansion. Hedy Fry supports Transmountain, supports more protection of marine areas and urban parks, and got filled in about Roberts Bank by Kees.
- Ministerial conversations began with the preamble that Canada as a country signed on to the Protected Places declaration (Aichi), wherein all signatories committed to 17% protection of land and inland waters and to 10% of sea and coastal areas, by 2020. Canada as a whole has only 10% and 2% respectively, although BC is doing better with 15% and 5%, respectively. Nature Canada and its co-signatories wish to ensure that Canada will follow through on this commitment.
- Kees spent his one minute addressing Minister Catherine McKenna about mountain caribou, the Southern Resident Killer Whales and the Roberts Bank expansion, and also met Fisheries and Oceans Minister Jonathan Wilkinson, who mentioned in a speech that he was committed to protect 10 % of the Marine areas in 2019.
- In Kamloops - Kamloops Naturalists Club member Jesse Ritcey obtained generous 3-year funding from the Lawson Foundation's Next Generation Naturalists program to develop leadership skills in youth to effect positive environmental changes. The program includes raising public awareness through guest speaker events, direct personal engagement, and social media. A 'Master Naturalist' program will train people in citizen science and the natural history of the region, including its first peoples. Using the skills they develop, youth will work with the community to create and implement an ambitious environmental restoration project.
- Parks - The BC government announced 105 hectares of expansion to six Class "A" provincial parks: Bridge Lake Provincial Park in the Cariboo; Harmony Islands Marine Provincial Park along the Sunshine Coast; Kikomun Creek Provincial Park in the Kootenays; Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park in the Okanagan; Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Provincial Park in the Kootenays; and Syringa Provincial Park near Castlegar.

Fall 2019

Your Conservation Committee met at the excellent BC Nature AGM in Duncan in May, where we learned about the historical activities of the Committee from past chairs Anne Murray and Eva Durance, as well as some of Nature Canada's perspectives from Executive Director Graham Saul. Notably, BC Nature, prior to the reign of the BC Liberal Party, had the ear of politicians and a significant role in policy shaping, especially in regard to our parks. Read Bev Ramey's article in this issue for a history of BC Nature's conservation work. Also, Ministers and Deputy Ministers regularly attended our Annual and Fall General Meetings. The Committee agreed that we would seek more meeting time with the appropriate ministers and staff about issues relevant to our members. At the same time, we plan to focus on campaigns initiated by us, asking other ENGO's to join us, and spend less time "putting out fires". We certainly still encourage you, BC Nature's member clubs, to seek BC Nature's support on issues of concern. However, we need you to do the groundwork, as this is the only way we can expand our capacity with our limited volunteer base. In other words, we urge member clubs to look into issues of concern to them before suggesting that the Conservation Committee do this. Then we will vet and put forward. In particular, we hope to give priority to addressing incipient issues so that we can be proactive rather than reactive. Government responses to BC Nature letters are often inadequate and need us to follow-up. The letters that BC Nature sends out and receives can be found under "Conservation" on the BC Nature website.

At the Duncan AGM, David Denning included a fact-filled, passionate appeal for personal action to combat climate change. At the end of his keynote address, he repeated, "I hope that I haven't upset you". And I'm sitting there thinking, "I hope that you did upset us!" Although each of our actions may count for little, our collective action does matter. And it feels good to do the right thing. Think of per/capita output: we Canadians produce 20.94 metric tons of CO2 per person, more than our southern neighbours' 19.9. China: 8.72. Canada is the ninth biggest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the world. We must transition to clean energy, as energy demand continues to rise. According to Natural Resources Canada, only 8 to 11% of Canadian energy production is currently "clean". BC gets 19% from electricity according to the National Energy Board. The Paris Accord target for 2040 is 28% clean energy. The sectors most in need of urgent attention include oil and gas, transportation and buildings. Here is where government policy matters most, and where our personal actions are our votes. In late June I attended a talk by economist Mark Jaccard, a professor in the School of Resource and Environmental Management at Simon Fraser University and an advisor on energy policy to many governments. He urged the audience to assess politicians by their proposed policies rather than promised actions, since the actions to remediate climate change do not come from the politicians, but arise from their policies. We have an election coming up.

- Salmon
- Roberts Bank Terminal 2
- Bear Dens
- The Oil Tanker Moratorium Act
- BC Nature signed on to letters supporting:
 - Bill C-438 Environmental Bill of Rights protection of the offshore "Pacific Deepsea Oasis"
 - examination of the herring fishery
- funding for a Natural Lands Acquisition Fund

Winter 2019

All my relations. I first heard this phrase almost four decades ago in a "prayer sweat": a sweat lodge ceremony at Alkali Lake. I felt honoured to be included, sitting in the dark and the heat on the fragrant Douglas fir boughs, listening to the chanting and the beat of the hand drum as we sat around the hot stones—the grandfathers—acknowledging our relationships. My initial response to the phrase was, "I like this, paying respect to relatives, past and present". It didn't take too long for me to grasp the greater significance of the phrase. Our relations include not only family, not only community, but also all to which we relate. In short, the universe: our food, the air, the water, the plants, the animals, the soil, dwellings, mountains, our parasites...you get it. Is this deep sense of connectivity what we need to act as true conservationists? All my relations.

In this report:

- Climate Crisis Media Release
- Endangered Species Act Meeting
- Environmental Assessment
- Roberts Bank Update
- Logging on Private Property
- Pesticide/Chemicals Update
- Wildlife and Habitat Meeting
- Glyphosate Spraying
- South Coast Conservation Program Meeting
- Disease on Salmon Farms
- Endangered Caribou Update
- Killer Whale Protection
- Liquefied Natural Gas

Spring 2020

BC Nature has a mandate to voice its concerns about conservation. We address those concerns by attempting to stay abreast of issues, and that process requires not only the Conservation Committee, but all of our club members. The Committee acts by supporting campaigns of like-minded organizations, attending meetings, and writing to those who set or institute policy. All letters (found on the BCN website) go out under the President's signature, after review by the Conservation Committee and the Board of Directors. There's more to do than we can do alone! Please report your club's conservation activities to me (pjballin@mac.com) or through the BC Nature office (info@bcnature.ca) so that we may share your efforts. Draft a letter if you have an issue with provincial applicability, and the Conservation Committee will review it, check with you, then send it on with the clout of almost 6000 members!

In this report:

Addressing the Climate Crisis

- Wildlife Management Area Intrusion
- Roberts Bank Update
- Sturgeon Flats Proposed Alterations
- Input to the Provincial Old-Growth Strategic Review Panel
- Support for the Rainbow-Jordan Wilderness Area
- The Federal Aquaculture Act and Opposition to Open Net Pen Fish Farming
- Important Bird Area News
- Wildlife and Habitat: Together for Wildlife, a Pathway Forward for Wildlife and Habitat in BC
- More on Aerial Glyphosate Spraying
- Protecting Bear Dens on Vancouver Island
- Endangered Mountain Caribou
- Discontinuance of the Cougar Pursuit Only Season

N.B.: find any letters that we sent out and received on the BC Nature website. 🙏

Education Committee Report

Education Chair - Margaret Cuthbert

The BC Nature Education Committee has had a quiet winter and are proceeding with activities via the internet.

Naturalist Mentor Program - The committee continues to struggle to receive nominations for member Naturalist Mentors despite ongoing reminders and requests. With BC Nature having 6000 members in 52 clubs, one would not think this would be a challenge! This is an important opportunity for clubs to acknowledge their Naturalist Mentors members and share with the BC Nature community. A nomination requires little time by

the member club to do so. Currently we are preparing the Naturalist Mentor certificates to be presented to those already nominated via the post.

A Science Fair Foundation update has been submitted to the BC Nature summer magazine. In summary, they are working on hosting a Youth Innovation contest for youth 12 -24 years who reside in BC and the Yukon that will include “innovative, new medical devices to a new, sustainable 3D printing process, and everything in between; youth from all areas of BC and the Yukon are invited to pitch their innovative solutions at the Youth Innovation Showcase.

They are also working on a “Virtual Science Fair” across BC and the Yukon for youth who have been working on Science Fair projects throughout the year but most did not have the opportunity to present these projects before the Regional Science Fairs and the Canada-Wide Science Fair had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. The Virtual Science Fair will give students the chance to showcase their amazing work by attending virtual judging sessions to receive feedback and encouragement and for those who wish to have their project posted for public viewing will also have the opportunity. The deadline for submission will be May 31, 2020.”

Scholarships - Scholarship applications are due the end of May. The sub-committee will review them quickly once received and notify the students; we work to completing this by mid June to assist the students with their fall planning.

The Education Committee is grateful that the BC Naturalists’ Foundation agreed to fulfil the scholarship commitment for 2020 but we are disappointed that they have qualified this support with ‘on a year by year’ basis.

Scholarship award articles with student photos will be submitted to the BC Nature Fall magazine once the selection committee has completed the task.

The Education Committee is striving for naturalists’ member participation and has invited those with an interest in nature education to contact me. We have also invited each club to appoint an Education Representative to participate to share their club accomplishments and input to the committee on project activities. There has been little response.

Present committee members have been requested to let us know if they would no longer like to be on the committee or be kept informed, no response. The sustainability and the ability to take on future programs and projects by the Education Committee is a very real concern without an interest from the membership.

Please contact Marg if you or another member would like to participate, email: blueheronmarg@gmail.com

Appreciation is extended to all those who are participating with the committee and working in support of nature education in BC, thank you! 🌿

Office Managers Report Betty Davison

We have finally gone to the next level in the office with staffing. Last year, we had for a short time, a part-time administration assistant. When her full-time dream job came along, she had no choice but to leave us! In the Fall and Winter of 2019, we were very lucky to have, through a grant from SFU Coop, a winter student who was studying communications. Daniel gave us a report on our communications methods and where we needed to focus in our website and social media to start to appeal to younger, potential members. With Daniels report, it enabled me to fine tune the areas of responsibility within the office that were being neglected and needed some manpower to update regularly. In February we hired Elham (article in Spring 2020 Maga-

zine) who is responsible for our website, social media, items such as this report, the magazine and in the future will be responsible for such items as podcasts, webinars and other areas of up and coming social media tools.

Since the Coevide-19 office closure and stay at home orders for most of us, there has been a huge uptick in email enquiries on identification on different birds and wildlife seen in peoples backyards. Thank you to the clubs that have been able to deal with these enquiries. New members in the making?

I am truly sorry for our cancellation of our Annual General Meeting and Conference that has been delayed. I will miss seeing a lot of familiar faces and also the nature education that I always pick up at these conferences.

Thank you Kees Visser, its been a good few years working with you, I will miss brushing-up on my dutch. I thank you for your sage advise and guidance (both times that you were President) and wish you and Nieke all the best in your future! 🍀

Treasurer's Report Mark Kong - Treasurer

Enclosed is the 2019 financial statements, reviewed and signed off by our external accountants. Total assets went up by \$17,812 and total liabilities went up by \$44,211. Net income is consistent with budget. The increase in liability is due to the government sending us the money for our 2020 operations in 2019.

Now onto 2020, as a result of the Coronavirus BC Nature has cancelled the AGM and camps, the latter makes up a significant portion of our total operation revenue. As treasurer, I have recommended the following actions to the Board:

1. Apply for the Emergency Business Loan Account of up to \$40,000 - this loan is interest free until December 2022 and if BC Natures repays \$30,000, the remaining \$10,000 will be forgiven.
2. Apply for the 75% wage subsidy. Should we not qualify for the 75% wage subsidy; consider a temporary layoff of our two employees so that they may qualify for the \$2,000 monthly CERB benefit from the government. This will also cut down on the cost.
3. Apply for the 10% wage remittance reduction

To date (May 9, 2020), the 10% wage remittance reduction is successful however it has been communicated to us by our payroll provider that we are not eligible for the 75% wage subsidy. They have asked the government to reconsider this decision and I hope they are successful or the board will have a very difficult decision to make. 🍀

Club Reports

Club Reports - Kootenay Region Regional Coordinator - Joan Snyder

No reports received from:

- Fernie Nature Club
- Rocky Mountain Naturalists (Cranbrook)
- West Kootenay Naturalists Association

Club Reports - Lower Mainland Region Regional Coordinators - Sheila Puls

No Reports Submitted by:

Alouette Field Naturalists
Bowen Nature Club
Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society
Stoney Creek Environment Society
Sunshine Coast Natural History Society
Surrey Environmental Partners
Whistler Naturalists Society
WildResearch

Abbotsford Mission Nature (AMN) - Submitted by Hank Roos

- Club purchased a solar powered miniature camera to be mounted in Willband Creek Park owl box. City Parks staff will investigate sharing cost
- Refurbished, replaced and added new swallow nest boxes at Willband just in time for return of swallows in early March for a total of 60
- Organized a club visioning meeting with members' input into areas that are of greatest interest for their participation. Also, with a view to attract new people to the executive, we redefined the various roles to make them less onerous. We hope to have a new president in place by this fall.
- We continue to see new members join our club which is very encouraging
- As of this writing we are planning our first virtual exec meeting this evening
- In February 4 our exec >type out whole name = executive> met with Abbotsford Parks staff for our annual meeting to discuss plans and projects for the Hogan Family Nature Park and Willband Creek Park. Our excellent relationship with park staff continues to pay dividends. 🌱

Burke Mountain Naturalists (BMN) – Submitted by Victoria Otton

For us, the highlight of the year was the BC Nature Fall Conference which our club hosted in early October. Approximately 160 naturalists from 34 clubs attended this 3-day event whose theme was 'Celebrating the Joys of Nature'. The conference included celebrations of the 50th anniversary of BC Nature and our club's 30th anniversary. Otherwise, until the Covid crisis in March 2020, it was a typically active year for our club.

As in previous summers, we held a series of evening botany walks. These are unstructured learning opportunities that are a cinch to organize: all that's needed is an agreed-upon meeting place where members show up with their plant guidebooks and sketch pads. We wander around in informal groups, identifying whatever catches our eye. Distances covered are minimal, and so these outings are suitable for all ages.

The BMN Bat Team is now in its fifth year of monitoring bat roosts and foraging sites in local parks. From June through early August, the Team conducted 12 evening monitoring sessions at local regional parks as well as 4 additional surveys on private property. The bats were counted as they emerged from their roosts, and the numbers indicate that bat populations have held steady at the monitored sites. The monitoring is conducted in conjunction with the BC Annual Bat Count. As part of the monitoring program, volunteers collected fresh spring guano from several designated sampling sites, which is analyzed by university and government researchers as part of an early detection program for White Nose Syndrome. The Team also promotes bat conservation and awareness through public bat-walks, and they provide technical advice and support to residents and community groups interested in installing bat boxes. The dedicated team of volunteers is led by John Saremba, who calculated that they contributed 232 person-hours of bat monitoring field work to Metro Vancouver Parks in 2019. In the past several years, this Bat Team has also supported the research conducted by bat biologists and

several Master's biology degree candidates at Colony Farm and Minnekhada Regional Parks. Several members of our BMN Bat Team are also on the organizing committee for the Bat Matters 2020 Provincial Conference which has been postponed until the fall of 2020 due to the Covid-19 situation.

BMN also has a very active hiking group, and they enjoyed about a dozen hikes of various degrees of difficulty over the past year. All hikes planned for the 2020 season so far have been cancelled. An off-shoot of the BMN hiking group is the Pinecone-Burke Stewards. Volunteers work with BC Parks staff doing trail maintenance in the southern portions of Pinecone-Burke Provincial Park.

After a hiatus of several years, BMN's Education & Conservation Committee was re-activated in January. This new energetic group has identified several projects and recruited volunteer participation from our membership. One of their first projects was teaming up with Coquitlam Urban Forestry staff to remove invasive plants at Como Lake Park in Coquitlam. Members also worked on Nature Canada's 'Make Room for Nature' campaign, monitored beavers and herons in Port Moody, and worked with Port Coquitlam Parks staff to remove invasive plants in Blakeburn Lagoons Park.

As for the past 25 years, BMN participated in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. We do this jointly with the Alouette Field Naturalists who cover one half of the Pitt-Meadows count circle and we cover the western half. Our results were marginally lower than average, but we had a record number of volunteer observers (105 keen eyed birders). In terms of birding projects, BMN took a lead role on the organizing committee of the City of Port Moody's first Bird Week celebration. A series of engaging activities were planned for May 2 to 9 with a variety of partners and sponsors contributing to the events. Unfortunately, Bird Week activities in Port Moody had to be cancelled.

On March 18th, we officially suspended all BMN activities for the duration of the Covid crisis. Our members are continuing to enjoy and learn more about nature on their own, and we look forward sharing our discoveries sometime soon.

Although BMN activities have had to be put aside for awhile, we are still actively promoting BMN and BC Nature principles: we now have 688 followers on Facebook, and 938 followers on Twitter. 🐼

Cariboo Heights Forest Preservation Society (CHEPS) - Submitted by Utta Gagel

The Cariboo Heights Forest Preservation Society (CHFPS) has had a big year. This is our first year as a member organization of BC Nature. We changed our name (formerly "The Old Interurban Forest Preservation Society") and updated our constitution to better reflect who we are and what we do. In brief, we work to educate and advocate for the protection of the forest on the north slope of Cariboo Hill, between the established housing and the Brunette River. Currently this land is zoned for development by the City of Burnaby.

Our monthly board meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month (excluding December) at the community meeting room in our local MLA's (Katrina Chen) office. We have switched to paid membership and have grown our membership from 8 to 21 members!

In the Fall, nine members attended an invasive species training workshop, sponsored by the City of Burnaby and the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver. In 2019, our members and volunteers spent 40 hours removing ivy and *Impatiens parviflora* from the forest. To date in 2020, our group has spent 25 hours on ivy removal.

We created an informational display board and participated in several events: World River's Day Celebration at Burnaby Village Museum, "Club Days" at Cariboo Hill Secondary School, and Halloween and Christmas Community Events at our local shopping plaza. We started social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram,

“Burnabys Secret Forest”, and have been posting weekly about the natural history of the forest to build community awareness and support for the forest’s preservation.

We presented four Jane’s Walks through the Cariboo Heights Forest in 2019, and organized a guided Brunette River Salmon walk by Elmer Rudolph, President of the Sapperton Fish and Game Club, for the Mayor Burnaby and several city councillors. Our goal is to lead at least one forest walk for club and community members each month and hope to continue that as soon as it is safe to do so.

We partnered with a local elementary school and sponsored an art project where students learned about the wildlife of the Cariboo Heights Forest and then each student chose an animal or bird to draw or paint. We selected four artworks and printed them as artcards which we sell as a fundraiser for our group.

We sponsored a group of students in the BCIT Fish, Wildlife and Recreation program who completed their capstone project on “i-Tree ecosystem services and baseline inventory of small mammals, vegetation and fish in Cariboo Heights”.

The Covid lockdown has been both positive and negative for the Cariboo Heights Forest. Many more people are now walking through the forest and enjoying it. However, there has been more littering and more environmental damage from increased building of illegal trails, bike jumps and party fire pits.

We continue to be involved in environmental monitoring of the forest and streams, and report issues such as illegal trail and bike jump building, dumping of garbage and garden waste, and party fire pits to the City of Burnaby. After our group’s lobbying, the City of Burnaby has posted “No Dumping” and “Dogs must be leashed” signage at two trail entrances to the forest. 🐾

Nature Chilliwack (NC)- Submitted by Janne Perrin

After a busy autumn and early winter schedule, Nature Chilliwack activities were suspended until further notice due to Covid-19 Health Restrictions. As our AGM was postponed, the executive agreed at a “Skype” meeting to appoint Janne Perrin as interim president with other officers retaining their positions until an AGM can be held. We have tentatively scheduled it, speakers and field trips for the fall subject to the regulations. Our popular FaceBook page features our cancelled speakers on YouTube. Take a look at [www.facebook.com./NatureChilliwack](http://www.facebook.com/NatureChilliwack).

We hosted many noteworthy speakers. In September Biologist Myles Lamont’s talk on Sandhill cranes enlightened us on this iconic bird’s the new genus name of “Antigone” rather than “Grus”. October’s speakers, Rick Mahoney and Matt Fortowsky presented important information on invasive species in the Fraser Valley. Lina Azeez, in November, gave a great presentation on Watershed Watch Salmon Society’s work to map salmon streams and improve aquatic habitats. Members’ night in January had presentations on butterflies, Tumbler Ridge BC Nature Field Camp, Camp Slough Wildlife Area, a spring 2019 photo show and a dissertation on nuts versus berries. In February, Jasper Lament of the Nature Trust of BC presented an informative talk on the properties owned by this organization founded in 1971.

Until March 2020, Nature Chilliwack enjoyed many field trips. At Blackies Spit in September a Long-billed Curlew and a Caspian Tern were enjoyed as well as meeting up with some Delta Nats including the late Tom Bearss. Rest in Peace Tom, you will be missed. Chilliwack Valley’s Angel-wings Fish Channel in October had a plethora of mushrooms including Black Elfin Saddle (pictured), Bird’s Nest & Red Jelly Tongue fungi. At Reifel Bird Sanctuary in November, a pair of Short-eared owls called to each other to coordinate an attack on a Northern Harrier. Our final trip before shut down was to McDonald Park in February 2020. Here the Great Blue Herons fussed over their nests closely watched by the resident eagles.

Denis Knopp coordinated the Chilliwack and Harrison River Christmas 2019 Bird Counts. The Harrison Count on December 17 had 75 species and the Chilliwack Count, December 14, netted 101 species. Janet Pollock coordinated the Pot Luck Supper at the Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve afterwards.

Our bird brochure is in its final stages. Descriptions for 54 species have been written and final photos decided. Printing should take place in the next month or so. Funding was from BC Nature Foundation and Nature Chilliwack's Valerie Whetter Endowment Fund.

Despite having to cancel our monthly maintenance sessions, our Camp Slough Wildlife Area (CSWA) stewards, Denis Knopp and Lee Larkin, have tilled the field, planted Big Leaf Maple, evergreens and introduced cattails and Bog Buckbean into the riverside benches. The area attracts much wildlife. Observed recently were eagles, swallows, Chickadees, Bushtits, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, flickers, Song Sparrows, towhees, Barred Wwl, Anna's Hummingbirds, geese, Woodducks, Bufflehead, Tiger Beetles, Mining Bees and two species of butterflies. CSWA is a Nature Trust Property.

On the conservation front, Nature Chilliwack commented on the Elk Mountain Gondola Proposal situated on Crown Land. The development would impact multiple SAR and provincially listed species that are sensitive to habitat degradation, fragmentation and to impacts of trail building and increased human activity.

Chilliwack Field Naturalists Club has successfully, over the past few months, rebranded as Nature Chilliwack with a new logo and website www.naturechilliwack.ca. Scott Denkers is the new web master. Our new name reflects a 49-year old club keeping up with 21st century practices. 🌱

Delta Naturalists Society (DNS) - Submitted by Anita den Dikken

The most important and the saddest news was the passing of our President, Tom Bearss on Easter Friday. He was stricken with pancreatic cancer and despite valiant efforts to seek and apply treatments other than the Big Three, he succumbed. In honour of his memory, and to further his desire to educate young people about nature, Delta Nats. is in the process of establishing the Tom Bearss Bursary. He will be commemorated in other sections of this annual report.

In other sad news, Elizabeth Perrin who is very active on the DNS Executive, lost her husband Derek in April as well.

An important initiative undertaken by our Club was a Program Review. This started earlier in 2019 and involved interested club members meeting to brainstorm and discuss initiatives to improve our club, to expand club activities and to encourage new memberships. These activities culminated in the completion of a report entitled "Moving Forward, 2020 - 2024". It laid out the framework for a five-year plan, with annual initiatives to be determined by the Club executive. This Report was presented to the membership at one of our meetings and was endorsed, with suggestions coming from the floor.

At the end of March, the federal environmental review panel struck to review the proposal for Roberts Bank Terminal 2 (RB2T) released their report. They neither endorsed nor denied the RBT2 proposal. Rather, their report was divided into sections on various environmental concerns, each of which they addressed. Roger Emsley, DNS member and prominent member of APE (Against Port Expansion) believes that on the whole, the report emphasizes the environmental degradation of the lower Fraser Delta that this project would result in. The final decision will come from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and cabinet. We are urged to express our concerns in writing to the Minister as well as to our local M.P.

In October, Delta Nats. co-sponsored an all-candidates' meeting on environmental issues. This event was very well attended and candidates were asked to respond to some very relevant local environmental concerns.

The emergence of COVID19 has meant the cancellations of normal club activities such as our monthly meetings and the casual weekly birding walks. Regardless, our members do get out on their own and have again spotted the Mountain Bluebird, and a most unusual sighting of a magpie. As well, one of our members has organized the Backyard/Balcony Bird Challenge running in April. 18 members registered and amongst themselves have spotted and heard over 90 species.

Unfortunately, our annual Birds in Focus public event in which talented photographers share their pictures of birds and other wildlife had to be cancelled. Ditto for the annual Bird Week activities, including a much anticipated presentation by Dr. Rob Butler on corvids as well as the showing of the documentary "*The Future of Birds*" by Jocelyn Demers.

The Delta Birds and Biodiversity Committee has continued to work with the City of Delta to establish Delta as safe and environmentally friendly habitat for our winged friends. Unfortunately, second generation rat poisons still continue to be used to trap rats, and thus, this poison can find its way into raptor species. One way to combat rats and other pests is to establish homes for owls on agricultural lands. Delta Nats. has responded particularly to requests from blueberry farmers to erect owl residences on their farms.

I do not want to leave without mentioning that this same Biodiversity Committee has set its sights on documenting in pictorial and narrative formats, the various insects, plants, mammals, fungi and seashore creatures which inhabit Delta.

That's "all she wrote", and probably this is more than enough. 🐼

Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society (FOSB) - Summited by Marg Cuthbert

With the cancellation of many meetings, events and activities, our volunteers are currently self isolating leaving more time home projects! Community volunteers continued their ongoing commitment to stewardship in the Boundary Bay watershed through the late fall and winter as much as possible including:

- Conducting a wetland/seepage planting in late October 2019 off the north and east forest trail along the Little Campbell River to increase the biodiversity of the riparian forest;
- Monitoring of the forest trail and forest for plant presence and success;
- Co coordinating and planting a 'Garry oak' garden at the Dart's Hill Native Plant Garden in the late fall 2019;
- Conducting a planting at the White Rock Native Plant Demonstration Garden (WRNPDG) in late October 2019 with replacement and new plant species;
- Conducting a native plant gardens cleanup workparty in March;
- Organizing and ordering new replacement botanical signage for the WRNPDG, to be installed once city barriers are removed;
- Completing a new 18" x 36" wildflower interpretive sign and installing it at a northwest location near the river where perennial wildflowers were planted;
- Moving the barn owls interpretive sign to the location where the barn owls raise young each year at the Little Campbell hatchery property;
- Planning eight free public events including a Native Plant Garden Tour, Shorekeepers training workshop, marine discovery walks, eelgrass and marine creatures presentation and beach walk, a shoreline cleanup, a migratory bird day event, a World Ocean Day event, enhancement project work parties and in partnership, a Get To Know Your River event - all cancelled due to the Covid-19 protocols of social distancing;
- Launching of the 2020 Beach Hero Marine Interpretive program is uncertain at this time;
- Participation in Surrey Development Corporation compensation works input meeting in the expanded Campbell Heights East industrial lands development and submitting recommendations to the proposed plant list;
- Launching a Birding Trail project for the Boundary Bay, Fraser delta watershed in partnership with Birds

Canada and the Delta Naturalists;

- Giving six class presentations and leading 6 classes of students for marine discovery and birds in focus during the fall and early winter;
- Distributing the coastal native plant brochures and Birds of Surrey brochures to project partners, organizations and libraries to further engage community;
- Continuing weekly bird surveys at Blackie Spit;
- Ongoing postings to our Facebook page;
- Ongoing monitoring of eelgrass in Boundary Bay conducted by satellite imagery;
- Ongoing co-ordination of the Shared Waters Alliance working group and participation in the February 18th stakeholders' meeting;
- Continue to lobby the City of White Rock to re-install the natural history signage we developed now that their 'Memorial Park' is completed;
- Completing and submitting our DFO Public Involvement program final report;
- Writing a summary of FoSBS and the LCWS historical and current involvement at the Little Campbell hatchery (SF&GC property) and submitting to the City of Surrey;
- Conducting the FoSBS Board and team meeting on the internet with the ZOOM tool.

The Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society will continue to do all we can for conservation and education in the Boundary Bay watershed during these unprecedented times. 🦋

Langley Field Naturalists - Summited by Kathy Masse

The Langley Field Naturalists looked forward to our coming year full of field trips, exciting talks, community events and projects. Here we are at the end of April, with some activities stopped and are making adaptations because of the COVID-19 shutdown.

Our usual slate of excellent speakers at each monthly meeting included Alan Burger BC Nature's Past President on his voyage to Antarctica. Also, member Dr. David Clements presented Australia's "Mesmerizing Mammals, Implausible Plants & Absurd Birds!" We had an average of two field trips each month, including to Brydon Lagoon and Blackie Spit. Our community activities included participating in Campbell Valley Country Celebration with our Butterfly display board and butterfly activities for kids, Rivers Day at the end of September, followed by Heritage Apple Day in October. The LFN also participated in the Surrey/White Rock /Langley Christmas Bird count on December 28th, and we also took part in the Langley section of the Alouette count on January 4th. On February 29th, many members participated in the Fort Langley Bird Count.

To celebrate the Langley Field Naturalists 50th Anniversary in 2023, members will produce a history book of our activities and accomplishments. At our first history book meeting in January, we considered a list of subjects. A copy of the 50th-anniversary history report done by the Vancouver Natural History from 1999 served as an example. We now have to research our early days and have a long list of conservation projects to study before we can begin our writing.

We wanted a lasting memorial for our long-time member Rhys Griffiths who contributed so much to the Langley Field Naturalists before he passed away. Rhys lived on Brydon Lagoon, making it appropriate to install a memorial there. After Langley City approved our proposal we got to work. We found a stonemason, reviewed rock sizes, colours, shapes; set a budget; met with his family regarding the inscription; we even needed to select the best font! Many thanks to our member Lilianne for all her work on this! The City installed it along with three trees on April 24; however, due to COVID-19 restrictions there were no attendees. A proper ceremony will occur at a later date.

To celebrate Earth Day and to engage other stewardship groups and the public, we began planning an event. To start, we applied for and received a grant from the Township of Langley for funding and an organ-

izing committee was formed. We met to set the date, discuss a venue, plan the refreshments, map out the room for placement of tables, and decide what audio and electrical equipment we needed. We invited local environmental groups to attend and bring interactive displays.. However, because of COVID-19 restrictions announced mid-March, our event is postponed until Earth Day 2021.

The Forslund Watson Committee continues to work at maintaining and improving the habitat for this nature reserve we manage with the Province. As the team worked cleaning the bat boxes they developed a growing interest about bats and their value. They applied to BC Nature and received a support grant for their Bat Exploration Project. This grant will partially fund the purchase of an Echo Touch 2 Pro meter, and other miscellaneous items to conduct bat monitoring. The project has a goal of allowing Langley Field Naturalists to identify areas in Langley where bats frequent and possibly identify roosting sites. The use of this meter will also allow us to identify species which will further our work to conserve bats and educate the public. Our meter has been purchased! We now have our “technical team” to help us work out the kinks before we launch phase 2 of our Bat Exploration Project.

We continued with our surveys at the Milaster property, as requested by the Township of Langley. In our preliminary study, we found two species of concern, the Oregon Forest Snail and the Pacific Sideband Snail. Japanese Knotweed, an invasive species, has also been observed. Several members met in November at the property to blaze trails and catalogue plant and animal species for the biodiversity study. The Township of Langley demolished the buildings on the property late in 2019 and LFN could not access the property until the work was finished. In March, we were able to return to continue a plant and animal survey. Signs of spring were visible with fawn lilies and snowdrops, beaver and raccoon tracks, and heron footprints.



Langley Field Naturalists enjoying Brydon Lagoon’s natural beauty on a summer evening! Photo: John Gordon

The Display Committee decided that this year’s display theme is Wetlands, and they needed to provide exhibits and activities to support this. The committee designed a Wetland Poster for the stand-up display board with pictures of wetland creatures and plants contributed by members. They found a new craft online with cut-outs of wetland birds and animals to be coloured and folded into 3D works of art.

A Crow Roost study in south Aldergrove (16 Ave and 252 St) was started in January. The goal was to get a baseline number of crows in the roost by counting as the crow commute enters at the end of the day. Over three evenings, observers watched from several locations. Gathering at 4:30 pm for the first survey on January 21st, observers watched the crows gathering from all directions and heading into the roost, vying for the best positions and roost for the night. The average total for the three nights was 37,000 crows! Another survey will take place in February 2021 for comparison.

The David Hancock foundation asked for volunteers from the LFN to watch and report activity at Bald Eagle nests in our area. With a map of nest locations for the project, observers are looking for eagles sitting on a nest, possibly laying eggs and raising young.

LFN volunteered to host BC Nature’s AGM in 2021 because no other club had offered. We formed an enthusiastic committee to find a venue, speakers and field trip leaders. Through meetings and dedicated volunteers, we successfully booked a site and found committed speakers and field trip leaders. However, in April, due to the coronavirus restrictions, the Princeton’s 2020 AGM was cancelled and rescheduled to 2021. The LFN AGM plans will now be postponed and we are looking forward to attending the 2021 AGM hosted by the Vermillion Forks Naturalists in Princeton.

In May, we will hold our Executive meeting on Zoom to plan our AGM, usually held in June. An online AGM is a possibility for holding our elections and approving our financial statements. The process of “Our Volunteer of the Year Award” can be explored.

Many shared reports from Langley Field Naturalists relate to exploring and enjoying Nature on their own during this time. I look forward to normalcy when we can resume enjoying Langley’s natural beauty together again! 🌿

Little Campell Watershed Society (LCWS) -Submitted by Dave Riley

LCWS Partner groups continue to work for the Little Campbell River and its watershed through advocacy, enhancement projects, citizen science and education. Activities include:

- An invasive removal and planting conducted in late October in two seepage areas near the river on the LC Hatchery property;
- A H. blackberry removal and tree/ shrub planting conducted by A Rocha partners along the main stem of the LCR on the LC Hatchery property;
- A hosting the Canucks Autistic Network with their leaders and youth again out to do more invasive plant removal;
- A monthly bird surveys continuing to be conducted by A Rocha partners and also including Western toad and Salish sucker surveys despite their having to lay off staff and shut down their intern program;
- Ongoing co-coordination with A Rocha and FoSBS of the Shared Waters Alliance multi agency, NGO working group and LCWS participation in the February 18th stakeholders’ meeting;
- Funding confirmed for the Shared Waters Alliance that will include water quality sampling at sites of concern;
- Funding also secured for two fish ladders to replace old culverts that impede salmon migration on the Little Campbell River;
- A successful grant application to the BC Naturalists’ Foundation for funding in support of the Sandhill Crane monitoring project led by biologist Myles Lamont;
- Participation in Surrey Development Corporation compensation works input meeting in the expanded Campbell Heights East industrial lands development and submitting recommendations to the proposed plant list;
- Installing a new wildflower interpretive sign at the SAR location near the river where perennial wildflowers have been planted;
- Conducting an invasive plant removal and cutting of E. Holly trees along the forest trail in March and ongoing;
- Contributing to the writing of a summary of FoSBS and the LCWS historical and current involvement at the Little Campbell hatchery (SF&GC property) and submitting it to the City of Surrey;
- Conducting the LCWS Board meeting on the internet with the ZOOM tool hosted by A Rocha partners;
- Monitoring of the forest trail and surrounding forest for plant presence and growth success;
- Meeting and advising representatives of the Douglas Residents Association concerning the hydrogen sulphide being emitted from the feedlot property and attending a meeting with them and the new federal MP;
- Hosted a tour of the Little Campbell River with Township of Langley Mayor and two Councillors to specific sites along the river showing concerns, further tours to be planned when time allows;
- Ongoing site visits and letters submitted to the City of Surrey concerning development proposals;
- * ongoing monitoring of the galvanizing plant health and environmental concerns and participation in Environmental Appeal Board hearings;
- Ongoing monitoring of environmentally sensitive areas and follow up to agencies of those concerns;
- Ongoing input to the City of White Rock and FLNRO concerning dogs off leash on beaches of Boundary Bay (wildlife disturbance and water quality problems);
- Planning for a second Get To Know Your River event with April 25th being cancelled due to the Covid-19 clo-

tures. LCWS members continue to work hard to increase knowledge and promote the Little Campbell River Urban Park Corridor initiative;

- Completion of the new Little Campbell Watershed Society website, www.littlecampbellriver.org - now up and live! 🐦

Nature Vancouver (NV) - Submitted by Bev Ramey & Janet Snell

Nature Vancouver's weekly enews has continued over the year to keep members up to date on club activities and announcements from other organizations. Sadly, on March 16th Thursday evening presentations had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19. Then on March 20th field trips were also cancelled. Our weekly enews and website continues to keep members involved, with photos, members' blogs on walks, evening zoom presentations and poetry. Members' postings have ranged from explorations of neighbourhood parks "just down the block", to sightings of native fawn lilies in unexpected locations, to backyard birds. There are many wildlife sightings even in this big city.

Thursday evening speaker presentations – now using Zoom: We have recently organized speaker presentations using Zoom, facilitated by Denis LaPlante. Attendance at the Zoom presentations has increased to an audience of eighty computers (some with two people viewing). We are planning to hold our AGM in late May, online. Prior to March, each Nature Vancouver section (Birding, Botany, Marine Biology and General) had organized weekly speaker presentations with crowds attending!

Scholarships/Bursaries increase for 2020: Eighteen applications were received for our Nature Vancouver scholarship this year, which may be a record number. Due to the hardships presented by the Covid-19 crisis, the board decided to award two scholarships this year; one each for under-graduate and graduate students. We will also be awarding small bursaries to each applicants to assist with their education. We're thankfully able to do this given a special donation last fall from member John Coope, who donated his Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Museum of Nature.

Summer Camps: Our planned July 2020 summer camp at Big Bar Ranch near Clinton has been postponed for a year due to Covid-19. This postponement is especially disappointing as some Vancouver NatureKids families had booked to attend.

In summer 2019, two very successful summer camps were held at "Niut Lakes", an alpine area to the west of Tatlayoko Lake in the Chilcotin. In the Nature Vancouver tradition, campers set up a self-supporting camp for a week of hiking, botanizing and birding. A report on this camp (with a full species list) is included in the Fall 2019 edition of the Discovery magazine. <https://naturevancouver.ca/publications/discovery/>

The Niut camps were led by Peg Neilon and Nigel Peck. Nigel has headed the Camp Committee for many years. In response to a plea for new volunteers, a team has stepped forward to continue the tradition, under Diane Fast, Sally McDermott and Janet Snell.



Anna's Hummingbird
Photo by Ron Long

Field Trips, Christmas Bird Count and Socials: A full range of field trips from May to March included among others; a one-day excursion to Smuggler's Cove Marine Park, Sechelt for a day filled with marine wetland botanizing and birding, several Marine Biology explorations of Boundary Bay, day trips to local hiking areas such as Blue Gentian Lake and Cheakamus Lake, a boat tour of Indian Arm, fungi walk at Lighthouse Park and many birding day trips.

Nature Vancouver members organized and participated in the Annual Christmas Bird Count on December 14th, 2019. A total of 126 species were counted, higher than last year's count. Impressive too was the record-high number of volunteers (207) this year! An excellent post-count dinner capped the day; we all enjoyed the food prepared by

Susan Garber and her partner Nigel Peck. Earlier in December, members also enjoyed an evening Christmas Social. Last summer a lovely afternoon social was held at VanDusen Gardens.

Conservation activities: Members were encouraged to write letters on logging in the Skagit –Manning donut hole to government to halt logging (effort by many successful). Current focus is writing letters to the federal government to deny the proposal for the Roberts Bank Terminal 2, as the final report from the Review Panel has been released and government will



Leucistic Raven, photo by William Winslowhansen winner of Wild Things photo contest

soon make its decision. Members have attended meetings and urged environmentally focussed improvements to the ten-year project to upgrade the Iona Island Waste Water Treatment Plant. The Climate Crisis statement approved at BC Nature’s FGM was publicized on Nature Vancouver’s website and weekly enews.



Pink fawn lily, Queen Elisabeth Park. Photo by Bengul Kurtar

Publication Discovery: Nature Vancouver’s annual journal of natural history will now be published annually. The late fall 2019 edition and past issues are available online at: <https://naturevancouver.ca/publications/discovery/>

Exhibition: Wild Things - The Power of Nature in Our Lives: Co-produced by Nature Vancouver and the Museum of Vancouver, this feature exhibition ran for a year and a half, closing late January 2020. It was awarded the BC Museum Association Award of Merit last fall. Elena Klein led a team of Nature Vancouver volunteers from the first concept of the exhibition to its conclusion.

In Memoriam: It is with sadness that we remember members who have passed on:

Joseph Lin (1954-2020) <https://bit.ly/2SSUOQC>

Adrian Grant-Duff (1939-2019) See p. 6 in this issue of Discovery <https://bit.ly/2WI4dTI>

Hugh Hamilton (1930-2020) <https://bit.ly/2WMGytR> 🐾

Squamish Environment Society (SES)- Submitted by Rachel Shephard

Our club is small but our enthusiasm is large! We have 27 individual and 11 family memberships. We do not limit our activities to members – and indeed many of our programs seek to engage the general public in exploring and enjoying nature, creating and sharing knowledge, and preserving natural ecosystems.

Like everyone, we have had to adjust to the limitations posed by COVID-19. We are finding Zoom to be a really useful tool, for board meetings and training sessions, and that social media engagement is up. We have managed to continue many of our programs in modified fashion.

Discovery Walks and Biodiversity Squamish - Our Discovery Walks provide an opportunity to explore different ecosystems within the Squamish watershed and record observations for our Biodiversity Squamish project. Unfortunately we have had to suspend our Discovery Walks, but On April 1st, we co-hosted a free Zoom Webinar where participants learned about easy tools to capture and record the biodiversity of the Atl’ka7tsem/Howe Sound region.

iNaturalist experts, Kelly Fretwell Citizen Science Coordinator with BC Parks Foundation and Judith Holm of Biodiversity Squamish, demonstrated the apps and answered questions. Report-A-Weed specialist Mike Shasko Invasive Species Database Specialist with Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development explained the value of Report-A-Weed from staff working behind the scenes. Ruth Simons talked about the

value of this information within a Biosphere Region and the upcoming projects where volunteers can contribute.

Western Toad Monitoring Project - This is the second year of our Western Toad Monitoring Project, in collaboration with BC Parks. Social distancing protocols and park closures came into effect just as the breeding season began. We held online training seminar for volunteer on April 3rd and a special exemption was granted from the Alice Lake Provincial Park closure, to allow us to conduct breeding surveys. Modified survey protocols are in place to maintain appropriate social distancing and eliminate the need for shared equipment. A short intense breeding period, over the course of about seven days, provided some spectacular viewing opportunities, as well as photos and video footage. Now the eggs are just about ready to hatch. <https://bit.ly/3clELTr>

Squamish Birders - Our scheduled monthly bird counts have been suspended. Instead, individual surveyors or couples from the same household have taken responsibility for specific areas, submitting their results electronically to a central compiler. American white pelicans were spotted in the estuary on April 29. An unusual sighting for our area. <https://bit.ly/3cn7IUq>

Purple Martin Nest Box Program - Additional purple martin nest boxes have been installed on pilings in the Squamish estuary. The nest boxes are challenging to monitor from shore, as they are well out in the central channel and so a camera has been installed, to help monitor nest box use. Informal monitoring is underway by some of our keen birders and a female purple martin was recently sighted. Stay tuned for more results!

Wildlife Corridors Initiative and Estuary Conservation - Behind the scenes networking and information gathering continues, to support the development of wildlife corridors within Squamish.

We recently completed the first phase of our Squamish Estuary Conservation Priorities Report update and will soon be starting phase two. The report will update work originally conducted in 2003 and will assess any changes to the estuary's ecosystem components, review recent scientific studies and reports, assess current opportunities and threats, and make recommendations on current conservation needs and priorities.

Social Media – Earth Day and Bird Day - Our plans for a live Earth Day event were postponed until 2021. Instead, our new Social Media Coordinator, Christopher DiCorrado, did a Facebook blast for the week preceding Earth Day, including a post that featured garbage art by our Chair Carl Halvorson. Next up, we will be highlighting ways to celebrate Bird Day while staying close to home! (Photograph right)

Carl also wrote a guest column for our local paper, highlighting volunteer opportunities with SES. <https://bit.ly/3bmqvbn> (Photo right)

Eagle Watch and Brackendale Winter Eagle Count - We had another successful Eagle Watch season, despite low numbers of eagles. <https://bit.ly/2Airuwl>

Volunteer interpreters shared their knowledge with visitors to Eagle Run dike in Brackendale, from early November through early January. Our education program reached schools and community groups throughout the Sea to Sky region. Our team also helped freshen up the carvings on the Eagle Run viewing shelter.

Next year is the 25th Anniversary of Eagle Watch and the planning has already begun. We are grateful to the District of Squamish for approving a \$3,000 Community Enhancement Grant to help fund the upcoming season, as well as the support of our other donors.



Our MP, Patrick Weiler, joined us for a very wet Brackendale Winter Eagle Count on January 5, 2020. This gave us an opportunity to talk to him not only about eagles and salmon, but also the Federal Government's action plan to meet biodiversity targets. <https://bit.ly/2zuGqHr> 🐦

White Rock & Surrey Naturalists (WRSN) - Submitted by Carol Monaghan

Clean up of the Nicomekl Riverbank (known as the Leona project): This project began in 2015 under the leadership of the late Leona Breckenridge. Leona was leading a group of children on a field trip when one youngster asked what all the white stuff was on the other side of the Nicomekl River. When Leona investigated, she found the riverbank thick with polystyrene, both large chunks and pebble sized, which originated in the nearby marina. When the project began, it was necessary to have large bins to take away the debris. At each clean-up since 2015, the amount of debris has lessened. In March, 27 volunteers collected 15 bags of debris, 6 large blocks of foam, some tires, and other large items. A crew from the City of Surrey were able to remove the rubbish in a small truck.



Clean up of the Nicomekl Riverbank (known as the Leona project)

A Resolution prepared by WRSN urging the Ministry of the Environment and its provincial counterparts to enact legislation that bans the use of un-encapsulated expanded polystyrene in all new and replacement dock facilities, public and private, in all freshwater, estuarine and marine environments has been in the hands of the Federal Government for many months. We have no update on the status of this resolution.

Street Clean-up: Volunteers continue to take part several times a year to remove litter from the streets near Sunnyside Urban Forest.

Birding Walks: We plan to continue our birding walks on the first Saturday of each month as soon as it is considered safe to do so.

Environmental Issues: WRSN members take part in writing letter and attending meetings as stakeholders in the Boundary Bay / Fraser River and local Surrey ecosystems e.g. Serpentine Fen, Green Timbers. They attend meetings with Metro Vancouver regarding Campbell Valley Park Management plan; Translink and MLA Rachna Singh regarding Skytrain through Green Timbers. They attend public events for 4 Seasons at the Serpentine Fen; BC Nature FGM and regional meeting; the David Hancock Eaglefest; Surrey 4 Future meetings on Climate Crisis; Ocean Park Beautification meetings; Surrey Parks Dogs off Leash at Blackie's Spit re signage and solutions; and Surrey Environmental Partners meetings. Liz Walker, president of WRSN, estimates her volunteer hours for this work at 364 hours. Nan Ames (the WRSN rep on the Boundary Bay Conservation Committee) estimates her volunteer hours on that committee at 179 hours.

The environmental impacts, i.e. road edge effects that will stem from road expansion and introduction of Skytrain along the Fraser Highway corridor through Green Timbers Urban Forest are of increasing concern given that Skytrain will introduce additional impacts, such as noise, lighting and wildlife collisions with train cars in the midst of the forest canopy. Extreme concerns persist over the impacts of the expansion of Deltaport and also the industrial developments proposed next to the Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area. The rapid pace of development in our area requires some vigilance and as problems arise, we need to raise the issue and work to resolve the problems.

Education: WRSN participated in the following activities: Monthly Saturday morning nature walks; Metro Vancouver Campbell Valley Regional Park Nature House and education group; Surrey's Environmental Extravaganza including hosting four events, two being The Artful Interpretation of Nature and two being The Mystery of the Chrysalis; Party for the Planet; the Sunnyside Heritage Society event; Surrey's World Wetlands Day; Environmental Extravaganza wrap up meeting; Kwantlen Polytechnique University Eco Days; Campbell Valley Country Celebration. We also met with SNAP coordinator to discuss SNAP plans and organized Blackies Spit orientation presented by Viveka Ohman. Participation continued on the Eva Bene Garden Stewardship project and butterfly garden.

Society Highlights: WRSN partners with Surrey Parks, Metro Vancouver and with local BC Nature Societies such as the Langley Field Naturalists, the Delta Naturalists and Boundary Bay Conservation Committee. Gareth Pugh works with our members to organize the White Rock Christmas Bird Count and we have a number of guests who continue to show interest in what we have to offer.

Bequest From The Estate OF John Halliday McCare: Portions of this generous bequest have been allocated to UBC Urban Forestry dept. (amount to be matched by UBC creating \$100,000); to Simon Fraser University / BCIT and to Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Funds have also been committed for the Serpentine Wildlife Area, to Surrey Parks for the McCrae Copse, Surrey Cares, and to Nature Kids. The speaker for our March meeting was Kate O'Neill, the recipient of the John Halliday McCrae Graduate Scholarship in Ecological Restoration. Surrey Parks is working on the McCrae Copse at Elgin Park and our members will be invited to participate in the planting to occur sometime later this year.

Climate Emergency: This past year saw the City of Surrey adopt a resolution regarding the Climate Emergency due to the efforts of youth in our City and region. One of our members has been asked to work with a new youth group named SPARK on this issue.

Light Pollution In Our Community: One of our members, Janet MacIntosh, has approached the City of Surrey about light pollution particularly in regard to new developments and they appear positive in working with WRSN in development of lighting policy.

Social Media: Our Face Book continues to attract many people with interesting photos and articles. Our newsletter is sent out quarterly to the members.

Membership & Meetings: We currently have 67 members. Our monthly speakers continue to attract many visitors to our meetings. Meetings will resume when it is safe to do so. We had planned a social get-together in the summer but this may have to be postponed. 🙏

Yorkson Watershed Enhancement Society (YWES) - Submitted by Kathy Masse

Yorkson Watershed Enhancement Society planned a very busy year with many environmental activities each month. Through fall and winter we accomplished a lot, but, as with all of us, our planned events came to an abrupt halt in mid-March due to the COVID-19 crisis.

September began with YWES participating in Langley's Rivers day on a rainy Sunday afternoon where despite the weather, there was a good turnout. Our reusable t-shirt bag giveaway was popular. Then we had a successful garbage pick-up on October 19th beginning at Yorkson Community Park and continuing along to several trails and collecting many bags of trash.

At the end of October we began our annual salmon survey monitoring the Yorkson and its tributaries, East and West Munday Creeks. We saw nothing all through November, deciding that the lack of fish was caused by low water levels. Alas, despite the ensuing rain and our perseverance we never saw any returning fish. Other stewardship groups reported the same sad results. This spring no fry have been sighted in our creeks either.

In November, we began applying for grants for a MiniBioblitz kit. The kit was needed to enhance our annual MiniBioblitz held each June. We needed to assemble a kit with good quality equipment including a microscope, a sweep net, a burllese funnel, ID books, a water sampling kit and more. After calculating the approximate cost of these items we proceeded with a grant application to BC Nature, a second to be applied for through Langley's Rotary Club. At the end of February we were delighted to receive notification from BC Nature that we are recipients of this most useful grant. Now we will get busy shopping for the items we need before June.



YWES & RBC with their families at Derby Hills Park rehabilitating the wetland by planting willow whips! Photo Lisa Dreves

In December, a staff member of the Township of Langley (TOL) reached out to YWES for input concerning the Yorkson Lowlands, currently a degraded wetland. TOL wanted to rehabilitate it as a functioning wetland. They wanted to increase flood stage capacity by enhancing ecosystem characteristics, pond and wetland creation and restoration of riparian vegetation. We prepared a series of questions to ensure the project will benefit our watershed and community and gladly met with him in January, with a satisfactory exchange of ideas on both sides. After the meeting, and at the request of the Township, YWES wrote a letter of support to accompany TOL grant applications for this project.

Our President watches the development in Willoughby closely to ensure construction is following environmental regulations. When concerns are found like hoses leaking dirty water into the creek he follows up with TOL's Erosion and Sediment Control Bylaw officer who assesses the sites and requires follow up to protect the creek. As well, YWES members noticed that, at the north side of the culvert being constructed under Highway 1 for the passage of fish, that there were obstructions and failing slopes, and a lack of security fences. Through our notifications both the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTH) and eventually the DFO responded back with updates, and these problems were corrected.

Members are pushing the TOL to develop a Tree Canopy Strategy. The Township has amended their budget and cut funding for some projects due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will have to wait to see if a Tree Canopy Strategy is developed this year.

Our members are concerned about mandatory use of single-use wristbands for clients that use TOL's recreation facilities. The use of these wristbands and disposal is against efforts to move towards sustainable, zero-waste, low emission practices. Our group has been told they are collected and recycled when shipped back to Dupont in the eastern US. However, we have discovered many of these wristband collection bins end up being "contaminated" when regular waste is thrown into the recycling container. Contaminated bins are not recycled and instead end up in the garbage. More concerning to our watershed is they are often found strewn about the surrounding grounds of our community centres adjacent to waterways. They eventually break down into micro plastics and will end up in the food chain of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. We have been corresponding with Township staff and Councillors about our concerns for the past year. A member was to present our views at the next meeting of Langley's Parks, Culture and Recreation Committee, which helps advise Mayor and Council on policy. However, this meeting has been cancelled by the COVID-19 crisis.

On March 11, our energetic YWES members planted willow whips and cut down blackberries at Derby Hills Park. The weather was pleasant and we were joined by employees from the local Royal Bank branch and their families.

Alas, only days later, with the escalating COVID-19 pandemic, our planned activities were cancelled at least until the end of May. We held our regular April meeting on Zoom with good discussions about our ongoing projects. In one new project, we will contact TOL to explore the possibility of installing signs beside our creeks with advice to keep dogs from entering our streams between November and May to protect our salmon

spawning grounds. Also we considered whether our Bioblitz could be held using iNaturalist! For the next month we will explore the possibility of how to accomplish a virtual BioBlitz and make our final plan at our May Zoom meeting. We hope that the COVID 19 pandemic will be under control this summer as we want to get out to clean-up garbage and control invasives and fingers crossed for a better salmon return for 2020! 🐟

Club Reports - Northern BC Regional Coordinator - Fred McMechan

Bulkley Valley Naturalists (BVN) - Submitted by Anne Hetherington

The Bulkley Valley Naturalists have put presentations and activities on hold with covid-19.

The Willowdale Wetland Project for habitat rehabilitation and accessibility is in its final year. Accessible benches, trails and picnic tables have been installed and about 20% of spruce seedlings survived from family planting day in 2018. Bat houses have been erected as well as an interpretive sign. The Nature Diary second printing (500 copies) has almost been sold out. 🐟

Kitimat Valley Naturalists (KVN) - Submitted by Walter Thorne

Kitimat Naturalists continue their environmental struggles with major industrial development. Lobbying for modifications with environmental offsets is an exhausting and often fruitless enterprise.

We continue to be involved in projects concerning bats, amphibians and bird monitoring. It is the wildlife that we observe and aim to protect that provide us with some thrills from season to season. 🐟

Mackenzie Nature Observatory (MNO) - Submitted by Jeanne Shaw

This marked our 25th year of operating a banding station at the Mugaha Marsh. It was also a year for milestones with 70,000 birds being banded during standard banding hours.. This year was also a year of great sadness when Vi Lambie, our long standing Secretary/Treasurer and biggest supporter passed away September 1, 2019.

A special meeting was held to discuss the future of the Mackenzie Nature Observatory and the banding station at the Mugaha Marsh. It was decided to move the Mackenzie Nature Observatory Society and the banding station forward. Everyone at the meeting agreed and members selected tasks they could do to help in that endeavour. Financials were discussed and Membership fees were collected and it was decided that for insurance purposes all people volunteering for more than 3 days must be paid up members. Working groups were created to review and select banders for the 2020 season (3 were selected to be hired this year and they were approved by the executive directors), to go through banding supplies and figuring out what is needed and continue preparation of the site for the coming season.

Every year we do a small display in the library window, this year we are going to dedicate it to the memory of Vi Lambie.

Our next members only meeting date was discussed and a tentative date for Monday March 23rd 2020 was approved, it was decided at this time to have our executive meeting immediately after the members only meeting, both these meetings were postponed due to Covid-19.

The club will sadly miss Vi but its members are determined to make sure that her legacy carries on in Mackenzie. 🐸

Northern Amphibians Nature Society (NANS) - Submitted by Terry Walker

NANS has a membership of 37 people located from Fort Fraser to Prince Rupert and north to Dease Lake. Some of our members participate as monitors or provide monitoring station sites for the NWBC Reptile and Amphibian Monitoring Program. A number of enthusiastic members also collect invertebrate samples for the Royal BC Museum. The annual assessment of the monitoring sites network by Dr. Norma Kerby, volunteer coordinator, and Ken Adair, volunteer field assistant, in 2020 will be dependent on the restrictions imposed due to Covid 19.

NANS was to be involved in a clean up of a local slough to improve toad populations but of course the Covid 19 crisis has necessitated the plans be postponed.

Our 2019 AGM was held in September at Dodge Cove (just across from Prince Rupert and accessible by boat or ferry) and the membership was able to participate in 2 presentations; one by Des Nobels on the Digby Island Environmental issues and one by Dr. Norma Kerby about Amphibians on Digby Island. We were also able to do some exploring on the Island which was new to many of us. It was a successful AGM and we were very grateful to Wendy Brooks for facilitating it.

Our AGM in September (depending on the virus situation) will be held at the Kitselas Canyon National Historic Site near Terrace.

We want to acknowledge the \$1300.00 grant from BC Nature which helped cover the \$1333.50 cost of the four-year supply of vials which are used to collect the invertebrates. Additionally, we received a donation of \$150.00 for which we were very appreciative from Kitimat Valley Naturalists which also helped pay for the vials. 🐸

Prince George Naturalists Club (PGN)- Submitted by Dave Leman

Several highlights of the year for the Prince George Naturalists Club (PGNC) were the presentation nights held in partnership with The Exploration Place from September to May. These evenings have been well-attended and enthusiastically received by our members and other attendees. Topics included research on chickadees, birdwatching on the Otago Peninsula, biodiversity in the Inland Rainforest, long-term glyphosate persistence, reflections on the importance of our rivers and lakes, fibre from native plants, and edible mushrooms. Throughout the year the Club also promoted many nature-related presentations, events and activities sponsored by other organizations.

Club members and supporters enjoyed numerous field trips throughout 2019. Field trips included the Annual Swan and Eagle Count to Crooked River in January, a curlew field trip in April, and a BC Parks/iNaturalist field trip to Eskers Provincial Park in August. Once again, the Wednesday Walkers explored natural areas around Prince George with a dozen field trips between April and September, under the able guidance of Club member Dora Hunter.

Also in 2019, the Club held our annual spring Wetland Cleanup in the city, and continued our efforts to deadhead tansy and remove Himalayan Balsam from the wetland drainage areas. We dug and deadheaded common tansy and cut Himalayan Balsam. Volunteers removed about 60 big black contractor bags of these two priority invasive plants. These annual events are making a difference. We noticed the plants are smaller than when we worked in 2018. The Club also participated in the 'Seedy Saturday' event in March. Then in August the Club carried out three more invasive weed clean-ups in the city, two at Carrie Jane Gray Park for Himalayan Balsam and one at the Hudson's Bay Wetland for common tansy.

We wrapped up the year with the 2019 Christmas Bird Count. Several Club members assisted with the NatureKids Prince George Christmas Bird Count for Kids at Cottonwood Island Park.

Overview of 2020 – January through April

The arrival of the pandemic early in 2020 has affected many of our planned PGNC activities for the first half of this year, as has happened everywhere else. We have had to cancel or postpone our regular Wednesday Walks and monthly meetings and presentations, as well as several field trips. Nonetheless, some events have moved ahead, and other activities are still planned. For example, 21 trumpeter swans were tallied on this year's swan count and were seen a couple of times in January during the Swan and Eagle Count Field Trip. Our club once again hosted a table at the Seedy Saturday public event in March before all further such public events were cancelled.

The Club sponsored a virtual evening presentation on April 17th by Graham Sorenson (BC Projects Coordinator, Birds Canada) and Dr. David Bradley (Director, Birds Canada – BC) about long-billed curlews and their migration to and from the Prince George area. While we were not able to conduct our intended field trips related to these amazing birds, individual members have been enjoying numerous observations of these birds (including a number of curlews banded in 2019) in the vicinity of Prince George.

Our PGNC members have also been encouraged to participate in the BC Moose Winter Tick Surveillance Program 2020. Members have participated in exploring the relatively new Slim Creek Provincial Park between Prince George and McBride. Members are also encouraged to make observations and submit photographs and other data to the *iNaturalist*/BC Provincial Park Project biodiversity inventory this summer if the Provincial Parks are re-opened to the public. Finally, everyone is welcome to join the Prince George Naturalists Club Discussion Facebook group to share nature-related information.

Members, Volunteers and Supporters

As of December 31, 2019, the Club reported 112 memberships to BC Nature. Our Club members include individuals, families and students. The activities and events could not have happened without the efforts of our many volunteers, and the support of the City of Prince George, the Northwest Invasive Plant Council, Spruce City Wildlife, The Exploration Place, REAPS, and McElhanney to name a few. The Club is grateful for this assistance as it continues its work to promote enjoyment of the natural world. 🌿

Quesnel Trail and Nature Club (QTNC) - Submitted by Lorna Schley

Looking back, we see that the Quesnel Trail and Nature Club had a busy year. We participated in a number of hikes and field trips during the spring, summer, and fall of 2019. We were happy that forest fires did not slow us down like the previous summer. Our president, Sally, organized two weed pulls to get rid of Purple Loosestrife at the ponds in West Fraser Timber Park, as well as Burdock in some areas there. An honorarium for this work was received from the Cariboo Regional District through Emily Sonntag (invasive plant control). A brochure for our club has been developed and will be circulated throughout the community.

We continued our customary social events with spring, summer and Christmas potlucks. In addition, our AGM was held in January, 2020 at the River Rock Restaurant. Since the pandemic hit, we have not had any meetings or gatherings; however, our president has circulated information by email.

We continue to network with the Baker Creek Enhancement Society, the two Community Gardens, Q-birds, and the Air Quality Advisory Committee. Some of our members participated in the Christmas Bird Count, organized by Q-birds, the Quesnel birding group.

Plans are in the works for monitoring the two bluebird trails, the Dragon Lake Bluebird Trail and the West Fraser Bluebird Trail. Members have been going out to enjoy bird sightings as the spring migration contin-

ues, although not in groups. We are hoping to be able to organize a number of activities this summer, keeping physical distancing in mind. 🦋

Timberline Trail and Nature Club (TTNC) - Submitted by Mark Phinney

Since the last report submitted in the fall of 2019, the club has been fairly busy. We held a working bee to construct several multi-chambered bat roosting boxes. No small task, with very little intricate instructions. During the process we found several 'short-cuts' in the design that will help reduce the time required, while retaining the critical features and dimensions... for next time!

The boardwalk at McQueen's Slough (very popular wildlife viewing area near Dawson Creek) has deteriorated badly, and part of it was deemed unsafe. As a safety measure the boardwalk has been 'deactivated' at the halfway point. Cost of repairs or replacement will be significant, but the club was successful in obtaining a grant from the Community Social Responsibility Fund (sponsored by the Lake View Credit Union) to assist with bringing the infrastructure back to usable form. Work has not yet begun, so part of the walkway will be off-limits this spring/summer at least.

Club members (and visitors) once again participated in the annual Dawson Creek Christmas Bird Count which was held under mercifully mild conditions in early January. Twenty-two species were found which is slightly below average. The appropriately-named Common Raven was the most common bird, as has been the case for nearly half of all our Christmas Bird Counts.

These ravens (and many many more) gather in a communal roost some distance from town every winter (exact location varies year to year). Club members are positioned at key locations and count as they come to the roosting area. This year the total was 5832 ravens- a new record! The count was held in February, and since then (with covid-19 concerns) there have been no club gatherings. The annual 'hawk watch' went ahead in early April, but with only two non-carpooling participants. Nevertheless, quite a few hawks (and other spring migrants) were found, Results of the count - and- all other nature observations are shared through the PR_NAT yahoo group. Anyone interested in natural history of the Peace River region is welcome to join. <https://bit.ly/2SSoiOQ> 🦋

Williams Lake Field Naturalists - Submitted by Ordell Steen

The Williams Lake Field Naturalists (WLFN) is a vibrant, small community club with a steadily growing, dedicated membership. The principal focus of the club, especially for directors and many other members, is operation of Scout Island Nature Centre, with its nature education programs for children and many popular nature-oriented walking trails. Other club activities in 2019 included a variety of nature field trips, several natural history presentations by members and others, and many other projects.

Scout Island Nature Centre (SINC) is owned by the Nature Trust of BC and operated by the WLFN and the City of Williams Lake. Over the last year, the WLFN continued to support Nature Centre staff by mentoring and providing or maintaining education facilities. More than 200 school classes participated in nature education programs. A nature kindergarten program was again operated at the Nature Centre by the school district. These nature programs continued to be very popular and in-demand by the community and school district.

WLFN members contributed hundreds of volunteer hours in 2019 to operating and maintaining the many structures and popular trails on the Nature Centre. In 2019, a principal focus was addressing a new pedestrian access to Scout Island via a new City foot bridge. A large effort was also dedicated to "fire-smarting" the Nature Centre.

Natural history field trips for WLFN members included birding and wildlife viewing trips to local lakes, marshes,

forests, and grasslands of the region including Alkali Lake, Chilanko Marsh, the Williams Lake River Valley, and Churn Creek Protected Area. Eleven trips were held over the summer months. Several natural history presentations at the Nature House were well attended and open to the public. These included discussions of endangered ecosystems and wildlife of the local area, severe threats to primates and birds of Asia, wildfire effects and management in local forests, and a members' journey to the spectacular Karakorum region of Pakistan.

Christmas bird count and Bluebird Nest boxes: 35 members participated in the Christmas bird count. Total number of birds and species were both slightly below average but the count provides a great outing and a chance to enjoy an evening of story-telling and sharing observations. A large number of Mountain Bluebird nest box routes in the grasslands of the region were again maintained and birds counted by WLFN members.

Newsletter: Six issues of the "Muskrat Express" newsletter were produced in 2019. Each issue included lots of interesting nature articles and club news.

Spring banquet: each year the WLFN has organized a spring banquet to raise funds for SINC. In 2019, banquet participants were inspired by a presentation on the primates of Asia by Dr Chris Shepherd who, with his wife Loretta, recently authored "A Naturalist's Guide to the Primates of Southeast Asia, East Asia and the Indian Sub-continent". The banquet was attended by about 120 members and non-members.

Bursary: the WLFN again provided a bursary in the amount of \$1,000 for a graduating secondary student, selected by the school district. Funding for the bursary was raised by a popular yard and garden sale, organized by several members. 🌱

Club Reports - Thompson Okanagan Region Regional Coordinator - Gary Hunt

No reports received from:

- Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists
- South Okanagan Naturalists club

Central Okanagan Naturalists Club (CONC) - Submitted by Fran Fisher

Good day from the Central Okanagan Naturalist Club, I chatted with our club group leaders but not much to report. Our birders keep in touch daily with sightings and photos of all kinds. Sometimes, our members show up at specified reported locations sometimes meeting each other from a distance. Cyclists are cycling, Botanists are exploring, etc. etc. All projects and meetings on hold. Exploring your back yard is a concurrent theme. Our current membership is at 263.

Listen, the world is quieter
The good morning chant of the robin
This is Earth's time.

Taste the freshness of the air
And the goodness from Mother Earth
This is Earth's time.

Feel nature reconnecting,
The mood slowing down
This is Earth's time.

Smell nature's perfumery abundant
Pure oxygen fills the lungs
This is Earth's time.

See the clear skies at sunrise
The sunset lament of the owl,
This is Earth's time. 🌱

Kamloops Naturalist Club (KNC) - Submitted by Gary Hunt

Over the summer, our student naturalists in the Next Generation Naturalists program, along with various instructors, parents, and club members, continued with an active curriculum of field trips. The focus of the trips is to teach the students about the local plants and animals as well as important historical information about local areas. These trips are part of a three-year program funded by the Lawson Youth Foundation. The program has two broad objectives: (1) to strengthen youth leadership and civic engagement, and (2) to encourage connection with nature and enable environmental action. Information about the program can be found on our website: <https://kamloopsnaturalistclub.com/nextgen/> Further information about the Lawson Foundation can be found at <https://bit.ly/3bkVchj>

We continue to work on plans to build a wildlife viewing platform at Tranquille Pond. This is a collaborative project with the City of Kamloops Parks and Recreation, local native bands, and BC Transportation and Highways. For the third summer, we collaborated with Thompson Rivers University to take prospective international students on nature walks and teach them how to pan for gold at Tranquille Creek. This summer we took out eight groups, seven from Indonesia and one from Japan.

The United Way in Kamloops presents a variety of workshops specifically for non-profit groups. We participate in many of these. They provide valuable information about such things as how to run meetings effectively, how to keep proper financial records, and strategic planning procedures.

We produce four newsletters a year that are available on our website: <https://bit.ly/2WkstoK>.

Kamloops Thompson Trails Alliance (KTTA) - Submitted by Vern Sundstrom

The Trails Alliance renewed their partnership agreement with BC Parks in mid-summer for trails primarily in the Kamloops area. The only trail maintenance conducted in parks in 2019 involved three volunteers clearing weeds along 1.5 kilometres of the Community Grasslands Trail located within the Lac Du Bois Grasslands Protected Area.

The Alliance also cleared the Isobel Loop low mobility Trail of downed trees several times over the summer of 2019 plus installed wire guards to limit beaver damage. The trail, north of Kamloops, is maintained under a partnership agreement with Recreation Sites and Trails BC.

Work continued on developing a strategic planning exercise to provide guidance for future actions.

Lillooet Naturalist Society (LNS) - Submitted by Vivian Birch-Jones (See LNS Report is at the end of Thompson Okanagan report)

Nicola Naturalist Society (NNS) - Submitted by Alan Burger

Our Merritt club continues to maintain a stable membership of just over 100 members (65+ memberships). Our evening meetings attract many people, with 80-100 people at some meetings (notable for a small town like Merritt). In the past year we featured: Members' Photo Night (combined with our AGM); Franz Reuter – Adventures in Chad – climbing the highest mountain in the Sahara; Tom Willms – Thermal Refugia for Salmonids in the Nicola River; Paul Mozin – Bat Inventory in the Nicola Valley; and Edyta Marcisz – Territoriality and Home Range in Bighorn Rams. In March our club hosted a guest presentation in Merritt of the Kamloops Exploration Group featuring paleo-botanist Christopher West – Leafing Through History: Exploring the Fossil Plant Deposits of Western Canada.

As before, our club ran the Merritt Christmas Bird Count. With good weather and unfrozen lakes we had a

good count, with 31 field observers participating. In January NNS member Frank Ritcey led a memorable and well-attended outing to investigate wildlife tracks in the Lundbom Common snowfields. In February a few hardy souls braved the cold stormy weather to continue our traditional “Snow Bunting Shiver” outing to the Douglas Lake highlands. Snow Buntings were indeed found, along with other interesting winter wildlife. In late April, despite the lock-down, some members made it up to the Douglas Lake Plateau IBA where our club monitors the passage of migrating Sandhill Cranes. Several hundred cranes were reported resting on the hayfields and marshes.

The COVID cloud led to the cancellation of our spring evening meetings and outings. As a way to keep members involved and sharing their enjoyment of nature (even if only backyard bird feeders) we have been posting “virtual outings” with photos and notes from members: <http://www.nicolanaturalists.ca/photos/>

In 2019, with funding from the BC Naturalists’ Foundation, our club produced two brochures (one on birds and one on wild flowers and wildlife) to promote local nature knowledge. These are being well received by schools, the Merritt NatureKids Club, the public and tourists in the Nicola Valley. 🦋

North Okanagan Naturalist Club (NONC) - Submitted by Pam Jenkins

Summer activities included one July trip to Shuswap Lake to see grebes and other water birds, and an August trip to Mount Revelstoke. First Wednesday of the month meetings held at the Shubert Centre started in September, Speakers have been: Don Cecile on birds of paradise in Papua New Guinea, Eli Pivnick on climate change followed by George Scotter on flowers of Nambibia, November saw our AGM and a Toad video, December was our Christmas party evening. In January we heard Tanya Luszuz from the Canadian Wildlife Service in Penticton, February was Les Gyug on Williams sapsuckers and in March Margaret McKenzie spoke on volcanic activity in the Chilcotin. April would have been Susan Dulc from UBCO. A masters student on bird biology and in May we would have had Kenn Whyte on birds of Botswana.

Activities have included Saturday morning Nature Walks advertised so anyone can partake after signing a release document, the Christmas bird count, and the January Swan and Eagle count. Bluebirds have returned and routes monitored. Humming birds are being banded by some Now we can no longer meet, many of us have been writing letters about conservation matters.

Biking communities want more access to make trails and they scar our precious grasslands as they have already done in Kalamalka park. Norbert Maertens has been an advocate for the Garter Snake dens behind our Walmart by BX creek, getting the city to provide protective boulders so no one can drive over them and posting a sign about them. Harold Sellars has made an extensive inventory of natural areas in town and round-about, that need to be protected. Covid-19 restrictions has seen the return of birds, and other wildlife even in town. 🦋

Shuswap Naturalists (SN) - Submitted by Dianne Wittner

For the uninitiated, one might think being a naturalist club member means sitting in meetings and chatting about our latest sightings. Though such social interludes do occur – in our case, highlighted by a generous dose of laughter, courtesy of president, Ed McDonald - what the general public doesn’t know is how dirt and sweat, even the occasional blood-letting, seem to be the typical hallmarks of our club projects. It’s all well and good to sit around a table and discuss a trail restoration or a troubled species but once our cerebral muscles are flexed, it’s time to turn plan into action. I’m sure our club is not alone when we list drills, shovels, and back muscles as necessary tools in our various projects.

Early in the year, our club teamed up with MakerSpace and South Canoe Elementary School to give swallows a boost along Salmon Arm’s foreshore. Thanks to the generosity of BC Nature and the BC Naturalists Founda-

tion, we more than doubled available housing for Tree and Violet-green swallows along a 4-kilometre swath of lakeshore. First we had to build the nest boxes and paint them, then we dug holes for the 12-16 foot posts on which to erect them. Most of those holes went into deep, sucking mud on a trail that was largely inaccessible by vehicle. The strenuous effort was quickly offset by the joy of watching impatient swallows that seemed to be watching and waiting for a chance to compete for the first available house.

When all was said and done, we added 50 boxes to the existing number, giving us a total of 92, (several of which had been built specifically for ducks, owls, and chickadees in previous years). The outcome exceeded expectations by practically doubling the previous year's success rate. For comparison's sake, in 2018 there were 29 successfully fledged swallow broods. In 2019 that number grew to 55! This is a very high success rate, given the relatively small area of the project. As a bonus, one box was occupied by Mountain Bluebirds and four were used by chickadees. Over the next few years, the data collected may help us improve on that number. By analyzing multiple factors such as aspect and height, we should be able to make adjustments that will appeal even more strongly to the boxes' occupants. It will be interesting to see how our numbers fluctuate!

While we're on the topic of passerines, Save Shuswap Songbirds, a joint committee of the Shuswap Naturalists Club and the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society (SABNES), is now in its fourth year. The group continued its public awareness campaign, beginning with an American Goldfinch information sign, then adding another depicting the six swallow species that inhabit Salmon Arm Bay. Both signs are slated to be erected this spring on foreshore nature trails to help visitors identify the birds they see. Also, a poster created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology *Sharing 7 Simple Actions to Help Birds* was distributed in appropriate locations to motivate the public to help songbirds survive.

Like most regions of the world, the Shuswap has its share of invasive species. On Nature Trust land and trails around the bay, some of the worst offenders are Woody Nightshade, Yellow-flag Iris, and Virginia Creeper. Volunteers from our club teamed up with SABNES and the Invasive Species Council of BC to venture into the wetlands, donning rubber boots and hip-waders to pull up as much Woody Nightshade as we could load into the back of a couple pick-up trucks. Thanks to BC Nature's generosity, we were able to hire a student to continue our efforts once the mud-fights were over. During the course of the summer a total of 332 garbage-bags-full was removed! If that weren't enough, some of our individual members have made it a habit to pull invasives on their own time, dragging shovels and garbage bags along with them on their nature walks.

The shallow areas of the bay and two ponds in Salmon Arm are home to BC's Western Painted Turtle. Long-time member, Pat Turner, performs regular counts and reported an apparent decline in 2019. As a club, we discussed factors that may be negatively impacting turtle numbers and strategies for improving their local habitat. In 2020, we hope to implement at least one of those strategies, the addition of basking logs. Furthermore, club member Sarah Weaver recently authored a pamphlet that provides visitors with helpful advice for safe enjoyment of wildlife in the bay. The pamphlet encourages protection of all wildlife but it also highlights simple things one can do to protect native turtles.

Other population counts undertaken by our club include the iconic Western Grebe and, of course, the annual Christmas bird count. The Salmon Arm Bay is the last breeding colony in BC for the former. Grebe numbers have been holding relatively steady for the past four years with a 2019 summer's end count hovering around 300, which included adults and juveniles. Though we haven't seen a significant decline in the past four years, the species' status remains precarious in this province and in our bay.

Our club took part in three different Christmas bird counts: Salmon Arm, Enderby, and the North Shore. On December 22nd in Salmon Arm, we covered a twenty-four kilometre circle surrounding the city. Twenty-seven participants counted sixty-seven species, a number slightly lower than our long-term average. An early cold spell, combined with poor visibility likely contributed to lower numbers. An additional seven species were observed during count-week, bringing our total to seventy-four.

Every year, our club supports a post-secondary student in the ecological sciences through the Janet Pattinson–Shuswap Naturalists Club Bursary. In 2019, we contributed \$1200 to Michelle Matson who is enrolled in the Natural Resource Science Department at Thompson Rivers University. Michelle is a passionate advocate of environmental protection and climate activism. Ours was just one of her many awards; every penny our club has invested in her is well spent!

The Larch Hills area above Salmon Arm is well known for its famous cross-country skiing and hiking trails. One of the older trails used to be an interpretive meander through forest and bog but most of its signs are gone or unreadable and some areas of the trail are overgrown. 2019 marked the beginnings of a plan to revamp the trail with new and improved signage. We began with an investigative hike and followed that up with ideas for the types of information that would be most useful and/or relevant. This project will likely entail two or three years' worth of effort to design, create, and erect the new signs.

As club members explored the banks and valleys of our beloved Shuswap, conversations invariably turned towards our imminent 50th anniversary. To that end, a committee was struck to plan commemorative ways to celebrate this momentous occasion, due to arrive January 2020. With the onset of Covid-19, some of those plans are currently in a holding pattern but we will see them become reality, especially as we honour those members who made everything possible all those years ago. The collective knowledge and accomplishments accrued by this wonderful group of people over the past five decades definitely deserves a celebration! 🎉

Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists (VFFN) - Submitted by Donna Hills

Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists have been keeping ourselves busy, and not just in preparation for the 2020, now 2021 AGM!

In December we participated in the Christmas Bird Count, organized by Cathy Lahaie. We congratulated her on choosing the best weekend for this year's count, as the following weekend we received a crippling snow fall. Which actually closed down much of Princeton and surrounding areas for a few days! January had John Henry lead a group of 37 members of the Nordic Wrecks from Vancouver for snow shoeing and cross country skiing up on China Ridge. All agreed it was a great day for fun in the snow and sun! Fast forward to late winter, early spring and the changes all clubs have had to do to keep our members safe and healthy. Our club made the decision to suspend all meetings until September. Our Hummingbird Banding Group, which normally be in full swing, will monitor the ongoing situation and may only gather minimal data this year.

On a positive note, we had the pleasure of Nick Burdock of the Nature Trust of BC attend our March General meeting. Nick gave an informative presentation to VFFN members and visitors on their recent acquisition of the former Currie Ranch, located just outside town boundary. Nature Trust of BC has renamed this area Princeton Grasslands. It consists of a former working ranch land totalling 2600 ha and which contains grassland, lakes, and woodlands. Parts of the property are still being used for cattle grazing, which will be phased out. It also is winter range for elk and borders crown land. VFFN will be assisting The Nature Trust of BC, by recording bird sightings when on hikes as well as reporting any illegal dumping, camping etc. This unique area is just one of the hikes VFFN is looking forward to sharing when we host the 2021 AGM here in Princeton! Stay Safe Everyone! 🎉

LNS ANNUAL REVIEW 2019

Winter

EVENT	
Directors' meeting before AGM	✓
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	Feb 2019
Update membership / collect dues	✓
Pay BC Nature dues	✓
Society report due	✓
Host a speaker / Chilcotin trail cams	Robin Naidoo
Christmas Bird Count 19 th annual	Boxing day ✓
Feb 2019 Board Governance	✓
March 2019 / Antarctica	✓ Ian Routley

Summer

EVENT	
Directors' meeting (June 2019)	✓
Rivershed rafting/dinner on Fraser	✓
Trail maintenance	✓
Bluebird nest box outings	Christine G. et al ✓
Moth presentation David Holden	Aug 1 st ✓
Geologist Pierre Friele field outing	July ✓
Young Naturalists – bring forward	Kim / Kathryn?
Hike historic west Fraser trail	✓ Betty et al

Year round

FINANCES	Greg
Sales Hiking Guide (tally done) ✓	ongoing
Take orders / deliver / queries	vbj
Membership	Stefan
Web site	MJ
Observe and report	eBird, BC Bat etc.
Violations, e.g. alpine motorized	MFLNRORD
Tracked events at Big Bar landslide	2019 event
Natural history updates to news	Radio and news ✓
Destination BC – Maria/Colin	No f/u Dest. BC ☹️
Support applications \$ local work	Directors ✓✓

Spring

EVENT	
Directors' meeting (May 2019)	✓
Host a speaker GRIZZLY bears	Michael Proctor ✓
Trail maintenance	Kevin/Geoff/Jean S.
Liaise with MOF re. FSRs	✓
Walking with Smolts	Not 2019, yes 2020
Bluebird nest box outings	✓ ✓
Support SLLP participation / dinner	Leah and Paul ✓ ✓
Osprey webcam set up	Scott Hudson ✓
Sturgeon community group	Colin
St'at'imc gathering	Table May 11 th ✓
Spring AGM BC Nature - report	vbj ✓

Autumn

EVENT	
Directors' meeting (Nov 2019)	✓
Supported mushroom workshop	✓
Trail maintenance	✓
Liaise with MOF re. FSRs	✓
SHORELINE CLEAN UP	Sept 22/19 ✓
Bluebird nest box outings - Chris	✓
BC Nature FGM	Report provided ✓
Pollinators Kim North/Chilaxin	✓
Planning BOTANY event 2020	June 19 - 21

Outreach trailer - refurbish	Funding app ✓
JOINT TRAILS INITIATIVE	Geoff, Simon, Kevin
Sekw'el'was and Climate forums	✓
Attend BC Nature meeting	Reports provided ✓
UPCOMING 2020	
BAT COLLEGE – 2020 July	Vivian - logistics
BC Nature AGM at Princeton BC	May 28 - 31
Botany field trips / events Lillooet	June 19 th to 22 nd
(registration BC Nature magazine)	
Fall Harvest Festival	September 19 th
At the Table /volunteer non-profits	February 1 st , 2020

Groups that we support and liaise with BC Nature, Coast to Cascades, Splitrock, LRISS, YES, LPEG, LAFS, LORCA, LALA, local First Nations, NCC (lands for conservation), CPAWS, BC Parks, Chamber, Sturgeon group, visiting biologists and researchers.

Club Reports - Vancouver Island Region Regional Coordinator - John Neville

No reports received from:

- Pender Island Field Naturalists www.facebook.com/penderislandfieldnaturalists
- Rithet's Bog Conservation Society www.rithetsbog.org

Arrowsmith Naturalists - Submitted by Bonnie Mullin

I received this little update from our President Sally Soanes.

At present the Arrowsmith Naturalists shows ongoing support and clearance in the Englishman River Estuary; plus working with Nature Trust the plan is to plant trees there when conditions improve. We are hoping to again support our annual Mushroom Festival in October. Club Outings are on hold as are our monthly meetings. There has been monitoring of many (about 40) bird boxes that were in place last year. The Annual Brant Count is continuing till the end of April, albeit scaled back at present to a few individuals. We were all geared up for our Annual Brant Festival but it has sadly come to a screeching halt. We are doing our best to support the North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre; the birds and animals need to eat regardless of closure of the facility due to the Covid19 Pandemic. And yes we did participate in the Christmas Bird Count. Stay safe everyone. www.arrowsmithnats.org 🐾

Comox Nature (CN) - Submitted by Jim Boulton

2019 was another successful year for Comox Valley Nature. In 2018 the members approved a new annual dues structure with only one class of membership, that of a family membership, for \$30/year. The family is defined as two adults and all children 18 and under. This was a reduction of the previous \$40/year for families, and was done to encourage younger families to participate. CVN did get a few younger members, and just as important, a few spouses of long term members started to participate as well. Our current family memberships hover just under 200 at this time.

In addition to our regular activities we held a public talk on Denman Island in May, which was attended by about 40 members of the general public, mostly from Denman and Hornby Islands, as well as about 10 CVN members. Sarah Patton of the Coastal Ocean Research Institute (Ocean Wise) talk was very well received, and a few islanders expressed their thanks to CVN and hoped that we would hold other presentations for them in the future.

CVN also held our "annual" trip to Mitlenatch Island Nature Provincial Park, a very popular, but hard to get to, destination. The 12 members were treated to a Zodiac ride to the island and had lots of time to explore this fascinating bird and wildlife sanctuary. With the exception of 2017, CVN has arranged a trip to the island in the middle of the north Salish Sea every year since 2016.

CVN held a one-day conference in October entitled "Urban Forests and Sustainable Cities", which was well attended by both staff and elected officials of all four local governments. CVN enjoyed the particular support of the City of Courtenay in this endeavour, as Courtenay will be re-visiting their urban tree and development processes this year (2020). The six expert speakers presented topics ranging from the goals inherent in the current "Courtenay Urban Forest Plan", to planning for climate change, development guided by Adaptive Design principals, the "Living City Challenge" and the selection of species of trees best suited for urban needs and their benefits. The conference attracted about 70 participants and was styled after our conference for Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands BC Nature affiliates that CVN held in 2018. CVN hopes that we will be able to host another conference in October of 2020. 🐾

Cowichan Valley Naturalists (CVN) - Submitted by Bruce Coates

After many years as our President (or recently Co-President), our AGM in March 2019 saw Eric Marshall step into the position of Past President. Grateful thanks to Eric, who continues to be his usual knowledgeable, amiable member of our Board, including being the editor of our newsletter. Carol Milo and Gail Mitchell took on the roles of Co-Presidents; Carol Blackburn, Secretary; Cheri Beaulieu, became an interim Treasurer and, over the next couple of months passed this position on to Paige Pettinger. Cheri remains as a Director on the Board. Barry Hetschko, George Anderson, John Scull, Dorothy Marshall, Bruce Coates and Caroline Deary were elected as Directors on the Board.

Another big change for us was seeing Genevieve Singleton step back as the CoffeeHouse Coordinator and Conservation Committee Chair. Dave Polster also stepped down from his position in the Conservation Committee. They deserve our deepest thanks for their past, extensive contributions. Thankfully Genevieve and Dave remain as members we can call on for advice. They have been nominated to receive Life-time memberships and we look forward to presenting these whenever we are able to gather in a group again. Our 2020 AGM is on hold at the time of writing due to the Covid pandemic.

Derrick Marven will also be receiving a Life-time membership. He has been our Birder leader for many years. The weekly Swan and Goose counts and the annual Christmas Bird count take place under his leadership. Each week, Derrick posts the results of the Wednesday count along with photos taken by himself, Barry Hetschko, Zan Stenhouse and other participants. Now, in our isolation these "Wednesday Warblings" continue, along with frequent "Derrick's Diary" submissions through "NatureNews", our on-line communication tool run by Eric Marshall and Carol Milo.

John Scull manages the Nature Cowichan website which is the place to find out what is going on in the Valley. Barry Hetschko looks after our Facebook page. The importance of social media and on-line communication has taken on an essential role now. The most ambitious event for 2019 was the hosting of the BC Nature AGM in May. We were gratified to have a good attendance thus being able to connect with Naturalists throughout the Province. Carol Milo, Cheri Beaulieu, Carol Blackburn, Genevieve Singleton, David Aldcroft, Dorothy Marshall, Barry Hetschko, Willie Harvey, Bruce Coates, John Scull and Gail Mitchell all worked hard on this event.

Our Conservation Committee, (Bruce Coates, Barry Hetschko, Martha Lescher, Caroline Deary, Carol Milo and Gail Mitchell) has taken on several local issues over the last year. We helped with the defeat of an expansion of the VIMC "racetrack". Other areas we are working on include public participation in the management of the North Cowichan Municipal forests, development of land near Berkey's corner where rare Oregon Ash are located, planning changes at McAdam Park and development of the new hospital site. Hannah Hall returned as Project Coordinator for Bring Back the Bluebirds. She was ably assisted by Project Wildlife Technician, Braden Judson. Administration of the project was transferred from CVNS to BCCF. Jacquie Taylor was hired as Project Coordinator. Genevieve continues to lead this project and other CVNS members remain active as trail monitors.

The CVNS \$500 bursary, for a grade 12 student entering a post secondary institution in an environmental related program, went to Cheyenne Riggs from Frances Kelsey High School. Thanks to our Bursary Committee: Caroline Deary, Kathy Coster and Jane McAllister.

Several of our members Volunteer at the Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre. We also offer financial assistance to children attending the summer camps at the Centre. Low tide day in May was again organized by John Scull. Several members participated in Eelgrass planting in June.

Our monthly morning CoffeeHouse brought many informative speakers, as did our Evening Programs. Outings included: the Marshalls leading their annual flower walk and beach walk; Dave Aldcroft's birding trip at the time of the herring spawn; trip to the RBCM to see the Wildlife photography exhibit and Ian McAllister's Great Bear Rainforest Imax film. www.naturecowichan.net www.facebook.com/CowValleyNaturalists/ 🌿

Nature Nanaimo (NN) - Submitted by Doug Fraser

In this most unusual of years, Nature Nanaimo has experienced wonderful successes and progress while increasing our membership to our current level of 152 members.

Last summer we had entered a brief hiatus after a very well attended first June Picnic at the Wildwood Eco-forest. Then we launched into the fall with a fabulous presentation on the Birds of Vancouver Island. October's monthly meeting included a very well received presentation on Killer Whales and we drew a large crowd to our November AGM with a captivating talk on the Sharks of BC.

Our end of year get-together featured a well-attended Christmas social graciously hosted by Michael and Bonnie.

We have reworded our mission statement and made it better suited for use across varied communication platforms. It now reads: **Our mission is to foster an interest, appreciation and enjoyment of nature, and promote the conservation of healthy, natural ecosystems in the Nanaimo region.**

Staffan worked with members of the Arrowsmith Naturalists to complete and publish an updated checklist of birds of the Nanaimo region which we are now making available for a small cost and as a fundraiser. Staffan is also working to create a plant checklist for the Harewood plains – a local spring wildflower hotspot.

Members enjoyed regular Nature Rambles to a variety of locations for nature viewing and we arranged trips to view the Turkey Vulture/hawk migration at Beechey Head near Victoria and the spawning salmon and hatchery work at the Qualicum River hatchery. Unfortunately, very bad weather resulted in the cancelation of three events – our monthly January meeting and our planned trips to view eagles at Brackendale and visit the Reifel Bird Sanctuary in Delta. We were able to proceed with our February meeting where we introduced a "Climate Change Challenge" as well as having a fascinating presentation on native pollinators.

As it turned out, the bad timing of winter weather was trivial in comparison to the pandemic that put a halt to the majority of our activities and planned events by mid-March. We were looking forward to numerous spring outings, our June picnic social and monthly meetings with presentations on urban forestry, ethnobotany and orchids. The presenters have kindly offered to reschedule for a date sometime next year when we hope things will be back to some semblance of normalcy. For now, we are communicating actively with members via email, our website and social media.

Nature Nanaimo also made some very significant progress in regards to the Buttertubs Marsh. Nature Nanaimo has now officially taken on the responsibilities and mandate of the "Friends of Buttertubs". We are now liaising with the Nature Trust of BC, Ducks Unlimited and the City of Nanaimo to help maintain and enhance the conservation mandate of the marsh as well as develop educational opportunities for the public. One of our hopes is to establish an interpretive centre at the marsh. Buttertubs volunteer organization and work is still moving forward during the pandemic but of course without the benefit of group activities. A big thanks to Michael for all his work in this regard and a welcome to Bill and other former members of the FoB that have now joined our ranks.

Nature Nanaimo now has an official logo thanks to the efforts of Sari. The logo features the flower of *Lotus pinnatus*, which in Canada is mainly found at Nanaimo's Harewood Plains. 2019 also marked the year we became an official Society incorporated as the Nanaimo Nature Society with the BC Registry thanks to the efforts of Dan and Michael. We also extend a thank you for the generous *pro bono* assistance of solicitor Mr. Sucha Ollek throughout the process.

We look forward to the challenges of the coming year, guided by our mission with a commitment to help our members continue to enjoy and protect the beauty and abundance of our natural surroundings.

Our current members of our Board of Directors are as follows:

Doug Fraser, President	Allan Hawryzki, Vice-President Paul Courtin, Treasurer
Michael Stebbings, Acting Secretary, BC Nature Club Representative	Lance Nordstrom, Director, Membership
Lindsay Dealy, Web Master	Director-at-Large Dan Haslam
Director-at-Large Staffan Lindgren	Director-at-Large Carole Lee, Director-at-Large
Director-at-Large Sari Saunders	Director-at-Large Karen MacDowell

Our Facebook page and Website continue to improve with increased “visitor traffic” and enhancements. We remain active on Twitter and Instagram and via email.

Our e-addresses are:

Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/naturenanaimo/> , Website: www.naturenanaimo.ca

Instagram account: <https://www.instagram.com/naturenanaimo/> , Twitter: [@NatureNanaimo](https://twitter.com/NatureNanaimo)

E-mail: naturenanaimo@gmail.com 📧

Alberni Valley Nature (AVN) - Submitted by Sandy McRuer

Nature BC accepted our application for Charter Membership status in March. The club was still in the planning stage when the Corvid-19 pandemic came upon us. And so very little has been accomplished since then. For your interest, you may be interested in a website about birding in the Alberni Valley created by one of our members before we formed the club.

<https://birdalberni.ca/> , smcruer@shaw.ca , www.birdalberni.ca 📧

Rocky Point Bird Observatory (RPBO) - Submitted by Andrew Harcombe

RPBO has been in existence for 25 years. It is a working club that has several ongoing programs to promote birds and bird conservation, primarily on southern Vancouver Island except for the much wider hummingbird project. We focus on three main areas: Monitoring, Research, and Outreach.

Monitoring: Rocky Point Bird Observatory operates five avian monitoring projects every year. Our focus is on birds breeding in our area, those that migrate through in the fall, owls, hummingbirds, and seabirds passing through and/or stopping here.

Research: Our Scientific Advisory Committee is working hard to turn the data we collect into peer-reviewed results. Additionally, we contribute the data we collect to larger continent-wide datasets that help inform conservation decisions.

Outreach: Our outreach program consists of school programs that are developed for grades K-7, and a community-based public outreach program. Through speaking engagements and our presence at local events, we hope to spread the message of conservation.

Fall Migration July 21-October 18, 2019

The 2019 migration season marked the 25th year of operation of the Rocky Point banding station at the Rocky Point Bird Observatory. In 2012, the Pedder Bay station was added. Each fall,* volunteers and staff have monitored birds migrating through the most southerly point of Vancouver Island. In 2019, 7418 birds were banded and 1584 were recaptured between the two stations. While monitoring is focused on migratory songbirds, all birds noted passing through the two stations are recorded. In addition to songbirds, significant numbers of

Turkey Vultures and diurnal raptors, alcids, gulls, and shorebirds are recorded on an annual basis. Considering all birds recorded in the Daily Estimated Totals (DET) at both sites, 224,052 individual birds of 203 species were recorded over the course of the 2019 season.

Table 1. 2019 season totals by station.

Station	Total Banded	Species Banded	Total Recaptures	Species Recaptures	Total Birds (DET)	Total Species (DET)
Rocky Point	4378	59	685	39	163,859	197
Pedder Bay	3040	61	899	37	60,193	131
Total	7418	69	1584	45	224,052	203

In 2019, David Bell was the primary Bander-in-charge, while Siobhan Darlington and Donna Talluto rounded out the full-time banding crew. We also had two interns, Ashlea Veldhoen and Rebecca Golat, and a fourth bander, Nathalie Paquette, for parts of the season. An incredible 107 volunteers donated over 5034 hours of their time and experience between the stations throughout the season. As with every year, 2019 provided many highlights to keep the banders and volunteers entertained. Rocky Point added two species to its already substantial all-time list and there was a good mix of other exciting birds caught and observed at both stations. Rocky Point added its first new species, the Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), on August 7th. October brought colder temperatures, lingering neotropical migrants, and large numbers of late-season migrants. It also brought a major highlight of 2019 at RPBO: a Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*), captured on October 1st! This individual, a hatch-year female, marked the first record for British Columbia, the second for Canada, and the first banding record for North America for this East Asian species.

MAPS May 31 – August 7, 2019

The Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program is a collaborative effort managed by the Institute for Bird Populations. The data is used to assess and monitor vital rates and population dynamics of birds throughout North America. Rocky Point Bird Observatory operates two MAPS field sites with distinct habitats: Witty's Lagoon Regional Park in Metchosin and Madrona Farm in Saanich. RPBO has been contributing data to MAPS since 2003.

Table 2. 2019 MAPS season totals by station.

Station	Newly banded	Recaps	Species
Madrona	396	78	31
Witty's Lagoon	249	60	27

Nocturnal Owl Monitoring September 15-October 31, 2019

RPBO began monitoring Northern Saw-whet Owls at Rocky Point in the fall of 2002, adding a station at Pedder Bay Marina in 2012. This monitoring project is part of Project OwlNet (founded in 1994), which seeks to expand the network of monitoring stations, consolidate owl data, and build cooperation among researchers in North America. 2019 saw a 50% increase in the number of owls banded compared with 2018. The 1064 newly-banded owls and 54 recaptures kept the banders busy. A highlight of this year was the capture of the 10,000th Northern Saw-whet Owl to visit our banding station! The Pedder Bay monitoring station continued to serve as an important adjunct to the Rocky Point station, both in terms of training new volunteers and for public visitation. A ticketing system was introduced this year to help predict the number of visitors and had modest success in doing so with 171 tickets issued. The Northern Saw-whet Owl population appears to be cyclical, synchronized with that of their favourite prey, the deer mouse. In addition to numbers of owls, recaps, age and gender monitoring help our understanding of these cycles.

Hummingbird Project April – September, 2019

The hummingbird team had a very successful year. The team banded 2063 hummingbirds at 37 locations across BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan. In addition to hosting a well-attended hummingbird symposium in Chilliwack, we published research on the diet of Rufous Hummingbird nestlings in the open source journal *PeerJ*

(AJ Moran *et al.* 2019). We know very little about what these warm-blooded pollinators need to rear the next generation successfully. Our study used eDNA analysis of faecal samples to provide the first insight into these requirements for Rufous Hummingbird nestlings on southern Vancouver Island. This year's star recapture of an at-least 9-year-old Rufous Hummingbird male at Highwood Junction in Kananskis was made by Susanne Maidment. This longevity is rarely seen and is especially rare among males. A hybrid Rufous x Calliope Hummingbird was captured by our reigning hybrid-capturing champion, Sue Elwell. During the season, in addition to all their usual monitoring activities, our teams collected faeces and urine for further eDNA studies into habitat use. Two of the teams collected nectar mites (the farthest north they have been found) for species identification. Our hummingbird teams have done a wonderful job again this season and we cannot thank them enough for offering their skill, time and dedication which is so vital to the success of this project.

Table 3. Number of hummingbirds banded in 2019 by species.

Species	New Bands	Recaptures
Anna's	125	17
Black-chinned	131	19
Calliope	783	210
Ruby-throated	99	12
Rufous	924	124
Hybrid Rufous x Calliope	1	0

Seawatch Yearlong

This is our fourth year of land-based seabird observation at Beechey Head in East Sooke Park, aimed at gathering baseline data on seasonal abundance and migratory volume of seabirds using the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Standardized one-hour "seawatches" are conducted starting half an hour after sunrise and all identifiable birds transiting or staging in the area are counted. In 2019 we observed a total of 28,817 birds of 79 species at the Beechey Head site during 40 standardized seawatches. Most numerous were alcids, with 14,168 birds of 5 species. Of these, 11,403 were Common Murres. As in 2018, we observed a significant movement of eastbound Rhinoceros Auklets in early March, with 101 birds passing during the hour on March 7th and 247 on 14th. Ancient Murrelets peaked in November and December when 1286 of 1393 of these birds were observed.

The next most abundant groups of birds were gulls with 8,460 birds of 12 species, ducks with 2182 birds of 15 species, loons with 2025 birds of four species, and cormorants with 1001 birds of three species. This year we had a significant increase in volunteers coming out for seawatch. Everyone is welcome to take part. Seawatches are usually held every Saturday (weather permitting), meeting at Aylard Farm parking lot at sunrise for the hike out to Beechey Head.

Education Programs

2019 was a strong year for Rocky Point Bird Observatory's public education programs. We reached 1720 people through our school programs, field trips, and outreach events coordinated by our Lead Educator, Andrea Neumann. We also hosted 40 community group presentations, conducted several media interviews, and increased our visibility as a primary source for information about birds on Vancouver Island. This past spring, we held our 16th annual Avian Monitoring and Bird Banding workshop, led by Dr. Eric Demers of Vancouver Island University and attended by 18 participants.

This workshop continues to be a key component of our education programming. RPBO's own Alison Moran led a very successful Hummingbird Banding Workshop in Chillwack, BC, and RPBO also partnered with Saanich Parks to offer beginning birding courses in the spring and fall. On Saturday, May 11, we hosted our 10th annual World Migratory Bird Day festival at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park in Saanich. 177 people were treated to guided bird walks, outreach displays from local community partners, and presentations by The Raptors centre from Duncan. World Migratory Bird Day is one of the only times we set up a temporary banding station for

public education purposes. Attendees had the opportunity to see both Anna's and Rufous hummingbirds, as well as Song Sparrows, American Robins, and a Spotted Towhee, up close as they were banded. RPBO staff and volunteers attended many other public events throughout the year, including several Earth Day events, the Scouts Canada Beaveree, WildARC's Open House, Metchosin Day, and a CRD Parks event at Witty's Lagoon. We are grateful for the opportunities to work with our many partners to inspire people from all walks of life to appreciate and conserve wildlife.

Outreach events are also a great way to increase our visibility in the community and recruit new volunteers. This year we continued to offer classroom programs for elementary school classes. Our programs aim to take the concepts taught in the BC science curriculum, such as biodiversity and evolutionary adaptation, and apply them to local birds. All programs include a study of nest and replica egg specimens, but the highlight is when the kids get to leave their desks and head outside for a beginner birdwatching and binocular tutorial. This year, we partnered with Ecoquest summer camps to deliver modified classroom programs to nearly 100 summer campers aged 7-11. Our fall migration station on the property of the Pedder Bay Resort and Marina continues to be an ideal location for field trip programs. 116 students participated in field trip programs to bird banding stations in 2019. Many of the teachers have participated in our field trip program for 4-5 seasons. New this year, we also had a group of Scouts (boys and girls ages 7-11) visit our nocturnal owl monitoring station.

Though they were too early in the evening to see live owls, they did get to see a mock owl banding demonstration and learn more about local owl species. All participants expressed how special it was to see the science going on in their own backyards. In addition, we continued to offer bird walks to the public at Pedder Bay on Thursdays and Sundays, which reached over 500 people throughout the season. This year we hosted our second Christmas Bird Count for Kids at Beckwith Park in Saanich. We observed 591 birds from 28 species and contributed our findings to the Victoria Christmas Bird Count. A highlight was the duck pond, where young bird watchers could compare shapes, sizes, and colors of Mallards, Wood Ducks, and a male Hooded Merganser all in one spot. This event is a great example of citizen science within our community. 40 presentations were given to community groups (from seniors' and veterans' groups to golf course superintendents) across the region. RPBO is willing to provide speakers to all groups interested in birds, nature and conservation.

RPBO also took part in a livestream event, "For The Birds", made possible by Sunset Labs, which highlighted our conservation and education work. People attended the event in person, and many watched on the livestream broadcast from their homes. RPBO has become an important resource for avian expertise, with interviews on CFAX and CBC, articles in the Times-Colonist, Goldstream Gazette, Birdwatching Daily, and Seaside Magazine, and features on CTV News, CHEK TV, and Shaw Cable. Our social media has been managed by Board member Jannaca Chick, who has overseen terrific growth in followers and content. Our posts reach thousands of people every month. Not surprisingly, the majority of our followers are from Canada and the US, but we also have followers from the UK, Australia, Mexico, India, Peru, New Zealand, Gambia, Mongolia, Spain, Japan, Germany, Israel, Ecuador, and many more countries! In 2019, RPBO's work was also shared through a series of videos on BBC Earth's social media, hosted by Board member Connel Bradwell. We are grateful for all the interest and community support for our public education initiatives, which we will continue to build on in the years to come to keep the public informed of the important and amazing world of local migratory birds.

Volunteers

As we reflected on the 25th Anniversary of Rocky Point Bird Observatory this year, one thing was abundantly clear: without volunteers, there would never have been a 25th Anniversary. In the early days, everyone was a volunteer. Our first paid bander was hired in 1998. Since then, and despite a much larger field staff and a few part-time administrators, the volunteer contribution still outpaces the hours spent by paid personnel by a large margin. RPBO remains a primarily volunteer-driven organization. What makes an excellent RPBO volunteer? An interest in birds might be assumed, but we have roles that can be filled by someone who can't tell a robin from a chickadee.

The most important characteristic of our volunteers is a keen interest in supporting our organization, whether in the field or behind the scenes. Enthusiasm, dedication, a willingness to work with others, and a good sense of wonder for our natural world are traits that we have in droves in our volunteer pool. In 2019, 160 volunteers contributed 10,167 hours to our projects on southern Vancouver Island. Hundreds more were given by the hummingbird project volunteers throughout the province and people working on research, fund-raising, and other behind-the-scenes aspects of our programs. Over our 25 years, our best calculations suggest we have seen more than 1000 volunteers. This year, we were delighted to acknowledge the contributions of volunteers with more than 250 hours of service with an embroidered commemorative patch. www.rpbo.org 🇨🇦

Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club (SSTNC) - Submitted by Kathleen Maser

Club AGM

- 1) A nearly complete slate of new officers were elected.
- 2) One resolution was put forward by Kees Visser - **Be it resolved that, if nature, including flora and fauna, are under threat on Salt Spring or in the waters surrounding the island, the Board will determine an appropriate response that directly addresses the threat.** He brought up previous concerns within the Club that such action could be considered political and offered the opinion that an attack on nature is not political. Kees began by quoting the Club's Constitution and asserted that action by the Club when nature is threatened falls under the stated Purposes of the Club where the study of flora and fauna in their natural habitat is specifically mentioned. In his opinion, the Board has a responsibility to act in accordance with the Constitution. After considerable discussion, it was passed by a good margin.
- 3) The club awarded a **\$2 000 grant to The Stewards In Training (SIT)** program of the Conservancy. This is a flagship program of the SSI Conservancy where every class spends one full day in nature involved in interesting and stimulating activities.

Conservation:

1. **Owl Island has been purchased by Parks Canada** and is now protected. This is incredible news as it is a sensitive ecological and cultural treasure.
2. Various members are involved with a new group called **Island Forest Watch** working to stop large clear-cut logging operations on private lands.
3. A gathering of biologists, First Nation groups and hereditary chiefs to protest the DFO's decision to allow the **herring fishery** took place with speakers also from Pacific Wild. In opposition to this run, a flotilla in Ganges Harbour where at one time a huge herring run occurred was being planned when the covid virus hit.

Trails Our new Trails coordinator, Murray Coates, with a team, has been highly active in his first two months on the job.

Jack Foster Trail improvements consist of: fixing the existing boardwalks and establishing several new boardwalks where the ground continues to be very muddy. Restoration of a neighbour's fence that had been forced over the trail by a tree that fell during the December 20, 2018, windstorm.

Installation of a bench in memorial for Herb Otto near the stairs descending to the beach at the end of the trail. Herb built these stairs with a club work party and was Trail Coordinator for a number of years.

Mt. Maxwell and Burgoyne Bay Provincial Parks. Installation of 5 new posts to replace vandalized ones. New you-are-here maps were printed and are being mounted on these posts. Openings cut in a tree that was blocking trail #1 going up Mt. Maxwell. Work has begun on a master map for the top of Mt. Maxwell and the parking lot in Burgoyne Bay that will encompass the whole trail system in the two parks.

Ruckle Provincial Park signage. Discussions were initiated with BC Parks about signing the trails in the Cusheon Cove addition to Ruckle Park. We are currently GPS-ing the trails and will develop a new map for BC Parks approval before we produce the new signs.

Events: In early March all events were cancelled.

Prior to this date were: **Speaker:** Aaron Purdy, a Research biologist with Ocean Wise's Marine Mammal Research Program and the coordinator of the South Vancouver Island Cetacean Research Initiative in Victoria spoke about our local whales.

Nature Outings: In our hiking, walking and rambling groups, we've had great turnouts, sometimes more than 20, especially in the hiking group.

1. A **mushroom group** led by Linda Quiring, one of our former Presidents, has been formed under the name, SMU-the Saltspring Mushroom Underground Group.
2. Several of our members do monthly bird surveys for **Birds Canada**.
3. Last outing was to the **Brant Wildlife Festival** put on by the Arrowsmith Naturalists. A super day, with naturalist Lynne Brooks taking in Hamilton Marsh, the Heritage Forest, Seaside Beach and Rathtreavor Park. Great concentrations of surf scoters were seen far out while massive numbers of gulls were feasting on herring roe on the beaches. 2 - 300 Brant Geese were located at Rathtreavor. Further out, beyond our range were incredible numbers of water birds.
4. Christmas Bird Count -Team of Tim Marchant, Peter McAllister and Kathleen Maser conducted a successful count.

Christmas Bird Count Trends over 31 years

Tim Marchant, has been compiling CBC data for all of Salt Spring, since 1989, now 31 years, and says there are some notable trends.

Anna's Hummingbirds hardly showed up before 2005, now 130 to 170

California Quail - 911 counted in 1989, and a fairly steady decline since – perhaps habitat loss and cat predation?

Rhinoceros Auklets and Common Murres - big declines since the year 2000 with disappearance of forage fish the likely culprit.

Band-tailed Pigeons - from 2008 on have hardly shown up at all.

Horned Grebes are doing really well.

Western Grebe population has collapsed. In 1990 we counted 5361. From 2011 on the numbers have never been higher than 41. They seem to have found their forage fish in California.

However, in January 2020, Peter McAllister and Kathleen Maser counted close to 300 in a linelike raft far out in Ganges Harbour.

Robins and Cedar Waxwings were way off their highs of 2013 – low berry crops since that time?

Red-cross bills – 0 on this count, a regular on the count for 30 years.

Eurasian-collared doves – 0 after making the count for 8 years in a row since migrating onto SSI

For three years running now, we are on the low side of our average for the total count. This year we tallied 10,885 birds while the average for the past ten years is 12,849. This may be due to our number of counters (104) being off by about 10%.

www.saltspringtnc.ca www.facebook.com/SSTrailandNatureClub/ 📍

Victoria Natural History Society- Submitted by Gordon Hart

All programs and events took place as expected until our AGM on March 10. We had a good turnout of 55 people. After a short AGM, Rory Fogarty of the Ministry of the Environment talked about his research on meso-carnivores, such as Marten, Mink, and Short-tailed Weasel, in the Jordan River watershed on southern Vancouver Island. At the AGM, we were just starting to realize that the spreading covid19 virus was going to impact all the activities of the Society. All in-person talks and field trips have now been cancelled. We are moving our board meetings online and presenting at least some of our evening talks online.

In January, two board members, Rick Searle and Jim Cuthbert, represented VNHS at a STEAM event (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and design, and Math). It was held at St. Margaret's School and was open to the

public and students from other schools, and was well-attended.

VNHS supports and collaborates with Pollinator Partnership Canada. A current project is the Youth Pollinator Leadership Team. In February, the youth applicants for the team, and the general public were invited to an all-day introductory session on pollinator topics. This event was held at the Royal BC Museum, another partner of the Pollinator Partnership. The City of Victoria and their Parks Department were also participants and supporters. Attendees could drop-in or stay for the whole day. Topics included identification of local bees, flies, wasps, and other pollinators, and butterflies of the Victoria area.

Unfortunately, other events we were to participate in have been cancelled, such as the open house at Wild Arc, an animal rehab centre, an Earth Day event at a local park, and the World Migratory Bird Day events in early May. Some projects are still progressing. We are working with Jacques Sirois in support of a commemorative monument for J. Fenwick Lansdowne. It will be located in Oak Bay where the renowned bird artist lived and worked. www.vicnhs.bc.ca www.facebook.com/vicnhs/ <https://twitter.com/VictoriaNHS> 🐝

Other Reports

BC Naturalists’ Foundation

Bob Handfield - President

I am very sorry to report that the Foundation’s vice-president, Tom Bearss, passed away in April of this year. Tom was an ardent supporter of BC Nature and the Foundation. One of his favorite Board tasks was to serve on the committee to review Club support grant applications – he very much enjoyed reading about the different projects being proposed by the local clubs and he wanted to spread as much money as possible to each of the applicants. Tom also liked to be involved in the review of the Foundation’s endowment investments with our financial advisors. Tom will be sorely missed by so many. Thanks to the many of you who have made donations in memory of Tom, to further the work of the Foundation.

Every year (in fact pretty much every month) we all get bombarded with requests to support various conservation organizations ranging from localized groups such as Georgia Strait Alliance to national organizations such as Nature Conservancy of Canada and probably close to one hundred groups in between. So why should you consider leaving a bequest to, or donating to, the BC Naturalists’ Foundation? How are we different from the others? Let me try to answer that without disparaging any of the other fine groups, many of which I donate to myself.

First, the Foundation is about as close as possible to being an all-volunteer organization. We have no full time employees nor do we even have a quarter-time employee. We spend less than \$800 per year on administrative help. Secondly all of our grants stay in BC and are dispersed throughout the province so that the money is spent by local clubs on local projects. We listed the Club support grants given this year in the spring issue of this magazine but the table below is a quick reminder of the typical wide diversity of projects and geographic locations on which our funds are spent. There are over 50 local clubs from all over BC federated with BC Nature – however we can only support those clubs who actually file an application for funds. On average about 10-15 clubs per year submit an application for support of a local conservation project. We would love to see an increase in the number of applications.

Bat Conference – Coquitlam	Bat Exploration
Thermal Imaging camera - Coquitlam	Presentation trailer upgrades
Pamphlet , Birds of Chilliwack area– Chilliwack	Invertebrate biodiversity - Terrace
Wetland restoration – Comox	Invasive species removal - Burnaby
Invasive crab monitoring – White Rock	New website Development
Native plantings - Kamloops	Iona Island Bird Observatory - Richmond
Sandhill Crane monitoring – Fraser Valley	Mini-bioblitz kits - Langley

Our year-end financial statements for Dec 31, 2019 have just now had the review engagement completed and the preliminary conclusion is that the Foundation's assets at that date totalled just a few dollars shy of \$820,000 compared to \$732,000 at the end of 2018. This increase is a combination of increased donations and bequests and growth in the stock market. Since the onset of the COVID crisis the stock market has been in a state of turmoil so our current assets will be somewhat less although not all of our assets are held in stocks. We would like to thank all of those supporters who have remembered the Foundation in their wills or otherwise have donated to keep our endowment growing.

The Foundation's growing assets have allowed us to increase the amount of funds disbursed each year in support of BC Nature and the federated Club projects. The amount disbursed for Club projects this year totalled \$17,250 plus the Foundation funded the two BC Nature scholarships for \$3,500. Since the Foundation's founding in 1991 we have disbursed \$233,000 in support of Club projects and BC Nature undertakings. 🌱

Camp and Field Activities Camp Committee - Harry Crosby

No report

NatureKids BC Executive Director - Rebecca Clapperton Law

NatureKids BC (formerly the Young Naturalists' Club of BC Society) is a registered grassroots charity that helps children get outdoors to explore, play, learn about and take action for nature through an award-winning network of volunteer-led family nature clubs that extends across British Columbia. And we are turning 20 years old this year! Thank you, sincerely, to everyone at BC Nature for all of your encouragement, support and mentoring through the years as we nurture the successful framework that is enabling children and families to connect to nature.

NatureKids BC helps foster the next generation of nature stewards through hands-on learning, stewardship activities and citizen science projects. Children come to know and love Nature by being in Nature; catching tadpoles, building forts, exploring. But too often free time and "green time" are replaced by screen time and busy schedules. Research shows that time in Nature contributes to academic success and builds social skills. Strong childhood connections to Nature translate to conservation behaviours and activities later in life. Our goal is to create a generation of knowledgeable, engaged and inspired children who are connected to Nature at such a deep level that they will be empowered and motivated to take action for Nature now and in the future.

We currently enjoy supporting 566 family membership (1900+ children and adults) in 24 family clubs across all regions of BC. Our Club Leader volunteers delivered 200 Explorer Day field trips in 2019, representing 3000 individual outdoor adventures for kids, which included activities as diverse as winter camp fires and star gazing, snow shoeing, learning about animal skulls, riparian restoration, cleaning nest boxes, going on fungi forays, geocaching, wildlife tracking, rockhounding, and learning about wilderness safety and survival.

If you are not already subscribing to our quarterly paper or digital publication, NatureWILD magazine, check it out online and add the fun to your household's dinner table! <https://bit.ly/35NoT9M> Digital subscriptions are free to all teachers in BC.

Our Explorer Days are either delivered by Club Leaders or local experts that NatureKids BC call Nature Mentors. Nature Mentors deliver engaging field trips and support the NatureKids BC's province-wide citizen science initiatives by sharing their passion for nature and their teaching experience. We recognize that many of our Nature Mentors are found by networking with local BC Nature clubs and we are so grateful to have your support in this special and inspiring way. "I love the local activities and my kids enjoy learning from local scientists and experts", says a 2018 member. We are actively building our province-wide team of Nature Mentors: If you would like to volunteer with us, I would be happy to hear from you: executivedirector@naturekids.bc.ca

Kristine Webber, previous Executive Director of NatureKids BC (2008-2016) shares her observations and hopes for the organization: “Back in 2000 when NatureKids BC began, there was no such notion as a smart phone and email was just emerging as ‘a thing’. Co-founder and Daphne Solecki credits this new email technology with allowing her to easily communicate with volunteer club leaders and for NatureKids BC to flourish around the province. In the intervening years NatureKids BC has grown from one club in the Lower Mainland to many around the province.

What has not changed in those intervening years is a need to connect children with nature and empower them to step up for nature now and in the future. Today’s NatureKids BC has grown and matured, it is a more sophisticated organization than when Directors met around the founder’s kitchen table.

With an invigorated leadership team committed to continuous improvement, including greater engagement, financial stability and program excellence, as well as the opportunities and tools available in 2020 to enhance and grow the program, it is exciting to imagine where NatureKids BC will be in another 20 years.” 🐾

Outdoor Recreation Council BC Nature Representative - Hilary Miller

No report

Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas Program Krista Kaptein

The Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas (IBA) Program is one of the main province-wide stewardship projects of BC Nature. There are 83 IBAs in BC and the BC IBA Caretaker Network includes about 60 volunteer Caretakers & Co-Caretakers who are critical to the Program’s success. Caretaker projects range from education to conservation, including activities such as bird surveys, birding festivals, community outreach, and interpretive sign design & installation. The IBA program has continued with achievements, collaborations and targets in the past year as follows:

- Successful continuation of BC Gaming support with \$10,000 grant awarded for 2020 (12.5% BCN admin fee is deducted from total).
- annual Fall IBA Newsletter produced in Sept. 2019 and posted online.
- 2019 Annual IBA Caretakers Report compiled and posted online.
- Focus on IBAs articles published in BC Nature magazine Summer 2019, Fall 2019, Winter 2019/2020 and Spring 2020 issues.
- Conservation team meetings to provide technical support continue. The core team includes Anne Murray, Art Martell, George Clulow, David Fraser, and David Bradley, James Casey and Graham Sorenson of Bird Studies Canada, and other expertise as needed.
- Liaison with Bird Studies Canada headquarters staff in Ontario continues with Andrew Couturier, BSC Senior Analyst; and Amanda Bichel, Ontario IBA Coordinator.
- Liaison with other IBA Coordinators across Canada continues.
- BC IBA Caretaker Google Groups emailing list reaches about 60 Caretakers & Co-caretakers.
- Several BC IBA eNewsletters sent, reaching about 450 people now in the IBA network, every few months.
- Recruitment, communications and welcome packages for four new IBA Caretakers/co-Caretakers since spring 2019.
- 2019 Year-end thank-you packages & appreciation gifts (photo cards) sent to all Caretakers & Co-Caretakers.
- Ongoing Caretaker Support including meetings & communications; IBA signs ; bird ID materials; bird count support; letters of support.
- Display materials provided to Caretakers as needed/requested.

- Successful completion in spring 2020 of IBA interpretive sign project funded by TD FEF for four interpretive signs in three IBAs throughout BC; each with additional partners.
- Successful completion of eBird Protocol Survey in Chopaka East & Kilpoola Lake Area IBA, in June 2019; project funded by BCFO.
- Successful application to BCFO for funding to support an eBird Protocol Survey in Vaseux Lake IBA, planned for June 2020.
- Successful third year of IBA Local Action Fund (LAF) /Nature Canada Project: “Engaging BC First Nations Guardian Watchmen as Partners in IBA Stewardship”. Activities with the K’omoks Guardian Watchmen continued. Project continues with continuing outreach to Haida Gwaii and Central Coast First Nations Guardian Watchmen. IBA Caretakers are taking the lead on outreach.
- Successful application to Nature Canada for Public Engagement Fund for team building with IBA Caretakers using Engagement Organizing principles. Activities included Caretaker networking, enhanced communications, webinars; project continues.
- Application to McLean Foundation for support for 2020 was declined but BCN encouraged to apply for the next year.

In the coming year, funding will continue to be sought to support more IBA projects and conservation initiatives. Most in-person activities such as meetings, workshops, presentations, events, are cancelled due to the coronavirus situation, however the ongoing projects such as the LAF project and Engagement Organizing project will continue when possible. Site summary updates will continue in collaboration with Caretakers. The Engagement Organizing project will continue with webinars for IBA Caretakers. The Coordinator will continue to support Caretaker initiatives at their request. Anne Murray continues as volunteer IBA Program Liaison for BC Nature; and members of the BC IBA Conservation Team, Caretakers, Bird Studies Canada, Nature Canada, and other partners and supporters, continue to contribute a significant amount of in-kind time and expertise to the Program. 🐦

Harnessing Nature Knowledge – Nature Guide **Krista Kaptein**

The Harnessing Nature Knowledge Project received funding with a grant of \$8000 from BC Gaming for 2020. The project is a web-based, map-based tool highlighting nature viewing sites in British Columbia, intended for users interested in nature viewing – both local residents and visitors.

Up to to the end of 2019, 403 nature sites were put online, corresponding to ten regions: Cariboo, Central BC, Lower Mainland, Kootenays, Okanagan, Peace North, Skeena North, Sunshine Coast, Thompson-Nicola, and Vancouver Island. A map was added for finding BC Nature Clubs, and all pages were reviewed, revised and brought up-to-date. Full instructions on gathering information and putting pages online were compiled for BC Nature, completing my involvement with the project.

The BC Nature Viewing Guide website is www.bcnatureguide.ca The site has been enhanced with a gallery of photos on the home page, and bird sounds courtesy of Neville Recording on main pages.

Viewers can access general or detailed information using the maps. On the Find a BC Nature Site page, icons on a map indicate sites for which nature viewing information is compiled. On a drop-down menu, a visitor may select from Nature Viewing Regions of the Province. Each of these regions has Nature Viewing Areas which show as clusters of marker icons on a map. Each marker icon links to a detailed Nature Viewing Site page, which presents in chart form, nature information, images, seasons to visit, references, links & more.

Naturalists and clubs are encouraged to review the online Guide www.bcnatureguide.ca and let BC Nature know of any changes they would like to make for nature sites that they are familiar with. For more information contact communications@bcnature.ca 🐦

Resolution 2020

Resolution 2020-001 -Ecological Reserves System of British Columbia Submitted by Victoria Natural History Society (VNHS)

WHEREAS in 1971, the British Columbia Legislature gave unanimous approval to the Ecological Reserve Act, thus becoming the first province in Canada to formalize, acknowledge the benefits of, and give permanent protected status to ecological reserves; and

WHEREAS the Ecological Reserve Act of 1971 enabled the creation of 148 Ecological Reserves across B.C. http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/eco_reserve/alphalist.html as part of a Protected Area system specifically to protect representative examples of the ecosystem types in B.C. as well as rare species and special features of biological and geological importance, for scientific study and educational purposes; and

WHEREAS, the BC Government holds primary stewardship responsibility for the B.C. Protected Areas system, including Ecological Reserves, and that all British Columbians currently derive economic, social, cultural, health and environmental benefits from these areas; and

WHEREAS climate change, increased resource activities and expanding human populations place greater pressures and create greater uncertainty on the sustainability of the species and ecosystems in Canada's most ecologically diverse province. Reducing uncertainty can be aided over time if there is a sustained monitoring and research program in its protected areas, including Ecological Reserves, so that adaptation strategies are informed by scientific understanding of trends and thresholds; and

WHEREAS the concept behind Ecological Reserves when endorsed in the 1970s was that science-based approaches are a fundamental key to understanding how to sustain B.C.'s natural bio and eco-diversity, and so, with today's awareness of climate change effects on nature, Ecological Reserves remain relevant today, and in fact, are now even more urgently needed; and

WHEREAS most Ecological Reserves were specifically designated as research and monitoring sites, these activities have not been consistently pursued by government or promoted to universities and colleges in the last 40 years, i.e., since the early 1980s; and

WHEREAS there are approved management plans for all Ecological Reserves, there has been little to no implementation by BC Parks of these Ecological Reserve plans since the 1980s, and thus, instead of serving as natural area benchmarks in research and monitoring studies, many Ecological Reserves are suffering environmental degradation from a variety of threats due to lack of maintenance and stewardship actions; and

WHEREAS traditional land use by Indigenous Peoples is generally permitted in Ecological Reserves, stewardship actions by Indigenous Ecological Reserve wardens and Indigenous groups is welcomed, and Ecological Reserves provide opportunities for the maintenance and application of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and co-management, therefore the establishment of new Ecological Reserves and maintenance of existing Ecological Reserves could help support the BC government's efforts to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP); and

WHEREAS the current 148 Ecological Reserves do not form an adequate network of study areas to represent the diversity in B.C.'s Ecoregions and Ecological Zones, nor areas that serve as examples of ecosystems that have been modified by human beings, and that new discoveries of significant botanical, zoological and geological features and rare or endangered native plants and animals in their natural habitat are still being made, a clear process is needed to set aside specific areas of land to create a more robust Ecological Reserve network that incorporates newly discovered significant areas and features and helps the Province meet its provincial,

national and international commitments for biodiversity conservation, species at risk protection, and Indigenous stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Ecological Reserves (FER) presented to the BC Government a list of worthy candidate Ecological Reserves in 2014 with a reminder in 2017, none of these areas have been officially added to the Ecological Reserve system; and

WHEREAS the total area of land set aside for Ecological Reserves in B.C. is 112, 543 ha in terrestrial reserves plus 51,731 ha in marine reserves, and that Ecological Reserves tend to be small, they do not alienate large tracts of land from economic development. However, they protect ecologic, biologic and geologic resources of great environmental value and their placement can be strategic so that they contribute to provincial environmental goals related to biodiversity and heritage conservation, climate change action (mitigation and adaptation), Indigenous stewardship, and evidence-based policy. Thus, the long-term comprehensive benefits of protecting these resources exceeds the short-term economic benefits of resource use that would destroy these resources.

WHEREAS the present Ecological Reserve system of 148 reserves currently comprises 0.008% of the BC Parks Protected Area System and one percent of Crown lands set aside as Ecological Reserves is needed to increase the probability of sustaining ecosystems currently in B.C. and limit irreparable biological losses in a period of rapid climate change. An expanded world-class Ecological Reserve system could help the BC Government achieve biodiversity conservation commitments, inform climate change adaptation strategies and augment Indigenous stewardship opportunities. Setting a one percent target would mean an 80-fold increase in the area protected by Ecological Reserves over the current Ecological Reserve system (approximately 1 million ha in size).

Be it resolved that BC Nature urges the BC Government put in place a clear process to add new Ecological Reserves to the system with a schedule for management plan completion and implementation established where gaps exist in ecosystem representation or significant biological (botanical, zoological, genetic) or geological features, and

Be it further resolved that BC Nature urges the BC Government to establish a target of setting aside one percent of Crown lands as Ecological Reserves to represent and protect fragile ecosystems, culturally modified ecosystems and features, rare and endangered species, and significant biological and geological features, in this period of rapid climate change, and

Be it further resolved that BC Nature urges BC Parks to commit to maintaining the current system of Ecological Reserves by completing and implementing approved Ecological Reserve management plans in a timely fashion, and

Be it further resolved that BC Nature urges the BC government to facilitate research in Ecological Reserves by forming partnerships with universities, colleges, research institutions, ENGOs, and Indigenous peoples to get research projects, TEK studies, and baseline biodiversity inventories completed, periodically updated, communicated and used to inform land uses, management practices and climate change adaptation strategies across the broader landscape, and

Be it further resolved that BC Nature urges BC Parks to support the volunteer stewardship efforts of Ecological Reserve wardens as well as ENGO and Indigenous partners in Ecological Reserves by taking action to address threats to Ecological Reserves that they identify, providing opportunities for training and communicating, and supporting specific stewardship projects with in-kind support and where possible, funds. 🦋

Strategic Plan Harry Crosby

Strategic Plan - 2020-2025

THE ORGANIZATION

BC Nature has 6,100 members who participate in 53 Naturalist Clubs.

The board of directors has 15 members:

1. Five board members represent five regions in British Columbia
 - a) Vancouver Island,
 - b) Lower Mainland,
 - c) Thompson-Okanagan, Shuswap,
 - d) Kootenay and
 - e) Northern BC
- 2) BC Nature has standing committees three of whose chairs are also members of the Board
 - a) Conservation Committee,
 - b) Education Committee and
 - c) Communications Committee, to be renamed and re-organized
- 3) The rest of the board consists of the four officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary), the Past-President and two directors at large

BC Nature is active at three levels:

1. **MEMBERSHIP** - At the membership level BC Nature makes it possible for naturalists from all Federated Clubs to come together twice annually in provincial meetings for workshops and holds Nature Camps and encourages clubs to host Nature Camps as opportunities for members to visit nature sites and participate in naturalist education programs.
2. **CLUB** - At the club level BC Nature assists naturalists in communities to establish Clubs; provides insurance, a membership database and other services to clubs and their members and assists clubs to raise and address conservation concerns with various levels of government.
3. **PROVINCIAL** - At the provincial level, BC Nature: through its website, magazine, and social media presence, provides a hub for naturalists and clubs to exchange information; provides a second website to inform members and people interested in nature about wildlife viewing sites across the province of BC; provides scholarships and programs in schools and makes submissions to government about government policies, speaking out on conservation issues. It provides information about the location of Naturalist Clubs throughout the province.

VISION - MISSION STATEMENT

BC Nature's motto states the mission of BC Nature succinctly:

"Know Nature and Keep it Worth Knowing"

BC Nature also describes itself as a "Voice for Nature"

BC Nature has not adopted a mission statement. A mission statement might consist of the following sentence: BC Nature protects nature, today and tomorrow, using conservation and education strategies, science and advocacy.

GOALS/PURPOSE

The goals (purpose) of BC Nature are set out in its constitution. They are:

1. **CONSERVATION** - to provide naturalists and natural history clubs of British Columbia with a unified voice

on conservation and environmental issues,

2. **EDUCATION** - to foster an awareness, appreciation, and understanding of our natural environment, that it may be respected, wisely used and maintained for future generations,
3. **COMMUNITY BUILDING** - to encourage the formation and cooperation of natural history clubs throughout British Columbia and
4. **COMMUNICATIONS** - to provide a means of communication between naturalists in British Columbia.

This Strategic Plan does not recommend any change to the goals of BC Nature.

CORE ACTIVITIES OF CLUBS

Clubs function independently and have a great variety of events. Many clubs facilitate

1. Conservation and nature monitoring projects
2. Naturalist field trips
3. Talks and workshops about nature

CORE ACTIVITIES OF BC NATURE

BC Nature functions as a federation of clubs. It provides a variety of services for members and clubs including

1. Liability Insurance, Directors & Officers Errors & Omissions insurance and a magazine
2. Annual and Fall General Meetings and Conferences with field trips, open to all members;
3. Field Camps

FINANCIAL PICTURE

Looking at the BC Nature financial picture (2019 year-end preliminary financial statements and 2020 budget), BC Nature obtains funding for and provides the following programs and services:

1. A quarterly magazine costing \$34,000 annually
2. A website with news about nature and naturalist organizations throughout BC
3. An important bird area caretakers and monitoring program costing \$26,000 annually
4. Support for start-up clubs and funding for club projects \$16,000 annually
5. An on-line nature guide website \$9,000 further development costs providing information about nature sites throughout BC and about the location of nature clubs
6. Two scholarships, for undergraduate and graduate students
7. Science fairs awards at Regional Science Fairs

THE STRATEGIC PLAN

GOAL — An organization's goals are its high-level "dreams" defining what it wants to be and achieve. Most importantly, they should inspire the organization. (broad, intangible, abstract). The goals in this strategic plan are as set out in the Constitution of BC Nature

STRATEGY — If Goals are the "what", strategies are the "how". They outline the approach for achieving goals. While goals should stay relatively static, strategies should be fluid - reviewed and updated yearly. (specific, tangible measurable)

TACTIC — Tactics are specific actions an organization will take to meet its objectives.

OBJECTIVE — Objectives allows the measure of proof that an organization is executing its strategy effectively. A good objective should be (1) specific, (2) measurable, and (3) include a timeframe

CONSERVATION

GOAL (What)

1. To provide naturalists and natural history clubs of British Columbia with a unified voice on conservation and environmental issues

STRATEGY (How)

1. Raise Profile - Raise the public profile of BC Nature as a conservation organization
2. Increase Capacity - Increase BC Nature's existing capacity within the conservation committee to:
3. Write letters to levels of government addressing conservation issues
4. Continue to work to protect areas and species of the province
5. address the climate crisis
6. promote nature-based solutions to the climate crisis and other management and political decisions involving natural areas.
7. Follow Up - Do follow up on conservation issues

TACTIC (Actions)

1. Raise Profile
 - a) Take the work of the conservation committee and more centrally present it on the website which engages supporters (See Community Building - Membership Level - Tactic)
 - b) Provide information on current issues to engage with members and potential supporters on issues
 - c) Make regular press releases on issues
2. Increase Capacity
 - a) Conservation Committee - Increase membership support and participation in conservation committee, allowing the development of subcommittees and working relationships with clubs to focus on particular files of concern to clubs
 - b) IBA Program - Work with funders (Nature Canada and Birds Canada) in accordance with their program review, to developing the IBA conservation program capacity to monitor and protect important bird areas as recommended by the Caretakers
3. Follow up
 - a) Continue to monitor responses to correspondence from government
 - b) Engage with government on issues through meetings, to better influence and gauge government responses on issues - meet with cabinet ministers for an annual review of issues
 - c) follow up on annual review with senior management within government ministries
4. Obtain funding for and hire conservation staff, able to
 - a) Do research, organizational and publicity work
 - b) Take over some of the workload from the volunteer Conservation Committee

OBJECTIVES (Outcomes)

1. Raise Profile BC Nature will
 - a) Prepare a basic handbook on making press releases for use of BC Nature and the Clubs
 - b) Issue press releases on conservation issues raised with government
 - c) Have a new engagement organizing format to its website (within one year) When the website is in place, BC Nature will promote the website on the internet.
2. Increase capacity of BC Nature and the Clubs to address and follow up on issues
 - a) BC Nature will retain the current capacity of the Conservation Committee
 - i) To research and write letters and
 - ii) Support the clubs with projects, research and letter writing
 - b) If desired by the Conservation Committee, the Board will identify a volunteer administrator for the conservation committee to support the work of the chair and
 - i) Manage the paper flow
 - ii) Recruit researchers and writers to the committee

- iii) Organize members to focus on and do follow up specific files
 - c) BC Nature will work with the Clubs to promote conservation issues of concern to local clubs (See Communications and Community Building Section)
 - i) Provide the Clubs with the capacity to campaign on local issues of concern to them
 - ii) Make the website available intermittently to host a club's website to assist it to campaign on local issues and raising funds
 - d) BC Nature will work with legal counsel to identify issues where, using legal assistance, it can be more effective in lobbying government to have an impact on environmental issues
 - e) BC Nature will assess its conservation activities in order to develop its strategies
- Follow Up - The Board, with the Conservation Committee, will
- a) Participate in annual meetings with the ministers and senior staff in the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development
 - b) Invite Club delegations to join it in meeting with and presenting local issues under management of the province
 - c) Follow up on issues with senior management within ministries
3. Fund Raising and Expenditure
- a) BC Nature will:
 - i) Use an updated website to raise funds for its conservation program
 - ii) Seek other funding sources to support conservation activities
 - iii) Have an active feed on its website updated weekly to communicate with supporters and will actively communicate with supporters inviting donations and funding
 - iv) Develop a capacity to assist clubs to approach local government departments for funding for conservation projects
 - b) When the Board has increased its capacity to raise funds (and within two years) it will hire a full-time Conservation Coordinator

RESPONSIBILITY

The Board will be responsible for the conservation goals and objectives of BC Nature

- 4. The Board will support the conservation committee by
 - a) Identify sources of funding and apply for funds
 - b) Providing the BCnature Magazine and e-news for recruiting volunteers

LINKS

- 1. Conservation committee will provide an information feed on issues it is addressing for the engagement organizing website

EDUCATION

GOAL (What)

- 1. To foster an awareness, appreciation, stewardship and understanding of our natural environment, that it may be wisely used and maintained for future generations,

STRATEGY (How)

- Continue funding scholarships for students
- 2. Promoting Education in Schools
- 3. Develop of Educational Materials for Clubs and Members

TACTIC (Actions)

- 1. Extending funding to students
 - a) Continue to fund scholarships (Rene Savenye and Bert Brink Scholarships)
- 2. Promoting Education in Schools
 - a) Continue to fund Science Fairs

- b) Support
 - i) Nature Kids BC
 - ii) Mentorship programs
- c) Continued recognition of important mentors
- 3. Development of Educational Materials for Clubs and Members
 - a) Development of materials on mentorship training
 - b) Request Power Point presentations in use at Annual General Meetings and Fall General Meetings and make them available for distribution
 - c) Develop educational power points for use at Nature Camps and distribute them

OBJECTIVES (Outcomes)

1. The Education Committee will administer scholarship and school programs and document
 - a) Expenditures on scholarships
 - b) Participation and awards for Science Fairs (number of schools and students)
2. BC Nature will have
 - a) Accessible presentations in electronic form on nature topics
 - b) A system for distributing material
 - c) Workshops at general meetings on
 - i) Nature topics
 - ii) Mentorship development
 - d) Educational nature focus workshops at some of its Field Camps

RESPONSIBILITY

1. Education Committee
 - a) Continue administering funding to students
 - b) Continue promoting education in schools
2. Nature Camps coordinator/committee (and education committees)
 - a) Development of educational materials
3. Office
 - a) Development of distribution system for materials
 - b) Asking clubs which host general meetings to submit Power-Point materials

LINKS

1. Clubs organizing general meetings and Nature Camp committee will supply materials for resource library

COMMUNICATIONS and BUILDING NATURALIST COMMUNITY

The engagement organizing process is one process for building community using the internet. It can use different strategies to attract the attention of people internet interested in nature using the internet to inform them of the activities of BC Nature. It provides people with the opportunity to support BC Nature and the clubs financially and by voicing support on conservation issues without necessarily becoming members of a club. The use of engagement organizing will also inform people about the activities of clubs in their area, encouraging them to join.

GOALS (What)

1. Membership Level
 - a) Engage more people at the Club level in increasingly meaningful ways through digital communications
2. Club Level
 - a) Encourage the formation and cooperation of naturalist Clubs throughout British Columbia,
 - b) Continue to provide support for clubs with respect to core activities
3. Provincial Level

- a) Provide a means of communication among naturalists in British Columbia.

STRATEGY (How)

1. Membership Level
 - a) Upgrade BC Nature's capacity to build community and community organizing skills
2. Club Level
 - a) Increase club membership/build clubs
 - b) Establish naturalist clubs in communities where there are none
 - c) Attract existing naturalist, wildlife or outdoor clubs to join BC Nature
3. Provincial Level
 - a) Establish necessary conditions for effective digital communications
 - b) Reach out to First Nations

Note:

1. Some Target areas for new clubs - Prince Rupert, Campbell River, Pemberton, Port Alberni, Golden, Revelstoke. Peace River

TACTIC (Actions)

Membership Level

1. Community Building and Digital Communications
 - a) Establish a baseline of information about the current digital communications operations of BC Nature
 - b) Establish an online organizing system database
 - c) Use paid up promotion to grow the supporter base

Club Level

1. Community building and digital communications
 - a) Establish a baseline of information about the current digital communications operations (i.e. website and social media participation) of BC Nature Clubs
 - b) Develop ways to help clubs grow their supporter base
 - c) Establish an advisory panel to review the success of the operation and recommend changes to the approach
2. Establish Naturalist Clubs in communities where there are none
 - a) Develop and implement strategies for establishing clubs
 - i) Develop standard infrastructure packages such bylaws, membership forms, accounting packages and procedures for clubs to adopt (simplified from BC Nature processes)
 - ii) identify potential participants
 - (1) Using engagement organizing strategies
 - (2) Asking neighbouring clubs to host events in nearby communities to identify potential participants
 - iii) Provide financial support through a BC Nature Internally Restricted Fund
3. Attract existing naturalist clubs to join BC Nature
 - a) Develop and implement strategies for recruiting naturalist clubs
 - i) Providing access to standard infrastructure developed for new clubs
 - ii) Review and upgrade services where there is room for improvement
 - b) Understand the perceptions of clubs that belong to BC Nature and organizations that have not joined about what services they would like to see BC Nature provide – by doing a survey of clubs using regional directors and neighbouring clubs
 - c) Provide unaffiliated clubs access to engagement organizing strategies to build relationships with these clubs
4. Increase club membership/build capacity
 - a) Hire staff and operate an engagement organizing program to build club capacity
 - b) Provide Training to Clubs in engagement organizing and community building

- c) Use engagement organizing technology to assist clubs with their own engagement organizing campaigns and outreach - Obtain funding to develop and maintain their online presence
- d) Nature Guide - Use funding allocated in Gaming Grant to upgrade the nature guide as an instrument to attract website viewers to contact clubs and participate in their activities

Provincial Level

5. Community building and digital communications
 - a) Establish an advisory panel, working with an engagement organizing and outreach committee (to be named) to review the success of the operation and recommend changes to the engagement organizing approach
6. BC Nature will apply for available engagement organizing funding
7. Review BC Nature magazine content, develop and implement content policy for the magazine with input from approach used by other naturalist magazines
8. Reach out to First Nations – When BC Nature has Nature Camps in first nations communities
 - a) Respect the territory of First Nations
 - b) Learn about conservation activities and resource people in first nations
 - c) Learn First Nations perspectives on nature
 - d) Invite First Nations in nature programs (e.g., elders with traditional knowledge)
 - e) Explore and build on common interests
 - f) Learn which local clubs already have good connections with First Nations and help other Local Clubs to establish those connections

OBJECTIVES (Outcomes)

Membership Level

1. BC Nature will be able to
 - a) Engage with supporters on a Provincial Website
 - b) Raise funds through engagement organizing at the provincial level
 - c) Refer supporters to the membership option and to participation in clubs

Club Level

1. BC Nature will
 - a) Have staff trained in community building who actively provide training to clubs
 - b) Stimulate and support engagement organizing activities of clubs
 - c) Apply engagement organizing strategies
2. BC Nature will be able to assist clubs to replicate technological solutions – develop a standardized engagement organizing technological solution that all clubs can replicate
3. Clubs will be established in districts where there are currently no clubs
4. More Clubs will join with BC Nature

Provincial Level

5. Some Content of BCnature will promote engagement organizing activities with
 - a) Stories of successful programs
 - b) “How to” information
6. BC Nature and clubs will have regular contact with First Nations at the local level
7. BC Nature will receive funding for engagement organizing

RESPONSIBILITY

1. Staff, contractors and the Board will make applications for funding of an engagement organizer and online facilities
2. Engagement organizers, Regional Representatives and participating clubs will caucus as a group to develop strategies and
 - a) Work together on engagement organizing activities with local clubs
 - b) Build clubs in communities where there are none
 - c) Reach out to nature clubs in communities to affiliate

3. The Communications/Outreach committee will develop and implement policy to guide the magazine's publication, and explore policies of other provincial naturalist organizations for ideas
4. Clubs organizing general meetings and Nature Camp committee will supply materials for resource library
5. The Nature Camp coordinator or host club will reach out to First Nations to participate in Nature Camp activities when they can be identified

LINKS

1. Members will continue to
 - a) Volunteer for BC Nature Board and Activities
 - b) Provide articles for BC Nature Magazine
2. BC Nature and clubs will work to build each other's capacity
3. Conservation committee will provide feed on issues it is addressing for engagement organizing website
4. Clubs organizing general meetings and Nature Camp committee will supply materials for resource library

ADMINISTRATION

GOAL (What)

1. BC Nature will develop agendas, acquire the funds it needs and manage its programs and activities with a view to meeting its goals and realizing its objectives

STRATEGY (How)

1. BC Nature Board will be well-managed
2. BC Nature and its clubs will be welcoming, active and well organized
3. BC Nature's finances will be stable and to some extent self-sustaining through engagement organizing

TACTIC (Actions)

1. Managing
 - a) Develop and implement an operational strategic plan for an effective naturalist program (this document)
 - b) Identify the people and committees who will assume responsibility for implementing the strategic plan and consult them to establish timelines
2. Membership Records
 - a) Maintain and upgrade the online membership system and train all clubs to use this system (basically completed).
3. Policies and Procedures
 - a) Provide annual updates to the Policies & Procedures Manual.
4. Accounting
 - a) Upgrade the accounting system for ease of use and accurate processing
 - b) Upgrade the accounting system for ease of use and accurate processing
 - c) Ensure year-end adjustments made during Review Engagement are incorporated into bookkeeping records
 - d) Provide quarterly Financial Statements for review by Finance Committee and Board, in addition to the year-end statements and Operating Budget for new year.
5. Financial Plan – Fund Raising
 - a) Understand and apply fund raising strategies
 - b) Identify potential sources of funding and complete applications
 - c) Diversify revenue sources
6. Program Development
 - a) Identify and implementing programs that result in BCN carrying out effective conservation and educational programs
 - b) Expand conservation program (see conservation program) and hiring conservation staff
7. Culture
 - a) Provide leadership and engagement organization training

8. Internal and external communications, engagement organizing – see Communications - Community Building section

OBJECTIVES (Outcomes)

1. BC Nature and its clubs will become known as the active, friendly organizations which they are.
2. People will become more motivated to participate in naturalist activities and satisfy their curiosity about nature, membership will grow.
3. Clubs will be supported with:
 - a) Engagement organizing support and
 - b) Continue to be supported a range of services (communications, insurance, etc.)
4. Membership records will continue to be maintained
5. Accurate, quarterly financial reports will be available
6. The Policies and Procedures manual will be kept up to date
7. BC Nature will have fundraising targets and meeting or exceeding the targets
8. Programs – see relevant sections above (conservation, education, communications and community building)
9. This strategic plan will be monitored annually by the Board and each year a new time frame will be set to tackle items that have not been started or completed

RESPONSIBILITY

1. Board committees, under the leadership of the President, Committee Chairs and Regional Coordinators will implement the strategic plan and review implementation progress annually
2. The board will establish a committee with a fundraising role
3. The Office Manager will continue to maintain the membership system, determine if upgrades are required and report to the Board with recommendations
4. The Finance Committee and Treasurer will Ensure the accounting system is being used effectively and that necessary reports are available to the Board
5. The Past President will maintain and update the Policies and Procedures Manual
6. The Governance Committee will develop and recommend to the Board, appropriate management strategies for program development and oversight (or the Board will reassign this responsibility)
7. The Human Resources Committee will provide staff support and when requested will support committees in their effort to recruit volunteers to participate in BC Nature Activities. (Staff and volunteers report to appropriate supervisors, committee chairs etc. not to the Human Resources Committee.)
8. Committees of BC Nature will develop conservation, community building and education programs as set out in other sections of this strategic plan
9. The Engagement Organizing Committee will encourage the development of outreach activities by assisting both BC Nature and the Clubs to
 - a) Identify topics for outreach campaigns, determine the activities which generate (1) the most participation and (2) are the most successful at raising funds
 - b) identify people who have the ability to assume responsibilities and leadership roles, identify activities that may interest them and encourage them to participate

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THREE SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS TO BE PRESENTED AND VOTED ON AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following three special resolutions will be considered at the general meeting later in 2020.

FIRST SPECIAL RESOLUTION

ARTICLE 6 Council of Club Representatives

Background

Clauses 6.2 (2) and 6.2 (4) describe how many Club Representatives Federated Clubs and Direct Members may send to General Meetings. Both clauses are subject to multiple interpretations so the motion amends the clauses to provide clarity. The current sections may be interpreted as meaning that Federated Clubs and Direct Members may send a second Club Representative when their respective size reaches 301 or that Federated Clubs and Direct Members may not send a second Club Representative until they have 500 members. Similar ambiguity occurs when Federated Clubs and Direct Members reach 500 members, 700 members, etc.

Whereas Clauses 6.2 (2) and 6.2 (4) are subject to various interpretations, be it resolved that clauses 6.2 (2) and (4), reading

6.2 Election of Representatives to the Council

2) Each Federated Club shall select or appoint one Club Representative for the first 300 Members or portion thereof, and one additional Club Representative for each additional 200 Members.

4) Direct Members who are not also Federated Members may elect from among their Members for a period of two years one Club Representative for each 300 Direct Members or portion thereof, and one additional Club Representative for each additional 200 Direct Members.

shall be deleted and replaced with the following text

2) Each Federated Club shall select or appoint one Club Representative for the first 300 Members or portion thereof, and one additional Club Representative for each additional 200 Members or portion thereof (i.e., 301 to 500 members allows two representatives, 501 to 700 allows three, and so on).

4) Direct Members who are not also Federated Members may elect from among their Members for a period of two years one Club Representative for each 300 Direct Members or portion thereof, and one additional Club Representative for each additional 200 Direct Members or portion thereof. (i.e., 301 to 500 members allows two representatives, 501 to 700 allows three, and so on)

SECOND SPECIAL RESOLUTION

ARTICLE 7 Board Members and Officers

Background

Article 7.2 describes the positions on the Board of Directors, who (and in what numbers). The categories are Officers of the Society, Regional Coordinators, chairs of selected Standing Committees and Directors at Large. The Board feels that more flexibility is needed, particularly as it relates to chairs of standing committees and Directors at large. The proposal amends to Article 7.2 allow the society more flexibility to identify key committees which deserve Board representation and have the Council of Club Representatives elect people to chair these committees. It will allow the Board to disband committees and constitute new committees, and ask the Council of Club Representatives to elect Directors for the new committees.

Whereas Bylaw 7.2 is unnecessarily prescriptive in describing the structure of the Board of Directors, be it resolved that Bylaw 7.2 reading

7.2 Composition

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the following Positions:
 - (i) the five Officers of the Society;
 - (ii) the Member elected to Chair the Conservation Committee;
 - (iii) the Member elected to Chair the Education Committee;
 - (iv) the Member elected to Chair the Communication Committee;
 - (v) the five Regional Coordinators; and
 - (vi) up to two Directors at Large.
2. The Board shall consist of no more than 15 (fifteen) Members.

shall be deleted and replaced with the following text

7.2 Composition

- 1) The Board of Directors shall consist of no more than 15 (fifteen) Members.
- 2) The Board of Directors shall consist of the following Positions:
 - (i) the five Officers of the Society;
 - (ii) the five Regional Coordinators and
 - (iii) five additional directors (the "Additional Directors") each of whom shall be designated by the Council of Club Representatives as the chair of an identified standing committee or as a Director at Large.
- 3) The Board of Directors, with the agreement of any Additional Director affected by its decision:
 - (i) may reassign an Additional Director who has been designated as the chair of a standing committee to chair one or more different standing committees or to sit as a Director at Large and
 - (ii) may reassign an Additional Director who is a Director at Large to chair one or more standing committee.

THIRD SPECIAL RESOLUTION

ARTICLE 11 DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Background

BC Nature has difficulty arranging for two signing officers to be available in the Lower Mainland, to sign cheques, especially during holiday travels. The Board therefore suggest the members modify the following Resolution.

Whereas BC Nature has difficulty arranging for two signing officers available in the Lower Mainland, to sign cheques, especially during holiday travel, be it resolved

That Clause 11.6, reading

11.6 Signing Officers and Deposits

1. The Society may have as many as five signing officers for all banking purposes including, and not limited to, the purposes of making deposits, endorsing cheques, approving electronic payments and approving or endorsing transfer of funds.
2. Of the 5 signing officers
 - (i) Two signing officers must be Officers of the Society
 - (ii) of the three remaining signing officers, two must be Directors of the Society and the remaining one may be a Director or a member of the society.
3. All cheques, electronic payments and transfers of funds must be approved and endorsed or facilitated on-line by two signing officers.
4. Any signing officer who is not a Director will have the duties of a Director, namely to act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the society and exercise the care, diligence and skill of a reasonably prudent individual, when acting as a signing officer for the Society.

5. The Office Manager shall be a delegated manager of the society, with authority limited to:
 - (i) making deposits;
 - (ii) preparing cheques, fund transfers and electronic payments for approval and signing by the signing officers;
 - (iii) receiving bank statements and
 - (iv) having access to on-line accounting services for the purpose of viewing transactions.

shall be deleted and replaced with the following text

11.6 Signing Officers and Deposits

1. The Society may have as many as five signing officers for all banking purposes including, and not limited to, the purposes of making deposits, endorsing cheques, approving electronic payments and approving or endorsing transfer of funds
2. The Board of Directors shall appoint the signing officers.
3. Of the five signing officers
 - (i) Two must be Officers of the Society,
 - (ii) The remaining three may be any combination of members, Directors or Officers of the Society.
4. All cheques, electronic payments and transfers of funds must be approved and endorsed or facilitated on-line by two signing officers.
5. Any signing officer who is not a Director will have the duties of a Director, namely to act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Society and exercise the care, diligence and skill of a reasonably prudent individual, when acting as a signing officer for the Society.
6. The Office Manager shall be a delegated manager of the Society, with authority limited to:
 - (i) making deposits;
 - (ii) preparing cheques, fund transfers and electronic payments for approval and signing by the signing officers;
 - (iii) receiving bank statements and
 - (iv) having access to on-line accounting services for the purpose of viewing transactions.

THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2019
(Unaudited)**

THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS

**INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)
December 31, 2019**

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INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of The Federation of British Columbia Naturalists that comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2019, and the statement of operations and changes in fund balance, statement of changes in net assets and the statement of cash flows for the year, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Federation of British Columbia Naturalists as at December 31, 2019, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

REID HURST NAGY INC.
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

RICHMOND, B.C.
MARCH 17, 2020

THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2019

(Unaudited)

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	56,402	50,214
Investments (Note 4)	88,451	86,493
Accounts receivable	6,039	1,918
GST receivable	3,503	1,995
Prepaid expenses	7,902	3,865
	162,297	144,485
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accruals	4,751	5,275
Unearned revenue - camps	11,735	-
Unearned revenue - gaming	33,000	-
	49,486	5,275
FUND BALANCES		
UNRESTRICTED	36,660	34,727
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED (Note 7)	22,176	31,336
EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED GRANTS (Note 8)	24,301	53,586
EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED DONATIONS (Note 8)	29,674	19,561
	112,811	139,210
	162,297	144,485

THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the year ended December 31, 2019

(Unaudited)

	Unrestricted	Internally Restricted	Externally Restricted Grants	Externally Restricted Donations	2019	2018
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
		Note 7	Note 8	Note 8		
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	34,727	31,336	53,586	19,561	139,210	178,790
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	4,148	(5,309)	(29,285)	4,047	(26,399)	(39,580)
Interfund transfers	(2,215)	(3,851)	-	6,066	-	-
BALANCE, ENDING OF YEAR	36,660	22,176	24,301	29,674	112,811	139,210

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
For the year ended December 31, 2019
(Unaudited)

	Operating Fund Budget 2019 \$	Operating Fund Actual 2019 \$	Operating Fund Actual 2018 \$
OPERATING FUND			
REVENUES			
Advertising (Magazine)	9,500	8,715	9,440
Annual and Fall general meetings revenues	7,000	7,258	6,369
Camp revenue	35,000	80,823	55,490
Club membership dues	64,000	67,815	64,357
Donation of expenses by board, club reps and others	20,000	14,887	23,101
Insurance premium recovery	10,000	10,675	10,472
Interest	1,500	1,960	1,822
Member donations and fundraising	14,000	14,857	13,826
Miscellaneous	-	1,234	(3,110)
Other dues and subscriptions	1,700	1,550	1,660
Project administration fees	8,000	2,540	8,260
Office improvement	2,700	2,700	-
	173,400	215,014	191,687
EXPENSES			
Accounting	5,500	5,427	5,427
Annual and Fall general meetings	1,700	2,648	1,706
Awards	500	288	266
Bank charges	1,000	1,422	1,097
Magazine production and mailing	20,000	23,043	23,297
Camp expenses	30,000	66,213	43,887
Dues	300	284	356
Insurance premiums	10,000	12,742	10,094
Internet expenses	6,000	6,067	7,392
Office	3,000	4,398	3,682
Office improvement	2,700	2,700	2,133
Salary and benefits	58,000	55,069	54,187
Summer students	2,000	6,032	152
Supplies and miscellaneous	300	774	286
Telephone and communications	1,400	2,008	1,365
Travel and related expenses - board, club reps and others	28,000	21,751	27,931
	170,400	210,866	183,258
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	3,000	4,148	8,429
Balance, beginning of year		34,727	31,398
Interfund transfers		(2,215)	(5,100)
Fund balance, end of the year		36,660	34,727

THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the year ended December 31, 2019 (Unaudited)

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses from		
Unrestricted activities	4,148	8,429
Internally restricted funds & programs	(5,309)	(14,901)
Externally restricted grants	(29,285)	(30,102)
Externally restricted donations	4,047	(3,006)
	(26,399)	(39,580)
Change in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	(4,121)	3,339
GST receivable	(1,508)	2,838
Prepaid expenses	(4,037)	3,098
Unearned revenue - camps	11,735	-
Unearned revenue - gaming	33,000	-
Accounts payable and accruals	(524)	527
	8,146	(29,778)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Redemption (purchase) of investments	(1,958)	19,154
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	6,188	(10,624)
CASH, BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	50,214	60,838
CASH, END OF THE YEAR	56,402	50,214

**Federation of British Columbia Naturalists
BC Nature Executive and BC Nature Club Directors 2020 - 2021**

BC Nature Executive Committee		
<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>
President	Harry Crosby	<i>harry_crosby@telus.net</i>
Vice President	Vacant	
Past President	Alan Burger	<i>aburger@uvic.ca</i>
Director at Large	Rick Gee	<i>rdgee@shaw.ca</i>
Treasurer	Mia Lui	<i>mialiuCPA@gmail.com</i>
Secretary	Susan Thorne	<i>swthorne@telus.net</i>
Director at Large	James Casey	TBA
Conservation Chair	Peter Ballin	<i>pjballin@mac.ca</i>
Kootenay Regional Coordinator	Joan Snyder	<i>snowdance@shaw.ca</i>
Lower Mainland Regional Coordinator	Sheila Puls	<i>sheila@puls.ca</i>
Lower Mainland Regional Coordinator	Hilary Miller	<i>hilmiller@gmail.com</i>
Northern BC Regional Coordinator	Walter Thorne	<i>swthorne@telus.net</i>
Vancouver Island Regional Coordinator	John Neville	<i>songbird@saltspring.com</i>
Thompson Okanagan Regional Coordinator	Gary Hunt	<i>garyalan.hunt@gmail.com</i>
Education Chair	Margaret Cuthbert	<i>blueheron@birdsonthebay.ca</i>
Awards Chair	Margaret Cuthbert	<i>blueheron@birdsonthebay.ca</i>
IBA Coordinator	Krista Kaptein	<i>kapteink@shaw.ca</i>
NatureKids President	Leslie Bol	<i>president@naturekidsbc.ca</i>
NatureKids - Executive Director	Rebecca Clapperton Law	<i>executivedirector@naturekidsbc.ca</i>
BC Naturalists Foundation - President	Bob Handfield	<i>bobnmaggie@shaw.ca</i>

Lower Mainland Region Directors	
Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club	Hank Roos
Alouette Field Naturalists	Jennifer Tayes *
BC Great Blue Heron Society	Gillian Anderson
Burke Mountain Naturalists	Victoria Otten
Cariboo Heights Forest Preservation Society	Utta Gagel *
Chilliwack Field Naturalists' Society	Janne Perrin
Delta Naturalists Society	Anita den Dikken
Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society	Marg Cuthbert
Langley Field Naturalists	Kathy Masse
Little Campbell Watershed Society	David Riley
Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society	Carole Logtenberg
Squamish Environmental Conservation Society	Rachel Shephard
Stoney Creek Environmental Committee	Wendy Snyder
Sunshine Coast Natural History Society	Vacant
Surrey Environmental Partners (SEP)	Deb Jack
Nature Vancouver	Bev Ramey, Janet Snell
Whistler Naturalists Society	Kris Shoup
White Rock and Surrey Naturalists Society	Carol Monaghan

WildResearch	Vacant
Yorkson Watershed Stewardship Committee	Kathy Masse
Kootenay Region Directors	
Fernie Nature Club	Kim Lentz
Rocky Mountain Naturalists	Wendy Maisonneuve *
West Kootenay Naturalists' Association	Joan Snyder
Northern BC Region Directors	
Bulkley Valley Naturalists	Sybille Haeussler
Kitimat Valley Naturalists	Walter Thorne
Mackenzie Nature Observatory	Jeanne Shaw
Northern Amphibian Naturalists Society	Norma Kerby
Prince George Naturalists	Dave Leman
Quesnel Naturalists	Lorna Schley
Timberline Trail & Nature Club	Meredith Thornton
Williams Lake Field Naturalists	Fred McMechan
Thompson-Shuswap-Okanagan Region Directors	
Central Okanagan Naturalist Club	Fran Fisher
Kamloops Naturalist Club	Gary Hunt
Kamloops Thompson Trail Alliance	Richard Doucette
Lillooet Naturalists	Vivian Birch Jones
Nicola Naturalists	Alan Burger
North Okanagan Naturalists Club	Pamela Jenkins
Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists	Dwayne Flexhaug
Shuswap Naturalists Club	Dianne Wittner
South Okanagan Naturalists' Club	Alex Bodden
Vermillion Forks Field Naturalists	Donna Hills
Vancouver Island Region Directors	
Alberni Valley Nature Club	Sandy McRuer *
Arrowsmith Naturalists	Bonnie Mullin *
Comox Valley Naturalists Society	Sharon Niscak
Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society	Bruce Coates *
Nature Nanaimo	Michael Stebbings *
Pender Island Field Naturalists	Bob Vergette
Ritthet's Bog Conservation Society	Andrea Sanders *
Rocky Point Bird Observatory	Andrew Harcombe
Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club	Kathleen Maser
Victoria Natural History Society	Darren Copley

* denotes new director (within the last 12 months)

Welcome to the New BC Nature Club Directors!

